

The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2017

Wave after Wave . . .

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Tens of thousands of pro-lifers, a virtual tide of humanity, filled the grounds near the Washington Monument and marched up Constitution Avenue to the U.S. Supreme Court January 27 as both a protest of legalized abortion and a celebration of successful pro-life efforts across the country.

As in years past, the crowd for the annual March for Life pilgrimage was primarily young. Many people from the Diocese of Scranton participated in the march. *Please see pages 14-15.* (CNS photo/Leslie E. Kossoff)



Faith leaders question order to ban refugees

CNS – Catholic leaders across the U.S. expressed disagreement with President Donald Trump's executive memorandum intended to restrict the entry of terrorists coming to the United States.

The president's order, enacted Jan. 27, blocks all refugees from entering the U.S. for 120 days. All travelers from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen are blocked for 90 days. It also establishes a religious criteria for refugees, proposing to give priority to religious minorities over others who may have equally compelling refugee claims.

Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration, said the bishops "strongly disagree" with the action to halt refugee resettlement.

"We believe that now more than ever, welcoming newcomers and refugees is an act of love and hope," Bishop Vasquez said.

The USCCB runs the largest refugee resettlement program in the United States, and Bishop Vasquez said the church would continue to engage the administration, as it had with administrations for 40 years.

"We will work vigorously to ensure that refugees are humanely welcomed in collaboration with Catholic Charities without sacrificing our security or our core



Pope Francis greets Syrian refugees at Ciampino airport in Rome. He brought them to Rome last year from the Greek island of Lesbos. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

"If we want security, let us give security; if we want life, let us give life; if we want opportunities, let us provide opportunities."

– Pope Francis, in remarks to Congress in 2015

values as Americans, and to ensure that families may be reunified with their loved ones," he said.

He also reiterated the bishops' commitment to protect the most vulnerable, regardless of religion. All "are children of God and are entitled to be treated with human dignity. We believe that by helping to resettle the most vulnerable, we are living out our Christian faith as Jesus has challenged us to do."

Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington called

attention to the USCCB statement and the executive action and noted that "the legal situation is still fluid and news reports are sometimes confusing."

"The political debate, which is complex and emotionally highly charged, will continue, but we must do our best to remain focused on the pastoral and very real work we undertake every day for the vulnerable and most in need ... for the strangers at our doors," he said.

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Welcoming newcomers an act of love

Continued from page 1

Around the country, people gathered at airports to express solidarity with immigrants and green card holders denied admission, including an Iraqi who had helped the 101st Airborne during the Iraqi war. More than 550 people gathered at Lafayette Park across from the White House Jan. 29 to celebrate Mass in solidarity with refugees.

In a letter to the president and members of Congress, more than 2,000 religious leaders representing the Interfaith Immigration Coalition objected to the action.

The religious leaders' letter said the U.S. has an "urgent moral responsibility to receive refugees and asylum seekers who are in dire need of safety." The correspondence called on elected officials to "be bold in choosing moral, just policies that provide refuge for vulnerable individuals seeking protection."

The leaders also insisted that the U.S. refugee resettlement program remain open to all nationalities and religions that face persecution, adding that refugees "are an asset to this country," serving as "powerful ambassadors of the American dream and our nation's founding principles of equal opportunity, religious freedom and liberty and justice for all."

In a separate statement, Jesuit Refugee Services-USA said the provisions of the executive action "violate Catholic social teaching that calls us to welcome the stranger and treat others with the compassion and solidarity that we would wish for ourselves."

Sean Callahan, president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services, said: "Welcoming those in need is part of America's DNA. Denying entry to people desperate enough to leave their homes, cross oceans in tiny boats, and abandon all their worldly possessions just to find safety will not make our nation safer. The United States is already using a thorough vetting process for refugees – especially for those from Syria and surrounding countries. CRS welcomes measures that will make our country safer, but they shouldn't jeopardize the safety of those fleeing violence; should not add appreciable delay nor entail unjust discrimination."

Chicago Cardinal Blase J. Cupich said in a Jan. 29 statement: "The executive order to turn away refugees and to close our nation to those, particularly Muslims, fleeing violence, oppression and persecution is

Bishop Bambera's Statement Regarding Refugees and Migrants

The United States has a long and proud history of welcoming persons from other countries who come to our land seeking freedom to practice their religion, live in safety and work hard to provide a decent life for their families. Indeed, the region of the Diocese of Scranton owes much of its heritage and prosperity to immigrants who have and continue to contribute greatly to the fabric of life in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

Not unlike those who settled in the United States a century ago, the vast majority of today's immigrants simply seek a better life for themselves and their families. Sadly, many of these same individuals also look to our great land as a refuge in the face of persecution, war and terror in their homelands. These refugees are vetted through a rigorous program that has proven to be effective over the course of many years.

Our Catholic faith calls us to respect life: to welcome the stranger, to treat every life with dignity and respect, and to offer compassion to all, regardless of their country of origin or religious background. Simply put, turning our backs on the most vulnerable in need of our help is not consistent with the values upon which our country was founded and is not consistent with the message of the gospel of Jesus.

Pope Francis urged Americans to put aside fear and instead offer the world hope and solidarity. In 2015, he shared these challenging words to members of the United States Congress and to the people of America, "If we want security, let us give security; if we want life, let us give life; if we want opportunities, let us provide opportunities."



People in New York City participate in a Jan. 29 protest against President Donald Trump's travel ban. (CNS photo/Stephanie Keith, Reuters)

contrary to both Catholic and American values. Have we not repeated the disastrous decisions of those in the past who turned away other people fleeing violence, leaving certain ethnicities and religions marginalized and excluded? We Catholics know that history well, for, like others, we have been on the other side of such decisions."

In an interview with Catholic News Service Jan. 30 from Geneva, Msgr. Robert J. Vitillo, secretary general of the International Catholic Migration Commission, recalled church teaching that holds "we should always welcome the stranger" just as "Jesus taught us by his example."

He explained how the commission has helped about 1 million people since it began collaborating with the U.S. government in 1975. The commission has helped refugees with their applications for entry into the U.S. because of the complexity of the process and its attention to national security.

Msgr. Vitillo called that work an "overwhelmingly positive" experience. He also recalled how much of America was settled by immigrants and built by their contribution.

"I hope the U.S. will stay faithful to that kind of response," he added.

Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore called for prayer as the country responds to the series of immigration-related memorandum signed by the president since Jan. 20. He specifically cited the need for prayers for the nation's leaders and "the people who call this country their home, including our immigrant sisters and brothers."

"While we affirm the right of sovereign nations to control their borders, we likewise affirm our moral responsibility to respect every human being's dignity. We must remember that those fleeing horrendous and unspeakable violence and grinding poverty have the right, as children of God, to provide for the basic needs of themselves and their families," Archbishop Lori wrote in a Jan. 30 open letter to Catholics in the archdiocese.

Dominican Sister Donna Markham, president and CEO of Catholic Charities USA, expressed concern for the change in U.S. policy.

"I am especially worried about the innocent children and mothers who have fled for their lives without support and are now caught in this regrettable and terribly frightening situation," she said in a statement. "While I certainly appreciate the importance of vetting to ensure the safety of our country, I also believe we must treat those who are most vulnerable with compassion and mercy and with hearts willing to be opened wide in the face of dire human need."

Officials with the Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc. said the memorandum erodes the U.S. commitment to protect refugees, weakens national security and harms the country's standing in the international community.

"Refugees have enriched our society in countless ways. These newcomers seek protection and the promise of equality, opportunity and liberty that has made our country thrive. When we reject refugees, we negate the welcome that was given to so many of our ancestors," said Bishop Kevin W. Vann of Orange, California, chairman of CLINIC's board of directors.

Jeanne Atkinson, CLINIC executive director, added that the U.S. must protect refugees rather than reject them because of misplaced fear, especially "when war and persecution have driven more people to flee in search of safety than any other time in modern history."

Boston Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley raised the 40-year-long concern of the U.S. bishops of the need for comprehensive immigration reform. He wrote that the status of 11 million people who are in the U.S. without documents must be addressed with compassion and with respect for the country's laws.

"The Catholic voice in the immigration debate calls for reform based on reason, compassion and mercy for those fleeing violence and persecution," he said. "At a pastoral level...the church must be a community which provides pastoral care, legal advice and social services to refugees and immigrants, as we have done in this archdiocese for more than one hundred years. We will continue this important work through our parishes, Catholic Charities and our Catholic schools."

Diocese of Scranton VOCATIONS

*Pope
Francis'
Prayer
for
Vocations*



**God our Father, You made each of us
to use our gifts in the Body of Christ.**

**We ask that you inspire young people
whom you call to priesthood
and consecrated life to
courageously follow your will.**

**Send workers into your great harvest
so that the Gospel is preached, the
poor are served with love, the suffering
are comforted, and your people are
strengthened by the sacraments.**

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Am I Called?

The truth is we are all called. Jesus is calling us to follow Him and be His disciple. But is He calling you to become a priest?

As a baptized man considering the Priesthood, with the right motives and the inward sense that God is calling you, you should consider this calling as an invitation from Christ. Truly, it is a gift from God. And you need to decide how to respond to this gift.

Being a priest is not easy, but then again, what way of life is? If you believe that Christ is calling you then you owe it to yourself and to all those you may someday serve to determine what exactly you are being called to do. Discernment is accomplished through prayer and spiritual guidance from a priest. Because Christ speaks to you and comes to you through His church, you will need the church to help you discern your vocation.

The question is not: "What am I to do with my life?"

The question is: "What is God calling me to do?"

These questions are posed to you to help you in finding your true happiness and fulfillment while doing the will of God.

As we continue to encourage a vocation culture in the Diocese, *The Catholic Light* is presenting a series of profiles featuring our seminarians and the priests and families who are sharing their journey to seek the answer to the question: *What is God calling me to do with my life?*

Andrew McCarroll

Home Parish:
St. Robert Bellarmine,
Wilkes-Barre

Year of Study:
College I at
Cathedral Seminary
House of Formation,
Douglaston, N.Y.



+ What are some of the factors that led to your decision to enter the seminary and discern further the question of a vocation to Diocesan Priesthood?

The main factor was my parish. Growing up in a strong community of faith showed me the importance of not only the Church's role in the people's life, but also the role of the priest. From an early age, I knew the importance of the Mass and sacraments to our parish but also the witness so many individuals gave to support our parish. From altar serving, to singing in the choir, to even volunteering at parish fundraisers, I saw the people of God active in their faith. I wanted to not only be in that community, but to dedicate my life to the community of God's people. I believe it is through this passion to serve the community of Jesus' Church that I receive not only many blessings, but also the joy and peace that is brought to my heart to make this next step in my life with Christ and his Church.

