

The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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VOLUME 119 NUMBER 1 ISSN-0164-9418

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2019

Seek Jesus . . . serve him and others

**Pope also urges
'concrete solidarity'
with migrants**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – People find Jesus only through humble love, and once they find him, they are called to offer him the gifts of their prayer, their adoration and their care of others, Pope Francis said.

Celebrating the feast of Epiphany January 6, the pope said Christians are called to imitate the Magi: "They do not debate; they set out. They do not stop to look, but enter the house of Jesus. They do not put themselves at the center, but bow down before the one who is the center."

And they each bring gifts, he said during his homily at Mass in Saint Peter's Basilica. "In this Christmas season now drawing to its close, let us not miss the opportunity to offer a precious gift to our king," especially by caring for those who cannot repay the gift.



**Pope Francis accepts
offertory gifts as he
celebrates Mass marking
the feast of the Epiphany in
Saint Peter's Basilica at the
Vatican January 6.**

has given the boats permission to dock and bring the migrants ashore.

In his Mass homily and in his main Angelus address, Pope Francis contrasted the attitude and actions of the Three Kings with the attitude of Herod, who was "greatly troubled" at news of the Messiah's birth. While the Wise Men set out to meet Jesus, Herod stayed in his palace, plotting ways to keep all his power.

Herod and the scribes, he said at the Angelus, "had hard hearts, which stubbornly refused to visit that baby. That is a possibility: closing oneself to the light. They represent those who, even in our day, are afraid of the coming of Jesus and close their hearts to their brothers and sisters in need."

Reciting the Angelus after Mass, Pope Francis pleaded with European governments to demonstrate "concrete solidarity" with 32 migrants rescued from the Mediterranean December 22 and 17 others rescued December 29. The 49 people, including several children, are still on the rescue boats of the Germany-based Sea-Watch humanitarian organization; no European government



Eight days from now, scenes like this will again unfold in our nation's capital at the annual March for Life on January 18. Busloads from the Diocese of Scranton will be participating. This edition contains information on the transportation options, and articles about other pro-life activities, including a parish postcard campaign.

*We are committed to
protecting the sanctity of life*

A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP BAMBERA

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Catholic Church has long upheld a commitment to protecting the sanctity of life from conception until natural death. At times, this rhetoric has been a reality in the day-to-day actions of the Church, as our Catholic hospitals, universities, and institutions have strived to promote a pro-life ethic. At other times, however, our Church has failed to speak loudly enough against offenses in the world today and within our own ranks. At such points, we are challenged to reflect upon our beliefs, examine our moral world, and follow our call to action.

Last month, the Kirby Health Center revoked the lease of an established Planned Parenthood clinic in Wilkes-Barre. At the time, there was a serious question of whether or not this Planned Parenthood, which has not provided abortions in the past, would change its policies to provide abortions in the future. Some of the more prominent pro-life groups in our Diocese took action against this organization and fought hard to ensure that our values were expressed to the proper avenues. While this particular clinic has now clarified that it will not be providing abortion services at the new site, the dialogue surrounding this event serves as a reminder that we, as Catholics, are called to take action in representing our faith. If we are truly pro-life, then we must be consistently confident in establishing our values not only when issues like this arise, but in our daily lives, voting habits, and rhetoric.

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Companions on the Journey

Recently, four members of the Scranton community of Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary traveled to El Paso, Texas, to join in the collaborative efforts of religious congregations and humanitarian volunteers in providing assistance to migrants near the U.S.-Mexico border. See page 3 for their reflections on the experience.



**Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Donna Korba
shares rosaries at a sacred prayer space in
Annunciation House in El Paso, Texas.**

A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP BAMBERA

Continued from page 1

As a Church dedicated to respecting life, we must see these issues on the real-life spectrum. In his 2013 encyclical, *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel), Pope Francis challenges us to examine the Church's pro-life attitude not as a political belief, but as a commitment to protecting the innocent human person. This commitment is not subject to change based on current climate because it is not a fundamentally political value, but a moral one. Our pro-life values challenge us to protect the life of the child and his or her mother, providing all the resources that families need to thrive.

As such, we see a need to seek out the silences in our society and to protect those who are voiceless. In our daily actions and our advocacy efforts, we must strive to protect the unborn, the poor, immigrants and refugees, the disabled, and the elderly. In the Diocese of Scranton, we hope that this year will offer new opportunities to serve each and every one of these groups.

At this time especially, we are grateful to all the groups and programs within our Diocese who have made an effort to protect the lives of the vulnerable in past decades. We have immense gratitude toward Saint Joseph's Center, Catholic Social Services, Friends of the Poor, Rachel's Vineyard, and organizations such as Pennsylvanians for Human Life for their existing work in serving the poor and vulnerable of Northeast and North-Central Pennsylvania. We hope that, in the coming years, we can continue to work with these organizations while expanding our Diocesan commitment to pro-life ministries of all kinds.

As you may know, the 2019 March for Life will be held January 18 in Washington, D.C. In an effort to show our commitment to Respect Life this month, we will be sending postcards to our senators and representatives to reiterate our stance toward the defense of life from conception until natural death. In the past few months, we have been reminded again and again that these views are relevant not only when Planned Parenthood renews its lease in one of our cities or when a new law is put into effect. Rather, our values must remain at the forefront of our minds and our hearts at all times – and they should be in the plain sight of our lawmakers. This month, we ask you to consider signing one of the cards that will be sent to each of our parishes here in the Diocese of Scranton and to share these with your friends and family.

Together, as a people of faith, we can set an example of what it means to be a people of life and a people of joy. This month, my prayer is that each of us will recognize our own ability and responsibility through our baptism to defend the lives of those on the margins of our society.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

+ Joseph C. Bambera

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



Note: For information on the March for Life, a parish postcard campaign, and a Respect Life Prayer Breakfast, please see page 9.

*Estamos comprometidos con
proteger la santidad de la vida*

UN MENSAJE DEL OBISPO BAMBERA

Queridos amigos en Cristo,

La Iglesia Católica durante mucho tiempo ha mantenido un compromiso para proteger la santidad de la vida desde la concepción hasta la muerte natural. A veces, esta retórica ha sido una realidad en las acciones cotidianas de la iglesia, como nuestros hospitales católicos, universidades, y las instituciones se han esforzado para promover una ética de vida. En otras ocasiones, sin embargo, nuestra iglesia ha fallado en hablar en voz suficientemente alta contra delitos en el mundo de hoy y dentro de nuestras propias filas. En dichos puntos, nos desafía a reflexionar sobre nuestras creencias, examinar nuestro mundo moral y seguir nuestro llamado a la acción.

El mes pasado, el centro de salud de Kirby revocó la concesión de una clínica de Planned Parenthood (Planificación familiar) establecida en Wilkes-Barre. Al tiempo, hubo una grave cuestión de si o no esta planificación de la familia, que no ha proporcionado los abortos en el pasado, iba a cambiar sus políticas para proporcionar abortos en el futuro. Algunos de los más prominentes grupos pro-vida en nuestra diócesis tomaron acción contra esta organización y lucharon para asegurar que nuestros valores se expresaron en las avenidas adecuadas. Mientras que esta clínica particular ahora ha aclarado que no ofrecerá servicios de aborto en el nuevo sitio, el diálogo que rodean este evento sirve como un recordatorio de que, como católicos, estamos llamados a actuar en representación de nuestra fe. Si somos verdaderamente pro-vidas, debemos tener la confianza constante de establecer nuestros valores no sólo cuando temas como este se presentan, pero en nuestra vida cotidiana, hábitos de votación y el diálogo.

Como una iglesia dedicada al respeto de la vida, tenemos que ver estas cuestiones en el espectro de la vida real. En su encíclica del 2013, *Evangelii Gaudium* (la alegría del Evangelio), Papa Francisco nos desafía a examinar la actitud de pro vida de la iglesia no como una creencia política, sino como un compromiso con la protección de la persona humana inocente. Este compromiso no está sujeta a cambios basado en el clima actual ya no es un valor fundamentalmente político, sino moral. Nuestros valores de vida nos desafían para proteger la vida del niño y su madre, proporcionando todos los recursos que las familias necesitan para prosperar.

Así, vemos la necesidad de buscar a los silencios de nuestra sociedad y de proteger a aquellos que están sin voz. En nuestras acciones diarias y nuestros esfuerzos, debemos esforzarnos a proteger los no nacidos, los pobres, inmigrantes y refugiados, discapacitados y los ancianos. En la diócesis de Scranton, esperamos que este año ofrecerá nuevas oportunidades para servir a todos y cada uno de estos grupos. En este tiempo especialmente, agradecemos a todos los grupos y programas dentro de nuestra diócesis que han hecho un esfuerzo por proteger las vidas de las personas vulnerables en las últimas décadas. Tenemos inmensa gratitud hacia centro San José, Catholic Social Services, amigos de los pobres, Viña de Raquel y organizaciones como residentes de Pennsylvania para la vida humana por su trabajo existente en el servicio a los pobres y vulnerables del noreste y Centro-norte de Pennsylvania. Esperamos que en los próximos años, podemos seguir trabajando con estas organizaciones ampliando nuestro compromiso Diocesano de ministerios de vida de todas las clases al mismo tiempo.

Como ustedes saben, el 2019 marcha por la vida se llevará a cabo el 18 de enero en Washington, D.C. En un esfuerzo por mostrar nuestro compromiso de respeto a la vida este mes, estaremos enviando postales a nuestros senadores y representantes para reiterar nuestra postura hacia la defensa de la vida desde la concepción hasta la muerte natural. En los últimos meses, nos recordaron una y otra vez que estos puntos de vista son relevantes no sólo cuando Planned Parenthood renueva su concesión en una de nuestras ciudades o cuando una nueva ley en vigor. Por el contrario, nuestros valores deben permanecer a la vanguardia de nuestras mentes y nuestros corazones en todo momento – y debe a la simple vista de nuestros legisladores. Este mes, le pedimos considerar firma una de las cartas que se enviarán a cada una de nuestras parroquias aquí en la diócesis de Scranton y compartir con tus amigos y familiares.

Juntos, como pueblo de fe, podemos establecer un ejemplo de lo que significa ser un pueblo de la vida y un pueblo de la alegría. Este mes, mi oración es que cada uno de nosotros reconozca nuestra propia capacidad y responsabilidad a través de nuestro bautismo para defender las vidas de éstos en los márgenes de nuestra sociedad.

Fielmente suyo en Cristo,

+ Joseph C. Bambera

S.E.R. Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.
Obispo de Scranton



Companions on the Journey

Sisters share experiences from visit to southern border

Our nation's leaders and citizens continue to discuss the complex challenges of border security and immigration issues. While consensus over policies has been elusive, the humanitarian crisis of refugees fleeing poverty and violence is a constant reality.

Recently, a statement was issued by three Catholic bishops from Texas and New Mexico, including Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, who is chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration.

In the joint statement, the bishops said, in part, "...restrictions of the flow of asylum seekers at the border can push more families to seek entrance between ports of entry which place them at greater risk." In celebrating Christmas "and the birth of Jesus, himself a child whose parents were told 'there is no room,' we continue to recognize and affirm that seeking asylum and protection is legal," said the bishops.

During the week of December 14-21, four members of the Scranton community of Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary traveled to El Paso, Texas, to join in the collaborative efforts of religious congregations and humanitarian volunteers in providing assistance to migrants randomly being dropped off in cities and towns near the U.S.-Mexico border by federal immigrant officials.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters Kieran Williams, Donna Korba, Mary Elaine Anderson and Mary Ellen Higgins, vice president of the IHM congregation in the Diocese of Scranton, came to the aid of families fleeing from Central America — particularly from El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala — and heading to the United States looking to escape the endemic violence and hunger they are facing.

