

The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2017

Pope asks parents: help children become true witnesses of faith

Baptism of the Lord Celebrated at Vatican

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Parents are charged with guarding the faith given to their children at baptism and helping them become true witnesses by example rather than just rules, Pope Francis said.

By asking the church for faith for their children through the sacrament of baptism, Christian parents have the task of helping their children to grow so that they “may be witnesses for all of us: also for us priests, bish-

ops, everyone,” the pope said during a Mass in the Sistine Chapel.

During the Mass Jan. 8, the feast of the baptism of the Lord, Pope Francis baptized 28 infants – 15 boys and 13 girls.

“Faith is not reciting the ‘Creed’ on Sunday when we go to Mass: It is not only this,” the pope said. “Faith is believing that which is the truth: God the father who has sent his son and the Spirit which gives us life.”

The pope’s brief homily centered on the meaning of faith, which he described as a lifelong journey that “is lived” and leads to becoming a witness of Christ.

Parents, he continued, must also teach through their example that faith “means trusting in God.”

Later, before praying the Angelus with those gathered in St. Peter’s Square, Pope Francis said the feast of the Lord’s baptism helps “us to the rediscover the beauty of being a baptized people.”

The baptized, he said, are “sinners saved by the grace of Christ, truly inserted by the power of the Holy Spirit in the filial relationship of Jesus with the father and welcomed into the womb of mother church” where Christians are capable of being brothers and sisters with everyone.

“True mission is never proselytism but rather attraction to Christ. But how? How is attraction to Christ done? With one’s own witness that comes from a strong union with him through prayer, adoration and concrete charity, which is service to Jesus present in the least of our brothers,” he said.

After reciting the Angelus prayer, Pope Francis prayed for the parents and for the children he baptized. “I invoke the Holy Spirit upon them and their children so that this sacrament, which is so simple yet at the same time so important, may be lived with faith and joy,” the pope said.



Pope Francis baptizes one of 28 babies in the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican Jan. 8.

U.S. Catholics Donate Over \$7 Million to Natural Disaster Collections in 2016

Faithful in Diocese offer generous support

WASHINGTON – In 2016, dioceses across the country participated in three emergency appeals, donating over \$7 million for support in response to natural disasters.

“The generosity of Catholics across the country to these appeals is a beautiful act of solidarity and mercy,” said Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi of Mobile, Alabama, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) Committee on National Collections. “Those affected by these disasters found themselves suddenly in situations of dire need, and, as a community of faith, we have been able to provide some measure of relief and hope.”

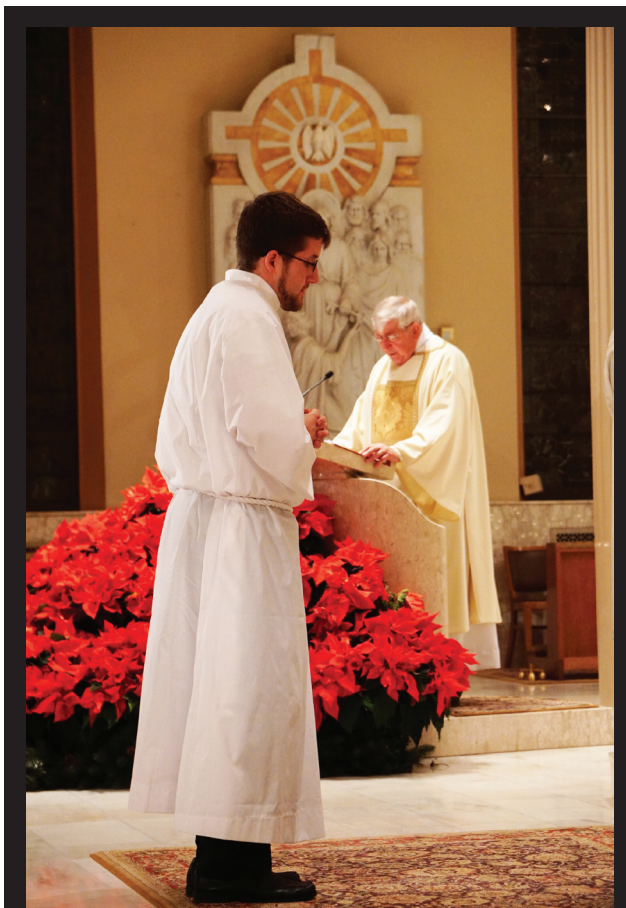
In January 2016, the 2015-2016 Calamities Collection was created in response to storms that hit the south and mid-west regions of our country during Advent 2015, and in anticipation of additional natural disasters in 2016. This collection has raised \$3.2 million from dioceses across the United States.

In August 2016, the 2016 Louisiana Floods Collection was created in response to the extraordinary flooding occurring in southern Louisiana. This collection has raised \$3.8 million from U.S. dioceses.

Funds from these two collections were distributed to Catholic Charities USA to cover emergency assistance such as food, water, shelter, medical care and long-term recovery efforts; and to USCCB to support affected dioceses with rebuilding and reconstruction needs.

In October 2016, the Hurricane Matthew Collection was created in response to the disastrous category 4 hurricane that struck large portions of the Southeastern coast of the United States and countries in the Caribbean, especially Haiti. To date, approximately \$326,000 has been raised from U.S. dioceses with more funds anticipated soon.

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Seminarian Ryan Glenn was accepted as a candidate for Holy Orders during Evening Prayer at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on December 28. The service was followed by the annual Project Andrew Dinner for priests, deacons, seminarians and their families, and those who are being invited to consider a potential call to Diocesan priesthood. See page 3. The Catholic Light Photo/Mike Melisky

Dear Friends,

Just over two weeks ago, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, used his Christmas message to urge Catholics worldwide to express compassion for those “not allowed to be born.” Speaking to tens of thousands of Catholics in Saint Peter’s Square, the Holy Father asked worshippers to celebrate “the fragile simplicity of a small newborn.” He continued, “Let us allow ourselves to be challenged by the children who are not allowed to be born, by those who cry because no one satiates their hunger, by those who do not have toys in their hands, but rather weapons.”

Five months earlier, during a gathering in Poland on the occasion of World Youth Day, the Pope told the Polish people that “life must always be welcomed and protected. These two things go together – welcome and protection, from conception to natural death.” He then went on to challenge government authorities with these words, “All of us are called to respect life and care for it. On the other hand, it is the responsibility of the State, the Church and society to accompany and concretely help all those who find themselves in serious difficulty, so that a child will never be seen as a burden but as a gift, and those who are most vulnerable and poor will not be abandoned.”

In Pope Francis, we see how the power of one man, filled with the Holy Spirit, can make a difference in a world that so often appears closed to God and to all that is good and life-giving. That same power is present in my life and in yours when we open hearts to the presence of God and treasure the singular gift of life made in the very image and likeness of our Creator.

“The Power of One,” the theme of the 44th annual March for Life to be held in our nation’s capital on Friday, January 27, 2017, reminds us all of the responsibility that we’ve been given as people of faith and good will to live our lives as champions of life. While the scope of disrespect for human life and its loss is staggering, it is a blessing to our world, to those lives yet to be born, and to those lives challenged by their very existence that tens of thousands of people – including many from our Diocese – will gather once again in Washington for the annual March for Life in order to witness to the belief that human life is precious and has profound value.

This past year has found our land confronted by dreadful acts of terrorism and the violence and human disrespect that have ensued from such evil efforts. Yet, in the face of such heinous acts and in the midst of far too many credible threats to the life and well being of the unborn, the poor, immigrants and refugees, the disabled, the elderly and those who are forced to the margins of

society because of discrimination, bigotry and hatred, the power of countless numbers of individuals joined together as one and committed to the value and dignity of human life has worked to bring hope to a precarious world.

Indeed, there are countless signs of hope and “the Power of One” throughout our land and right in our midst. Locally, in the Diocese of Scranton, through the good efforts of those who work with agencies and programs such as Saint Joseph’s Center, Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton, Friends of the Poor, Rachel’s Vineyard and organizations like Pennsylvanians for Human Life, a difference for good has and continues to be made, despite what at times appears to be an uphill climb.

My brothers and sisters, we have been given great hope through the words and example of Pope Francis and so many in our midst who treasure life and work to uphold its dignity and value. May we recognize the great “Power of One” that has been entrusted to each of us through the gift of baptism and so proclaim more boldly than ever Jesus’ Gospel of life.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

† *Joseph C. Bambera*

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



January 27

How to Get to the March for Life

Buses Scheduled for 44th Anniversary Event in Washington

SCRANTON — Pro-life advocates throughout the Diocese of Scranton will join tens of thousands of their counterparts from across the nation for the 44th annual March for Life on Friday, Jan. 27, in Washington, D.C.

Regional chapters of the Pennsylvanians for Human Life (PHL) will offer round-trip bus transportation. Bus reservations are requested as soon as possible.

In Washington, participants will join together with other activists in a peaceful march to protest the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, which legalized abortion-on-demand in America, resulting in the deaths of more than 58 million unborn children.

The March for Life convenes with the traditional midday rally gathering on the grounds of the Washington Monument, followed by the march at

approximately 1 p.m. “The Power of One” is the theme for this year’s march, which has been held every January since 1974.

Following the March for Life, participants may visit their local congressional delegations or attend “The Silent No More” program at the U.S. Supreme Court building to hear speakers who have been personally affected by the evils of abortion.

The PHL will sponsor buses leaving from communities throughout the Scranton Diocese. Departure times and costs vary. Details on bus schedules and costs throughout the region can be obtained from the following contacts:

BRADFORD COUNTY

Contact Rob Howard, (570) 395-3447.

HONESDALE

Contact St. John the Evangelist Parish, (570) 253-4561.

MONROE COUNTY (POCONOS)

Contact Patricia Murray, (570) 420-8083.

SCRANTON

Bus departs Scranton from the Keyser Oak Shopping Center at 6:45 a.m. and returns at approximately 11:45 p.m. Cost: \$40 for adults; \$20 for students. Reservations may be made by contacting Anthony DePaola at (570) 906-1107, or forwarding payment check (payable to PHL) to Mr. DePaola, 1310 Woodlawn St., Scranton, PA 18509. Please provide contact phone number.

WILLIAMSPORT

Contact Evelyn Rall, (570) 398-0722.

WYOMING VALLEY

Contact Chris Calore, (570) 824-5621. (Bus will be departing from the Swoyersville area.)

Seminarian Receives Rite of Candidacy; Young Men Gather for Project Andrew Dinner

Just as Mary's "yes" gave birth to Our Lord, each one of us – if we are authentic in our resolve to follow Jesus – must consider what God is calling us to do with our lives.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera made that point as he celebrated the Rite of Admission to Candidacy for seminarian Ryan Glenn during Evening Prayer at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on December 28. Candidacy marks a seminarian's public announcement of his intention to be ordained and the Church's acceptance of him as a candidate for Holy Orders.

The service was followed by the annual Project Andrew Dinner, at which priests, deacons, seminarians and their families, and those who are being invited to consider a potential call to Diocesan priesthood, gathered at the Diocesan Pastoral Center for conversation and fellowship.

In his homily at the Rite of Candidacy, Bishop Bambera noted that no matter where we are in the journey of life – no matter what our plans or hopes for our future might be – may we always be honest and humble enough to take care of our relationship with Jesus and listen with care to his voice.

"I'm so pleased that as we join together for this annual Project Andrew gathering – with many of you actively discerning what God is calling you to do and to be in your lives – we're privileged to join with our brother and friend, Ryan Glenn, as he takes an important step forward in his journey of faith," he said.

"Ryan, the voice of God that has spoken to your heart calls you today to make a radical decision for discipleship – a decision that challenges all of us and particularly you, as you seek a share in the sacrament of Holy Or-

ders . . . on behalf of this community of God's faithful people, all of us promise to assist you with our love and prayers as you continue on this journey."

The Bishop cited Pope Francis, who beautifully articulated why this is so: "The Church needs ministers capable of warming people's hearts, of walking with them in the night, of dialoguing with their hopes and disappointments, of mending their brokenness."

Mr. Glenn said he decided to have his Candidacy during the Project Andrew Dinner to help inspire others. "I know I was inspired by Bill Beechko's candidacy this past summer, my sister's marriage ceremony, and other special events. I thought it would be great if my public commitment to live out my vocation would inspire others to move forward with God's special plan for their lives."

After the Project Andrew Dinner, Father Don Williams, Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians, spoke about the Vocation Office.

"It was wonderful to see so many young men from throughout the Diocese respond to Bishop Bambera's invitation to join him, priests, deacons and seminarians for this year's Project Andrew Dinner," he said. "I encourage everyone to continue to grow as disciples of Jesus and allow the Diocesan Vocation team to support them in their discernment."

The evening concluded with the seminarians passing out calendars with opportunities for high school students, college students, and working young adults to get involved.

For more information about programs sponsored by the Diocesan Vocation Office, call 570-207-1452.



Bishop Bambera celebrates the Rite of Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders for seminarian Ryan Glenn.



Above:
Young men attending the Project Andrew Dinner had the opportunity to connect with others from throughout the Diocese of Scranton.



Seminarian Ryan Glenn with Bishop Bambera and his family.

Seminarians pictured with Bishop Bambera, top to bottom, left to right: Nicholas Jennings, William Beechko, II, Shawn Simchock, Kevin Miller, Mark Watrucki, Robert Dogal, William Asinari, Andrew McCarroll, David Sebolka, Jonathan Kuhar, the Bishop, Ryan Glenn.

The Catholic Light Photos/Mike Melisky



Diocese Focusing on Implementation Phase of Vision for Parish Renewal

In his Pastoral Letter, *Wounded and Loved, Regathering the Scattered*, published in 2011 after a Diocesan-wide consultation to assess the status of parishes coming through the restructuring period of Called to Holiness and Mission, Bishop Bambera expressed forthrightly that “the future of the Diocese lies in the renewal of parish life, and our hope lies in the generous servant leadership of priests, religious and laity who, wounded but loved, freely give themselves to Christ’s good news mission of gathering those scattered from the love of God and the Church.”

Since that publication, parishes have actively embraced this challenge and this hope. As the vision expressed in the letter invites, Parish Pastoral Councils have been strengthened and have been or are currently engaging in pastoral planning processes to give shape to the future. In the spring of 2014 Bishop Bambera launched a new initiative for lay ministry called “Formation for Servant Leadership” and the first candidates completing this formation will be commissioned this coming summer.

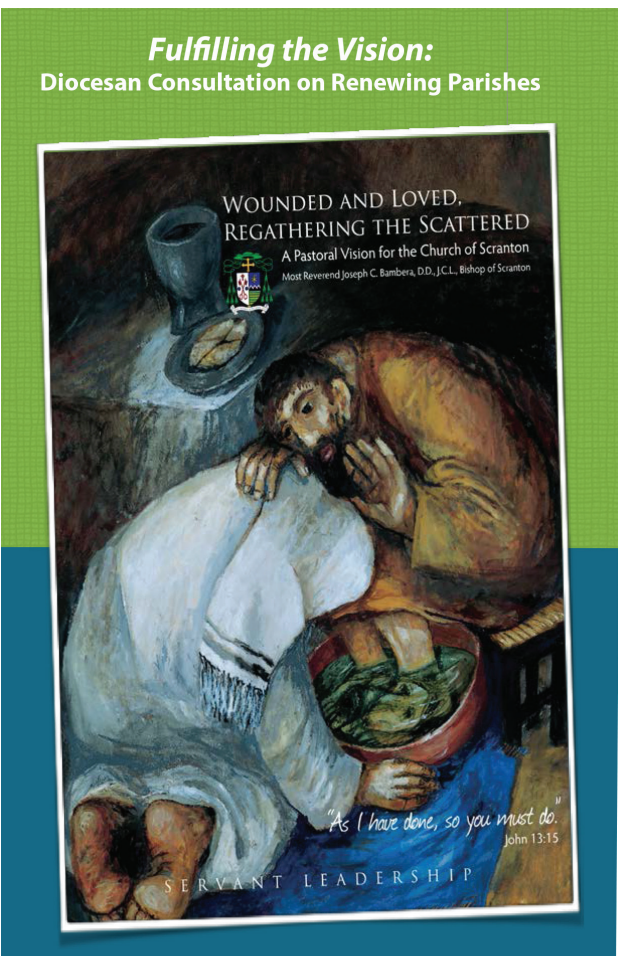
After significant investment in their own study, the clergy initiated in 2015, with the Bishop’s leadership, a Diocesan Dialogue on Pastoral Leadership which engaged all parishes and their lay leaders regarding the realities of diminishing numbers of clergy and viable alternatives provided in canon law in order to ensure pastoral leadership for each of the 120 parishes of the Diocese. Processes have been established to assist parishes in transitioning to a linked model of two or more parishes sharing a pastor as well as for the appointment of a Parish Life Coordinator now in four parishes. New and concerted efforts have also been embraced to call forth and support those individuals exploring vocation to the priesthood.

