

The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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Treasured by God



“Our presence together is a blessed reminder that we are all a part of God’s plan. Each of us is treasured by God, for being just the way we are. And each of us is well-equipped for the ministry of service in the Church.” – Bishop Bambera

The Catholic Light Photo/Mike Melisky

Developmental & Intellectual Disabilities Awareness Sunday Celebrated

The Diocese of Scranton celebrated the blessed presence and great gifts of those with certain challenges during the annual observance of Developmental & Intellectual Disabilities Awareness Sunday.

“This treasured moment of prayer sends a powerful message to the world in which we live,” said Bishop Joseph C. Bambera in his homily at the Mass in the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Sunday, February 19.

“Our presence together is a blessed reminder that we are all a part of God’s plan. Each of us is treasured by God, for being just the way we are. And each of us is well-equipped for the ministry of service in the Church.”

Our friends served in various roles at the liturgy, which also recognized their families and those agencies and individuals in the community who support them

as they journey with us in building the Kingdom of God.

Reflecting on the Gospel, Bishop Bambera noted that Jesus calls us to embrace a love that is not romantic or emotional, but rather a state of benevolence and good will that begins with recognizing the humanity we share with all people who call God their “Father.”

“It calls us to love the unlovable, to reach out to the alienated, to embrace those who are different, to dismantle whatever walls divide and isolate people and to build bridges that bring people together,” he said. “It is a love that seeks the well being of all, recognizing that despite our differences, we are all bound together as brothers and sisters – children of one God.”

The Bishop also challenged us to consider how we view our service to those who need special care and acceptance.

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USCCB leaders urge Trump to protect religious liberty

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Catholic Church leaders in a Feb. 16 statement said they were encouraged that President Donald Trump may be considering an executive order to protect religious freedom and said they would be grateful if he would move forward with the pledge that his administration would “do everything in its power to defend and protect religious liberty.”

“As Christians, our goal is to live and serve others as the Gospel asks. President Trump can ensure that we are not forced from the public square,” said the statement from committee chairs of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The statement was jointly issued by: New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities; Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, chairman of the Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth;

Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori, chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty; and Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida, chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development.

The church leaders said an executive order would “implement strong protections for religious freedom across the federal government in many of the areas where it has been eroded by the preceding administration, such as health coverage, adoption, accreditation, tax exemption, and government grants and contracts.”

“We ourselves, as well as those we shepherd and serve, would be most grateful if the president would take this positive step toward allowing all Americans to be able to practice their faith without severe penalties from the federal government,” they said.

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The Power of Praise

The worldwide Catholic Charismatic Renewal is observing its Golden Jubilee this year. This blessed apostolate, characterized by joyous and fervent expression of faith, continues to be a vital ministry in the Diocese of Scranton.

See page 3.

A LENTEN MESSAGE FROM BISHOP BAMBERA

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The first words of scripture in the Liturgy of Ash Wednesday come to us each year from the Old Testament prophet Joel. “Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping and mourning. Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the Lord, your God.” In effect, Joel calls us to change our lives and to set aside all that keeps us from reflecting the life of God in our own lives. But he boldly challenges us to do so, not merely through gestures and religious practices, but by peering intensely into our hearts to insure that our spirit – the core of our being – is honest, pure and open to the transforming presence of God.

Historically, Lent has also been a time for the People of God to reflect upon the sacrament of Baptism. On the First Sunday of Lent we will welcome catechumens into the ranks of the elect: those from our midst who have begun the journey of conversion and who will soon experience the saving power of Jesus in the Easter mysteries of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Their “yes” to the Lord’s call gives us hope and should encourage us to recommit ourselves to the vows that were made at our own baptisms. Ultimately, their “yes” reminds each of us that we are all challenged to look beyond ourselves for something more in life.

In his message to the Church for this Lenten season, Pope Francis gives us insight into where we should look. The Holy Father’s words build upon the value of each of us recommitting ourselves to our baptismal promises and embracing more deeply within our hearts the message of the prophet Joel, who calls us to a more authentic spirit of conversion. In the course of his reflection, the Pope invites us to consider the parable of the rich man and Lazarus as a vehicle through which we are all able to enter into a deeper relationship with Jesus.

For all that can be gleaned from this scripture passage, Pope Francis suggests the following as the parable’s core message: “Lazarus teaches us that *other persons are a gift*. A right relationship with people consists in gratefully recognizing their value. Even the poor person at the door of the rich is not a nuisance, but a summons to conversion and changes. The parable first invites us to open the doors of our heart to others because each person is a gift, whether it be our neighbor or an anonymous pauper. Lent is a favorable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognizing in them the face of Christ. Each of us meets people like this every day. Each life we encounter is a gift deserving acceptance, respect and love. The word of God helps us to open our eyes to welcome and love life, especially when it is weak and vulnerable.”

In these days of global upheaval and national struggle, many have come to question how we best respond to the lives that are woven into our own – from that of a familiar face to that of the stranger – the modern-day Lazarus – at our doors and national

borders. Pope Francis reminds us that while Lent is indeed a favorable season for renewing our encounter with Christ living in his word and in the sacraments, it is also a season in which we are beckoned to move beyond ourselves and to both encounter and serve Christ living in our neighbor – whoever he or she may be.

One of the great opportunities that we are given by the Church to assist us in our response to the Lord’s invitation to conversion is the grace of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. To provide the opportunity for the celebration of this Sacrament in a generous manner, once again, all of the parishes of the Diocese of Scranton will participate in *The Light Is On For You*. Every Monday evening during the Lenten season, beginning on the first Monday of Lent, March 6, and continuing through Monday of the last full week of Lent, April 3, confessions will be heard in every parish from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

My brothers and sisters, Lent is a wonderful season of hope. It is also a demanding time that compels each of us to confront the reality of our lives as Christians. Please know how grateful I am to each of you, who daily seek to embrace the true spirit of this sacred season. May we support one another and discover the true reason for our hope as we journey together to Easter joy.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

† *Joseph C. Bambera*

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



My brothers and sisters, Lent is a wonderful season of hope. It is also a demanding time that compels each of us to confront the reality of our lives as Christians. Please know how grateful I am to each of you, who daily seek to embrace the true spirit of this sacred season.



BISHOP BAMBERA’S SCHEDULE

March 1 – Ash Wednesday Mass, St. Peter’s Cathedral, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.

March 2-3 – United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs Committee Meeting, Chicago

March 5 – Rite of Election, St. Peter’s Cathedral, Scranton, 3:00 p.m.

March 9 – St. Jude School Mass, St. Jude Church, Mountain Top, 10:00 a.m.

March 11 – St. Patrick’s Parade Day Mass, St. Peter’s Cathedral, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.

March 13 – Holy Cross High School Mass, Dunmore, 1:00 p.m.

March 16-19 – United States Conference of Catholic Bishops National Advisory Council Committee Meeting, Baltimore

The Power of Praise

Catholic Charismatic Renewal Celebrating Golden Jubilee

“We...give thanks to the Holy Spirit for the gift of this current of grace, which is for the Church and for the world, and to celebrate the wonders that the Holy Spirit has worked in the course of these 50 years, changing the life of millions of Christians.”

– Pope Francis to Italian Catholic Charismatic Renewal

Fifty years ago, a gathering of college students on a retreat planted the seeds for what has blossomed into a worldwide movement that has infused Catholics with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the inspiration to share them.

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal is observing its Golden Jubilee this year, a celebration that highlights how significant this apostolate is for the Church.

“The Catholic Charismatic Renewal has been a vital ministry in our Diocese for many years, bringing Catholics here and from other parts of the country together for faith-filled, inspirational gatherings,” said Bishop Joseph C. Bambera. “They in turn live their faith fervently and joyously, boldly proclaiming the Good News and carrying forth the New Evangelization to everyone they encounter. I am deeply grateful to everyone who has been a part of this blessed Renewal that has contributed so much to the life and ministry of our Church for all these years.”

Roots in Pittsburgh

On February 18, in 1967, some Catholic students from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh were making a retreat focused on the Holy Spirit. During their prayer time, a number of the students

received extraordinary signs and gifts from the Lord. They were the first Catholics to be “baptized in the Holy Spirit” as it is called in Sacred Scripture (*Acts 1:5*).

Thus began the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR), which has spread across the world and been experienced by millions of Catholics. Just a few years after that Duquesne retreat, Catholic charismatic prayer groups were formed in our Diocese – initially in Lackawanna, Luzerne and Wayne counties.

Amid the cultural changes occurring in the 1970s and 1980s, many Catholics were attracted to CCR prayer meetings, where they became more deeply aware of the love of God the Father for them, encountered Jesus as their Savior and Lord in a very personal way, and experienced being built up by the various charisms shared in the power of the Holy Spirit.

In 1983, the CCR in our Diocese held the first of its annual conferences, which each year continues to attract almost 2,000 attendees. Since the beginning of the CCR, all of our popes and many others in the Catholic hierarchy have recognized the CCR as a current of grace for the building up of the Church, and have affirmed it for the good fruit it has produced.

“I am deeply grateful to everyone who has been a part of this blessed Renewal that has contributed so much to the life and ministry of our Church for all these years.”

– Bishop Bambera



Each year throngs of people from this region and beyond participate in the Diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal conference at the University of Scranton. This year's conference is scheduled for August 4-6.

Local Jubilee Events Planned

The CCR in the Diocese of Scranton will be celebrating this Golden Jubilee throughout 2017 with a number of events, including a CCR Formation Day Video Mini-Conference on March 25 at Holy Family Center in Nanticoke.

It begins with registration and breakfast from 8 to 9 a.m. The video conference will be offered from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Guest presenters for the conference include Jim Murphy, founding president of Vera Cruz Communications and former chairman of the National Service Committee for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal; and Deacon Larry Oney, internationally known Catholic Charismatic speaker and preacher who serves as a permanent deacon in the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

Conference registration fee is \$25 per person, which includes three meals.

For more information and registration details, including overnight accommodations, contact Bob Valiante, Catholic Charismatic Renewal, P.O. Box 3306, Scranton, PA 18505-0306; phone (570) 344-2214; or at ccrenewal@comcast.net.

Also, the 35th annual conference is scheduled for August 4-6 at the University of Scranton.

Our local CCR invites everyone to experience its numerous prayer meetings and other events as the CCR celebrates its 50th anniversary.



Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the Diocese of Scranton

Accompanying Catholics in building a culture of Pentecost to sustain the New Evangelization

P.O. Box 3306 Scranton, PA 18505-0306

570-344-2214 ccrenewal@comcast.net

www.ccrscranton.org www.youtube.com/user/ccrscranton

www.facebook.com/CCRScrantonDiocese/

U.S. Catholic Bishops seek religious liberty protection

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A draft version of the executive order was leaked in late January called “Establishing a Government-Wide Initiative to Respect Religious Freedom.” When it failed to appear on the president’s desk, rumors were circulating that a scaled-back version might appear at his desk but there has been no word about it from the Trump administration.

The U.S. bishops posted an online letter for Catholics to send to the president urging him to sign the order after the draft version was leaked. In the online letter, the bishops stressed such an order should include some of the following measures:

- Relief from the Affordable Care Act’s contraceptive mandate. Currently, the mandate -- issued by the federal Department of Health and Human Services as part of the implementation of the health care law -- requires most religious employers to provide coverage of artificial birth control for their employees even if the employer is morally opposed to such coverage. There is a very narrow exemption for churches.

- Preservation of tax-exempt status for nonprofit groups that hold beliefs based on marriage and human sexuality.

- The ability of religious organizations that partner with the federal government to act according to their beliefs regarding marriage, human sexuality and the protection of human life at all stages.

- The ability of religiously affiliated child welfare providers to provide adoption, foster or family support services for

children that coincide with their religious beliefs.

- Conscience protections about abortion in the individual health insurance market.

The Feb. 16 statement said the order would restore “the federal government’s proper relationship with the First Amendment and other laws protecting conscience and religious freedom will enable us to continue our service to the most vulnerable of Americans.”