At Annunciation House in El Paso, a facility operated by the Catholic Church, the local IHM nuns helped in providing or finding shelter for migrants who were fed, cared for, and oriented on a path toward family members or to another destination in the U.S.

Following are their reflections on the experience:

When the four of us — Sisters Kieran Williams, Donna Korba, Mary Ellen Higgins and Mary Elaine Anderson — answered Leadership's invitation to volunteer at the border in El Paso, Texas, none of us knew for certain what the ministry might entail or whether we would be up to doing what might be asked of us. We only knew that God was tugging at our hearts and, like Mary in the Annunciation story, the only response that we could give was "yes."

Any fears or anxiety that we might have had about spending a week on the U.S. southern border were lightened when promises of prayer and support began to pour in from the IHM family. It soon became evident that our "yes" was meant to be more than a personal response.

We realized that we were being sent by all IHM sisters, associates and friends to bear witness to our communal commitment to stand "in the midst of the pain of our world and join with others in seeing and being the light that shines through the cracks of broken hearts" (Chapter 2018 Direction Statement).

Knowing that we did not go alone, but rather in the name of the IHM family, became a source of strength and hope in the difficult moments that we encountered. We are grateful to Leadership for extending the invitation to volunteer and to our IHM family, especially our sisters at Our Lady of Peace Residence and the IHM Center, for their



Sister Buffy Bosen (center) is a Sister of Loretto who serves as coordinator of the women religious volunteering at the border and as president of Loretto Academy School. Pictured with her are Scranton IHM Sisters, from left: Kieran Williams, Mary Ellen Higgins, Mary Elaine Anderson and Donna Korba.

prayerful support of and their generous donations for the ministry to our immigrant sisters and brothers at the border.

Sister Mary Elaine:

We arrived at Casa Nazareth, one of the 15 hospitality centers set up under the umbrella of Annunciation House, early on Friday afternoon. After settling into the residence for volunteers, which is on the grounds of the Sisters of Loretto motherhouse, we walked across the alley to introduce ourselves to the shift coordinator and other volunteers at Casa Nazareth. Upon entering the center, we were asked if we were available to help serve the evening meal as there were not enough volunteers to meet the immediate needs. In keeping with our IHM spirit, we joyfully responded "yes." We were eager to meet the "guests" and to interact with them right from the start.

On Saturday morning, Ruben Garcia, who has worked at Annunciation House for 41 years and is the current director, gave an orientation to all the volunteers. Ruben mentioned that throughout the years Annunciation House has received and helped many asylum seekers who have crossed the border. He also explained that in the past there have been three major surges of people crossing the border, and that currently El Paso is experiencing the fourth and the largest surge in history. About 2,200 people have been crossing the border each week since the

beginning of October. The week we arrived about 2,500 to 3,000 were expected to make their way to El Paso.

The asylum seekers who arrived at Casa Nazareth and the other hospitality centers were released that day by ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement) from holding cells where they had been detained in subhuman conditions for several days or more. Most were hungry and exhausted; many were sick with fever and colds. It was heartbreaking to hear their stories and humbling to witness how grateful they were for the kindnesses shown to them at Casa Nazareth. As volunteers, we were asked to help move people along as quickly as possible, so that they could be united with their families and friends in the United States. The goal was to be welcoming to current guests but also work to free up beds, so that more people could be released from the crowded holding cells to Annunciation's hospitality centers and not to the streets of El Paso.

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National Migration Week 2019 (January 6-12)

For nearly a half century, the Catholic Church in the United States has celebrated National Migration Week, which is an opportunity for the Church to reflect on the circumstances confronting migrants, including immigrants, refugees, children, and victims and survivors of human trafficking. The week serves as a time for both prayer and action in support of immigrants and refugees.

The theme for National Migration Week 2019, "Building Communities of Welcome," draws attention to the fact that each of our families have a migration story, some recent and others in the distant past. Regardless of where we are and where we came from, we remain part of the human family and are called to live in solidarity with one another.

"In this moment, it is particularly important for the Church to highlight the spirit of welcome that we are all called to embody in response to immigrant and refugee populations who are in our midst sharing our Church and our communities," said Bishop Joe Vásquez of Austin, Chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Migration.

U.S. bishops take part in weeklong retreat about clergy sex abuse crisis

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Catholic bishops participated in a closed-door retreat Jan. 2-8 at Mundelein Seminary at the University of St. Mary of the Lake near Chicago to prayerfully consider ways to rebuild trust over the clergy sex abuse crisis.

This time of prayer came at the suggestion of Pope Francis and was planned largely in response to last summer’s revelations of sex abuse that reached the highest levels of the U.S. church.

In a letter distributed to the bishops at the start of the gathering, Pope Francis said he was convinced their response to the “sins and crimes” of abuse and “the efforts made to deny or conceal them” must be found through “heartfelt, prayerful and collective listening to the word of God and to the pain of our people.”

“As we know,” he said, “the mentality that would

“A great spirit of prayer and fraternity was quite evident throughout the retreat, along with a firm resolve to continue addressing the causes and consequences of the abuse crisis that we face along with the important work of renewal in our Church.” — **Bishop Bambera**



cover things up, far from helping to resolve conflicts, enabled them to fester and cause even greater harm to the network of relationships that today we are called to heal and restore.”

In response to the Holy Father, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, Archbishop of Gal-

veston-Houston and President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), sent the following message on behalf of the U.S. bishops upon the opening of the retreat:

“As the bishops of the United States gather today in prayer, we humbly ask Your



Atlanta Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory, and Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa, official preacher of the papal household, concelebrate Mass at Mundelein Seminary Jan. 3 at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake in Illinois, near Chicago. The U.S. bishops were on retreat Jan. 2-8 at the seminary, suggested by Pope Francis in September, which comes as the bishops work to rebuild trust among the faithful.

Holiness to pray for us that we may draw closer to one another and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In this closeness, we seek to find the wisdom and strength necessary to meet the great challenges ahead. We carry with us these days the pain and hope of all who may feel let down by the Church. Yet, we find ourselves grateful for the reminder that the future does not rest with any of us alone, but rather belongs to God. Hope is to be found in Christ. In Him,

hope becomes unshakable.

“Holy Father, we also draw near to you in our prayer and ministry. Your witness to those suffering around the world strengthens us. May our days together reflect the communion of the Universal Church.”

The structure of the retreat emphasized quiet reflection, including silent meal times, and offered daily Mass, time for personal and communal prayer before the Eucharist, vespers and an opportunity for confession. No ordinary

business was conducted.

Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa led the retreat with the theme, “the mission of the apostles and their successors.” He has served as preacher to the last three popes: Saint John Paul II, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis.

Prior to the retreat’s start, Monsignor Jeffrey D. Burrill, associate general secretary of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, told CNS that more than 200 bishops were expected to attend. Active U.S. bishops number 271 and there are 185 retired bishops.

“We are honored to welcome the bishops of the United States to Mundelein as they prayerfully unite to reflect on the urgent issues facing the Catholic Church today,” said Father John Kartje, rector of Mundelein Seminary in a statement.

He said it was fitting that the bishops were gathered where “seminarians come from around the nation to be formed into the next generation of parish priests and hundreds of lay men and women are trained for parish service.”

Diocese Adds Names to List of Credibly Accused

Following the release of the Grand Jury report last year, Bishop Bambera made a promise that he would be more open and transparent in the way that the Diocese handles occurrences of child sexual abuse. That commitment remains true.

In August, the Diocese published on its website a list of all clergy, staff and volunteers who had been credibly accused of child sexual abuse. Since then, additional victims have come forward. Eleven new names have been added to the online list. Those new names are listed below. We will continue to alert you periodically in the case that additional individuals are added to this list.

If you are aware of additional allegations of wrongdoing or any information that should be included on this list, please contact our Victim Assistance Coordinator Mary Beth Pacuska at (570) 862-7551 or Monsignor Thomas Muldowney, Vicar General, at (570) 207-2269. If you have suffered abuse by clergy or anyone working on behalf of the Diocese, you are encouraged to contact Mary Beth Pacuska.

These names have been added to the original list of credibly accused individuals:

DIOCESAN CLERGY

Polcha, Michael C.

Pulicare, Michael J.

MEMBERS OF RELIGIOUS ORDERS

Bourbon, Francis C. (S.J.)

Fertal, Joseph (S.V.D.)

Garrity, Stephen M., (S.J.)

Long, Arthur J. (S.J.)

Pisaneschi, Sister Clare (M.P.F.)

Rebovich, John (O.S.J.)

LAITY

Maroni, Mark

Smith, Richard

Yarros, David



BISHOP BAMBERA’S SCHEDULE

January 12 – Mass for Filipino Community, St. Peter’s Cathedral, Scranton, 6:00 p.m.

January 14 – Luzerne County Prison Mass

January 17 – Vigil Mass for Life, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C.

January 18 – Youth Mass and March for Life, Washington, D.C.

January 20 – Mass – Feast of Our Lady of Alta Gracia, Annunciation Parish, Hazleton, 12:00 noon

January 24 – Christian Unity Prayer Service, St. Peter’s Cathedral, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.



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**Give to
The Annual Appeal**

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Diocese of Scranton

Learn more online at
AnnualAppeal.org

Diocese of Scranton

2018 DIOCESAN

ANNUAL APPEAL

THE JOURNEY

MAKES US ONE

Your donations to the Annual Appeal are restricted to support five Diocesan Ministries

- 1. Catholic Social Services** ...promotes human dignity by meeting the most basic needs for more than 300,000 people annually through kitchens, shelters, housing assistance, counseling and support services. "Social Justice" Appeal Grants to Parishes fund local outreach to the needy.
- 2. Catholic Education in Schools and Parishes...** continues to be a vital part of our mission as it has for the past 150 years. We pass on the faith and help develop faith-centered lives for nearly 5,000 students in 20 Diocesan schools and 15,000 children in parish-based religious education programs.
- 3. Clergy Education & Care...** supports our seminarians as they prepare to answer God's call, assists with the formation of Deacons who will serve in our parishes, provides care for our retired and ill priests, and helps fund programs for men considering priesthood.
- 4. Parish Life & Ministry Formation...** serves our parishes with programs to foster vibrant faith communities where all parishioners are actively engaged in the ministries of Word, Worship, Community and Service, and new endeavors which cultivate the "Young Church."
- 5. Catholic Media & Communications...** share the good news of the Gospel through *The Catholic Light*, Catholic TV, and our Diocesan website, which includes broadcasts of the Daily Mass and special liturgies at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton.

Diocesan Annual Appeal at 64% of Goal

The **2018 Diocesan Annual Appeal: The Journey Makes Us One**, has raised more than \$3.2 million in gifts and pledges, bringing the campaign to 64% of the \$5 million goal. More than 16,000 donors have made pledges to this year's Diocesan Annual Appeal.

The following parishes that have surpassed their Annual Appeal parish goal: Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, Hanover Twp.; Holy Family Parish, Sugar Notch; Saint Brigid Parish, Friendsville; Saint Elizabeth Parish, Bear Creek; Saint Mary Parish, Waymart; and Saint Peter's Cathedral Parish, Scranton.

"I am grateful to our Appeal donors for giving witness to the power of Christ through their generosity to the Diocesan Annual Appeal. This support allows us to maintain the mission of the Diocese so that we may continue to be one, holy, Catholic and apostolic Church for all," said Bishop Joseph C. Bambera.

"Encouraged by a positive response from many parishioners, the Diocese has resumed a

more active approach in promoting the Diocesan Annual Appeal. By returning to some of the more public aspects of the Appeal in our parishes, we will provide those who wish to continue to support our mission with the opportunity to do so," he added.

"We are thankful to all those who have made gifts to this year's Appeal and look forward to many others who will contribute in the coming months," said Jim Bebla, Diocesan Secretary for Development. "This support will insure that the Diocese continues to fully care for our brothers and sisters in Christ."