As we arrive at this juncture of five years into living the message of *Wounded and Loved*, it has become evident that the time is here to once again look ahead – engaging in further consultation and dialogue by which we identify and commit to several key priorities, drawn from the existing pastoral vision for thriving parishes, in order to give even greater life to the pastoral plans being articulated and to infuse parish project teams with the resources and expertise needed to pursue your goals in creative ways well adapted to the changing times.

With this in mind, a review of the vision and goal statements contained in all of the parish pastoral plans currently on file with the Office for Parish Life led to the development of a set of “trending headlines” – themes around which a consensus is forming in parishes regarding the areas of parish life for which you have the energy and determination to make innovative strides (*see adjacent story*). These trends were the basis of a one-day Diocesan Consultation on Renewing Parishes held this past November. For this day, Bishop Bambera interacted with a representative group of clergy, religious and lay leaders who could speak to both the driving forces in society today which are impacting the Church, and to the hopes and desires of our Catholic community for growing the parishes of 2020 which you hope to become.

Bishop Bambera’s letter of invitation for the November Consultation expressed its purpose in this way: “While continuing the visioning efforts already underway in individual parishes, and maintaining a focus on the particular pastoral leadership approach needed when a change of pastor is imminent, it is apparent to me that there are additional questions to ponder in the process of renewing our parishes. For us to continue to grow in vibrancy, we must empower our parish communities even more broadly and begin – proactively – to consider new ways of doing so, ways that engage all generations of the faithful.”

Participants from across the Diocese spent the Consul-



tation Day engaged in three tasks, with the facilitation of John Roberto, LifelongFaith Associates:

- + Describing characteristics or features of an emerging vision of the parish of 2020;
- + Specifying how this parish of the future acts – what is it doing? What does ministry and faith formation look like?
- + Identifying and articulating strategies for how the Diocese of Scranton (at both the Diocesan and parish levels) can move even more creatively and effectively toward this future.

Trending Headlines Collected from Parish-Generated Pastoral Plans (2014-16)

Parishes plan to **awaken the Baptismal call to holiness and giftedness**, fostering a **stewardship spirituality** where people’s time, talent and treasure are cultivated as a response of gratitude and a fulfillment of this vocation. This involves inviting, expanding and developing a caring community of disciples – of all ages and walks of life – who share gifts and resources freely in order to **make the parish a central hub for families and for the civic community** in which it is rooted.

Parishes plan to **actively seek out and invite everyone to accept the good news and to belong** to our community by involving the whole community in extending a **spirit of welcome**; by strengthening relationships with people in all life circumstances; by learning about evangelization and 21st Century approaches; and by initiating deliberate evangelization activities.

Parishes plan to **invest in dynamic experiences of prayer and worship** in order to support individuals and the whole parish in a deepening spiritual life which will provide a connecting bridge between worship and everyday life.

Parishes plan to **provide life-long religious**

“Mindful of the approaching 150th Anniversary for the Church of Scranton, which we will celebrate in 2018,” says Bishop Bambera, “this is a logical time in our history to assess where we are going. It will be much better for us to reach that milestone from a position of strength and vitality.”

To this end, the Diocesan Consultation on Renewing Parishes is now being extended to all of the parishes for your active participation. The questions with which Bishop Bambera would like to challenge every parish are:

- + When you tell the story of your parish for the 150th Anniversary, what will be the new chapter you will add for 2016-2020?;
- + Which specific action for growing and renewing your parish will you commit to in 2017 in order to have the most positive impact? (For most parishes this will be selected from the goals you have already identified – for parishes not yet engaged in planning, assistance is readily available through the Office for Parish Life);
- + How will you plan to achieve this one new project and to show it to other parishes in the Diocese so that we can all continue to learn from and teach each other?; and,
- + What are the best ways for the Diocese to support and resource your efforts for success?

All pastors will be receiving detailed information about series of workshops provided precisely to assist you with implementing the goals you identify. The workshops will focus on your identified priorities and your most available resources – whatever will have the most benefit for your parish at this time – and equip you with designs, new ideas, tools and successful models from other parishes. Once parishes have embarked on this design phase, additional tools will be provided to help your parish tap and cultivate the resources you need to put your plans into action.

“Parishes motivated in this way to achieve a specific new project,” proposes Bishop Bambera, “will begin to not only recognize their particular strengths but also what they can contribute to partnerships with other parishes, to leadership support within their own parish, and to parish sustainability into the future.”

formation for individuals and families, in ways that integrate faith and life; address all life stages and circumstances; and stem from well-formed and supported catechetical ministers.

Parishes plan to **expand into a social ministry reflective of the whole of Catholic Social Teaching**, integrating charitable outreach to meet real needs of parishioners and the neighborhoods we serve; advocacy and action on behalf of justice; and peacemaking at local, national and global levels.

Parishes plan to **incorporate use of modern communication media and strategies** in order to listen effectively to the real hungers and quests of our times; to meet, connect with and engage people where they are and reach those on the periphery of society; and to share our good news story, inviting parishioners and seekers to understand who we are, where we are going and what we have to offer.

Parishes plan to evaluate and implement **best practices in regard to all aspects of parish administration and operations** – fiscal management, facilities maintenance and utilization, personnel practice, allocation of time – all in the service of and as the means for the mission.

Diocese of Scranton
2016 DIOCESAN
ANNUAL APPEAL
 LIVING FAITH *Serving with Mercy*

For the 2016 Diocesan Annual Appeal, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera has named Regional Clergy and Lay Chairs to lead volunteer efforts in support of the Annual Appeal in six regions in the Diocese. This is the sixth in a series featuring these volunteers and their commitment to support the campaign.

Regional Chairs Serving Lackawanna and Wyoming Counties

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera has invited Attorneys Judith Gardner Price and Joseph Price to serve as Regional Lay Chairs for Lackawanna and Wyoming Counties for this year's Diocesan Annual Appeal. Father Christopher Sahd has been invited to serve as the Regional Clergy Chair this year.

Mr. and Mrs. Price are residents of Lake Winola and parishioners of St. Mary of the Lake Parish. They are members of the law firm of Dougherty, Leventhal and Price. The Prices are the parents of four children: Judith Ann Price Olivetti, Attorney Colleen Price Kearney, Attorney Joseph Price and Attorney James Price, and four grandchildren: Gwendolyn, Leland and John Drew Kearney, and Everett Price.

"We want to thank all who have supported the Appeal to date," said Mr. Price. "As Monsignor John Esseff commented in

the Appeal video, 'what a magnificent Diocese we have,' and we have an obligation to support it. We count on everyone's generosity so that we can assure those who count on us are provided for. St. Mother Teresa tells us 'Joy is a sign of generosity. When you are full of joy, you move faster and you want to go about doing good to everyone.'"

The Appeal assists the Diocese in spreading the Good News of the Gospel, caring for our retired priests and educating our seminarians, passing on the faith to our children in our Catholic schools and parishes; supporting Parish Life and Ministry Formation, and Catholic Social Services (CSS).

Attorney Judith Price is a Catholic Social Services board member and past president. "Last year, the Appeal provided Catholic Social Services with \$450,000, which was shared with our offic-



Attorneys Joseph and Judith Price with Bishop Bambera.

es in Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, Carbondale, Hazleton, Honesdale, Stroudsburg and Milford. Donations such as this allow us to provide programs and services where the need exceeds funds," she said.

"Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, reminds us to reach out to persons who need our help. For many of us, these people are invisible: the poor, the hungry, the homeless, the naked, those who are sick or imprisoned in any way, especially imprisoned by addictions. They don't cross our paths. Last year, more than 300,000 of these children and adults received services

from Catholic Social Services, including basic necessities like a hot meal and housing programs to family counseling, pregnancy and adoption and foster care. In Lackawanna County, our Counseling Program served almost 1,000 individuals.

"So, why do Joe and I support the Appeal? Very simply, as people of faith, it is what each one of us is called to do. This is the Good News of Jesus in action—caring for the neediest among us. As followers of the Gospel, we do what we can, where we are, with what we have in order to help them."

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Annual Appeal Supports Care and Education of Clergy

Pastors Have Vital Role in Encouraging Priestly Vocations

Editor's Note: This is sixth in a series on programs and services funded by the Diocesan Annual Appeal.

The education of seminarians and deacons serving the Diocese of Scranton, and the care of priests in retirement is a major ministry directly supported by gifts to the Annual Appeal.

Father Jerry Shantillo is pastor of St. Matthew Parish, East Stroudsburg. He is also an Assistant Vocation Director for the Diocese.

Father Shantillo assists men considering priesthood in many ways, but "it really starts with understanding their struggles and trying to help



Seminarian Ryan Glenn and Father Jerry Shantillo, pastor of St. Matthew Parish, East Stroudsburg, and an Assistant Vocation Director for the Diocese, pictured outside the church, where Ryan is serving a year of pastoral assignment.

them find God in their life. Where is God calling them to be? He's calling them to love... Is he calling them to love as a

Catholic priest?"

Everyone, he notes, has a vocation in the Church by virtue of our baptism. A vocation

is a calling from God to serve, whether as a priest, religion sister or brother, deacon, married or single.

"One of the things I enjoy about helping men in discernment is that it reminds me of all of the priests who helped me," says Father Shantillo. "It just reminds you how blessed you are to have been called by God to be a priest in the Church."

Seminarian Ryan Glenn is serving a year of pastoral assignment with Father Shantillo at St. Matthew's. Ryan first met Father Shantillo at St. Jude Parish, Mountain Top, where Father was assistant pastor and Ryan a parishioner. Prior to this pastoral assignment at St. Matthew's,

Ryan completed two years of study at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore.

Ryan explains, "My journey into seminary really began when I was in high school. I was very private initially but throughout college and graduate school I met with various priests to continue to discern: 'Is this the possibility that God is calling me to priesthood?'"

"Father Jerry and I established the relationship where I could share what was on my heart, and he in turn was able to share with me some of the joys, and the struggles, and the realities of priestly ministry," said Ryan.

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Bishop Bambera celebrated Mass for the residents and staff at Little Flower Manor/St. Therese Residence, a Diocesan long-term care facility in Wilkes-Barre.

The Catholic Light Photos/Mike Melisky



The Bishop celebrated an Epiphany Mass with the Filipino Community of the Diocese of Scranton.

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

His Excellency, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, announces the following appointments, effective as indicated.

Pastor & Chaplain

Reverend Alex J. Roche, S.T.L., from Assistant Pastor, Saint Ignatius Loyola Parish, Kingston, to Pastor, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Lake Silkworth, effective January 9, 2017. Father Roche is also appointed to serve as Chaplain, Misericordia University, Dallas, effective January 9, 2017.

Assistant Pastor

Reverend Jackson Pinhero, O.S.J., to Assistant Pastor, Saint Joseph Marelllo Parish, Pittston, effective January 9, 2017.

Senior Priest

Reverend Stephen A. Krawontka, from Administrator, Saint Patrick Parish, Scranton, to Senior Priest, Saint Patrick Parish, Scranton, effective January 9, 2017.

Reverend Andrew Kurovsky, from Senior Priest, Saint Patrick Parish, Scranton, to Senior Priest, Saint Ignatius Loyola Parish, Kingston, effective January 9, 2017.

Reverend Leo J. McKernan, from Leave of Absence for Reasons of Health, to Senior Priest, Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Pittston, effective January 9, 2017.



BISHOP BAMBERA'S SCHEDULE

January 12 – Holy Redeemer High School Mass, Wilkes-Barre, 1:00 p.m.

January 15 – Mass – Jewish Home, Scranton, 2:00 p.m.

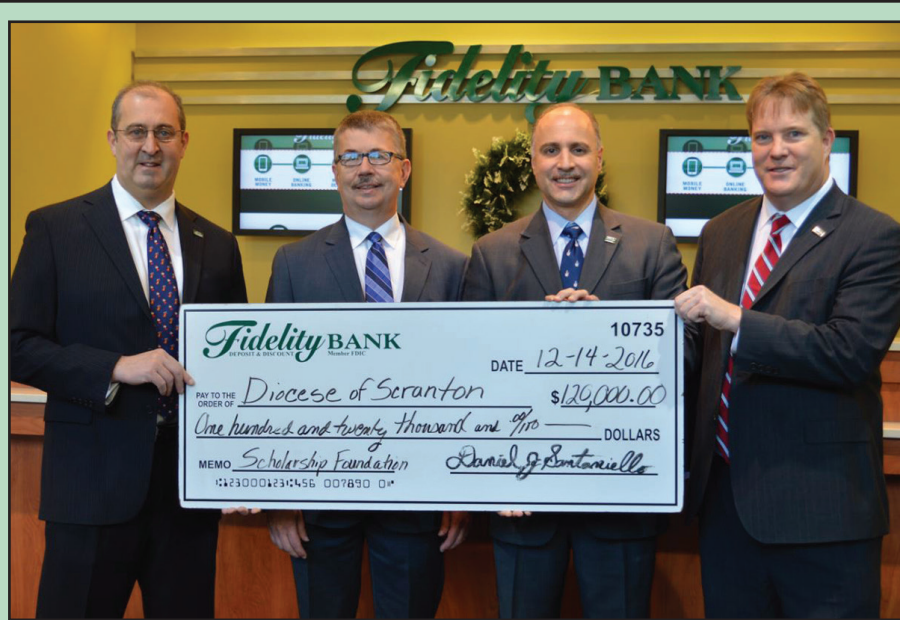
January 21 – Breakfast for Life, Montrose, 9:00 a.m.

January 22 – Mass – Feast of Our Lady of Alta Gracia, Annunciation Parish, Hazleton, Noon

January 25 – Christian Unity Prayer Service, St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.

January 26 – Vigil Mass – March for Life, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C., 5:30 p.m.

January 27 – March for Life, Washington, D.C.



Fidelity Bank Donates \$120,000 to Diocese Scholarship Foundation

Fidelity Bank President & CEO, Daniel J. Santaniello recently presented the Diocese of Scranton's Secretary for Development Jim Bebla with a check for \$120,000 in support of The Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Foundation. This donation is part of the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC).

The EITC Program allows Pennsylvania businesses, such as Fidelity Bank, to make donations to eligible scholarship organizations. These donations provide educational options to low- and middle-income families in our area and throughout the commonwealth. Each year, The Diocese of Scranton's Scholarship Foundation is able to provide more than 1,000 families with tuition awards. The Scholarships are funded primarily from business contributions under the EITC.

Pictured from left: Fidelity Bank President & CEO, Daniel J. Santaniello; Jim Bebla, Diocesan Secretary for Development; Salvatore R. DeFrancesco, Jr., Executive VP & CFO Fidelity Bank; and Eugene Walsh, Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, Fidelity Bank.

Regional chairs share thoughts about Appeal

Continued from page 5

Father Christopher Sahd, pastor of Christ the King Parish, Archbald, explains that supporting the Diocese through the Annual Appeal is part of being Catholic. "We give because we are members of the Mystical Body of Christ. We give because we have received everything as a gift, in visible and invisible ways, through our union with the Church. We don't give because it affects us directly, but rather because it is our response to God for the treasure of the faith given to us that we at first did not merit to receive."

Father Sahd continues, "At certain times in the life of a parish you see where the Diocesan Annual Appeal offers a visible benefit. In our parish, for instance, when the ceiling at St. Thomas Aquinas collapsed, the diocesan assistance in the rebuilding effort could be easily seen. At other times, the benefits are not so obvious, but we are constantly supported by the Diocese. "Everything I've gotten from the

Church is a gift, and meant for not only me, but for the benefit of the whole body. I didn't make up the Creed, yet it is my greatest hope. We give to the Appeal because our faith requires us to hand on that which we have received, whether it is a spiritual treasure, or a temporal one. We do not give because we know who will benefit. The Church is not a charity – she is a mystical body. It is nice to know the aspects of the Church's mission which the Appeal serves, but it seems even better when we entrust our treasure with the Church without knowing these details. It is one way we exercise our union with others in a mystical body."