The statement stressed that U.S. Catholic bishops have long supported religious liberty, adding that during the last several years “the federal government has eroded this fundamental right,” most notably with the Affordable Care Act’s contraceptive mandate for religious employers who do not fit the mandate’s narrow exemption including the Little Sisters of the Poor.

The USCCB leaders urged Trump to keep his promise and put an end to regulations and other mandates by the federal government “that force people of faith to make impossible choices.”

“We express our fervent hope that with new leadership in the executive branch, basic protections for religious practice may be restored and even strengthened,” they said.

The statement said an immediate remedy to the threats against religious freedom is needed and without it the church’s freedom to serve others “will remain in jeopardy and needless conflict between the faith community and the federal government will continue.”



We All Belong

People filled St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Scranton last Saturday night for a vigil to express solidarity with immigrants and refugees who now call this region home. Representatives from community service organizations and various faith traditions, including the Diocese of Scranton, encouraged us to respect the inherent dignity of all people regardless of their country of origin and religion, and to support fair policies and just solutions to the challenges they face. The vigil concluded with a candlelight walk around Courthouse Square.

Mass celebrates gifts of persons with developmental, intellectual disabilities

Continued from page 1

“As a people – and even as a Church – we’ve made strides in reaching out to certain groups and individuals who have for far too long been forced to live on the peripheries of life. We do a reasonable job in offering them support and we do our best to treat them with dignity,” he explained. “But as we reach out to them – to feed them – to clothe them – to care for them – to work with them – do we see them as less than ourselves and simply work with and for them occasionally because it makes us feel good? Or do we welcome them in our communities and into our lives?”

Bishop Bambera cited a gathering during the recent Year of Mercy, at which Pope Francis greeted hundreds of people with disabilities during an audience in the Vatican and shared these words: “The world does not become better because only apparently ‘perfect’ people live in it. It becomes better when human solidarity, mutual acceptance and respect increase. ... Each of us, sooner or later, is called to face — at times painfully — frailty and illness, both our own and those of

others. And for Jesus, the sick and the weak, those cast aside by society, are precisely the ones he loves most.”

These powerful lessons from Pope Francis and from the Word of God proclaimed at the Mass “surely are worthy of our consideration this day as we gather in prayer to celebrate our faith in the enduring love of God – a love that is seen most vividly in the powerful example of the lives of so many of you, our sisters and brothers with developmental disabilities. More than you realize, your unwavering trust in God and your example of acceptance, forgiveness, gratitude and selfless love provide us all with priceless lessons for how best to live as disciples of Jesus,” Bishop Bambera said.

“My friends, thank God that we belong to a Church that reminds us that God’s criteria for fitting in is vastly different from the world’s. And thank God for our cherished brothers and sisters with disabilities who give us a glimpse of what it truly means to fulfill today’s gospel mandate of Jesus when he says, ‘Be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.’ For beyond a doubt, they are!”

“...we gather in prayer to celebrate our faith in the enduring love of God – a love that is seen most vividly in the powerful example of the lives of so many of you, our sisters and brothers with developmental disabilities. More than you realize, your unwavering trust in God and your example of acceptance, forgiveness, gratitude and selfless love provide us all with priceless lessons for how best to live as disciples of Jesus.”

– Bishop Bambera

Diocese of Scranton VOICATIONS

*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.



XLT (Exalt!)

**Adoration – Speaker – Praise & Worship
Music – Reconciliation – Social**

Friday, March 24 – High School

Friday, April 28 – College/Young Adults

Friday, May 19 – High School

**7-9 p.m. Divine Mercy Parish,
312 Davis Street, Scranton**

**More information will be in the March 16
issue of *The Catholic Light*.**

Chalice Program Inspires Parish to Pray for Vocations

Parishes throughout the Diocese of Scranton create awareness for vocations through praying the rosary, adopting seminarians, holding holy hours, sending students to events sponsored by the Diocesan Vocation Office, sponsoring vocation nights in youth ministry, teaching vocation lessons in religious education classes, and more.

Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Pittston recently started a new endeavor – the Chalice Program – to engage the entire community in praying for vocations.

This program, which originated in the Diocese of Atlanta, consists of taking a consecrated chalice into the home to encourage reflection and prayer for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The chalice is a tangible reminder of this special intention for the Church.

Every Sunday right before the final blessing, the celebrant at the 10 a.m. Mass at Saint John the Evangelist calls forth whomever is taking the chalice home for the week. They receive a special blessing in front of the entire congregation and then accept the chalice, which is to be placed in a reverent space in their home.

The case containing the chalice has the corporal, books of prayers for all different age groups, and special rosaries blessed by Pope Francis during the World Meeting of Families. The recipients bring the chalice back a week later and place it on the altar before Mass.

Saint John the Evangelist Parish began preparations for the Chalice Program in early fall. After creating awareness and holding meetings with many councils, the program started in Advent of 2016. The program is off to a great start, according to Sister Kieran Williams, IHM, Director of Religious Formation, Youth and Family Ministry at the parish.



A family at Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Pittston receives a special blessing in front of the entire congregation and accepts the consecrated chalice to take into their home to encourage reflection and prayer for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The chalice is to be placed in a reverent space in the home.



“We started the Chalice Program with our Sunday 10 a.m. Family Mass,” she said. “Our young families, single Catholics, married couples with young adults, and senior citizens have all signed-up to participate in this new program. We encourage everyone, regardless of their vocation, to participate.”

“It is amazing how this program is impacting our parish family already,” Sister Williams said. “A mother came up to me a few weeks ago and told me how moved her high school son was by participating in this program. After receiving the blessing from our pastor, Monsignor (John) Bendik, at Mass, he couldn’t wait to go home and find a sacred place to put the chalice. He put the chalice right on their dinner table because he realized how important it is for the family to pray together.”

In addition to the Chalice Program, Saint John’s Parish prays two decades of the rosary before all Masses. The first decade is prayed for the intention of all vocations. The second decade is prayed for all of the individual vocations of the parish family. They also pray for vocations and the Chalice Program in the intercessions at all Masses.

While vocations are prayed for at all Masses and by a household through the Chalice Program, there is also one individual each day of the year praying for vocations. Cards were made with Pope Francis’ prayer for vocations to priesthood and religious life on one side and then a prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe for all vocations on the other. These cards were passed out at religious education classes and by the hospitality committee at weekend Masses. The first two months of cards were

gone after one Mass.

“We are grateful for parishes like Saint John the Evangelist in Pittston for their support of vocation ministry,” said Father Don Williams, Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians. “Our hope is for every parish in the Diocese to continue helping us create a culture of vocations.”

For more information on how you can start the Chalice Program or another vocation awareness program, contact the Diocesan Vocation Office at 570-207-1452.

O Virgin of Guadalupe, you were sent to us by the One who is the source of all blessings. Obtain for us from your Son Jesus the grace of saying “YES” to use our God-given talents for others whether it be to the vocation of married, single, ordained or consecrated life. Amen.

Diocese Preparing to Enter Sacred Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday, March 1, will mark the start of the solemn 40-day season of Lent. Parishes throughout the 11-county Diocese of Scranton will distribute ashes as a sign of penance and to remind individuals of Lent's call to a more complete gospel lifestyle.

At the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, ashes will be distributed during the 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Masses. The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, will be the principal celebrant of the 12:10 p.m. Pontifical Mass. CTV: Catholic Television will broadcast the Mass.

Ash Wednesday commemorates the ancient rite of placing the sign of the cross on the forehead with the reminder "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Lent's invitation to repentance and conversion may also be found in the optional words of this rite: "Repent, and believe in the Gospel." These ashes are gathered from the burned branches of palm carried the previous year in the Palm Sunday procession.

The Office for Parish Life is conducting an Ash Wednesday Retreat from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton. All are welcome. To register, call the Office at 570-207-2213.

Parishes Extend Opportunities for Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Church encourages us to make confession a regular part of our spiritual life, especially during the holy season of Lent, as we reflect on our baptism and repentance. Again this year, parishes are participating in a Lenten initiative called *The Light Is On for You*, which means that every Monday evening during the Lenten season, beginning on the first Monday of Lent, March 6, and continuing through Monday of the last full week of Lent, April 3, confessions will be heard in every parish from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



The Diocesan website contains a variety of resources to help parishes extend the invitation to *The Light Is On for You*, and to help penitents prepare for and participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. See www.dioceseofscranton.org (Parish Life Office menu tab, then The Light Is On for You). The site also includes a **Parish Directory** listing parishes by location. *Note: In parishes with multiple worship sites, call the parish office to confirm the site where the Monday evening confessions will be heard. Also check the specific parish bulletins or websites for details.*



CRS RICE BOWL INSPIRES CATHOLICS TO FOCUS ON NEEDS OF OTHERS AT LENT

Faithful in the Diocese of Scranton will participate in the 42nd year of CRS Rice Bowl, a Lenten program that raises funds for those who need support and services in communities throughout the U.S. and overseas. Participants journey throughout the 40 days of Lent through daily reflections and offering small, suggested sacrificial gifts to fill their Rice Bowls.

Twenty-five percent of all contributions stay in local dioceses to support hunger and poverty prevention programs such as community gardens, food pantries, soup kitchens, support groups, and job centers. The remaining 75% goes to support CRS' humanitarian programs overseas, providing life-saving assistance and hope to impoverished and vulnerable communities.

Since its start in a parish in Allentown, Pennsylvania, as a response to the famine in the African Sahel region in 1975, CRS Rice Bowl has evolved into a national response to hunger around the world, used by over 13,000 Catholic schools and parishes during the season of Lent.

CRS Rice Bowl materials are available in print, on the web, and through the mobile app and in English and Spanish. Follow CRS Rice Bowl on Twitter – @CRSRiceBowl and #4Lent4Life – and like CRS Rice Bowl on Facebook.

To donate and learn more about CRS Rice Bowl, visit crsricebowl.org or download the app from the iTunes or Google Play stores.

Parishes and other groups are invited to arrange a seminar on Pope Francis' World Day of Peace message on nonviolence. This can be one workshop or a series of three to six discussions for Lent or Easter. Please contact Richard DeBona, Director for Service and Social Concerns in the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213, ext. 1130 or Richard-DeBona@dioceseofscranton.org.

Devotions at the Cathedral of Saint Peter

During Lent the Cathedral of Saint Peter will offer several ways in which the faithful can deepen their relationship with Jesus and come to know him in a more intimate way.

On Fridays the Stations of the Cross will be prayed following the 12:10 p.m. Mass and Novena to St. John Neumann. The Stations will air on CTV live on March 3 after the 12:10 p.m. Mass on that day and then on succeeding Fridays at 11:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

On Sundays, March 5, 12, 19 and 26; April 2 and 9, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will begin at the conclusion of the 5 p.m. Sunday Mass. Evening Prayer and Benediction begin at 6:30 p.m.

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY DISPENSATION

During the penitential season of Lent, all Catholics are obliged to abstain from meat on Fridays. This ecclesiastical law helps us to commemorate as a community the Passion and Death of the Lord and to practice the self-restraint called for by this holy season.

Nevertheless, this remains an ecclesiastical law, and thus, the Bishop is able to dispense from this requirement for the spiritual good of the people entrusted to his care.

Saint Patrick's Day, March 17, 2017, occurs on a Friday in Lent, which is normally a day of abstinence for Catholics. Bishop Bambera acknowledges that celebrations honoring the Apostle of Ireland contribute to the spiritual good of the faithful in the Diocese of Scranton, and for this reason, he has dispensed all Latin Catholics living in the Diocese of Scranton who partake in special celebrations in honor of Saint Patrick on March 17, 2017, from the required abstinence from meat in their celebratory meals. This applies to celebrations in parishes, fraternal organizations and families. This dispensation does not apply to other celebrations of Saint Patrick which take place on other Fridays in Lent. All the faithful who take advantage of this dispensation are encouraged to perform an act of service, prayer or sacrifice in keeping with the character of the Lenten season.