+ What is a day like at the seminary?

A day in the seminary is not always easy, but it is full of joy! Most days we start early in the morning with 6:45 a.m. morning prayer and holy hour. We then grab something quick for breakfast, and then it's straight to class at St. John's University. We study a variety of different topics, but our main course of study is philosophy. After class, I usually have some free time to study, spend time with other seminarians, or spend some time with the Lord in prayer. At 5:30 p.m. we pray evening prayer and celebrate the Eucharist as a community followed by dinner. The rest of our evening after dinner is usually free. This is just a basic outline of our schedule, but I can honestly say that I never had two days that were exactly the same. Each day brings different blessings and challenges that I face in confidence. Not every day is easy for me, but the joy of serving the people of God gives me the energy to overcome any challenge I face; whether it is writing a ten-page paper, or just trying to find some time to relax. But the joy I receive is amazing! I do not think that I have ever been closer to Christ than this time in my life! I have really begun to see Jesus' hand working in me.

+ What is the role of prayer in your life?

Prayer is the corner stone of our life in seminary. I do not think I could ever get through a day here without it. Our main form of prayer here is the celebration of the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours; but it does not stop there! There are so many different forms of prayer I have experienced and use in my daily life. From meditating on

Sacred Scripture, to prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament, to quiet meditation and examination of my day. It is through this deep connection of letting God enter my daily life that I gain strength to go wherever He guides me. But also through a strong life of prayer I realize that I cannot do this alone, but that I am more dependent on God than ever before.

+ What are some of your hobbies?

There are many different things I like to do in my free time here at seminary, but so much is offered to us that I find it impossible to ever be bored. Most of my time I spend with some of my closest friends that I have met here. We explore, go to events, or just hang out in the common room in the seminary. But on an individual level, I enjoy going for a walk at the park down the street, read a new book, or just relax. One of the greatest gifts of living in Queens, New York, is how close we are to Manhattan. To be able to explore the city always gives you a new adventure in itself.

+ What advice would you give to someone who is thinking about a vocation to diocesan priesthood?

Seminary does not always mean you are going to be a priest. I think that is one of the biggest misconceptions about seminary today. Too many times young men think that once you are in the seminary you are in for good or that you are signing your life away. That is really not the case at all. Seminary is just a next step. So far I have seen great guys come to seminary and figure out that seminary is not for them, and that's okay. They gave it a try and looked into it, and they opened their hearts to the Holy Spirit and trusted. And these guys are some of the most faithful disciples I have ever met. Being a disciple is all about trust. If you feel that the Holy Spirit might be asking you to look into the priesthood, go for it! Trust God, because if you put your life into his hands, you certainly will not be disappointed. We must give all our worries over to Christ, because we cannot walk this road alone. So in the words of St. John Paul II, "Be not afraid! Do not be satisfied with mediocrity. Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." Just as Christ called Andrew and Peter from their boat to follow him, so to Christ calls each and every one of us to follow him in ways we never expected. So cast out into the deep! Trust the Holy Spirit, and let him into your heart to guide you on the way he has planned!



Andrew (left) with seminarian Ryan Glenn at World Youth Day last summer in Poland.

Nuestra Señora de la Altagracia

The assembled worshippers and their devotion were overflowing at the celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Alta Gracia at Annunciation Parish, Hazleton. Our Lady of Altagracia is also known as Our Lady of High Grace. She is Protector and Queen of the hearts of the Dominicans, as well as the patron saint of the Dominican Republic.

Photos/Carlos Nunez



CLERGY APPOINTMENT

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

ADMINISTRATOR

Reverend Richard J. Cirba, from Senior Priest, Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, Hanover Township, and Senior Priest, Saint Robert Bellarmine Parish, Wilkes-Barre, to Administrator *pro tem*, Saint Vincent de Paul Parish, Milford, effective January 27, 2017.



Raising Their Voices for Life

Children sing at Susquehanna County's annual Breakfast for Life in Montrose.



BISHOP BAMBERA'S SCHEDULE

February 9 – Monsignor McHugh School Mass, Cresco, 10:00 a.m.

February 11 – Mass - World Day of Prayer for the Sick, St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.

February 18 – Mass – SCI Dallas, Dallas, 10:00 a.m.

February 19 – Mass for Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities Awareness Sunday, St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.

February 19 – Mass - Jewish Home, Scranton, 2:00 p.m.

February 22 – St. Nicholas/St. Mary School Mass, St. Nicholas Church, Wilkes-Barre, 10:30 a.m.

Pope Francis recently said the prayer for Christian unity is a reflection of Christ's own prayer to his Father on the night of his arrest 'that they may all be one.' "May we never tire of asking God for this gift. With patient and trusting hope that the Father will grant all Christians the gift of full visible communion, (let us) press forward in our journey of reconciliation and dialogue..."

Gathering to Pray for Christian Unity

Reflecting on the theme "Reconciliation – The Love of Christ Compels Us," the Diocese joined with area clergy and representatives from various Christian traditions and ecumenical agencies to observe the 2017 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The Diocese hosted an Ecumenical Celebration of God's Word on January 25 in the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

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

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 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.



Dinner meeting with members of the Polish National Catholic Church.



Dinner meeting with Orthodox, Eastern Catholic and Latin Rite clergy.



Principals for the Ecumenical Celebration of God's Word at the Cathedral were, front row from left: Most Reverend Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church; Bishop Joseph C. Bambara; Reverend Dr. Robert Zanicky, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Wilkes-Barre, who offered the message at the service; Right Reverend Bishop Bernard Nowicki, Bishop, Central Diocese, Polish National Catholic Church. Second row: Reverend Canon Maria Tjeltveit, Rector, the Church of the Mediator, Allentown; Reverend Rebecca Tanner, Moderator, First Presbyterian Church of Schickshinny and Ashley Presbyterian Church. Third row: Reverend James E. Lease, Director, Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, Diocese of Harrisburg; Monsignor Dale Rupert, Pastor, Cathedral of Saint Peter; Reverend Jerome Wolbert, O.F.M., Pastor, Saint John's Byzantine Catholic Church, Hazleton. Monsignor Vincent J. Grimalia, Coordinator for Ecumenism and Interfaith Relations for the Diocese of Scranton, organized the Ecumenical Celebration.



The pastors in the West End of Monroe County gathered at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Brodheadsville for an ecumenical prayer breakfast in observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. First row from left: Nancy Matzko, Lindsey Blundetto and Christine Rummel, Our Lady Queen of Peace; Reverend Brett Jenkins, Abundant Life Mission; Jeff Wartluft, PV Presbyterian Church; Teresa Lucchese and Kim Hoffman, Our Lady Queen of Peace. Second row: Pastor Steve Boothe, Middle Creek Christian Church; Pastor Ed Bean, St. Peter's Church; Pastor Scott Carver, PV Assembly of God; Craig Vincent, Streamside Camp; Jacki Douglas and Debbie Trivett, Our Lady Queen of Peace. Third row: Reverend Harry Laubach, Zion Lutheran Church; Father Carmen Perry, St. Luke's Parish; Sam Yeager, Twin Pines Camp; Reverend Paul Miller, St John's Evangelical, Stroudsburg; Reverend Michael Quinnan, Our Lady Queen of Peace; Jim Todd, East Stroudsburg UMC; Linda Carbone, Our Lady Queen of Peace.

World Youth Day Pilgrims

Reconnect, Reflect, Serve

“The Lord doesn’t want to remain in this beautiful city, or in your cherished memories alone,” said Pope Francis in his homily during the World Youth Day 2016 closing Mass. “He wants to enter your homes, to dwell in your daily lives: in your studies, your first years of work, your friendships and affections, your hopes and your dreams.”

After the incredible experience in Poland at World Youth Day, pilgrims from the Diocese of Scranton went back to their day-to-day lives, taking with them everything they encountered. Recently, while many were on Christmas break, they reconnected for a service project and social gathering.

The service project was held at the Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen in Scranton. Participants sorted food donations, stocked the pantry, worked in the clothing store, served lunch, and shared a meal with clients. Julia Stefanelli, a member of Saint Catherine of Siena Parish in Moscow, enjoyed the opportunity to spend time together while serving others.

“Reconnecting with the World Youth Day pilgrims was a really touching experience,” she said. “While in

Poland, Pope Francis told us that we can’t be couch potatoes and called us to be active in the Church. Volunteering with the other pilgrims at the soup kitchen put Pope Francis’ call to action in motion. It was a blessing to serve together those who are most in need in our community.”

A social gathering celebrating the Christmas season was also held. To get pilgrims rethinking about the experience, they were asked to bring a gift that symbolized how the pilgrimage impacted their lives. Nicholas Jennings, a seminarian for the Diocese of Scranton, found the social and gift exchange to be very valuable.

“It was great to hear how the pilgrimage continues to impact everyone’s lives,” he said. “I brought a simple crucifix for the gift exchange. After World Youth Day, I strive to incorporate Jesus more and more into my daily life. For example, when I struggle to wake up in the morning, I try to think about Jesus’ struggle with the cross.”

There will be future gatherings in the upcoming months to keep the World Youth Day spirit alive.



World Youth Day pilgrims offered their service to Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen. First row, from left: Catherine Butel, Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life; Meagan McKinstry, Jesuit volunteer at the Kitchen’s Client Choice Food Pantry; Kelly Shannon; Dominick Costantino, Diocesan Vocation Program Coordinator; Monica Shaffern; Christine Skiro; Deacon Al Giacometti, Kitchen volunteer; Monsignor Joseph P. Kelly, Kitchen Director. Second row: Teresa Butel, Julia Stefanelli, Shannon Kowalski, Rev. Jeffrey Walsh, Episcopal Vicar for Clergy, Thomas Shaffern, Harrison Rapp and Adam Telatovich.

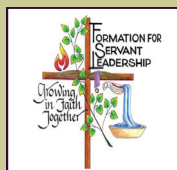
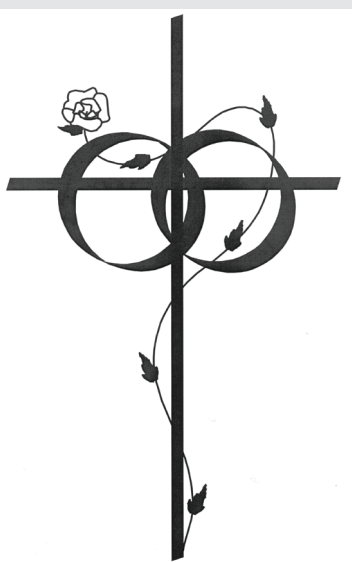
Couples Invited to Participate in Wedding Anniversary Celebration

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.



