



# GoodNewsNotes

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

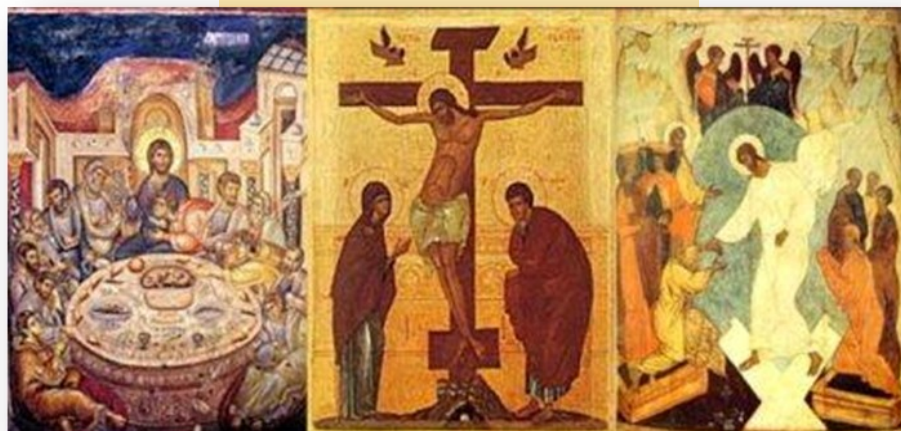
OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

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PAY ATTENTION, THEREFORE, TO THE SACRED THREE DAYS OF THE CRUCIFIED, BURIED AND RESURRECTED ONE. OF THESE THREE THE CROSS IS THE ONE WHOSE MEANING WE REALIZE IN THE PRESENT LIFE, WHILE THE BURIAL AND RESURRECTION SIGNIFY SOMETHING WE BELIEVE AND HOPE FOR.

— ST. AUGUSTINE



*Happy Easter to you,  
your family  
and all of your loved ones!*

From the Staff at OPL

**The Chrism Mass**  
Tuesday, April 11 at 4:00PM  
Cathedral of Saint Peter



# WORD

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

## National Catholic Youth Conference

**November 16-18, 2017**

On November 16, 2017, 25,000 high school students and their adult chaperones will gather in Indianapolis, Indiana for the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC). This event is a three day experience of prayer with an exposure to outstanding speakers and an opportunity for our students to see the Catholic Church of the United States. Once again, the Diocese of Scranton is bringing together youth and adult leaders for NCYC. We have a brilliant team of youth ministers and priests who will make this pilgrimage successful and impactful.

We will be traveling to Indianapolis by bus, leaving on Wednesday, November 15 and returning on Sunday, November 19. At this time, we have two buses and we hope to fill them with 110 youth and adult chaperones.

For more information, visit the [NCYC link](#) on our diocesan website.



*Save the Date!*

**Saturday,  
October 14,  
2017**

**WORD Convocation**  
*(Convocation for Catechists)*

Keynote Speaker:

**Joan Weber**

Project Coordinator of *Families on a Mission* and *Lifelong Faith Formation* for the Center for Ministry Development.

Joan's keynote will address Whole Family Catechesis.



**V Encuentro Mobile App  
Now Available on Apple App Store  
and Google Play**

*An App for engaging Hispanic/Latino Catholics in the U.S.*

Available now, the V Encuentro App offers participants and leaders of the Fifth National Encuentro of Hispanic/Latino Ministry (V Encuentro) access to important resources, news, and a social network to encounter each other and build community.

The bilingual mobile app contains digital resources, reflections, calendars, and directories of diocesan, regional, and national contacts. It will generate one of the largest online networks of Hispanic/Latino Catholics in the United States. The app is also designed to receive consultation forms. During the process of the V Encuentro, Hispanic/Latino Catholics and those who serve them will encounter those living on the peripheries through a missionary process of evangelization and consultation. Published for smartphones and tablets, participants of this process can submit consultation forms answering questions about the currently reality of those in the peripheries and the ways parishes are responding to the Hispanic/Latino presence. The app offers important videos about the V Encuentro and a music player with music published by Oregon Catholic Press.

The Third Annual

## Diocesan Men's Conference

Saturday, May 6, 2017, 8:00AM—2:30PM  
King's College Scandlon Gymnasium  
149 N. Main St. Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

*Eucharistic Adoration, Reconciliation, Mass, Fellowship, and Prayer.*

*Fee includes light breakfast & box lunch*

*Fee: \$35 (Early Bird \$30 until 4/15/17), Student: \$15, Priests/Deacons: Free*

[Click here](#) for more information or to register for the Men's Conference.



