



GoodNewsNotes

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

This Issue

WORD Convocation p. 2

Lay Ministry Formation Program Applications p. 2

Ministry Skills Workshop: RCIA's Witness, Community & Journey p. 2

Youth & Young Adult Listening Session p. 3

Musicians' Mass p. 3

WORSHIP Convocation p. 3

Extraordinary Minister of Communion Training p. 3

COMMUNITY Convocation: Grief Support Ministry Seminar p. 4

Revised Guidelines for Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities p. 4

Season of Creation p. 5

SERVICE Convocation p. 5

Discerning & Orienting Pastoral Council Members p. 5

10 Ways "to expand social ministry and to reflect the whole of Catholic Social Teaching" p. 6



LAST CALL FOR 2017 CATECHIST CAMP!

Timeframe each day: 9:00am-5:00pm:

- **Tuesday, August 8**—Orientation/Basic Certification for new Parish Catechists and Catholic School Teachers — Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton
- **Wednesday, August 9**—Digitally Enabled Faith Formation Workshop— St. Ann Parish, Williamsport
- **Thursday, August 10**—Digitally Enabled Faith Formation Workshop—St. Leo Parish, Ashley
- **Friday, August 11**—Faith Formation for Every Adult in the Parish—St. Luke Parish, Stroudsburg
- **Saturday, August 12**—Faith Formation for Every Adult in the Parish—Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton



For more information or to reserve a spot for your parish team for any of these workshops, [click here](#) or contact the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213.



WORD Convocation

The WORD Convocation, also known as the Convocation for Catechists, will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2017 at Diocesan Pastoral Center, in Scranton. The Keynote Speaker will be Joan Weber, Project Coordinator of Families on a Mission and Lifelong Faith Formation for the Center for Ministry Development. The Convocation will include Mass, the Keynote, Lunch and Workshops. Joan's keynote topic is "Whole Family Catechesis." Mark your calendars now!



National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC)

November 15-19, 2017

Are you being CALLED to be a part of the Diocese of Scranton delegation to the NCYC in November? We still have a few more seats left on a third bus. Are there students and potential chaperones in your parish who would like to join us for an exciting pilgrimage to Indianapolis for NCYC? Contact Mary Anne Malone to reserve a spot on a third bus: mary-anne-malone@dioceseofscranton.org or 570-207-2213, x1100. More information, videos, forms and planning team contacts can be found on the diocesan website: [NCYC 2017](#).



Still Time to apply!—Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry Program, Fall 2017

The Office for Parish Life is **accepting applications for the *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry* for August 2017!** The *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry* is a ministry formation program designed to equip and advance the servant leadership capacities of individuals serving in areas such as: Parish Pastoral Councils, Directors of Religious Education and Catechists, Liturgical Coordinators, Parish Staff, as well as members of Volunteer Ministry teams, and others. Through independent online study with the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF), as well as regional skills workshops and opportunities for prayer and reflection, *Diocesan Certificate* candidates enrich their knowledge base, while also learning practical tools for effective parish ministry in serving their local faith communities.

The Office for Parish Life looks forward to welcoming new candidates into the *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry* program in the Fall.

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



Ministry Skills Workshop

"RCIA's Witness, Community & Journey: The Model for Sacramental Preparation"

Saturday, September 16 9:00AM- 3:00PM

St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Moscow

RCIA sees initiation as a process of conversion and the church as a community whose members witness to one another. RCIA respects the journey of the person entering the church and provides him/her with the tools and companionship to continue the journey throughout life. In the light of Vatican II, the Church revived the rite, noting it should be normative for baptism and confirmation. Fr. Bob Simon will unpack the principles of the RCIA as well as the process. Of equal importance, he will show how the vision of the RCIA provides a lens through which to understand all catechesis and sacramental ministry in parish life.

For more information contact Kitty Scanlan at 570-207-2213, ext 1157, or kitty-scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org. To register, visit the Office for Parish Life page at www.dioceseofscranton.org.