The parish and its local community benefit from working with Catholic Social Services to provide a weekly meal in the St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Hall. Said Father Sahd, "This gathering gives our parishioners the ability to practically meet Jesus in the poor who come for the meal, and also those experiencing the poverty of loneliness."

"Reconciliation – The Love of Christ Compels Us" is the theme for the 2017 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which is observed annually in January.

Pope Francis, in his 2013 Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* ("The Joy of the Gospel"), cited the quote "The Love of Christ Compels Us" from 2 Corinthians 5:14-20. The biblical text emphasizes that reconciliation is a gift from God, and those who have been reconciled in Christ are called in turn to proclaim this reconciliation in word and deed.

This year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity coincides with the commemoration of the 500th anniversary year of the beginnings of the Lutheran Reformation. In that context, it provides an opportunity for us to reflect upon the concerns and divisions that have afflicted the unity of the Church, and encourages us to take steps toward reconciliation.

The Diocese of Scranton will host an Ecumenical Celebration of God's Word on Wednesday, January 25, at 12:10 p.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton. There will be no 12:10 p.m. Mass that day in the Cathedral. All are welcome to attend. In addition, CTV: Cath-



Reverend Dr. Robert M. Zanicky

olic Television will broadcast the service live.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, will preside. The Reverend Dr. Robert M. Zanicky, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Wilkes-Barre since 1988, will give the homily.

A native of Butler, Reverend Zanicky was previously assistant minister at Trinity United Presbyterian Church, East Liverpool, Ohio, and pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Greenville, Ill. He has a Master of Divinity degree from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry from Princeton Theological Seminary.

He teaches in the Religious Studies Department at Misericordia University, is president of Ecumenical Enterprises, Inc.; a board

member of Wyoming Valley Health Care System; and a member of the Interfaith Council of Wyoming Valley and the Christian Communities Gathering of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Clergy and representatives from various Christian traditions and ecumenical agencies will be present at the prayer service. Liturgical music will be provided by the students from Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton.

During the week leading up to the ecumenical service, Bishop Bambera will host dinner meetings for members of the local Polish National Catholic, Orthodox, Eastern Catholic and Latin Rite clergy.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, first organized by Father Paul Watson, S.A., in 1908 at Graymoor in Garrison, N.Y., seeks to gather together diverse communities of the Christian faith to express the degree of communion which the churches have already received, and to pray together for the full visible unity of the one Church of Jesus Christ.

For more information and resources, visit the Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute at: www.geii.org.

Pastors' role vital in fostering vocations

Continued from page 5

Ryan's mother and grandparents came to this country fleeing communist rule in Cuba so they could practice their faith freely. "The Catholic faith has been really important for my family and that dual dynamic of faith and family has been so important for my own discernment," he adds. "My family has been very supportive. They understand the importance of having priests in our parish, of having a sacramental life and a prayer life, of having a minister who can lead them in prayer, who can lead them in works of justice, works of mercy."

"It's the Diocesan priest who can bring together the faith life and the family life. As a shepherd of a parish, the parish priest is the bridge connecting faith and family," says Ryan.

"People often ask me, 'Father, how can we help young men who are discerning to be a priest?'," says Father Shantillo. "The first thing I tell them is to pray God will continue to send shepherds for our flocks, and to pray that when a young man wants to become a priest, that his family will be supportive. It's also important to support men studying to be priests, to get to know them, and to be willing to help them in any way as they continue to discern God's will in their lives. Also giving gifts to the Annual Appeal directly supports vocations discernment and seminary education."

"Being a Catholic priest is a life full of joy," Father Shantillo concludes. "We are there for our people and the people are there for us, because they value the Church and they value what we do for them as ministers."

The Gruesome Reality of Abortion

By A.B. Hill
Communications Director,
Pennsylvania Catholic Conference

In 1852, Harriet Beecher Stowe published a book that changed the course of American history. Her brutal depiction of slavery in *Uncle Tom's Cabin* illustrated the real human cost of the defining political controversy of her time. Stowe's tale of one fictional family's devastating experience with slavery is based on "a collection and arrangement of real incidents" which she describes as a "mosaic of facts." (*A Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin*, 1858)

Uncle Tom's Cabin was an instant best-seller that brought the debate about slavery into most American homes. It changed what people knew and understood about it, and shed light on how our laws perpetuated the practice. When Americans in the North accepted the truth about slavery, their resolve to outlaw it strengthened. It was not enough to be personally opposed to slavery; they were willing to take up arms to end it.

Abortion is the defining political controversy of our time; but do we know and understand its real human cost?

A recent report shows that 31,818 abortions were committed in Pennsylvania in 2015. (This is 308 fewer than in 2014.) All but a handful of these abortions used one of three methods:

Medical/Non-Surgical. (11,314 abortions) For pregnancies up to 10 weeks, chemicals are used to end the life of the baby. A woman takes Mifepristone (RU-486) in the form of a pill at an abortion clinic. "By blocking the action of progesterone, mifepristone alters the endometrium (the uterine lining), induces bleeding, and causes the uterine lining to shed." (www.medicationabortions.com) With blood and nourishment cut off, the baby dies inside his mother's womb. One or two days later, the woman takes another drug called Misoprostol (Cytotec) which causes contractions and bleeding to expel the dead baby from the womb.

Suction Curettage. (18,908 abortions) Also known as vacuum aspiration, this method is used between 5 and 14 weeks of gestation. Typically the woman's cervix is dilated then a plastic tube "is carefully and gently inserted into the uterus and then attached to a suction, or vacuum aspiration, machine. When the machine is turned on ... the contents of the uterus will be emptied ... To ensure that the abortion is complete, extracted tissue is examined immediately after the procedure." (*The Abortion Resource Handbook* (1997), pg. 152) In layman's

Continued on Page 30

Scranton PHL Respect Life Prayer Breakfast Slated January 28

SCRANTON — The Scranton Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life (PHL) will host its annual Respect Life Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, Jan. 28, at Fiorelli's Catering in Peckville. The affair begins at 9 a.m.

Scheduled to deliver the keynote address as principal guest speaker will be social scientist Steven Mosher, a well-known pro-life activist and author who specializes in demography and in Chinese population control.

A convert to Christianity and the father of nine children, Mr. Mosher serves as president of the Population Research Institute in Virginia.



Steven
Mosher

He is a strong advocate for human rights in China and has been instrumental in exposing abuses in China's "one-child" policy as well as other human rights abuses in population-control programs around the world, often resulting in women being forced into unwanted abortions.

Cost to attend the breakfast is \$21 for adults, and \$10 for children ages six to 12. Children under age six are admitted free of charge.

Reservations may be made by forwarding a check, made payable to Pennsylvanians for Human Life, to Joseph Alinoski, 9B Rachel Drive, Archbald, PA 18403. Please provide contact phone number.

For more information, contact Mr. Alinoski at (570-876-4087) or the Scranton PHL Chapter at (570-347-8299).

Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul -- January 25



Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi



The Catholic Light

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Diocese of Scranton
DIOCESAN
ANNUAL APPEAL

Volume 117 Number 1 — Thursday, January 12, 2017

CATCH OUR SPIRIT!

CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

OPEN HOUSES: SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2017

NOTRE DAME JR./SR. H.S.



EAST STROUDSBURG

GRADES 7 - 12
(570) 421-0466
OPEN HOUSE 1PM - 3PM

Diocese of Scranton
CATHOLIC
SCHOOL SYSTEM
FAITH • ACADEMICS • SERVICE

MONSIGNOR MCHUGH SCHOOL



CRESCO

GRADES PRE-K - 8
(570) 595-7463
OPEN HOUSE 1:30PM - 3:30PM

NOTRE DAME ELEMENTARY



EAST STROUDSBURG

GRADES PRE-K - 6
(570) 421-3651
OPEN HOUSE 1PM - 3PM

ST. JOHN NEUMANN H.S., WILLIAMSPORT



GRADES 6 - 12 (570) 323-9953
OPEN HOUSE 12:30PM - 2PM

ST. JOHN NEUMANN ELEMENTARY, WILLIAMSPORT



GRADES PRE-K - 5 (570) 326-3738
OPEN HOUSE 12:30PM - 2PM

CATCH OUR SPIRIT...

WYOMING AREA CATHOLIC



EXETER

GRADES PRE-K - 8
(570) 654-7982
OPEN HOUSE 12PM - 2PM

HOLY REDEEMER H.S.



WILKES-BARRE

GRADES 9 - 12 &
INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION
(570) 829-2424
CALL FOR A PRIVATE TOUR

HOLY ROSARY



DURVEA

GRADES PRE-K - 8
(570) 457-2553
OPEN HOUSE 1PM - 3PM

ST. JUDE SCHOOL, MOUNTAIN TOP



GRADES PRE-K - 8 570-474-5803
OPEN HOUSE 1PM - 3PM

GOOD SHEPHERD ACADEMY, KINGSTON



GRADES PRE-K - 8 &
INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION
(570) 718-4724
OPEN HOUSE 1:30PM - 3PM

HOLY FAMILY ACADEMY



HAZLETON

GRADES PRE-K - 8
(570) 455-9431
OPEN HOUSE 12PM - 2PM

NICHOLAS/ST. MARY SCHOOL, WILKES-BARRE

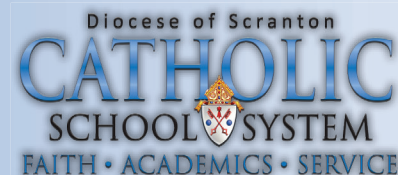


GRADES PRE-K - 8
(570) 823-8089
OPEN HOUSE 1PM - 3PM

OPEN HOUSES: SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2017

CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

OPEN HOUSES: SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2017



ALL SAINTS ACADEMY



SCRANTON

GRADES PRE-K - 8 &
INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION
(570) 343-8114
OPEN HOUSE 1PM - 3PM

HOLY CROSS H. S.



DUNMORE

GRADES 9 - 12 &
INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION
(570) 346-7541
CALL FOR A PRIVATE TOUR

ST. MARY OF MOUNT CARMEL



DUNMORE

GRADES PRE-K - 8
(570) 346-4429
OPEN HOUSE 12:30PM - 3PM

LA SALLE ACADEMY, JESSUP



GRADES PRE-K - 8
(570) 489-2010
OPEN HOUSE 1PM - 3PM



ST. CLARE/ST. PAUL, SCRANTON

N. WASHINGTON AVE.
GRADES PRE-K - 2
(570) 343-2790
OPEN HOUSE 9AM - 2 PM

PENN AVE.
GRADES 3 - 8
(570) 343-7880
OPEN HOUSE 9AM - 2 PM

EPIPHANY SCHOOL



SAYRE

GRADES PRE-K - 6
(570) 888-5802
OPEN HOUSE 12:30PM - 2PM

OUR LADY OF PEACE, CLARK'S GREEN



GRADES K - 8 (570) 587-4152
OPEN HOUSE 1PM - 3PM

ST. AGNES SCHOOL



TOWANDA

GRADES PRE-K - 6
(570) 265-6803
OPEN HOUSE 1PM - 4PM

Diocesan Administrative Offices Combined Financial Statements

June 30, 2016 and 2015

Dear Friends,

As the Bishop of Scranton, I am presenting to the faithful of the Diocese the audited financial statements of the Administrative Offices of the Diocese of Scranton for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

The statements reflect improvement in our overall financial status as reflected by the increase in overall net assets. The statements reflect an excess of revenues over expenses from operations.

Contributing largely to the excess of revenues over expenses were very significant donations which were not budgeted and a reduction in our accrual for clergy postretirement expense. This reduction in the accrual is attributed to what I reported to you last year, i.e. the implementation of a more economical arrangement for funding clergy post-retirement benefits which produces health care savings without any diminishment of retired clergy health care benefits.

Please know that the Diocese acts in every way possible to be a good steward of the funds which have been entrusted to its care. The Diocese self insures for medical and general liability claims. These programs have saved significant sums of money over the past ten years. When staff openings occur, a careful analysis is performed to determine whether efficiencies can be realized with existing staff. The Diocese prepares balanced budgets for the Administrative Offices, the Cemeteries and the Schools. These budgets provide control over spending with the result that no spending occurs if the necessary funds aren't available. Prudence and integrity continue to permeate all financial decisions.

The following points deserve particular attention:

- In 2015-2016 the Diocese increased the number of internal control reviews performed at parishes. The current goal is to have all parishes reviewed on a four-year cycle.
- The Diocese continues to work closely with its investment advisor and investment committee to insure that sound investment policies are in place and that all financial assets

are carefully invested so as to provide maximum returns on invested assets. The investment committee meets several times during the year with the investment advisor and as needed, and when appropriate strategies are adjusted based on market conditions and manager performance.

• Effective July 1, 2016 the processing of all parish payrolls was consolidated with the Diocese. This consolidation will result in more accurate payrolls, reduce the administrative burden for parishes and allow the Diocese to gather more accurately information needed as part of its administrative reporting requirements.

• Effective July 1, 2016 the Diocesan Schools Administration Office consolidated all financial functions related to the Diocesan Schools in an expanded central business office. Many processes up to this point were handled by the individual schools. This centralization should not only result in efficiencies and cost savings, but it should also greatly increase Diocesan oversight on all financial transactions.

I am most grateful for the prayers and generous efforts of the faithful from throughout the eleven counties of northeastern and north central Pennsylvania that make up the Diocese of Scranton. Because of your continued support of your parishes and our Diocesan Annual Appeal, along with your willingness to give back to God gratefully for all that you have been given, we are able to continue to fulfill our mission of service to our brothers and sisters.

May God continue to bless you and your families.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

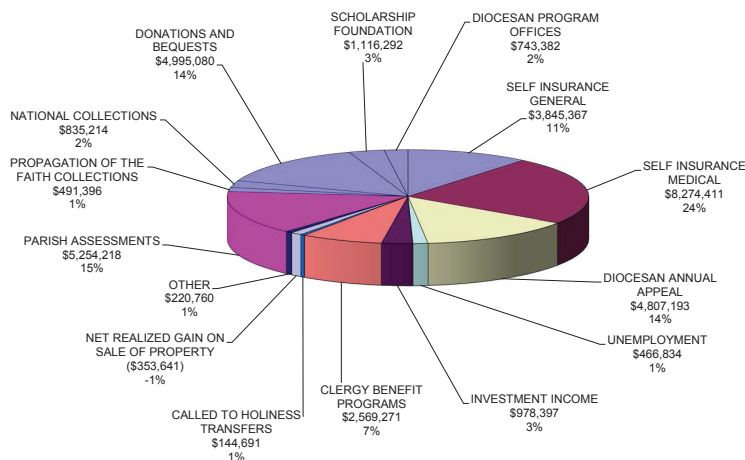
† *Joseph C. Bambera*

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

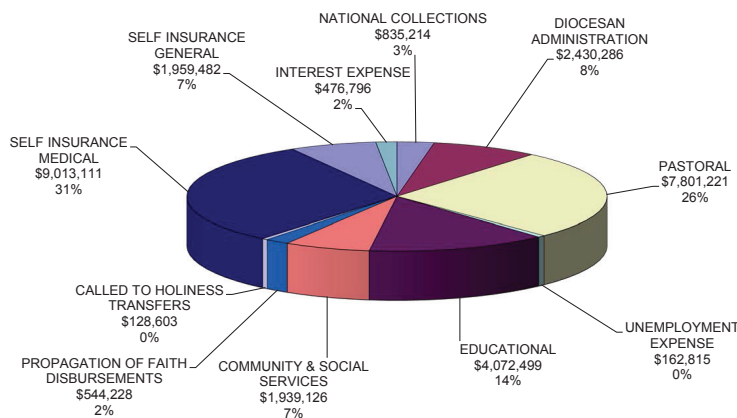


Operating Funds

DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
SUPPORT AND REVENUE
\$34,388,865



DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
OPERATING EXPENSES
\$29,363,381



Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Diocesan Administrative Offices of the Diocese of Scranton which comprise the statements of financial position as of June 30, 2016 and 2015, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such

opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Diocesan Administrative Offices of the Diocese of Scranton as of June 30, 2016 and 2015, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The accompanying supplementary information in Schedules 1 to 5 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