"We also appreciate the passionate commitment of our Appeal parish representatives who are working closely with our pastors to invite parishioners to support the work of our local Church," added Mr. Bebla.

Cheryl Kurosky, one of our Appeal parish representatives at Holy Name of Mary Parish, Montrose, recently spoke about the campaign at Masses.

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Luzerne County Regional Appeal Chairs



Luzerne County Regional Chairs James and Cecilia Zielinski and Father Richard Cirba.

Bishop Bambera has invited clergy and lay chairpersons from throughout the Diocese to serve as chairpersons for the 2018 Diocesan Annual Appeal. Representing the parishes of Luzerne County are clergy chair, Father Richard Cirba, and lay chairs, James and Cecilia Zielinski.

Father Cirba is pastor of the parishes of Saint Robert Bellarmine, Wilkes-Barre, and Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Hanover Township. Mr. and Mrs. Zielinski are parishioners of Saint John Bosco Parish, Conyngham.

Father Cirba shared this reflection: "I am a firm believer that the Appeal supports so many ministries throughout the 11 counties of our Diocese. The Appeal enables us to care for our retired and infirmed priests who have given their lives in dedicated service to the Church and now need our assistance. It assists in educating our youth in the faith, and serving the poor and needy through Catholic Social Services.

"On a personal note, I am generous to the Appeal because I see the value of the mission. The Appeal means 'being a disciple of Jesus Christ.' The Appeal is the Gospel coming alive. It is the expression of God's command to love one another..."

"In today's culture, and with the current crisis, it's easy for our vision to become cloudy. The command of Jesus to serve one another doesn't stop, no matter what challenges we face...That's the value of the Appeal. The Appeal enables us to respond to Jesus' command.

"As a priest, I also benefited from the Appeal and our parishioners benefited because the Appeal supported my vocation. We have to be mindful of the Appeal's contribution in educating our future priests," he added.

The youngest of ten children growing up in Jessup, Father Cirba was a member of the former parish of Saint Michael, now Queen of Angels Parish. He has served the Diocese of Scranton as a priest for 30 years, primarily at parishes in Luzerne County.

James Zielinski is executive director of Road Scholar Transport, Dunmore. Cecilia Zielinski retired as a teacher from the Mt. Carmel School District. The Zielinskis have served their parish for 33 years as Eucharistic Ministers. Cecilia actively assists with the parish's day-to-day needs.

As a child, Mrs. Zielinski belonged to Saint Ignatius of Loyola Parish in her native Centralia, Pa. Born in Scranton, Mr. Zielinski is a former member of Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish, and Saint Lawrence Parish, Old Forge, now Prince of Peace Parish.

The Zielinskis support the Appeal because "we feel it is an annual opportunity for every Catholic to share in the pastoral work of Christ by funding the ministries of the Diocese of Scranton. This critical operating support enables the Diocese to provide our people, parishes and schools with a wide variety of essential services that change lives – and change souls," said Mrs. Zielinski, "especially the work of Catholic Social Services which can help change peoples' lives for the better."

"With the help of everyone's contribution," said Mr. Zielinski, "we see our own individual parishes further the work of Catholic Social Services through Social Justice Grants which fund food pantries, kitchens, care for the elderly, bereavement programs, summer lunch programs – just to name a few."

"We are eternally and personally grateful to all donors who give the monetary support needed to allow Bishop Bambera and his team to fund the good works provided by the Annual Appeal," Mr. Zielinski added. "We ask anyone who has not yet pledged to do so, so that this work may continue."



Formation for Servant Leadership

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

A New Year, another opportunity for Lay Ministry Formation

Parish leaders across the Diocese of Scranton are encouraged to consider application for the *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry* for January 2019!

The *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry* is a ministry formation process designed to equip and advance the servant leadership capacities of individuals serving their parish in areas such as:

- * Parish Pastoral Councils,
- * Directors of Religious Education, Catechists, and Youth Ministers
- * Liturgical Coordinators,
- * Parish Staff,
- * Volunteer Ministry teams,
- * and others!

This past fall, 10 new candidates entered the *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry* program.

Through independent online study with the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF), as well as regional skills workshops and gatherings together for prayer and reflection, *Diocesan Certificate* candidates enrich their knowledge of the Catholic faith, while also learning tools for effective parish ministry in their faith communities. This ministry formation process is typically completed within 2-3 years, based on the goals, interests, and schedule of each candidate.

Bert McNamee, a new candidate from Queen of Heaven Parish in Hazleton, said: "After a few months of study and several meetings with program participants, I am delighted to have entered the *Formation for Servant Leadership Program*. The fellowship has far exceeded my expectations, and on-line course study is interesting and enlightening."

Kevin Martin, from Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Brodheadsville, has already found solidarity with fellow parish leaders like Bert who recently started their formation process, too. "One of the highlights for me so far in the Lay Ministry program has been meeting others in the program. Going into the program, I felt overwhelmed and questioned why I was called. During our Orientation, someone said 'God doesn't call the qualified, he qualifies the called.' This has really helped me believe in my path."

The goal of this Diocesan ministry formation is to give candidates an opportunity for building knowledge through academic coursework, gaining skills for the doing of ministry, and aiding folks in cultivating and maintaining a healthy prayer life. An added gift of the program is the community element, which contributes a significant piece to what strengthens the *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry* experience. Candidates have the chance to learn alongside other parish ministers in an intentional way, and form friendships across the Diocese.

While entry into the program initially seemed daunting — given some years and distance from an earlier time in his own religious education experience — Kevin anticipates his journey through Lay Ministry Formation to continue being a rewarding experience, theologically and practically. "It has been many years since I've had any formal Catholic education, but it is my hope to grow my knowledge, so that I can pass that on to the young adults in my youth group ministry."

Later this month, the Office for Parish Life looks forward to welcoming a new cohort of participants to the *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry* program. Applications will be accepted until January 15, 2019.

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.

Catherine Jantsch Butel Appointed to National Advisory Council for U.S. Bishops

Catherine Jantsch Butel, Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life, has been appointed to serve on the National Advisory Council for Region III of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The Council is comprised of clergy, religious and laypersons representing the adult Catholic population in its range of vocational status, occupation, and areas of experience and expertise. The Council was formed three years after the close of Vatican II to reflect the total American Church at the national level to help the Bishops meet their responsibilities to the Church.

Council members, who serve four-year terms, offer a rich diversity of thought and leadership on matters referred to them by the USCCB Administrative Committee for consideration. They are nominated and selected based on their awareness of the needs of the Church and an understanding of the meaning of renewal, and familiarity with



major religious and social issues.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, who nominated Mrs. Butel for the appointment, is a member of the Administrative Committee and recently completed a term as one of four bishops who sit on the National Advisory Council.

Mrs. Butel has led the Office for Parish Life since 2012. She earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from the Graduate Theological Foundation in 2017, concentrating on Pastoral Planning and Church Management.



Campaign progressing toward goal

Continued from page 5

"The world needs Christ as its light to lead everyone to eternal life," she said. "Helping to promote human dignity, passing our faith on to others, training new priests and deacons, fostering faith in our communities and sharing the good news are all ways we can help be the light of Christ for others by donating to the Annual Appeal. We, as members of the Catholic faith, have a responsibility for this work to continue."

Diocesan ministries supported by gifts to the Annual Appeal include Catholic Social Services; parish social justice programs; Catholic education in our 20 Diocesan Catholic schools and in our parish religious education programs; care for our current and retired priests and support for seminarians preparing for the priesthood; parish life and pastoral planning efforts; and communication programs such as *The Catholic Light* and Catholic Television. Gifts to the Appeal are used solely to support these ministries and will not be used to defray legal fees or to fund the recently established Survivors Compensation Program.

Parishioners and friends may make an online gift to the Diocesan Annual Appeal by visiting www.annualappeal.org. Gifts may also be made by calling the Diocesan Development Office at 570-207-2250 or by sending a donation to: Diocesan Annual Appeal, 300 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA, 18503-1279.

The homeless population is rapidly becoming older and sicker, creating a national crisis that is hitting hard at home.

That's why Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton, which operates Scranton's only permanent overnight shelter for men and women, Saint Anthony's Haven on Olive Street, has created a pilot program to address the issue, and several local funding and service partners have stepped up to help.

Like many nationwide social-service agencies, CSS, which operates multiple housing facilities, has seen an alarming increase in the number of older individuals seeking refuge at Saint Anthony's while battling severe physical and mental conditions that often have worsened due to lack of treatment. These individuals also are revealing fears, frustrations and unfamiliarity with the local health-care system.

CSS launched Primary Care Pathfinders as a pilot program that matches homeless clients one-on-one with a navigator whose role is to ensure that important service connections are made and treatment is received.

CSS has received four grant commitments from local foundations in support of this new program. The most recent grant partner is the Moses Taylor Foundation, whose three-year, \$150,000 commitment combines with \$35,000 in support from the Margaret Briggs Foundation, \$10,000 from AllOne Charities and \$7,500 from the Robert L. Spitz Foundation to launch the pilot. The Robert L. Spitz Foundation also recently awarded \$10,000 in fund-



Shelter supervisor Gerald Hallinan, community services supervisor Stephanie Miller, and caseworker Maritza Ibanez gathered recently at Saint Anthony's Haven on Olive Street in Scranton to discuss the new Primary Care Pathfinders program, which four local foundations have recently supported with grant funding. The program will use one-on-one navigators to match homeless clients, particularly those who are ill and aging, with desperately needed health care resources.

The Catholic Light Photo/Mike Melisky

ing to Catholic Social Services' Pet Pantries, a new companion program to Primary Care Pathfinders that will ensure that veterans in CSS housing and homeless clients can own or keep healthy pets, many of whom are service animals.

The goals of the program are to help 60 homeless persons per year achieve significant health and housing outcomes while testing the value of intensive health-focused case management in the shelter system.

The Scranton Primary Health Care Center is the key CSS partner in the effort, which will rely on a certified patient navigator to physically shepherd clients into a CSS vehicle and transport them to Scranton Primary, where they will receive more advanced assessments. The navigator also will transport clients to places such as the Scranton Counseling Center or help them obtain prescriptions, monitor intake and provide refrigeration services if necessary. Supportive

health-related counseling will remain at the core of the mission.

Noting that experts have defined an aging person in the homeless population as 50 or above, Mary Theresa Malandro, Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Human Services and Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Social Services, recognized the commitment of the funding and service partners and said the time is now to act.

"We are seeing extreme illness and desperation within our shelter system at levels we have never experienced," Malandro said. "We cannot afford to wait to act, and that is why we are so grateful for the support of all of those who have joined with us to fight this battle and match our most vulnerable neighbors with the treatments they so urgently need."

The patient navigator will work with a newly created inter-agency consortium of service providers and will devel-

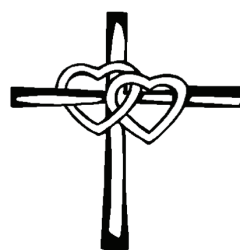
op an individualized plan to address each client's health issues and remove obstacles to independent living. So far, the consortium includes The Clinics at Scranton Primary Health Care Center, Geisinger CMC's Behavioral Health Unit, The Area Agency on Aging, The Community Intervention Center and United Neighborhood Centers of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

"This is much like a return to old-fashioned

The most recent grant partner is the Moses Taylor Foundation, whose three-year, \$150,000 commitment combines with \$35,000 in support from the Margaret Briggs Foundation, \$10,000 from AllOne Charities and \$7,500 from the Robert L. Spitz Foundation to launch the pilot. The Robert L. Spitz Foundation also recently awarded \$10,000 in funding to Catholic Social Services' Pet Pantries, a new companion program to Primary Care Pathfinders that will ensure that veterans in CSS housing and homeless clients can own or keep healthy pets, many of whom are service animals.

social work," said Steve Nocilla, director of housing and residential programs for Catholic Social Services, who will oversee the Pathfinders program. "The one-on-one model is rooted in the trust our shelter guests develop with us. Providing advice is no longer enough. We must walk with our clients every step of the way and let them know we have their best interests at heart."

