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True Christmas celebrates Jesus, who is tender, humble, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS)

— With Christmas days away, visitors came to St. Peter's Square with their Baby Jesus figurines for a traditional blessing by the pope.

Many children came with small figurines for their family Nativity scene, others held delicate sculptures, and one group set a giant statue of the Baby Jesus on top of stacks of hay bales. "All the joy in a crib," said the banner in front of the display.

Blessing the statues after reciting the Angelus prayer Dec. 16, Pope Francis told the little ones, "Dear children, may you feel wonder when you gather in your homes in prayer before the Nativity, gazing at Baby Jesus."

To see God is to feel amazement, "wonder at the



An audience member holds a figurine of baby Jesus as Pope Francis leads his Sunday Angelus prayer in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Dec. 16. (CNS photo/Giuseppe Lami, EPA)

great mystery of God made man. And the Holy Spirit will put humility, tenderness and the goodness of Jesus in your hearts," he said.

"Jesus is good, Jesus is tender, Jesus is humble. This is the real Christmas!" he said.

Before praying the Angelus on what is known as

Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday, the pope explained why the church is invited to rejoice.

Jesus, the Emmanuel, is "God with us," and his presence is the source of joy, Pope Francis said. He came not to punish but to forgive and this leads people to feel joyful and full of praise.



God wants to redeem and save those whom he loves, the pope said, underlining that God's love is "incessant" and tender like a father's love for his child.

Just as Mary was called to welcome and bring the Christ child into the world, people today are also called to welcome the Gospel and

"A light has shone brightly in the midst of darkness. Jesus, our Savior, is among us and continues to walk our world and to fill hearts with hope and peace."

See Bishop Bambera's Christmas Message on page 2.

so that it can "become flesh" and come into the world in people's actual lives.

People of faith should know they need not be anxious or feel despair, but need to "present to God our requests, our needs, our concerns with prayers and supplications."

"The awareness that when in difficulty we can always turn to the Lord, and that he never rejects our invocations, is a great reason for joy," he said.

There are no worries or fears that can ever "take away from us the serenity

that comes from knowing that God always lovingly guides our lives," the pope said. "Even in the midst of problems and suffering, this certainty nourishes hope and courage."

After reciting the prayer, the pope also highlighted the adoption Dec. 10 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. He expressed his hope that the agreement would facilitate "responsibility, solidarity and compassion toward those who, for various reasons, have left their country."

Celebrations Across Generations



Anniversary ... Amen!

Permanent deacons process into the Cathedral of Saint Peter on December 1 for the Mass celebrating the 25th anniversary of the institution of the diaconate program in the Diocese of Scranton. There are 73 deacons actively serving here. Please see page 3.



Our Lady's Day

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe was celebrated with our Hispanic sisters and brothers in several parish communities around the Diocese last week. Pictured are worshippers at Saint Nicholas Church in Wilkes-Barre. Our Lady of Guadalupe is honored as patroness of the Americas. Please see pages 6-7.

Dear Friends in Christ,

The first scripture reading during the Christmas Mass at midnight, taken from Isaiah the prophet, proclaims, *"The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwell in the land of gloom a light has shone. ... For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace."* (Isaiah 9:1,5)

Isaiah's God-given task was to guide Judah through one of the most critical periods of her history. While the shadow of her neighbor's conquest lay menacingly over the land, the spiritual crisis of Judah was even more serious than the threat of physical destruction. No one spoke more forthrightly than Isaiah in his denunciation of Judah's pride, self-indulgence, and callous injustice toward the poor.

Yet, despite the reality of Judah's immersion in the darkness of sin, Isaiah always proclaimed that God would never abandon his people. Instead, he would raise up a faithful remnant and restore the nation through One who would rule with mercy, justice and peace.

The promise of Isaiah is fulfilled in the Christmas event. Indeed, the very first spoken words recorded in Saint Luke's Gospel as the evangelist chronicles this defining moment in salvation history are words of consolation and hope shared with poor shepherds who represent a broken, suffering people. *"Do not be afraid. ... A savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord."* (Luke 2:10,11)

My brothers and sisters, we need to sear these words into our hearts and to trust in the goodness and power of God today, more than ever. In so many respects, we're not at all unlike the shepherds of Bethlehem or the people of Judah to whom Isaiah was sent. For all that we have been given in life – for all that we've accomplished as individuals and as a people – and for all that we dream and hope to experience for ourselves and those we love, we need the assurance of knowing that we are loved, that our lives matter, and that we have nothing to fear.