“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

Organizers Planning Diocesan Catholic Men's Conference

The Organizing Committee for the Diocesan Catholic Men's Conference met recently at Dino's Italian Bistro in Shavertown to continue planning the 3rd annual conference.

More than 1,000 men are expected to attend this year's conference to be held on Saturday, May 6, at King's College in Wilkes-Barre. The theme is "Be A Man: Mary's Call to Battle," inspired by this year's centenary celebration of Our Blessed Mother's appearances at Fatima. A trio of outstanding speakers has been booked: Father Andrew Apostoli, CFR, Steve Ray and Matt Fradd.

Registration is available via the conference website: www.BeAManconference.com. For more information or to volunteer, please call or email Michael Kilmer at 570-746-0100 or mkilmer@thekilmergroup.com.



Seated from left: Mike Troy, Joe Lisewski, Michael Kilmer, Jim Gialanella, Joe Alinoski, Tony DePaola, Bill Leandri. Standing: Dr. Dean Clerico, George Hayden, Ralph Marino, Dr. Lou Guarnieri, Jim Biondo, Father Leo McKernan, Father Brian Van Fossen, Glenn Yanik.

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Developmental & Intellectual Disabilities Awareness Sunday



Celebration of the Mass Cathedral of St. Peter, Scranton

**Sunday, February 19, 2017
10:00 AM**

You are cordially invited to a special liturgy with the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, who will be the principal celebrant and homilist. We will prayerfully celebrate the many gifts those with developmental or intellectual disabilities bring to the Church and the community. They are indeed full members of the Body of Christ!



You're Invited!

- Anyone with developmental or intellectual disabilities
- Their family members and friends
- Anyone who works or lives with them

(No reservations needed.)

Ministers are needed to serve as readers, greeters and gift bearers. If a person with a developmental or intellectual disability would like to volunteer to help in one of these roles, please contact Jennifer at the Office for Parish Life. Volunteers will be taken on a first come, first serve basis and need to volunteer by Tuesday, February 14, to be included in the mass program.

OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

570.207.2213
oplgeneral@dioceseofscranton.org

NPM — Preparing the Paschal Triduum

The Scranton Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians is sponsoring a day workshop on "Preparing the Paschal Triduum" on Saturday, February 25, 2017 (please note the change in date) from 9:00AM to 2:00PM at Divine Mercy Parish, Scranton.

This workshop, led by Father Jack Lambert, pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, Plains, is designed for all liturgy committees, pastoral musicians, ministers of liturgical environment, priests and deacons and anyone else involved with preparing the celebration of the Paschal Triduum. There is no fee but a free will offering will be taken, and lunch will be provided. To register, please contact David Baloga, NPM Program Director, at 570-207-2213 or register here or online at www.scrantonnpm.com.

Ash Wednesday Retreat

The Office for Parish Life will offer a retreat on Ash Wednesday, March 1, at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton. The day will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 2:30 p.m.

Sister Chris Koellhoffer, I.H.M., will lead the retreat with the theme "Living with a Lenten Heart." Sister Chris is an author, presenter, and spiritual guide who engages in mobile spirituality ministry, offering retreats, presentations and programs to connect the soul of a group with the soul of the church and the world. Her worldview has been profoundly shaped by people on the margins, by the power of story, and by the arts.

The retreat day will include Mass celebrated in the Cathedral of Saint Peter with distribution of ashes. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available prior to Mass.

The fee is \$30, which includes lunch. To register, call Mary Anne Malone at the Office for Parish Life, 570-207-2213, or e-mail Mary-Anne-Malone@dioceseofscranton.org.

Feast of St. Blaise -- February 3



A Millennial Perspective on Roe v. Wade

By Maria Gallagher, Legislative Director
PA Pro-Life Federation

Jessica Resuta is a young woman with a clear talent for holding and engaging the interest of an audience with her captivating speaking style. She is a promising member of the Class of '17 — students who have never known a time when abortion was not legal.

And yet, Jessica opposes the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision Roe v. Wade. Why?

“One-third of my generation is gone,” she says wistfully. “One-third of my peers will never experience life in the outside world as I have.”

Emily Derois is a gifted young writer who has grown up in the post-Roe era. Poised and articulate, she describes herself as having a “passion for defending the helpless and the voiceless.” That is why Derois is speaking out on behalf of the es-

timated 59 million unborn Americans who have lost their lives to legal abortion in the past 44 years.

Jessica and Emily are just two members of the chorus of voices who are calling for an end to Roe. These young women see Roe as a fundamentally-flawed ruling which has decimated their generation — and left countless women grieving the deaths of their unborn children.

A survey cited by the Washington Times in June indicated a clear majority of Millennials believe in offering greater protection from abortion for pre-born children and their mothers. The poll found an astounding 53 percent of young Americans state that abortion should not be legal in all or most circumstances.

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Thinking Through the Temptation of Cohabitation



By Father Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D.

Men and women clearly need each other and naturally gravitate towards arrangements of mutual support and lives of shared intimacy. Because women are frequently the immediate guardians of the next generation, they have a particular need to ascertain if there will be steady support from a man prior to giving themselves sexually to him. The bond of marriage is ordered towards securing this critical element of ongoing commitment and support. Cohabitation, where a man and woman decide to live together and engage in sexual relations without marriage, raises a host of issues and concerns. Sex, of course, has a certain power all its own, and both sides may be tempted to play with it in ways that are potentially damaging, all the more so when they decide to cohabit.

One concern is that cohabitation can often become a rehearsal for various selfish patterns of behavior. It perpetuates an arrangement of convenience, popularly phrased as, “Why buy the cow when you can

get the milk for free?” Even as many women try to tell themselves they are “preparing” for marriage by cohabiting with their partner, they may sense the trap of the “never ending audition” to be his wife, and become intuitively aware of how they are being used. Cohabitation also invites the woman to focus on lesser concerns like saving on rent or garnering transient emotional attention from her partner by moving in with him and becoming sexually available.

Even as a woman becomes attuned to the power of sex from an early age, she can eventually fall prey to an easy mistake. Aware that sexual intimacy is also about bonding, she may suppose that by surrendering this deeply personal part of herself through cohabitation, she now has a “hook” into a man and his heart. While such an arrangement can trigger various platitudes, (that he “cares for her,” “loves her”, etc.),

Continued on Page 10



The Catholic Light

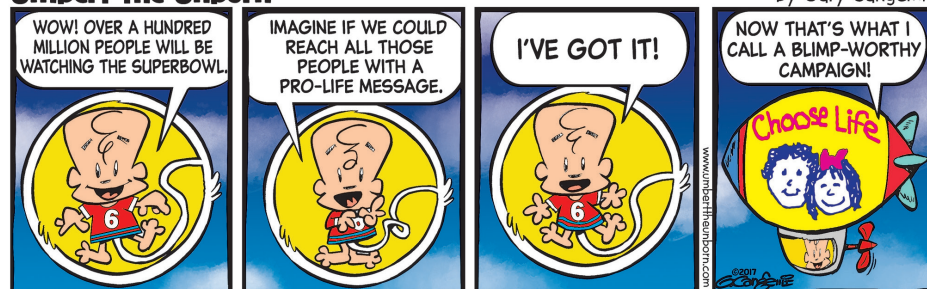
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Diocese of Scranton
DIOCESAN
ANNUAL APPEAL

Volume 117 Number 2 — Thursday, February 2, 2017

Umbert the Unborn



In a message for the 2017 World Day of the Sick, Pope Francis called for renewed efforts in facing today's challenges in health care and in promoting respect for life.

"May we find new incentive to work for the growth of a culture of respect for life, health and the environment," he said, and may the day "also inspire renewed efforts to defend the integrity and dignity of persons, not least through a correct approach to bioethical issues, the protection of the vulnerable and the protection of the environment."

The World Day of the Sick is celebrated annually February 11, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. On this day Bishop Bambera will celebrate the 12:10 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter. The liturgy will include the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. All are welcome. CTV: Catholic Television will broadcast the Mass.

Parishes in the Diocese are encouraged to offer a Mass for the Sick either on February 11 or another convenient day near it. Resources for the World Day of the Sick can be found on the Diocesan website.

Thanking those who care for the sick, the elderly and those who suffer or are in need, the pope underlined the importance of treating everyone with respect and care because "every person is, and always remains, a human being."

Even those who have serious disabilities or are debilitated "have their own inalienable dignity and mission in life. They never become simply objects. If at times they appear merely passive, in reality that is never the case," he said.

Inspired by the selfless love and obedience of Mary and Jesus, the church continues to serve those who suffer or are in need, the pope said.

"The solidarity shown by Christ," with his birth and then death on the cross for the redemption of humanity, "is the expression of God's merciful omnipotence, which is made manifest in our life – above all when that life is frail, pain-filled, humbled, marginalized and suffering – and fills it with the power of hope that can sustain us and enable us to get up again."

The pope asked that "this great wealth of humanity and faith" not be lost or forgotten. "It should inspire us to speak openly of our human weaknesses and to address the challenges of present-day health care and technology," he said, leading to greater efforts to build a culture of respect for life, health and the environment.

Reverend Francis J. Kulik, died on January 20, 2017 in Palm Beach, Fla.

Father Kulik, son of the late Frank and Jennie Pesta Kulik, was born in Avoca on March 2, 1944. He received his early education at Sacred Heart School in Dupont and graduated from Saint John's High School in Pittston. Father attended King's College in Wilkes-Barre and St. Pius X Seminary in Dalton.

He was ordained to the priesthood on May 24, 1969, in Saint Peter's Cathedral, Scranton, by the Most Reverend J. Carroll McCormick, D.D., late Bishop of Scranton.

Father Kulik was assigned as assistant pastor at Saint Elizabeth, Bear Creek; Saint Mary, Plymouth; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel,



Reverend Francis J. Kulik

Carbondale and Saint Patrick, Scranton. He then received his first assignment as pastor of Resurrection Parish in Muncy on September 6, 1983, where he served five years until his appointment as pastor of Saint Mary of Czestochowa in Greenwood. Father served there for eight years. He then served the Diocese of Palm Beach, Fla. at Our Lady of

Lourdes Parish, Boca Raton.

