

Father Patrick Peyton Now ‘Venerable;’ One Step Closer to Sainthood

VATICAN CITY – Pope Francis recently advanced the sainthood cause of Holy Cross Father Patrick Peyton, thus declaring “venerable” the famous Catholic media pioneer known the world over as “The Rosary Priest” whose journey in America as a young Irish immigrant began in Scranton.

During a papal audience in December with Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes, the pope approved the heroic virtues of Father Peyton along with those of Saint John Paul II’s mentor, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński.

Father Peyton’s media ministry in the 1940s included radio and later television to produce popular programs featuring Hollywood stars and other celebrities to promote family prayer.

His ministry produced more than 600 radio and television programs and 10,000 broadcasts. The priest also conducted Rosary crusades for millions of people in dozens of countries. He had two especially famous mottos: “The



Father Patrick Peyton, “The Rosary Priest” who has roots in the Diocese of Scranton and has been declared “venerable” by Pope Francis. At right is his statue in the Cathedral of Saint Peter Prayer Garden.

family that prays together stays together” and “A world at prayer is a world at peace.”

Along with his brother Thomas, Father Peyton emigrated from Ireland to the United States in 1928 at the age of 19, with his heart set on becoming a millionaire after his dream of becoming a priest was thwarted when a seminary turned down his scholarship request.

Young Patrick soon landed the job of sexton at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. He and his



brother eventually joined the seminary and would be ordained as priests for the Congregation of Holy Cross.

However, during his third year of theological studies, Pat was stricken with tuberculosis and sent to the Community Infirmary at the University of Notre Dame. As the seminarian’s health continued to deteriorate and his condition worsened, an elder priest advisor encouraged him to trust in the power of the Blessed Mother’s intercession. Immediately the Holy

Cross community began a Novena of Masses for his recovery.

During that week, Pat’s health began to improve dramatically. Soon he returned to the seminary, and although he was one year behind in his studies, he was given a dispensation from Rome so he could be ordained with

his brother Tom and other classmates on June 15, 1941.

In gratitude for his remarkable recovery, Father Pat dedicated the rest of his life to honor Our Lady “by restoring the Family Rosary to America.”

Father Peyton’s first assignment was as chaplain in Al-

bany, N.Y., where he launched a project to promote praying the Rosary and family life.

He founded Holy Cross Family Ministries, which includes Family Rosary, Family Theater Productions, Father Peyton Family Institute and Family Rosary International.

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‘All life . . . is to be welcomed, loved and helped’

POPE FRANCIS URGES SOLIDARITY WITH REFUGEES, RESPECT FOR LIFE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis began the New Year praying the world would demonstrate a marked increase in solidarity and welcome for migrants and refugees.

“Let’s not extinguish the hope in their hearts; let’s not suffocate their hopes for peace,” the pope said before reciting the Angelus with a crowd gathered in Saint Peter’s Square.

For the celebration of World Peace Day and the feast of Mary, Mother of God, Pope Francis had chosen to focus on migrants and refugees and their yearning for peace.



Pope Francis greets a child during a recent general audience in Paul VI hall at the Vatican.

“For this peace, which is the right of all, many of them are willing to risk their lives in a journey that, in most cases, is long and dangerous and to face trials and suffering,” the pope told an estimated 40,000 people gathered in the square.

Pope Francis said it is important that everyone, including individuals, governments, schools, churches and church agencies, make a commitment to “ensuring

refugees, migrants – everyone – a future of peace.”

Entrusting the needs of migrants and refugees to the maternal concern of Mary, the pope led the crowd in reciting a traditional Marian prayer: “Under thy protection we seek refuge, holy Mother of God; despise not our petitions in our needs, but from all dangers deliver us always, Virgin, Glorious and Blessed.”

Preparing for ‘The March’

On January 19, many faithful from our Diocese will unite with pro-life advocates from throughout the country for the 45th Annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. See page 2 for a message from Bishop Bambera, transportation arrangements for the March and related news.



Volunteers serve guests at Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre. Diocesan programs that provide food and shelter to the most vulnerable members of our communities are especially crucial during periods of extremely cold weather. See page 3.

My dear friends,

On January 22, 1974, thousands of individuals who cherish God's gift of life participated in the first March for Life to stand up for the rights of the unborn. An inspiring rally was held as members of Congress announced pro-life legislation and expressed their support for the pro-life cause. The program concluded with a "Circle of Life" march around the Capitol, followed by participants lobbying their members of Congress.

Soon after that first March in 1974, however, it became apparent that congressional protection for the unborn was not on the horizon. Instead of sitting on the sidelines, Nellie Gray, who initiated the first March, decided that rather than it being the one-time event that organizers had anticipated, the March would instead be held every year until *Roe v. Wade* was overturned.

Sadly, once again thousands of participants from around our great land will converge on Washington, D.C., on January 19, 2018 for the 45th Annual March for Life. Their presence gives testimony to the tragic reality that so many individuals continue to reject the belief that every human life has infinite value and worth.

This past year alone has found our world and even our cherished land confronted by dreadful acts of terrorism, violence and human disrespect. In our "civilized" society, innocent lives continue to be treated with disrespect and threatened with extinction, from unborn children to the poor, to immigrants and refugees, to the disabled, the elderly and those who are forced to live on the margins of society because of discrimination, bigotry and hatred.



Yet, for as sobering as the annual March for Life will once again prove to be as it reminds us of the work that remains on behalf of so many lives that are at risk in our world, this annual gathering is also a moment to celebrate and for which we ought to give thanks. More than anything else, the March for Life points to the power of faith and love.

The theme for this year's March is "*Love Saves Lives.*" For us as Christians, we understand this theme well, for it emerges from the very heart of our faith. Our lives were saved by the selfless love of Jesus poured forth for our sake in his sacrifice on the cross. Our faith, in turn, challenges us who are baptized into Jesus' life, death and resurrection, to model our lives on his life and so give of ourselves for the sake of our brothers and sisters – especially the most vulnerable in our midst.

Prior to his election as Pope, then Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio shared these profound words to the faithful of Buenos Aires, Argentina: "The right to life means allowing people to live and not killing, allowing them to grow, to eat, to be educated, to be healed, and to be permitted to die with dignity." From his experience as a pastor immersed in the lives of suffering people, Pope Francis consistently reminds us as followers of Jesus that authentic love, rooted in the Gospel, requires us to serve the Lord present in the lives of our least brothers and sisters. In short, it demands that we walk with them from the very moment of conception – throughout their lives, no matter how long, short or challenged they may be – to the day when God calls them to Himself. ... *Selfless love has the power to save lives* – when we are humble enough to cherish, respect and serve *every life* that makes its way into our own.

May our recognition of the presence of God within the lives of all who have been created in his image and likeness give us the courage and resolve to love generously and to proclaim ever more boldly Jesus' Gospel of Life.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

† *Joseph C. Bambera*

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



January 19

How to Get to the March for Life
Buses Scheduled for 45th 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 45th annual March for Life on Friday, Jan. 19, in Washington, D.C.

Regional chapters of the Pennsylvanians for Human Life (PHL) will offer round-trip bus transportation. In Washington, participants will join together with other activists in 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.

"Love Saves Lives" is the theme for the 2018 march. 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 6:45 a.m. and returns at approximately 11:45 p.m. Cost: \$40 for adults; \$20 for students. Reservations may be made by contacting Theresa Baux at (570) 687-5329, or the Scranton PHL Pro-Life Center office, located at 400 Wyoming Ave., at (570) 343-5099.

WILLIAMSPORT

Contact Evelyn Rall, (570) 398-0722.

WYOMING VALLEY

Contact Chris Calore, (570) 824-5621. (Bus will be departing from the Swoyersville area.)

March for Life Participants Can Obtain Plenary Indulgence

WASHINGTON, D.C. (LifeSiteNews) — Cardinal Donald Wuerl of Washington and Bishop Michael Burbidge of the neighboring Diocese of Arlington announced that the Catholic faithful may obtain a plenary indulgence by participating in the 2018 March for Life. The Catholic Church teaches that a plenary indulgence frees a person from all temporal punishment due to sin.

The normal conditions for a plenary indulgence must be met in order for this March for Life indulgence to be granted. Those wishing to gain the plenary indulgence must be detached from sin (not desiring to sin). They must make a sacramental Confession, receive Holy Communion, and pray for the pope's intentions within eight days of attending the March for Life events. The aged, sick and all those who due to grave reason are not able to leave home will be equally able to obtain a plenary indulgence if they unite themselves spiritually to the March for Life with the intention of fulfilling, as soon as one is able, the customary conditions.

Diocesan programs provide shelter and food to the homeless

The recent pattern of severe cold weather that descended on our region illuminated the plight of the homeless and how the Diocese responds to their needs for shelter and food.

“Helping those in need is a core element of the Church’s mission,” said Mary Theresa Vautrinot, Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Human Services and Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Social Services.

“For many years the Diocese has served the homeless through a continuum of care that includes emergency shelter, transitional facilities, permanent housing, meals and clothing.”

These programs include three shelters, owned and operated by Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton, that are open year-round: Saint Anthony’s Haven in Scranton, Mother Teresa’s Haven in Wilkes-Barre, and Divine Providence Shelter in Hazleton.

Saint Anthony’s Haven in Scranton is a nighttime shelter for homeless men and women. During periods when there is an especially urgent need and capacity is reached, accommodations are sought in local motels. During the winter the Diocese has also worked with the nearby Bethel AME shelter to ensure that people can be accommodated at either location. Recently a number of volunteers rose to the challenge of keeping the Bethel AME shelter open when it was in danger of closing due to staffing issues.

In Wilkes-Barre, Mother Teresa’s Haven serves homeless men. This program works closely with Ruth’s Place women’s shelter, also located in Wilkes-Barre.

Mother Teresa’s Haven is currently located at various churches, Catholic as well as other denominations, on a rotating basis in cooperation with the Wyoming Valley Interfaith Council.

“Our hope is to establish a permanent shelter location in that area,” Mrs. Vautrinot said. “Zoning issues and neighbor-

hood concerns have been a challenge. Nevertheless, we remain committed to attaining our goal.”

In 2016 Bishop Joseph C. Bambera approved Divine Providence Shelter in Hazleton as a pilot program in response to the request of the Hazleton Area Housing Coalition, comprised of representatives from social service providers, United Way of Greater Hazleton, churches,

government entities including city, state and local housing authorities, along with community-based volunteers.

This program, which received \$25,000 in seed money from the Diocese and funding from local churches and the United Way, began as a nighttime shelter for men and women located at area churches.

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Three year-round shelters – Saint Anthony’s Haven in Scranton (pictured above), Mother Teresa’s Haven in Wilkes-Barre, and Divine Providence Shelter in Hazleton – are owned and operated by Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton.



The Diocese has for many years provided free daily meals for the homeless – and anyone else who needs them – through Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen in Scranton and Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre (pictured above). They serve lunch every day of the week year-round and dinner three times a week.

Churches to Observe Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Diocese of Scranton will again participate in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. First organized by Father Paul Watson, S.A., in 1908 at Graymoor in Garrison, N.Y., the annual observance seeks to gather together diverse communities of the Christian faith to express the degree of communion which the churches have already received, and to pray together for the full visible unity of the one Church of Jesus Christ.

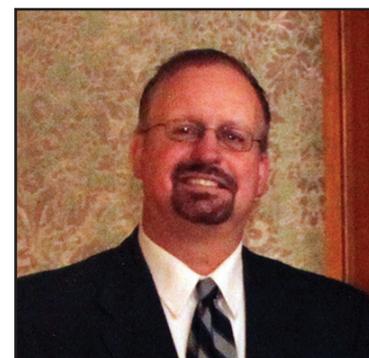
The theme for the 2018 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, “Your Right Hand, O Lord, Glorious in Power,” is taken from the book of *Exodus* 15:6. Throughout the Biblical narrative of salvation, an unmistakable motif is the unrelenting determination of the Lord to form a people whom He could call His own. The formation of such a people, united in a sacred covenant with God, is integral to the Lord’s plan of salvation and to the glorification of His name.

The prophets repeatedly remind Israel that their covenant demanded that relationships among its various social groups should be characterized by justice, compassion and mercy. Reconciliation often demands repentance, reparation and healing of memories.

The Diocese of Scranton will host an Ecumenical Celebration of God’s Word on Thursday, January 25, 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. In addition, CTV: Catholic Television will broadcast the service live.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, will preside. Pastor Dave Twiss of Green Ridge Assembly of God in Scranton, will preach.

A life-long attender at Green Ridge Assembly of God, he has served full-time as a staff pastor since 1986



Pastor Dave Twiss

and has been the lead pastor since 2005. He was also involved as a lay leader for a number of years previous to going on staff full-time. He also has served as the Presbyter for the Northeast Section of the Pennsylvania-Delaware District of the Assemblies of God Ministry Network since 2014.

His ministry passions include preaching, worshipping and serving. He believes that all his time is spent in the presence of the Lord, and enjoys His fellowship in all his endeavors. His hobbies include learning, participating in sports, and all things outdoors.

Pastor Dave has been married to his wife, Laura, since 1982. They have three children and one grandchild.

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 of Saint Cecilia of La Salle Academy, Jessup, directed by Joyce Covaleski.

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/>

Choirs Combining for HOLY HOOTENANNY!

In celebration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the Abington Ecumenical Ministerium is putting on a Holy Hootenanny concert on Sunday, January 21, at 2 p.m. in Saint Benedict Church, 1849 Newton Ransom Boulevard, Clarks Summit.

The concert will feature the combined choirs and voices of the Church of Saint Gregory, Clarks Green United Methodist Church, Clarks Summit United Methodist Church, Countryside Community Church, Dalton United Methodist Church, Factoryville United Methodist Church, First Baptist Church of Factoryville, First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit, Free Methodist Church of the Abingtons, Our Lady of the Abingtons, Our Lady of the Snows, Trinity Lutheran Church, United Methodist Church of Chinchilla and Waverly United Methodist Church and Clarks Green Assembly of God Church.

All are welcome to join in the joy of the Holy Hootenanny!

Bishop Bambera Calls for Renewal of Prayers for Coptic Brethren



Worshippers pray during Mass on New Year's Eve at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church in Cairo. Right: The mother of one of the victims of an attack on a group of Coptic Christians that took place May 26 attends a funeral at the Sacred Family Church in Minya, Egypt, that same day. (CNS photos/Mohamed Abd El Ghany, Reuters)



WASHINGTON — Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, who serves as chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Inter-religious Affairs, issued the following statement on the recent deadly attack on a Coptic Church and nearby bookstore in Egypt.

“On the morning of December 29, at least ten people were killed as armed men attempted to enter Mar Mina Church in Helwan City, south of Cairo, and a nearby bookshop. Among the dead are two policemen. The assault took place as a gunman tried to breach the church's security cordon. It is estimated that over 2,000 attacks on Coptic Christians by extremists have occurred in the last three years alone.

On December 22, hundreds of Muslim demonstrators attacked an unlicensed church south of Cairo, wounding three people. Demonstrators chanted anti-Christian slogans and called for the church's demolition. The interior of the church was completely destroyed.

On May 26, masked militants opened fired on a bus packed with Coptic Christians, including children on their way to the monastery of Saint Samule the Confessor in Maghagha, in Minya governorate. In that attack, 28 people were killed and 22 were wounded.