For more information on the Primary Care Pathfinders program, contact Mary Theresa Malandro at 570-207-3808 or Mary-Theresa-Malandro@dioceseofscranton.org or Steve Nocilla at 570-209-9200, ext. 2103, or snocilla@cssscranton.org. For more information on funding partnerships for this program, contact Diocesan grant writer Sandra Snyder at 570-207-2250, ext. 1053, or Sandra-Snyder@dioceseofscranton.org.



Couples Invited To Participate In Wedding Anniversary Celebration

On June 30, 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 2019. 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 commitment to marriage and to receive a blessing on their marriage from the Bishop. 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 April 2. Parish lists are due to the Office for Parish Life by April 9.

Ecumenism: an ‘organic’ part of the mission of the Church

By Monsignor Vincent J. Grimalia

Diocesan Coordinator for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations

When we prepare to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity each year, it is helpful to recall the prayer of Jesus: “I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me.”

His prayer for unity is a prayer that people might believe that he was sent on mission. The New Evangelization includes a number of elements that can assist our parishes as they continue their pastoral planning: ecumenism, social justice and the new evangelization are connected.

In his encyclical *Ut Unum Sint* (“That they may be one”), Saint Pope John Paul II noted: “Because by its nature the content of faith is meant for all humanity, it must be translated into all cultures. Indeed, the element which determines communion in truth is *the meaning of truth*. The expression of truth can take different forms. The renewal of these forms of expression becomes necessary for the sake of transmitting to the people of today the Gospel message in its unchanging meaning.

“This renewal therefore has notable ecumenical significance. And not only renewal in which the faith is expressed, but also of the very life of faith. It might therefore be asked: who is responsible for doing this? To this question, the (Second Vatican) Council replies clearly: ‘Concern for restoring unity pertains to the whole Church, faithful and clergy alike. It extends to everyone, according to the ability of each, whether it be exercised in daily Christian living or in theological and historical studies.’

“Ecumenism is an organic part of (the Church’s) life and work, and consequently must pervade all that she is and does; it must be like the fruit borne by a healthy and flourishing tree which grows to its full stature.”

This is what Saint Pope John XXIII believed about the unity of the Church and how he saw full Christian unity. With regard to other Christians, to the great Christian family, he observed: “What unites us is much greater than what divides us.” The Second Vatican Council for its part exhorts “all Christ’s faithful to remember that the more purely they strive to live according to the Gospel, the more they are fostering and even practicing Christian unity. For they can achieve depth and ease in strengthening mutual brotherhood to the degree that they enjoy profound communion with the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit.”

Praying and working for Christian unity is something that must continue throughout the year. Membership in a local ministerium helps to motivate and educate members of various congregations and parishes of the importance of praying and working for unity and witnessing to the Gospel in the local community, looking at local concerns through the lens of the Gospel. Advent, Thanksgiving, Christian Unity Week, and Lenten prayer services, as well as educational programs, are examples that take place in various parts of the Diocese.

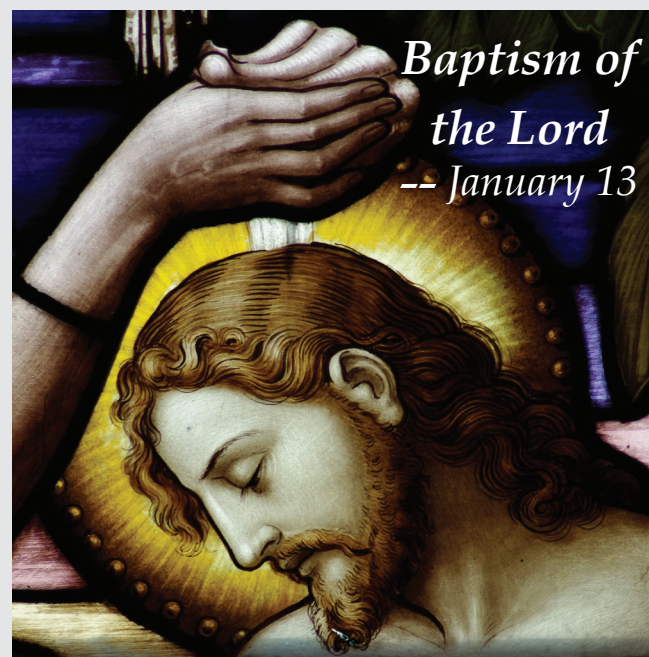
Within our Diocese, the Christian Communities Gathering of Northeast Pennsylvania was organized in 1999. Members are from various religious Christian traditions. They meet four times a year to discuss insights and perspectives from the various traditions on a variety of topics and concerns, e.g. environment, racism and cultural diversity.

These activities — and the awareness of all the faithful — enhance our understanding and commitment to ecumenism as an “organic” part of the mission of the Church.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

The faithful of the Diocese of Scranton are hereby advised that John Tokarick is not a Roman Catholic priest and is not permitted to function as a priest in the Roman Catholic Church. Furthermore, the Catholic faithful should not receive the sacraments from Tokarick or attend his celebration of the sacraments, wherever they may be held.

Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney
Vicar General
Diocese of Scranton



Prayer Requests for Priests

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

January 10, Jesuit Father Leonard Martin; January 11, Bishop Emeritus Joseph F. Martino; January 12, Father Joseph Matthey; January 13, Monsignor Donald McAndrews; January 14, Passionist Father Thomas McCann; January 15, Father Michael McCormick; January 16, Father Glenn McCreary, V.E.; January 17, Father Patrick McDowell; January

18, Father James McGahagan; January 19, Monsignor James McGarry; January 20, Father Gerard McGlone; January 21, Monsignor Stephen McGough; January 22, Father John McHale; January 23, Father Connell McHugh; January 24, Jesuit Father Bernard McIlhenny; January 25, Father Leo McKernan; January 26, Jesuit Father Ronald McKinney; January 27, Father Patrick McLaughlin; January 28, Father John Melnick; January 29, Father Peter Menghini; January 30, Father Edward Michelini.



The Catholic Light

(ISSN 0164-9418)

Official newspaper of the Diocese of Scranton. Published every third Thursday by the Catholic Light Publishing Co., 300 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA 18503-1287. Offices: 300 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA 18503. Phone: (570) 207-2229. Periodicals postage paid at Scranton, Pa., and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Catholic Light, 300 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA 18503-1287. Subscription rates: \$10 per year; \$12, foreign. Subscriber to the Catholic News Service. William R. Genello, Editor-in-Chief. *The Catholic Light* is our official diocesan journal. The publication of notices, regulations and extra-synodical decrees in said paper constitute legal promulgation for all the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton, Clergy and Laity. Your donation to the Diocesan Annual Appeal helps support *The Catholic Light*.

Diocese of Scranton
DIOCESAN
ANNUAL APPEAL



Volume 119 Number 1 — Thursday, January 10, 2019

SCRANTON — The annual Respect Life Prayer Breakfast hosted by the Scranton Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life will be held on Saturday, Feb. 2, beginning at 9 a.m. at Fiorelli's Catering, 1501 Main St., Peckville.

The PHL Chapter has announced the featured guest speaker for this year's pro-life gathering will be Seth Drayer, vice president of Created Equal, a pro-life education and outreach organization based in Columbus, Ohio.

In his role, Seth leads Created Equal's mission to equip pro-life defenders with the scientific and philosophical bases for the right to life, and the conversational skills needed to create dialogue about the abortion issue.



Seth Drayer

The keynote speaker is well known for engaging formal debates on life issues and his appearances on national television. Serving in full-time pro-life ministry since 2010, Seth earned a

bachelor's degree from Indiana University and is acclaimed for his inspirational message reaching all ages and affiliations.

He and his wife, Aubrie, are the parents of three children and reside in Columbus.

Cost to attend the prayer breakfast is \$22 for adults and \$10 for children, ages six to 12. Advance registration with payment is required by Jan. 25.

Reservations may be secured by forwarding a check, payable to Pennsylvanians for Human Life, to Anne Domin, 632 Gardner Road, Elmhurst Twp., PA 18444.

For more information, contact Anne at (570-842-9653) or visit the Scranton PHL Chapter website: www.prolifescranton.org.

January 18



How to Get to the March for Life Buses Scheduled for 46th Anniversary Event in Washington

SCRANTON — Pro-life advocates throughout the Diocese of Scranton will join tens of thousands of their counterparts from across the nation for the 46th annual March for Life on Friday, Jan. 18, in Washington, D.C.

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

In Washington, participants will come together with other activists for a peaceful march to protest the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, which legalized abortion-on-demand in America, resulting in the deaths of nearly 60 million unborn children.

Considered the world's largest pro-life event, the annual March for Life convenes with the traditional noontime rally on the National Mall, followed at approximately 1 p.m. by the march that proceeds on Constitution Avenue toward the U.S. Capitol, ending outside the Supreme Court of the United States.

"Unique From Day One: Pro-Life Is Pro-Science" is the theme for the 2019 march, which has been held every January since 1974. Following the March for Life, participants may visit their local congressional delegations.

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

HONESDALE

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

MONROE COUNTY (POCONOS)

Contact Joan Berdela, (570) 421-8636.

SCRANTON

Bus departs Scranton from the Keyser Oak Shopping Center at 6:30 a.m. and returns at approximately 11:30 p.m. Cost: \$40 for adults; \$20 for students. Reservations may be made by contacting the Scranton PHL Pro-Life Center office, located at 400 Wyoming Ave., at (570) 343-5099, or Theresa Baux at (570) 687-5329.

WILLIAMSPORT

Contact Evelyn Rall, (570) 398-0722.

WYOMING VALLEY

Contact Chris Calore, (570) 824-5621. Bus departs at 6:15 a.m. (following the 5:50 a.m. Mass) from Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, 116 Hughes St., Swoyersville; approximate return time is 10:30 p.m. Cost: \$50 per person, includes bus transportation and buffet dinner; reservations requested by Jan. 11. Forward check made payable to PHL to Chris Calore, 37 Elder St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702.



Many from our Diocese will be among the thousands at the **2019 March for Life** on Friday, January 18, in Washington, D.C. This year marks the 46th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion in the United States. The Diocese of Scranton hopes to use this opportunity to promote a **postcard campaign** around Respect Life issues across the country. Each parish will receive postcards to distribute to parishioners. Look for these postcards in your churches the weekends of January 20 and January 27.

Why a postcard campaign?

The Catholic Church has long committed itself to protecting life from conception until natural death. Recent events, however, have reminded the Diocese of Scranton that our commitment is important not only with the passage of particular laws or statements, but in real time. This campaign will attract the attention of our federal legislators at the very beginning of the **2019 Legislative Session**. We want to use the occasion of the March for Life to show our support for pro-life issues of all kinds. Finally, we would like to emphasize the number of people in our Diocese who will stand behind these issues by showing our legislators the volume of postcards that have been received from our parishes.

A Variety of Issues

This campaign will advocate for an expansive view of pro-life values. In the United States today, the dignity of the human person is challenged whenever we fail to respect the life of the most vulnerable. When we advocate for our pro-life values, we are speaking out against abortion, euthanasia, the separation of families, and any laws that devalue those who are voiceless. The cards also provide space for each parishioner to **sign their name and leave a short message**. Please consider adding a sentence or two stating your personal commitment to a pro-life ethic.

Special Delivery to D.C.

Postcards will be collected by your parish and returned to the **Office for Parish Life**. A Diocesan representative will personally deliver these postcards to our senators and representatives at the U.S. Capitol in early February.

The Power of Prayer

From January 14-22, consider joining thousands of Catholics across the country who will be praying for "9 Days for Life." The prayer campaign, sponsored by the Committee on Pro Life Activities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, leads up to the annual Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. The novena and day of prayer are a time of recollection and reparation in observation of the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*.