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

# WORSHIP

## Pastoral Musicians Workshop on the Order of Celebrating Matrimony

The Scranton Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians will hold a Workshop for Clergy and Musicians on the Order of Celebrating Matrimony on Monday, May 8, 2017 [please note the change in date] beginning at 6:00PM at St. Nicholas Parish, 226 S. Washington St., Wilkes-Barre.

The mandatory use date for the new *Order of Celebrating Matrimony* has already come and gone, but the priests and parish musicians still have questions on this new edition and how music can best serve the rite. David Baloga, Director for Worship in the Office for Parish Life, will give an overview of what's new and what's not, offer musical suggestions to accommodate the new rite, and provide recommendations for a collaborative approach between clergy and musicians in the celebration of Matrimony.

The meeting begins with dinner at 6:00PM, followed by the presentation at 7:00PM, and concludes with Night

Prayer. All priests, deacons, parish music directors, cantors and anyone else involved with the preparation of wedding liturgies are encouraged to attend. There is no cost for the event, but a free-will offering will be taken up to help offset the cost of dinner. To register, please contact David Baloga, at 570-207-2213, ext. 1158 or at [David-Baloga@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:David-Baloga@dioceseofscranton.org) by Wednesday, May 3, 2017.



## Virtual Workshops on the RCIA Process

The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC) in conjunction with Liturgy Training Publications (LTP) is now pleased to present a series of fourteen “virtual workshops” on the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. These are designed

to provide high quality formation in an accessible and affordable format. They will cover a wide range of topics – from general overviews to detailed legalities. They will examine the various periods and steps of the catechumenate process, recapturing the vision of the RCIA and offering best practices for liturgical celebrations. They are aimed at various levels of experience, but will be fruitful for the seasoned veteran as well as the new parish volunteer. The workshops will be offered during the day and repeated in the evening – this is designed to accommodate paid staff as well as volunteers in multiple time zones. We hope that you, your parish staffs, and especially parish RCIA team members will take advantage of all of these online seminars.

- **Recapturing the Richness**— Tues., May 2
- **Initiating Parish**—Tues., May 16
- **Discernment**—Tuesday, June 6
- **Concerning the Baptized**— Tuesday, June 20

Registration for the first four workshops is now open, and each workshop is \$15. For more information, please visit the [LTP website](http://www.ltp.org).

## Evening of Reflection Series for Liturgical Ministers

The Office for Parish Life will be offering a series of Evenings of Reflection for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors and those involved in Music Ministry. David Baloga, Director for Worship, will lead each evening and will help liturgical ministers enter more deeply into the spirituality of their ministry through prayer, song and reflection.

- **Tuesday, May 9—Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**
- **Tuesday, May 16—Lectors**
- **Tuesday, May 23 —Music Ministers**

All sessions begin at 6:30PM and will take place at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton. There is no cost to participate. To register for one (or more) of these evenings, please complete the [Evening of Reflection form](#) or contact the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213. Please register no later than the Friday before that Evening of Reflection.



## Check out Latest Additions to OPL's Little Free Library!

Looking for a good book on Catholic spirituality, Church teaching or ways to understand and live out your faith? Many people are hungry to grow in their understanding of their faith but it can be difficult to find and choose a book. This is a bridge between good materials and parishioners. Look at the latest suggestions on [Pinterest](#) or request a PDF version from [Bernadette-rudolph@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:Bernadette-rudolph@dioceseofscranton.org).



## Grief Support Ministry Training Available

An essential ministry of every parish is offering support to the grieving family members, because, at some point, every parishioner will lose a loved one. Is your parish considering offering some form of grief support beyond the funeral liturgy? OPL offers two resources:

- **Designing a Plan for Grief Support Ministry in Your Parish:** Bernadette Rudolph, Director for Family and Community Development, can meet with your grief sup-

port team or social outreach team to look at the wide variety of options for this ministry and decide what pieces will best meet the needs of your parishioners – and fit the gifts of the ministers.

- **Grief Support Ministry Training:** Sr. Jane Connolly, IHM, pastoral associate at St. Rose & Our Lady of Mt Carmel in Carbondale, is willing to train those who wish to become grief support ministers as well as those who would like to develop further their abilities to walk with the grieving. Topics of this 2-hour workshop include the grief process, common emotions in grieving, complications and grief history, and listening skills. Sr. Jane also provides an outline for a five session grief support group.