On Palm Sunday, April 9, twin suicide bombings struck churches in the coastal city of Alexandria and the Nile Delta city of Tanta. At least 43 people were killed and many others were injured. One of the bombings narrowly missed a Palm Sunday service which was to be presided over by His Holiness Pope Tawadros II.

These attacks represent only some of the many attacks that have occurred over the past several years, targeting faithful of the Coptic Orthodox Church, who account for almost 10% of Egypt's population. In the course of such rampant attacks, Muslims have also been targeted as well as police, military and members of the news media. On November 24, terrorists detonated a bomb at a mosque in Bir al-Abd in the northern Sinai Peninsula of Egypt, killing over 300 worshipers and spraying gunfire on those escaping. Sadly, attacks such as these represent countless numbers of ongoing acts of violence that continue to burden the Egyptian nation.

“I ask Catholics and men and women of faith and good will to pray for peace in Egypt and the Middle East and for all victims of religious and political hatred. I especially ask Catholics to renew their support, love and prayers for our Coptic brethren who are enduring martyrdom for the sake of Christ. May all continue to receive from heaven the grace to witness to what is good and noble in the human spirit, recovery for all those who have been injured, and eternal rest for those who have died.”

His Excellency, Bishop Bambera, announces that **Reverend Marek Wasilewski** has been granted excardination from the Institute Idente Missionaries of Christ the Redeemer and has been incardinated into the presbyterate of the Diocese of Scranton. Father Wasilewski currently serves as Parochial Vicar at Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Honesdale. Please join with the Bishop in welcoming Father Wasilewski to our presbyterate and remembering him in your prayers.



BISHOP BAMBERA'S SCHEDULE

January 8-13 – Bishops' of Pennsylvania Annual Retreat

January 17 – Evening Prayer, Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land, Washington, D.C., 7:00 p.m.

January 18 – Prayer for Christian Unity, USCCB Headquarters, Washington, D.C., 3:00 p.m.

Vigil Mass for Life, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C., 5:30 p.m.

January 19 – Youth Mass and March for Life, Washington, D.C., 10:00 a.m.

January 21 – Mass – Feast of Our Lady of Altagracia, Annunciation Parish, Hazleton, 12:00 noon

January 25 – Christian Unity Prayer Service, St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.

January 27 – Respect Life Breakfast, Fiorelli's, Peckville, 9:00 a.m.

January 28 – Mass – Jewish Home, Scranton, 2:00 p.m.

Diocesan Annual Appeal at 94% of Goal

53 Parishes Over Goal

The **2017 Diocesan Annual Appeal: Walk Together in the Light of Christ**, has raised more than \$4.7 million in gifts and pledges, bringing the campaign to 94% of the \$5 million goal. More than 28,000 donors have made pledges to this year's Diocesan Annual Appeal. Fifty-three parishes have surpassed their Annual Appeal goal so far.

Parishes over goal are Ascension, Forest City; Blessed Sacrament, Throop; Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace, Hawley; Christ the King, Archbald; Corpus Christi, West Pittston; Divine Mercy, Scranton; Epiphany, Sayre; Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Hanover Township; Holy Family, Luzerne; Holy Family, Sugar Notch; Holy Rosary, Hazleton; Immaculate Conception, Scranton; Most Precious Blood, Hazleton; Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Lake Silkworth; Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Wyalusing; Our Lady of Victory, Harveys Lake; Our Lady of Victory, Tannersville; Our Lady Queen of Peace, Brodheadsville; Queen of the Apostles, Avoca; Sacred Heart of Jesus, Peckville; Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary, Jermyn; Saints Cyril & Methodius, Hazleton; Saints Peter & Paul, Towanda; Saint Ann, Shohola; Saint Barbara, Exeter; Saint Brigid, Friendsville; Saint Catherine of Siena,

Moscow; Saint Elizabeth, Bear Creek; Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Swoyersville; Saint Faustina Kowalska, Nanticoke; Saint Gregory, Clarks Green; Saint John Bosco, Conyngham; Saint John Neumann, Lords Valley; Saint John, East Stroudsburg; Saint John the Evangelist, Pittston; Saint John Vianney, Montdale; Saint Joseph Mareello, Pittston; Saint Jude, Mountain Top; Saint Katharine Drexel, Pleasant Mount; Saint Luke, Stroudsburg; Saint Martin of Tours, Jackson; Saint Mary, Waymart; Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Pocono Pines; Saint Michael, Canton; Saint Michael, Scranton; Saint Monica, West Wyoming; Saint Nicholas, Wilkes-Barre; Saint Peter's Cathedral, Scranton; Saint Peter, Wellsboro; Saint Rita, Gouldsboro; Saint Robert Bellarmine, Wilkes-Barre; Saint Therese, Shavertown; and Saint Thomas More, Lake Ariel.

"We are very grateful for the continued generous support of parishioners from across our Diocese," said Jim Bebla, Diocesan Secretary for Development.

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.

Assisted by the Annual Appeal

Diocesan Catholic Schools bring the Light of Faith, Lamp of Learning and Beacon of Hope to our Students

The Diocese of Scranton will join in celebrating our Catholic Schools during Catholic Schools Week January 28 to February 3. "Light of Faith, Lamp of Learning, Beacon of Hope." These words refer to each of the 20 academic institutions in the Diocese as described by Monsignor David Tressler, Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Education and Superintendent of Schools.

Each year, Monsignor challenges principals to embrace the goals which distinguish Diocesan schools: "Modeling the role of Christ, the Master Teacher and Servant Leader, in all that we do and say; establishing schools of hospitality; welcoming others and creating a climate of openness and kindness, and striving for academic excellence; being the best we can be and reaching further."



Joe Desciak, a graduate of Saint Jude Elementary School, Mountain Top, reminisces with retired teacher Toni Bosevich Furcon about the merits of his Catholic education.

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Lackawanna-Wyoming Regional Chairs



Bishop Bambera with Lackawanna-Wyoming Counties Regional Chairs Drs. Linda and Bryan Frantz and Father John Doris.

Doctors Linda Sebastian Frantz and Bryan Frantz, Scranton, are serving as Regional Lay Chairs for Lackawanna and Wyoming counties for the 2017 Diocesan Annual Appeal. Father John Doris, pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Dunmore, is Regional Clergy Chair this year.

"We're so happy to support Bishop Bambera in the fantastic work being done across the Diocese," said Dr. Linda Frantz, "especially his efforts to reach out to young people."

Dr. Linda Franz is an internal medicine practitioner and clinical associate of medicine with the Commonwealth Medical College and the Eastman Institute of Oral Medicine. Dr. Bryan Frantz is a periodontist and a member of PHDI - Perio Health & Dental Implants group. He is also vice president of the American Academy of Periodontology.

Linda and Bryan are the parents of three daughters: dentists Andrea and Kristen, who are pursuing advanced specializations, and Gretchen, studying for a master's in health administration at the University of Scranton. All are active parishioners at Saint John Neumann Parish, Scranton.

Said Dr. Bryan Frantz, "When I told my mother (Mrs. Joan Frantz) about the Bishop's invitation to serve as chairs, she said, 'You have to do a really good job at this so you can keep the Daily Mass on TV and we can keep receiving *The Catholic Light*.'"

In earlier issues of *The Light*, Mrs. Frantz was interviewed because she voiced her appreciation for Catholic Media and Communications, and Linda and Bryan appeared in a group photo of Annual Appeal parish representatives. The couple was surprised by the impact of these articles.

"We actually received notes from our patients thanking us for taking on the Appeal with our busy schedules," said Linda. "Many of our patients told us how they appreciate *The Light* and the Mass broadcasts."

Linda and Bryan are also strong supporters of Catholic education and Catholic Social Services. "Our children attended Nativity of Our Lord Grade School," said Linda. "They received an excellent education, and also the morals and values they need to be great persons - which they are."

"We feel strongly about Catholic Social Services because it reaches out to the needy of all denominations," said Bryan. "Social Justice Grants from Appeal funds have also been given to our parish" to support the elderly, Hispanic ministry, prison ministry and family outreach.

"We take care of many priests and deacons in our practices," said Linda. "It's important to us that Appeal funds are available for their continued care in retirement after they have given so much in service to us their whole lives. We encourage others to practice their faith by supporting the Appeal. Our faith does so many good things for so many people."

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Catholic education makes a difference in young lives

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“What is absolutely unique and unparalleled about Catholic education and Catholic schools is our Catholic faith,” Monsignor Tressler explained. “We set out to make a difference. The difference is the light which can drive out the darkness that afflicts our human lives. Catholic schools are founded on the person and the teaching of the Son of God who is for all who believe in Him, the Way, the Truth and the Life. Because of our faith, we can confidently teach our students a way to live that will overcome every threat and darkness that afflicts any person’s life.”

Offering spiritually-sound and academically-excellent Catholic schools to families remains an essential mission of the Diocese, as expressed by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera.

Fulfilling this mission depends considerably on gifts made to the Diocesan Annual Appeal. “We are ever grateful for the financial support from the Appeal, which provides direct funding to our operations as well as financial aid for families in need,” said Monsignor Tressler. “The Educational Improvement Tax Credit and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit state programs also are a valuable source of financial aid and we are grateful for the businesses in our Diocese who use these programs to benefit our students.”

Thousands of alumni support the mission of our Diocesan Catholic Schools and have made Catholic education a valued choice in their lives. “Catholic education was such an influence in my life that I wanted to make it my professional career,” said Joe Desciak. He is an alumnus of Saint

Jude School, Mountain Top, Bishop Hoban High School, King’s College, Marywood University and Fordham University, where he earned a Ph.D. in Catholic Education and serves as Dean of Freshmen at Fordham’s Lincoln campus in New York City.

“I made many wonderful memories at Saint Jude’s but particularly in 6th grade with Mrs. Bosevich (Toni Bosevich Furcon),” said Joe. “She developed in me a sense of urgency to make God known and to make God loved and served. Now I hope I can influence people’s lives so that they may go out and be people of great care and love.”

Now retired, Mrs. Furcon recalls Joe as one of her best students. She added, “Jesus was always with us in the classroom.”

“I express my gratitude to our families, priests, parishes and the business community for their commitment and financial support to our schools,” said Monsignor Tressler. “With the financial assistance from our parishes and the Diocesan Annual Appeal we are able to keep our tuition well below the actual cost of educating each child within our schools.”

The Diocese maintains four Regional School Systems serving 20 schools in the counties of Bradford, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Lycoming and Monroe.

Monsignor Tressler concluded, “Our schools continue to stress our role of service, modeling what the master Teacher taught us as He walked this earth. It is part of our mission to form students to be productive and involved citizens of their communities and our world.”

Regional chairs appreciate impact of Annual Appeal

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Father John Doris chose a short story to illustrate the Diocesan Appeal as a means of bringing the love of Christ to His people.

“A perfectionistic pastor wished to invite a world famous orator to speak on the psalm, *The Lord is my Shepherd*. However, the only time the pastor could get this orator was the same night the pastor had scheduled a Mass for the Special Children of the area. The pastor cancelled the Mass.

“The night of celebration came. The pastor got up to introduce the famous orator but a ‘special child’ beat him to the pulpit and started to read the psalm: *The Lord is my Shepherd*. This was to have been his reading for the Special Mass. The child stuttered terribly, and with difficulty, read the psalm. When the boy sat down, everyone seemed embarrassed but the boy. The pastor explained what happened and introduced the orator. This was the orator’s response:

“I know the psalm *The Lord is my Shepherd* better than that boy; I have it

memorized. I could introduce stories to expand your understanding. There is, however, this difference. I know the psalm, but that boy knows the Shepherd.”

Father Doris explained, “Our Appeal calls us to know the Shepherd. It calls some who are blessed to financially help those in great need; it calls others to assist through dedication of time, to volunteer in various ways. The Appeal calls each of us to pray, that as a Diocesan family, we may succeed in taking care of Our Lord’s poor.”

A native of Wilkes-Barre, Father Doris grew up in what was then Saint Aloysius Parish where he received the sacraments, attended the parish school, and said his First Mass as a priest after ordination.

His various assignments include serving as a parochial vicar at Saint Rose in Carbondale, Saint Ignatius in Kingston, and Saint John’s in Pittston. He taught full time at Bishop Hafey High School in Hazleton and previously served in Freeland as the pastor of four ethnic parishes.

Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry Program, 2018

The Office for Parish Life encourages parish leaders to consider **application for the Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry for January 2018!**

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

- Pastoral Council,
- Director of Religious Education and Catechist,
- Liturgical Coordinator,
- Parish Staff,
- Volunteer Ministry teams,
- and others!

Through independent online study with the University of Dayton’s Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF), as well as regional skills workshops and opportunities for prayer and reflection, *Diocesan Certificate* candidates enrich their knowledge base, while also learning practical tools for effective parish ministry in their faith communities.

The Office for Parish Life anticipates welcoming new candidates into the *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry* program in the New Year. **Applications will be accepted until January 15, 2018.**

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.



Office for Parish Life

Director of Religious Education Network Meetings

The first DRE Network Meeting is next week. These will be held in four locations, and every parish should be represented. All DREs are invited! If the DRE is not available another parish catechetical leader should attend. Please choose one of these dates/locations and plan to join other parish DREs for an evening of prayer, fellowship, formation and information. Agenda includes:

- ☿ Discussion of upcoming events including Catechist Camp and the Fall Word Convocation
- ☿ Ways that DREs can stay connected through Social Media
- ☿ Update on Safe Environment with Kathy Bolinski
- ☿ Opportunities for catechetical workshops available in your parish or region

Each meeting will be held from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 17

Saint Ann Basilica
Shrine Dining Room
1250 Saint Ann Street
Scranton 18504

Tuesday, January 23

Holy Family Parish
828 Main Street
Sugar Notch 18706

Thursday, January 25

Saint Joseph the Worker Parish
Fleming Center
720 West Fourth Street
Williamsport 17701

Wednesday, January 31

Holy Rosary Parish
240 S. Poplar Street
Hazleton 18201

Each meeting will be held from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. R.S.V.P. to Mary Anne Malone (570) 207-2213, ext. 1100 or mary-anne-malone@dioceseofscranton.org.

Ministry Skills Workshop

Save the Date for the new series of 2018 Ministry Skills Workshops, starting February 3! **“Rules and Regs’: An Exploration of Canon Law, and Administrative Strategies for Ministry” will be presented by Father Jeffrey Tudgay and Catherine Butel on Saturday, February 3, 2018, from 9:00AM to 3:00PM at Divine Mercy Parish, Scranton.**

All parish ministers are welcome to attend! Stay tuned to the OPL *Good News Notes* and the Diocese of Scranton website in January for more information on registration, and other upcoming workshop opportunities!

*Pope
Francis'
Prayer
for
Vocations*



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

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

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

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Am I Called?

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

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

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

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

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

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

New Seminarian Accepted

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera recently accepted Michael Boris as a seminarian for the Diocese of Scranton. He will begin formation in the fall of this year. He is a member of Saint Andre Bessette Parish, Wilkes-Barre. Pictured from left: Monsignor David Bohr, Diocesan Secretary for Clergy Formation; Michael Boris; and Father Don Williams, Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians. Let us pray for Michael, our seminarians and those who are discerning God's call in their lives!



Youth Retreats 2018

High School – I.S.L.I.

February 16-18

at Camp Ladore, Waymart

July 9-12

at Misericordia University, Dallas

A leadership retreat for high school students in grades 9-12. A peer-led experience that focuses on enhancing or uncovering existing leadership potential. The goal of I.S.L.I. is to empower students to be leaders in their schools, communities, and especially their parishes. Contact Shannon Kowalski at the Office for Parish Life, 570-207-2213.