The overarching intention of the novena is that all human life will be respected. Each day of the "9 Days for Life" novena highlights a related topic and provides a reflection, educational information, and suggested daily actions.

Participants can subscribe to receive the daily prayers and other resources at www.9daysforlife.com.

Sisters reflect on encounters with migrants at U.S.-Mexico border

Sister Mary Elaine (continued from page 3)

For seven days, I heard the joyful voices and watched the hopeful faces of men and women as they made contact with family and friends in the United States who were willing to sponsor them. However, knowing the extremely low percentage of asylum cases actually granted (only three percent in El Paso and slightly higher percentages in other parts of the country), I could not help but wonder how many of them might arrive at their destination only to be denied asylum at their deportation hearing.

During the first several days at Casa Nazareth, I asked myself how it was possible to keep a hopeful spirit in the face of such dismal percentages. But then one day as I rolled the food cart into the dining room, I passed a man and three young boys kneeling before a large crucifix. I was struck by their intense faith in God's unconditional and providential love for them. It was obvious that, even in the face of great obstacles to their freedom and dangers to their life, they had not given up hope! Who was I then to doubt God's greatness and capacity to make the impossible happen?

Sister Donna:

I am forever grateful for the experience at the border in El Paso. Each moment was graced by the people we met on the journey: the women religious from various congregations with whom we ministered during the week, the countless volunteers who cooked and served meals, the people who offered precious time as they drove and accompanied the immigrants to bus stations and airports, and of course those who journeyed many miles across various countries to flee violence, poverty, and hunger in their native countries of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and others.

Although my heart was touched by all who journeyed to this border town, it was the Guatemalans who once again stole my heart. I suspect that meeting someone who was familiar with their customs, traditions, and in some cases, language, gave them some sense of connection as well. I could see it in their eyes and in their smiles, and later as they were leaving, in their embraces.

A symbolic moment of our time in El Paso was for me the realization that all of our journeys are somehow connected. I brought a pair of running shoes with me. Each morning I would get up around 4 a.m. and head out the door for morning exercise, contemplation, and reflection on the previous day's events. On our last day at the shelter, it dawned on me that my running shoes were in better shape than most of the other donated shoes in the clothes closet. So I washed them, added them to the pile of donated shoes, and gave a symbolic blessing to my faithful running companions and a prayer to whomever would wear them on the next part of their journey.

That afternoon, Sister Kieran asked a father and son to help mop the kitchen floor. Much to my surprise, there was a handsome young Guatemalan man wearing my running shoes! I asked his name. It is Darío. He is from Alta Vera Paz, Guatemala. At that moment I felt a special bond with Darío. Somehow his journey is connected to mine. The journeys of all of those who cross our borders are connected to ours. We are but companions on this earthly journey, called to walk in each other's shoes, to be welcome, to be light, to be sister and brother to one another.

Sister Kieran:

"Demos Gracias al Señor, demos Gracias. Demos Gracias al Señor."

Forty-eight hours before our IHM sisters were leaving for the borders at El Paso, there was an opening for someone to join them. I thought, I would love to go but it's the third week of Advent and final preparations for Christmas. There is no way. Before too long, I realized that my responsibilities in ministry were well on their way with wonderful people in place to take the lead. I'm so grateful for the tremendous love, prayers and support of family, community and ministry for blessing me as a companion on this journey with Mary Ellen, Donna, and Mary Elaine. One thing for sure, Advent and Christmas was about to take on new meaning for me.

Shortly after we arrived, we went to the school to meet Sister Buffy, our contact person who is the president of the Loretto Nazareth School. After a brief orientation, I asked if I could borrow instruments to use with the children and families during our stay here. Immediately, I was given a guitar and many wonderful percussion instruments. What a blessing!

Every day before and after meals, we sang familiar songs and made a "joyful noise unto the Lord." With the little children, we sang bilingually "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes," the Alphabet and Nursery Rhymes. "Demos Gracias Al Señor" and "Santa Maria Del Camino" were our favorite hymns that reflected joy and gratitude for the beautiful hospitality and many blessings received at Annunciation House.

Throughout the day, you would meet so many volunteers happily taking sheets and blankets to be laundered, people in the kitchen preparing the next meal, volunteers making important phone calls to families, the drivers and people checking rooms for the new guests arriving between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. Care packages with burritos, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, water, snacks, diapers for the young babies and toys for the children for the long journey ahead, were carefully prepared and placed in the office for each family's departure. The providence of God was so evident. As soon as the shelves were empty in the kitchen or snacks for the care packages were gone, a new donation would arrive.

The volunteers giving out personal hygiene supplies for showers, clean underwear and clothes were so respectful. I can still see this little boy after his shower. He was so excited to have clean clothes and new shoes on. It didn't bother him that the pants were two sizes too big. He just kept smiling, pulling the pants up and skipping around the room.

Praying with the refugees was profound and so difficult. Hearing their stories and those of Ruben Garcia, the director of the program, really tugged at my heart. What can we do to challenge the system in place? Children and youth are still being separated from their families and dying. People are being placed in holding cells for up to two weeks, where the conditions are so tight that they are not able to move or stretch as well as take care of their human bodily needs.

When Ruben Garcia concluded his orientation, he said to us, "Tell the stories in your churches, communities... The migration of people is a global problem. They are our people."

This has been a humbling journey for me this Advent and Christmas, but nothing like the journey of Mary, Joseph and Jesus — or these beautiful people looking for a better place to live and raise their children.

May God bless us with the grace to take action and make a difference for all the children and families everywhere.

Sister Mary Ellen:

There were many moments in El Paso that caused me to pause and try not to let my mind go too deeply into what was actually occurring around me. I knew I needed to keep it together emotionally to be able to assist these people on their journeys. However, their stories still get caught in my throat when I try to retell them.

One woman, who especially captured my soul was Maria Luz. She had two small children and a two-month-old little girl. She came into the office as I was making phone calls to obtain drivers for families to get to the airport or one of the bus stations to travel to be reunited with their families. I heard Maria Luz sharing her story with another volunteer and I stopped to listen more intently to these unbelievable details that she was sharing.

Maria Luz had traveled from Guatemala with her three children and her 12-year-old sister. Although Maria Luz and her three children came to Casa Nazareth, where we were working, her younger sister was detained as an "unaccompanied minor" because she was not with one of her parents. Maria Luz was distraught. The sadness in her eyes was so very deep it was painful to look into her eyes. She explained that she could not sleep at night worrying about her little sister. We called the detention center only to be told that her sister was sent to a shelter but they did not know which one.

Maria Luz's face was stoic and so sad. I just laid my hand on her shoulder and prayed for strength for her and Maria Luz melted into tears. She needed to cry. She had been bearing so much and trying to be strong for her children.

On her last day with us, she was leaving with her three children by bus for Florida to join family members. She was assured by ICE that she would be reunited with her sister once she arrived at her final destination with family members. Maria Luz was at peace with this news and ready to leave when I said good-bye to her that Thursday afternoon. This family had a three-day bus ride ahead of them. Since then, I have tried to verify if she was reunited with her younger sister but to date I have no news.

We return from the border and invite us all to continue to find ways to live the goals we set for ourselves in July and ask for the graces that we each need to live fully "in the midst of the pain of our world and join with others in seeing and being the light that shines through the cracks of broken hearts." (Chapter 2018 Direction Statement).

Conclusion

In each of these reflections from El Paso, we hear echoes of the First Christmas story. A young family traveling to Bethlehem to pay taxes 2,000 years ago seems somehow to speak of these young families today trying to find a way to raise their families in a place where they hope to find work and a future. Is there room for them in the Inn of our hearts, minds, and country? Can the soul of our country meet the Gospel invitation that is calling to us as we enter into this New Year of 2019?

The gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh that the three kings brought to the manger, seem to be replaced in these stories with gifts of running shoes, the faith of a father and son kneeling in prayer, the healing sounds of music and song, and the gift of human touch for those families who crossed our paths in El Paso, Texas.

Diocese to Observe Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Diocese of Scranton will again participate in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity January 18-25. This annual observance gives Christians an opportunity to continue their quest for the unity they already share in Christ. It is also a time to gather in praise of the Triune God and to deepen the understanding of the ecumenical movement.

By joining in this celebration, Christians raise their voices, hands and hearts to God seeking the fulfillment of the prayer of Jesus, the Son of God, "that they all may be one."

The Week of Prayer also invites us to examine the effectiveness of the ecumenical movement in seeking to end the divisions among Christians. From the smallest to the largest communities, from all cultures, races and language groups, from all the baptized to all those in ordained ministry, the Week of Prayer is also an opportunity to ask and examine the level of support they have given to this important movement in the life of the Church.

The theme for the 2019 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is "Justice, Only Justice, You Shall Pursue" (*Deuteronomy* 16:20). This year's observance also coincides with the 55th anniversary of the promulgation of the *Decree on Ecumenism* of the Second Vatican Council, which brought the Catholic Church into the modern ecumenical movement.

The Diocese of Scranton will host an Ecumenical Celebration of God's Word on Thursday, January 24, at 12:10 p.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton. There will be no 12:10 p.m. Mass that day in the Cathedral. All are welcome to attend. CTV: Catholic Television will broadcast the service live.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, will preside. Reverend Rebecca Tanner, moderator of Ashley Presbyterian Church, will preach.



Reverend Rebecca Tanner

Reverend Tanner is a graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Prior to her position at Ashley Presbyterian Church, she served as pastor of Silver Lake Presbyterian Church in Brackney and The Hyde Park Presbyterian Church in Scranton.

She has been the chaplain for Manor Care nursing homes in Kingston and Wilkes-Barre, and for Mercy Hospice and PHCP Hospice. She currently serves as part-time chaplain for the VA Medical Center in Wilkes-Barre. Reverend Tanner has always been active in ecumenical activities, including serving as president of the West Side Ministerium in Scranton. She was also state president of Church Women United.

Clergy and representatives from various Christian traditions and ecumenical agencies will be present at the prayer service. Liturgical music will be provided by the choir from All Saints Academy, Scranton, under the direction of Anthony Wozinski.

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

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

THREE KINGS DAY FIESTA



The Three Kings of biblical fame arrived in the Poconos on Epiphany Sunday weekend bearing gifts for children of all ages and backgrounds to usher in the year 2019. Saint Luke's Parish Hall, at the corner of 9th and Main Streets in Stroudsburg, again hosted this annual celebration that began on Saturday afternoon, January 5, with activities for youngsters and their families.

This particular fiesta — an important commemoration of the Feast of the Epiphany among Hispanics — reenacts the Gospel narration of the Magi bringing gifts from afar to the Christ Child. In order for this traditional celebration to find its rightful place in America, the Federation of Latinos for Education about the Cultures of Hispanic America (FLECHA) has sponsored the event since 2013 — becoming more popular every year.

As is tradition, the joyous gathering featured a "Living Nativity," with its religious meaning explained for the children by Professor Anthony M. Stevens-Arroyo. The narrative was followed by the distribution of toys for the young children and refreshments for all.

The honor of portraying the The Three Kings went to Gilbert Flecha, who serves as treasurer of the organization; Michael Albert, the regional director of United Way; and Richard Moreland, a civic leader.