He is survived by a brother, Monsignor Alexander T. Kulik, Dunmore; a sister, Shirley Polaski, Clinton, N.J. and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a twin brother, Daniel.

A Pontifical Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by the Most Reverend James C. Timlin, D.D., Bishop Emeritus of Scranton, on Friday, February 3, 2017, at 11:00 a.m. at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 215 Lackawanna Avenue, Dupont. Viewing will take place Friday morning one hour prior to the 11:00 a.m. Funeral Mass. Interment will be in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Dupont.

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FNCB Donates \$82,625 to Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Foundation

FNCB Bank, locally-based for over 100 years, has announced an \$82,625 Pennsylvania Education Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) donation to the Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Foundation. Since 2010, FNCB has contributed \$1,200,000 to local educational and scholarship organizations through the EITC program.

The Diocese of Scranton donation will help provide tuition assistance to students enrolled in pre-school, elementary and high school programs in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Each year, more than 1,000 families receive tuition awards from the Diocesan foundation, many of which are funded through FNCB's contributions.

"The EITC program has allowed us to help many non-profit organizations over the years," said Gerard Champi, FNCB President and CEO. "We are happy to help the Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Foundation assist many deserving students and their families."

The support of the Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Foundation is part of FNCB's larger Community Caring initiative. As a true, local community bank, FNCB is making a difference through volunteerism, donations and outreach programs.

The First 1,000 Days: A Crucial Time for Mothers and Children — And the World analyzes efforts to stop malnutrition at a very personal level by documenting the lives of several mothers and children in the United States, India, Guatemala and Uganda.

The overwhelming effect that food has on the quality of a child's entire life, as well as the good of society as a whole, is staggering. In particular, the first 1,000 days, starting in pregnancy, are especially important. But within this world of plenty, and sometimes regardless of the efforts made by organizations prioritizing the issue, malnutrition continues generation after generation.

Roger Thurow, a senior fellow at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and former reporter for The Wall Street Journal, explores this concept by documenting the first 1,000 days of babies and their mothers in northern Uganda, the South Side of Chicago, the rural state of Uttar Pradesh in northern India and Guatemala's western highlands. Their stories are

The First 1,000 Days: A Crucial Time for Mothers and Children — And the World

By Roger Thurow
Public Affairs (Philadelphia, 2016). 262 pp., \$26.99

*Reviewed by Regina Lordan
Catholic News Service*

hopeful, discouraging, poignant and illuminating. But they are not unique.

According to Mr. Thurow, "malnutrition is responsible for nearly half of all deaths of children under 5 worldwide and is a main culprit behind many adult chronic diseases."

The pregnant women Mr. Thurow meets are taught how to make healthy food choices, starting with farming and cooking. In Uganda, women are encouraged to plant and eat sweet potatoes and high-iron beans to supplement an otherwise vitamin-deficient diet

that contributes to malnutrition and disease. Unfortunately, access to clean water, sanitation and medical assistance often overrides efforts for good eating practices.

In Guatemala, women are encouraged to not only farm but to eat the country's rich variety of produce. They are taught to diversify their diets laden with corn, tortillas or tamales and corn chips, "all washed down with Coke or Pepsi." As Mr. Thurow notes, "Guatemala is a prime example of the paradox of globalization." Farmers are not able to afford their own produce "and even if they

could, had little taste of them," according the author.

The South Side of Chicago has its own set of challenges, not the least of which is poverty and violence.

Here, Mr. Thurow observes a young teen pregnant with her first baby. She's excited about making healthy food choices for her unborn daughter, but eating less expensive, easily accessed junk food is a tempting choice. But with the help of a Women and Infant Children, known as WIC, food market run by Catholic Charities, the young teen and mothers

like her can take nutrition courses and safely shop for healthy foods while their children are supervised. Catholic Charities serves more than 120,000 people at these 16 operations around the city.

On to rural India, home to gender biases and cultural practices that often put mothers and babies at risk. Poor access to health care, delayed breastfeeding, vigorous newborn baby-washing and misogyny contribute to unintended health issues and infant death. Add in a lack of access to or unwillingness to use bathrooms, and disease runs rampant.

Mr. Thurow does an excellent job highlighting unique circumstances with his personal stories while avoiding gross generalizations. He also does not avoid pointing out that certain cultural practices must change to improve the health of women and children. And, he says, the development community still is trying to better understand that coordinated programs that address multifaceted issues will have a broader impact improving the lives of children.

Bioethics: Thinking Through the Temptation of Cohabitation

Continued from Page 8

experience shows it doesn't typically help him reach the commitment reflected in those all-important words, "Will you marry me?"

Cohabitation, in fact, is a relationship that is defined by a holding back of commitment. The notion that it somehow allows both parties to "try out" a marriage beforehand is conveniently make-believe, a kind of "playing house," mostly because it's impossible to try out something permanent and irrevocable through something temporary and revocable. As Jennifer Roback Morse has described it, "Cohabiting couples are likely to have one foot out the door, throughout the relationship. The members of a cohabiting couple practice holding back on one another. They rehearse not trusting." They don't develop the elements crucial to a successful marriage, but instead keep their options open so they can always beat a hasty retreat to the exit. Or as Chuck Colson has put it: "Cohabitation — it's training for divorce." Many studies confirm that the divorce rate among those who cohabit prior to marriage is nearly double the rate of those who marry without prior cohabitation.

Some researchers believe that individuals who cohabit are more unconventional to begin with, being less committed to the institution of marriage overall and more

open to the possibility of divorce. Others suspect something more insidious — that living together slowly erodes people's ability to make a commitment by setting them up into patterns of behavior that work against succeeding in a long-term relationship. Both may actually be true.

Various risks correlate strongly with cohabitation. Compared with a married woman, a cohabiting woman is roughly three times as likely to experience physical abuse, and about nine times more likely to be murdered. Children also tend to fare poorly when it comes to these live-in arrangements. Rates of serious child abuse have been found to be lowest in intact families; six times higher in step families; 20 times higher in cohabiting biological-parent families; and 33 times higher when the mother is cohabiting with a boyfriend who is not the biological father. Cohabiting homes see significantly more drug and alcohol abuse, and bring in less income than their married peers. Cohabitation is clearly bad for men, worse for women, and terrible for children.

"Marriage," as Glenn Stanton notes, "is actually a very pro-woman institution. People don't fully realize what a raw deal for women cohabitation is. Women tend to bring more goods to the relationship — more work, more effort in tending to the relationship — but they get less satisfaction

in terms of relational commitment and security." While marriage doesn't automatically solve every problem, it clearly offers a different and vastly better set of dynamics than cohabitation for all the parties involved.

A Millennial Perspective on Roe v. Wade

Continued from Page 8

The trend is also seen at the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., where it has been estimated that at least half of the marchers are under the age of 30. High school and college students come by the busload in a peaceful demonstration in defense of the sanctity of innocent human life, at all its ages and stages of development.

These are students whose first official portrait might have been the ultrasound picture posted on the refrigerator door of their family home. They have seen ultrasound videos of baby brothers, sisters, and cousins and have witnessed the humanity of the preborn child with their own eyes.

Outside the Supreme Court, they hear the eye-opening testimonies of the women of the Silent No More Awareness campaign. These courageous women had abortions, but now deeply regret them and want to spare other women the

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D., is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Mass., and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

anguish of losing a child to the tragedy of Roe.

The young people who will be attending the March are a world and generations apart from the men of the Supreme Court who issued a ruling so extreme that it led to the brutality of partial-birth abortion — a practice in which a baby was partly delivered, then killed. It took an act of Congress — and a subsequent High Court ruling — to outlaw this outrageous procedure.

Nearly four and a half decades after Roe, momentum is growing to help the nation move forward. Technology has opened a window to the womb through 3D and 4D ultrasounds. Modern medicine is saving premature babies at earlier and earlier stages of development. Comprehensive support and assistance are available for women facing challenging pregnancies.

It's time for the Supreme Court to follow the lead of Millennials and catch up with the times.

Diocese of Scranton
CATHOLIC
 SCHOOL SYSTEM
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The Diocese of Scranton is committed to educating our students in an environment that is academically excellent and facilitates the development of moral judgment and Christian decision-making. We are proud to share the following successes of our students in the classroom and in their service to others. Each day, our schools are fulfilling their mission of preparing today's youth and young adults to become tomorrow's faith-filled leaders.

Bishop Bambera recently celebrated Mass at three Diocesan Schools. During his time with the students, he reminded them about how God calls all of us to be a part of His church and to work with Him to build His kingdom. "We all need to become the hands, hearts and voice of Jesus on earth. When we serve one another, we are using our different gifts and abilities to help build up the church."



La Salle Academy in Jessup



Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre



Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green



“Happy Birthday, Benjamin Franklin!” from the 2nd grade class of **Epiphany School in Sayre**. In honor of his birthday, each student was given the name of a famous inventor, who they had to research to learn what they invented as well as the year it was invented. The class then brought in the invention wrapped as a gift for Mr. Franklin’s birthday.



Jenna Medvetz and Lainey Conway, 5th grade students at **St. Jude School in Mountain Top**, along with their classmates combined science with creative construction and critical thinking skills. Students were given a specific amount of powdered sugar, water, marshmallows and graham crackers, and challenged to create their own mock gingerbread-style house.



St. Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore feels blessed to have such a faith-filled student body.



Maurita Kostiak, Kira McCoy, Cameron Pajalich and Matthew Welkey, Pre-Kindergarten students at **Holy Rosary School in Duryea**, along with their classmates made delicious vegetable soup as a culminating activity for the learning the letter V. Each student participated by adding vegetables and playing chef for the day.



Students enjoyed a New Year’s Party sponsored by the Mission Club from **Holy Family Academy in Hazleton**.



Junior high students from **All Saints Academy in Scranton** listen as Deputy District Attorney Jennifer McCambridge and Detective Sheryl Turner, from the Lackawanna County District Attorney’s Office, teach them the importance of safety in today’s world of online technology.



The St. Dominc Savio Club at **St. Nicholas/St. Mary School in Wilkes-Barre** collected socks to donate to the St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen. The student body contributed hundreds of socks to the cause. The Savio Club works to provide service to the community and a variety of projects are conducted throughout the year for those in need. Pictured are: Brady Fallon, Nathan Wolsieffer, Shayla Vo, Bianca Barranger, Jessica Nyugen, D.J. MacDermott, Bailee Atcavage, Brooke Plucas, Aiden McDonald, Anthony Al-Doud, Avagail Yerger, Jacob Considine, Mark Atherton, Cael Ropietski, Christopher Durko and Ava Conrad.