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.

REGULATIONS FOR LENT 2017

All faithful of the Diocese of Scranton are reminded of Diocesan Statute No. 41, which addresses the penitential aspect of Lent:

“The season of Lent is penitential in nature and during Lent penance should be not only internal and individual, but also external and social (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, No. 5, 109). Pastors are obliged to avoid scheduling activities in the parishes which in any way could possibly detract from the external and social penance required by Lent.”

Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2017 marks the beginning of Lent. The following fast and abstinence regulations are observed:

- **Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, April 14, 2017, are days of fast and abstinence.**
- **Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence.**
- **All Catholics who have reached their 14th birthday** are to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and on all Fridays during Lent.
- **All Catholics over 18 years of age to the beginning of their 60th year** are bound to the obligation of fasting. Those bound by this rule may take only one full meal and two smaller meals unless dispensed or excused.

Lenten Reminders

Lent is a time for sacrifice and for spiritual renewal as we reflect upon our baptism and the call given to each of us to walk as disciples of the Lord.

As faithful followers of Jesus, we are traditionally encouraged to honor the sacred season of Lent by embracing the three pillars of Lenten observance:

- **Almsgiving** – generously giving to those in need
- **Fasting** – practicing self-discipline and self-denial
- **Prayer** – reading, hearing and reflecting on the Word of God

Lent is also a penitential season. It is a time to seek forgiveness, to look inward, and to admit our shortcomings and failures. It is a time to regroup and to prepare. How can you spend your time during Lent?

- By “giving up” things you hunger after, such as sweets or alcohol; or activities you desire, such as vacations, concerts or movies.
- By “doing” things to help others, such as offering an extra donation to the poor or helping those in need by providing food or clothing.
- By “adding” to our normal routine, such as going to daily Mass, praying the Stations of the Cross and going to confession.

One of the greatest opportunities given by the Church to assist us in our response to the Lord’s invitation to conversion is found in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Once again, the Diocese of Scranton is participating in “*The Light Is On for You*.” Every Monday evening during the Lenten season, beginning on the first Monday of Lent, March 6, continuing through Monday of the last full week of Lent, April 3, confessions will be heard in every parish from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

For more information, please visit the Diocesan website at: www.dioceseofscranton.org and go to the Office for Parish Life page.

Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney
Vicar General of the Diocese

An Opportunity for Growing in Faith during Lent



In a few short weeks, several parishes in the Diocese of Scranton will begin *ARISE Together in Christ* Season Four: *New Heart, New Spirit*. This season of small group faith-sharing—spanning the weeks of Lent—will address the need for reconciliation and healing in our lives, in parishes and throughout the world. The Lenten season is a perfect opportunity for parishioners and members of the faith community to journey deeper into their faith.

ARISE gives participants a framework within which to respond to the invitation to grow in faith through weekly reflections on Scripture, sharing how the Word of God relates to daily life, and cultivating active discipleship through Christian social action; small faith-sharing groups grow in faith during each of the five seasons.

If you are interested in *ARISE* as part of your Lenten observance, you are invited to consider joining a small faith-sharing group for the upcoming season of *ARISE Together in Christ* at one of the participating parishes in your area.

Participating ARISE Parishes:

St. John Bosco, Conyngham
SS. Peter and Paul, Towanda
St. Vincent de Paul, Milford
Holy Name of Mary, Montrose
St. Therese, Shavertown
St. Frances X Cabrini, Carverton
Our Lady Queen of Peace, Brodheadsville
Epiphany, Sayre
St. John Neumann, Scranton
Cathedral of St. Peter, Scranton

Give their parish offices a call today to discuss your participation in a small group during Season 4!

For parishes who are discerning participation in the *ARISE Together in Christ* process for the Fall of 2017, contact Greg Kremer from *RENEW International* at 908-242-0447; Greg can offer more details about the *ARISE Together in Christ* process and how it can unfold for your parish.

Following the Nonviolent Jesus



The Office for Parish Life is offering a three-part series of workshops, “Following the Nonviolent Jesus,” based on Pope Francis’ World Day of Peace message on nonviolence. Richard DeBona, Director for Service and Social Concerns, will offer the presentations along with prayer and discussion. Topics include the “Just War” theory, the Church’s support of conscientious objectors, nonviolent action and more. These workshops will take place at the following locations:

Wed., March 8 at 7:00PM – St. John the Evangelist Parish, 15 East Church St., Susquehanna

Wed., March 15 at 7:00PM – St. Lawrence Parish, 380 Franklin St., Great Bend

Wed., March 22 at 7:00PM – St. Martin of Tours, State Rt. 92 & 492, Jackson

To register for any or all of these sessions, or if you would be interested in having this presentation offered in your parish, please contact Richard DeBona at 570-207-2213, ext. 1130 or at Richard-DeBona@dioceseofscranton.org.

Ash Wednesday -- March 1



Father Francis J. Kulik

What was it like to be a Christian in the earliest days — in the time of St. Paul, for example?

People who came to faith in Christ were only a small minority, vastly outnumbered by thousands and millions who did not share their faith. There were times of persecution when Christians were suspected of disloyalty to the Emperor, disloyalty to the State, and those Christians were tested to the point of death for their faithfulness of Christ.

But aside from those times of persecution, when conditions were relatively calm and stable, what was it like to be a Christian in the midst of a society which held very different values? What was it like to be a Christian living next door to people who considered you odd because your convictions were so different from theirs?

How did Christians appear to their neighbors and friends, to the people who stood next to them in the marketplace, to the people who worked alongside them? What was there about their lives that had such a powerful attraction for so many people?

Those first Christians, like the millions who came after them, for the most part did not live remarkable lives. They lived in the same kind of homes as their neighbors — whether they were rich or poor. They

worked at the same jobs as their neighbors; they brought up their children and sacrificed for them and worried about them just as their neighbors did.

They had serious disappointments and failures like everyone else. They got sick and suffered and died just like their neighbors. Outwardly, it seemed that their lives were no different — but there was one thing about these Christians that was different, and this is what attracted so many to join them: These Christians had the peculiar ability to say, “There’s something more.”

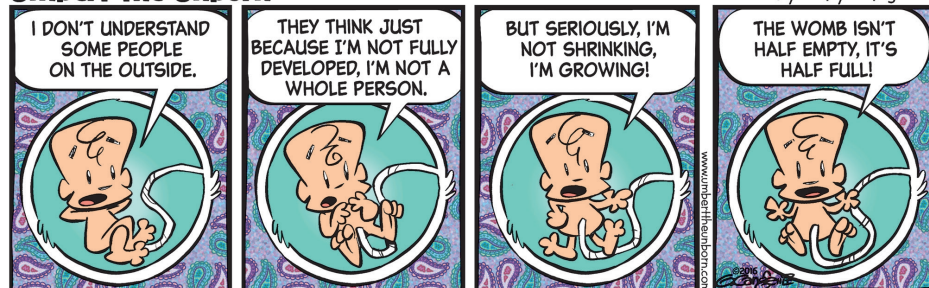
These Christians’ faith didn’t shield them from loss and disappointment. They suffered pain as keenly as anyone else — but even as they endured pain, they were able to say, “Yes, but there’s something more.”

They felt the confusion and turmoil of their times as much as anyone else, and like everyone else, they sometimes wondered what to do next — but they were not overwhelmed by their confusion. They were able to say, “Yes, but there’s something more.”

They felt joy and satisfaction when everything in their lives went well, but even as they experienced that joy, they were able to say, “Yes, but there’s something more.”

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Umbert the Unborn



How Does the Church Resolve New Bioethical Questions?



By Father Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D.

A number of years ago, I participated in a debate at Harvard on embryonic stem cell research which also included a Jewish rabbi, an Episcopalian clergyman, and a Muslim imam. The debate went smoothly and cordially, although I was the only voice in the group who defended the human rights of individuals who happen still to be embryos. After the debate, the Episcopalian clergyman pulled me aside and told me how he thought Catholics should consider themselves fortunate to have such an authoritative reference point in the Church and the Vatican, particularly when it comes to resolving new bioethical questions. With surprising candor, he shared how he had sat on various committees with others from his own faith tradition where they had tried to sort through the ethics of embryonic stem cells, and he lamented, “we just ended up discussing feelings and opinions, without any good way to arrive at conclusions.”

Many people, indeed, appreciate that

the Catholic Church holds firm and well-defined positions on moral questions, even if they may remain unsure about *how or why* the Church actually arrives at those positions, especially when it comes to unpacking new scientific developments like embryonic stem cell research.

So how does the Church arrive at its positions on bioethics? For one thing, it takes its time, and doesn’t jump to conclusions even in the face of media pressure for quick sound bites and rapid-fire news stories.

I once had a discussion with a journalist for a major newspaper about the ethics of human-animal chimeras. He mentioned that a leading researcher working on chimeras had met the pope and afterwards implied that the pope had given his blessing to the project. I reminded him that it’s quite common for the pope to offer general encouragement and blessings to those he

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Diocese of Scranton
DIOCESAN
ANNUAL APPEAL

Volume 117 Number 3 — Thursday, February 23, 2017

World Day of Prayer for the Sick Celebrated

God of mercy, ease the sufferings and comfort the weakness of your servants whom the Church anoints with this holy oil.

The power of the Lord's healing grace permeated the Cathedral of Saint Peter on February 11 as the Diocese observed the 25th World Day of Prayer for the Sick.

Bishop Bambera celebrated the Mass which included the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

On this day that we celebrated in union with our Holy Father, Pope Francis, and with Catholics from around the world we offered special prayers for those who are burdened physically or emotionally with diminished health, and also for those who serve and care for the sick.

"And all of us are here because regardless of the crosses that we face in life, we believe in the merciful love of God and want so



Through this holy anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit.

very much to experience that love in our hearts," Bishop Bambera said.

"Yet, the miracle of our faith as Christians is such that when we are no longer able to direct our lives according to our plans – when we have nowhere else to turn – when we are not too proud to acknowledge that we simply do not understand – *when we become like little children* – God is given room to pour into our lives and hearts with the grace that we need to carry our crosses with courage

and hope."

The Bishop reminded us that through Jesus' resurrection, the pain of the cross gave way to hope in God's power to have the last word – which is LIFE – God's most cherished gift for which we pray this day.

"Through Jesus' embrace of his cross," he said, "may we find courage as we carry our own. And through this wonderful Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, may Jesus touch our spirits and give us peace."

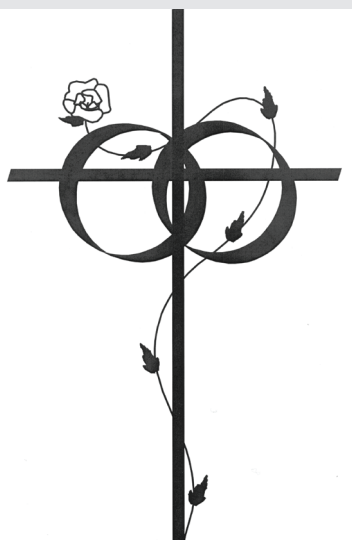
Couples Invited to Participate in Wedding Anniversary Celebration

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.



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;



Reverend Francis J. Kulik

Saint Mary, Plymouth; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, 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 Green-

wood. 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 was celebrated by the Most Reverend James C. Timlin, D.D., Bishop Emeritus of Scranton, on February 3, 2017, at 11:00 a.m. at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 215 Lackawanna Avenue, Dupont. Interment was in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Dupont.



St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen "Host For A Day" Campaign

The St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen has begun its 39th annual "Host For A Day" fundraising campaign. For a donation of \$100, "Host For A Day" allows individuals, families or businesses to serve as the sponsor of meals served at the St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen on a day of their choosing. Sponsors' names appear on the "Host For A Day" placard in the Kitchen. All sponsors, plus one guest, are also invited to the annual "Host For A Day" reception, which will be held on April 26 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Genetti's Manor in Dickson City.