Junior High – Up & Over

June 1-3

at Camp Orchard Hill, Dallas

September 28-30

at Camp Orchard Hill, Dallas

A weekend retreat for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. Team-building exercises, problem solving skills and small group processing helps students discover their strengths and inherent goodness. The skills learned during this retreat will help students get "up and over" their challenges. Contact Shannon Kowalski at the Office for Parish Life, 570-207-2213.



New Vocation Website

A new website was launched recently for the Diocesan Vocation Office. The site features information about all vocations, answering the call to "leave a mark," Diocesan priesthood resources, seminarian profiles, videos, event calendar, pictures and more.

vocations.dioceseofscranton.org

'Our' Father Patrick now one step closer to sainthood

Continued from page 1

Since Father Peyton's death in 1992, the pious legacy of Scranton's "saintly son" has been immortalized by his adopted hometown.

In August 2001, the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Saint Patrick's Parade Day Association honored Father Peyton's memory by donating to the Cathedral of Saint Peter a brass plaque depicting "The Rosary Priest" and his ministerial milestones.

A special Mass at Saint Peter's celebrated the dedication of the plaque, which is on permanent display in the Holy Family Shrine off the Cathedral vestibule. The homilist for the liturgy was Father Peyton's nephew, the late Monsignor John P. Gallagher, former historian for the Diocese of Scranton who followed in his famous uncle's

priestly footsteps.

Monsignor Gallagher's mother was the former Beatrice Peyton, who first journeyed from Ireland to Scranton with another sister before the arrival of their two future priest-brothers, Thomas and Patrick.

Not far from the front doors of Saint Peter's, a large bronze statue of Father Peyton kneeling in prayer along with an inscription of his enduring "family prayer" motto, sits fittingly among the Rosary walk kiosks in the Cathedral Prayer Garden, constructed in 2003 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Saint Peter Cathedral Parish.

After the pope's decree recognizing Father Peyton's heroic virtues, in general, a miracle is needed for his beatification and a second one for his canonization.

Diocesan Administrative Offices Combined Financial Statements

June 30, 2017 and 2016

JANUARY 11, 2018 • THE CATHOLIC LIGHT

Dear Friends,

As the Bishop of Scranton, I am presenting to the faithful of the Diocese the audited financial statements of the Administrative Offices of the Diocese of Scranton for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. As in the prior year the statements reflect improvement in our overall financial status reflected by the overall increase in net assets. The statements also reflect an excess of revenues over expenses from operations.

Total revenues, gains and other support decreased by \$1,400,000 in the 2016-2017 year. This resulted mostly from significant non-recurring items.

- Donations were \$5,000,000 in the 2015-2016 period, due primarily to a very large restricted donation. In 2016-2017 donations were \$400,000.
- Due to favorable markets, investment income was \$700,000 higher in the 2016-2017 period than the prior period.
- There were property sales totaling \$2,000,000 in 2016-2017 that mostly resulted from the sale of the Fatima Center. In 2015-2016 property sales resulted in a loss of \$350,000.

Total operating expenses reflected an increase of \$3,200,000. The following items contributed to the net increase:

- General liability self- insurance claims were up \$1,500,000 in 2016-2017. The total claims paid is in line with amounts paid in prior years. For 2015-2016, however, the claims paid were \$92,000. This lower amount resulted from the Diocese collecting significant recoveries that had been outstanding from excess insurance carriers.
- An increase in professional fees and a decrease in educational grants caused a net increase in expenses of \$600,000
- Contributions were up \$1,500,000 due to the contribution to the renovations and long overdue structural facelift at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

Some other items of note include the following:

- The 2016-2017 fiscal period was the first year for the consolidated parish payrolls and the first year for the consolidated schools business office. These endeavors have proven most successful.

• Having had no other Information Technology support other than a part-time consultant, the Diocese made a significant investment in IT by hiring two full-time employees. This has produced significant improvement in security and better use of existing IT resources. This also allows the Diocese to develop a thoughtful and long term strategy with regards to IT needs.

Please know the Diocese is constantly vigilant regarding its finances, including all funds entrusted to it. All hires are carefully scrutinized for need and where possible replacements are very often made by consolidating and streamlining positions. Thoughtful, careful budgets are prepared for all Diocesan entities and the same are constantly monitored throughout the year.

I am most grateful for the prayers and generous efforts of the faithful from throughout the eleven counties of northeastern and north central Pennsylvania that make up the Diocese of Scranton. Because of your continued support of your parishes and our Diocesan Annual Appeal, along with your willingness to give back to God gratefully for all that you have been given, we are able to continue to fulfill our mission of service to our brothers and sisters.

May God continue to bless you and your families.

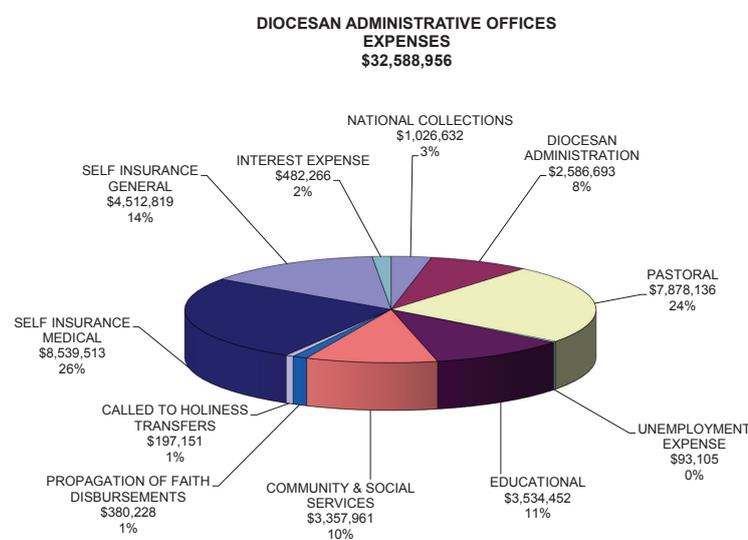
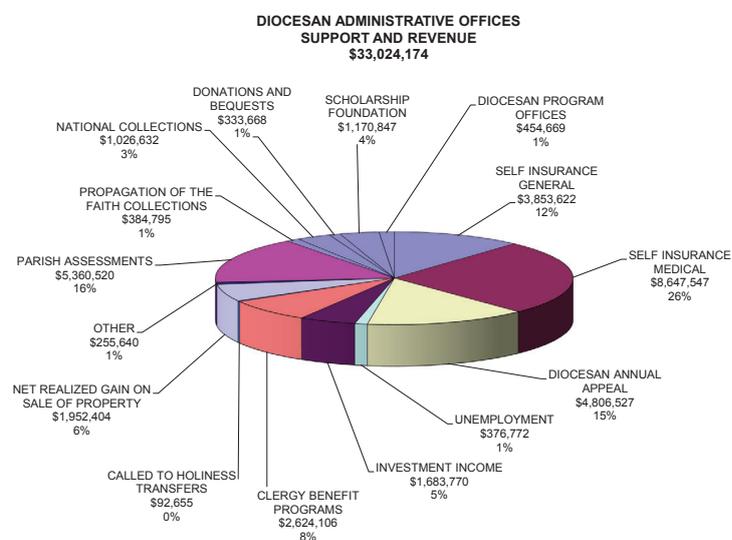
Faithfully yours in Christ,

† *Joseph C. Bambera*

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



Operating Funds



Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Diocesan Administrative Offices of the Diocese of Scranton which comprise the statements of financial position as of June 30, 2017 and 2016, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the

reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Diocesan Administrative Offices of the Diocese of Scranton as of June 30, 2017 and 2016, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The accompanying supplementary information in Schedules 1 to 5 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Statements of Activities – Years Ended June 30, 2017 and 2016

	2017				2016			
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Revenues, gains and other support								
Parish assessments								
Diocesan	\$ 4,433,197	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,433,197	\$ 4,366,553	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,366,553
Clergy Care and Wellness	927,323	-	-	927,323	887,665	-	-	887,665
Intra-Diocesan billings								
Self-insurance premiums - General	3,853,622	-	-	3,853,622	3,845,367	-	-	3,845,367
Self-insurance premiums - Medical	8,647,547	-	-	8,647,547	8,274,411	-	-	8,274,411
Clergy benefit programs	2,624,106	-	-	2,624,106	2,569,271	-	-	2,569,271
Diocesan Program Revenues -								
<u>Schedule 1</u>	454,669	-	-	454,669	743,382	-	-	743,382
Diocesan Annual Appeal	-	4,806,527	-	4,806,527	-	4,807,193	-	4,807,193
Special collections	-	42,967	-	42,967	-	39,445	-	39,445
Donations and bequests	145,915	187,753	-	333,668	1,761,444	3,233,636	-	4,995,080
Scholarship Foundation contributions	-	1,170,847	-	1,170,847	-	1,116,292	-	1,116,292
Custodial receipts								
National collections	-	1,026,632	-	1,026,632	-	835,214	-	835,214
Unemployment	376,772	-	-	376,772	466,834	-	-	466,834
Called to Holiness transfers	92,655	-	-	92,655	144,691	-	-	144,691
Propagation collections	384,795	-	-	384,795	491,396	-	-	491,396
Other revenue	212,673	-	-	212,673	181,315	-	-	181,315
Investment income	1,125,446	111,677	7,677	1,244,800	976,691	85,740	8,266	1,070,697
Net realized gain (loss) on sale of investments	438,970	-	-	438,970	(92,300)	-	-	(92,300)
Net realized gain (loss) on sale of property	1,952,404	-	-	1,952,404	(353,641)	-	-	(353,641)
Net assets released from restrictions (Note 5):								
Satisfaction of program restrictions	7,494,374	(7,494,374)	-	-	7,651,408	(7,651,408)	-	-
<hr/>								
Total revenues, gains and other support	\$ 33,164,468	\$ (147,971)	\$ 7,677	\$ 33,024,174	\$ 31,914,487	\$ 2,466,112	\$ 8,266	\$ 34,388,865
<hr/>								
Expenses								
Pastoral - <u>Schedule 2</u>	7,878,136	-	-	7,878,136	7,801,221	-	-	7,801,221
Educational - <u>Schedule 3</u>	3,534,452	-	-	3,534,452	4,072,499	-	-	4,072,499
Community and Social Service - <u>Schedule 4</u>	3,738,189	-	-	3,738,189	2,483,354	-	-	2,483,354
Administrative - <u>Schedule 5</u>	15,639,025	-	-	15,639,025	13,402,879	-	-	13,402,879
Called to Holiness transfers	197,151	-	-	197,151	128,603	-	-	128,603
Custodial disbursements								
National collections	1,026,632	-	-	1,026,632	835,214	-	-	835,214
Unemployment	93,105	-	-	93,105	162,815	-	-	162,815
Interest expense	482,266	-	-	482,266	476,796	-	-	476,796
<hr/>								
Total expenses	32,588,956	-	-	32,588,956	29,363,381	-	-	29,363,381
<hr/>								
Excess of revenues over expenses	575,512	(147,971)	7,677	435,218	2,551,106	2,466,112	8,266	5,025,484
<hr/>								
Other changes								
Provision for bad debt	(224,431)	-	-	(224,431)	(70,404)	-	-	(70,404)
Pension-related changes other than net periodic pension cost	2,841,930	-	-	2,841,930	(2,288,344)	-	-	(2,288,344)
Transfer to lay pension plan	(3,734,604)	-	-	(3,734,604)	(1,463,264)	-	-	(1,463,264)
Change in net unrealized gains and losses on investments	2,496,033	-	-	2,496,033	221,703	-	-	221,703
<hr/>								
Increase (decrease) in net assets	1,954,440	(147,971)	7,677	1,814,146	(1,049,203)	2,466,112	8,266	1,425,175
<hr/>								
Net assets, beginning	(4,118,463)	4,626,258	3,065,020	3,572,815	(3,069,260)	2,160,146	3,056,754	2,147,640
<hr/>								
Net assets, ending	\$ (2,164,023)	\$ 4,478,287	\$ 3,072,697	\$ 5,386,961	\$ (4,118,463)	\$ 4,626,258	\$ 3,065,020	\$ 3,572,815

Statements of Financial Position

June 30, 2017 and 2016

Assets

	2017	2016
Cash and equivalents	\$ 6,175,488	\$ 5,928,135
Certificates of deposit	4,460,000	6,045,741
Accounts receivable, less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$3,009,579 in 2017 and \$2,996,312 in 2016	3,777,533	2,654,220
Accrued interest receivable	104,005	106,281
Contributions receivable	69,285	45,323
Due from Catholic Cemeteries	75,038	586,452
Prepaid expense	686,203	512,994
Cash subject to program restrictions	5,327,584	5,750,950
Notes and loans receivable	3,678,968	3,834,941
Investments	58,672,278	55,845,582
Land, buildings and equipment, net	6,598,244	6,679,017
Assets held for sale	-	1,142,028
Other assets	563,975	380,917
	<u>\$ 90,188,601</u>	<u>\$ 89,512,581</u>

Liabilities and Net Assets

	2017	2016
Accounts payable	\$ 719,919	\$ 781,262
Custodial funds payable	683,262	609,440
Accrued interest expense	149,684	155,029
Contributions payable	2,200,972	690,643
Scholarships payable	849,296	1,124,692
Liability for pension benefits	11,003,576	13,041,882
Accrued claim expense	2,095,087	1,887,580
Accrued postretirement benefit obligation	11,052,447	11,812,012
Loan payable	3,678,968	3,834,941
Due to Diocese of Scranton Institute	22,404,334	22,326,564
Funds on deposit		
Catholic Cemeteries Perpetual Care	17,413,932	17,257,294
Other Diocesan organizations Perpetual Care	12,550,163	12,418,427
Total liabilities	<u>84,801,640</u>	<u>85,939,766</u>
Net assets		
Unrestricted	(2,164,023)	(4,118,463)
Temporarily restricted (Note 5)	4,478,287	4,626,258
Permanently restricted (Note 6)	3,072,697	3,065,020
	<u>5,386,961</u>	<u>3,572,815</u>
Total net assets	<u>\$ 90,188,601</u>	<u>\$ 89,512,581</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 90,188,601</u>	<u>\$ 89,512,581</u>

Statement of Cash Flows

June 30, 2017 and 2016

	2017	2016
Operating activities		
Increase in net assets	\$ 1,814,146	\$ 1,425,175
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash (used in) provided by operating activities:		
Net realized (gain) loss on sale of investments	(438,970)	92,300
Net unrealized gain on investments	(2,496,033)	(221,703)
Net realized (gain) loss on sale of property	(1,952,404)	353,641
Amortization on investments	54,107	118,828
Depreciation expense	381,049	351,985
Provision for bad debt	224,431	70,404
(Increase) decrease in accounts receivable	(1,347,744)	161,584
Decrease in accrued interest receivable	2,276	5,437
(Increase) decrease in contributions receivable	(23,962)	98,085
Decrease (increase) in due from Catholic Cemeteries	511,414	(396,407)
(Increase) decrease in prepaid expense	(173,209)	382,172
(Increase) decrease in other assets	(183,058)	1,196
(Decrease) increase in accounts payable	(61,343)	239,304
Increase (decrease) in custodial funds payable	73,822	(85,243)
(Decrease) increase in accrued interest expense	(5,345)	14,831
Increase in contributions and scholarships payable	1,234,933	596,953
(Decrease) increase in liability for pension benefits	(2,038,306)	1,386,865
Increase (decrease) in accrued claim expense	207,507	(509,091)
(Decrease) increase in accrued postretirement benefit obligation	(759,565)	975,540
Increase (decrease) in due to Diocese of Scranton Institute	77,770	(3,452,765)
Contributions and interest restricted for long-term investment	(7,677)	(8,266)
Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities	<u>(4,906,161)</u>	<u>1,600,825</u>
Investing activities		
Change in temporarily restricted cash	\$ 423,366	\$ (2,941,976)
Change in permanently restricted cash	(7,677)	(8,266)
Purchase of fixed assets	(345,441)	(393,639)
Proceeds from sale of property	3,139,597	2,149
Principal collected-loans receivable	155,973	150,985
Purchase of investments	(40,458,846)	(48,958,111)
Proceeds from sale of investments	42,106,464	44,845,174
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	<u>5,013,436</u>	<u>(7,303,684)</u>
Financing activities		
Proceeds from interest and contributions restricted for:		
Investment in endowment	7,677	8,266
Principal payments on loan	(155,973)	(150,985)
Funds on deposit		
Additions	288,374	147,642
Withdrawals	-	(10,500)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	<u>140,078</u>	<u>(5,577)</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash	247,353	(5,708,436)
Cash and equivalents, beginning	5,928,135	11,636,571
Cash and equivalents, ending	<u>\$ 6,175,488</u>	<u>\$ 5,928,135</u>

The accompanying Notes are an integral part of these Financial Statements.