Please call Bernadette at 570-207-2213, ext 1104, to arrange either workshop.

## Would You Like to Offer an Evening/Afternoon of Reflection?

Bernadette Rudolph, MA, MS, Director for Family and Community Development, is available to present a 2-3 hour retreat on the following:

- **An Introduction to Prayer** – what is prayer about as well as an experience of various prayer styles

**Living Your Strengths** – claiming the unique gifts of each person and recognizing that everyone's gifts are needed to truly be the Body of Christ

**Marriage as a Vocation: How Spouses Help Each Other Become Holier** – If a vocation is a path to God and marriage is a vocation, spouses walk with each other to God. What does that mean?

**Keeping the Doors of Mercy Open** – God was merciful long before the Year of Mercy and will continue to be, long after it has ended. We are called to do the same. Explore how we can live lives of mercy.

**Hospitality: A Ministry for Everyone** – Reflect on how God welcomes humans throughout the Bible, how Jesus models hospitality and calls us to welcome others. See how this simple element can transform parish life, if we all answer the call.

Other topics are also possible. These retreats can be extended up to a full day, if you wish. Contact Bernadette to discuss your ideas! (ext. 1104 or [Bernadette-Rudolph@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:Bernadette-Rudolph@dioceseofscranton.org))

## Registering for PreCana Days of Reflection

When the priest or deacon preparing an engaged couple for marriage decides the couple



should attend a diocesan PreCana Day of Reflection, he should direct them to the diocesan website to register and to see the current list of dates available. All registrations are done online. The schedule is updated when a date reaches capacity and so that date is no longer available. Please do not direct the couple to call OPL; we will just have to tell them to go online.

# XLT (Exalt!)



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

**Friday, April 28**

**Divine Mercy Parish,  
312 Davis Street, Scranton  
7:00-9:00pm**

**Speaker: Ryan Glenn**

**For more information,  
call 570-780-2996**

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

# SERVICE

## Regional SERVICE Networking Meetings

In their 1993 document, *Building Communities of Salt and Light*, our USA Bishops encouraged parishes to develop a full and vibrant Parish Social Ministry that develops concrete works of charity, justice, and peacemaking. As Bishop Bambera's Pastoral Vision states:



*Parish social ministry responds to human needs, whatever and wherever they may be, whether with parishioners or other members of the community, whether the need be hunger, housing, illness, loneliness, employment, fair wages, physical disabilities or ecological sustainability. Parish social ministry must respond to issues of respect for human life at every stage of existence. We must encourage broad group action on behalf of those who hunger for righteousness and peace. However it is done, parish social ministry needs to be organized and deliberate. It must be communal, planned and directed by a group, and not a simple individual response.*

Four Regional Networking Meetings are being offered to help you and your neighboring parishes create or build up your Parish Social Ministry!

- ⇒ East – Saturday, April 29th 10:30AM-12:30PM at St John Neumann, Lords Valley
- ⇒ West - Saturday, May 6th 10:30AM-12:30PM at Resurrection, Muncy
- ⇒ South – Saturday, May 13th 10:30AM-12:30PM St Mary's/Our Lady of Fatima, Wilkes-Barre
- ⇒ North – Saturday, May 20th from 1:00-3:00PM at Blessed Sacrament, Throop

For more information, contact Richard DeBona, Dir. for Service and Social Concerns at [Richard-DeBona@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:Richard-DeBona@dioceseofscranton.org) or at 570-207-2213.

**Please keep  
an eye out  
for the  
applications  
for the  
SOCIAL JUSTICE  
TRUST FUND GRANTS!**

## Other SERVICE Resources

- Easter is April 16<sup>th</sup>! Why have just a piece of chocolate when you can have a JUST PEACE of chocolate? Visit Catholic Relief Services website for more information at [ethicaltrade.crs.org](http://ethicaltrade.crs.org) and enjoy DIVINE CHOCOLATE!
- Earth Day is April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please consider starting an Environmental Ministry at your parish to celebrate and protect God's Creation. Visit [www.catholicclimatecovenant.org](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org) to get started.
- Rachel's Vineyard is hosting a retreat for anyone seeking healing after abortion. The retreat will take place June 23-25 in Shillington, PA (near Reading, PA) at the Mariawald Retreat Center in the diocese of Allentown. For more information, contact Sr. Meg Cole at [projectrachel@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:projectrachel@allentowndiocese.org); 610-332-0442 ext. 19 or TOLL FREE at 1-866-3-RACHEL.