Pictured, from left: Monsignor Joseph P. Kelly, director, St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen; Debra Kodish, St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen advisory board chairperson of "Host For A Day;" Michele McDade, president, St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen advisory board. For information about becoming a "Host For A Day" sponsor call (570) 342-5556.

Editorial Eulogy: Father Francis J. Kulik

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And when their strength began to fail and the end of their life approached, they were able to look at death calmly and fearlessly because they could say, “Yes, but there’s something more.”

That ability to say, “Yes, but there’s something more,” is what drew so many people to Christ. The early Christians — perhaps by their quiet example as much as their words — showed that their attention was fixed on something more than the passing things of this world. Their ability to say, “There’s something more,” is what we call faith.

How many words have been spoken and written about the priesthood — the dignity of the priesthood, the awesome responsibilities of the priesthood, the challenges of the priesthood, and so on? But perhaps we can add to all of these the very simple notion that the priest is called to speak to the people of our time, “There’s something more.”

Father Frank as a young man saw his future before him and surely considered his many options, but somewhere in the

background was a voice that said, “Yes, but there’s something more.”

As Frank experienced the demands and burdens of ministry, he must have felt discouragement and disappointment, but what sustained him was the conviction that “there’s something more.” And when, in his final years, he endured pain and the frustration it brought, what enabled him to continue was his sure knowledge that “there’s something more.”

But this knowledge was not just for him — it was the message he brought to the people he served. As he heard their confessions, he helped them to look honestly at their broken lives, to accept the loving forgiveness of Christ, and to say with renewed hope, “There’s something more.”

When he spoke to the sick and suffering, he was able to draw their attention beyond the limits of their pain — a pain he knew all too well — he was able to help them see: “Yes, but there’s something more.”

And when Frank stood at the altar and held in his hands what appeared to be a slight wafer of bread and what looked like a cup

of wine, he was able to say to his people, “Yes, but there’s something more here — the living presence of Christ himself.”

Frank, your entire life was about saying, “There’s something more.” May you now enjoy the fullness of that “something more” in the loving embrace of your Lord.

Excerpted from the homily by Father John T. Albosta at the Mass of Christian Burial celebrated for Father Francis J. Kulik on February 3 at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Dupont.

Prayer Requests for Priests

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

Feb. 23, Father Robert Kelleher; Feb. 24, Jesuit Father Herbert Keller; Feb. 25, Father Brian Kelly; Feb. 26, Father E. Francis Kelly; Feb. 27, Father Gregory Kelly; Feb. 28, Monsignor Joseph Kelly; March 1, Pope Francis; March 2, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI; March 3, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; March 4,

Father John Kilpatrick; March 5, Father Shane Kirby, V.E.; March 6, Father Michael Kirwin; March 7, Father John Kita; March 8, Father Kenneth Kizis; March 9, Father Michael Kloton; March 10, Holy Cross Father Charles Kociolek; March 11, Bishop Joseph R. Kopacz; March 12, Father Bert Kozen; March 13, Father Stephen Krawontka; March 14, Holy Cross Father Brent Kruger; March 15, Father John Kulavich.

Father Tad: How Does the Church Resolve New Bioethical Questions?

Continued from Page 8

meets, though that wouldn’t be the same thing as sanctioning new and morally controversial techniques in the biosciences. As a rule, the Catholic Church does not address important bioethical questions that way, through chance encounters with the pope as you are strolling through the hallways of the Vatican.

Instead, the Church may reflect for months, years, or even decades, to identify important considerations and guiding principles when new moral dilemmas arise in the biosciences. Even with this slow and deliberative process, I think it’s fair to say that the Church generally stays ahead of the curve. By the time of the successful cloning of Dolly the sheep in 1996, for example, the Catholic Church had already been reflecting on the question of human cloning for many years, and concluded, nine years prior to Dolly, that human cloning would be morally unacceptable in an important document called *Donum Vitae* (On the Gift of Life).

This same document also identified key moral problems with doing human embryonic stem cell research eleven years before it was even possible to destructively

obtain those cells from human embryos. When the first test tube baby was born in 1978, the serious moral concerns raised by the procedure had already been spelled out twenty-two years earlier, by Pope Pius XII, in his 1956 *Allocution to the Second World Congress on Fertility and Human Sterility* wherein he concluded: “As regards experiments of human artificial fecundation ‘in vitro,’ let it be sufficient to observe that they must be rejected as immoral and absolutely unlawful.”

Whenever definitive conclusions about medical ethics are reached or otherwise clarified by the Church, they are normally promulgated through official Church documents, like papal encyclicals and addresses, or, with the approval of the pope, documents and commentaries from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF — the Vatican office responsible for preserving and interpreting Catholic doctrine), or other congregations, councils or dicasteries of the Church.

Even today, certain bioethical controversies remain under active discussion within the Church, such as the question of whether it would be allowable to “adopt” abandoned frozen embryos by implanting

and gestating them in volunteer mothers. While a 2007 CDF document expressed some reservations and concerns about the proposal, debate continues inside and outside the Vatican.

New medical discoveries and technological developments challenge us to careful moral reflection and discernment. These scientific developments can either be an opportunity for genuine human advancement or can lead to activities and policies that undermine human dignity. The U.S. Bishops in a recent document summed it up this way: “In consultation with medical professionals, church leaders review these developments, judge them according to the principles of right reason and the ultimate

standard of revealed truth, and offer authoritative teaching and guidance about the moral and pastoral responsibilities entailed by the Christian faith. While the Church cannot furnish a ready answer to every moral dilemma, there are many questions about which she provides normative guidance and direction.”

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D., earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He 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. See www.ncbcenter.org

Apostleship of Prayer

Papal Intention for March 2017

Support for Persecuted Christians —

That persecuted Christians may be supported by the prayers and material help of the whole Church.

Former Allentown Bishop Barres installed in Rockville Centre, N.Y.

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N.Y. (CNS) – Bishop John O. Barres told the congregation that packed St. Agnes Cathedral in Rockville Centre Jan. 31 that he and they are called to be “men and women of communion and mission.”

“We are called to be saints,” he said in the homily during the Mass for his installation as the fifth bishop to head the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

Bishop Barres, 56, said he looked forward “to experiencing the vibrant, welcoming, new evangelizing parishes of the diocese” and getting to know as many people as possible.

He succeeds Bishop William F. Murphy, 76, who had headed the diocese since 2001 until his retirement was accepted by the pope in December. When he was named to Rockville Centre Dec. 9, Bishop Barres had headed the Diocese of Allentown, Pennsylvania, since 2009.

Catholics of the Rockville Centre Diocese were joined in the packed cathedral by many people who arrived by bus from Bishop Barres’ former diocese. Others in attendance included local government leaders and several ecumenical and interfaith leaders of Long Island.

Before the Mass began, as the diocesan choir sang, a procession of hundreds of clergy, including more than 60 bishops and three cardinals. The prelates included Bishop Murphy, New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, who was the main presider, and Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Cardinal Dolan introduced Archbishop Pierre, who read the apostolic letter from Pope Francis naming Bishop Barres as the leader of the Catholic Church in Rockville Centre. Bishop Barres then carried the letter around the cathedral so the document could be “inspected.”

Then, Cardinal Dolan and Archbishop Pierre escorted Bishop Barres to the cathedra, the bishop’s chair. He was presented with his crosier, or bishop’s staff, and then was greeted by representatives of the diocese, as well as civic, ecumenical and interfaith leaders.

In addition to greeting the active Catholics in his new diocese, Bishop Barres reached out to those who have been away from the Catholic Church.

“I appeal ... to every inactive Catholic in the diocese to gently come back ... to the power of the word of God, the power of the sacrament of penance, the power of the Catholic Mass,” he said. “I



Bishop John O. Barres waves as he exits St. Agnes Cathedral in Rockville Centre, N.Y., following his installation as the fifth bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre Jan. 31. Bishop Barres, 56, who previously headed the Diocese of Allentown, Pa., succeeds Bishop William F. Murphy, 76, whose retirement was accepted by Pope Francis in December. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz, *Long Island Catholic*)

am so very sorry if you have been hurt or disappointed by the church in any way, and we stand here today to support you, to listen to you and to love you.”

During his tenure in Allentown, Bishop Barres initiated a pastoral planning process for parishes across the diocese. He called on every parish to establish a parish council and made support for Catholic schools a priority; enhanced evangelization and pastoral ministries; and encouraged use of social media to spread the Gospel and evangelize.

On the national level, he is a member of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis and is the USCCB’s episcopal liaison to the Pontifical Mission Societies.

On Dec. 9 when Bishop Barres was named to head the Rockville Centre Diocese, Bishop Murphy said of his successor: “It is my deep conviction that he will be a bishop for all of us without exception. He has shared with me his love of youth and his care for the elderly. He has a keen sense of parish life and has a special expertise in education. He has a deep love for the poor.”

Bishop Murphy also said Rockville Centre’s new bishop “will be a good neighbor to our brothers and sisters” in other Christian denominations as well as members of the Jewish and Muslim faiths, and the many civic and political leaders with whom the church works “in building up Long Island for future generations.”

He described Bishop Barres as “a man of prayer” above all.

Be a Man

Catholic Men's Conference

Mary's Call to BATTLE

We are in the midst of the 100th anniversary celebration of the appearances of the Blessed Mother and the Miracles at Fatima.

Mary calls us to do battle against the forces of evil that are threatening to engulf the world, the church, and ourselves.

But the message of Fatima ends on a high note: “My Immaculate Heart Will Triumph” and “She will crush his head”

Third Annual Diocese of Scranton

Bishop Joseph Bambera

Saturday, 8 am - 3:00 pm

May 6, 2017

King's College

**Scandlon Physical Education Center
149 North Main St.
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701**

\$35 (Early Bird \$30 until 4/15/17), Student \$15, Priest/Deacon FREE
Light breakfast & box lunch included

**Information & Registration:
570-207-2213
www.BeAManConference.com**



A founding member of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, Fr. Apostoli has been teaching retreats and parish missions for several decades. He is considered one of the world's foremost experts on the apparitions at Fatima.



Fr. Andrew Apostoli, CFR

Steve is a Catholic speaker, author, defender of the Catholic faith, and frequent guest on EWTN. He is an expert pilgrimage guide and has guided thousands of people through the Holy Sites in Israel and other biblical lands.



Steven Ray

Matt's vibrant love for the faith coupled by his joy, humor, and eloquence make him a powerful force for the New Evangelization. Whether the topic is pornography, chastity, or the basic gospel message, his testimony is compelling.



Matt Fradd

MAIL-IN REGISTRATION FORM

2017 “Be A Man” Catholic Men’s Conference

Mail the completed form with your check or money order to:

**Office for Parish Life
Diocese of Scranton
330 Wyoming Ave
Scranton, PA. 18503**

Attn: Men’s Conference on memo line of the check

First name _____ Last Name _____
Phone _____ Parish _____
Address _____
Town _____ State _____ Zip _____
Email _____

Registration includes continental breakfast & lunch

If registering more than one person, please provide the additional information on a separate sheet.

- ☐ Registration Fee: \$35 each
- ☐ Early Bird \$30 until 4/15/17
- ☐ Student \$15
- ☐ Priest/Deacon/Seminarian FREE

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Questions & Answers about EITC

Questions & Answers with Speaker of the House Mike Turzai about Expanding EITC

Pennsylvania's Speaker of the House Mike Turzai (R-Allegheny) is passionate about giving parents and grandparents real options for their children's education. He is spearheading an effort to expand the highly successful Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) programs. The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference asked Representative Turzai why he is such a strong supporter of school choice.

What does House Bill 250 propose to do?