Note 1 - Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Nature of Operations

The accompanying financial statements are limited to reporting financial transactions of the Diocesan Administrative Offices of the Diocese of Scranton (the Diocese). Other organizations, which are owned and operated by the Diocese of Scranton and maintained separately from the Administrative Offices, are not reported on in these financial statements, including Little Flower Manor, Catholic Schools, Catholic Youth Center, Catholic Social Services, Diocese of Scranton Institute and other Diocesan service organizations. These statements also exclude the financial transactions of the parishes and the Diocesan and parish cemeteries.

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles; the more significant of which are described below.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Notes to Financial Statements

Public Support and Revenue

Contributions of cash and other assets are reported as temporarily restricted support if they are received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets. When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the Statements of Activities as net assets released from restrictions.

Endowment contributions and investments are permanently restricted by the donor. Investment earnings that are available to be distributed are recorded as temporarily restricted support.

Contributions of donated non-cash assets are recorded at their fair values in the period received.

Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable consists of assessments billed to parishes and other Diocesan organizations for insurance, priests' pension and health insurance and Diocesan programs and operations. Based on management's evaluation of collectibility, the Diocese has established an allowance for uncollectible accounts.

Investments

Investments in equity securities with readily determinable fair values and all investments in debt securities are measured at fair value in the Statements of Financial Position. Investment income or loss (including realized gains and losses on investments, interest and dividends) is reported in the Statements of Activities as increases or decreases in unrestricted net assets unless the income is restricted by donor or law.

Land, Buildings and Equipment

Land, buildings and equipment are recorded at cost less accumulated depreciation. Donations of land, buildings or equipment are recorded at estimated fair value and are included in support unless restricted to a specific purpose. If donors stipulate how long the assets must be used, the contributions are recorded as restricted support. In the absence of such stipulations, contributions of property and equipment are recorded as unrestricted support. Depreciation is computed on the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of assets.

Long-Lived Assets

The Diocese reviews the carrying value of long-lived assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that carrying amounts of the assets might not be recoverable.

Contributions Payable

Contributions made and unconditional promises to make future contributions to other organizations are recognized when made or the promise conveyed. Contributions payable over more than one year are recorded at their discounted present value. Changes in discounts are recognized over the period of the promise as adjustments to contributions expense.

Excess of Revenues Over Expenses

The Statements of Activities include excess of revenues over expenses. Changes in unrestricted net assets which are excluded from excess of revenues over expenses include provision for bad debt, unrealized gains and losses on investments and transfers of assets to and from affiliates for other than goods and services.

Self-Insurance Programs

Diocesan organizations, including the Diocesan Administrative Offices, parishes and other institutions, are included in a combined plan for property, workers compensation and comprehensive liability insurance. Losses above a specific amount are insured with commercial insurance companies but losses below that amount are self-insured by the Diocese. The Diocese has a standby letter of credit in the amount of \$2,800,000 to provide security for future workers' compensation claim payments. The Diocese records as a liability amounts determined by its insurance administrator as the estimated liability for claims filed for insured losses under the program. The actual liability paid may be in excess of or less than the amounts provided. Refer to Note 9 for additional information.

Defined Benefit Plans

The Diocese recognizes the overfunded or underfunded status of its defined benefit plans as an asset or liability in its statement of financial position and recognizes changes in that funded status in the year in which the changes occur through other changes in net assets. Refer to Note 8.

Funds on Deposit and Notes and Loans Receivable

The funds on deposit are Catholic Cemeteries and other Diocesan organizations perpetual care funds. Interest rates range from 1.0% to 2.0%. The funds are invested in separate trust accounts at Merrill Lynch.

Advertising

All advertising costs are expensed as incurred. For the years ended June 30, 2017 and 2016, advertising expense amounted to \$70,298 and \$87,946, respectively.

Cash Flows

For the purpose of the Statements of Cash Flows, the Diocese considers all highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less when purchased to be cash equivalents. Cash is held in interest-bearing demand accounts and trust accounts at banks. Cash and cash equivalents for the purposes of the Statements of Cash Flows exclude temporarily and permanently restricted cash and cash equivalents.

During the years ended June 30, 2017 and 2016, the Diocese paid interest in the amounts of \$487,611 and \$461,965, respectively.

Income Tax Status

The Diocese is a not-for-profit organization that is exempt from income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

In accordance with the Financial Accounting Standards Board guidance on accounting for uncertainty in income taxes, management evaluated the Diocese's tax positions and concluded that the Diocese had taken no uncertain tax positions that require adjustment to the financial statements to comply with the provisions of this guidance. With few exceptions, the Diocese is no longer subject to income tax examinations by the U.S. federal, state or local tax authorities for years before 2013.

Subsequent Events

The Diocese has evaluated subsequent events through December 6, 2017, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

Reclassifications

Certain items on the prior year's financial statements have been reclassified to conform to the current year's format.

Note 2 - Cash and Equivalents

Cash and equivalents at June 30, 2017, consisted of the following:

First National Community Bank	\$ 4,887,853
Community Bank	486,719
Citibank self-insurance checking	5,035
PNC Bank	4,613,309
Fidelity Deposit and Discount Bank – Self-insurance	735,166
Integrity Bank	535,933
KeyBank	10,693
Merrill Lynch	2,437,412
Fidelity Deposit and Discount Bank trust account	11,212
Petty cash	3,141
Less: Restricted cash	(7,550,985)
Total cash and equivalents	<u>\$ 6,175,488</u>

Note 3 - Investments

Investments at June 30, 2017 and 2016 are summarized as follows:

	2017		2016	
	Cost	Fair Value (Carrying Value)	Cost	Fair Value (Carrying Value)
Unrestricted				
U.S. Obligations	\$ 12,410,754	\$ 12,382,731	\$ 16,111,962	\$ 16,360,343
Corporate Bonds	6,901,640	6,926,206	8,550,547	8,724,921
Corporate Equities	26,418,369	31,515,759	24,009,825	26,166,015
Mutual Funds	4,878,856	4,774,885	1,614,299	1,529,283
	<u>50,609,619</u>	<u>55,599,581</u>	<u>50,286,633</u>	<u>52,780,562</u>
Permanently restricted				
Cash	<u>3,072,697</u>	<u>3,072,697</u>	<u>3,065,020</u>	<u>3,065,020</u>
Total investments	<u>\$ 53,682,316</u>	<u>\$ 58,672,278</u>	<u>\$ 53,351,653</u>	<u>\$ 55,845,582</u>

As of June 30, 2017 and 2016, the above investments were deposited with Merrill Lynch and Fidelity Deposit and Discount Bank.

Unrestricted investment income and gains and losses consisted of the following:

	2017	2016
Income		
Interest and dividends	<u>\$ 1,125,446</u>	<u>\$ 976,691</u>
Net realized gain (loss) on investment transactions	<u>\$ 438,970</u>	<u>\$ (92,300)</u>
Other Changes in Net Assets		
Net unrealized gains on investments	<u>\$ 2,496,033</u>	<u>\$ 221,703</u>

Note 4 - Land, Buildings and Equipment

Land, buildings and equipment consisted of the following at June 30, 2017 and 2016:

	2017	2016	Depreciable Lives
Land, buildings and improvements	\$ 9,917,681	\$ 9,835,985	20-40 Years
Equipment	3,531,944	3,563,036	3-10 Years
	<u>13,449,625</u>	<u>13,399,021</u>	
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>6,851,381</u>	<u>6,720,004</u>	
Total	<u>\$ 6,598,244</u>	<u>\$ 6,679,017</u>	

Depreciation expense amounted to \$381,049 and \$351,985 for the years ended June 30, 2017 and 2016.

At June 30, 2016, the Diocese entered into an agreement for the sale of the St. Pius X Seminary building. The net book value of the property amounted to \$1,142,028 and was recorded as "Assets held for sale" on the Statement of Financial Position. During the year ended June 30, 2017, the building was sold and the Diocese recorded a net gain in the amount of \$1,722,335 included in the Statement of Activities.

Note 5 - Temporarily Restricted Net Assets

Temporarily restricted net assets, as of June 30, 2017 and 2016, are available for the following purposes:

	Net Assets	
	2017	2016
Saint Pius X Seminary/St. John Vianney	\$ 1,342,072	\$ 1,269,855
Villa St. Joseph	249,733	228,276
Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Foundation	78,664	52,562
Msgr. Paul F. Terracciano Tuition Trust Fund	5,290	4,635
Reverend Niebrzydowski Tuition Fund	12,683	12,518
Msgr. Jordan Tuition Fund	19,594	19,339
Christie D. Shull Fund	2,446,288	2,739,332
Stanley F. Abramek Fund	125,709	124,848
Campaign for Human Development Program	19,178	20,916
Restricted for program and educational expenditures	<u>179,076</u>	<u>153,977</u>
Total temporarily restricted net assets	<u>\$ 4,478,287</u>	<u>\$ 4,626,258</u>

Net assets were released from donor restrictions by incurring expenses satisfying the restricted purposes specified by donors as follows:

	Net Assets	
	2017	2016
Diocesan Annual Appeal Program costs	\$ 4,804,543	\$ 4,797,735
Campaign for Human Development Program costs	20,916	-
National Collections - collections remitted	1,026,632	835,214
Beatrice M. Eck Endowment Fund Scholarship	52,000	94,600
Villa St. Joseph Capital improvements	10,023	36,837
Seminary/St. John Vianney Fund improvements	70,212	65,591
Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Foundation Scholarships and program costs	<u>1,510,048</u>	<u>1,821,431</u>
Total restrictions released	<u>\$ 7,494,374</u>	<u>\$ 7,651,408</u>

Note 6 - Permanently Restricted Net Assets

Permanently restricted net assets, as of June 30, 2017 and 2016, are restricted to the following:

	Net Assets	
	2017	2016
Permanent Endowment Funds		
Reverend Charles J. O'Donnell Scholarship Fund		
The income derived from invested funds is to be distributed for Mass stipends and seminarian training. Any remaining income is to be reinvested and become part of the principal.	\$ 106,365	\$ 106,365
Msgr. Paul F. Terracciano Tuition Trust Fund		
The income derived from invested funds is to be distributed for tuition to students attending Diocesan schools.	45,000	45,000
Beatrice M. Eck Endowment Fund		
85% of the income derived from invested funds is to be distributed for Catholic education in Lycoming County.	2,708,515	2,700,838
Fanucci Trust Fund		
The income derived from invested funds is to be distributed for Priest educational or career development including continuing education or Priestly formation.	212,817	212,817
Total permanently restricted net assets	<u>\$ 3,072,697</u>	<u>\$ 3,065,020</u>

Note 7 - Contributions Payable

At June 30, 2017, contributions payable amounted to \$2,200,972. For the preceding year, contributions payable amounted to \$690,643.

Amounts due in:

Less than one year	\$ 2,195,972
One to five years	<u>5,000</u>
Total contributions payable	<u>\$ 2,200,972</u>

Note 8 - Retirement Plans**Priests' Pension Plan**

There is a defined benefit pension plan in effect for all incardinated priests in good standing or priests in good standing permanently assigned to the Diocese. The entire cost of the Plan is paid by the parish or institution to which each eligible priest is assigned. The Plan is administered by the Bishop with advisory and consulting services available to him from a Retirement Board.

The Diocesan funding policy is to contribute annually amounts determined by actuarial estimates. Contributions are intended to provide not only for benefits attributed to service to date but also for those expected to be earned in the future.

Lay Employee Pension Plan

There is a defined benefit pension plan for the lay employees of the Diocesan Administrative Offices. Prior to June 30, 2009, the cost of the Plan was paid jointly by the Diocesan offices and the employees. The employee contribution was 3% of base salary each year and the employer contribution rate was 7%. In May, 2008, the decision was made to freeze the pension plan as of June 30, 2009. After that date, no further benefits will accrue in the plan.

Postretirement Medical Benefits

The Diocese provides certain health care benefits for all retired priests. The Diocese's share of the estimated costs of benefits that will be paid after retirement is generally being accrued by charges to expense over the priests' service periods to the dates they are fully eligible for benefits.

	Pension Benefits		Postretirement Medical Benefits	
	2017	2016	2017	2016
Obligations and funded status at June 30:				
Fair value of plan assets	\$ 13,518,367	\$ 12,756,187	\$ -	\$ -
Projected benefit obligations	<u>24,521,943</u>	<u>25,798,069</u>	<u>11,052,447</u>	<u>11,812,012</u>
Funded status at end of years	<u>\$(11,003,576)</u>	<u>\$(13,041,882)</u>	<u>\$(11,052,447)</u>	<u>\$(11,812,012)</u>
Amounts recognized in the Statements of Financial Position consist of:				
Liability for benefits	<u>\$(11,003,576)</u>	<u>\$(13,041,882)</u>	<u>\$(11,052,447)</u>	<u>\$(11,812,012)</u>
Net amount recognized	<u>\$(11,003,576)</u>	<u>\$(13,041,882)</u>	<u>\$(11,052,447)</u>	<u>\$(11,812,012)</u>

The accumulated benefit obligation for both defined benefit pension plans was \$24,521,943 and \$25,798,069 at June 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively. Both plans had accumulated benefit obligations in excess of plan assets at June 30, 2017 and 2016.

	Pension Benefits		Postretirement Medical Benefits	
	2017	2016	2017	2016
Net (gain) loss	\$ (1,263,940)	\$ 351,723	\$ 50,205	\$ 140,869
Prior service cost	(97,004)	(97,004)	(47,179)	(157,292)
Change in assumptions	(573,334)	1,200,505	(910,678)	849,543
	(1,934,278)	1,455,224	(907,652)	833,120
Net periodic benefit cost	1,307,903	1,079,696	148,087	142,420
Total	\$ (626,375)	\$ 2,534,920	\$ (759,565)	\$ 975,540

The estimated net loss and prior service cost for the defined benefit pension plans that will be amortized from net assets into net periodic benefit cost over the next fiscal year are \$663,026 and \$97,004, respectively. The estimated net gain and prior service cost for the other defined benefit postretirement plan that will be amortized from net assets into net periodic benefit cost over the next fiscal year is \$128,241 and \$47,179, respectively.