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

WORSHIP

Annual Musicians' Mass

Mark your calendars now and invite all members of your parish music ministry to join us on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at 7:00PM at the Cathedral of St. Peter for the annual Musicians' Mass celebrated by Bishop Bambera. This gathering would be a great way to begin a new season of music of ministry in your parish by having choir members, cantors, instrumentalists, organists, pianists, and choir directors renew their commitment and be commissioned for their ministry. Please plan on joining us!



WORSHIP Convocation

The WORSHIP Convocation will be held on Saturday, October 28, 2017 at Marywood University in Scranton. This day-long event will feature keynote speaker, Dr. Elaine Rendler, a nationally recognized musician, teacher, composer, pastoral liturgist, speaker, and author of *In the Midst of the Assembly* and *This Is the Day*, as well as the writer of weekly columns and music suggestions in *Today's Liturgy* for more than 30 years, offering practical wisdom to generations of pastoral musicians. The WORSHIP Convocation will also feature breakout sessions for various liturgical ministries. Please save the date and plan on joining us!



Extraordinary Minister of Communion Training

The Office for Parish Life will offer an all-day training session for new Extraordinary Ministers of Communion on Saturday, September 30, 2017 from 9:00AM to 2:30PM at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave., Scranton. This session will cover the theology of the Eucharist and the Mass, the history and spirituality of the ministry, the particular functions of the Extraordinary Minister of Communion, and how to properly carry out this ministry.

Candidates for the training should have the approval of his or her pastor/parish life coordinator. There is no fee for the training and lunch will be provided. To register, please fill out the [EMHC Training Registration Form](#) or call the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213 and be sure to include your mailing address, phone number and the name of your parish.

Regional Networking Meetings for Worship

The Office for Parish Life will hold regional meetings for all those involved with liturgy to network and to address upcoming events and projects offered through the Office of Parish Life, including upcoming activities of the local chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians. All liturgy committee members, liturgical ministers, music ministers are encouraged to attend. The meetings will be held at the following locations:



- **Monday, September 18 at 6:30PM**
at St. Ann's Parish, Williamsport
- **Tuesday, September 19 at 6:30PM**
at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish,
Swoyersville
- **Monday, September 25 at 6:30PM**
at St. John Neumann Parish, Scranton
- **Tuesday, September 26 at 6:30PM**
at St. Luke Parish, Stroudsburg

To register for any of these meetings please complete the [registration form](#) or contact the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT LISTENING SESSION

Calling all youth and young adults, and those who work in youth or young adult ministry - we want to hear from YOU! Come share your experiences with us as we plan for the future of youth & young adult ministry in the Diocese of Scranton

Thursday, August 31 at 6:00PM Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton

The night is open to all high school youth and young adults who have been, or would like to be involved in, ministry in the Diocese of Scranton. Youth Ministers or youth volunteers are also urged to attend. To register or for more information, please contact Shannon Kowalski, Coordinator for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, at Shannon-Kowalski@diocesofscanton.org.

USCCB Ratifies Revised Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities

The Guidelines reflect the pastoral response of the U.S. Catholic Bishops to the growth in knowledge and understanding of the gifts and needs of individuals in parish communities who live with disabilities and their desire for full participation in the sacramental life of the Church. In addition to stating general principles to be followed for the celebration of the sacraments in this revised document, the Bishops address each specific sacrament and the issues pertinent to that sacrament for persons with various disabilities. The document is a revision of an earlier version, last updated in 1995. These new Guidelines take into account medical and technological innovations of recent years, and emphasize the importance of the inclusion of all members of parishes. While not legislative in nature, they will be a helpful resource for dioceses and parishes. The document is now available free on the [USCCB website](#).

New Program to Support "Earlyweds" in Your Parish

Looking for a way to support young married couples (those married 5 years or less)? Offer them a chance to walk through Pope Francis' wise exposition of 1 Cor 13 in *The Joy of Love*. Host this new 6-session program written by Bernadette Rudolph, MA, MS, in consultation with Ann Perrin, cnd, lmft, that features individual reflection, couple discussion and group activities. Because Millennials like to construct their own knowledge, leading the program simply means that a more seasoned married couple facilitates the discovery process. (Support for setting up the program is provided.) Help young

couples to understand more deeply the reading so many of them choose for their wedding ceremony and to grow in their ability to love. Contact Bernadette Rudolph via [email](#) or call (ext 1104) to discuss starting this in your parish.