For as blessed as we are with God's magnificent gift of life, our world has become a frightening and disappointing place. Random acts of violence are all too common in schools, entertainment venues and even in houses of worship. Life is still sadly disregarded, especially in the unborn, the poor, disabled and elderly. Immigrants and refugees seeking a better life are forced to the margins of society by discrimination, bigotry and hatred. And our Church has been robbed of so much of its beauty and promise by many of its own very leaders who have sexually abused the most innocent in our midst and have failed to create safe environments for those entrusted to their care.

Sadly, not unlike the initial response of the shepherds in Saint Luke's Christmas Gospel, it seems that we *do* have much to fear from a world that seems to have gone awry. But for those of us who seek a way forward and who are wise enough to look at life with eyes of faith, the Word of God spoken by Isaiah the prophet reminds us that God is faithful, even when we are not. And we will be delivered from the brokenness of our world and our lives if only we place our trust in the Lord and walk in his ways.

A light has shone brightly in the midst of darkness. Jesus, our Savior, is among us and continues to walk our world and to fill hearts with hope and peace. In reflecting upon the heart of the Christmas message, Pope Francis offered these powerful words, *"Let us set aside all fear and dread, for these do not befit men and women who are loved. Instead, let us experience the joy of encountering that grace which transforms all things."*

My friends, thank you for embracing the good news of Jesus' birth. Thank you for living his Gospel in your generous service of one another – even and especially in challenging times. And thank you for your openness to the merciful love of God, the only sure way to our salvation and peace.

With gratitude for the privilege of serving as your Bishop and with prayers for a holy and blessed Christmas for you, your family and all you hold dear, I am

Faithfully yours in Christ,

+ Joseph C. Bambera

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.

Bishop of Scranton



Image in the rectory at Saint John Neumann Parish, Nativity of Our Lord Church, Scranton.

La imagen es de la parroquia de San Juan Neumann, Natividad de Nuestro Señor, Scranton.

Queridos amigos en Cristo,

La primera lectura de las escrituras durante la Misa de Navidad a medianoche, tomada de Isaías el Profeta, proclama, *"las personas que andan en tinieblas han visto una gran luz; a los que moran en la tierra de tinieblas ha brillado una luz. ... Porque un niño nos es nacido, un hijo se nos ha dado; sobre su hombro para apoyar el dominio. Le nombre maravilla de consejero, héroe de Dios, padre para siempre, príncipe de la paz."* (Isaías 9:1, 5)

Tarea encomendada por Dios de Isaías fue a Judá a través de uno de los períodos más críticos de su historia. Mientras que la sombra de la conquista de su vecino pone cimera sobre la tierra, la crisis espiritual de Judá era más grave que la amenaza de destrucción física. Nadie habló más abiertamente que Isaías en su denuncia de la soberbia de Judá, auto-indulgencia y cruel injusticia hacia los pobres.

Sin embargo, a pesar de la realidad de la inmersión de Judá en la oscuridad del pecado, Isaías siempre proclamó que Dios nunca abandonaría a su pueblo. En cambio, él levantaría un remanente fiel y restaurará la nación a través de uno que gobernaría con misericordia, justicia y paz.

La promesa de Isaías se cumple en el evento de Navidad. De hecho, las primeras palabras registradas en el Evangelio de San Lucas como el evangelista crónicas este momento definitivo en la historia de la salvación son palabras de consuelo y esperanza compartida con pobres pastores que representan a un pueblo roto por sufrimiento. *"No tengas miedo. ... Un Salvador ha nacido que es Señor y Cristo."* (Lucas 2:10, 11)

Mis hermanos y hermanas, tenemos que fijar estas palabras en nuestros corazones y confiar en la bondad y el poder de Dios, hoy más que nunca. En muchos aspectos, no somos a diferentes de los pastores de Belén o el pueblo de Judá que Isaías fue enviado. Por todo lo que nos ha dado en la vida, todo eso que hemos logrado como individuos y como pueblo, y por todo lo que sueño y la esperanza de experiencia para nosotros y para los que amamos, tenemos la certeza de saber que somos amados, que nuestra vida importa, y que no tenemos nada que temer.