Assumptions	Pension Benefits		Postretirement Medical Benefits	
	2017	2016	2017	2016
Weighted-average assumptions used in computing ending obligations:				
Discount rate	4.25%	4.00%	4.25%	4.00%
Rate of compensation increase	N/A	N/A	-	-
Weighted-average assumptions used in computing net cost:				
Discount rate	4.25%	4.00%	4.25%	4.00%
Expected long-term return on plan assets	7.50%	7.50%	-	-
Rate of compensation increase	N/A	N/A	-	-

The expected long-term return on plan assets was determined using average historical returns of the Diocese's plan assets.

Assumed health care cost trend rates at June 30:

	2017	2016
Health care cost trend rate assumed for next year	5.50%	6.00%
Rate to which the cost trend rate is assumed to decline (the ultimate trend rate)	5.50%	5.50%
Year that the rate reaches the ultimate trend rate	2018	2018

Plan Assets

The assets of the Plans are deposited in separate Merrill Lynch trust accounts for the Diocese of Scranton's lay and priest pension plans.

In determining fair value for pension plan assets, the Diocese uses various methods including market, income and cost approaches. The Diocese utilizes valuation techniques that maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. The fair value hierarchy ranks the quality and reliability of the information used to determine fair values. Financial assets carried at fair value will be classified and disclosed in one of the following three categories:

Level I – Valuations for assets and liabilities traded in active exchange markets, such as the New York Stock Exchange.

Level II – Valuations for assets and liabilities traded in less active dealer or broker markets. Valuations are obtained from third party pricing services for identical or similar assets or liabilities.

Level III – Valuations for assets and liabilities that are derived from other valuation methodologies, including option pricing models, discounted cash flow models and similar techniques, and not based on market exchange, dealer, or broker traded transactions. Level III valuations incorporate certain assumptions and projections in determining the fair value assigned to such assets or liabilities.

The asset's or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value:

Common Stocks, Corporate bonds, U.S. Government and Agencies obligations, and Money Markets: Valued at the closing price reported on the active market on which the individual securities are traded.

Assets:	June 30, 2017			
	Level I	Level II	Level III	Total
U.S. Obligations	\$ 1,609,878	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,609,878
Corporate bonds	661,227	-	-	661,227
Common stocks	8,521,956	-	-	8,521,956
Money markets	2,725,306	-	-	2,725,306
	\$ 13,518,367	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,518,367

Assets:	June 30, 2016			
	Level I	Level II	Level III	Total
U.S. Obligations	\$ 2,229,050	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,229,050
Corporate bonds	1,146,264	-	-	1,146,264
Common stocks	7,676,211	-	-	7,676,211
Money markets	1,704,662	-	-	1,704,662
	\$ 12,756,187	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,756,187

The Diocese's pension plan weighted-average asset allocations at June 30, 2017 and 2016, by asset category, are as follows:

	Pension Benefits	
	2017	2016
Equity securities	63.00%	60.00%
Debt securities	17.00%	27.00%
Other	20.00%	13.00%
Total	100.00%	100.00%

The Diocese's investment policies and strategies include:

- 1) The Diocese, in keeping with Canon Law and Catholic philosophy, excludes investments in companies whose products or performances are inconsistent with Catholic teaching.
- 2) Bonds must be rated "A" or better and maturities are limited to a maximum of ten years. Purchases of preferred stock are not permitted.
- 3) The asset allocation policy is 60% for equities and 40% for cash and fixed income.

Cash Flows

Contributions

Diocesan contributions:

	Pension Benefits	Other Benefits
2016 (actual)	\$1,148,055	\$ -
2017 (actual)	1,411,931	-
2018 (estimated)	1,000,000	-

There are no participant contributions after June 30, 2009.

Benefit Payments

Benefit payments:

	Pension Benefits	Other Benefits
2016	\$1,683,617	\$486,057
2017	1,817,279	457,223

The following benefit payments, which reflect expected future service, as appropriate, are expected to be paid:

	Pension Benefits	Other Benefits
2018	\$2,031,283	\$ 501,649
2019	2,007,052	513,594
2020	1,951,946	524,591
2021	1,899,730	549,741
2022	1,879,757	567,590
Years 2023-2027	8,792,743	3,100,991

403(b) Plan

On July 1, 2009, the Diocese established a 403(b) Plan for employees. The Diocese contributes 2% of gross earnings to all employees and also matches employee deferral contributions up to 4%. For the years ended June 30, 2017 and 2016, the Diocese contributed \$167,879 and \$155,935 respectively, to the 403(b) Plan for the employees of the Administrative Offices.

Note 9 - Self-Insurance Program

General

Under the terms of the general insurance plan, individual claims above a specific amount (\$500,000 for property claims, \$250,000 for liability claims, and \$500,000 for workers compensation claims in 2017 and 2016) are insured with commercial insurance companies. Prior to July 1, 1993, an aggregate loss fund (\$1,250,000 for 1993) was also in place to limit claim expenses for the Diocese to that amount for the claim year. For the years ended June 30, 1994 and thereafter, the loss fund protection was eliminated to reduce excess commercial insurance premium expense.

Medical

As of July 1, 2005, the Diocese instituted a self-insurance medical plan. Under the terms of the plan, there is insurance coverage for individual claims exceeding \$185,000 with a maximum annual reimbursement of \$1,815,000.

Note 10 - Loan Payable

In December, 2004, the Diocese entered into a loan agreement with the Monroe County Industrial Development Authority (the Authority) to provide funding for a construction project at Notre Dame Junior Senior High School (the School). The Authority issued a revenue note in the amount of \$7,500,000 and subsequently sold the note to PNC Bank, NA. The proceeds were then loaned to the Diocese, and the Diocese agreed to pay all amounts due by the Authority under the note to the Bank. The note called for monthly payments of \$35,531, including principal and interest of 3.88%, until December, 2015, at which time the note was refinanced. The note was refinanced with the Authority in the amount of \$4,048,000 and was subsequently sold to First National Community Bank. The note calls for payments of \$22,539, including principal and interest of 3.00%, until January 2025. The Bank has a security interest in the property, and the Diocese is subject to various covenants; refer to the agreements for details. As disclosed in Note 1 to the financial statements, the School is an organization not reported on in these financial statements. Therefore, a loan receivable from the School has been recorded in the Statement of Financial Position in the same amount as the Loan Payable. The balance at June 30, 2017 and 2016 amounted to \$3,678,968 and \$3,834,941, respectively.

Note 11 - Diocesan Annual Appeal

The Diocesan Annual Appeal is a Diocesan program started as a means of supporting the charitable, educational and pastoral services of the Diocese. Campaigns for the years ended June 30, 2017 and 2016 had budget goals of \$5,000,000, respectively, which would be used to finance various Diocesan programs.

Based on the terms of the Appeal, each parish was assigned a “Parish Goal”, which represented its portion of the overall Diocesan goal. Parishes shared in the success of the campaign to the extent that they received seventy-five percent of the funds which were raised in excess of their goal.

Funds raised by the 2016 Diocesan Annual Appeal totaled \$5,055,657. The Diocese returned to parishes \$249,130 representing seventy-five percent of the funds raised in excess of the individual parish goals for the 2016 campaign. Also, contributions receivable of \$69,285 were recorded at their net realizable value in connection with the 2016 campaign; these contributions were collected within one year.

Funds raised by the 2015 Diocesan Annual Appeal totaled \$5,045,080. The Diocese returned to parishes \$237,887 representing seventy-five percent of the funds raised in excess of the individual parish goals for the 2015 campaign. Also, contributions receivable of \$45,323 were recorded at their net realizable value in connection with the 2015 campaign; these contributions were collected within one year.

Appeal contributions were committed to the following Diocesan programs and expenditures were made accordingly:

	2017		2016	
	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	Actual
Direct aid to schools and Religious Education Grants	\$ 850,000	\$ 816,772	\$ 850,000	\$ 815,615
Communication and Evangelization	850,000	816,772	850,000	815,615
Social services	600,000	576,545	600,000	575,728
Clergy formation, education and Retirement	1,200,000	1,153,091	1,200,000	1,151,457
Parish Ministries	1,100,000	1,057,000	1,100,000	1,055,502
Campaign Cost	400,000	384,363	400,000	383,819
	<u>\$ 5,000,000</u>	<u>\$4,804,543</u>	<u>\$ 5,000,000</u>	<u>\$4,797,736</u>

Interest income earned on Appeal funds amounted to \$7,233 and \$4,718 for the years ended June 30, 2017 and 2016.

Note 12 - Called to Holiness

Parish Restructuring

Called to Holiness is the consolidation of parishes within the Diocese. Through this consolidation, whenever an ethnic parish closes and has net assets, part of the net assets will be given to the territorial parish which has assumed care of the former members of the closed parish. The part of the net assets not passed on, approximately 42%, will be retained by the Diocese to cover the net liabilities of closed ethnic parishes which become the responsibility of the Diocese. During the years ended June 30, 2017 and 2016, the Diocese received assets in the amount of \$92,655 and \$144,691, respectively, and made transfers and debt reductions in the amount of \$197,151 and \$128,603, respectively.

Note 13 - Cash Subject to Program Restrictions

Cash subject to program restrictions consists of the cash held to meet the requirements of temporarily restricted net assets.

Note 14 - Contingencies

Related Party Loans

The Diocese has agreed to guarantee repayment of principal and interest on the following bank loans of Diocesan organizations:

	Balances at June 30, 2017
Little Flower Manor	\$ 1,531,567
Catholic Social Services	\$ 1,404,709

Litigation

The Diocese has several claims and pending legal proceedings that generally involve personal liability and employment issues. In the opinion of management and outside legal counsel, such proceedings are substantially covered by insurance, and the ultimate disposition of such proceedings are not expected to have a material adverse effect on the Diocese’s financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

In August, 2016, the Diocese was one of six Roman Catholic Dioceses in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be served with a subpoena from the Pennsylvania Attorney General’s Office requiring production of documents related to allegations of childhood sexual abuse. The Diocese has provided documentation in response to the subpoena and has had no subsequent, substantive contact from the Attorney General’s Office.

Note 15 - Fair Value Measurements

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. In determining fair value, the Diocese uses various methods including market, income and cost approaches. Based on these approaches, the Diocese often utilizes certain assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability, including assumptions about risk and or the risks inherent in the inputs to the valuation technique. These inputs can be readily observable, market corroborated, or generally unobservable inputs. The Diocese utilizes valuation techniques that maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. Based on the observability of the inputs used in the valuation techniques, the Diocese is required to provide the following information according to the fair value hierarchy. The fair value hierarchy ranks the quality and reliability of the information used to determine fair values. Financial assets and liabilities carried at fair value will be classified and disclosed in one of the following three categories:

Level I – Valuations for assets and liabilities traded in active exchange markets, such as the New York Stock Exchange.

Level II – Valuations for assets and liabilities traded in less active dealer or broker markets. Valuations are obtained from third party pricing services for identical or similar assets or liabilities.

Level III – Valuations for assets and liabilities that are derived from other valuation methodologies, including option pricing models, discounted cash flow models and similar techniques, and not based on market exchange, dealer, or broker traded transactions. Level III valuations incorporate certain assumptions and projections in determining the fair value assigned to such assets or liabilities.

The asset’s or liability’s fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value:

Common Stocks, Corporate bonds, U.S. Government and Agencies obligations and Money Markets: Valued at the closing price reported on the active market on which the individual securities are traded.

The preceding methods may provide a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, while the Diocese believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

The following tables set forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the assets at fair value as of June 30, 2017 and 2016.

Assets:	June 30, 2017			
	Level I	Level II	Level III	Total
U.S. Obligations	\$ 12,382,731	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,382,731
Corporate bonds				
Aaa credit rating	-	324,265	-	324,265
Aa1 credit rating	-	624,705	-	624,705
Aa2 credit rating	-	361,392	-	361,392
Aa3 credit rating	-	339,221	-	339,221
A1 credit rating	-	718,632	-	718,632
A2 credit rating	-	1,346,221	-	1,346,221
A3 credit rating	-	1,330,504	-	1,330,504
Baa1 credit rating	-	1,318,391	-	1,318,391
Baa2 credit rating	-	375,091	-	375,091
Baa3 credit rating	-	187,784	-	187,784
Total Corporate Bonds	-	6,926,206	-	6,926,206
Equities				
Industrials	2,816,421	-	-	2,816,421
Consumer Discretionary	3,503,813	-	-	3,503,813
Consumer Staples	2,859,644	-	-	2,859,644
Energy	2,539,504	-	-	2,539,504
Financial	4,664,547	-	-	4,664,547
Materials	1,211,339	-	-	1,211,339
Information Technology	6,929,059	-	-	6,929,059
Utilities	1,581,645	-	-	1,581,645
Health Care	3,007,839	-	-	3,007,839
Telecommunication Services	1,397,347	-	-	1,397,347
Real Estate	1,004,601	-	-	1,004,601
Total Equities	31,515,759	-	-	31,515,759
Mutual Funds	4,774,885	-	-	4,774,885
Restricted cash	3,072,697	-	-	3,072,697
	\$ 51,746,072	\$ 6,926,206	\$ -	\$ 58,672,278

Assets:	June 30, 2016			
	Level I	Level II	Level III	Total
U.S. Obligations	\$ 16,360,343	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,360,343
Corporate bonds				
Aaa credit rating	-	221,236	-	221,236
Aa1 credit rating	-	356,809	-	356,809
Aa2 credit rating	-	710,854	-	710,854
Aa3 credit rating	-	413,116	-	413,116
A1 credit rating	-	1,233,416	-	1,233,416
A2 credit rating	-	1,752,218	-	1,752,218
A3 credit rating	-	2,124,384	-	2,124,384
Baa1 credit rating	-	1,465,049	-	1,465,049
Baa2 credit rating	-	447,839	-	447,839
Total Corporate Bonds	-	8,724,921	-	8,724,921
Equities				
Industrials	1,799,489	-	-	1,799,489
Consumer Discretionary	3,232,051	-	-	3,232,051
Consumer Staples	3,068,809	-	-	3,068,809
Energy	2,403,978	-	-	2,403,978
Financial	3,850,954	-	-	3,850,954
Materials	912,620	-	-	912,620
Information Technology	5,609,374	-	-	5,609,374
Utilities	1,216,222	-	-	1,216,222
Health Care	2,732,289	-	-	2,732,289
Telecommunication Services	1,340,229	-	-	1,340,229
Total Equities	26,166,015	-	-	26,166,015
Mutual Funds	1,529,283	-	-	1,529,283
Restricted cash	3,065,020	-	-	3,065,020
	\$ 47,120,661	\$ 8,724,921	\$ -	\$ 55,845,582

Note 16 - Endowments

The Diocese's endowment funds consist of approximately 9 individual funds established primarily for student scholarships that are donor-restricted funds. As required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, net assets associated with endowment funds are classified and reported based on existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions.