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)

Community Convocation: God's Compassionate Face: Grief Support Ministry Seminar

October 21, 2017, 9AM-3:30PM

All who minister to the bereaved are invited to this daylong seminar on topics related to grief support ministry. Three sessions will address:



- "Walking with Those Grieving the Loss of a Child" with Brandice Ricciardi, M.S., NCC, LPC, HS-BCP, Faculty Specialist, University of Scranton; members of the local chapter of Compassionate Friends will also add their experiences as parents who have lost children.
- "Walking with Those Grieving Loss through Suicide" with Kathy Wallace, Northeast Suicide Prevention Initiative; Kathy is a retired mental health therapist.
- "Compassion Fatigue" with Theresa Doherty, MSPCC, Chaplain and Bereavement Counselor at Allied Services Hospice

In addition, there will be opportunities for discussion of the presentations, networking and prayer. Lunch is included. Stayed tuned for registration.

Fall into a Good Book!

Little Free Library's New Additions

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.

"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

SERVICE Convocation—Saturday, September 23

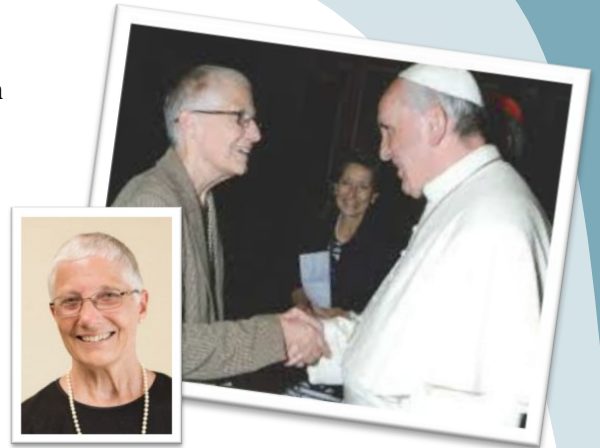
All are strongly encouraged to attend our Fall SERVICE Convocation which will focus on the 3rd leg of a well-balanced Parish Social Ministry: charity, justice and peacemaking. Please be sure to mark your calendar for an inspired and inspiring workshop happening on Saturday, September, 23, from 9:30AM to 4:00PM at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton, featuring Marie Dennis of Pax Christi International, who was at the Vatican working with Cardinal Turkson, encouraging our Pope Francis to consider nonviolence in his World Day of Peace message, and indeed he did! Marie will share with us how our local churches can be a part of this [Catholic Nonviolence Initiative](#)! Be sure to bring several folks from your parish. Let this [powerful and poignant message](#) from our Pope inspire you to mark your calendar now and attend this gathering in the Fall.

The day will also include speakers from [Catholic Relief Services](#), [Catholic Social Services](#), [Ignatian Volunteer Corps](#), as well as speakers encouraging our parishioners to get involved in Prison Ministry and Environmental Ministry.

Additionally, we will have [friends from Bethlehem in Palestine](#) selling gifts of rosaries, statues (large and small), creches, etc... - made of olive wood from Bethlehem.

And finally, we will remember in a very special prayer service, the life of martyr and blessed Stanley Rother, who is the first USA-born martyr of our Church and will be beatified in Oklahoma City at the same time we are gathering in Scranton.

Please reserve this day and contact Richard DeBona at 570-207-2213, ext. 1130, or at Richard-DeBona@dioceseofscranton.org for more information.



Season of Creation

[Pope Francis](#) has called us to participate in the [Season of Creation](#) which begins September 1 and goes through October 4th, the Feast of St. Francis. Please contact Richard DeBona for support in setting up an Environmental Ministry at your parish. Consider holding a Holy Hour or [Prayer Service](#) for the Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on September 1.