Aunque somos bendecidos por el don de la vida que Dios nos regala, nuestro mundo se ha convertido en un lugar aterrador y decepcionante. Actos de violencia al azar son muy comunes en las escuelas, lugares de ocio e incluso en casas de culto. Vida es todavía tristemente ignorada, especialmente

en los bebés no nacidos, los pobres, discapacitados y ancianos. Los inmigrantes y refugiados que buscan una vida mejor se ven obligados a los márgenes de la sociedad por la discriminación, la intolerancia y el odio. Y nuestra iglesia ha sido robada gran parte de su belleza y la promesa de muchos de sus mismos líderes que han abusado sexualmente más inocentes en medio de nosotros y no han podido crear ambientes seguros para los encargados a su cuidado.

Lamentablemente, no a diferencia de la respuesta inicial de los pastores en el Evangelio de San Lucas Navidad, parece que tenemos mucho que temer de un mundo que parece haber ido mal. Pero para aquellos de nosotros que buscan un camino a seguir y que son suficientemente inteligentes como para mirar la vida con ojos de la fe, la palabra de Dios hablada por Isaías el profeta nos recuerda que Dios es fiel, incluso cuando no estamos. Y se entregarán desde el quebrantamiento de nuestro mundo y nuestras vidas si tan solo confiar en el Señor y caminar en sus caminos.

Una luz ha brillado brillantemente en medio de la oscuridad. Jesús, nuestro Salvador, es entre nosotros y sigue a pie de nuestro mundo y corazones se llenan de esperanza y paz. Al reflexionar sobre el corazón del mensaje de Navidad, Papa Francisco ofrece estas poderosas palabras, *"nos dejó dejar de lado todo miedo y temor, para estos no convenir*

hombres y mujeres que son amadas. En cambio, nos experimentar la alegría del encuentro con esa gracia que transforma todas las cosas."

Mis amigos, gracias por abrazar la buena noticia del nacimiento de Jesús. Gracias por vivir su evangelio en su servicio generoso de uno al otro – incluso y especialmente en tiempos difíciles. Y gracias por su apertura al amor misericordioso de Dios, la única manera segura de nuestra salvación y la paz.

Con gratitud por el privilegio de servir como su obispo y con oraciones para una Navidad Santa y bendita para usted, su familia y todos que apreciamos, estoy Fielmente suyo en Cristo,

+ Joseph C. Bambera

Reverendísimo Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.

Obispo de Scranton



Deacons provide vital service to Church

The 25th anniversary of the first class of permanent deacons ordained for the Diocese and the 50th anniversary of the re-establishment of the diaconate in the United States was celebrated at a Mass on Saturday, December 1, in the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. Bishop Bambera was principal celebrant and homilist.

Reflecting on the three aspects of the deacon's service – word, worship and charity – and the beginning of Advent, the Bishop said:

“Jesus *is* present to us in so many ways – in the Word of God proclaimed – in the love and service that the members of the Christian community extend to the lives that God places in their midst – in the lives and ministry of the permanent deacons whom we celebrate this evening.”

After the Mass, deacons and their wives gathered for dinner in the Diocesan Pastoral Center. There Bishop Bambera again expressed gratitude to the deacons for their commitment to the Church and God's people.

“Thank you for saying ‘yes’ to the Lord's call,” he said.

He also lauded their wives as the “unsung heroes” of this ministry, accompanying their husbands along the journey from formation and continuing through service.



Wives of deacons, representing each ordination class, presented the offertory gifts. Pictured from upper far left: Lisa Brojack, Mary Kay Carpenter, Carolyn Lorent, Sonya Cesarini. Beverly Cruikshank and Norma Janoski were also gift bearers. Assisting the Bishop is Deacon Matthew G. Lorent.



Pictured after the dinner are some of the clergy associated with the first class of deacons ordained for the Diocese. First row from left: Deacon LaRue “Pete” Velott; Monsignor David Bohr, Diocesan Secretary for Clergy Formation; Bishop Bambera; Father Andrew R. Sinnott (a member of the 1993 diaconate class); Deacon J. Morris Smith. Back row: Father Jeffrey J. Walsh, V.E.; Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; Deacon Francis J. Bradigan; Deacon Leo R. Thompson; Deacon William H. Graham; Deacon Florian J. Gyza; Deacon Thomas M. Cesarini; Deacon Peter G. Smith; Deacon Joseph F. DeVizia.

The Catholic Light Photos/Mike Melisky



THE DIACONATE IN THE DIOCESE

The diaconate had its origins in the time of the apostles and flourished during the first four centuries of the Church's history. For various reasons this ministry went into decline. The Order of Deacon was re-established by the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) and, with the permission of the Holy See, the permanent diaconate was restored in the United States in 1968 and dioceses could choose to begin accepting men for formation and ordination.