Endowment Net Asset Composition by type of fund as of June 30, 2017 and 2016 is as follows:

	2017			
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Donor-restricted endowment Funds	\$ -	\$ 2,730,795	\$ 3,072,697	\$ 5,803,492

	2016			
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Donor-restricted endowment Funds	\$ -	\$ 3,002,814	\$ 3,065,020	\$ 6,067,834

Changes in Endowment Net Assets for the years ended June 30, 2017 and 2016, are as follows:

	2017			
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Endowment net assets, beginning of year	\$ -	\$ 3,002,814	\$ 3,065,020	\$ 6,067,834
Investment return:				
Investment income	-	91,597	7,677	99,274
Total investment return	-	91,597	7,677	99,274
Contributions	-	1,170,847	-	1,170,847
Appropriation of endowment assets for expenditure	-	(1,534,463)	-	(1,534,463)
Endowment net assets, end of year	\$ -	\$ 2,730,795	\$ 3,072,697	\$ 5,803,492

	2016			
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Endowment net assets, beginning of year	\$ -	\$ 659,950	\$ 3,056,754	\$ 3,716,704
Investment return:				
Investment income	-	74,372	8,266	82,638
Total investment return	-	74,372	8,266	82,638
Contributions	-	4,165,994	-	4,165,994
Appropriation of endowment assets for expenditure	-	(1,897,502)	-	(1,897,502)
Endowment net assets, end of year	\$ -	\$ 3,002,814	\$ 3,065,020	\$ 6,067,834

The Diocese has adopted investment and spending policies for endowment assets that attempt to provide a predictable stream of funding to programs supported by its endowment while seeking to maintain the purchasing power of the endowment assets.

The donor-restricted endowment assets earn a fixed rate of return in the Diocesan Deposit Fund.

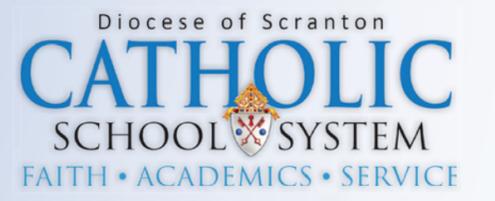




CATCH OUR SPIRIT...

CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

OPEN HOUSES: SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2018



WYOMING AREA CATHOLIC



EXETER

GRADES PRE-K - 8
(570) 654-7982
OPEN HOUSE 12PM - 2PM

HOLY REDEEMER H.S.



WILKES-BARRE

GRADES 9 - 12 &
INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION
(570) 829-2424
CALL FOR A PRIVATE TOUR

HOLY ROSARY



DURVEA

GRADES PRE-K - 8
(570) 457-2553
OPEN HOUSE 1PM - 3PM

ALL SAINTS ACADEMY



SCRANTON

GRADES PRE-K - 8 &
INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION
(570) 343-8114
OPEN HOUSE 1PM - 3PM

HOLY CROSS H. S.



DUNMORE

GRADES 9 - 12 &
INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION
(570) 346-7541
CALL FOR A PRIVATE TOUR

ST. MARY OF MOUNT CARMEL



DUNMORE

GRADES PRE-K - 8
(570) 346-4429
OPEN HOUSE 12:30PM - 2:30PM

ST. JUDE SCHOOL



MOUNTAIN TOP

GRADES PRE-K - 8 (570) 474-5803
OPEN HOUSE 12PM - 2PM

LA SALLE ACADEMY



JESSUP

GRADES PRE-K - 8
(570) 489-2010
OPEN HOUSE 1PM - 3PM

ST. CLARE / ST. PAUL



SCRANTON

N. WASHINGTON AVE.
GRADES PRE-K - 2
(570) 343-2790
OPEN HOUSE 9AM - 2 PM

PENN AVE.
GRADES 3 - 8
(570) 343-7880
OPEN HOUSE 9AM - 2 PM

GOOD SHEPHERD ACADEMY



KINGSTON

GRADES PRE-K - 8 &
INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION
(570) 718-4724
OPEN HOUSE 1:30PM - 3PM

HOLY FAMILY ACADEMY



HAZLETON

GRADES PRE-K - 8
(570) 455-9431
OPEN HOUSE 1PM - 3PM

ST. NICHOLAS / ST. MARY SCHOOL



WILKES-BARRE

GRADES PRE-K - 8
(570) 823-8089
OPEN HOUSE 1PM - 3PM

EPIPHANY SCHOOL



SAYRE

GRADES PRE-K - 6
(570) 888-5802
OPEN HOUSE 12PM - 2PM

OUR LADY OF PEACE



CLARKS GREEN

GRADES K - 8 (570) 587-4152
OPEN HOUSE 1PM - 3PM

ST. AGNES SCHOOL



TOWANDA

GRADES PRE-K - 6
(570) 265-6803
OPEN HOUSE 10AM - 1PM

OPEN HOUSES: SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2018

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: WWW.DIOCESEOFSCRANTON.ORG/CATHOLICSCHOOLS

CATCH OUR SPIRIT!

CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

OPEN HOUSES: SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2018

NOTRE DAME JR./SR. H.S.



EAST STROUDSBURG

GRADES 7 - 12
(570) 421-0466
OPEN HOUSE 1PM - 3PM

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EAST STROUDSBURG

GRADES PRE-K - 6
(570) 421-3651
OPEN HOUSE 1PM - 3PM

MONSIGNOR MCHUGH SCHOOL



CRESCO

GRADES PRE-K - 8
(570) 595-7463
OPEN HOUSE 2PM - 4PM

ST. JOHN NEUMANN H.S., WILLIAMSPORT



GRADES 6 - 12 (570) 323-9953
OPEN HOUSE 12:30PM - 2PM

ST. JOHN NEUMANN ELEMENTARY, WILLIAMSPORT



GRADES PRE-K - 5 (570) 326-3738
OPEN HOUSE 12:30PM - 2PM

National Migration Week: A reminder of our duty to welcome the stranger

In 2003, the Catholic bishops of the United States and Mexico issued a historic binational pastoral letter on immigration, “Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope.” The title takes its inspiration from Saint Paul, who, in the second chapter of his letter to the Ephesians, states: “... you are strangers and aliens no longer. No, you are fellow citizens of the saints and members of the household of God.”

He is writing here to the Gentile Christians at Ephesus who had been “excluded” from the people of God, since they were not members of the chosen people of Israel. But now God has revealed himself to all people and given all nations access to membership in the people of God through the sacrifice of his son Jesus Christ on the cross. Therefore, whereas before the Ephesians had been “far off” from the people of God, now they have been “brought near” because they have accepted this revelation and regulated their lives accordingly.

That was 15 years ago. I was a new bishop at the time, and felt very inspired by the bold and creative pastoral vision of my elders in the episcopacy, a vision whose impetus came from a meeting of the Catholic bishops of the dioceses along the border between Mexico and Texas. In the year 2000, they wrote a letter to the presidents of the Mexican and U.S. conferences of Catholic bishops expressing their concern for the loss of life and destruction of family life resulting from existing immigration policies and practices.

For myself, ministering in another border diocese at the time, San Diego, I saw up close the need for immigration reform and the human tragedy that results from our failure to achieve it. In fact, one of the first pastoral invitations I received as an auxiliary bishop was to celebrate Mass in a cemetery in the Imperial Valley for those buried there. The graves were unmarked. They had to be. The cemetery was for those who had died trying to enter the United States through the desert. Their bodies were found, unidentified. There were over 200 such victims buried in that cemetery at the time.

I had hoped at that time that, by now, our nation would have arrived at a workable solution to the plight of those seeking asylum, refuge or immigration to our land in a way that achieves justice for all involved. Instead, sadly, the problem continues to grow, and seemingly to have exacerbated especially in this last year, with many of our friends, neighbors, relatives,



coworkers and fellow parishioners living in fear of being separated from their families at any given moment, afraid that any little misstep or untimely encounter could result in deprivation of livelihood and loved ones. People should not have to live in the shadows and in fear, nor should they have to risk their lives to come to a place where they can find honest work to provide for their loved ones.

For almost 50 years now, the Catholic Church in the United States has celebrated National Migration Week, which is being celebrated Jan. 7-14 this year. This week is an opportunity the church gives us to reflect on the harsh circumstances faced by migrants of all types, such as immigrants, refugees, unaccompanied minors and other children and victims and survivors of human trafficking. It is a reminder to all of us of the duty incumbent upon us as Christians to take responsibility for those suffering from our broken immigration system for, as Saint John Paul II reminds us in his encyclical “The Gospel of Life,” yes, we are all our brother’s and sister’s keeper.

I would therefore ask our Catholic people to do two things to honor National Migration Week: that is, two things to do not for or during National Migration week, but to do in order to apply the meaning of this week to their lives throughout the year.

First of all, for those not already well versed in the church’s teaching on migration, I would ask that they become so. While it is true that some policy decisions fall within the area of prudential judgments, there are also basic moral principles that must always be respected if justice for migrants, and the countries they are seeking to enter, is to be attained. It is important that our people understand what our church teaches on this critical and timely topic, which provides the rationale for the sorts of policies for which we advocate.

A good starting point would be to obtain a copy of “Strangers No Longer”

and give it a thorough reading. Other information is available on the USCCB immigration website, justiceformigrants.org.

Secondly, this important body of church teaching must not remain in the head. Behind every immigrant story is a very real and moving, and sometimes tragic, human experience. Immigration is an issue which, perhaps more than any other, looks very different when one can put a human face to it. As Pope Francis has stated: “Each migrant has a name, a face and a story.” It is imperative that all people native to our country get to know immigrants and migrants and listen to their stories.

Every one of us in this country has an immigration story somewhere in our families’ lineage, and so in justice we must not see the newly arrived immigrant in our midst as “the other” or, even worse, a statistic, but rather pay attention to and care for them. And as Christians, we have the even higher calling of welcoming the stranger as Christ himself, for he reveals himself to us through them: “I was ... a stranger and you welcomed me” (Matthew 25:35).

Saint Paul’s teaching in his letter to the Ephesians is of one people, reconciled to each other in Christ, and through Christ reconciled to God the father. It is a vision of disparate peoples who find a new peace and unity with each other through the revelation of God’s saving action. They are, then, no longer strangers to each other, nor to those who went before them in faith and now share the fullness of life in God’s kingdom. This means, therefore, that if we are to be people of God, we cannot allow differences to be causes of division and hostility. Rather, we are to welcome persons of all cultures and languages as brothers and sisters.

In closing, in addition to everything else, I would ask us all to remember, above all, to pray: to pray for those suffering hardship in seeking a new home whether as immigrants or refugees; to pray especially for victims of human trafficking; and to pray for a permanent solution leading to a just, equitable and comprehensive reform of our nation’s immigration system.

Editor’s note: This is a column by San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone that was published in the January 3 edition of the Catholic San Francisco archdiocesan newspaper. For additional resources on National Migration Week, please also visit www.dioceseofscranton.org



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Diocese of Scranton
DIOCESAN
ANNUAL APPEAL



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JANUARY SCHEDULE

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
12:00 AM	SPECIALS	SUNDAY MASS (Encore)	DAILY MASS (Encore)				Fr. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE
1:00 AM	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	(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 & JOY
1:30 AM	REAL LIFE CATHOLIC	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Encore)				
2:00 AM							
2:30 AM	SPECIALS		EWTN GALLERY	EWTN BOOKMARK	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	
3:00 AM		PRO LIFE WEEKLY		DEFENDING LIFE	LIFE ON THE ROCK	BATTLE READY	LONG RIDE HOME W/ BEAR WOZNICK
3:30 AM	EWTN ON LOCATION	VOICE OF THE BRIDEGROOM	EWTN GALLERY	ANGELUS FROM NAZARETH	SAINTS VS SCOUNDRELS	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOG	CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN
3:40 AM							
3:50 AM							
4:00 AM			YOU'RE AMAZING	PAPAL AUDIENCE LIVE (at 3:50)	SUPER SAINTS	WEB OF FAITH 2.0	SAVORING OUR FAITH
4:30 AM	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	SUNDAY NIGHT PRIME	OCTAVA DIES		DISCERNING THE WILL OF GOD		PRIESTS & DEACONS: MINISTERS OF MERCY
5:00 AM	RISE & FALL OF ANCIENT ISRAEL	EWTN BOOKMARK	THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL	LORD HAVE MERCY	EWTN SPECIALS	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY	FR. RUTLER
5:30 AM	LIFE IS WORTH LIVING	A FORCE FOR GOOD	THE MARTYRS: THEY DIED FOR CHRIST	HOW TO PRAY FOR YOUR LOVED ONES			
6:00 AM	ANGELUS WITH POPE FRANCIS	EWTN ORIGINAL PRODUCTIONS					
6:30 AM	LONG RIDE HOME	EWTN CATALOG	CHURCH AND THE POOR	JOY OF MUSIC	APOSTOLATE FOR FAMILY CONSECRATION	THE CHOICES WE FACE	SAINTS vs. SCOUNDRELS
7:00 AM	THE CHAPLET OF ST. MICHAEL						
7:30 AM	HOLY LAND ROSARY						
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	THE HOLY ROSARY FROM LOURDES
8:00 AM	SUNDAY MASS (Live)	DAILY MASS (Live)					
9:00 AM	(9:10AM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	SUNDAY NIGHT: PRIME (Encore)	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY	THRESHOLD OF HOPE (Encore)	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	THE WORLD OVER (Encore)	MASTERPIECE DONUT SHOP
9:30 AM	EWTN BOOKMARK						HERMIE AND FRIENDS
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		CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN	FOCUS	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY
11:00 AM		WOMEN OF GRACE					
11:30 AM	HOLY ROSARY FROM LOURDES	THE CHOICES WE FACE	WEEKLY NOVENA TO ST. ANN	MUSIC AND THE SPOKEN WORD	THE FRIAR	LIVE WITH PASSION	HOLY ROSARY FROM LOURDES
12:00 PM	SUNDAY MASS (Encore)	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, LIVE AT 12:10 p.m.					EWTN DAILY MASS (Encore)
12:30 PM		"DIOCESAN DATEBOOK" airs before and after Mass.					
1:00 PM	(1:10PM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	LORD HAVE MERCY	A FORCE FOR GOOD	JOURNEY HOME (Best of)	CALLED TO COMMUNION	JOURNEY HOME (Best of)	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE
1:30 PM		CROSSING THE GOAL	BATTLE READY				EWTN BOOKMARK
2:00 PM	IN CONCERT	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	THRESHOLD OF HOPE (Live)	FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY	THE MARTYRS: THEY DIED FOR CHRIST STATIONS OF THE CROSS	EWTN ON LOCATION
2:30 PM							
3:00 PM	THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY IN SONG						
3:15 PM	REFLECTIONS	HIDDEN CHURCHES	REFLECTIONS	HIDDEN CHURCHES	REFLECTIONS	HIDDEN CHURCHES	MESSAGE OF FATIMA
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					
4:30 PM	PRAYING AS A FAMILY	MASTERPIECE DONUT SHOP	ANIMATED STORIES FROM THE BIBLE	CHILDRENS SPECIALS	THE FRIAR	WAY OF THE CROSS FOR KIDS	EWTN PRESENTS
5:00 PM	THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL	PRAYING AS A FAMILY	SUPER SAINTS	LIFE IS WORTH LIVING	LIFE ON THE ROCK	SAVORING OUR FAITH	CALLED TO COMMUNION
5:30 PM	SAINTS vs. SCOUNDRELS	EWTN BOOKMARK	THE CHOICES WE FACE	CONVERSATIONS FROM THE WORLD OVER SHOW	REAL LIFE CATHOLIC	EVANGELIZING THE CULTURE	
6:00 PM	PASSIONIST'S SUNDAY MASS	EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Live)					LONG RIDE HOME W/ BEAR WOZNICK
6:30 PM	VATICANO	EWTN GALLERY					
7:00 PM		THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, (Encore)					
7:30 PM	THE WORLD OVER LIVE (Encore)	THE HOLY ROSARY		POPE'S AUDIENCE	THE HOLY ROSARY		MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE CLASSICS
8:00 PM	SUNDAY NIGHT PRIME (Live)	THE JOURNEY HOME (Live)	CTV SPECIAL PRESENTATION	EWTN LIVE	THE WORLD OVER (Live)	SPECIALS	
8:30 PM							EWTN CINEMA
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	
10:00 PM							
10:30 PM	EWTN SPECIALS	THE WORLD OVER LIVE (ENCORE)	REAL LIFE CATHOLIC	FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	PRO-LIFE WEEKLY	A FORCE FOR GOOD	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY
11:00 PM	BATTLE READY	CATHOLICS COME HOME	THRESHOLD OF HOPE (Encore)	THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL	VATICANO	DEFENDING LIFE	WEB OF FAITH 2.0
11:30 PM	CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN	WOMEN OF GRACE					

Scranton PHL Chapter to Host Annual Respect Life Prayer Breakfast January 27

The Scranton Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life (PHL) will sponsor its annual Respect Life Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, Jan. 27, at 9 a.m. at Fiorelli's Catering, 1501 Main St., Peckville.