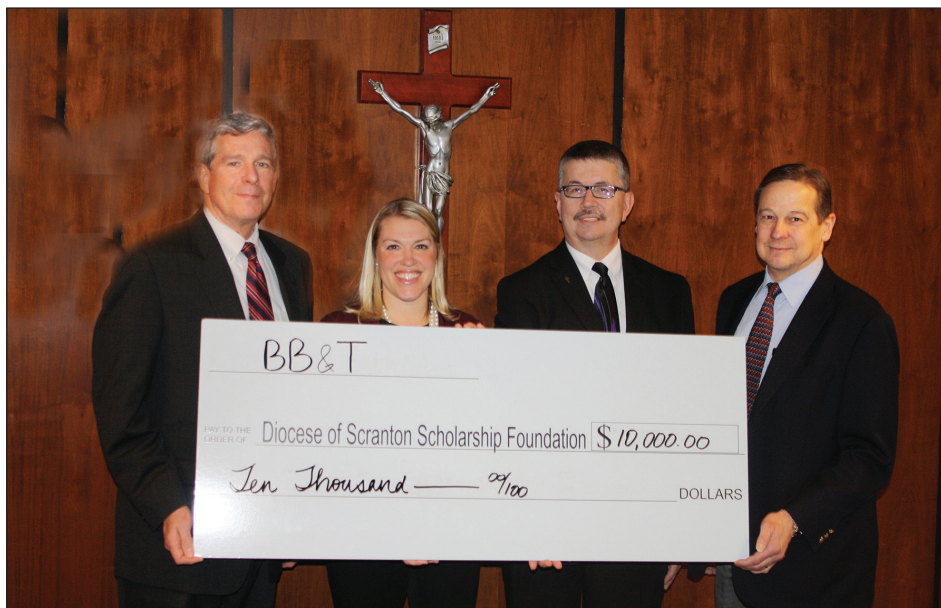
House Bill 250 would increase tax credits available under the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program by \$50 million (raising it to \$175 million) and the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) program by \$25 million (raising it to \$75 million). It would be a total of \$250 million for educational tax credits.

Last year, EITC represented just 1.5 percent of the \$11.4 billion we spent on basic education. If we are going to invest in education, we must recognize that one size does not fit all. Take the Independence Mission Schools in Philadelphia. They educate a very diverse student population; so do the Holy Rosary School in Pittsburgh, Harrisburg Catholic Elementary, and suburban high schools like North Catholic in Pittsburgh. Families want their children to attend a school (like these) that provides security, discipline, love, and values. EITC and OSTC allow families to receive it; and the scholarships help to keep those schools open so they have that choice to make.

EITC and OSTC help public school students too. Educational improvement organizations use it to support after school programs with the Big Brothers Big Sisters and pre-K programs. Suburban, urban, rural, public school and nonpublic students of all faiths benefit from EITC and OSTC. HB 250 helps everyone.

In these austere economic times, what makes increasing the EITC and OSTC programs a good investment for taxpayers?

The vast majority of students in Pennsylvania are educated in public schools. Our public schools need to be good; but in many communities parents and grandparents want an alternative. They pay their taxes to public schools. Their children are entitled to an education. They should have a choice of whichever schools best meets their child's needs.



Lindsay Doherty, EITC/OSTC Coordinator, and Jim Bebla (center right), Diocesan Secretary for Development, accept a \$10,000 contribution to the Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Foundation from Dick Loftus (left), Senior Vice President, Business Services Team Leader, and John Strellich, Senior Vice President, Commercial Banking Relationship Manager, of Branch Banking & Trust (BB&T) Company. The donation was made through Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit program and will assist pre-kindergarten families in Diocesan Catholic Schools.

Nonpublic schools are already saving the taxpayers a lot of money. The average cost per public school pupil is around \$15,000 per year. Given the average per pupil price tag, by taking about 150,000 students out of public schools Catholic schools saved the taxpayers more than \$2.25 billion this year alone.

The governor talks about investment in education. All students need to be part of the equation. If we are going to invest in basic education, we need to invest in EITC and OSTC too. We should raise the percentage in these tax credit programs to a little over two percent.

There is great demand for both tax credits and the scholarships they provide. Every year the tax credits "sellout" within a few days of the application deadline; and just one scholarship organization, BLOCS in Philadelphia, received applications from 11,000 families for scholarships for 20,000 students. They were only able to fulfill scholarships for 8,500 families and 12,000 kids. There are waiting lists for both business leaders who want tax credits and students looking for scholarships.

EITC and OSTC scholarships have helped students in many schools both private and public including tens of thousands who attend Catholic schools. What does a Catholic education mean to you personally?

My dad was a public school teacher in a great school, but I went to Catholic school. I got a very good education and

really benefited personally from that environment. All three of my own boys went to Catholic elementary school. Two went to public high school and the third is in a Catholic high school. We can afford to make these choices. My son who is a recent public school grad really appreciated the work ethic and core values that he developed in his Catholic elementary school. I think an education like that needs to remain a viable option for any citizen who wants it.

What can Catholics do to support you in your efforts to expand EITC and OSTC?

Catholics need to let their local lawmakers know how important EITC and OSTC are to their schools, but many students are not Catholic. All parents and grandparents who appreciate the opportunity to go to another school need to let their representatives know how they benefit. They should visit, write, email, and call about the value of having that option. They should stress that increasing EITC is not taking money away from public schools, but enhancing education for everyone. Be positive; rally in support of educational investments; work hand in hand with your local legislators.

PCC Action Alert:

Invest in Success: Expand EITC & OSTC Scholarships

Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) programs have enabled tuition assistance for thousands of students in our Catholic schools through the Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Foundation. Now the state House of Representatives, under the leadership of Speaker of the House Mike Turzai (R-Allegheny), is considering **House Bill 250**, which proposes to increase the amount of tax credits available under the EITC program by \$50 million (raising it to \$175 million) and the OSTC program by \$25 million (raising it to \$75 million). This would provide even more opportunities for students to go to the school that best meets their needs. The EITC and the OSTC programs have always achieved bipartisan support and have been acclaimed as two of the best educational programs Pennsylvania offers.

Please urge your state Representative to invest in success and support the expansion of the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) programs by voting YES on HB 250. Go to www.pacatholic.org and see **Current Alerts -> Invest in Success: Expand EITC & OSTC Scholarships.**

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Steven Mosher remembers the moment he became pro-life.

Then an avowed atheist, Dr. Mosher said it was in 1979 when he was teaching at Stanford University and was to go to China and teach. He was there at the beginning of China's One Child Policy. Women who became pregnant six months earlier were confused as they were suddenly rounded up and jailed even though they became pregnant when it was legal to have more than one child.

Their crime — becoming pregnant without permission. Some of the women were seven, eight and ninth months pregnant when they were rounded up and forced to undergo an abortion by caesarian section.

"I was in the operating room and I won't describe to you exactly what I saw. Two things happened to me. First thing that happened to

me was I became pro-life because I knew exactly what an abortion was. I had seen with my own eyes that abortion was the killing of a tiny son of Adam, a little daughter of Eve and the grievous wounding of his or her mother."

Dr. Mosher, now a Catholic convert and president of the Population Research Institute, shared his experience at the 34th Annual Respect for Life Prayer Breakfast, sponsored by the Scranton Chapter of the Pennsylvanians for Human Life. Dr. Mosher said his horrible experiences in China also caused him to seek out God.

When he returned to the United States, he was determined to fight for life. Abortion had been legal for about 10 years when he returned, and he thought the Roe v. Wade court decision legalizing abortion could be easily overturned. But, he learned, it would be an

uphill fight. Dr. Mosher said over the years, there were some victories, but the big victories had eluded the cause until now.

Bishop Emeritus James C. Timlin thanked those who have dedicated their lives to being pro-life from the very beginning.

He urged the crowd that in their fight for justice, they also show compassion to those facing difficult decisions in their lives.

He said there was a survey taken of successful people in the United States and they were asked what would they change if they had to live their lives over again.

"Invariably, these very successful people said if I had to for it over again, there would be less head and more heart. It means we have to be compassionate and reach out to people. That's very important for pro-life people. We have to be compassionate and loving and reaching out to those in need."



The Scranton Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life celebrated its 34th Annual Respect for Life Prayer Breakfast at Fiorelli's in Peckville. Seated, from left: Patrick Williams, chairman; Helen Gohsler, president; Richard Gohsler, Pastor Patricia Lee, Light of Christ Church; and Pastor Steve Wilson, Hope Church. Standing: Dr. Frank Schell, toastmaster; Steven Mosher, president, Population Research Institute, principal speaker; Rev. Lee Havey, CP, St. Ann's Monastery; Pastor Jack Munley, Rescue and Restore Church; and Bishop Emeritus James C. Timlin. (Photo by Pastor Kristian Bjornstad/Pretty Good Portraits)

Rallies urge Congress to defund Planned Parenthood

(CNS)—The organizers of rallies held across the country Feb. 11 to call for defunding Planned Parenthood said their message to Congress is to redirect taxpayer's money to facilities that "do a better job meeting the real health care needs of women and families without specializing in abortion."

More than 15,000 people attended 229 rallies held in 45 states. Average attendance was around 75, but in some cities, crowds numbered as high as 600, according to a new release issued after the rallies.

Eric Scheidler, executive director of the Pro-Life Action League in Chicago, was the national organizer of the rallies, or #ProtestPP.

"This is a nationwide event, but at the same time, it is a local community concern," Schiedler said in a statement. In rallying to tell "Congress to quit sending

money to an organization that specializes in killing children," participants also declared "that they do not want Planned Parenthood to continue operating in their neighborhoods."

According to its 2014-15 annual report, Planned Parenthood receives \$553.7 million annually in government health service grants and reimbursements, which is 43 percent of its overall revenue. Federal money is allocated to the organization through Medicaid and public family planning services. Planned Parenthood performs 34 percent of U.S. abortions.

"The defunding of Planned Parenthood is a matter of moral principle. Not a single cent of American tax dollars should go to an organization that kills innocent human life," said Monica Migliorino Miller, director of Citizens for a Pro-Life Society.



Above: This group of local pro-life advocates, pictured here on Courthouse Square in Scranton, were among more than 200 that participated in rallies across the country to call for the defunding of Planned Parenthood.

During this year's March for Life, held Jan. 27, Vice President Mike Pence told the crowd that the Trump administration would work with Congress to stop taxpayer funding of abortion "and devote those resources to health care services for women across America."



Living Your Strengths Evening Retreat


Thursday, March 30, 5:30-9:00PM

St. Ignatius Parish

339 N. Maple Ave., Kingston

With the coming of Spring and the promise of new life in Easter, Lent prompts us to cultivate life-giving practices and attitudes. One such practice is to acknowledge the goodness God has created in each us. *Living Your Strengths* is a time to reflect on our unique talents, so we can see the particular call God has for us in the Church and world. We can also appreciate our need for one another as we each fulfill a different role in the Body of Christ. This Lent, grow into the unique and wonderful gifts God has given you!

- ✦ Presenter: Bernadette Rudolph, Director for Family and Community Development
- ✦ Cost: \$10 for dinner. Also you need to get a code from the book, *StrengthsFinder 2.0* by Tom Rath. You can purchase a hard copy from Amazon —making sure it is new so you get an unused code—or an e-book directly from Gallup.
- ✦ Please take the *StrengthsFinder 2.0* survey and bring the results with you March 30.
- ✦ Contact Jennifer at 570-207-2213 or oplgeneral@dioceseofscranton.org to register.

LIVING  YOUR  STRENGTHS

Discover Your God-Given Talents

Diocese of Scranton
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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.



The 2nd grade students at **St. Agnes School in Towanda** worked very hard on their art projects which were displayed during Catholic Schools Week. They used a variety of media and styles that captured their personalities.



Scranton Police Officers Jessica Dinning and Nick Hurchick visited the Kindergarten classes at **St. Clare/St. Paul School in Scranton** to explain the jobs that a police officer does, one of which is "The Child Identification Program." The children had their fingerprints taken digitally and a DVD was given to each child, which can be updated by the families as the children age, including new photos as well as current heights and weights.