The Office for the Permanent Diaconate was established in the Diocese of Scranton in 1988 with Monsignor David Bohr as director. The first class of 24 permanent deacons was ordained in 1993. Succeeding classes were ordained in 1999, 2004, 2011 and 2017. To date, 92 deacons have been ordained by the Diocese. Currently, there are 73 deacons actively serving in the Diocese, including some who were ordained by other dioceses and now reside here.

Permanent deacons are members of the three-fold ordained ministry that consists of bishops, priests and deacons.

The deacon's service has three aspects: word, worship and charity. A permanent deacon is not a stand-in for a priest, but he can perform certain ministerial functions such as administering baptism; serving as the deacon at the Mass, including proclaiming the Gospel, preaching the homily and distributing Holy Communion; bringing viaticum to the sick; presiding at wake services, funeral liturgies and burial rites; and with permission by the pastor, may celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony.

He ministers to the needs of families, single parents, students, the aged and infirmed, the imprisoned, and those who suffer from poverty or addictions.

Every applicant for the permanent diaconate must first be nominated by his pastor. Men who believe that the Lord may be calling them to the diaconate must be baptized, practicing Catholics, who are at least 31 years of age and no more than 60 at the time of application. They may be married or single. If married, they must be in a valid, stable marriage for at least five years. If single, they are expected to remain celibate.

Permanent deacons complete a five-year formation program. Eighteen men are currently in formation.

24 permanent deacons ordained in the first class in the Diocese in 1993

92 permanent deacons ordained by the Diocese since program started

73 permanent deacons actively serving in Diocese, including some who were ordained by other dioceses and now reside here

18 men currently in formation to become deacons

Father William Blake Is Laid to Rest

Reverend William Bernard Blake, pastor emeritus of Queen of Angels Parish, Jessup, died on November 29, 2018, at Saint Mary's Villa, Elmhurst. He was a resident of Saint Joseph's Villa, Dunmore.

Father Blake, son of the late Vincent William Blake and Margaret Mary (Cawley) Blake, was born in Archbald on January 1, 1937. He received his early education at Saint Thomas Aquinas School and Archbald Public High School. He continued his education at the University of Scranton and attended Mount Saint Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, Md., where he completed his studies for the priesthood.

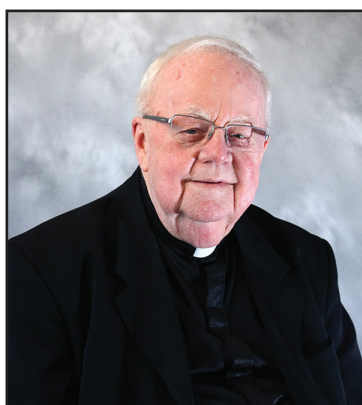
Father was ordained to the priesthood on June 8, 1963 in the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, by the Most Reverend Jerome D. Hannan, D.D., late Bishop of Scranton.

He also earned a Master of Science degree from the University of Scranton in 1971 and a Master of Arts degree from Marywood University in 1984.

Father Blake served as assistant pastor pro tem at Saint Juliana, Rock Lake, 1963. He served as assistant pastor at Saint Patrick, Wilkes-Barre, 1963-1967; Immaculate Conception, Scranton, 1967-1970; Holy Family, Scranton, 1970-1971; Our Lady of Snows, Clarks Summit, 1971-1974; Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace, Hawley, 1974-1976; and Saint John the Evangelist, Wilkes-Barre, 1976-1978.

Father Blake received his first pastorate at Saint Aloysius, Ralston, in 1978. In 1981, he was appointed pastor at Resurrection, Muncy. Father's next appointment was pastor at Saint Mary Help of Christians, Pittston, in June of 1982, where he served until May 1986, when he was appointed pastor at Saint Mary Assumption, Pittston. In 1989, Father was appointed pastor at Saint Gabriel, Hazleton, and in June of 1991, he was appointed administrator at Saint Mary, Lattimer Mines.

In 1992, Father was appointed pastor of Our Lady of Mt Carmel,



Father William Bernard Blake

Lake Silkworth, and in July 1993, Saint Martha, Fairmount Springs was added to his pastorate. In 1995, Father Blake was appointed pastor at Saint Michael-Saint James-Saint Stanislaus Kostka in Jessup, and in 2007 Saint Mary's Assumption, Jessup, was added to his pastorate. In 2010, these parishes consolidated into Queen of Angels Parish. In July of 2011 Father Blake retired and was named pastor emeritus.