**Eucharistic Adoration - Speaker - Praise & Worship Music -
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**Sunday, January 13, 6 PM, Saint Jude Parish,
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**For more information, visit vocations.dioceseofscranton.org
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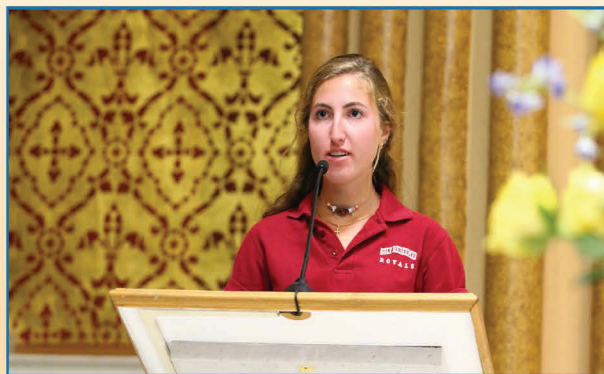
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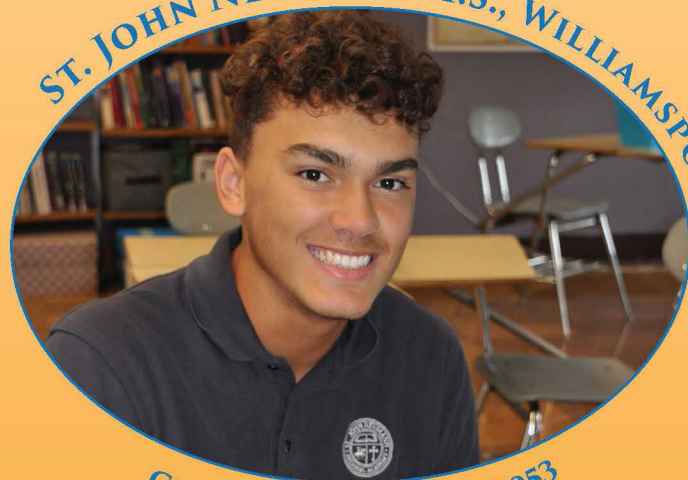
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Misericordia Event Series to Honor Martin Luther King, Black History Month

DALLAS — Misericordia University will host a series of special events throughout January and February to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and recognize February as Black History Month.

Misericordia University will launch the celebration on Monday, Jan. 21, with an ecumenical prayer service calling for peace and understanding in the world. The service at 12 noon in the University Chapel in Mercy Hall will feature traditional prayer offerings and blessings by leaders from numerous faiths and religious traditions.

Serving as coordinators are Mercy Sister Jean Messaros, vice president for Mission Integration, and Jim Calderone, OFM, Ed.D., professor emeritus of social work.

Also on Jan. 21, the university will present the film, "King in the Wilderness," the first of two films on race, at 6 p.m. in Lemmond Theater in Walsh Hall. A discussion, under the direction of Ryan Watson, Ph.D., assistant professor of film and visual media in the Department of Fine Arts, will follow.

Directed by Peter Kunhardt, the 2018 HBO film offers a portrait of Dr. King during the last years of his life, from his role in the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to his assassination in 1968.

On Wednesday, Jan. 23, the Northeast Pennsylvania Ethics Institute at Misericordia University will sponsor the panel discussion, "Immigration in Central America," at 5 p.m. in Alden Trust Room 219 of Sandy and Marlene Insalaco Hall. The panel will address immigration issues in the United States in the context of building and nurturing Dr. King's "Beloved Community."

The program, "Human Trafficking: A Survivor's Story," will be presented on Thursday, Jan. 24 at 12:30 p.m. in Huntzinger and Alden Trust Rooms 218-219 of Insalaco Hall. Speaker Evelyn Chumbow, an activist against modern day slavery and a survivor of human trafficking, will share her experiences.

A native of the West African nation of Cameroon, Ms. Chumbow was sent by her parents to the United States to receive an education, but was held as a personal slave. After seven years in captivity, she escaped, enrolled in GED courses and attended community college. She currently studies homeland security at the University of Maryland University College.

Misericordia will observe February as Black History Month beginning on Friday, Feb. 15, with the presentation, "Is Everyone

Racist? Understanding Subtle Prejudice in the U.S. Today," featuring Wind Goodfriend, Ph.D., at 12 noon in Lemmond Theater in Walsh Hall. Dr. Goodfriend is a social psychology professor who will discuss various forms of racism and how psychology attempts to measure racism in increasingly implicit ways.

The second of two films on race, "I Am Not Your Negro," will be screened on Wednesday, Feb. 20, at 6 p.m. in Lemmond Theater in Walsh Hall.

In 1979, author and social critic James Baldwin wrote a letter to his literary agent describing his next project, "Remember This House." The book was to be a revolutionary, personal account of the lives and assassinations of three of his close friends: Medgar Evers, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr.

At the time of Baldwin's death in 1987, with only 30 pages of the manuscript completed, filmmaker Raoul Peck went on to produce the 2016 Academy Award-nominated film envisioning the book James Baldwin never finished.

For more information about the scheduled events, contact the Mission Integration Office at (570) 674-1877 or visit www.misericordia.edu/mlk.

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A brief pro-life prayer is offered daily that the endangered baby in the womb will be carried to term and experience the fullness of life, as intended by God.

For more information, contact Rita Ferrance, 573 Orchard St., Askam, PA 18706. Phone: (570-706-6867).



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Oblates to Host Feast of the Holy Spouses Celebration

PITTSTON — The Congregation of the Oblates of Saint Joseph will host their annual celebration of the Feast of the Holy Spouses — the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph — with a special Mass on Sunday, Jan. 20, at 3 p.m. in the chapel of Saint Joseph’s Oblate Seminary, Route 315, Laflin.

Principal celebrant and homilist for the Eucharistic liturgy will be Oblate Father Mariusz Beczek, pastor of Annunciation Parish in Hazleton.

The special liturgy, which will be concelebrated by the Oblate Fathers, will suffice for the

Sunday Mass obligation. A light reception will follow in the seminary community room, hosted by the Josephite-Marellian Laity Association.

In anticipation of the Mass for the Holy Spouses feast, the Oblates seminary will host a triduum — three days of prayer — from Thursday through Saturday, Jan. 17-19, with Mass being offered each evening at 7 p.m., followed by Novena prayers.

Since 1989, the Feast of the Holy Spouses has been a particular liturgical celebration on the proper calendar of the Oblates’ congregation. The actual feast day of Jan.

23 dates back as early as the 15th century and was first introduced into the religious order by their founder, Saint Joseph Marelllo (1844-1895).

All are welcome to this celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage, especially all married and engaged couples. Holy Spouses lapel pins will be distributed following the Mass.

Faithful are encouraged to offer their own personal petitions to Saint Joseph and the Blessed Mother.

For more information, contact the OSJ seminary at (570-654-7542).

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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Spiritual Offerings Around the Diocese

Weekly Bible Study — JAN.

11, hosted by St. Lawrence Parish in Great Bend; held every Friday at 7 p.m. in the Trinity Center, adjacent to St. Lawrence Church. All are welcome.

Friday Pro-Life Rosary Vigil

— **JAN. 11**, sponsored by the Catholics Defending Life Prayer & Awareness Team; group gathers every Friday from 1 to 1:30 p.m. at Lackawanna County Courthouse Square, North Washington Ave., in downtown Scranton (weather permitting). Recitation of the Rosary offered, along with pro-life meditations, Divine Mercy Chaplet and other prayer devotions for the respect and dignity of all human life from conception to natural death. Pro-life signs are welcome.

Weekly Queen of Our Hearts

Rosary Prayer Service — JAN. 12, hosted every Saturday morning at Good Shepherd Church in Drums; group gathers weekly beginning at 11 a.m. Devotion includes recitation of the Chaplet of the Infant of Prague, the Holy Rosary, and Chaplet of the Divine Mercy. Prayer petitions may be submitted at the church. All faithful are welcome.

Spiritual Support Group:

Scranton Mental Health Ministry — JAN. 12 & 26, hosted by the Cathedral of St. Peter in Scranton; providing a safe, supportive space for individuals who are experiencing mental illness. Group meets at 10 a.m. on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month in the Bishops Hall at the Cathedral Rectory, 315 Wyoming Ave. Meetings will be approximately 90 minutes; refreshments provided. Participating Scranton parishes include St. Peter's; Mary, Mother of God; and Immaculate Conception. For more information, contact Deacon Ed Shoener (Cathedral), (570-344-7231); Deacon Jan Mroz (Mary, Mother of God), (570-342-4881); or Deacon Pat McDonald (Immaculate Conception), (570-961-5211).

Sunday Charismatic Mass

& Healing Service — JAN. 13, sponsored by Catholic Charismatic prayer groups in the Scranton Diocese; hosted by Queen of the Apostles Parish at St. Mary Church, 715 Hawthorne St., Avoca. Rosary recitation begins at 6:30 p.m., followed by celebration of Mass at 7 p.m. and prayers for healing. Celebrant: Father August Ricciardi, spiritual director of the

Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the Diocese. Gathering concludes with light refreshments and fellowship.

Wednesday Eucharistic

Adoration — JAN. 16, hosted at St. Joseph's Oblate Seminary, Route 315, Laflin; Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held every Wednesday evening from 6 to 7 p.m. in the seminary chapel. Includes recitation of the Rosary and opportunity for confessions. Mass celebrated at 7 p.m., followed by Novena prayers to St. Joseph and St. Joseph Marello, founder of the Oblates of St. Joseph religious congregation. For more information, contact the OSJ seminary at (570-654-7542).

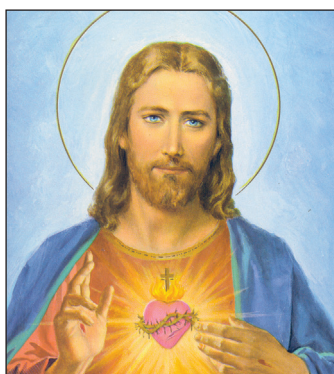
Weekly Bible Study — JAN.

16, hosted by Prince of Peace Parish in Old Forge; weekly sessions offered on Wednesdays from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room at St. Lawrence Church, Main St., Old Forge. Guest facilitator: JoAnn Wilbur. All faithful are welcome; refreshments will be provided.

Continued on Page 18



Blue Army Reparation Vigil



The next monthly First Friday Reparation Vigil, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary and sponsored by the Blue Army, will be held **February 1** at Saint Joseph's Oblate Seminary, 1880 Highway 315, Laflin (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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JANUARY SCHEDULE