Scheduled to provide the gathering's keynote address will be principal speaker Ryan Bomberger, who along with his wife Bethany founded the Radiance Foundation, which deals with a myriad of social issues, especially with respect to the dignity of all human life as intended by God.

Conceived in rape but adopted in love, Ryan provides a unique perspective in championing the pro-life cause. Ryan's life personifies the possibilities of all creation and defies the myth of the "unwanted" child by flourishing through the gifts of adoption, acceptance and love.

The keynote speaker is well-known as an international advocate for the unborn and for his national efforts in opposing and seeking the defunding of Planned Parenthood. As a writer and journalist, he is the author of *Not Equal: Civil Rights Gone Wrong* and has worked closely with noted human rights and pro-life activist Dr. Alveda



Ryan Bomberger

King, niece of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Ryan's story and message advocating adoption and the importance of mentoring and educating young people has inspired many to embrace their intrinsic value and the infinite possibility of all God-given life.

Cost to attend the Respect Life Prayer Breakfast is \$21 for adults; \$10 for children ages 6 to 12 (younger children are free of charge). Group reservations are welcome and the deadline is Jan. 22.

Advance reservations may be made by forwarding a check, payable to Pennsylvanians for Human Life, to: Joseph Alinoski, 9B Rachel Drive, Archbald, PA 18403. For more information, call (570-876-4087).

Oblates to Celebrate Feast of the Holy Spouses

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. 21, at 3 p.m. in the chapel of Saint Joseph's Oblate Seminary, Route 315, Laffin.

Principal celebrant and homilist for the Eucharistic liturgy will be Father Louis Grippe, pastor of Most Precious Blood 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 Oblate seminary will host a triduum

— three days of prayer — from Thursday through Saturday, Jan. 18-20, 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 couples, who will receive a special blessing during the Mass.

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

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

A HISTORY of CATHOLICISM
in the THIRTEEN COLONIES



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FR. CHARLES CONNOR



Rev. Charles P. Connor, S.T.L., Ph.D.
Mount Saint Mary's Seminary
Emmitsburg, Maryland

It is unclear why the Catholic experience in the Thirteen Colonies has been largely forgotten. What this book makes clear is that it is a story of faith and perseverance. It is my hope that readers will look at the events of our past not only with historical interest, but with a newfound appreciation for the struggles and challenges confronted by our colonial Catholic forbearers...

— From the Preface

Most Reverend William E. Lori, S.T.D., D.D.
Archbishop of Baltimore

Work of impressive scope and historical insight. This valuable study provides the reader with a comprehensive discussion of the context and growth of the Catholic Church in the English Colonies...

His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Ph.D., D.D.
Archbishop of New York



Father Connor unfolds the story of the Church in the early United States with erudition, skill, understanding and clarity. His engaging account of the active Catholic presence from the days of English colonization through our nation's eventual independence sheds brilliant light on who we are as Catholics and what we have achieved in this great nation...clear, well written and finely researched...

His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl, S.T.D., D.D.
Archbishop of Washington



Father Connor has written a wonderfully absorbing, skillful, in fact, an invaluable history of the Catholic experience in the early American colonies. It is a great read. If we want to know who we are and where we came from as the Church in the United States, this book is a place to start...

Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., D.D.
Archbishop of Philadelphia



An insightful and eminently readable history of the Church in Colonial America...a breath of knowledge that bespeaks Father Connor's extensive training on both sides of the Atlantic...concise, engaging and focused, the book reflects Father Connor's many years of experience in the classroom...

Most Reverend Bernard A. Hebda, J.D., J.C.L.
Archbishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis



Father Connor has shown his extraordinary ability to deepen our understanding of the struggles of our Catholic forbearers... It is my sincere hope and prayer that many will read this book, and come to appreciate the contributions made by Catholics to the growth and development of this "One Nation Under God."

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



As a member of our faculty at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary, Father Connor continues to share his knowledge with our seminarians and with the faculty in both an engaging and inspiring way...His book takes us on a journey across the land of the first colonies and helps us to understand the foundations of the Church in the United States...I highly recommend this refreshing and insightful story of the beginning of the Catholic Church in America...

Reverend Msgr. Andrew R. Baker, S.T.D.
Rector, Mount Saint Mary's Seminary,
Emmitsburg, Maryland

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Mission Message

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



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A few weeks ago, a delivery man approached a group of parishioners after our evening Mass to ask for directions. Naturally, the helpful folks of Pleasant Mount kindly directed the man to his destination and he was well on his way. Isn't that the life of the Christian: helping others to find their way when they're lost?

How providential that this story unfolded in the midst of Christmas and so near to the Feast of the Epiphany, when the magi searched for and found the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

The Feast of the Epiphany, when the manifestation of the Messiah became a reality, is the feast day of the missionary. On this day, we celebrate the magi being led by a star to the place where they would find their purpose, their ultimate joy, Jesus.

That's what missionaries do; they guide others to the place where



they will find their purpose and their joy. Missionaries lead others to Jesus; missionaries are guides to the lost and wandering soul.

We can spot a person lost or wandering pretty easily. The person who is lost *looks* lost. They wear it on their faces and in their demeanor. They may look worried or bewildered and may quite literally be looking to their left and right and all around.

The same is true for the person who is lost spiritually — they look and act lost. We're called to guide those lost souls to Jesus, the One who is their purpose, their refuge, the destination of their seemingly endless searching.

I think it's important to point out that just as we can easily spot a person who is lost and wandering by virtue of their demeanor, so it should be obvious to others that we have found *our* way. When others see our humble confidence and sense that we have found our way to Christ, they can trust that we will be their guide, that we will be a light leading them to the One who fulfills all hopes and holy desires.

It's neither presumptuous, nor inappropriate to intervene in the lives of the spiritually lost and confounded. Not only is it not presumptuous, it's also our duty

to help and guide them. Just as we would likely guide the person who needs directions or assistance in finding their way to a physical destination, we are being called to lead others to their spiritual destination — to lead them to Christ. That's the Church of mercy in action.

Just as the light of the star guided the magi to the place where Jesus lay, so we are called to "let our light shine before" the lost and broken (cf. Mt. 5:16). The light of Christ within us is given to light our own way and to be a beacon for others.

The words of Saint Leo the Great, who wrote about the Feast of the Epiphany, are timeless in their beauty and profound in their challenge:

"The obedience of the star calls us to imitate its humble service: to be servants...of the grace that invites all men to find Christ... you must have the same zeal to be of help to one another; then, in the kingdom of God, to which faith and good works are the way, you will shine as children of the light: through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with God the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen."

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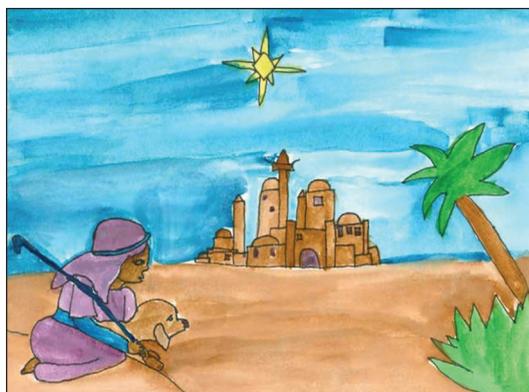
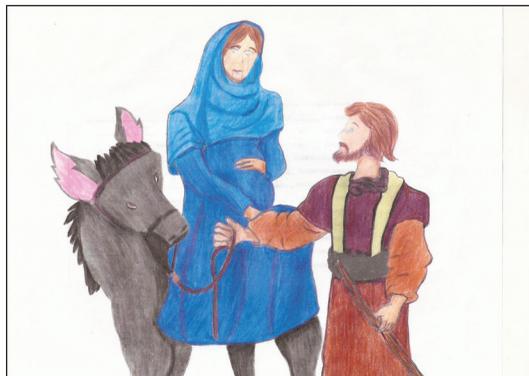
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Diocesan Catholic School Eighth-Grader Awarded Grand Prize in Missions' Christmas Art Contest



Milana Snyder, an eighth-grade student at Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore, is presented with her award plaque from Father Patrick Posey in Washington, D.C., last month for achieving one of the top honors in the annual Missionary Childhood Association Christmas artwork contest. Milana's grand-prize-winning entry depicting the Nativity story is pictured above right. Also shown is the artwork submitted by Cheyanne Freeman, as a sixth-grade student at Monsignor McHugh School in Cresco, which was chosen as one of the 24 overall winners by contest judges.



WASHINGTON — A recent special Mass and exhibit at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington celebrated the winners of the annual Christmas artwork contest sponsored by the Missionary Childhood Association, an agency of the Pontifical Mission Societies.

Among the 17 of this year's 24 winners who journeyed to the national shrine with their families for the Mass and presentation of awards was Milana Snyder, an eighth-grade student at Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore, whose artistic depiction of the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph en route to Bethlehem before the birth of Jesus captured one of the contest's two grand prizes.

She was accompanied by her parents, Gary and Christine Snyder, along with sister Isabella and brother Max.

Artwork was submitted by elementary school-age children in Catholic schools, religious education and home-school programs throughout the United States for this year's contest.

The Scranton Diocese actually boasted two award-winners — the other being Cheyanne Freeman, who was among the honorees for her artwork submission as a sixth-grader at Monsignor McHugh School in Cresco.

The winning artwork featuring various representations of the Nativity story was made available as eGreetings at <http://egreetings.missio.org> and was to remain on display at the national shrine through the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Father Patrick Posey, director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the Diocese of Arlington, Va., presented plaques to the winners on behalf of Oblate Father An-

drew Small, national director of the Pontifical Mission Societies, who was on a mission visit to Bangladesh.

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Respect Life Mass Sunday in Nanticoke

The Knights of Columbus of Wyoming Valley will sponsor their annual Respect Life Mass this Sunday, Jan. 14, to mark the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion in America.

The Respect Life Mass will coincide with the 11 a.m. Sunday liturgy of Saint Faustina Kowalska Parish at Holy Trinity Church, 520 South Hanover St., Nanticoke.

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.

Father James Nash, host pastor, invites all faithful to attend.

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- AMERICAN GIRL PLACE, NYC MAY 12 Lunch at American Girl's Café
- FINGER LAKES WINE TRAILS MAY 19 Wine Tasting at 3 Cayuga Lake Vineyards and 1 Seneca Lake Vineyard, Cayuga Lake Knapp Winery Lunch
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- ELLIS ISLAND & LIBERTY ISLAND, NYC MAY 26 Ferry Fees
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- 9/11 MUSEUM, FREEDOM TOWER, WESTFIELD MALL MAY 26
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Mark Your Calendar — Around the Diocese

Spiritual Offerings

Healing Prayer & Adoration of Jesus — JAN. 12, hosted by St. Ignatius Loyola Parish in Kingston; period of prayer and praise held from 7 to 9:30 p.m. in St. Ignatius Church, 339 North Maple Ave., Kingston. Candlelight service will include silence and music of thanksgiving and adoration; opportunity for individual prayer for healing and greater communion with Jesus Christ. All faithful are welcome.

Friday Pro-Life Rosary Vigil — JAN. 12, sponsored by the Catholics Defending Life Prayer & Awareness Team; group resumes weekly gatherings every Friday (except on First Fridays) from 1 to 1:30 p.m. at the Pro-Life Monument located next to St. Peter's Cathedral in Scranton (300 block of Wyoming Ave.). 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.

Friday Holy Hour for Vocations — JAN. 12, hosted by the Little Sisters of the Poor at Holy Family Residence, 2500 Adams Ave., Scranton; weekly devotion held every Friday at 4:30 p.m. in the Residence chapel. Holy Hour includes recitation of the

Rosary, evening prayer (vespers) and benediction. All faithful are welcome.

Weekly Bible Study — JAN. 12, 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.

Evening of Marian Devotion — JAN. 13, hosted by the Diocesan Legion of Mary in response to the Blessed Mother's request at Fatima for prayers for world peace; devotion begins at 6 p.m. at St. Paul Church, 1510 Penn Ave., Scranton. Prayer service will include recitation of the Rosary, Fatima prayers and newly composed Scriptural Mysteries and Hymns led by Ernie Pappa. All are invited to attend and pray for peace in America and throughout the world.

Spiritual Support Group: Scranton Mental Health Ministry — JAN. 13 & 27, 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. Partici-

pating 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. 14, sponsored by Catholic Charismatic prayer groups in the Scranton Diocese; hosted by Queen of the Apostles Parish at St. Mary Church in Avoca. Rosary recitation begins at 6:30 p.m., followed by celebration of Mass at 7 p.m. and prayers

Continued on Page 26

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

Based on my practice, which consists of estate planning and administration along with elder law, I find that clients are more comfortable discussing such matters in familiar surroundings. While I know this may seem unconventional to some, I believe I will be able to serve clients much better in this fashion.

If anyone is uncomfortable with home visits, I have a few locations where I can meet in an office setting. I look forward to meeting with my existing clients and especially meeting new clients that are looking for any assistance in estate or elder law matters.



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Retrouvaille Weekend, March 2-4 — hosted at The Ramada Inn in Clarks Summit. Sponsored by the Diocese of Scranton, Retrouvaille is a weekend program designed to help strengthen and heal marital relationships for married couples who may be experiencing tension, stress and loneliness in their marriage. The program helps couples — even those separated and divorced — to communicate better and resolve conflicts in their relationship. Cost for the program is by donation, and registration is required. For more information or to register, call (1-800-470-2230) or visit: www.helpourmarriage.org. All calls are confidential.

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Spiritual Offerings

Continued from Page 25

for healing. Celebrant: Father August Ricciardi. Gathering concludes with light refreshments and fellowship.

Wednesday Eucharistic Adoration — JAN. 17, 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 Divine Mercy Devotion — JAN. 17, 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. 20, 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).