Local author Maureen Wright visited **Epiphany School in Sayre** during Catholic Schools Week. She read a story from one of her books as well as explained the steps to writing and publishing a book.



Rev. Richard Rohrer, the parochial vicar at Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church, came to **La Salle Academy in Jessup** to give the traditional throat blessings on the Feast of St. Blaise. He is accompanied by students Sean Herbert, Thomas Rohan, Matthew Hassaj, Dawson Errigo and Jeremy Rocha.



More than 90 students from **Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg** joined the tens of thousands of others who participated in the 2017 March for Life in Washington, D.C.



The Spirit Club at **St. John Neumann High School in Williamsport** prepared and launched a maroon and gold rosary balloon as part of its Catholic Schools Week celebration. Students from both the Elementary and High School prayed a decade of the rosary together inside the school gym and then braved the wintry weather outside to watch the release.



As part of their Catholic Schools Week celebration, students at **Monsignor McHugh School in Cresco** had the opportunity to dress like their favorite teacher. First grade student Jedidiah Bioh decided to wear a suit and tie to show his admiration for Principal Virgilio Ogando.



Music students from **Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre** participated in district festivals in chorus and orchestra throughout northeastern Pennsylvania sponsored by District 9 of the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA). District Orchestra Festival was held at Elk Lake High School, and District Chorus was held at Marywood University. Pictured are HRHS music teacher Ann Manganiello, with student participants Taylor Josefowicz, Mesa Ashton, Dayna Belsky, Amelia Sack, Alex Chan, Chris Berbano, Nick Brown, Benton Smith, John Seasock, Paul Seasock, Marc Kolendowicz and Jeremy Mayerski.

In celebration of Valentine's Day, some 6th grade students at **Holy Family Academy in Hazleton** volunteered to pass out the "Valentine Grams" which students throughout the school sent to one another, staff and faculty, and even their families. Sold for \$1 each, the roses were wooden and will keep their beautiful shape and color forever.



Students at **Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green** had a double celebration one day during Catholic Schools Week. They had the chance to wear the jersey of their favorite team as well as play the "Brain Show Game," an interactive-trivia competition that features school-related and pop culture questions as well as dance moves.

Rev. Thomas Petro, pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Dupont, blessed **Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter** as well as individual classrooms, following the Polish/Eastern European custom of *Kolenda*. Pictured is the kindergarten class with Father Petro: Brady DePhillips, Julianna O'Hop, Gianna Bargarzone, Anthony Calabro, Gwen Johns, Brynn Roberts, Sofia Kryptovich, Ian O'Boyle, Tyler Karcutskie, Julia Pinkos, Sarah Jackson, Caitlyn Wagner, Lia Lapsansky, Cayden Richards, Morgan Madar, Luke Silinskie, Gianna Johnson, Christopher Maslar and David Kovaleski.



As part of their Catholic Schools Week celebration activities, the students at **St. Jude School in Mountain Top** honored their bus/van drivers with a token of thanks for their service. Each driver was presented with a "goodie bag" of treats, a specially designed card of appreciation from the administration, faculty and staff acknowledging their role in the community, and a note of thanks designed by the 5th grade students which was signed by each drivers' passengers. Standing next to their bus is Anson Jumper, Charles Molecavage, Emily Conway, Claire Pugh, Cole Pugh, Lainey Conway, Alex Martin, Mary Kate Banford, Matthew Banford, Chloe Pugh, Chase Pugh and Joe Panunzio.



Second grade students at **Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston** were visited by WBRE/WYOU Meteorologist Stefano DiPietro, who explained various types of severe weather, along with the causes and effects of such weather. Students were able to understand how meteorologists forecast the weather and then share this forecast during a television broadcast. Here Mr. DiPietro poses with students Simon Pollard, Colin Prawak, Jack McCue, David Lampman, Erin Kresesky, Hailey Pius, Olivia Dutko and Natalie Smith.



Holy Cross High School in Dunmore recently honored local 8th grade students who have been awarded scholarships to the high school for the 2017-18 school year based on their scores from the school's placement test. Pictured are the recipients along with HCHS Principal Benjamin D. Tolerico and Rev. Cyril D. Edwards, HCHS Chaplain: Marina Mann, Michael Burke, Erin McGhee, James Davis, Alice Jones, Patrick Gilman, Norah Ann Kelly, Kristina Tranovich, Peyton Phillips, Douglas Walsh, Kevin Jumper, Autumn Krieg, Sierra Hartland, Connor Tone, Ryan Huester and Autumn Goonan.



The 2nd grade class at **St. Nicholas/St. Mary School in Wilkes-Barre** recently completed a science unit on "Changing and Growing," where students learned that all living things can look different as they age. The unit ended with students constructing projects, where they chose a baby animal and its parent, and explained the ways the animals change as they grow. Pictured with their projects are: Bianca Grimshaw, Ryleigh Williams, Amirah Edwards, Kaitlyn Brogan, Ruth Young, Kaden Sepkoski, Katie Genovese and Brayden Isaacs.

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).



CORNERSTONE REENACTMENT — The yearlong observance of the 175th anniversary of SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Towanda continued recently when children of the parish staged a dramatic reenactment of the laying of the cornerstone of the historic SS. Peter and Paul Church, commemorating the event which took place 150 years ago. At the time, the parish in Bradford County was under the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Philadelphia, and Bishop James F. Wood traveled from that city to Towanda to lay the cornerstone for the new parish church on Oct. 27, 1867. Father Patrick Toner, a 30-year-old immigrant priest from Ireland, had been appointed pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Parish in 1863 and soon realized the wooden-frame church erected in 1841 was an inadequate place of worship for the growing parish community. Despite the challenges and difficulties of the time, the present-day SS. Peter and Paul Church was built to completion in 1868 — coinciding with the establishment of the Diocese of Scranton. Parish students who staged the reenactment portrayal are, pictured from left, Dacion Yrigollen, in the role of Bishop Wood; Natalee Rauscher, who served as narrator; Katherine West, as Sister Xavier; and Max Vega, as Father Toner.

Little Sisters Hosting Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration

SCRANTON — The Little Sisters of the Poor will host their fourth annual St. Patrick's Day celebration and dinner on Sunday, March 5, at Holy Family Residence, 2500 Adams Ave., adjacent to Marywood University.

The event begins with a Mass at 11 a.m. in the Residence chapel, with an accompaniment of bagpipe music during the processional and recessional.

Dinner and entertainment, including the Kearns Drum and Pipe Band and Irish step-dancing by the Crossmolina School of Dance, will follow from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

Traditional St. Patrick's dinner includes ham & cabbage with potatoes and carrots, rolls, ice cream, and beverages.

A bake sale will also be offered, featuring the Sisters' homemade scones and other assorted baked goods. Raffles for gift baskets and gift certificates will be available, along with a cash drawing.

Dinner cost for adults is \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door; \$6 for children (ages 10 & younger). Tickets can be purchased in advance by calling (570-343-4065) or online at: www.littlesistersoftheopscranon.org.



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Comcast Cable TV, Williamsport: channel 16 Metrocast Cable TV, Berwick: channel 20
Service Electric Cable TV, Wilkes-Barre: channel 18 • Service Electric Cablevision, Hazleton: channel 97

MARCH 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		EWTN GALLERY						EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Encore)		
2:00 AM										
2:30 AM	CONVERSION: FOLLOWING THE CALL OF CHRIST			EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY			
3:00 AM				EWTN ON LOCATION	DEFENDING LIFE	THE CREED	BATTLE READY	WHERE GOD WEEPS		
3:30AM									BELOVED	ANGELUS FROM NAZARETH
3:40 AM										
3:50AM										
4:00 AM	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	SUNDAY NIGHT PRIME	VOCATION BOOM	PAPAL AUDIENCE LIVE (at 3:50)	LENTEN REFLECTIONS	WEB OF FAITH 2.0	SAVORING OUR FAITH			
4:30 AM			OCTAVA DIES				FINDING GOD IN ALL THINGS	WORD FOR A WOUNDED WORLD		
5:00 AM	RELIGION & CERTITUDE	EWTN BOOKMARK	THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL	PROPHECY IN SONG	EWTN SPECIALS	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY	FR. RUTLER			
5:30 AM	LIFE IS WORTH LIVING	DECISION POINT	MIRACLES OF THE CROSS	EXTRAORDINARY FAITH			CATHOLICS COME HOME			
6:00 AM	ANGELUS WITH POPE FRANCIS	EWTN ORIGINAL PRODUCTIONS								
6:30 AM	WHERE GOD WEEPS	EWTN CATALOG	A LENTEN JOURNEY W/ FATHER HO LUNG	JOY OF MUSIC	APOSTOLATE FOR FAMILY CONSECRATION	THE CHOICES WE FACE	SAINTS vs. SCOUNDRLS			
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)								
9:00 AM	(9:10AM) ROME'S HIDDEN CHURCHES (9:20AM) 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						CAT CHAT			
10:00 AM	WHERE GOD WEEPS	MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE CLASSICS	LIVE WITH PASSION	CTV SPECIAL PRESENTATION	FOCUS	NOVENA TO ST. ANN	HERMIE AND FRIENDS			
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					HOLY ROSARY FROM LOURDES			
11:30 AM	HOLY ROSARY FROM LOURDES	THE CHOICES WE FACE	NOVENA TO ST. ANN	MUSIC AND THE SPOKEN WORD	THE FRIAR	STATIONS OF THE CROSS				
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) ROME'S HIDDEN CHURCHES (1:20PM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	DECISION POINT	LIFE ON THE ROCK (Best-of)	JOURNEY HOME (Best-of)	CALLED TO COMMUNION	JOURNEY HOME (Best-of)	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE			
1:30 PM	IN CONCERT (Concert length varies)	LONG RIDE HOME	THRESHOLD OF HOPE (Live)	FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY	STATIONS OF THE CROSS	EWTN BOOKMARK			
2:00 PM		AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY				THRESHOLD OF HOPE (Live)	FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY	STATIONS OF THE CROSS	EWTN ON LOCATION
2:30 PM									LIGHT FROM LIGHT	
3:00 PM	THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY IN SONG									
3:15 PM	REFLECTIONS	HIDDEN CHURCHES	REFLECTIONS	HIDDEN CHURCHES	REFLECTIONS	HIDDEN CHURCHES	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	LENTEN REFLECTIONS	THE HOLY ROSARY					EWTN PRESENTS			
4:30 PM	CATHOLICS COME HOME	DONUT MAN	MY TIME WITH JESUS	CHILDRENS SPECIALS	DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET FOR KIDS	BUG TIME ADVENTURE				
5:00 PM	FOCUS	THE INQUISITION	SUPER SAINTS	LIFE IS WORTH LIVING	SAVORING OUR FAITH	DISCERNING THE WILL OF GOD	CALLED TO COMMUNION			
5:30 PM		EWTN BOOKMARK	THE CHOICES WE FACE	CONVERSATIONS FROM THE WORLD OVER SHOW	YOU'RE AMAZING	CROSSING THE GOAL				
6:00 PM	CELEBRATION OF THE MASS	EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Live)					THE INQUISITION			
6:30 PM	VATICANO	EWTN GALLERY					LENTEN JOURNEY			
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					
8:00 PM		DIOCESAN DATEBOOK								
8:30 PM	SUNDAY NIGHT PRIME (Live)	THE JOURNEY HOME (Live)	CTV SPECIAL PRESENTATION	EWTN LIVE	THE WORLD OVER (Live)	SPECIALS	EWTN CINEMA			
9:00 PM	CATHOLICISM	EWTN NIGHTLY NEWS (Encore)		EWTN NIGHTLY NEWS (Encore)						
9:30 PM	HOLY ROSARY W MOTHER ANGELICA	NOVENA TO ST. ANN	THE CHOICES WE FACE	FOCUS	LIVE WITH PASSION	STATIONS OF THE CROSS	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	LONG RIDE HOME	CATHOLICS COME HOME	YOU'RE AMAZING	CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN	DEFENDING LIFE	PRO LIFE WEEKLY	WEB OF FAITH 2.0			
11:30 PM	BATTLE READY	WOMEN OF GRACE								

DCCW Lenten Prayer Breakfast

The Scranton Diocesan Council of Catholic Women will conduct a Lenten Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, April 1, at the Diocese of Scranton Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave., Scranton. The retreat will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude with Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter at 12:10 p.m.