In addition to his pastoral duties, Father Blake served as catechist at Bishop Hoban High School, Wilkes-Barre, from 1976-1978; chaplain at Lycoming County Prison in 1979; Director of Pre Cana, Williamsport, 1979-1980; chaplain for Knights of Columbus Council #372, Pittston, in 1985; Dean of Hazleton in 1992; and Dean of Olyphant, 1998 to 2000.

Father Blake is survived by his brother Gerald, Archbald, and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Father was preceded in death by brothers, Eugene and wife, Dortha; John (Jack) and wife, Theresa; James and wife, Lottie; Donald and wife, Peggy; sister-in-law Carolyn; and an infant sister, Margaret.

A Pontifical Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera on December 5 at Queen of Angels Parish, Jessup. Interment was in Saint Thomas Aquinas Cemetery, Archbald.

Memorial contributions may be made to Villa Saint Joseph, home for retired priests, 1600 Green Ridge Street, Dunmore, PA 18509.

Bishop Robert C. Morlino, native of our Diocese, dies in Wisconsin

MADISON, Wis. (CNS) – Bishop Robert C. Morlino, the fourth bishop of Madison, died Nov. 24 at Saint Mary's Hospital in Madison. He was 71.

The bishop was undergoing planned medical tests when he suffered what doctors described as "a cardiac event" at the hospital and he never recovered.

"All objective indicators point to the fact that Bishop Morlino accomplished what he set out to do in the diocese" after his Aug. 1, 2003, installation, the diocese said in a statement.

Among his "three expressed priorities" was increasing "the number and quality of the men ordained to the diocesan priesthood," it said. "Fostering greater priestly vocations" resulted in his ordination of 40 men to the priesthood during his tenure. Another 24 are currently in formation.

Bishop Morlino also aimed "to instill a greater sense of reverence throughout the entire diocese, especially through our worship of God, celebrated in the holy sacrifice of the Mass," the diocese said, "and to challenge Catholic institutions in the diocese to live out their professed faith in Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, through their ministry in the secular community."

He succeeded in "bringing a greater sense of reverent worship to the entire diocese, and he made significant inroads toward encouraging the Catholic institutions in his care to live out their mission with greater fidelity, during his 15-plus years as bishop of Madison," the diocese said.

Born Dec. 31, 1946, in Scranton, Robert Charles Morlino was an only child. His father, Charles, died while he was in high school; his mother, Albertina, died in 1980. He was raised in Dunmore, graduating from the Jesuit-run Scranton Preparatory High School.

He entered the seminary for the Maryland province of the Society of Jesus and was ordained to the priesthood for that province June 1, 1974.

Father Morlino taught philosophy at Loyola College in Baltimore, Saint Joseph University in Philadelphia, Boston College, and the University of Notre Dame and



Bishop Morlino celebrated the Italian Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in conjunction with La Festa Italiana in 2017

"I offer my sympathy and prayers and those of the Church of Scranton to the faithful of the Diocese of Madison at the passing of Bishop Robert Morlino. As a fellow native son of the Diocese of Scranton, I knew and respected Bishop Morlino as a devoted shepherd to the people of the dioceses he served, and someone who demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the Church. I join with the faithful entrusted to his care and with his many friends in the Diocese of Scranton in mourning his loss. May we be consoled by the Lord's promise that all who served Him in life will enjoy eternal rest and peace."

– Bishop Bambera

Saint Mary's College in Indiana.

In 1981, Father Morlino became a priest of the Diocese of Kalamazoo, Michigan, and served there as vicar for spiritual development, executive assistant and theological consultant to the bishop, as moderator of the curia and as the promoter of justice in the diocesan tribunal. He was administrator of a number of parishes, and later rector of Saint Augustine Cathedral in Kalamazoo.

Father Morlino was scheduled to begin a full-time faculty appointment as professor of theology at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit when, on July 6, 1999, Saint John Paul II appointed him the ninth bishop of Helena, Montana.

Bishop Morlino was named fourth bishop of Madison May 23, 2003, and installed about three months later.

On the national level, Bishop Morlino is a past chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on the Diaconate and its Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Issues and the Church.