CTV LOCAL ORIGATION IS BOXED IN BOLD BORDER, OTHER PROGRAMMING IS FROM EWTN

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY				
12:00: AM	EWTN SPECIALS	SUNDAY MASS (Encore)	DAILY MASS (Encore)				FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE				
1:00 AM	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	(1:10AM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	THE JOURNEY HOME (Encore)	MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE CLASSICS	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	THE WORLD OVER (Encore)	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY				
1:30 AM	GRANDPARENTS	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	G.K. CHESTERTON				
2:00 AM	ICONS SPOTLIGHT						EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Encore)				
2:30 AM	CATHOLIC ANSWERS LIVE						EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY
3:00 AM	EWTN ON LOCATION	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY	REAL LIFE CATHOLIC	LIFE ON THE ROCK	BATTLE READY	CONSECRATION TO JESUS THROUGH MARY					
3:30AM			ANGELUS FROM NAZARETH	SAINTS VS SCOUNDRELS	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOG	YOU'RE AMAZING					
3:40 AM			DEFENDING LIFE	PAPAL AUDIENCE(3:50AM)	BOB AND PENNY LORD PRESENT	WEB OF FAITH 2.0	SAVORING OUR FAITH				
3:50AM	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	DOOR OF FAITH	OUR FAITH IN ACTION					FORGOTTEN HERITAGE	BEHOLD THE MAN		
4:30 AM		CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN	CONTEMPLATION								
5:00 AM	FR. RUTLER: CHRIST IN THE CITY	EWTN BOOKMARK	THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL	CONSUMING THE WORD	EWTN SPECIALS	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY	CATHOLIC BEGINNINGS				
5:30 AM	THE WILD GOOSE	A FORCE FOR GOOD	APOSTOLATE FOR FAMILY CONSECRATION	FUNDAMENTALS OF CATHOLICISM				CATHOLICS COME HOME			
6:00 AM	ANGELUS WITH POPE FRANCIS	EWTN ORIGINAL PRODUCTIONS									
6:30 AM	WHERE GOD WEEPS	G.K. CHESTERTON	CHURCH AND THE POOR	MATTHEWS TESTIMONY TO JESUS	ICONS SPOTLIGHT	THE CHOICES WE FACE	SAINTS vs. SCOUNDRELS				
7:00 AM	THE CHAPLET OF ST. MICHAEL					STATIONS OF THE CROSS	CHAPLET OF ST. MICHAEL				
7:30 AM			HOLY LAND ROSARY				THE HOLY ROSARY FROM LOURDES				
7:50 AM	ROSARY FROM LOURDES	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) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	SUNDAY BEST WITH FR. GROESCHEL	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION (ENCORE)	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	THE WORLD OVER (Encore)	BUGTIME ADVENTURES				
9:30 AM	EWTN BOOKMARK	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE						MY TIME WITH JESUS			
10:00 AM	PRO LIFE WEEKLY	MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE CLASSICS	LIVE WITH PASSION	CTV SPECIAL PRESENTATION	FOCUS	WEEKLY NOVENA TO ST. ANN	CAT CHAT				
10:30 AM	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY		FAMILY THEATER		FOCUS	FOCUS	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY				
11:00 AM	FUNDAMENTALS OF CATHOLICISM	WOMEN OF GRACE					BOB & PENNY LORD PRESENT				
11:30 AM	HOLY ROSARY FROM LOURDES	THE CHOICES WE FACE	WEEKLY NOVENA TO ST. ANN	MUSIC AND THE SPOKEN WORD	MASTERPIECE DONUT SHOP	LIVE WITH PASSION	HOLY ROSARY FROM LOURDES				
12:00 PM	SUNDAY MASS (Encore)	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, LIVE AT 12:10 p.m.					EWTN DAILY MASS (Encore)				
12:30PM		"DIOCESAN DATEBOOK" airs before and after Mass.									
1:00 PM	(1:10PM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	PRO LIFE WEEKLY	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	10 COMMANDMENTS OF CATHOLIC FAMILY LIFE	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE				
1:30 PM	IN CONCERT	FATIMA: HEAVEN'S PEACE PLAN	FORGOTTEN HERITAGE	IMAGES OF MARY	QUEEN OF HEAVEN	TOTAL CONSECRATION TO JESUS THRU MARY	EWTN BOOKMARK				
2:00 PM		CALLED TO COMMUNION	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION	FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	THE JOURNEY HOME	SPECIALS	EWTN ON LOCATION				
2:30 PM											
3:00 PM											
3:15 PM	THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY IN SONG										
3:30 PM	REFLECTIONS										
3:30 PM	THE HOLY ROSARY IN STAINED GLASS	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, (Encore)					ROSARY FOR LIFE				
4:00 PM	GRAB YOUR CATECHISM	THE HOLY ROSARY DIOCESAN DATEBOOK					CALLED TO COMMUNION				
4:30 PM	LIFE IS WORTH LIVING	BUGTIME ADVENTURES	MY TIME WITH JESUS	CHILDRENS SPECIALS	THE FRIAR	WAY OF THE CROSS FOR KIDS					
5:00 PM	THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL	EWTN BOOKMARK	THE CHOICES WE FACE	CONVERSATIONS FROM THE WORLD OVER SHOW	BOB & PENNY LORD PRESENT	A FORCE FOR GOOD	CATHOLIC ANSWERS LIVE				
5:30 PM	PASSIONIST SUNDAY MASS	SPECIALS					CONSUMING THE WORD				
6:00 PM	HOLY HOUR FOR HEALING AND JUSTICE	EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Live)					OUR FAITH IN ACTION				
6:30 PM		CATHOLICS COME HOME	REAL LIFE CATHOLICS	CHURCH UNIVERSAL	TBA		CHURCH AND POOR				
7:00 PM		THE JOURNEY HOME	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, (Encore)					DAILY MASS			
7:30PM	THE HOLY ROSARY		POPE'S AUDIENCE	THE HOLY ROSARY							
8:00 PM	DIOCESAN DATEBOOK										
8:00 PM	SUNDAY BEST WITH FR. GROESCHEL	THE JOURNEY HOME (Live)	CTV SPECIAL PRESENTATION	EWTN LIVE	THE WORLD OVER (Live)	SPECIALS	EWTN CINEMA				
8:30 PM	CATHOLICS COME HOME										
9:00 PM	LIFE ON THE ROCK	EWTN NIGHTLY NEWS (Encore)		EWTN NIGHTLY NEWS (Encore)							
9:30 PM	HOLY ROSARY W MOTHER ANGELICA	WEEKLY NOVENA TO ST. ANN	THE CHOICES WE FACE	FOCUS	LIVE WITH PASSION	WEEKLY NOVENA TO ST. ANN	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY				
10:00PM	EWTN SPECIALS	THE WORLD OVER LIVE (ENCORE)	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION (ENCORE)	FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	PRO-LIFE WEEKLY	LIFE ON THE ROCK					
10:30 PM					DEFENDING LIFE	ICONS SPOTLIGHT					
11:00PM	CATHOLIC BEGINNINGS	BATTLE READY	FATHERS FOR GOOD	CROSSING THE GOAL	BEHOLD THE MAN	REAL LIFE CATHOLIC	WEB OF FAITH 2.0				
11:30PM	CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN	WOMEN OF GRACE									

Spiritual Offerings

Wednesday Eucharistic Adoration — JAN. 16, hosted by Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Tunkhannock; exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament offered every Wednesday from 2 to 5 p.m. in Nativity BVM Church, 99 East Tioga St., Tunkhannock. All faithful are welcome. For more information, call (570-881-9916).

Weekly Divine Mercy Devotion — JAN. 16, hosted by St. Lawrence Parish in Great Bend; Hour of Mercy devotion held every Wednesday at 3 p.m. in St. Lawrence Church. All faithful are welcome.

Meeting of Lay Carmelites — JAN. 19, hosted by Our Lady of the Mountains Lay Carmelite Chapter; meetings held on the third Saturday of each month at Little Flower Manor, 200 S. Meade St., Wilkes-Barre. For more information, contact Rose Bordi at (570-445-5457).

Gathering of the Secular Discalced Carmelites — JAN. 20, canonically established community of the Diocese of Scranton; gatherings are usually held on the third Sunday of every month at Holy Annunciation Monastery in Sugarloaf, Luzerne County. All are welcome, especially those who feel called to a deeper consecration in life and wish to experience Carmelite spirituality and community. Call Ann Marie Fierro (570-454-4493), Nicole Tranguch

(570-751-4729) or Marie Schimmelbusch (570-822-6561) for more information.

Bereavement Support Gatherings — JAN. 20 & FEB. 6, hosted by Our Lady of the Snows Parish in Clarks Summit; support group meetings held on the first Wednesday of the month, at 10 a.m., and the third Sunday of the month, at 2 p.m., in the Gathering Room (lower level) of Our Lady of the Snows Church, 301 South State St., Clarks Summit. All are welcome; no registration is required.

Weekly Bereavement Support Group Sessions — JAN. 23-FEB. 13, series of four consecutive weekly meetings, addressing topics dealing with the grief process in order for participants to find healing; Bereavement Support Group meets on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave., Scranton (across from St. Peter's Cathedral). Anyone interested in attending is asked to contact the Cathedral Parish office at (570-344-7231).

Catholic Charismatic Regional Prayer Meeting — JAN. 28, sponsored by local Charismatic prayer groups; begins at 7:30 p.m. in Queen of the Apostles Parish Hall, 715 Hawthorne St., Avoca. Gathering includes songs, praise, spiritual gifts, and a faith witness; fellowship with refreshments will conclude the meeting. All faithful are welcome.

Charismatic Mass, Healing Service Set

SCRANTON — Catholic Charismatic prayer groups in the Diocese of Scranton invite all faithful to participate in a Charismatic Mass and healing service hosted by Queen of the Apostles Parish in Avoca on Sunday, Jan. 13, at Saint Mary Church, 715 Hawthorne St., Avoca.



Fr. August Ricciardi

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.

Spiritual Offerings Around the Diocese

First Friday Pro-Life Prayer Vigil — FEB. 1, monthly pro-life gathering to offer prayerful witness at the new Planned Parenthood location in Wilkes-Barre at 101 North Main St.; recitation of the Rosary begins at 9 a.m. for the special intentions of an end to abortion and

closure of the Planned Parenthood facility. All faithful are welcome to participate.

First Friday Marian Devotion & Healing Mass — FEB. 1, hosted by St. Lucy Parish at St. Lucy Church, 949 Scranton St., west

Scranton; begins at 6:30 p.m. with recitation of the Rosary and devotional prayers led by Adele Garofalo. Healing Mass celebrated at 7 p.m., including prayers for healing and anointing blessing. Music ministry provided by Ernie Pappa. All faithful are welcome.

Padre Pio Prayer Ministry — FEB. 6, hosted by St. Faustina Kowalska Parish in Nanticoke; begins with celebration of Mass at 6 p.m. at the parish worship site of 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.

Scranton Mental Health Ministry: Spiritual Support Group for Family & Friends — FEB. 7, hosted by the Cathedral of St. Peter in Scranton; providing a safe, supportive space for parents, family members and friends of

individuals who are experiencing mental illness. Group meets at 6 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month in the Bishops Hall at the Cathedral Rectory, 315 Wyoming Ave. Meetings will be approximately 90 minutes; refreshments provided. Participating Scranton parishes include St. Peter's; Mary, Mother of God; and Immaculate Conception. For more information, contact Deacon Ed Shoener (Cathedral), (570-344-7231); Deacon Jan Mroz (Mary, Mother of God), (570-342-4881); or Deacon Pat McDonald (Immaculate Conception), (570-961-5211).

Evening of Prayer with the Sisters of IHM — FEB. 13, sponsored by the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary; monthly prayer service held on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel at the IHM Center, 2300 Adams Ave., Scranton (top of University Ave., beyond Marywood University). All are welcome.

Knights' Respect Life Mass January 13 in Kingston

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

The Respect Life Mass will be offered this Sunday, Jan. 13, at the 10:30 a.m. liturgy celebrated at Saint Ignatius Church, 339 North Maple Ave., Kingston.

During the Eucharistic celebration, area Knights and pro-life representatives will offer prayer intentions for a greater respect for all human life and an end to abortion.

Monsignor David Tressler, host pastor, welcomes all faithful to attend and join in prayerful support of all life, from conception to natural death, most especially the unborn, those with disabilities, and the ill, aged and infirm.

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Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese of Scranton

Weekly Bingo — JAN. 14, hosted by Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Dickson City; bingo games held every Monday evening, with doors opening at 4:30 p.m. Early bird games begin at 6:40 p.m.; regular games start at 7 p.m. Admission fee includes 20 games; progressive jackpot

each week. Homemade food sold before the bingo; homemade pizza available during the games and for take-out. Return coupon for new players; door prizes awarded each week. Van shuttle service provided free of charge from Carbondale and Scranton. For more information, call (570-489-2091).

Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary Bingo — JAN. 16 & FEB. 6, 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, 6:30). Event includes homemade foods and desserts; specialty games, refreshments, door prizes and progressive jackpot. Free admission; for more information, call (570-876-1061).

Big Brothers Big Sisters Game Night — JAN. 17, to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of The Bridge, a program of Catholic Social Services; hosted from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Woodlands Inn and Resort in Wilkes-Barre (doors open at 5:30 p.m.). Participants/contestants will enjoy a fun eve-

ning of playing popular parlor games; everyone is welcome to attend. Tickets cost \$35 each or \$140 for a team of four; includes hearty appetizers and two complimentary beverages. Prizes awarded and raffle drawing will be held. Purchase tickets online at <http://www.bbbsnepa.com/gamenight/>. For more information, call (570-824-8756).