Weekly Bereavement Support Group — JAN. 31, first in a series of four consecutive weekly meetings, addressing topics dealing

Continued on Page 27

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 Respeto de Reportar el Abuso Sexual de Un Menor de Edad

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

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

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

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

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Mark Your Calendar — Around the Diocese

Spiritual Offerings

Continued from Page 26

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 Happenings

“Soup for the Souls” Soup Sale — **JAN. 11**, sponsored by the Soup for the Souls Committee at Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, 420 Main Road, Buttonwood section of Hanover Township; sale held from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the church hall (take-out orders only). Cost: \$8 per quart. Featured soup of the month: clam chowder. Pre-orders requested. For more information or to place orders, call (570-825-6370).

Free Community Breakfast — **JAN. 13**, sponsored by Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Route 209, Gilbert (Brodheads ville), and served to those in need in portions of Lehigh, Northampton, Carbon and Monroe counties; breakfast is provided free of charge from 8 to 10 a.m. in the church's McCawley Hall. For more information, call the parish office at (610-681-6137).

Scranton Mental Health Ministry: Spiritual Support Group for Family & Friends — **FEB. 1**, 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

Free Community Luncheon — **JAN. 13**, sponsored by Holy Rosary Parish in Hazleton; lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 12 noon in the parish hall at 240 S. Poplar St., Hazleton. Meal is offered to the community free of charge. All are welcome.

Free Community Sunday Suppers — **JAN. 14 & 28**, sponsored by Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Route 209, Gilbert (Brodheads ville), and served to those in need in the West End, Kunkletown, Kresgeville and Blakeslee areas; meals are provided free of charge from 3 to 4 p.m. in the church's McCawley Hall. For more information, call the parish office at (610-681-6137).

*Continued on
Page 29*

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. 14**, sponsored by the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary; monthly prayer service held on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel at the IHM Center Chapel, 2300 Adams Ave., Scranton (top of University Ave., beyond Marywood University). For more information, call (570-346-5404).

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Women's Guild to Host Annual Day of Reflection

CLARKS GREEN — The Women's Guild of Saint Gregory Parish in Clarks Green will host its annual Day of Reflection on Tuesday, March 13, at Saint Gabriel's Retreat House, 631 Griffin Pond Road, Clarks Summit.

Serving as conference leader and retreat director for the day will be Father Seth Wasnock, assistant pastor of Our Lady of the Snows Parish in Clarks Summit.

Open to both men and women, the reflection day begins with registration at 9 a.m. and concludes at 3 p.m.

Cost to attend is \$30 per person, including lunch.

For more information and registration, contact Nancy at (570-586-9227) or Martha at (570-587-2491).

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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 St. Stanislaus worship site, 666 N. Main St., Wilkes-Barre. Confessions are heard beginning at 6 p.m., followed by recitation of the Rosary and Litany of the Sacred Heart at 6:30 p.m. Mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is celebrated at 7 p.m.

— hosted at Sacred Heart Church, 554 Main St., Weston; Mass with Eucharistic procession celebrated at 6:30 p.m. (confessions heard prior). Mass followed by Litany of the Saints and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 8 p.m. Adoration Holy Hour includes recitation of the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary, Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and silent prayer with closing benediction.

Pro-Life Rosary Vigils

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

— held outside the offices of Planned Parenthood, 63 N. Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre; group gathers at 9 a.m. Rosary prayers are offered for an end to abortion.

Eucharistic Adorations

— hosted by Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, 1101 Willow St., Peckville; exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins following the celebration of the 6:50 a.m. Mass and continues until 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 St. Ann Basilica Parish, St. Ann's St., west Scranton. Adoration begins with 8:30 a.m. Mass and concludes with benediction at 4:45 p.m.

Healing Masses

— hosted by St. 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. Music ministry for the evening will be provided by the Sacred Heart Singers, directed by Ernie Pappa and Jennifer Michel.

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

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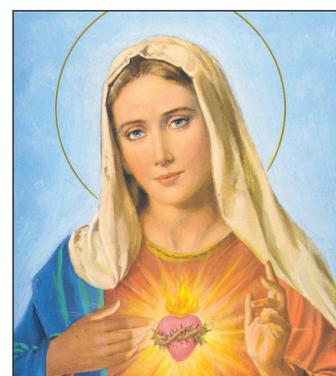
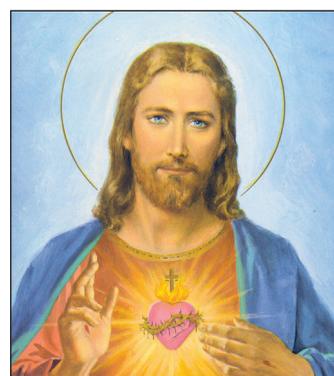
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Blue Army Reparation Vigil



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 2** at St. 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.

Catholic Happenings

Weekly Bingo — JAN. 15, 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. 17 & FEB. 7, 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).

Sunday Buffet Breakfast — JAN. 21, hosted by St. Eulalia Parish, 214 Blue Shutters Road, Elmhurst (Roaring Brook Twp.); serving from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon in the parish hall. Featuring full breakfast menu, including made-to-order eggs, home fries, ham, sausage, pancakes, rolls, toast, juice, coffee

& tea. Cost: adults (age 12 to 64), \$7; seniors (age 65 & older), \$6; children (age 6-11), \$3; children age 5 & under admitted free. Public is invited; tickets at the door.

Mardi Gras Dinner — FEB. 3, hosted by St. Robert Bellarmine Parish in Wilkes-Barre; begins at 5 p.m. in the parish's St. Aloysius Church Hall, corner of Barney & Division streets, Wilkes-Barre. Includes full-course dinner, music for listening and dancing pleasure, beer, soft beverages and desserts. Cost: \$25 per person. For more information and ticket reservations, contact the parish office at (570-823-3791 ext. 2).

Valentine's Dinner Dance — FEB. 9, sponsored by St. Andre

Besette Parish in Wilkes-Barre; to be hosted at St. Mary's Byzantine Social Hall, 522 Madison St., Wilkes-Barre. Event held from 6 to 10 p.m., including homemade dinner, desserts and soft beverages; "oldies" music for listening and dancing pleasure provided by Millennium. Patrons may provide their own beverages. Basket raffle and other prize drawings will also be held. Cost: \$20 per person (must be at least 21 years of age to attend.) Advance reservations with payment only. Tickets obtained by contacting the parish office, weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 668 N. Main St., Wilkes-Barre, or calling Tina at (570-814-9227).

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Throop Parish Holy Name Society Holds Communion Breakfast

Blessed Sacrament Parish in Throop welcomed Bishop Emeritus James C. Timlin to its Holy Name Society's Annual Communion Breakfast held on the recent Feast of Christ the King. Invited to address the gathering as guest speakers were Ashley Javitz and Matthew Rossi, young adult parishioners of Blessed Sacrament. A first-year law student at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., Ashley, 23, is the daughter of David and Donna Davis Javitz of Dickson City. She has been an altar server at the parish for 15 years and continues to assist at the altar when needed. Son of Phil and Cindy Rossi of Throop, Matthew, 25, has become a mainstay for Blessed Sacrament's 5:30 p.m. Saturday Mass at Saint Anthony Church, recently transitioning into the role of usher. He works in the Vocational Program at Allied Services in Scranton. Pictured, from left, are Adam Nosak, Blessed Sacrament HNS president and breakfast chairman; Phil Rossi, Bishop Timlin, Matthew Rossi, Cindy Rossi and Monsignor Michael Delaney, pastor.

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School Appreciation Day for State Troopers



The Holy Cross High School family recently provided lunch for members of the Pennsylvania State Police Troop R Dunmore in appreciation for their service to the community. Officers from the Troop R State Police are pictured at the Dunmore Catholic high school with Holy Cross students, from left, Nick Ferraro, Joe DeGrazia, Mollie Burda, Elizabeth Arbie and Caroline Kranick; and Ben Tolerico, principal of Holy Cross.

Saint Andrew Parish Supports Saint Vincent Kitchen



Saint Andrew Parish in Wilkes-Barre recently made a monetary donation of \$880 to the Saint Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen in the city. Members of the parish also collected additional funds to sponsor meals and provide a cake dessert to the kitchen's clients, for a total donation of more than \$1,000. To commemorate the feast day of their parish patron — Saint Andrew — on Nov. 30, parishioners also volunteered by serving lunch and dinner meals at Saint Vincent's. Shown volunteering during the lunch hour are, from left, Pat Krokos, Deb Potsko, Deacon Bill Behm, Mike Cianciotta, program director at Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen; Barbara Godlewski, Marlene Gluhanick, Bernie Hummer, Karen Legge, Pete Bonczewski and Lois McManus. For information about volunteer opportunities or the donation needs of Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen, call (570-829-7796 ext. 301).

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Continued from page 3

Support has also come from volunteers along with civic clubs and individuals. Now a permanent space for the shelter has been developed in the city.

A new program in another section of the facility will house young adults 18-26 years old for two years. During this time they will be taught life skills to help them face their challenges and become self-sufficient. This is a joint effort between Catholic Social Services and Luzerne-Wyoming Counties Mental Health and Developmental Services.

Several programs provide much-needed assistance to men and women who have served our country, but have since encountered various challenges and now need our help. Saint Hedwig's Village in Kingston and Saint James Manor in Scranton have housing for veterans.

In 2014, services for homeless veterans were expanded through the development of Saint Francis Commons, a facility of Catholic

Social Services that provides affordable transitional housing, meals and other supportive services for 30 veterans. All residents are selected through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Addressing the medical and social needs of the residents, and ensuring they receive the services and benefits to which they are entitled, is a key component of the program. The average stay at Saint Francis Commons is 9-12 months, which is conducive to each person following their treatment plan and becoming more self-sufficient as they prepare to seek employment and permanent housing in the community.

Catholic Social Services also manages permanent housing for veterans and others in various settings throughout local communities. On any given day, approximately 300 homeless people are being served by the Diocese of Scranton.

In addition, the Diocese has for many years provided free daily meals for the homeless

– and anyone else who needs them – through Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen in Scranton and Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre. They serve lunch every day of the week year-round and dinner three times a week.

In the fall of 2015 the Mid Valley and Upper Valley Outreach Program was established to aid those in Lackawanna County who might not be able to visit the Kitchen in Scranton. Every week, hot lunches are served through the Saint Rose of Lima and Our Lady of Mount Carmel parishes in Carbondale, Christ the King Parish at Saint Thomas Aquinas Church in Archbald, and Holy Cross Parish at Saint Patrick's Church in Olyphant.

Mrs. Vautrinot noted that all of these programs are possible because of the generosity of so many people who support the Diocesan Annual Appeal and also through individual monetary gifts and donations of blankets, personal grooming items, and new socks and undergarments,



Serving Those Who Served

Residents of Saint Francis Commons, the transitional housing facility in Scranton for homeless veterans operated by Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton, enjoyed a Christmas party courtesy of city resident Morgan Fetsock. It included food, games and gifts. Morgan, 18, planned, organized and used her own resources to host the event in honor of her late grandfather, John Fetsock Sr., who was a veteran. Pictured are Morgan and some of the veterans who attended the party.

with additional resources in some cases from government agencies and community partners. And of course this mission could not be accomplished without the dedication and commitment of the staff and volunteers who labor daily in these facilities.

“We sincerely thank the countless number of generous benefactors from throughout our area, dedicated volunteers and selfless staff who enable us to provide compassionate and dignified care to those who need our assistance,” she said.

God-given sexual identity has inherent beauty, dignity, say faith leaders

WASHINGTON (CNS) – In an open letter Dec. 15, a group of 20 Catholic bishops and other religious leaders described as “deeply troubling” the movement today “to enforce the false idea – that a man can be or become a woman or vice versa.”

“We acknowledge and affirm that all human beings are created by God and thereby have an inherent dignity,” said the letter. Titled “Created Male and Female,” it was signed by Catholic, Lutheran, Anglican, Greek Orthodox, Presbyterian, Southern Baptist, Muslim, Orthodox and other Christian leaders.

“We also believe that God created each person male or female; therefore, sexual difference is not an accident or a flaw – it is a gift from God that helps draw us closer to each other and to God. What God has created is good,” they said, quoting the Book of Genesis: “God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”

“As leaders of various communities of faith throughout the United States, many of us came

together in the past to affirm our commitment to marriage as the union of one man and one woman and as the foundation of society,” they said. “We reiterate that natural marriage continues to be invaluable to American society.”

Now, the faith leaders said, “we come together to join our voices on a more fundamental precept of our shared existence, namely, that human beings are male or female and that the sociocultural reality of gender cannot be separated from one’s sex as male or female.”

According to a news release from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the letter is the result of a November meeting of the U.S. bishops with the Catholic Church’s ecumenical and interfaith partners.

Following the USCCB’s general fall assembly Nov. 13-14 in Baltimore, the faith leaders gathered to discuss gender ideology with members of the USCCB’s Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage.

The Catholic leaders who signed the letter were: Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia,

chairman of the USCCB Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth; Bishop James D. Conley of Lincoln, Nebraska, chairman of the Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage; Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, chairman of the Committee for Religious Liberty; and Bishop Joseph C. Bambera of Scranton, Pennsylvania, chairman of the Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

“We hope this letter communicates to the public our shared understanding of the goodness of the creation of humanity as male or female and underscores our commitment to service of this truth with both clarity and compassion,” said Bishop Conley.

In the letter, the faith leaders said: “A person’s discomfort with his or her sex, or the desire to be identified as the other sex, is a complicated reality that needs to be addressed with sensitivity and truth.

“Each person deserves to be heard and treated with respect; it is our responsibility to respond to their concerns with compassion, mercy

and honesty,” they continued. “As religious leaders, we express our commitment to urge the members of our communities to also respond to those wrestling with this challenge with patience and love.”

The leaders said that children in particular “are harmed when they are told that they can ‘change’ their sex or, further, given hormones that will affect their development and possibly render them infertile as adults.”

They said parents “deserve better guidance on these important decisions” and urged the nation’s medical institutions to honor the basic medical principle of “first, do no harm.”

“Gender ideology harms individuals and societies by sowing confusion and self-doubt,” they said. “The state itself has a compelling interest, therefore, in maintaining policies that uphold the scientific fact of human biology and supporting the social institutions and norms that surround it.”

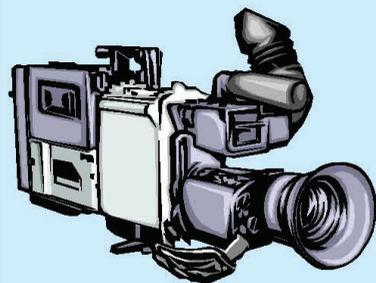
They criticized societal forces that compel people “to either go against reason” and choose to be the

opposite sex of how they were born “or face ridicule, marginalization and other forms of retaliation.”

“We desire the health and happiness of all men, women, and children,” the leaders said. “Therefore, we call for policies that uphold the truth of a person’s sexual identity as male or female, and the privacy and safety of all. We hope for renewed appreciation of the beauty of sexual difference in our culture and for authentic support of those who experience conflict with their God-given sexual identity.”

Signers of the letter included officials from the Anglican Church in North America; North American Lutheran Church; Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod; Islamic Society of the Washington Area; Orthodox Church in America; Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty; National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference; Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America; Presbyterian Church in America; Seymour Institute for Black Church and Policy Studies, Church of God in Christ; and Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

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

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