McGrail Merkel Quinn & Associates, P.C.
December 13, 2016

Statements of Activities – Years Ended June 30, 2016 and 2015

	2016				2015			
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Revenues, gains and other support								
Parish assessments								
Diocesan	\$ 4,366,553	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,366,553	\$ 4,334,869	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,334,869
Clergy Care and Wellness	887,665	-	-	887,665	900,003	-	-	900,003
Intra-Diocesan billings								
Self-insurance premiums - General	3,845,367	-	-	3,845,367	3,811,794	-	-	3,811,794
Self-insurance premiums - Medical	8,274,411	-	-	8,274,411	8,643,236	-	-	8,643,236
Clergy benefit programs	2,569,271	-	-	2,569,271	2,738,281	-	-	2,738,281
Diocesan Program Revenues -								
Schedule 1	743,382	-	-	743,382	619,802	-	-	619,802
Diocesan Annual Appeal	-	4,807,193	-	4,807,193	-	4,990,754	-	4,990,754
Special collections	-	39,445	-	39,445	-	41,485	-	41,485
Donations and bequests	1,761,444	3,233,636	-	4,995,080	718,711	140,789	212,817	1,072,317
Scholarship Foundation contributions	-	1,116,292	-	1,116,292	-	1,222,635	-	1,222,635
Custodial receipts								
National collections	-	835,214	-	835,214	-	1,011,397	-	1,011,397
Unemployment	466,834	-	-	466,834	546,316	-	-	546,316
Called to Holiness transfers	144,691	-	-	144,691	598,830	-	-	598,830
Propagation collections	491,396	-	-	491,396	416,838	-	-	416,838
Other revenue	181,315	-	-	181,315	280,953	-	-	280,953
Investment income	976,691	85,740	8,266	1,070,697	1,171,996	63,545	8,258	1,243,799
Net realized (loss) gain on sale of investments	(92,300)	-	-	(92,300)	346,342	-	-	346,342
Net realized (loss) gain on sale of property	(353,641)	-	-	(353,641)	1,299,545	-	-	1,299,545
Net assets released from restrictions (Note 5):								
Satisfaction of program restrictions	7,651,408	(7,651,408)	-	-	6,946,325	(6,946,325)	-	-
Total revenues, gains and other support	\$ 31,914,487	\$ 2,466,112	\$ 8,266	\$ 34,388,865	\$ 33,373,841	\$ 524,280	\$ 221,075	\$ 34,119,196
Expenses								
Pastoral - Schedule 2	7,801,221	-	-	7,801,221	8,731,915	-	-	8,731,915
Educational - Schedule 3	4,072,499	-	-	4,072,499	3,130,363	-	-	3,130,363
Community and Social Service - Schedule 4	2,483,354	-	-	2,483,354	3,295,757	-	-	3,295,757
Administrative - Schedule 5	13,402,879	-	-	13,402,879	13,615,865	-	-	13,615,865
Called to Holiness transfers	128,603	-	-	128,603	1,024,890	-	-	1,024,890
Custodial disbursements								
National collections	835,214	-	-	835,214	1,011,397	-	-	1,011,397
Unemployment	162,815	-	-	162,815	182,886	-	-	182,886
Interest expense	476,796	-	-	476,796	476,954	-	-	476,954
Total expenses	29,363,381	-	-	29,363,381	31,470,027	-	-	31,470,027
Excess of revenues over expenses	2,551,106	2,466,112	8,266	5,025,484	1,903,814	524,280	221,075	2,649,169
Other changes								
Provision for bad debt	(70,404)	-	-	(70,404)	(188,680)	-	-	(188,680)
Pension-related changes other than net periodic pension cost	(2,288,344)	-	-	(2,288,344)	10,194,120	-	-	10,194,120
Transfer to lay pension plan	(1,463,264)	-	-	(1,463,264)	(1,092,424)	-	-	(1,092,424)
Change in net unrealized gains and losses on investments	221,703	-	-	221,703	(518,753)	-	-	(518,753)
(Decrease) increase in net assets	(1,049,203)	2,466,112	8,266	1,425,175	10,298,077	524,280	221,075	11,043,432
Net assets, beginning	(3,069,260)	2,160,146	3,056,754	2,147,640	(13,367,337)	1,635,866	2,835,679	(8,895,792)
Net assets, ending	\$ (4,118,463)	\$ 4,626,258	\$ 3,065,020	\$ 3,572,815	\$ (3,069,260)	\$ 2,160,146	\$ 3,056,754	\$ 2,147,640

Statements of Financial Position

June 30, 2016 and 2015

Assets

	2016	2015
Cash and equivalents	\$ 5,928,135	\$ 11,636,571
Certificates of deposit	6,045,741	245,000
Accounts receivable, less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$2,996,312 in 2016 and \$2,925,908 in 2015	2,654,220	2,886,208
Accrued interest receivable	106,281	111,718
Contributions receivable	45,323	143,408
Due from Catholic Cemeteries	586,452	190,045
Prepaid expense	512,994	895,166
Cash subject to program restrictions	5,750,950	2,808,974
Notes and loans receivable	3,834,941	3,985,926
Investments	55,845,582	57,514,545
Land, buildings and equipment, net	6,679,017	8,135,181
Assets held for sale	1,142,028	-
Other assets	380,917	382,113
Total assets	\$ 89,512,581	\$ 88,934,855

Liabilities and Net Assets

	2016	2015
Accounts payable	\$ 781,262	\$ 541,958
Custodial funds payable	609,440	694,683
Accrued interest expense	155,029	140,198
Contributions payable	690,643	569,554
Scholarships payable	1,124,692	648,828
Liability for pension benefits	13,041,882	11,655,017
Accrued claim expense	1,887,580	2,396,671
Accrued postretirement benefit obligation	11,812,012	10,836,472
Loan payable	3,834,941	3,985,926
Due to Diocese of Scranton Institute	22,326,564	25,779,329
Funds on deposit		
Catholic Cemeteries Perpetual Care	17,257,294	17,241,959
Other Diocesan organizations Perpetual Care	12,418,427	12,296,620
Total liabilities	85,939,766	86,787,215
Net assets		
Unrestricted	(4,118,463)	(3,069,260)
Temporarily restricted (Note 5)	4,626,258	2,160,146
Permanently restricted (Note 6)	3,065,020	3,056,754
Total net assets	3,572,815	2,147,640
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 89,512,581	\$ 88,934,855

Statement of Cash Flows

June 30, 2016 and 2015

	2016	2015
Operating activities		
Increase in net assets	\$ 1,425,175	\$ 11,043,432
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:		
Net realized loss (gain) on sale of investments	92,300	(346,342)
Net unrealized (gain) loss on investments	(221,703)	518,753
Net realized loss (gain) on sale of property	353,641	(1,299,545)
Amortization on investments	118,828	71,937
Depreciation expense	351,985	436,701
Provision for bad debt	70,404	188,680
Decrease (increase) in accounts receivable	161,584	(615,620)
Decrease in accrued interest receivable	5,437	46,469
Decrease (increase) in contributions receivable	98,085	(68,334)
(Increase) decrease in due from Catholic Cemeteries	(396,407)	109,268
Decrease (increase) in prepaid expense	382,172	(720,528)
Decrease in other assets	1,196	286,527
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	239,304	(151,281)
Decrease in other accrued expenses	-	(15,000)
(Decrease) increase in custodial funds payable	(85,243)	79,492
Increase (decrease) in accrued interest expense	14,831	(938)
Increase in contributions and scholarships payable	596,953	54,987
Increase (decrease) in liability for pension benefits	1,386,865	(288,921)
(Decrease) increase in accrued claim expense	(509,091)	108,286
Increase (decrease) in accrued postretirement benefit obligation	975,540	(8,879,617)
Decrease in due to Diocese of Scranton Institute	(3,452,765)	(449,737)
Contributions and interest restricted for long-term investment	(8,266)	(221,075)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	1,600,825	(112,406)
Investing activities		
Change in temporarily restricted cash	\$ (2,941,976)	\$ (485,079)
Change in permanently restricted cash	(8,266)	(221,075)
Purchase of fixed assets	(393,639)	(2,598,717)
Proceeds from sale of property	2,149	1,302,773
Principal collected-loans receivable	150,985	2,012,667
Purchase of investments	(48,958,111)	(33,532,312)
Proceeds from sale of investments	44,845,174	34,943,582
Net cash (used in) provided by investing activities	(7,303,684)	1,421,839
Financing activities		
Proceeds from interest and contributions restricted for:		
Investment in endowment	8,266	221,075
Principal payments on loan	(150,985)	(2,012,667)
Funds on deposit		
Additions	147,642	170,308
Withdrawals	(10,500)	(50,505)
Net cash used in financing activities	(5,577)	(1,671,789)
Net decrease in cash	(5,708,436)	(362,356)
Cash and equivalents, beginning	11,636,571	11,998,927
Cash and equivalents, ending	\$ 5,928,135	\$ 11,636,571

The accompanying Notes are an integral part of these Financial Statements.

Note 1 - Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Nature of Operations

The accompanying financial statements are limited to reporting financial transactions of the Diocesan Administrative Offices of the Diocese of Scranton (the Diocese). Other organizations, which are owned and operated by the Diocese of Scranton and maintained separately from the Administrative Offices, are not reported on in these financial statements, including Little Flower Manor, Catholic Schools, Catholic Youth Center, Catholic Social Services, Diocese of Scranton Institute and other Diocesan service organizations. These statements also exclude the financial transactions of the parishes and the Diocesan and parish cemeteries.

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles; the more significant of which are described below.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Notes to Financial Statements

Public Support and Revenue

Contributions of cash and other assets are reported as temporarily restricted support if they are received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets. When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the Statements of Activities as net assets released from restrictions.

Endowment contributions and investments are permanently restricted by the donor. Investment earnings that are available to be distributed are recorded as temporarily restricted support.

Contributions of donated non-cash assets are recorded at their fair values in the period received.

Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable consists of assessments billed to parishes and other Diocesan organizations for insurance, priests’ pension and health insurance and Diocesan programs and operations. Based on management’s evaluation of collectibility, the Diocese has established an allowance for uncollectible accounts.

Investments

Investments in equity securities with readily determinable fair values and all investments in debt securities are measured at fair value in the Statements of Financial Position. Investment income or loss (including realized gains and losses on investments, interest and dividends) is reported in the Statements of Activities as increases or decreases in unrestricted net assets unless the income is restricted by donor or law.

Land, Buildings and Equipment

Land, buildings and equipment are recorded at cost less accumulated depreciation. Donations of land, buildings or equipment are recorded at estimated fair value and are included in support unless restricted to a specific purpose. If donors stipulate how long the assets must be used, the contributions are recorded as restricted support. In the absence of such stipulations, contributions of property and equipment are recorded as unrestricted support. Depreciation is computed on the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of assets.

Long-Lived Assets

The Diocese reviews the carrying value of long-lived assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that carrying amounts of the assets might not be recoverable.

Contributions Payable

Contributions made and unconditional promises to make future contributions to other organizations are recognized when made or the promise conveyed. Contributions payable over more than one year are recorded at their discounted present value. Changes in discounts are recognized over the period of the promise as adjustments to contributions expense.

Excess of Revenues Over Expenses

The Statements of Activities include excess of revenues over expenses. Changes in unrestricted net assets which are excluded from excess of revenues over expenses include provision for bad debt, unrealized gains and losses on investments and transfers of assets to and from affiliates for other than goods and services.

Self-Insurance Programs

Diocesan organizations, including the Diocesan Administrative Offices, parishes and other institutions, are included in a combined plan for property, workers compensation and comprehensive liability insurance. Losses above a specific amount are insured with commercial insurance companies but losses below that amount are self-insured by the Diocese. The Diocese has a standby letter of credit in the amount of \$2,800,000 to provide security for future workers’ compensation claim payments. The Diocese records as a

liability amounts determined by its insurance administrator as the estimated liability for claims filed for insured losses under the program. The actual liability paid may be in excess of or less than the amounts provided. Refer to Note 9 for additional information.

Defined Benefit Plans

The Diocese recognizes the overfunded or underfunded status of its defined benefit plans as an asset or liability in its statement of financial position and recognizes changes in that funded status in the year in which the changes occur through other changes in net assets. Refer to Note 8.

Funds on Deposit and Notes and Loans Receivable

The funds on deposit are Catholic Cemeteries and other Diocesan organizations perpetual care funds. Interest rates range from 1.0% to 2.0%. The funds are invested in separate trust accounts at Merrill Lynch.

Advertising

All advertising costs are expensed as incurred. For the years ended June 30, 2016 and 2015, advertising expense amounted to \$87,946 and \$52,974, respectively.

Cash Flows

For the purpose of the Statements of Cash Flows, the Diocese considers all highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less when purchased to be cash equivalents. Cash is held in interest-bearing demand accounts and trust accounts at banks. Cash and cash equivalents for the purposes of the Statements of Cash Flows exclude temporarily and permanently restricted cash and cash equivalents.

During the years ended June 30, 2016 and 2015, the Diocese paid interest in the amounts of \$461,965 and \$477,892, respectively.

Income Tax Status

The Diocese is a not-for-profit organization that is exempt from income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

In accordance with the Financial Accounting Standards Board guidance on accounting for uncertainty in income taxes, management evaluated the Diocese’s tax positions and concluded that the Diocese had taken no uncertain tax positions that require adjustment to the financial statements to comply with the provisions of this guidance. With few exceptions, the Diocese is no longer subject to income tax examinations by the U.S. federal, state or local tax authorities for years before 2012.

Subsequent Events

The Diocese has evaluated subsequent events through December 13, 2016, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

Reclassifications

Certain items on the prior year’s financial statements have been reclassified to conform to the current year’s format.

Note 2 - Cash and Equivalents

Cash and equivalents at June 30, 2016, consisted of the following:

First National Community Bank	\$ 2,688,925
Community Bank	443,437
Citibank self-insurance checking	9,032
PNC Bank self-insurance checking	5,924,853
Fidelity Deposit and Discount Bank – Self-insurance	561,702
Integrity Bank	551,050
KeyBank	2,226
Merrill Lynch	3,340,685
Fidelity Deposit and Discount Bank trust account	94,362
Petty cash	3,141
Less: Restricted cash	(7,691,278)
Total cash and equivalents	<u>\$ 5,928,135</u>

Note 3 - Investments

Investments at June 30, 2016 and 2015 are summarized as follows:				
	2016		2015	
	Cost	Fair Value (Carrying Value)	Cost	Fair Value (Carrying Value)
Unrestricted				
U.S. Obligations	\$ 16,111,962	\$ 16,360,343	\$ 18,242,173	\$ 18,312,581
Corporate Bonds	8,550,547	8,724,921	10,531,390	10,566,478
Corporate Equities	24,009,825	26,166,015	21,855,921	24,063,098
Mutual Funds	1,614,299	1,529,283	1,556,081	1,515,634
	50,286,633	52,780,562	52,185,565	54,457,791
Permanently restricted				
Cash	3,065,020	3,065,020	3,056,754	3,056,754
Total investments	\$ 53,351,653	\$ 55,845,582	\$ 55,242,319	\$ 57,514,545

As of June 30, 2016, the above investments were deposited with Merrill Lynch and Fidelity Deposit and Discount Bank.
Unrestricted investment income and gains and losses consisted of the following:

<u>Income</u>	2016	2015
Interest and dividends	\$ 976,691	\$ 1,171,996
Net realized (loss) gain on investment transactions	\$ (92,300)	\$ 346,342
<u>Other Changes in Net Assets</u>		
Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	\$ 221,703	\$ (518,753)

Note 4 - Land, Buildings and Equipment

Land, buildings and equipment consisted of the following at June 30, 2016 and 2015:			
	2016	2015	Depreciable Lives
Land, buildings and improvements	\$ 9,835,985	\$ 15,805,487	20-40 Years
Equipment	3,563,036	4,180,148	3-10 Years
	13,399,021	19,985,635	
Less: Accumulated depreciation	6,720,004	11,850,454	
Total	\$ 6,679,017	\$ 8,135,181	

Depreciation expense amounted to \$351,985 and \$436,701 for the years ended June 30, 2016 and 2015.
In June, 2016, the Diocese entered into an agreement for the sale of the St. Pius X Seminary building. The net book value of the property amounted to \$1,142,028 and is recorded as “Assets held for sale” on the Statement of Financial Position.