Guest speaker for the event will be Megan Murphy (www.meganmurphyministries.com), a dynamic woman of faith who will talk about the inestimable value of confession, prayer, suffering, and sacrifice — some of the greatest gifts Christ has given us, but often undervalued, avoided and even rejected.

Megan will speak on the profound transformative and healing power these gifts provide as opportunities to deepen our relationship

with the Lord and with loved ones. She will also encourage women to immerse themselves in confession, sacrifice and prayer, leading to a life of abundance, holiness and peace.

A parishioner of Christ the King Parish in Archbald, she resides in Dunmore with her husband and four daughters.

All Catholic women are invited to attend, and a full breakfast will be served. The cost is \$20.

Reservation with payment may be forwarded to: Helen Oravec, 814 Theresa Street, Peckville, PA 18452. Deadline for reservations is Friday, March 24.

For more information, contact Judith Poltanis (570-470-1536), Mary Lloyd (570-578-6720) or Nancy Addley (570-536-4466).

Scripture Series at Drums Parish

DRUMS — For the tenth consecutive year, Father Connell McHugh, pastor of Good Shepherd Parish, will offer a weekly series on the Scriptures during the Lenten season at the parish in Drums, lower Luzerne County.

The program will be hosted at Good Shepherd on Thursdays during the month of March, each beginning at 9 a.m. The Scripture sessions, which will begin on March 2, are open to all faithful free of charge, and anyone interested may attend any or all of the series offerings.

Schedule for the weekly Lenten Scripture presentations is as follows:

March 2 — Father Raymond Brown's Overview of the Gospels; **March 9** — The Temptation and Transfiguration Narratives; **March 16** — All About Paul; **March 23** — The Passion Narrative of Matthew; and **March 30** — The Seven Last Words of Jesus from the Cross.

For more information and registration to attend the sessions, call the Good Shepherd Parish office at (570-788-3141).

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AOH ‘Parading’ for Donations for the Hungry

For the third consecutive year, the Ancient Order of Hibernians is planning to conduct a “Food Drive” in conjunction with the St. Patrick’s Parade in downtown Scranton, which will be held this year on Saturday, March 11.

AOH volunteers will walk the parade line to collect any monetary and food donations to benefit the hungry poor in the area.

According to organizers, all food donations will be distributed to local food banks. Any money collected will be given to the near-

by St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen in Scranton.

Also, the second collection to be taken up at the St. Patrick’s Parade Day Mass celebrated prior to the parade at 10 a.m. in St. Peter’s Cathedral will benefit St. Francis Kitchen.

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Rhythm & Wine Event Benefits Area Veterans



Rhythm & Wine, an annual fundraising event benefitting Catholic Social Services (CSS) veterans programs, recently raised \$13,605 for the agency. The event, which was held for the fifth year, has now raised \$57,274. Pictured during the recent check presentation are, from left: Alison Splendido, founder of the Rhythm & Wine fundraiser; Mary Theresa Vautrinot, Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Human Services/Executive Director of Catholic Social Services; Dave Kuharchik of WBRE-TV/PA Live, honorary media chair; Vince Splendido, president of the CSS Advisory Board; Brittany Sweeney of WBRE-TV/PA Live, honorary media chair; Ray Bartolai, owner of Bartolai Winery; and Alexis Duda, CSS Advisory Board. For more information about Catholic Social Services, call (570) 822-7118 or visit www.cssdioceseofscranton.org

National History Day Event at Misericordia

DALLAS TWP. — Misericordia University will host the National History Day (NHD) 2017 regional competition on Saturday, March 25.

Middle school and high school students in Luzerne, Lackawanna, Susquehanna, Pike, Wayne, Wyoming, Monroe, and Sullivan counties of Northeastern Pennsylvania are invited to participate. Registration continues through March 3.

There are 18 categories within the competition. Students compete at either the junior high (grades 6-8) or senior high (grades 9-12) level — as part of a group or as an individual — in four categories.

For additional information about NHD, or to register, visit <http://libguides.misericordia.edu/NEPAhistoryday>.

Road to Resurrection 2017

March 2 - 7:00PM

Basilica of St. Ann
1250 St. Ann St.
Scranton, PA 18504

March 9 - 7:00PM

St. Peter’s Cathedral
315 Wyoming Ave.
Scranton, PA 18503

March 16 - 7:00PM

St. Paul Parish
1510 Penn Ave.
Scranton, PA 18509

March 23 - 7:00PM

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish
322 Chestnut St.
Dunmore, PA 18512

March 30 - 7:00PM

Immaculate Conception Parish
801 Taylor Ave.
Scranton, PA 18510

April 6 - 7:00PM

Divine Mercy Parish
312 Davis St.
Scranton, PA 18505

Make your Lenten journey a special one this year by following the road to resurrection. The Homilist for each Mass will be Msgr. John Sempa of Corpus Christi Parish, West Pittston. For more information call 570-344-1724.



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Mark Your Calendar — Around the Diocese

Spiritual Offerings

Monday Night Worship — **FEB. 27**, 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).

"40 Days for Life" Pro-Life Gathering — **MARCH 1-APRIL 7**, offered for the special intention of ending abortion; Rosary is prayed each weekday, Monday thru Friday, at 9 a.m. in front of the offices of Planned Parenthood, 63 N. Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre. Pro-life campaign draws attention to the evil of abortion through prayer & fasting, constant vigil, and community outreach. For more information, visit: www.40daysforlife.com.

Friday Holy Hour for Vocations — **MARCH 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 — **MARCH 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).

Catholic Charismatic Prayer Breakfast — **MARCH 4**, sponsored by prayer groups of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the Diocese of Scranton; held from 9 to 11 a.m. at Al Mia Amore banquet hall on Main Ave. in Dickson City. Featuring songs of praise, teaching and complete breakfast buffet. All are welcome. Advance reservations requested; contact Jim at (570-267-1614) or jim@echoes.net, or Cathy at (570-344-1120) or katee.cathy@gmail.com.

Bible Study Series: "Book of Deuteronomy" — **MARCH 7**, hosted at St. Ann's Shrine Basilica, west Scranton; weekly presenta-

tions 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.

Evening of Prayer with the Sisters of IHM — **MARCH 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 Afternoon of Recollection for Women — **MARCH 18**, hosted on the third Saturday of the month by St. Joseph Melkite Greek-Catholic Church, 130 North St. Frances

Continued on Page 21

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DIOCESAN DATEBOOK

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

Spiritual Offerings

Continued from Page 20

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 for March: Franciscan Father Pio Mandato, well-known retreat master who ministers from his hermitage in Laceyville. All women are welcome. For more information, contact the rectory office at (570-

343-6092) or melkite.scranton@gmail.com.

Weekly Novena to St. Anthony of Padua — MARCH 21-JUNE 13, hosted by Our Lady of Hope Parish, 40 Park Ave., Wilkes-Barre; St. Anthony Novena devotion offered on 13

consecutive Tuesday evenings, beginning each week at 5:30 p.m. in the parish church. Novena theme: "The Life & Legacy of St. Junipero Serra, Patron Saint of Vocations: Ever Forward, Never Back." All faithful are welcome to attend; for more information, call (570-824-7832).

Parish & Regional Happenings

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).

Lenten Weekend Food Sale — FEB. 25-APRIL 9, sponsored by SS. Peter & Paul Parish, 1309 W. Locust St., west Scranton; pierogi and clam chowder sold throughout Lent before and after all weekend Masses (Saturday, 4 p.m. & Sunday, 11 a.m.). Cost: pierogi, \$7 per dozen; clam chowder, \$7 per quart. To place orders, call the rectory office at (570-343-7015). Bake sale will be held at Masses during Palm Sunday weekend, April 8 & 9; basket raffle will be held on Palm Sunday following the 11 a.m. Mass.

Free Community Sunday Suppers — FEB. 26 & MARCH 12, sponsored by Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Route 209, Gilbert (Brodheads ville), and served to those in need in the West End, Kunkletown, Kresgeville and Blakeslee areas;

meal is provided free of charge from 3 to 4 p.m. in the church's McCawley Hall. For more information, call the parish office at (610-681-6137).

*Continued on
Page 25*

'Road to Resurrection' Series in Pittston Area

PITTSTON — The Catholic parishes of Greater Pittston will continue their longtime tradition of hosting the "Road to Resurrection" spirituality series during the season of Lent.

The annual Lenten journey of faith and prayer will open on Wednesday, March 8, at St. Maria Goretti Church in Laffin. Mass will be celebrated at 7 p.m., with Holy Cross Father Walter Jenkins serving as guest homilist.

The weekly series will continue during the Wednesdays of Lent. All Masses will be celebrated at 7 p.m. at the hosting parishes.

Remainder of the series schedule is as follows:

March 15 — Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish, Pittston; Holy Cross Father Walter Jenkins, homilist; March 22 — Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Dupont; Father Thomas Petro, homilist; March 29 — St. Monica Parish, West Wyoming; Holy Cross Father Chase Pepper, homilist; and April 5 — St. John the Evangelist Parish, Pittston; Father Joseph Mosley, homilist.

All faithful are welcome to participate.

Who makes house calls?

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

Based on my practice, which consists of estate planning and administration along with elder law, I find that clients are more comfortable discussing such matters in familiar surroundings. While I know this may seem unconventional to some, I believe I will be able to serve clients much better in this fashion. If anyone is uncomfortable with home visits, I have a few locations where I can meet in an office setting. I look forward to meeting with my existing clients and especially meeting new clients that are looking for any assistance in estate or elder law matters.

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Mission Message

Called To Be Faithful

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



Next Wednesday, March 1, is
Ash Wednesday — the first day
of Lent.

I remember when I was
in grade school at St. Thomas
Aquinas in Archbald, processing
with my classmates across the
street to St. Thomas Aquinas
Church. There we would attend
Mass and then line up to receive
ashes and wore them all day. I
somehow knew that the ashes on
my forehead were a sacred sign.
Even as a kid, I knew there was
something different and special
about Ash Wednesday.

The Church would wisely
urge us to rend our hearts, not our
garments; to pray, fast, and give,
which would help lead us closer
to God and others. It was a day
to look at oneself. It was a day to
answer the call to repentance and
to be careful not to do good things



in order to be seen by others — as
the Scripture texts for the day urge.
In other words, “to thy own self
be true.”

So many years later, I am
still moved by the number of peo-
ple who come to church on Ash
Wednesday to be marked with
ashes on their foreheads in the
sign of the cross. When we present
ourselves to receive the ashes, we
hear either one of two blessings:
“You are dust and to dust you
shall return,” or “Turn away from
sin and be faithful to the Gospel.”

It is at that moment we come
face to face with the reality that
all of us come from God and one
day we will return to God. It is a
moment that reminds us that we
are sinners in need of repentance.
It is a moment that reminds us that
we are all missionaries *called to be*
faithful to God and that what we
say and do matters and has power
to do good on earth.

But how do we gain the
strength to be faithful to God each
day? We can so easily be overcome
by circumstances that take us away
from the way of truth. Many times

Jesus went away to pray and he
taught his disciples to pray. Now,
more than ever in this fast-paced
busy world, we, too, must also take
time out to pray.

Henri Nouwen, the renowned
priest and author, once wrote
this: “Our prayer is a death to the
world so that we can live for
God.” When we pray, it lifts us to
know God’s way for us. It may be
to give up something that keeps
us from growing closer to God.
It may be to live more simply by
using fewer resources, leaving the
rest to others. It may be to work
for peace-building and justice for
the persecuted, or to work for the
rights of people who live in poor
circumstances.