Pennsylvanians for Human Life announced the winners of the 2016 Youth for Life Art and Essay Contest. **Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston** merited several awards for essays written in May 2016. School winners included Emily Dougherty, first place; Sarah Skoronski, second place; Madison DeWeese, honorable mention; and Owen Martin, honorable mention.



Principal Sister Mary Alice Kane, IHM, and students from **Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg**, hold the proclamation which officially states that the week of January 29, 2017, is Catholic Schools Week. Pictured with Sister Mary Alice are Rachel Graham, Andrew Smith, Clara Godette, Milania Curtis, Chase Godwin, Gloria Bolden and Alaya Davis.



The LEO Club at **St. John Neumann High School in Williamsport** recently sponsored its Annual Winter Coat Drive. Neumann families donated gently used and clean winter coats, hats, scarves, mittens and gloves. All items were then given to the Salvation Army. Shown in the photo is Major Donald Spencer from the Salvation Army, and LEO Club members Kaycie Gerrity, Shayna McNamee, Kyle Ferguson and Noah Persun.



The Mock Trial Team from **Holy Cross High School in Dunmore** gathers in the school foyer before heading to the Ben Franklin Invitational at the University of Penn in Philadelphia to compete against 40 other mock trial teams.

Diocesan Groups Make Trek to Washington for 44th Annual March for Life



Young marchers representing the youth ministry at Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish in Brodheadsville.



Bishop Bambera poses with the group from Holy Cross High School in Dunmore at this year's March for Life on Jan. 27, along with Monsignor Thomas Muldowney (second from right), Vicar General of the Diocese, and Father Jeffrey Walsh (far left), Episcopal Vicar for Clergy.

“The March for Life reminds us all of the responsibility that we’ve been given as people of faith and good will to be champions of life, and to especially defend the inherent right of every one of God’s children to be born. 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 — gathered once again in our nation’s capital in order to witness to the belief that all human life is precious and has profound value. I was proud and grateful to be in Washington with representatives from the Diocese of Scranton and with the multitudes from throughout our country to give voice to the unborn.”

— *Bishop Joseph C. Bambera*



A March for Life bus is filled with students and chaperones from the lower Luzerne County parishes of Annunciation, Hazleton; Holy Name of Jesus, West Hazleton; and St. John Bosco, Conyngham.



Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre was well represented at the 2017 March for Life.



Father Joseph Mosley (second from right) is joined by Scranton Diocesan seminarians, from left, Jonathan Kuhar, Robert Dogal and Ryan Glenn.



The Holy Cross High School contingent in front of the St. John Paul II National Shrine in Washington.



Williamsport hailed marchers from St. Joseph the Worker Parish and St. John Neumann Regional Academy (below).



Having made their way to Washington for the pro-life march are young pilgrims from St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Moscow; St. Eulalia Parish, Elmhurst; and St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Milford.



Representatives from the Wyoming Valley Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life.



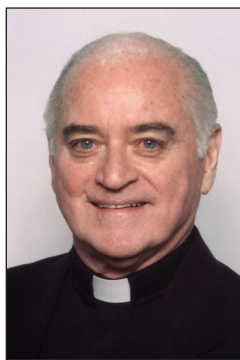
Father Joseph Mosley, assistant pastor of St. Matthew Parish in East Stroudsburg, addresses those in attendance for the annual Pro-Life Prayer Rally sponsored by the Pocono PHL Chapter at Courthouse Square in Stroudsburg on Jan. 22.



The Scranton Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life boasted their usual big turnout of pilgrims for the Annual March for Life in the nation’s capital.



Gathered in front of the U.S. Supreme Court building are March for Life participants representing the Scranton Diocesan parishes of Epiphany, Sayre; Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Hanover Township; and St. Jude, Mountain Top.



Spirituality for Today

To My Brother Priests

By Father John Catoir

After 56 years of the priesthood, at age 85, I want to say a word of thanks to my brother priests, who have sacrificed so much to bring the good news of God's love to our troubled world.

Years ago, the priests of my diocese elected me to be their clergy personnel director, a job which helps the bishop in the assignment and placement of priests. Eventually, it led to my becoming president of the National Association of Church Personnel Administrators.

My respect for priests is therefore based on years of experience working with them and for them. They have all chosen a life of altruism, based on a deep faith in God's love, and so it is fitting to offer them this tribute of gratitude:

Dear Father, please know that you have the heartfelt thanks of millions of Catholics for all you do, and have done over the years, to carry out the mission that Jesus assigned to you. Your generous service includes: offering the holy sacrifice of the Mass, baptizing babies, hearing confessions, assisting the dying and comforting the afflicted. It also encompasses your hidden life of empathy for those who come to you with their problems and emotional pain.

As a priest, you have had to face a lot of turmoil in your life: stress coming from the backlash of the child abuse scandal and anger from anti-Catholic bigotry. With it all, you've managed to persevere, holding on to your dignity.

Jesus faced far worse, even to the point

of dying on the cross. When he said, "Take courage, I have conquered the world" (Jn 16: 33), he was aware of the feelings of loneliness and inadequacy you have endured from time to time as you carried out the duties of your vocation.

Like St. Paul, you've always known that God's grace will sustain you. He said, "If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness" (2 Cor 11:30), because his weakness reminded him that the strength he needed came directly from Christ.

You, Father, have lived through turbulent times. The exaltation of exaggerated individualism has caused many problems. As the baby boomers now begin to retire, all of us need to consider their legacy. They were caught up in the sexual liberation

movement, and many of them rejected the religious values of their parents.

Sexual promiscuity, smoking pot and experimenting with drugs all contributed to a soaring divorce rate. The human misery that followed has been disturbing the peace in our culture ever since.

Dear Father, it has not been easy, but through it all, you have remained a carrier of divine love, a true believer and a spiritual leader in the battle against Satan, who goes about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Keep depending on the Lord's strength, and all will be well.

P.S. We priests send our sincere thanks to the laity for all the love and support you have so generously bestowed upon us year after year. God bless you, always and forever.

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Coming of Age

Accepting Help from Others

By Maria-Pia Negro Chin

Last year, I saw a youth group doing an interesting exercise in trust. A few teenagers were using their jackets as blindfolds as their group partner guided their walk around the church's garden back to their meeting room.

The idea was for some of the teenagers to learn to guide others, while the other party learned to trust and accept help from their peers. It ultimately showed how accepting God's loving help, even when we can't see the path we are supposed to follow, will lead us to where we are supposed to be.

This reminded me of what Helen Alvare, law professor at George Mason University, had said during her keynote speech at the September 2015 World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia. She said that even when a "gospel of me" seems to be encouraged in today's world, "the way of happiness, of freedom is the way of interdependent love."

"We are made to open ourselves to God first and then to every single other neighbor, who like the injured traveler in the good Samaritan story, we happen to find across our particular path," she said. "You really do find yourself when you lose yourself in the

love of other people, beginning with family and moving out into the world."

She also emphasized that human beings need to first be receivers of love to be givers of love. This made me realize that we learn to support others because we have first received help.

Yet, as we grow older, accepting others' help is scary because it requires showing our vulnerabilities to other people. Many of us have been raised to believe that we need to solve our own problems, otherwise we appear weak. We are happy to help others but have a hard time asking for or accepting help.

But this can prevent us from growing or, in some cases, from getting the help we truly need.

In a catechesis during the 2016 World Youth Day in Poland, Manila Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle talked about how in modern culture, one's self worth is measured by success and that it seems like "the greatest sin of our time is to say, 'I have failed.'"

The Filipino cardinal told a crowd of 15,000 young pilgrims about the importance of opening ourselves to mercy, which means accepting when we need help.

He added that the rise of the modern "self-made" human being makes it harder for many people to open up themselves to others, including God. This is because of the idea that "if you allow others to help you, to guide you, you do not qualify as successful," he said.

In trying to be self-reliant or self-made to an extreme, a person



can confuse accepting others' help with losing dignity. But, he continued, "that person will not allow anyone — even God — to touch his heart or her heart for it is an insult."

The teenagers in the youth group received a valuable lesson about their spiritual journey through that exercise: their dependence on others and on God.

By accepting help, we recognize that we cannot do it alone. That we need God to guide us, to help us when we most need it. We open ourselves to receiving mercy.

Divine help comes through human hands and hearts. Accepting others' help is a way to gracefully accept God's help and to let others become instruments of his mercy.

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\$1 Million for South Side Athletics Campus

Robert Weiss '68, a University Trustee, and his wife, Marilyn, have made a \$1 million gift to The University of Scranton to support the development of its South Side Athletics Campus.

The plans for the upgrade of an 11-acre athletic complex along Broadway Street owned by the University include NCAA regulation baseball and softball fields, a multipurpose field that meets NCAA standards for soccer, lacrosse and field hockey, a community basketball court, a children's play area, a field house, bleacher seating and parking.

Currently, the University has only one intercollegiate field, Fitzpatrick Field, which is used by five Division III intercollegiate athletic teams and several intramural sports and club teams. The University's baseball and softball teams play at parks in Scranton and Jessup.

This project also complements neighborhood revitalization and beautification projects already underway in Scranton. The Lackawanna River Heritage Trail runs adjacent to the property. In addition to creating short-term jobs for the construc-



tion of the site, the South Side Athletics Campus will allow the University to host NCAA, as well as PIAA, tournaments that will draw visitors to Scranton and Lackawanna County from a larger geographical area. These visitors will utilize hotel, dining and shopping amenities, spurring increased economic activity in the Greater Scranton Area.

\$1.4 Million from Scranton Estate



The University of Scranton received a \$1.4 million gift from the estate of Gov. William W. Scranton and his wife, Mary L. Chamberlin Scranton. Two of Gov. and Mrs. Scranton's children, William W. Scranton III (second from left) and Susan Scranton Dawson (far right), along with William III's wife, Maryla (first from left), are pictured with University President Kevin P. Quinn, S.J., at Scranton Hall on campus.

The gift, made in honor of the University's 22nd president, the Rev. J.A. Panuska, S.J., will significantly contribute to this experience in the Panuska School of Professional Studies, the Kania School of Management, the College of Arts and Sciences and the Weinberg Memorial Library.

Vatican officials visit war-torn city of Aleppo

Boys carry sandwiches Jan. 20 in Aleppo, Syria. Conveying Pope Francis' closeness to the Syrian people, a Vatican delegation visited Aleppo Jan. 18-23 following the end of the hostilities that left thousands dead and the city in ruins.