**Save the Date—Saturday, September 23, 2017**

## **SERVICE Convocation**

**Keynote Speaker: Marie Dennis,  
who is co-chair of Pax Christi International  
and was instrumental in inspiring our Pope to put  
forth his World Day of Peace message.**





# 10 Ways “to evangelize”

1. Think of all the possible ways to guide parishioners in their ability to recall, reflect on and tell their personal story of encounter with Jesus – such as, pausing during the homily to invite a moment of remembering; including an individual story of your own and/or of member of the parish in the homily; dedicate a spot in the weekly bulletin or on the website for reflection questions and personal shared stories.
2. Send everyone from the Sunday Assembly with a “discussion starter” sticker – something from today’s liturgy that will create an opportunity to share faith with someone else they meet today.
3. In every parish gathering, include some opportunity to remember and to tell stories of faith from the journey of individuals, families, and the parish as a whole – identify some “wisdom figures” among your elder members who have the gift for storytelling!
4. Create a parish “elevator talk” – a thirty-seconds (or less) statement of what is great about your parish and why anyone would want to become an active member, what would they gain?
5. Ensure that the candidates preparing for any of the Sacraments have an opportunity to minister to the parish at large by their public presence for the various rites, and by their statements of faith – hearing a family share why they are bringing their child for Baptism or First Communion, letting the Confirmation candidates express their hopes for full and active participation, listening to the journey of a catechumen and his/her longing for the Easter Sacraments – ways that the whole parish can be evangelized anew.
6. What are the chances that the name of your parish would be seen or heard in the local grocery store, bank, post office, doctor’s office, sports event, public festival? Develop and act on all the possible ways that you can increase these chances and become deliberately more visible and more impactful in the civic community?
7. Gather your catechetical leaders to participate in a VLCFF Course like “Evangelization and Discipleship.”
8. Identify “third places” in your neighborhood – “the great variety of public places that host the regular, voluntary, informal, and happily anticipated gatherings of individuals beyond the realms of home and work”. These are places where your parish could host informal gatherings to talk about the intersection of religious faith and everyday life – and where these conversations might engage people who do not regularly attend church.
9. Craft connections between what happens at church and what happens in normal family life – bring into church the stories and stuff of family life, and send home practical ways for the domestic church to recognize and celebrate itself as a dwelling place of the Holy (i.e., setting the table, bedtime routines, liturgical seasons tied to family life etc.)
10. Include some evangelizing spaces at your parish picnic or festival, like a “Booth of Caring” staffed with excellent listeners who can hear the needs and provide practical resources; a parish info booth for people who have always wondered about the church; a puppet show with faith stories; a visual display of the life of the parish through the year; spirit-filled song; care packages which include info about the parish, etc.

## OPL TEAM MEMBERS

Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life: **Catherine Jantsch Butel**  
Director for WORD and Lifelong Faith Formation: **Mary Anne Malone**  
Consultant for Youth and Campus Ministry: **Fred Mercadante**  
Director for WORSHIP: **David Baloga**  
Coordinator for RCIA: **Fr. Bob Simon**  
Director for SERVICE and Social Concerns: **Richard DeBona**  
Coordinator for Diocesan Missions and  
Director for Pontifical Missions: **Deacon Ed Kelly**  
Coordinator for Mission Education: **Miriam Heverline**  
Coordinator for Pilgrimages: **Fr. Andrew Hvozdovic**  
Director for Family and COMMUNITY Development: **Bernadette Rudolph**  
Coordinator for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations: **Msgr. Vincent Grimalia**  
Coordinator for V Encuentro: **Alejandra Marroquin**  
Coordinator for Lay Ministry Formation: **Kitty Scanlan**  
Coordinator for Pastoral Council Development: **Ann Marie Cawley**  
Events Coordinator, Diocesan Pastoral Center: **Sue Burke**  
Receptionist: **Jennifer Andres**    Data Manager/Registrar: **Nancy Valtos**  
Administrative Assistant: **Diane Franklin**    Office Manager: **Marge Kosmahl**



Office for Parish Life  
330 Wyoming Avenue  
Scranton, Pennsylvania 18503  
phone: 570-207-2213  
fax: 570-207-2204

email: [oplgeneral@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:oplgeneral@dioceseofscranton.org)  
website: [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org)