When I was in Africa, I was
struck by how few possessions
families owned. Most families I
visited had no car, no electric ap-
pliances, no running water in their
humble homes. Yet, they warmly
welcomed us and immediately
offered us some of their meager
provisions for the day — a little

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.

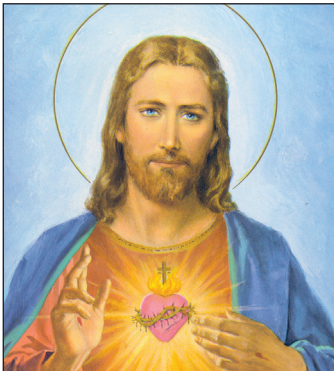
Rosary & Healing Mass

— 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 **March 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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Hall Of Fame Weekend, OH 8/11-13
PA Grand Canyon, Wellsboro 8/19
Vermont / New Hampshire 8/20-23
Mackinac Island / Holland/
Thunder Bay, MI 8/26-9/1
Ocean City, MD oceanfront acc. 9/4-7
Wildwood, NJ 9/10-13
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- **STEEPED IN HISTORY TRAIN RIDE** JUNE 3 York County Steam-Train Ride on President Lincoln's route to Gettysburg, Victorian Tea, Mansion
- **WASHINGTON 1-DAY** JUNE 17 DC & Arlington Nat'l Cemetery Tours
- **BROADWAY: Miss Saigon, Bandstand, Wicked, Phantom of the Opera**
- **PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW DAILY TRIPS** MARCH 11 THRU 19
- **PEDDLERS VILLAGE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL** MAY 20 New Hope option
- **9/11 MUSEUM & FREEDOM TOWER, NYC** MAY 27 Admission to both
- **ELLIS ISLAND & LIBERTY ISLAND** MAY 27 Free Time at Chelsea Market
- **INTREPID MUSEUM & FLEET WEEK, NYC** MAY 27 Museum Admission
- **LAKE TOBIAS SAFARI TOUR & TURKEY HILL EXPERIENCE** JUNE 3
- **BRONX ZOO** JUNE 29 The largest metropolitan zoo in the world! Admission
- **1000 ISLANDS CRUISE & SINGER CASTLE TOUR** JULY 8 Riley's Lunch
- **KUTZTOWN FOLK FESTIVAL & QUILT AUCTION** JULY 8 Admission
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Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Mark Your Calendar — Around the Diocese

Parish & Regional Happenings

Continued from Page 21

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 in advance 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-out orders available). Cost: \$9 per dinner. Advance sales only; to obtain tickets, call Mary at (570-823-4988). All proceeds benefit the St. Andre Bessette Parish Social Justice Ministry.

Lenten Food Sale — **MARCH 1** — **APRIL 7**, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Carbondale Council 329; held on Ash Wednesday and every Friday during Lent (except Good Friday) at St. Rose Family Center in Carbondale. Meatless food items for sale include homemade cabbage & noodles and Manhattan clam chowder. Cost:

quart containers, \$6 each; pint containers, \$3. Sale is take-out only.

Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary Bingo — **MARCH 1 & 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 attending five consecutive weeks are eligible for a cash prize. Free admission; for more information, call (570-876-1061).

"Soup for the Souls" Soup Sale — **MARCH 2**, sponsored by Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, 420 Main Road, Buttonwood section of Hanover Township; held from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Featured soup of the month: tortellini. Cost: \$8 each; pre-orders requested. For more information, call (570-825-6370).

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).

Lenten Friday Food Sale — **MARCH 3-APRIL 7**, sponsored by the Holy Name Society of St. Leo/Holy Rosary Parish, 33 Manhattan St., Ashley; held on the Fridays of Lent from 12 noon to 5 p.m. Menu includes weekly meatless specials, including Manhattan clam chowder, mushroom soup, pirohy, halushki, tuna hoagies and beverages. Eat-in or take-out service provided. Call (570-825-6669) to place take-out orders.

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.

*Continued on
Page 27*

Mission Message: Called To Be Faithful

Continued from Page 22

bread, cheese, and some fresh fruit. For them it was an honor to have a foreign visitor. For me, it was an honor to be in the presence of such holy people. I noticed that the cross was prominent, both in their homes and around their necks. I was humbled many times by their prayer life and by their belief that God was helping them to live their faith.

More and more today, it seems that the world calls us to

be successful but not faithful. We hear more and more about winning and being "Number 1" — even at the expense of our relationships and the sufferings of others. God wants us to succeed in life, but much more than that he wants us to be faithful to him. Unless we learn to be humble, we cannot trust God or others.

On Ash Wednesday we are reminded that the ashes symbolize our origin and destiny. It reminds us that the shape of love is the cross. It reminds us that we are

sinners in need of repentance.

This Ash Wednesday and through the 40 days of Lent let's stay in the uncomfortable space of repentance. Let's not jump to the Resurrection, but take advantage of this holy season to reflect on what changes we can make in our lives to grow closer to God and to help restore the dignity of all those suffering around us. Only then can we truly resurrect into a new way of living and acting more in tune with God's plan for the whole world.

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QUEEN OF THE APOSTLES PARISH Spring Chicken Dinner

Sunday, March 19 • 12 to 4 p.m.

Takeouts 11 a.m. to Noon

Queen of the Apostles Parish Hall
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The dinner includes
a 1/2 chicken, mashed potatoes,
a vegetable, coleslaw, roll,
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Pittston Central Catholic HS Class Meeting March 14

PITSTON — The monthly dinner-meeting for members of the 1955 class from the former Pittston Central Catholic High School will be held Tuesday, March 14, at 6:30 p.m. at Valenti's Restaurant, 1180 Wyoming Ave., Exeter.

All classmates are invited to attend. For more information, contact Ky Lazzari at (570-825-2648).

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Mark Your Calendar — Around the Diocese

Basket Raffle — MARCH 4 & 5, sponsored by the Youth Ministry of St. Faustina Parish, 520 South Hanover St., Nanticoke; event held on Saturday, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Basket raffle drawing begins on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. Food will be available for purchase. Free admission.

University of Scranton Performance Music Series: In Recital — MARCH 5, featuring Frederick Hohman, organist, beginning at 3 p.m.; concert events are held in the University's Houlihan-McLean Center on campus, corner of Mulberry St. & Jefferson Ave. Performances are open to the public free of charge.

University of Scranton Performance Music Series: General Recital — MARCH 8, featuring the University of Scranton Performance Music student musicians, beginning at 7:30 p.m.; concert events are held in the University's Houlihan-McLean Center on campus, corner of Mulberry St. & Jefferson Ave.

Free Community Luncheon — MARCH 11, sponsored by Holy Rosary Parish in Hazleton; lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 12 noon in the parish hall at 240 S. Poplar St., Hazleton. Meal is offered to the community free of charge. All are welcome.

Annual Ham & Cabbage Dinner — MARCH 11, sponsored by Holy Family Parish in Sugar Notch; dinner served from 4 to 7 p.m. in the church hall, 828 Main St. (take-out orders available from 3 p.m.). Cost: adults, \$10; children (under age 12), \$5. Tickets can be obtained by contacting the rectory office (570-822-8983) or at the door.

Free Community Pancake Breakfast — MARCH 11, sponsored by Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Route 209, Gilbert (Brodheads ville), and served to those in need in portions of Lehigh, Northampton, Carbon and Monroe counties; breakfast is provided free of charge from 8 to 10 a.m. in the church's McCawley Hall.

Homemade Pasta & Sausage Dinner — MARCH 12, hosted by St. Maria Goretti Church, Laffin Road, Laffin; serving from 12 noon to 5 p.m. in the parish banquet hall. Take-out dinners available from noon to 4 p.m. (containers provided). Dinner also includes salad, bread rolls, beverage and dessert. Cost: \$10 per person (children age five & under admitted free of charge for eat-in only). Tickets sold at the door.

Presentation on Autism — MARCH 28, sponsored by the Autism Center at Misericordia University, Dallas, in collabora-

tion with Geisinger Health System; presentation will be hosted by Misericordia at 7 p.m. at the Lemmond Theater in Walsh Hall on campus. Guest presenters: Jon Donovan and Carin Zucker, journalists and autism experts who co-authored the critically acclaimed and bestselling book, "In a Different Key: The Story of Autism." Presentation is open to the public free of charge; reservations are required due to limited seating. To reserve tickets, call the Misericordia Box Office at (570-674-6719).

In Concert: Brass Quintet — APRIL 18, featuring the award-winning Canadian Brass; hosted by Misericordia University in Dallas. Concert begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Lemmond Theater in Walsh Hall on the Misericordia campus. Cost for premium seating is \$30, including a wine and cheese reception prior to the performance; \$20 for general admission. Tickets can be purchased by contacting the Misericordia Box Office at (570-674-6719) or online at: www.misericordia.edu/theartsandmore.

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

Charismatic Mass, Healing Service Set

SCRANTON — Catholic Charismatic prayer groups in the Diocese of Scranton invite all faithful to participate in a Charismatic Mass and healing service hosted by Queen of the Apostles Parish in Avoca on Sunday, March 12, at St. Mary Church, 715 Hawthorne St., Avoca.

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

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

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

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

Fellowship and light refreshments will conclude the gathering.



Fr. August Ricciardi

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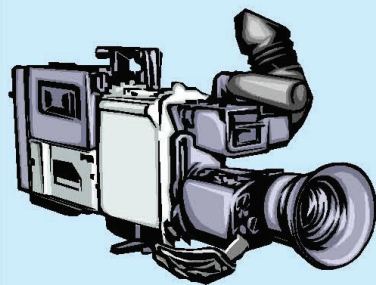
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The Diocese of Scranton’s website includes video of certain programs broadcast by CTV: Catholic Television. The programs include the Daily Mass from St. Peter’s Cathedral, the monthly news program “Our Faith, Our Diocese” and other special programs.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

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Misericordia Club Collecting Clothes for Needy

DALLAS — The Crocheting-Knitting-Sewing Club at Misericordia University in Dallas is holding a clothing drive in coordination with St. Nicholas Church, Wilkes-Barre, to benefit families in need.

The drive to collect

clothes for the underprivileged is being conducted through April 1.

People wishing to donate gently used clothing can drop off items at St. Nicholas Church, located at 226 S. Washington St., or on the campus of Misericordia

University. Boxes for the drive are located in the lobby of the Banks Student Life Center and on the third floor of Mercy Hall, in front of room 317.

For more information, call (570) 674-6400 or log on to www.misericordia.edu.



**SATURDAY,
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Holy Family Center,
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Registration & Breakfast
8:00 – 9:00

Conference
9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Conference Registration:

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*** Attendance is limited to the first 50 paid registrants ***

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*Celebrating the Golden Jubilee
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“We will gather to give thanks to the Holy Spirit for the gift of this current of grace, which is for the Church and for the world, and to celebrate the wonders that the Holy Spirit has worked in the course of these 50 years, changing the life of millions of Christians.” (Pope Francis to Italian CCR, 03-July-2015)



Jim Murphy is the founder and president of Vera Cruz Communications. He is the former chairman of, and currently a consultant to the National Service Committee for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and a member of the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services.



Deacon Larry Oney is a permanent deacon for the Catholic Archdiocese of New Orleans, and is an international speaker and preacher active in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Deacon Oney has appeared on many EWTN and Catholic radio shows.

Join us as we learn and dialogue in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in 2017!!

As we pray, listen and share, we will ask the Lord to:

- Lead us to understand the meaning and significance of this Jubilee
- Prepare us to enjoy the rest appropriate to a Jubilee
- Imbue more deeply within us a culture of Pentecost
- Invigorate our praise of the Lord as we show our gratitude for His mercy
- Give us the zeal and urgency to evangelize more
- Reveal to us those things from which we need to be healed or freed
- Bring about any needed restoration in our lives