(CNS photo/Khalil Ashawi, Reuters)



VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Conveying Pope Francis' closeness to the Syrian people, a Vatican delegation visited Aleppo following the end of the hostilities that left thousands dead and the city in ruins.

Msgr. Giampietro Dal Toso, secretary-delegate of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, visited the city Jan. 18-23, accompanied by Cardinal Mario Zenari, apostolic nuncio to Syria, and Msgr. Thomas Habib, an official at the nunciature, the Vatican said Jan. 24.

The delegation met with "Christian communities and their pastors, who expressed gratitude to the pope for his constant concern for beloved Syria," the statement said.

They also visited several refugee camps and Catholic institutions assisting in relief efforts,

including a humanitarian assistance center run by Caritas Aleppo.

According to the Vatican, during a meeting with the church's charitable institutions, Msgr. Dal Toso and the delegation emphasized the importance of providing relief assistance to the Syrian people.

"With the support of the universal church and thanks to the generous contribution of the international community, such help may be intensified in the future to meet the growing needs of the people," the Vatican said.

Members of the delegation also took part in an ecumenical prayer service that coincided with the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, as well as several meetings with Islamic representatives.

OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

Creatively Reaching Out to Persons with Disabilities

What? An evening of networking and sharing of ideas/resources

Who should attend? DREs, pastors, catechists, buildings-and-grounds committee members and anyone interested in finding ways to better minister to and include parishioners with physical or mental disabilities

Presenters:

- Bernadette Rudolph will facilitate networking and sharing of ideas/resources.
- Rev. Dick Hockman, CSC, will speak about the spiritual needs/abilities of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and introduce the SPRED program. Father Dick has a professional background and long history in special education and assists the Diocese of Scranton in parish-based SPRED programs.

When and Where? Each session is 6:30-8:30PM. All locations are wheel-chair accessible.

- Feb. 13 at St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Pocono Pines
- Feb. 20 at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Castellano Center, Williamsport
- Feb. 21 at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton
- Feb. 27 at Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Wilkes-Barre

Please contact Jennifer at oplgeneral@dioceseofscranton.org or 570-207-2213 to register.



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FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
12:00 AM	SPECIALS	SUNDAY MASS (Encore)	DAILY MASS (Encore)				Fr. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE
1:00 AM	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	THE JOURNEY HOME (Encore)	MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE CLASSICS	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	THE WORLD OVER (Encore)	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY
1:30 AM							
2:00 AM	YOU'RE AMAZING	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Encore)				
2:30 AM	CONVERSION: FOLLOWING THE CALL OF CHRIST		EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY
3:00 AM	EWTN ON LOCATION			DEFENDING LIFE	THE CREED	WHERE GOD WEEPS	DECISION POINT
3:30AM		BELOVED		ANGELUS FROM NAZARETH	SAINTS VS SCOUNDRELS	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOG	CATHOLICISM ON CAMPUS
3:40 AM							
3:50AM							
4:00 AM	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	SUNDAY NIGHT PRIME	VOCATION BOOM	PAPAL AUDIENCE LIVE (at 3:50)	SUPER SAINTS	WEB OF FAITH 2.0	SAVORING OUR FAITH
4:30 AM			OCTAVA DIES		REMEMBERING JESUS		THE FAITH WITH FR. MAURICE
5:00 AM	FORGOTTEN HERITAGE	EWTN BOOKMARK	THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL	ST. LUKE'S GOSPEL	EWTN SPECIALS	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY	LIGHT FROM LIGHT
5:30 AM	LIFE IS WORTH LIVING	CROSS TRAINING	MIRACLES OF THE CHILD JESUS	EXTRAORDINARY FAITH			CATHOLICS COME HOME
6:00 AM	ANGELUS WITH POPE FRANCIS	EWTN ORIGINAL PRODUCTIONS					
6:30 AM	ST. LUKE'S GOSPEL	EWTN CATALOG	CHURCH & THE POOR	JOY OF MUSIC	APOSTOLATE FOR FAMILY CONSECRATION	THE CHOICES WE FACE	SAINTS vs. SCOUNDRELS
7:00 AM	THE CHAPLET OF ST. MICHAEL						
7:30 AM	ROSARY FROM LOURDES	HOLY LAND ROSARY					THE HOLY ROSARY FROM LOURDES
7:50 AM		LITANY OF LORETO	LITANY OF THE HOLY NAME	LITANY OF ST. JOSEPH	LITANY OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD	PAPAL AUDIENCE	
8:00 AM	SUNDAY MASS (Live)	DAILY MASS (Live)					
8:30 AM	LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	SUNDAY NIGHT: PRIME (Encore)	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY	THRESHOLD OF HOPE (Encore)	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	THE WORLD OVER (Encore)	WE ARE CATHOLIC
9:30 AM	EWTN BOOKMARK						ROAMIN CATHOLIC
10:00 AM	WHERE GOD WEEPS	MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE CLASSICS	LIVE WITH PASSION	CTV SPECIAL PRESENTATION	FOCUS	NOVENA TO ST. ANN	MY TIME WITH JESUS
10:30 AM	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY		FORMING FAITHFUL FAMILIES			CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY
11:00 AM		WOMEN OF GRACE					
11:30 AM	HOLY ROSARY FROM LOURDES	THE CHOICES WE FACE	NOVENA TO ST. ANN	MUSIC AND THE SPOKEN WORD	THE FRIAR	LIVE WITH PASSION	HOLY ROSARY FROM LOURDES
12:00 PM	SUNDAY MASS (Encore)	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, LIVE AT 12:10 p.m. "DIOCESAN DATEBOOK" airs before and after Mass.					EWTN DAILY MASS (Encore)
12:30 PM							
1:00 PM	(1:10PM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	JOURNEY HOME* (Best-of) *occasionally 90 minutes	JOURNEY HOME (Best-of)	JOURNEY HOME (Best-of)	JOURNEY HOME (Best-of)	JOURNEY HOME (Encore.)	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE
1:30 PM	IN CONCERT (Concert length varies)						EWTN BOOKMARK
2:00 PM	LIGHT FROM LIGHT	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	THRESHOLD OF HOPE (Live)	FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY	MIRACLES OF THE CHILD JESUS	EWTN ON LOCATION
2:30 PM						STATIONS OF THE CROSS	
3:00 PM	THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY IN SONG						
3:15 PM	REFLECTIONS						
3:30 PM	THE HOLY ROSARY IN STAINED GLASS	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, (Encore)					ROSARY FOR LIFE
4:00 PM	FR. CONNOR - GRAB YOUR CATECHISM	THE HOLY ROSARY DIOCESAN DATEBOOK					EWTN PRESENTS
4:30 PM	BELOVED	ANIMATED STORIES FROM THE BIBLE	MY TIME WITH JESUS	CHILDRENS SPECIALS	DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET FOR KIDS	WAY OF THE CROSS FOR KIDS	
5:00 PM	FOCUS	EXTRAORDINARY FAITH	SUPER SAINTS	CROSS TRAINING	SAVORING OUR FAITH	DISCERNING THE WILL OF GOD	LIFE ON THE ROCK
5:30 PM		EWTN BOOKMARK	THE CHOICES WE FACE	CONVERSATIONS FROM THE WORLD OVER SHOW	DECISION POINT	CROSSING THE GOAL	
6:00 PM	CELEBRATION OF THE MASS	EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Live)					LIFE IS WORTH LIVING
6:30 PM	VATICANO	EWTN GALLERY					CHURCH AND THE POOR
7:00 PM	THE WORLD OVER LIVE (Encore)	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, (Encore)					MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE CLASSICS
7:30PM		THE HOLY ROSARY		POPE'S AUDIENCE	THE HOLY ROSARY		
		DIOCESAN DATEBOOK					
8:00 PM	SUNDAY NIGHT PRIME (Live)	THE JOURNEY HOME (Live)	CTV SPECIAL PRESENTATION	EWTN LIVE	THE WORLD OVER (Live)	SPECIALS	EWTN CINEMA
8:30 PM	CATHOLICS COME HOME	EWTN NIGHTLY NEWS (Encore)		EWTN NIGHTLY NEWS (Encore)			
9:00 PM	HOLY ROSARY W MOTHER ANGELICA	NOVENA TO ST. ANN	THE CHOICES WE FACE	FOCUS	LIVE WITH PASSION	FORMING FAITHFUL FAMILIES	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY
10:00 PM	EWTN SPECIALS	THE WORLD OVER LIVE (ENCORE)	THRESHOLD OF HOPE (Encore)	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE	FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL	
10:30 PM				VATICANO		THE CREED	
11:00 PM	BEST OF MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE	CATHOLICS COME HOME	GRAB YOUR CATECHISM WITH FR. CONNOR	CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN	DEFENDING LIFE	CONVERSION: FOLLOWING THE CALL OF CHRIST	WEB OF FAITH 2.0
11:30 PM				WOMEN OF GRACE			

IHM Sister Renews Religious Vows



Shown, from left, are Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters Chris Koellhoffer, Jean Louise Bachetti, Elvia Yolanda Mata Ortega, Ellen Maroney and Susan Hadzima.

SCRANTON — Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Elvia Yolanda Mata Ortega recently renewed her perpetual vows of chastity, poverty and obedience to the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate of Mary congregation in Scranton.

A native of Santa Maria del Oro, Mexico, and the fifth of 11 children, Sister Elvia entered religious life in 1994 with the Las Misioneras de Nuestra Senora

del Perpetuo Socorro community of women religious founded by a Redemptorist priest.

She served her congregation by ministering in missionary work in Philadelphia and Springfield, Pa., Massachusetts, Mexico and India.

Sister Elvia currently serves as deputy director of Padre Severiano Martinez Home for Children in Guadalupe, Nuevo Leon Mexico.

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Towanda Parish Plans History Fair Day Event

As part of the yearlong celebration of the 175th anniversary of SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Towanda, a History Fair and tours of the historic SS. Peter and Paul Church are planned for Saturday, March 25, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The History Fair will be held in Grotto Hall on the lower level of the parish church.

To enhance the event, the 175th Anniversary Committee is seeking historic items from private collections to display that day, especially from anyone associated with the Catholic Daughters, Holy Name Society, Ancient Order of Hibernians, Altar & Rosary Society, Knights

of Columbus or any organization affiliated with the parish during its 175-year history.

Dated photos, uniforms, certificates or any memorabilia are being requested.