Note 5 - Temporarily Restricted Net Assets

Temporarily restricted net assets, as of June 30, 2016 and 2015, are available for the following purposes:		
	Net Assets	
	2016	2015
Saint Pius X Seminary/St. John Vianney	\$ 1,269,855	\$ 1,202,108
Villa St. Joseph	228,276	194,734
Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Foundation	52,562	528,966
Msgr. Paul F. Terracciano Tuition Trust Fund	4,635	3,875
Reverend Niebrzydowski Tuition Fund	12,518	12,332
Msgr. Jordan Tuition Fund	19,339	19,040
Christie D. Shull Fund	2,739,332	-
Stanley F. Abramek Fund	124,848	-
Campaign for Human Development Program	20,916	-
Restricted for program and educational expenditures	153,977	199,091
Total temporarily restricted net assets	\$ 4,626,258	\$ 2,160,146

Net assets were released from donor restrictions by incurring expenses satisfying the restricted purposes specified by donors as follows:

	Net Assets	
	2016	2015
Diocesan Annual Appeal Program costs	\$ 4,797,735	\$ 4,984,290
Campaign for Human Development Program costs	-	19,305
National Collections - collections remitted	835,214	1,011,397
Beatrice M. Eck Endowment Fund Scholarship	94,600	-
Villa St. Joseph Capital improvements	36,837	32,221
Seminary/St. John Vianney Fund improvements	65,591	16,463
Flood Relief	-	19,450
Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Foundation Scholarships and program costs	1,821,431	863,199
Total restrictions released	\$ 7,651,408	\$ 6,946,325

Note 6 - Permanently Restricted Net Assets

Permanently restricted net assets, as of June 30, 2016 and 2015, are restricted to the following:		
	Net Assets	
	2016	2015
<u>Permanent Endowment Funds</u>		
<u>Reverend Charles J. O’Donnell Scholarship Fund</u>		
The income derived from invested funds is to be distributed for Mass stipends and seminarian training. Any remaining income is to be reinvested and become part of the principal.	\$ 106,365	\$ 106,365
<u>Msgr. Paul F. Terracciano Tuition Trust Fund</u>		
The income derived from invested funds is to be distributed for tuition to students attending Diocesan schools.	45,000	45,000
<u>Beatrice M. Eck Endowment Fund</u>		
85% of the income derived from invested funds is to be distributed for Catholic education in Lycoming County.	2,700,838	2,692,572
<u>Fanucci Trust Fund</u>		
The income derived from invested funds is to be distributed for Priest educational or career development including continuing education or Priestly formation.	212,817	212,817
Total permanently restricted net assets	\$ 3,065,020	\$ 3,056,754

Note 7 - Contributions Payable

At June 30, 2016, contributions payable amounted to \$690,643. For the preceding year, contributions payable amounted to \$569,554.

Amounts due in:		
Less than one year	\$ 680,643	
One to five years	10,000	
Total contributions payable	\$ 690,643	

Note 8 - Retirement Plans

Priests’ Pension Plan
There is a defined benefit pension plan in effect for all incardinated priests in good standing or priests in good standing permanently assigned to the Diocese. The entire cost of the Plan is paid by the parish or institution to which each eligible priest is assigned. The Plan is administered by the Bishop with advisory and consulting services available to him from a Retirement Board.
The Diocesan funding policy is to contribute annually amounts determined by actuarial estimates. Contributions are intended to provide not only for benefits attributed to service to date but also for those expected to be earned in the future.

Lay Employee Pension Plan
There is a defined benefit pension plan for the lay employees of the Diocesan Administrative Offices. Prior to June 30, 2009, the cost of the Plan was paid jointly by the Diocesan offices and the employees. The employee contribution was 3% of base salary each year and the employer contribution rate was 7%. In May, 2008, the decision was made to freeze the pension plan as of June 30, 2009. After that date, no further benefits will accrue in the plan.

Postretirement Medical Benefits
The Diocese provides certain health care benefits for all retired priests. The Diocese’s share of the estimated costs of benefits that will be paid after retirement is generally being accrued by charges to expense over the priests’ service periods to the dates they are fully eligible for benefits.

	Pension Benefits		Postretirement Medical Benefits	
	2016	2015	2016	2015
Obligations and funded status at June 30:				
Fair value of plan assets	\$ 12,756,187	\$13,267,304	\$ -	\$ -
Projected benefit obligations	25,798,069	24,922,321	11,812,012	10,836,472
Funded status at end of years	<u>\$(13,041,882)</u>	<u>\$(11,655,017)</u>	<u>\$(11,812,012)</u>	<u>\$(10,836,472)</u>
Amounts recognized in the Statements of Financial Position consist of:				
Liability for benefits	<u>\$(13,041,882)</u>	<u>\$(11,655,017)</u>	<u>\$(11,812,012)</u>	<u>\$(10,836,472)</u>
Net amount recognized	<u>\$(13,041,882)</u>	<u>\$(11,655,017)</u>	<u>\$(11,812,012)</u>	<u>\$(10,836,472)</u>

The accumulated benefit obligation for both defined benefit pension plans was \$25,798,069 and \$24,922,321 at June 30, 2016 and 2015, respectively. Both plans had accumulated benefit obligations in excess of plan assets at June 30, 2016 and 2015.

Other Changes and Plan Assets and Benefit Obligations Recognized in Pension-related Changes Other Than Net Periodic Pension Cost:

	Pension Benefits		Postretirement Medical Benefits	
	2016	2015	2016	2015
Net loss (gain)	\$ 351,723	\$ (6,738)	\$ 140,869	\$ (408,045)
Prior service cost	(97,004)	(387,872)	(157,292)	(157,292)
Change in assumptions	1,200,505	-	849,543	(9,234,173)
	1,455,224	(394,610)	833,120	(9,799,510)
Net periodic benefit cost	1,079,696	1,389,433	142,420	919,893
Total	\$ 2,534,920	\$ 994,823	\$ 975,540	\$ (8,879,617)

The estimated net loss and prior service cost for the defined benefit pension plans that will be amortized from net assets into net periodic benefit cost over the next fiscal year are \$795,252 and \$633,543, respectively. The estimated net gain and prior service cost for the other defined benefit postretirement plan that will be amortized from net assets into net periodic benefit cost over the next fiscal year is \$50,205 and \$140,869, respectively.

Assumptions	Pension Benefits		Postretirement Medical Benefits	
	2016	2015	2016	2015
Weighted-average assumptions used in computing ending obligations:				
Discount rate	4.00%	4.50%	4.00%	4.50%
Rate of compensation increase	N/A	N/A	-	-
Weighted-average assumptions used in computing net cost:				
Discount rate	4.00%	4.50%	4.00%	4.50%
Expected long-term return on plan assets	7.50%	7.50%	-	-
Rate of compensation increase	N/A	N/A	-	-

The expected long-term return on plan assets was determined using average historical returns of the Diocese’s plan assets.

Assumed health care cost trend rates at June 30:		
	2016	2015
Health care cost trend rate assumed for next year	6.00%	5.50%
Rate to which the cost trend rate is assumed to decline (the ultimate trend rate)	5.50%	5.50%
Year that the rate reaches the ultimate trend rate	2018	2016

Plan Assets

The assets of the Plans are deposited in separate Merrill Lynch trust accounts for the Diocese of Scranton’s lay and priest pension plans.

In determining fair value for pension plan assets, the Diocese uses various methods including market, income and cost approaches. The Diocese utilizes valuation techniques that maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. The fair value hierarchy ranks the quality and reliability of the information used to determine fair values. Financial assets carried at fair value will be classified and disclosed in one of the following three categories:

Level I – Valuations for assets and liabilities traded in active exchange markets, such as the New York Stock Exchange.

Level II – Valuations for assets and liabilities traded in less active dealer or broker markets. Valuations are obtained from third party pricing services for identical or similar assets or liabilities.

Level III – Valuations for assets and liabilities that are derived from other valuation methodologies, including option pricing models, discounted cash flow models and similar techniques, and not based on market exchange, dealer, or broker traded transactions. Level III valuations incorporate certain assumptions and projections in determining the fair value assigned to such assets or liabilities.

The asset’s or liability’s fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value:

Common Stocks, Corporate bonds, U.S. Government and Agencies obligations, and Money Markets: Valued at the closing price reported on the active market on which the individual securities are traded.

The following tables set forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the assets at fair value as of June 30, 2016 and 2015.

Assets:	June 30, 2016			
	Level I	Level II	Level III	Total
U.S. Obligations	\$ 2,229,050	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,229,050
Corporate bonds	1,146,264	-	-	1,146,264
Common stocks	7,676,211	-	-	7,676,211
Money markets	1,704,662	-	-	1,704,662
	\$ 12,756,187	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,756,187

Assets:	June 30, 2015			
	Level I	Level II	Level III	Total
U.S. Obligations	\$ 2,502,902	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,502,902
Corporate bonds	1,287,146	-	-	1,287,146
Common stocks	8,070,783	-	-	8,070,783
Money markets	1,406,473	-	-	1,406,473
	\$ 13,267,304	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,267,304

The Diocese’s pension plan weighted-average asset allocations at June 30, 2016 and 2015, by asset category, are as follows:

	Pension Benefits	
	2016	2015
Equity securities	60.00%	61.00%
Debt securities	27.00%	28.00%
Other	13.00%	11.00%
Total	100.00%	100.00%

The Diocese’s investment policies and strategies include:

- 1) The Diocese, in keeping with Canon Law and Catholic philosophy, excludes investments in companies whose products or performances are inconsistent with Catholic teaching.
- 2) Bonds must be rated “A” or better and maturities are limited to a maximum of ten years. Purchases of preferred stock are not permitted.
- 3) The asset allocation policy is 60% for equities and 40% for cash and fixed income.

Cash Flows

Contributions		
Diocesan contributions:	Pension Benefits	Other Benefits
2015 (actual)	\$1,283,744	\$ -
2016 (actual)	1,148,055	-
2017 (estimated)	1,000,000	-

There are no participant contributions after June 30, 2009.

Benefit Payments		
Benefit payments:	Pension Benefits	Other Benefits
2015	\$1,610,436	\$757,693
2016	\$1,683,617	\$486,057

The following benefit payments, which reflect expected future service, as appropriate, are expected to be paid:

	Pension Benefits	Other Benefits
2017	\$1,932,773	\$ 506,775
2018	1,974,513	530,442
2019	1,952,485	542,320
2020	1,907,301	554,192
2021	1,871,353	577,796
Years 2022-2026	8,904,648	3,172,816

403(b) Plan

On July 1, 2009, the Diocese established a 403(b) Plan for employees. The Diocese contributes 2% of gross earnings to all employees and also matches employee deferral contributions up to 4%. For the years ended June 30, 2016 and 2015, the Diocese contributed \$155,935 and \$152,042 respectively, to the 403(b) Plan for the employees of the Administrative Offices.

Note 9 - Self-Insurance Program

General

Under the terms of the general insurance plan, individual claims above a specific amount (\$500,000 for property claims and \$250,000 for liability claims in 2016 and 2015, and \$500,000 and \$450,000 for workers compensation claims in 2016 and 2015) are insured with commercial insurance companies. Prior to July 1, 1993, an aggregate loss fund (\$1,250,000 for 1993) was also in place to limit claim expenses for the Diocese to that amount for the claim year. For the years ended June 30, 1994 and thereafter, the loss fund protection was eliminated to reduce excess commercial insurance premium expense.

Medical

As of July 1, 2005, the Diocese instituted a self-insurance medical plan. Under the terms of the plan, there is insurance coverage for individual claims exceeding \$185,000 with a maximum annual reimbursement of \$1,815,000.

Note 10 - Loan Payable

In December, 2004, the Diocese entered into a loan agreement with the Monroe County Industrial Development Authority (the Authority) to provide funding for a construction project at Notre Dame Junior Senior High School (the School). The Authority issued a revenue note in the amount of \$7,500,000 and subsequently sold the note to PNC Bank, NA. The proceeds were then loaned to the Diocese, and the Diocese agreed to pay all amounts due by the Authority under the note to the Bank. The note called for monthly payments of \$35,531, including principal and interest of 3.88%, until December, 2015, at which time the note was refinanced. The note was refinanced with the Authority in the amount of \$4,048,000 and was subsequently sold to First National Community Bank. The note calls for payments of \$22,539, including principal and interest of 3.00%, until January 2025. The Bank has a security interest in the property, and the Diocese is subject to various covenants; refer to the agreements for details. As disclosed in Note 1 to the financial statements, the School is an organization not reported on in these financial statements. Therefore, a loan receivable from the School has been recorded in the Statement of Financial Position in the same amount as the Loan Payable. The balance at June 30, 2016 and 2015 amounted to \$3,834,941 and \$3,985,926, respectively.

Note 11 - Diocesan Annual Appeal

The Diocesan Annual Appeal is a Diocesan program started as a means of supporting the charitable, educational and pastoral services of the Diocese. Campaigns for the years ended June 30, 2016 and 2015 had budget goals of \$5,000,000 and \$5,500,000, respectively, which would be used to finance various Diocesan programs.

Based on the terms of the Appeal, each parish was assigned a “Parish Goal,” which represented its portion of the overall Diocesan goal. Parishes shared in the success of the campaign to the extent that they received seventy-five percent of the funds which were raised in excess of their goal.

Funds raised by the 2015 Diocesan Annual Appeal totaled \$5,045,080. The Diocese returned to parishes \$237,887 representing seventy-five percent of the funds raised in excess of the individual parish goals for the 2015 campaign. Also, contributions receivable of \$45,323 were recorded at their net realizable value in connection with the 2015 campaign; these contributions were collected within one year.

Funds raised by the 2014 Diocesan Annual Appeal totaled \$5,097,316. The Diocese returned to parishes \$90,910 representing seventy-five percent of the funds raised in excess of the individual parish goals for the 2014 campaign. Also, contributions receivable of \$143,408 were recorded at their net realizable value in connection with the 2014 campaign; these contributions were collected within one year.

Appeal contributions were committed to the following Diocesan programs and expenditures were made accordingly:

	2016		2015	
	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	Actual
Direct aid to schools and Religious				
Education Grants	\$ 850,000	\$ 815,615	\$ 935,000	\$ 849,990
Communication and Evangelization	850,000	815,615	935,000	849,990
Social services	600,000	575,728	660,000	599,993
Clergy formation, education and				
Retirement	1,200,000	1,151,457	1,320,000	1,199,986
Parish Ministries	1,100,000	1,055,502	1,210,000	1,099,987
Campaign Cost	400,000	383,819	440,000	399,995
	<u>\$ 5,000,000</u>	<u>\$4,797,736</u>	<u>\$ 5,500,000</u>	<u>\$4,999,941</u>

Interest income earned on Appeal funds amounted to \$4,718 and \$4,666 for the years ended June 30, 2016 and 2015.

Note 12 - Called to Holiness

Parish Restructuring

Called to Holiness is the consolidation of parishes within the Diocese. Through this consolidation, whenever an ethnic parish closes and has net assets, part of the net assets will be given to the territorial parish which has assumed care of the former members of the closed parish. The part of the net assets not passed on, approximately 42%, will be retained by the Diocese to cover the net liabilities of closed ethnic parishes which become the responsibility of the Diocese. During the years ended June 30, 2016 and 2015, the Diocese received assets in the amount of \$144,691 and \$598,830, respectively, and made transfers and debt reductions in the amount of \$128,603 and \$1,024,890, respectively.

Note 13 - Cash Subject to Program Restrictions

Cash subject to program restrictions consists of the cash held to meet the requirements of temporarily restricted net assets.

Note 14 - Contingencies

Related Party Loans

The Diocese has agreed to guarantee repayment of principal and interest on the following bank loans of Diocesan organizations:

	Balances at <u>June 30, 2016</u>
Little Flower Manor	\$ 1,750,272
Catholic Social Services	\$ 1,589,613

Litigation

The Diocese has several claims and pending legal proceedings that generally involve personal liability and employment issues. In the opinion of management and outside legal counsel, such proceedings are substantially covered by insurance, and the ultimate disposition of such proceedings are not expected to have a material adverse effect on the Diocese’s financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

Note 15 - Fair Value Measurements

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. In determining fair value, the Diocese uses various methods including market, income and cost approaches. Based on these approaches, the Diocese often utilizes certain assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability, including assumptions about risk and or the risks inherent in the inputs to the valuation technique. These inputs can be readily observable, market corroborated, or generally unobservable inputs. The Diocese utilizes valuation techniques that maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. Based on the observability of the inputs used in the valuation techniques, the Diocese is required to provide the following information according to the fair value hierarchy. The fair value hierarchy ranks the quality and reliability of the information used to determine fair values. Financial assets and liabilities carried at fair value will be classified and disclosed in one of the following three categories:

Level I – Valuations for assets and liabilities traded in active exchange markets, such as the New York Stock Exchange.