CSS Auxiliary Night at the Races — JAN. 19, hosted by the Catholic Social Services Auxiliary of Hazleton; held at Catholic Social Services Family Center, 106 South Church St., Hazleton. Doors open at 6 p.m.; races start at 7 p.m. Seating is limited; event is for adults only (at least 21 years of age). Advance tickets cost \$10 each; \$15 at the door. Admission includes food and soft beverages. To purchase a horse or sponsor an ad in the program booklet, contact Catholic Social Services at (570-455-1521). All proceeds benefit Catholic Social Services programs serving the Greater Hazleton area.

Homemade Pigs-in-Blanket Takeout Dinner — JAN. 23, sponsored by the Men's Society of Nativity of Our Lord Parish in Duryea; held from 4 to 6 p.m. in the parish hall. Dinners include homemade piggies and mashed potatoes, green beans, roll and dessert. Cost: two-piggy dinner: \$10; three-piggy dinner: \$12; extra mashed potatoes: \$2.50 each. Advance orders only; due by Jan. 20. To pre-order call (570-457-3502), Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Delivery available to Duryea and surrounding communities.

Night at the Races — JAN. 26, sponsored by Queen of the Apostles Parish at St. Mary Church, Avoca; held in the parish hall, 742 Spring St., Avoca. Doors open at 5 p.m.; races begin at 7 p.m. Admission cost: \$10 per person, includes food and beverages. Horse sponsorships available for \$10 each; event program registration forms required by Jan. 18. Patrons may provide their own beverages and food items. For more information, contact the parish office at (570-457-3412) or staff@queenoftheapostles.com.

Chili Cook-Off Competition — JAN. 27, featuring the men and women of St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport; begins 1 p.m. in the parish's Fleming Center, 720 West Fourth St., Williamsport. Chili sampling costs \$5 per person; children under age 11 admitted free. Hot dogs and drinks available for purchase.

Annual Respect Life Prayer Breakfast — FEB. 2, sponsored by the Scranton Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life; begins at 9 a.m. at Fiorelli's Catering, 1501 Main St., Peckville. Guest speaker: Seth Drayer, vice president for Created Equal, a pro-life education and outreach organization based in Columbus, Ohio. Advance registration and payment required by Jan. 25. Cost: adults, \$22; children (ages 6 to 12), \$10. For more information, contact Anne Domin at (570-842-9653) or the Scranton PHL Pro-Life Center, 400 Wyoming Ave., Scranton. Phone: (570-343-5099); website: www.prolifescranton.org.

Homemade Pizza & Chicken Wing Super Bowl Sale — FEB. 3, sponsored by the Men's Society of Nativity of Our Lord Parish in Duryea; 3 to 5 p.m. in the parish hall. Menu: homemade red pizza tray (baked or unbaked), \$14, w/pepperoni, \$15; mild, hot or honey garlic wings, \$9 per dozen; combo of two dozen wings and tray of pizza, \$29, w/pepperoni, \$30; bleu cheese & celery, \$1. Advance orders only; due by Jan. 24. To pre-order, call (570-457-3502), Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Delivery available to Duryea and surrounding communities.

Mardi Gras Celebration — MARCH 2, hosted by Prince of Peace Parish in Old Forge; held in the Arcaro & Genell Banquet Room, Main St., Old Forge, beginning at 6 p.m. Includes hors d'oeuvres and full-course dinner with choice of four entrees: roast beef, veal marsala, baked haddock Italian-style, or chicken francaise; beverages include beer, wine and soft drinks. Cost: \$30 per person (adults only). Entertainment by Frankie Gervasi of The Poets. Reservations close Feb. 20. For more information, call (570-451-0112).

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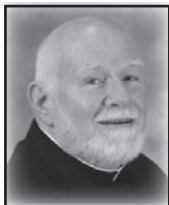
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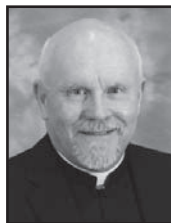
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First Friday Devotions Throughout the Diocese

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 Saint 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, 101 North Main St., Wilkes-Barre; group gathers at 9 a.m. Rosary prayers are offered for an end to abortion and closure of the Planned Parenthood facility.

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 8 p.m. 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 Saint Ann Basilica Parish, Saint Ann's St., west Scranton. Adoration begins with 8:30 a.m. Mass and concludes with benediction at 4:45 p.m.

Healing Masses

— hosted by Saint Lucy Church, 949 Scranton St., west Scranton, beginning at 6:30 p.m. with a prelude of contemporary music and Marian hymns. Celebration of Healing Mass follows at 7 p.m. and includes

anointing blessing and prayers for healing; recitation of the Rosary will also be offered, led by Adele Garofalo. Music ministry for the evening will be provided by Ernie Pappa.

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



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Mission Message

**Go
Forth**

By Father Brian J.T. Clarke
Diocesan Director,
Pontifical Mission Societies



Well, though December 25 is a few weeks behind us, we are still very much in the Christmas season and will continue to celebrate this joyful feast until this Sunday's commemoration of the Baptism of the Lord.

While these holy days within the Church's calendar call us to worship God and to render Him our praise and gratitude, He has also given us these celebrations to inspire us, to console us, and to engender in us a deeper desire to embrace His mission as His disciples. How could we not feel the clarion call of these "missionary" feasts of Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord?

The Epiphany of the Lord points us to that time after the birth of Jesus when He appeared to the world (the word "epiphany" comes from a Greek word meaning manifestation or appearance). The Epiphany unravels expectations; it reveals our savior who is not content to appear only to the perfect, to a particular race, or in a place or time that is of our making.

Pope Francis highlighted these realities in his Angelus address on Epiphany: "If Mary,

Joseph and the shepherds of Bethlehem therefore represent the people of Israel who have welcomed the Lord, the Magi instead are the first of the peoples, also called to be part of the Church, the new People of God established, no longer on ethnic, linguistic or cultural homogeneity, but uniquely on the common faith in Jesus, Son of God."

More and more, God is asking you and me to see that Jesus came for all, not just for a chosen few. In the readings for the Baptism of the Lord, we hear of the prophecies of Isaiah awaiting the messiah who would bring justice "to the nations" and would be a "light for the nations." To quote from the acclaimed film *The Nativity Story*: "He is for all mankind."

See how these Feasts call us to be missionaries, to not grow weary in our proclamation of Christ who came to save all humanity? And just as Christ came to save all, He is calling us, as the Church, to preach to all, to serve all.

In this new year, we will have some of the same opportunities to be missionary disciples. Perhaps these are some of the same opportunities that we have unfortunately failed to embrace or sought to avoid altogether. Nevertheless, we can experience these same opportunities in a new way fortified by God's grace and the beautiful words and challenges that flow from these Christmas feasts.

It's such a beautiful thing to think about the silence and the mystery of Christ's birth in Bethlehem. Isn't it true, then, that God will come to us in silence and mystery to call us to be His body in this world and to preach the Gospel in what we say and do, and to see in our neighbor His image and likeness?

I ask you to ponder these words of Saint Teresa of Avila, who sets the tone for our prayerful consideration of how we are called to be missionary disciples of Jesus:

"Christ has no body but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which He looks compassion into this world. Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good. Yours are the hands with which He blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are His body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

We go forth, then, to preach the Gospel of Jesus to every creature, to every soul, and to hear in our hearts the hopeful cry: "Lord, every nation on earth will adore You" (cf. Psalm 72).

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Apostleship of Prayer

Papal Intention for January 2019

Young People and the Example of Mary —

That young people, especially in Latin America, follow the example of Mary and respond to the call of the Lord to communicate the joy of the Gospel to the world.



For the eighth consecutive year, Saint Faustina Kowalska Parish in Nanticoke presented the "Miracle of Bethlehem," a live production depicting the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, beginning with his humble birth in Bethlehem. Under the direction of Judy Minsavage, the Christmas pageant play included 55 participants from the parish and its youth ministry, and live animals provided by Endless Dreams Animals in Benton.

Alhambra Announces Annual Scholarship Program

In recognition of the increasing importance of education for those with special needs, the International Order of Alhambra announces its scholarship program providing financial aid to students pursuing careers in education for persons with disabilities.

awards assist college students studying to teach intellectually and developmentally disabled persons. The scholarships are granted on the basis that applicants are dedicated to the field of special education.

The number of scholarships and amounts awarded vary from

year to year, based on scholarship program fund levels. The program is open to all eligible U.S. residents, and students may receive two scholarships.

Eligibility guidelines include undergraduate juniors and seniors enrolled in qualifying programs; and master's degree and community college students specializing in special education studies who have accrued half of the required graduation credits.

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

W-B Parish Honors 'Volunteer of the Year'



Father Kenneth Seegar, pastor of Saint Andre Bessette Parish in Wilkes-Barre, is pictured presenting Anna Hudock with her Parish Volunteer of the Year Award at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner honoring all those parishioners who give of their time and talents. Recognized for her dedicated involvement and service in many areas of parish life at Saint Andre Bessette, Anna leads the Social Justice Council, in addition to coordinating the parish's annual Remembrance Mass, Holiday Giving Tree, and visitation program serving homebound parishioners and those in nursing facilities. She also serves as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, choir member, and lector for daily Masses, along with devoting her time on various parish committees and volunteering at many parish events. An active member of the Slovak Heritage Society of NEPA, Anna serves its board as recording secretary.

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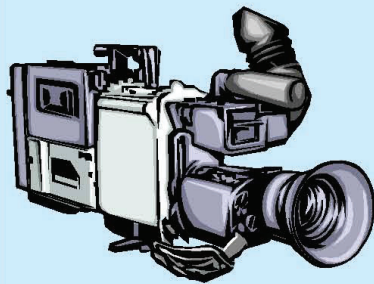
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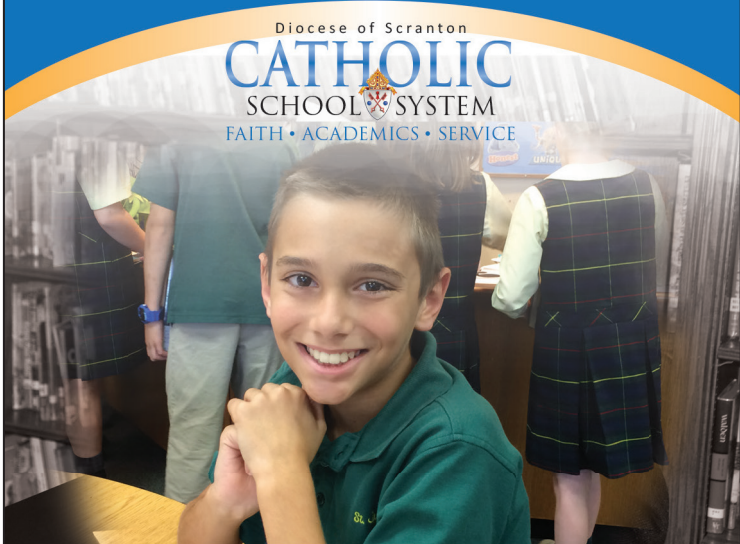
Throop Parish HNS Communion Breakfast



Father Don Williams, Director of Vocations and Seminarians for the Diocese of Scranton, served as principal speaker for the recent Ninth Annual Communion Breakfast sponsored by the Joseph C. Karolewicz Chapter, Holy Name Society of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Throop. This year’s gathering also honored several youth who were recognized for their service to the parish and community, including Marywood University sophomore Jesse Doyle, a veteran altar server and parish Family Festival volunteer; and longtime Blessed Sacrament altar servers Erica and Dan Nemitz, students in the Mid Valley School District. Pictured, from left, are Father Williams, Dan Nemitz, Monsignor Michael Delaney, pastor of the parishes of Blessed Sacrament, Throop, and Holy Cross, Olyphant; and Erica Nemitz.

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