Historic items already collected for the display include a St. Agnes High School baseball uniform, First Holy Communion certificate from 1905, a ceremonial ritual book used by the Ancient Order of Hibernians, and a copy of the commemorative edition of the *Daily Review* newspaper celebrating the parish centennial in 1941 with stories and photos, including that of Bishop Andrew Brennan, a Towanda native son who served as

auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Scranton before becoming bishop of Richmond, Va.

An anniversary booklet with photos and history is being prepared for the church tours and as a collector's piece. Those interested in providing historical items are asked to contact SS. Peter and Paul Rectory at (570-265-2113).

King's College Hosting Annual Moreau Lecture on February 22

WILKES-BARRE — The Congregation of Holy Cross religious community at King's College will sponsor its annual Moreau Lecture on Wednesday, Feb. 22, in the Burke Auditorium of the McGowan School of Business on the King's campus.

"The Relevance of St. Paul's 'Life in the Spirit' for Today" is the topic for this year's lecture presentation, which will be offered at 3:30 p.m. and again at 7:30 p.m.

Serving as the 2017 Moreau lecturer will be Jesuit Father Thomas D. Stegman, Dean of the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry and "Professor Ordinarius" of New Testament.



Fr. Thomas Stegman, SJ

Presented in the context of a modern society marked by polarization, a growing refugee/migrant crisis and environmental concerns, Father Stegman's talk will speak of the relevance of the Spirit's empowerment of individual Christians and communities of faith.

Father Stegman is the recipient of many academic awards, including the American Bible Society's Scholarly Achievement Award and the Aquinas Institute Fellowship at Emory University, where he earned his doctorate in New Testament studies.

The guest speaker also holds a master's degree from Marquette University and a master of divinity and licentiate in sacred theology (Old Testament) from the Weston Jesuit School of Theology.

Both lectures are open to the public free of charge. For more information, contact King's College at (570-208-5900 ext. 5767).

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for February 2017

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Initial Deposit: \$500.00 per person to confirm. Optional Trip Cancellation is offered @ \$199.00 per person.

Full & Final Payment is due on June 24, 2017. Any Cancellations after July 24, 2017 are Non-Refundable. (We highly recommend Travel Insurance) A Valid US Passport is Required for this trip.

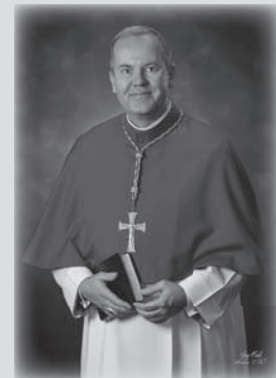
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Father Thomas D. Stegman, S.J.

"Professor Ordinarius" of New Testament

Dean of the School of Theology and Ministry,

Boston College

"The Relevance of St. Paul's 'Life in
the Spirit' for Today"

At 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

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Mark Your Calendar — Around the Diocese

Spiritual Offerings

Friday Holy Hour for Vocations — FEB. 3, hosted by the Little Sisters of the Poor at Holy Family Residence, 2500 Adams Ave., Scranton; weekly devotion held every Friday at 4:30 p.m. in the Residence chapel. Holy Hour includes recitation of the Rosary, evening prayer (vespers) and benediction. All faithful are welcome.

First Friday Eucharistic Adoration — FEB. 3, hosted at St. Joseph Church, 1625 North Main Ave., Scranton; continuous exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from Friday at 4:30 p.m. until Saturday at 4:30 p.m. Begins with First Friday Holy Hour from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., followed by Evening Prayer and benediction. All faithful are welcome. For more information, call (570-343-0634).

Monday Night Worship — FEB. 6, 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).

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).

Monthly Gathering of Theresians International of Scranton — FEB. 14, led by Mary Boretsky, president; group gathers at Immaculate Conception Church in the Hill section of Scranton for recitation of the Patriotic Rosary at 11:30 a.m. in the church's adoration chapel, followed by Mass celebrated at 12:10 p.m. Theresians' luncheon meeting follows at 12:45 p.m. at Cooper's Seafood House, North Washington Ave., Scranton. Month's guest speaker: Monsignor David Tressler, Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Education/Superintendent of Schools.

Monthly Afternoon of Recollection for Women — FEB. 18, hosted on the third Saturday of the month by St. Joseph Melkite Greek-Catholic Church, 130

Continued on Page 21



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2017 CAMP DATES

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Girls Resident Camp Week 3: July 23-28
Girls Basketball Camp Week 1: July 9-14
Girls Basketball Camp Week 2: July 16-21
Boys Resident Camp: July 30-Aug 3
Boys Basketball Camp: July 30-Aug 3
Father/Son Weekend: Aug 4-6
Women's Weekend: Aug 11-13

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Mark Your Calendar — Around the Diocese

Spiritual Offerings

Continued from Page 20

North St. Frances Cabrini Ave., Scranton; afternoon of reflection and discussion of topics of interest and Scripture begins at 2:30 p.m. in the church. Recollection concludes at 3:45 p.m. in the church hall with refreshments and chapter review of the book "Three Steps to Sanctity" by Father Albert Shamon.

Guest presiding priest: Father Paul Fontanella, assistant pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Carbondale. All women are welcome. For more information, contact the rectory at (570-343-6092) or melkite.scranton@gmail.com.

Bible Study Series: "Book of Deuteronomy" — MARCH 7, hosted at St. Ann's Shrine

Basilica, west Scranton; weekly presentations held at 7 p.m. For more information, call (570-347-5691). Same program series will also be offered on Saturday mornings, beginning March 4, at St. Gabriel's Retreat House, Clarks Summit. For more information, call (570-586-2791). Registration fee is \$5 per session.

Padre Pio Prayer Ministry — MARCH 8, hosted by St. Faustina Parish in Nanticoke; begins with celebration of Mass at 6 p.m. in the parish's Holy Trinity Church, 520 South Hanover St., Nanticoke, followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, intercessory prayers to St. Padre Pio, recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and benediction. All faithful are welcome.

Parish & Regional Happenings

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).

Valentine's Dinner Dance — FEB. 10, sponsored by St. Andre Bessette Parish in Wilkes-Barre; to be hosted at St. Mary's Byzantine Social Hall, 522 Madison St., Wilkes-Barre. Event held from 6 to 10 p.m., including homemade dinner, desserts and soft beverages; "oldies" music for listening and dancing pleasure provided by Millennium. Patrons may provide their own beverages. Cost: \$20 per person (must be at least 21 years of age to attend.) Advance

reservations with payment only. Tickets obtained by contacting the parish office, weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 668 N. Main St., Wilkes-Barre, or calling (570-814-9227).

Pre-Lenten Stuffed Cabbage Dinner — FEB. 12, sponsored by St. Andrew Parish in Wilkes-Barre; dinner served from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the parish's St. Patrick

Continued on Page 25

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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.



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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Mission Message

Baptism: The Gift of Our Missionary Discipleship

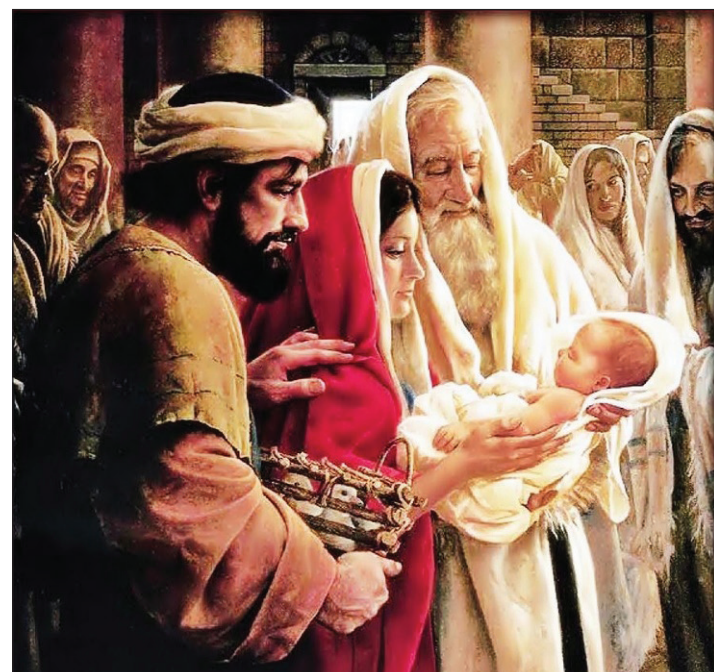
*By Deacon Edward T. Kelly
Diocesan Director,
Pontifical Mission Societies*



At the entrance of every Cath-
olic Church there is holy water.
As we come into the church, we
dip our fingers in the holy water
font and bless ourselves. Some of
us may even say the words: "In
the name of the Father, and of the
Son, and of the Holy Spirit." We
can do this so automatically, so
casually, that oftentimes we don't
even realize we're doing it.

The holy water font is, of
course, there to remind us of our
baptism. That in turn reminds us of
who we are. And who are we? —
children of God, first and foremost.
Baptism is our identification card,
our mark that tells the world to
whom we belong — that we are
initiated into discipleship with
Jesus and that we belong to Jesus.

Today, February 2, is the Feast
of the Presentation of the Lord. It
occurs 40 days after Christmas.



The number "forty" has signifi-
cance in the Liturgical Year. Lent
is 40 days. The Ascension of the
Lord is 40 days after Easter. And
here we are now, 40 days after the
Nativity of the Lord, celebrating
the Feast of the Presentation of the
Lord in the temple.

Mary and Joseph bring their
child Jesus to the temple for the
dedication of their son. They
remind me of all parents who
bring their child to a church to be
baptized. Why would parents do
that? Just like Mary and Joseph
with Jesus, they are dedicating
their child to God.

When parents bring their child
to a church for baptism they are
making a statement that this child
is not only their child but a child
of God; not only is this child a
member of a biological family but
a member of a larger family — the
Body of Christ — the Church; and

not only has this child been born
into this earthly life with all its ups
and downs, joys and sorrows, but
is born into eternal life.

Every child of God is part of
the missionary church. Mission,
for too many Catholics, is some-
thing that happens someplace else
and in the hands of someone else.
The plain truth is that by virtue of
our baptism we are all missionaries
called to do mission wherever we
are. It is an essential task that Jesus
entrusted to every baptized believ-
er. Perhaps the words of Blessed
Cardinal John Henry Newman
can help us better understand this:

**God has created me to do
him some definite service. He
has committed some work to
me which he has not committed
to another. I have my mission...**

Continued on Page 25

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.