Level II – Valuations for assets and liabilities traded in less active dealer or broker markets. Valuations are obtained from third party pricing services for identical or similar assets or liabilities.

Level III – Valuations for assets and liabilities that are derived from other valuation methodologies, including option pricing models, discounted cash flow models and similar techniques, and not based on market exchange, dealer, or broker traded transactions. Level III valuations incorporate certain assumptions and projections in determining the fair value assigned to such assets or liabilities.

The asset’s or liability’s fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value:

Common Stocks, Corporate bonds, U.S. Government and Agencies obligations and Money Markets: Valued at the closing price reported on the active market on which the individual securities are traded.

The preceding methods may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, while the Diocese believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

The following tables set forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the assets at fair value as of June 30, 2016 and 2015.

	June 30, 2016			
	Level I	Level II	Level III	Total
Assets:				
U.S. Obligations	\$ 16,360,343	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,360,343
Corporate bonds				
Aaa credit rating	-	221,236	-	221,236
Aa1 credit rating	-	356,809	-	356,809
Aa2 credit rating	-	710,854	-	710,854
Aa3 credit rating	-	413,116	-	413,116
A1 credit rating	-	1,233,416	-	1,233,416
A2 credit rating	-	1,752,218	-	1,752,218
A3 credit rating	-	2,124,384	-	2,124,384
Baa1 credit rating	-	1,465,049	-	1,465,049
Baa2 credit rating	-	447,839	-	447,839
Total Corporate Bonds	-	8,724,921	-	8,724,921
Equities				
Industrials	1,799,489	-	-	1,799,489
Consumer Discretionary	3,232,051	-	-	3,232,051
Consumer Staples	3,068,809	-	-	3,068,809
Energy	2,403,978	-	-	2,403,978
Financial	3,850,954	-	-	3,850,954
Materials	912,620	-	-	912,620
Information Technology	5,609,374	-	-	5,609,374
Utilities	1,216,222	-	-	1,216,222
Health Care	2,732,289	-	-	2,732,289
Telecommunication Services	1,340,229	-	-	1,340,229
Total Equities	26,166,015	-	-	26,166,015
Mutual Funds	1,529,283	-	-	1,529,283
Restricted cash	3,065,020	-	-	3,065,020
	<u>\$ 47,120,661</u>	<u>\$ 8,724,921</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 55,845,582</u>

	June 30, 2015			
	Level I	Level II	Level III	Total
Assets:				
U.S. Obligations	\$ 18,312,581	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,312,581
Corporate bonds				
Aaa credit rating	-	230,359	-	230,359
Aa1 credit rating	-	577,032	-	577,032
Aa2 credit rating	-	1,003,286	-	1,003,286
Aa3 credit rating	-	1,052,522	-	1,052,522
A1 credit rating	-	2,330,777	-	2,330,777
A2 credit rating	-	1,834,127	-	1,834,127
A3 credit rating	-	1,742,158	-	1,742,158
Baa1 credit rating	-	1,394,333	-	1,394,333
Baa2 credit rating	-	121,869	-	121,869
Baa3 credit rating	-	280,015	-	280,015
Total Corporate Bonds	-	10,566,478	-	10,566,478
Equities				
Industrials	1,899,234	-	-	1,899,234
Consumer Discretionary	3,296,599	-	-	3,296,599
Consumer Staples	3,069,447	-	-	3,069,447
Energy	2,178,221	-	-	2,178,221
Financial	4,152,333	-	-	4,152,333
Materials	1,095,788	-	-	1,095,788
Information Technology	4,726,961	-	-	4,726,961
Utilities	911,488	-	-	911,488
Health Care	1,795,260	-	-	1,795,260
Telecommunication Services	937,767	-	-	937,767
Total Equities	24,063,098	-	-	24,063,098
Mutual Funds	1,515,634	-	-	1,515,634
Restricted cash	3,056,754	-	-	3,056,754
	<u>\$ 46,948,067</u>	<u>\$ 10,566,478</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 57,514,545</u>

Note 16 - Endowments

The Diocese’s endowment funds consist of approximately 9 individual funds established primarily for student scholarships that are donor-restricted funds. As required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, net assets associated with endowment funds are classified and reported based on existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions.

Endowment Net Asset Composition by type of fund as of June 30, 2016 and 2015 is as follows:

	2016			
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Donor-restricted endowment Funds	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 3,002,814</u>	<u>\$ 3,065,020</u>	<u>\$6,067,834</u>
	2015			
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Donor-restricted endowment Funds	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 659,950</u>	<u>\$ 3,056,754</u>	<u>\$3,716,704</u>

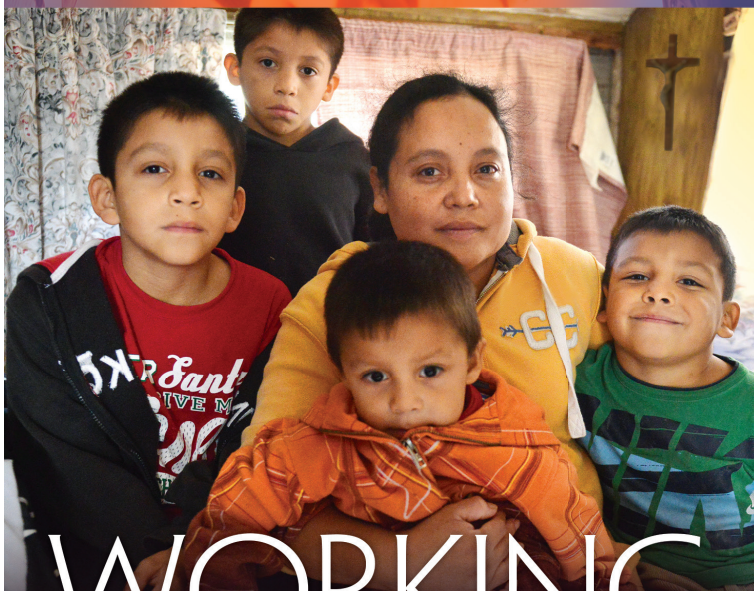
Changes in Endowment Net Assets for the years ended June 30, 2016 and 2015, are as follows:

	2016			
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Endowment net assets, beginning of year	\$ -	\$ 659,950	\$ 3,056,754	\$ 3,716,704
Investment return:				
Investment income	-	74,372	8,266	82,638
Total investment return	-	74,372	8,266	82,638
Contributions	-	4,165,994	-	4,165,994
Appropriation of endowment assets for expenditure	-	(1,897,502)	-	(1,897,502)
Endowment net assets, end of year	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 3,002,814</u>	<u>\$ 3,065,020</u>	<u>\$ 6,067,834</u>
	2015			
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Endowment net assets, beginning of year	\$ -	\$ 227,366	\$ 2,835,679	\$ 3,063,045
Investment return:				
Investment income	-	50,967	8,258	59,225
Total investment return	-	50,967	8,258	59,225
Contributions	-	1,222,635	212,817	1,435,452
Appropriation of endowment assets for expenditure	-	(841,018)	-	(841,018)
Endowment net assets, end of year	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 659,950</u>	<u>\$ 3,056,754</u>	<u>\$ 3,716,704</u>

The Diocese has adopted investment and spending policies for endowment assets that attempt to provide a predictable stream of funding to programs supported by its endowment while seeking to maintain the purchasing power of the endowment assets.

The donor-restricted endowment assets earn a fixed rate of return in the Diocesan Deposit Fund.





WORKING ON THE MARGINS

Support the
Catholic Campaign for Human Development

www.usccb.org/cchd/collection



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Catholic Campaign for Human Development Empowers People to Overcome Poverty

An estimated 43 million people live in poverty in the United States. The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) aims to help people break the grip of poverty and enhance their lives.

The annual national collection for the CCHD will be taken up in parishes in the Diocese of Scranton on the weekend of January 28-29. The theme, "Working on the Margins," focuses our attention on the poor and vulnerable who can often be overlooked.

This campaign is the primary source of funding for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' anti-poverty grants and education programs aimed at fostering a culture of life and hope in communities across the nation.

The collection supports the work of groups that empower low-income people to participate in decisions that affect their lives and break the cycle of poverty. Many of the projects supported by CCHD embody the corporal works of mercy, including the protection of worker rights, expanding access to healthcare and reforming the criminal justice system.

Twenty-five percent of funds collected through the Catholic Campaign for Human Development remain in each diocese to support local human development projects. In the Diocese of Scranton, a portion of the CCHD collection will be dedicated to the Diocesan participation in the National V Encuentro for pastoral planning in Hispanic/Latino communities.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development continues to operate within the 2010 guidelines established by their governing bishops in The Review and Renewal of CCHD. This ensures that the recipients of these grants are providing programs and services which are in keeping with Catholic social and moral teaching.

Additional resources to learn about poverty in the United States can be found at www.povertyusa.org.

Helping disaster victims

Continued from page 1

Hurricane Matthew Collection funds are being allocated to Catholic Relief Services for humanitarian efforts in the Caribbean in the form of water, food, shelter, and medical care, and to restore communities after widespread destruction; to Catholic Charities USA for immediate humanitarian efforts in the United States as well as for long-term recovery efforts; and to USCCB for pastoral and church reconstruction needs in the Caribbean and U.S.

Faithful in the Diocese of Scranton contributed nearly \$273,000 to these three special collections.

"When disaster strikes, the Church responds with compassion, prayers and material support," said Bishop Joseph C. Bambera. "I am very grateful to everyone here in our Diocese who has been so generous in contributing to these special collections. You are bringing the comfort of Christ to our sisters and brothers during their most urgent time of need."

Emergency collection appeals are called for by the president of the USCCB, fund allocation decisions are made by the USCCB Executive or Administrative Committee and collection funds are administered by the USCCB Committee on National Collections.



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Exploring the Call: Orientation Retreat for Diocesan Certificate Lay Ministry Candidates scheduled for this month

As the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton welcome a new calendar year, the Office for Parish Life is making preparations to welcome new participants into the *Formation for Servant Leadership* process this winter. On Saturday, January 28, a cohort of candidates will come together for an Orientation Retreat to begin the *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry* process.

During the Orientation Retreat day in a few short weeks, these new candidates will have the opportunity to explore their call to grow in their ministry, and to cultivate their gifts as disciples of Christ through individual and group reflection. There will be further discussion regarding the academic components of the certificate program, and attendees can engage with each other in fellowship.

Participants express many different reasons for choosing to enter into the *Diocesan Certificate* – some participate out of their own sense of vocation, some at the invitation of their Pastor. The certification process is intended to equip and nurture parish level leaders in a variety of ministries.

These new candidates have responded to a prompting of the Holy Spirit, as well as to Bishop Joseph C. Bambera's invitation to increase their servant leadership capacities within the Catholic Church as lay people; by entering into the certificate process, candidates can grow

in theological knowledge and ministerial praxis, in order to serve the needs of parish ministries in areas such as Word, Worship, Service, and Community.

For theological foundations, candidates take up online courses offered through the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF), sponsored by the University of Dayton. To equip them with practical skills and a growing awareness of beneficial pastoral ministry resources, candidates attend regional "skills" workshops throughout the year. In addition, participants gather for spiritual formation events, and are supported through Diocesan partnership with local Catholic universities such as the University of Scranton, King's College, Marywood University, and Misericordia University.

It is not too late for interested individuals to apply for entry into the *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry* — this is a formation program designed to equip and advance the servant leadership potential of those folks serving their parish in areas such as:

- Parish Pastoral Council,
- Directors of Religious Education and Catechists,
- Liturgical Coordinators,
- Parish Staff,
- Volunteer Ministry Team Members,
- and others!



Prospective candidates are encouraged to contact Kitty Scanlan, Coordinator for Lay Ministry Formation, at 570-207-2213, or by email at Kitty-Scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org for application information, materials, and for application submissions.



New Season to be Offered During Lent 2017

Leaders from several parishes throughout the Diocese of Scranton will be coming together at the end of January to hold trainings for *ARISE* Season Four: *New Heart, New Spirit*.

This season of the small group faith-sharing process — spanning the weeks of Lent — will address the need for reconciliation and healing in our lives, in parishes and throughout the world. These training sessions are being offered to assist parish leaders in their understanding of grief, forgiveness and healing, and to provide ways to create an environment for healing in faith communities.

This upcoming Lenten season is also

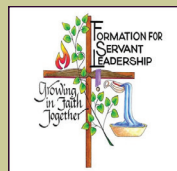
an opportunity for interested parishes to discern starting participation in the *ARISE Together in Christ* process for Fall 2017. *ARISE* gives parishioners a framework within which to respond to the invitation to grow in faith through weekly reflections on Scripture, sharing how the Word of God relates to daily life, and cultivating active discipleship through Christian social action. Participants journey deeper into their faith during each of the five seasons.

Greg Kremer from RENEW International can be reached at 908-242-0447 to offer interested parishes more details about the *ARISE* process and how it can unfold for your parish.

About RENEW International

RENEW International is a canonically-recognized Catholic organization based in Plainfield, NJ, in the Archdiocese of Newark. *RENEW International* fosters spiritual renewal in the Catholic tradition by empowering individuals and communities to encounter God in everyday life, deepen and share faith, and connect faith with action.

RENEW International has a four-decade record in revitalizing parish life in over 150 dioceses in the United States, touching the lives of 25 million people through its renewal processes. *RENEW International* also reaches many thousands outside the United States, having served people in 23 countries, across six continents and in 44 languages. The organization's web site is www.renewintl.org.



"Tending to Self" February 11, 2017 9AM-4PM

Diocesan Pastoral Center,
330 Wyoming Ave, Scranton

Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry: 2017 Skills Workshop Series

Lisa Rigau, RN, MS, sports and wellness nutritionist, will share the importance of self care for good ministry. She offers training in the practice of loving kindness and self-compassion through contemplative prayer, mindfulness, mindful eating and conversation. This workshop will involve teaching, discussion and trying out what you learn.

Participants are asked to wear comfortable clothing.



The cost of registration for each workshop is \$30 payable to *The Diocese of Scranton*. Register online at www.dioceseofscranton.org

Cardinal Tobin looks to bridge chasm between faith, life in anxious world

Newly Installed Archbishop of Newark, N.J.

NEWARK, N.J. (CNS) – The chasm between faith and life is the greatest challenge facing the Catholic Church today, Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin said at his installation Mass as Archbishop of Newark, and he urged the church to be salt for the earth so that the presence of Christ does not become “a comforting, nostalgic memory.”

Delivering the homily during the liturgy Jan. 6, the feast of the Epiphany, Cardinal Tobin said he wanted to head off “a growing trend that seems to isolate us, convincing us to neatly compartmentalize our lives” as people attend Mass on Sunday and then doing “whatever we think we need to do to get by” the rest of the week.

Cardinal Tobin said his ap-

pointment reminded him “that stakes are incredibly high” as he assumes leadership of the richly diverse Archdiocese of Newark.

“If we permit the chasm between faith and life to continue to expand, we risk losing Christ, reducing him simply to an interesting idea of a comforting, nostalgic memory. And if we lose Christ, the world has lost the salt, light and heaven that could have transformed it,” he said.

He recalled how the church is “the place where believers speak and listen to each other, and it is the community of faith that speaks with and listens to the world. The church senses a responsibility for the world, not simply as yet another institutional presence or a benevolent NGO, but as a movement of salt, light and heaven for the world’s transformation. For this reason, our kindness must be known to all.”

The installation took place



(CNS photo/Bob Roller)

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin smiles while speaking to the congregation at the end of his Jan. 6 installation Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, N.J.

before more than 2,000 people at Newark’s towering Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Cardinal Tobin concelebrated the Mass with six other cardinals and more than

60 archbishops and bishops. Five hundred priests and deacons also participated.