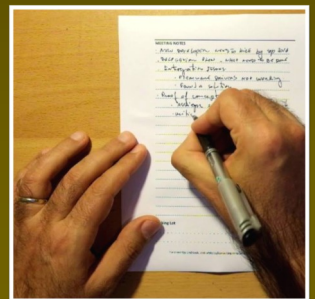
Discerning & Orienting Pastoral Councils Members: Initial Stages of Pastoral Planning

Wednesday, September 6 from 6:00PM to 9:00PM
at St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Pocono Pines

Wednesday, September 13 from 6:00PM to 9:00PM
at St. Lawrence Parish, Williamsport

This three-hour presentation was created to assist both new pastoral council members and current members who desire to expand their knowledge of their role and responsibility as a council member. It will assist you to appreciate your gifts from God (qualities and characteristics) that can guide you to discern if this leadership ministry best utilizes your skills and talents. The presentation will share information in the following areas:

- Who Serves as a Pastoral Council Member
- What a Parish Pastoral Council is and What it is Not
- Why does a Parish Need a Pastoral Council
- How the Pastoral Council Works (Meetings, Leadership, Consensus)
- The Purpose and Function of a Pastoral Council
- An Overview of the Pastoral Planning Process
- The Development of a Three to Five Year Pastoral Plan



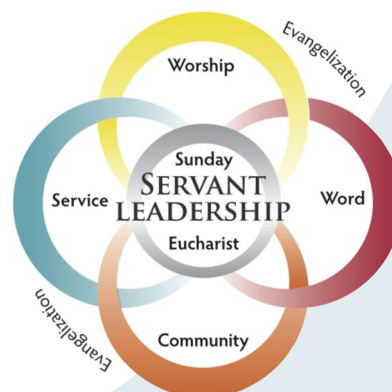
To register, please contact the Office at Parish Life at 570-207-2213.

10 Ways to Form and Support Catechetical Ministers:

1. Personally invite and encourage your catechetical ministers to participate in ongoing formation like the Catechist Camp and Catechist Convocation described in this newsletter.
2. Invest quality time throughout the year for catechists to meet, pray together, share their experiences and nurture their ministry – some parishes take 3-4 dates from the regular religious education calendar just for this purpose, without the students.
3. Invite regular input from all the volunteers in the catechetical program, as well as the parents, to make adjustments and refresh the experience each year.
4. Consider utilizing Echoes of Faith for initial formation – this can be done online as individuals or with a DVD format in a group – contact Mary Anne Malone at OPL.
5. Nominate catechetical leaders for the Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry, where they will receive a strong theological grounding and specialization track for the ministries of WORD – contact Kitty Scanlan at OPL.
6. Consider an individual course from the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation, such as: “Vocation, Spirituality, and Discipleship of the Catechist” —next cycle starts September 3rd. Encourage catechists to register for the Liturgy Training Publications [2017 Virtual Workshops Teachers and Catechists Series](#) featuring workshops on teaching students about Mass and discipleship, 15 easy steps for preparing Masses with children, and leading and animating classroom prayer.
7. Find meaningful ways to express appreciation for each of the catechists in their commitment of time and dedication to sharing their faith – weekly messages, seasonal small gifts, gatherings at key times through the year, etc.
8. Create a Commissioning experience in the presence of the whole parish, highlighting the ministry of catechists and invoking the prayers and blessings of the whole community (many parishes choose to do this on Catechetical Sunday, September 17, 2017).
9. Establish a pool of “substitute” or “assistant” catechists, to work as teams or as back-up when someone must be away. This helps in recruiting since it provides practical support and increases the likelihood of being able to make the commitment.
10. Design as many ways as possible for parents and catechists to be in communication and in partnership with the faith formation of the children in their care – email groups, letters home, monthly gatherings to present the lessons, intergenerational faith experiences, etc.

OPL TEAM MEMBERS

Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life: **Catherine Jantsch Butel**
Director for WORD and Lifelong Faith Formation: **Mary Anne Malone**
Coordinator for Youth/Young Adult Ministry: **Shannon Kowalski**
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 Pilgrimages: **Fr. Andrew HvozdoVIC**
Director for Family and COMMUNITY Development: **Bernadette Rudolph**
Coordinator for Ecumenical/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 Ave.
Scranton, PA 18503
phone: 570-207-2213
fax: 570-207-2204

oplgeneral@dioceseofscranton.org
www.dioceseofscranton.org



SUBSCRIBE