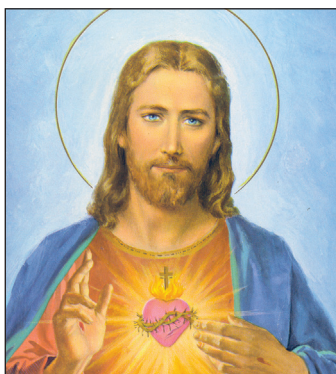
Rosary & Healing Mass

— 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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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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Parish & Area Happenings

Continued from Page 21

Church Hall, 318 Parrish St., Wilkes-Barre. Menu includes three pigs-in-the-blanket, honey-glazed carrots, mashed potatoes, roll/butter and dessert; bake sale also available. Take-out orders also provided. Cost: \$10 per dinner. Tickets available at the door.

Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary Bingo — **FEB. 15**, 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

Baptism: Gift of Missionary Discipleship

Continued from Page 22

I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work; I shall be a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it, if I do but keep His commandments and serve Him in my calling.

Therefore, I will trust Him. Whatever, wherever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him; in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him; if I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. My sickness or perplexity or sorrow may be necessary causes of some great end, which is quite beyond us. He does nothing in vain; He may prolong life; He may shorten it; He knows what He is about. He may take my friends; He may throw me among strangers; He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide the future from me — still He knows what He is about.

Today's Feast of the Presentation celebrates Joseph and Mary

attending five consecutive weeks are eligible for a cash prize. Free admission; for more information, call (570-876-1061).

Rummage Sale — **FEB. 17 & 18**, sponsored by St. Lawrence Parish in Great Bend; held in the Trinity Center church hall, 380 Franklin St., Great Bend. Sale hours: Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday (Bag Day), 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Halushki and homemade soups will also be available for sale. Public is welcome.

Night at the Races — **FEB. 18**, sponsored by Queen of the Apostles Parish at St. Mary Church, Avoca; held at the parish hall in the former St. Mary School, 742 Spring St., Avoca. Doors open at 5 p.m.; races begin at 7 p.m. Admission cost: \$5 per person,

offering the gift of their son to God and the Jewish community. A poor boy, a poor gift — but what would this world look like without it? We all have gifts. Each of us has a poor gift, but connected with others, we make a rich tapestry of God's mercy and love. Each of us has some poor gift but joined with others we make up the Body of Christ.

As I read today's Gospel from Luke, I am reminded of the many mission trips our office has sponsored for high school students. The Canticle of Simeon is in this Gospel and it is part of night prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours. It was our communal prayer every night:

Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.

What a beautiful way to end the day before retiring for the night. It gives all of us great hope. God will have the last word. God will reward faithfulness. God will honor his promises and, one day, we, too, will see God face to face.

includes food and beverages. Horse sponsorships available for \$10 each; event program forms required by Feb. 10. Donations of food and baked goods are welcome. For more information, contact the parish office at (570-457-3412) or staff@queenoftheapostles.com.

Annual Parish Breakfast — **FEB. 19**, sponsored by the Women's Guild of Divine Mercy Parish, Minooka section of Scranton; served from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the parish center. Featured menu items include cooked-to-order omelets, homemade Belgian waffles, home fries, sausage, bacon, homemade coffee cakes, breads and pastries. Cost: adults, \$8; children (under age 12), \$4. Advance tickets available after all weekend Masses and at the parish office. Tickets will also be sold at the door.

Sunday Buffet Breakfast — **FEB. 19**, hosted by St. Eulalia Church, 214 Blue Shutters Road, Elmhurst (Roaring Brook Twp.);

Continued on Page 27

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For information on further requirements and to obtain an application, contact Patrick Umbra, Supreme Director for Region II, at (570-822-3597) or email: mbra4326@msn.com. Application deadline is Feb. 23.

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Parish & Area Happenings

Continued from Page 25

serving from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon in the parish hall. Featuring full breakfast menu, including made-to-order eggs, home fries, ham, sausage, pancakes, rolls, toast, juice, coffee & tea. Cost: adults (age 12 to 64), \$7; seniors (age 65 & older), \$6; children (age 6-11), \$3; children age 5 & under admitted free. Public is invited; tickets at the door.

Seventh Annual Mardi Gras Wine Tasting — **FEB. 25**, hosted by Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Dickson City; held from 5 to 8 p.m. in the parish center, 625 Dundaff St., Dickson City. Event features a variety of wines produced from local vintners and light fare, including foods prepared by St. Mary's Visitation parishioners. Musical entertainment provided by Sarah Marie and Joseph. Cost per person: \$20, in advance; \$25, at the door. Admission fee for designated drivers is \$10, available at the door only. Reservations are limited. For advance tickets, contact the parish office at 1090 Carmalt St., Dickson City, or call (570-489-2091).

Ash Wednesday Clam Chowder & Tuna Hoagie Sale — **MARCH 1**, sponsored by Prince of Peace Parish in Old Forge; pre-orders prepared for pickup on Ash Wednesday from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the church auditorium on the corner of Grace and Lawrence streets, Old Forge. Cost: Manhattan clam chowder, \$6 per quart; tuna hoagie (12-

inch), \$6 each. Orders needed by Feb. 18 by contacting the parish rectory (570-457-5900) or Francis Riviello (570-451-0112); provide name, phone number and hoagie preference (plain or tomato/lettuce). Payment due upon pickup.

Ash Wednesday Fish Dinner — **MARCH 1**, sponsored by St. Andre Bessette Parish in Wilkes-Barre; served from 4 to 6 p.m. in the parish's Father Zolcinski Hall, 668 North Main St., Wilkes-Barre (take-our orders available). Cost: \$9 per dinner. Advance sales only; to obtain tickets, call Mary at (570-823-4988). Proceeds benefit the St. Andre Bessette Parish Social Justice Ministry.

Lenten Friday Food Sale — **MARCH 3**, sponsored by Nativity of Our Lord Parish in Duryea; hosted from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall at Sacred Heart, 529 Stephenson St., Duryea. Featured food items include potato pancakes, homemade red clam chowder, seafood bisque, halushki, pizza, frozen pierogi, and a bake sale. Both eat-in and take-out service provided. For more information, call the rectory office (570-457-3502).

Annual Chili & Salsa Cook-Off — **MARCH 4**, hosted by Most Holy Trinity Parish in Cresco; held from 12 noon to 3:30 p.m. at Monsignor McHugh Elementary School in Cresco. Event includes taste-tasting competition of local entries of chili and salsa dishes; live musical entertainment,

Knights of Columbus-sponsored video horse racing games, raffle drawings, children's magician, and bake sale. Admission cost: \$5; other foods and drinks available for purchase. Anyone interested in entering the cook-off for chance to win a prize, contact Chuck at (570-242-2431). Prize sponsorships available for local organizations and businesses.

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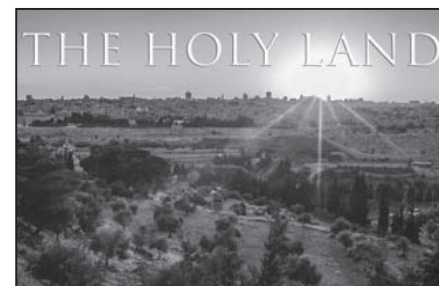
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Prayer Requests for Priests

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

Feb. 2, St. Peter Priestly Fraternity Father Simon Harkins; Feb. 3, Passionist Father Lee Havey; Feb. 4, Father Alex Hazzouri; Feb. 5, Father Robert Hochreiter; Feb. 6, Holy Cross Father Richard Hockman; Feb. 7, Father Mark Honhart; Feb. 8, Father Joseph Horanzy; Feb. 9, Father Thomas Hudak; Feb. 10, Father Ronald Hughes; Feb. 11,

Father Andrew Hvozdevic; Feb. 12, Holy Cross Father Daniel Issing; Feb. 13, Father George Jeffrey; Feb. 14, Holy Cross Father Walter Jenkins; Feb. 15, Passionist Father Joseph Jones; Feb. 16, Monsignor John Jordan; Feb. 17, Father Joseph Kakareka; Feb. 18, Father Louis Kaminski; Feb. 19, Father William Karle; Feb. 20, Monsignor Arthur Kaschenbach; Feb. 21, Father Joseph Kearney; Feb. 22, Passionist Father Earl Keating.

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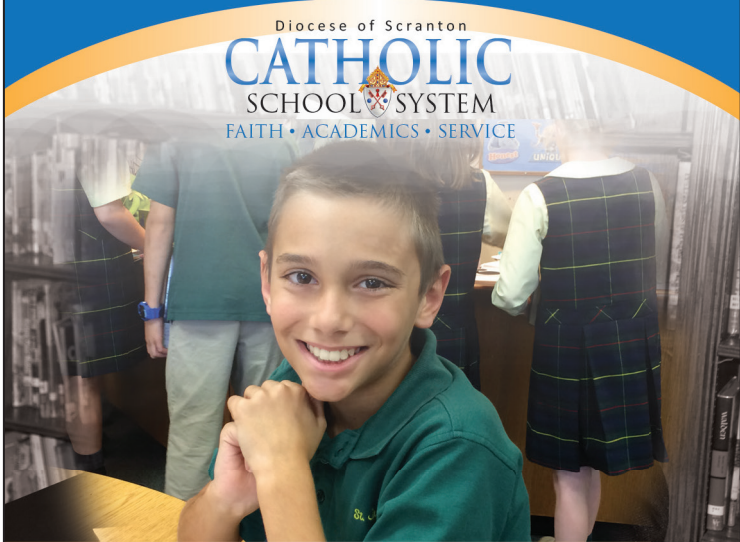
The Diocese of Scranton's website includes video of certain programs broadcast by CTV: Catholic Television. The programs include the Daily Mass from St. Peter's Cathedral, the monthly news program "Our Faith, Our Diocese" and other special programs. To watch the videos, go to www.dioceseofscranton.org. Click on "News & Events" tab and then click on Catholic Television.

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Scranton Foundation Supports St. Francis Kitchen



The Scranton Area Foundation recently made a \$2,000 donation to the St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen to assist with its Mid Valley Outreach Program. Shown during the check presentation are, from left: Cathy Fitzpatrick and Laura Ducceschi, representing the Scranton Area Foundation; Michele McDade, president of the St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen Advisory Board, and Monsignor Joseph P. Kelly, director of St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen. For information about volunteer opportunities with the St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen, or its donation needs, call (570) 342-5556.



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