After a 30-minute processional, Archbishop John J. Myers, retired archbishop of Newark, welcomed participants and took special note of members of Cardinal Tobin’s religious community, the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, his mother, Marie Terese Tobin, and his extended family. Cardinal Tobin, 64, is the eldest of 13 children.

Archbishop Christophe Pierre, papal nuncio to the United States, recalled when St. John Paul visited Newark in 1995, he described the nearby Statue of Liberty as a symbol of “the nation America aspires to be.” Archbishop Pierre told Cardinal Tobin, “We are confident that in imitation of the Good Shepherd, your episcopal ministry will be both hospitable and welcoming.”

The nuncio read the apostolic mandate from Pope Francis to the College of Consultors to authorize Cardinal Tobin as the new archbishop of Newark. The letter noted that Cardinal Tobin carried out his episcopal responsibility to his flock in Indianapolis for four years “with prudence, decision-making and much learning.” It also commended him to the protection of St. Patrick and St. Elizabeth, patrons of the archdiocese.

Carrying the unfurled scroll with the mandate raised high in front of him, Cardinal Tobin walked down the main aisle and was greeted with sustained applause.

The cathedral was filled to capacity with the cardinal’s family and well-wishers from Newark and Indianapolis. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and his wife, Mary Pat, as well as Sen. Robert Menendez were among the civic representatives.

Ethnic diversity in the archdiocese was represented by prayers of intercession in Spanish, English, Korean, Polish, Creole, Ibo, Portuguese, Tagalog and Italian.

At the end of Mass, Cardinal Tobin thanked “all those families to which I belong, beginning with the one that’s put up with me for 64 years,” specifically his mother, 12 brothers and sisters, in-laws, nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts and uncles who were present. He said his family taught him how to love and share while growing up in a one-bathroom house with eight sisters.

The cardinal extended thanks to his Redemptorist family and “bishops in episcopal service in Indiana and New Jersey.” When he thanked Archbishop Meyers for his welcome and “the care you’ve given to this archdiocese for 15 years,” the congregation offered sustained applause.

DREs Invited to January Network Meetings

The Office for Parish Life invites all Parish DREs and Catechetical Leaders to take part in one of four regional Network Meetings scheduled in January. The DRE Network Meetings are designed to give DREs an opportunity to meet one another and form networks of support within the Diocese. Each parish is asked to send at least one representative to one of the meetings.

The meetings will be held from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the following locations:

- Monday, January 23
Gate of Heaven Parish
Dallas
- Tuesday, January 24
St. Paul of the Cross Parish
Scranton
- Thursday, January 26
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish
Montoursville
- Tuesday, January 31
Holy Rosary Parish
Hazleton



On the agenda will be a presentation by Katie Kernich, our Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Relationship Manager. She will be coming to us from Washington, D.C. to guide us through the CRS Lenten Rice Bowl program and to demonstrate how we can access CRS online classroom resources throughout the year.

Kathleen Bolinski, Safe Environment Coordinator for the Diocese of Scranton, will be on hand with updates on safe environment practices. She will also address any questions you may have about clearances, VIRTUS training, or the Children’s Lesson on Safe Environment.

Choose a night that is convenient for you and plan to join the Office for Parish Life, Katie, Kathleen and other DREs for an informative evening. For planning purposes, please R.S.V.P. to Mary Anne Malone: (570) 207-2213, ext. 1100 or mary-anne-malone@dioceseofscranton.org.

Couples Invited to Participate in Wedding Anniversary Celebration

On June 11, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will celebrate the Wedding Anniversary Mass at 2:30 p.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, for couples celebrating their 25th or 50th year of marriage in 2017.

This is an occasion to recognize the role married couples play in the Church’s mission to bring God’s faithful love into the world. Couples will have the opportunity to renew their marriage vows.

A reception will follow in the Diocesan Pastoral Center, where anniversary couples will be able to have their picture taken with the Bishop.

Eligible couples should give their names and an April mailing address to their parish office before March 13. Parish lists are due to the Office for Parish Life by March 20.

First Friday Devotions Throughout the Diocese

Masses & Devotions

— hosted by Holy Name of Jesus Parish in West Hazleton; held at the parish's Church of the Transfiguration, 213 W. Green St., West Hazleton. Holy Hour and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament held from 5 to 5:45 p.m., followed by celebration of Mass at 6 p.m.

— sponsored by the Men of the Sacred Heart; held at St. Stanislaus worship site, 666 N. Main St., Wilkes-Barre. Confessions are heard beginning at 6 p.m., followed by recitation of the Rosary and Litany of the Sacred Heart at 6:30 p.m. Mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is celebrated at 7 p.m.

— hosted at Sacred Heart Church, 554 Main St., Weston; Mass with Eucharistic procession celebrated at 6:30 p.m. (confessions heard prior). Mass followed by Litany of the Saints and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 8 p.m. Adoration Holy Hour includes recitation of the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary, Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and silent prayer with closing benediction.

Pro-Life Rosary Vigils

— sponsored by the Catholics Defending Life Prayer & Awareness Team; group gathers from 1 to 1:30 p.m. at Lackawanna County Courthouse Square (on North Washington Ave.) in downtown Scranton. Recitation of the Rosary offered, along with pro-life meditations, Divine Mercy Chaplet and other prayerful devotions for the respect and dignity of all human life from conception to natural death. Pro-life signs are welcome.

— held outside the offices of Planned Parenthood, 63 N. Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre; group gathers at 9 a.m. Rosary prayers are offered for an end to abortion.

Eucharistic Adorations

— hosted by Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, 1101 Willow St., Peckville; exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins following the celebration of the 6:50 a.m. Mass and continues until 12 noon. For more information, call the parish office (570-383-3244 ext. 2).

— sponsored by the Men of the Sacred Heart; hosted each month by Queen of Heaven Parish at Our Lady of Grace Church, Hazleton. Begins with Mass at 12:05 p.m. and concludes at 4 p.m. with the Rosary, Litany of the Sacred Heart, Communion service and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

— offered for the special intention of vocations to the priesthood; hosted by St. Ann Basilica Parish, St. Ann's St., west Scranton. Adoration begins with 8:30 a.m. Mass and concludes with benediction at 4:45 p.m.

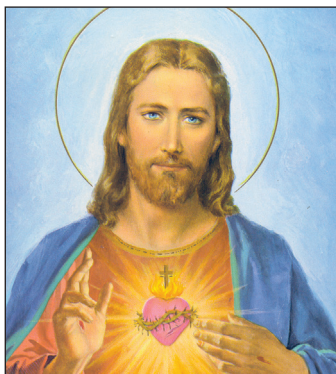
Rosary & Healing Mass

— hosted by St. Lucy Church, 949 Scranton St., west Scranton, for all those who especially seek healing through the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary; begins with recitation of the Rosary and devotional prayers at 6:30 p.m., followed by celebration of Healing Mass at 7 p.m. Music for the evening is led by Sacred Heart Singers Ernie Pappa and Jennifer Michel.

Healing Mass

— hosted by Queen of the Apostles Parish, Avoca; celebrated at 7 p.m. in St. Mary Church, 715 Hawthorne St. For more information, call the parish rectory (570-457-3412).

Blue Army Reparation Vigil



The next monthly First Friday Reparation Vigil, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary and sponsored by the Blue Army, will be held **February 3** at St. Joseph's Oblate Seminary, 1880 Highway 315, Laffin (Pittston).

Devotions begin Friday evening at 8 p.m. with recitation of the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary, during which time confessions are heard. Mass of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is celebrated at 8:55 p.m., followed by benediction, litany and consecration to the Sacred Heart.

The vigil continues with the crowning of the Blue Army Pilgrim Virgin Statue, the Blue Army Pledge, Fatima prayers and Marian hymns, followed by litany and consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The vigil concludes with scapular enrollment at 10:15 p.m.

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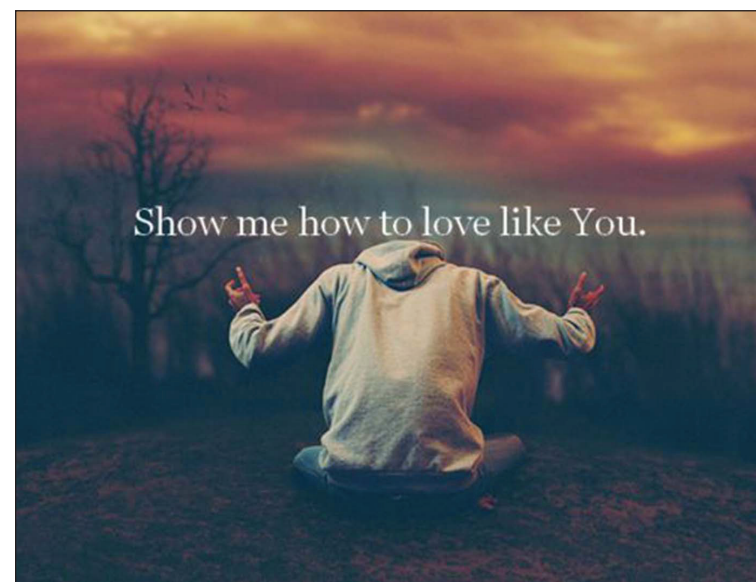
**By Deacon Edward T. Kelly
Diocesan Director,
Pontifical Mission Societies**



This past Monday (January 9) was the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, marking the end of the Christmas season. The reading from the prophet Isaiah on that day highlights Jesus as the servant leader — called “for the victory of justice,” formed by God as “a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.”

Jesus models for us the role of a leader as one who humbly serves those in need. After visiting several mission dioceses, I cannot help but think of all the ways in which the world would be a better place if only leaders in political, social, and economic spheres would embrace Jesus’ servant-leader model.

Jesus’ model of leadership is decidedly different. Everything about Jesus’ life invites his followers into a new way of seeing.



He turns expectations of a Messiah totally upside down when he is born to a mother forced to give birth in a simple stable in a small town called Bethlehem because there was no room for them in the inn. He is a humble carpenter who grows up in Nazareth. He reaches out to untouchable people — those on the margins — the sick, the lame, the mentally ill, the poor and forgotten, and he changes their lives forever.

It must have been difficult for Jesus to leave Nazareth. Saying good-bye to Mary and Joseph and leaving home could not have been easy, but it had to be done. Had Jesus stayed in Nazareth, the rest of his life might have been silent. But there was a mission for him to undertake that required great risks in a larger arena. He had to travel a different road. So Jesus left Nazareth traveling to the southeast, and was baptized by John in the Jordan River. Thus, the main mission of Jesus Christ began.

By virtue of our baptism, each of us is called and sent to

do something of the same thing. For most of us, it will not entail a change of residence or vocation. It is more likely a call for a change of attitude, or change of priorities, or a change of direction. This will not make it any easier. It is much more difficult to change the way we live than it is to change where we live.

There is no set formula by which God calls us, but rather the call to mission comes in different ways, at different times, and in different circumstances. It is a call to “follow me.” Our response is not just about the task being required of us and knowing all the details; it is also about our own transformation.

I suppose for you, and I know for me, the call of God leads to many surprises. I understand now that I never needed a plan—only trust. No one knows what the future holds or how much longer we have on this earth. I do know that when we follow our call to share the compassion of Jesus with those

Continued on Page 25

Throop Communion Breakfast Speakers



Richard Chowanec, 16, of Dickson City, and Zach Blau, 15, of Throop, both longtime altar servers at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Throop, recently addressed the Seventh Annual Communion Breakfast of the Joseph C. Karolewicz Chapter of the Blessed Sacrament Holy Name Society. The young men were joined on the breakfast program by the event’s principal speaker, Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Janet Jeffers, who serves as executive director of the Scranton Office of Catholic Social Services. As principals of the Communion Breakfast, Rich Chowanec, third from left, and Zach Blau, far right, are pictured with Sister Janet; Adam Nosak, president of the parish’s Holy Name Society; and Monsignor Michael Delaney, pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish.

Mission Message: ‘Open Our Eyes, Lord’

Continued from Page 24

who are in need, we are changed.

I would be remiss if I didn’t mention that today — January 12 — is the seventh anniversary of the devastating earthquake that rocked the poor country of Haiti. If there is a saving grace to that earthquake, it is that it has challenged the world to wake up, open its eyes, and show mercy. The Haitians have a

saying: “What the eye doesn’t see doesn’t move the heart.”

As we leave the Christmas season, the Christ Child who was born in the winter straw of a poor manger in the small town of Bethlehem can also be born every day in the love of our responding hearts.

The Pontifical Mission Societies thank all of you who have cared enough to reach out with

your prayers and sacrifices to ensure that the birth of Christ is not only an event which happened in the past, but is capable of unlimited repetition. In the spirit of the Franciscan Prayer below, may God Bless you in this New Year of His grace.

A Franciscan Blessing

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may seek truth boldly, and love deeply within your heart.

May God bless you with holy anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace for all people.

May God bless you with the gift of tears, to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war, or the loss of all that they cherish, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain to joy.

And May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in the world, so that you are able, with God’s Grace, to do what others claim cannot be done.

Amen.

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Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement.

It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the *Code of Canon Law* and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator, Mary Beth Pacuska at (570-862-7551) or to Diocesan officials, including the Vicar General, Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney, V.G., at (570-207-2269).

Aviso al Respetto de Reportar el Abuso Sexual de Un Menor de Edad

Es la norma de la Diócesis de Scranton reportar cualquier alegación de abuso sexual de un menor de edad a las autoridades. Si usted es una víctima de abuso sexual cometido por un sacerdote, diácono, religioso o empleado laico, o voluntario de la Diócesis de Scranton, usted está obligado a reportar el asunto inmediatamente a las autoridades de la ley.

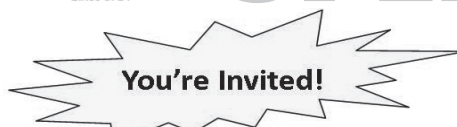
Si algún sacerdote, diácono, religioso, empleado laico o voluntario de la Diócesis de Scranton tiene sospecha de que un menor de edad ha sido sujeto a cualquier forma de abuso, incluyendo abuso sexual de menor de edad, el asunto será reportado a las autoridades de la ley.

Es la norma de la Diócesis defender todas las regulaciones civiles y del estado. Al fin de que la Diócesis esté comprometida igualmente a defender las normas del Código de Derecho Canónico y defender los principios de la Carta Para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes (Conferencia de los Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos), lo cual incluye apoyar a las víctimas de abuso sexual en pos del bienestar emocional y espiritual.

Por eso, información respecto a una alegación del asunto sexual de un menor de edad, debe ser reportada a la Coordinadora Diocesana de Asistencia para Las Víctimas, Mary Beth Pacuska, a (570-862-7551) o a los oficiales diocesanos incluyendo El Vicario General, Monseñor Thomas M. Muldowney, a (570-207-2269).



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Mark Your Calendar — Around the Diocese

Spiritual Offerings

Monday Night Worship — **JAN. 16**, hosted by St. Faustina Parish in Nanticoke; weekly devotion held on Monday nights at 7 p.m. at the parish worship site of Holy Trinity Church, 520 South Hanover St., Nanticoke. All faithful are welcome to join together for a Holy Hour of praise and worship music. For more information, contact Paul Walters at (570-332-2963).

Catholic Charismatic Regional Prayer Meeting — **JAN. 30**, sponsored by local Char-

ismatic prayer groups and hosted at Queen of the Apostles Parish in Avoca; begins at 7:30 p.m. in the parish hall (auditorium of the former St. Mary's School), 715 Hawthorne St., Avoca. Gathering includes songs, praise, spiritual gifts, teaching, and a witness; fellowship with refreshments will conclude the meeting. All faithful are welcome.

Evening of Prayer with the Sisters of IHM — **FEB. 8**, sponsored by the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate

Heart of Mary; monthly prayer service held on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in the IHM Center Chapel, 2300 Adams Ave., Scranton (top of University Ave., beyond Marywood University). All faithful are welcome. For more information, call (570-346-5404).

Area Happenings

Knights of Columbus Breakfast — **JAN. 15**, hosted by the Knights of Columbus Abington Council 6611; held at St. Patrick's Church Hall in Nicholson. All-you-can-eat breakfast buffet served from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Menu includes eggs, sausage gravy & biscuits, home fries, bacon, fruit bowl and more. Cost: adults, \$8; children (age 12 & under), \$4. Tickets available at the door. All proceeds benefit the charitable work of the Knights of Columbus.

Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary Bingo — **JAN. 18 & FEB. 1**, sponsored by Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary Parish, Jermyn; games held on the first and third Wednesdays of the month in the parish center, 624 Madison Ave., Jermyn. Doors open at 5 p.m.; early-bird games start 6 p.m. (regular games at 6:30). Event includes homemade foods and desserts; specialty games, refreshments, door prizes and progressive jackpot. Players attending five consecutive weeks are eligible for a cash prize. Free admission; for more information, call (570-876-1061).

Respect Life Prayer Breakfast — **JAN. 28**, sponsored by the Scranton Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life (PHL); to be hosted at Fiorelli's Catering in Peckville, beginning at 9 a.m. For more information, contact the Scranton PHL office at (570-343-5099).

Nite at the Races — **FEB. 3**, hosted by St. Monica Parish at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, 363 West 8th St., West Wyoming; held in the church hall. Doors open at 6 p.m.; races start at 7 p.m. Admission tickets and horse sponsorships are \$10 each; advance purchase of horses is encouraged. Seating is limited. For more information, call Tom Tomsak at (570-237-2188).

18th Annual Northeast PA "Brain Bee" Academic Competition — **FEB. 4**, for area high-school students, sponsored by the Scranton Neuroscience Society and the University of Scranton's Neuroscience Program; competition begins at 1 p.m. in the Loyola Science Center at the University of Scranton. Open free of charge to all students in grades 9-12; features live, question-answer competition based on "Brain Facts," a book about the brain and nervous system published by the Society for Neuroscience. Registration is required. For more information or to register, contact Robert Waldeck, Ph.D., program director, at the University of Scranton: robert.waldeck@scranton.edu or (570-941-4324). Registration deadline: Feb. 1.

Calendar items may be emailed to Kevin-McDonnell@dioceseofscranton.org or faxed to 570-207-2271. Call 570-207-2229 for more information.

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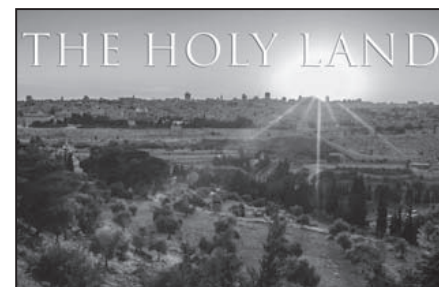
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CSS Valentine Gala to Benefit Maternity Home

STROUDSBURG — Catholic Social Services of Monroe County will host its 15th Annual Valentine's Celebration for Shepherd's Maternity Home on Sunday, Feb. 12, at Stroudsmoor Country Inn in Stroudsburg.

The annual event, which coincides with the Valentine's Day holiday and is themed "A Celebration of Life," raises community awareness each year of Catholic Social Services' dedication and commitment to the respect for all human life.

The Valentine celebration

will begin at 2 p.m. with a social hour, including refreshments and a cash bar. Dinner, silent auction, and music and dancing will follow from 3 to 6 p.m.

Shepherd's Maternity Home is a non-denominational facility that provides shelter and caring for homeless pregnant women and their babies.

Special honoree for this year's celebration will be Bishop Joseph C. Bambera.

For reservations, event information or further information on Shepherd's Maternity Home and other programs of Catholic Social Services, call (570-822-7118 ext. 305), 9 a.m. to 12 noon daily, or email: dbrezna@csswb.org.

Apostleship of Prayer

Papal Intention for January 2017

Christian Unity —

That all Christians may be faithful to the Lord's teaching by striving with prayer and fraternal charity to restore ecclesial communion and by collaborating to meet the challenges facing humanity.

Prayer Requests for Priests

The Daily Prayer Request for Priests schedule for the next three weeks is as follows:

Jan. 12, Father Cyril Edwards; Jan. 13, Father Joseph Elston; Jan. 14, Monsignor John Esseff; Jan. 15, Father Joseph Evanko; Jan. 16, Monsignor William Feldcamp; Jan. 17, Father Samuel Ferretti; Jan. 18, Father Michael Finn; Jan. 19, Father Paul Fontanella; Jan. 20, Father Richard Fox; Jan.

21, Father Martin Gaiardo; Jan. 22, Father Andrew Gallia; Jan. 23, Father J. Duane Gavitt; Jan. 24, Father Anthony Generose, V.E.; Jan. 25, Father Richard Ghezzi; Jan. 26, Holy Cross Father Anthony Grasso; Jan. 27, Father Joseph Greskiewicz; Jan. 28, Monsignor Vincent Grimalia; Jan. 29, Father Louis Grippe; Jan. 30, Father Eugene Gunning; Jan. 31, Father Gerald Gurka; Feb. 1, Pope Francis.

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Mass at St. Ann's on Saturday to Mark 25th Anniversary of Passionist's Death

SCRANTON — A memorial Mass commemorating the 25th anniversary of the death of well-known Passionist priest Father Julian Connor will be offered this Saturday, Jan. 14, at 4 p.m. at the Basilica of the National Shrine of St. Ann in west Scranton.

All faithful are invited to attend the anniversary liturgy, which will be celebrated by Father Julian's nephew, Father Charles Connor, Ph.D., priest-historian for the Diocese of Scranton who currently serves on the faculty of Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md.

A native of Hallstead, Father Julian was ordained to the

priesthood for the Congregation of the Passion in 1936 and served for many years as Novena Director at St. Ann's Monastery in Scranton. He also served as chaplain of St. Gabriel's Retreat House in both Dunmore and Clarks Summit.

For many years, Father Julian was actively engaged in preaching laymen retreats at various monasteries of the Passionist Fathers' Eastern Province. He is also remembered locally for his television ministry and radio program, "Time Shared With God."

Father Julian passed away on Jan. 14, 1992, at Holy Family Residence in Scranton.

Maryknoll Father Simone, Mocanaqua Native, Laid to Rest

MARYKNOLL, N.Y. — A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Maryknoll Missionary Father Michael Simone on Dec. 1 in Queen of Apostles Chapel in Ossining, N.Y.

A native of Mocanaqua in Luzerne County, Father Simone died Nov. 25 at Mission St. Teresa's Residence, Ossining, at the age of 90. He celebrated the 60th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood in June.

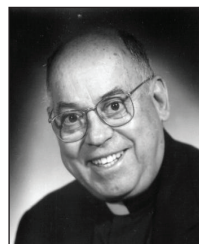
Born May 27, 1926, in Mocanaqua, Father Simone received his early education in Mocanaqua and Shickshinny public schools. While still a high school student, he began his military service with the Army Aviation Cadet program in 1944, and entered the congregation of Maryknoll Missioners upon his discharge from the Army Air Corps in 1946.

Father Simone earned his bachelor's degree in philosophy from Maryknoll College, Glen Ellyn, Ill., and a master's degree in religious education from Maryknoll Seminary in Ossining. He also received a master's in art history from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind., and completed further studies in basic Christian communities.

Having professed his perpetual religious vows in 1955, he was ordained a Maryknoll Missionary priest on June 9, 1956, and was

assigned to Bolivia. He also served in Venezuela, Hawaii and Chile, where he served in parish ministry, development, and as a high school and college educator.

Father Simone taught art history at Maryknoll College in Glen Ellyn, where he became a FAA-licensed private pilot. He also taught cultural and creative art at Jesuit Popular University in Santiago, Chile, and served as a religion teacher and campus ministry at Maryknoll High School in Honolulu.



Fr. Michael Simone, MM

Mostly self-trained, Father Simone studied acrylic painting in Austin, Tex., and for many years maintained a studio in Nanticoke in his home Diocese of Scranton. His paintings were widely exhibited at several shows, with the proceeds from sales of his work directly benefitting the foreign missions.

Father Simone retired from active ministry in 1991, but continued his avocation as an artist until 2015.

Surviving are a brother, Joseph, Nanticoke; nephew, Joseph Simone Jr.; and niece, Denise Namowicz, also of Nanticoke.

Interment was held at St. Mary's Cemetery in Mocanaqua.

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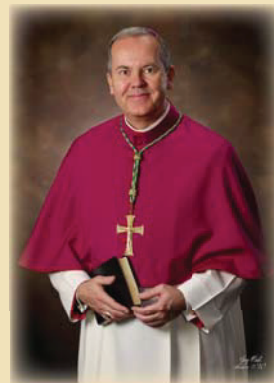
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PCC Perspective: The Gruesome Reality of Abortion

Continued from Page 8

terms, the living unborn child, now about 4-5 inches long, is forcibly sucked out of her mother's womb. Then technicians count the arms, legs, head and torso to make sure all parts of the baby are accounted for.

Dilation & Evacuation.

(1,588 abortions) This particularly gruesome method is used for later term abortions between 13 and 24

weeks. Abortions after 24 weeks are illegal. The woman's cervix is dilated. The amniotic fluid is suctioned out first, and then the doctor inserts a sharp instrument to dismember the live baby inside the womb. The tool has sharp teeth that firmly grip the child's arms, legs, torso, and head. One by one, the body parts are forcibly ripped off and removed from the uterus.

The baby's head at this stage is too big to pull out intact, so the doctor will crush it before pulling it out. Babies at this second trimester stage have fingerprints and toenails, and they can feel pain. Their mothers start to feel them kicking; and many babies born at 20 weeks will survive outside the womb. (abortionprocedures.com)

A new legislative session has begun in Harrisburg presenting fresh opportunities to shape pro-life public policy. With faith, perseverance, and the courage to tell the truth, abolitionists in the 19th century outlawed slavery. Will citizens 150 years from now say the same about us and abortion?

Reading about the brutal practice of abortion is painful for many. If someone you know suffers because of involvement with abortion, please encourage him or her to talk to a priest or contact the nearest Project Rachel Ministry by visiting the "Find Help" map at www.hopeafterabortion.com or www.esperanzaposaborto.com or calling (866) 3RACHEL ...And please pray that many will seek and receive the gift of God's infinite mercy.

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference is the public affairs agency of Pennsylvania's Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania. Stay up-to-date with Catholic news and issues at www.pacatholic.org, www.facebook.com/pacatholic and www.twitter.com/pacatholic.

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• **JURASSIC WORLD EXHIBIT – FRANKLIN INSTITUTE** APRIL 1 Admission
• **SIGHT & SOUND** APRIL 8 "Jonah", Dinner at Hershey Farm Restaurant
• **BALTIMORE INNER HARBOR & NATIONAL AQUARIUM** MAY 13
• **AMERICAN GIRL PLACE, NYC** MAY 20 American Girl Place Café Lunch
• **MT NITTANY WINE TRAIL** MAY 26 Tasting & Lunch in Happy Valley!
• **9/11 MUSEUM & FREEDOM TOWER, NYC** MAY 27 Admission to both
• **ELLIS ISLAND & LIBERTY ISLAND** MAY 27 Free Time at Chelsea Market
• **LAKE TOBIAS SAFARI TOUR & TURKEY HILL EXPERIENCE** JUNE 3
• **STEEPED IN HISTORY TRAIN RIDE** JUNE 3 York County Steam-Train Ride on President Lincoln's route to Gettysburg, Victorian Tea, Mansion
• **BOSTON TALL SHIPS 4-DAY** JUNE 19-22 Boston Harbor Cruise to see the Tall Ships from around the world! Whalewatch Cruise, Mystic Seaport
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DIOCESAN DATEBOOK

Retrouvaille Weekend, Feb. 24-26 — at The Ramada Inn in Clarks Summit. Sponsored by the Diocese of Scranton, Retrouvaille is a weekend program for married couples who may be experiencing tension, stress and loneliness in the marriage relationship. The program helps couples — even those separated and divorced — to communicate better and resolve conflicts in their relationships. Cost for the program is by donation, and registration is required. For more information or to register, call (1-800-470-2230) or visit: www.helpourmarriage.org. All calls are confidential.

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MotorWorld Toyota Supports St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen

The St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre recently received a \$7,500 donation from MotorWorld Toyota. Shown, from left: Jay Thomas, Brand Manager, MotorWorld Toyota; Rick Osick, President, MotorWorld Auto Group; Mary Theresa Vautrinot, Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Human Services/Executive Director, Catholic Social Services; Mike Cianciotta, Program Director, St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen. For information about volunteer opportunities and the donation needs of the kitchen, call (570) 829-7796, ex. 301.

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Respect Life Mass Being Offered Sunday

The Knights of Columbus of Wyoming Valley will sponsor their annual Respect Life Mass to mark the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion in America.

The Respect Life Mass will be celebrated on Sunday, Jan. 15, at 10 a.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, 116 Hughes St., Swoyersville. Following Mass, refreshments will be available in the parish hall.

Father Joseph Pisaneschi, host pastor, welcomes all faithful to attend and join in prayerful support of the respect for all human life, from conception to natural death.

Charismatic Mass, Healing Service Set

SCRANTON — Catholic Charismatic prayer groups in the Diocese of Scranton invite all faithful to participate in a Charismatic Mass and healing service hosted by Queen of the Apostles Parish in Avoca on Sunday, Jan. 15, at St. Mary Church, 715 Hawthorne St., Avoca.

The Eucharistic liturgy will be offered at 7 p.m., preceded

by recitation of the Rosary at 6:30 p.m.

Serving as celebrant for the Mass will be Father August Ricciardi, pastor of Prince of Peace Parish in Old Forge, and spiritual director of the Charismatic Renewal in the Scranton Diocese.

A healing service will follow the Mass, with Father Ricciardi and leaders from Charismatic prayer groups ministering to those who desire prayers for healing.

Fellowship and light refreshments will conclude the gathering.



*Fr. August
Ricciardi*

Who makes house calls?

As of October 2015, I will now meet clients either at their home, or at a location they choose and no longer require clients to meet at my office. I have decided that I would change the way I meet with people so it will be as easy and as convenient as possible for the client.

Based on my practice, which consists of estate planning and administration along with elder law, I find that clients are more comfortable discussing such matters in familiar surroundings. While I know this may seem unconventional to some, I believe I will be able to serve clients much better in this fashion.

If anyone is uncomfortable with home visits, I have a few locations where I can meet in an office setting. I look forward to meeting with my existing clients and especially meeting new clients that are looking for any assistance in estate or elder law matters.



Elder Law

- Guardianships
- Asset Protection Planning
- Medicaid Application Assistance

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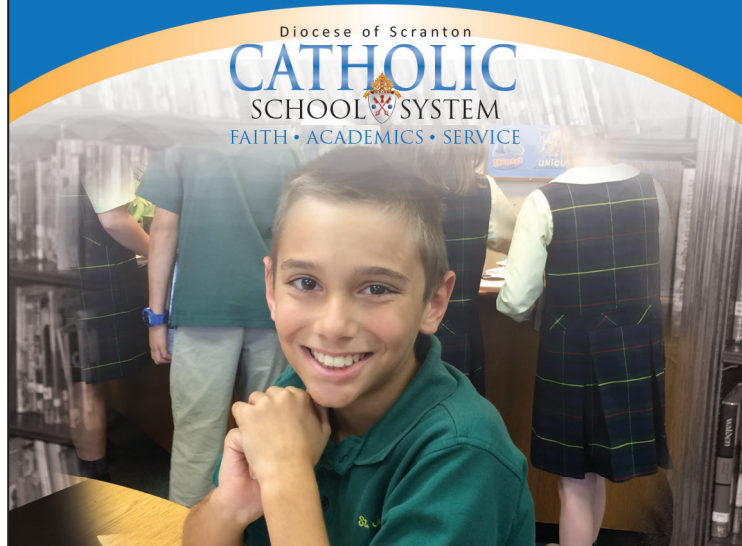
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A stylized illustration of a video camera, likely a camcorder or a small professional video camera. It features a large, prominent lens on the right side, a viewfinder on top, and various buttons and controls. The camera is shown from a side-on perspective, facing right. The illustration is done in a simple, graphic style with bold outlines and flat colors.

The Catholic Light

St. Vincent Kitchen Thanks Volunteers

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The St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre recently held its annual volunteer luncheon and reception, recognizing the efforts of the many volunteers who serve area needy at the city soup kitchen operated by Catholic Social Services in the Diocese of Scranton. Principals of the event pictured are, from left, Dave Shemo, St. Vincent Kitchen advisory board president; Mike Cianciotta, kitchen manager; Anna Brown, 2016 St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen Volunteer of the Year; and Mary Theresa Vautrinot, Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Human Services.

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