He also served on the Bishops and Presidents Subcommittee of the USCCB's Committee on Education, which focuses on the Catholic identity of institutions of higher education. Bishop Morlino also was a past chairman of the board of directors of the Philadelphia-based National Catholic Bioethics Center.

In 2006, the national Alliance for Marriage joined with the Congress of Racial Equality to present Bishop Morlino with their Lifetime Achievement Award, for his promotion of the fundamental rights of freedom of speech and freedom of religion.

In 2008, for his work in defense of the dignity of the human person, Bishop Morlino was awarded Human Life International's Cardinal von Galen Award, named after the famous German bishop who worked actively against the Nazis. That same year, he also received the Saint Edmund's Medal of Honor, awarded to Catholics "who have used their God-given talents in promoting the common good."

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Diocese of Scranton
2018 **DIOCESAN**
ANNUAL APPEAL

THE JOURNEY
MAKES US ONE

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

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



Wells Fargo makes a \$10,000 donation to the Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen. From left: J.D. Alberola, branch manager, Edwardsville; Sara Hogan, branch manager, Back Mountain; Bernie Stelma, branch manager, Plains Township; Mike Cianciotta, program manager, Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen; Mary Theresa Malandro, Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Human Services, Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Social Services; Kevin Engelman, district manager, Wells Fargo. Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen is a program of Catholic Social Services. For information about volunteer opportunities with the Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen or its donation needs, call (570) 829-7796, ex. 301.

Lackawanna-Wyoming Counties Regional Appeal Chairs



Regional
Chairs for
Lackawanna
& Wyoming
Counties
are Father
Andrew
Kurovsky
and Janine
and Dr. John
Evanish.

Bishop Joseph Bambera has invited clergy and lay chairpersons from throughout the Diocese to serve as chairpersons for the 2018 Diocesan Annual Appeal. Representing Lackawanna and Wyoming counties are Father Andrew Kurovsky, pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Peckville, and Dr. and Mrs. John Evanish, parishioners of Saint Eulalia Parish, Elmhurst.

Father Kurovsky shared his reflections on the Diocesan Annual Appeal: "I believe we're at one of the more difficult times in the history of the Church in the United States. My heart is broken for what's happened but we can't forget the good works the Catholic Church has done and continues to do in our Diocese and worldwide. The Church is in the forefront of human rights, medical care, and education.

"We take care of our own and reach out to other people in our region through our Diocesan Annual Appeal by feeding and sheltering those in need and through Catholic education, social outreach and a plethora of other ministries and services. If we don't support the Appeal, individuals will be affected."

He also reminds donors that "funds for the care and education of priests don't stop with the elderly in nursing homes and retired clergy." He explains candidly, "If it wasn't for the Appeal I wouldn't have received the treatment I needed to battle addiction as I have. The Diocese could have said 'manage on your own.' But that didn't happen. I am leading this thriving parish because of a Diocese that has reached out and helped me. I've never been more excited about ministry."

Sacred Heart of Jesus has reached 79% of its Appeal goal "and we're hoping to exceed it," the pastor added.

Father Kurovsky grew up in the parish of Sacred Heart of Jesus, Wilkes-Barre, now Saint Andre Bessette. Of his 33 years in the priesthood, 20 were spent in Williamsport, where he served as principal of Saint John Neumann Academy.

John and Janine Evanish are the parents of two adult sons, John IV and Evan, and daughter, Gemma, age 16. A native of Nanticoke in Luzerne County, Dr. Evanish is the founder and CEO of Horizon Dental Care, located in Scranton, Hawley, Cherry Ridge and Stroudsburg.

Janine, who grew up in Marlton, N.J., is a convert to Catholicism. She is the owner of Heaven and Earth Gift Shop located in the former Guild Building. The shop is the "realization of a life-long dream" to combine her love of the faith and entrepreneur spirit.

She and Dr. Evanish recently co-chaired the Saint Eulalia Capital Campaign Expansion Project. Janine is also a lector and former finance council member and a board member of the Diocese of Scranton Catholic Women's Conference, which will be held June 22, 2019 at the University of Scranton.

Dr. Evanish accepted the role of Appeal regional chair because he believes in the good works of the Appeal. "The needs of our community are substantial, and the five ministries supported by the Appeal need all of our support," he said. "The generosity of members of our Diocese has helped our people for many years in the past. This generosity is even more important for our Catholic community's future."

Mrs. Evanish said she "loves the programs and the people that the Appeal supports" because she has confidence in the quality of the services provided. "I have volunteered at the Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen. I saw the respectful way people are treated and the beautiful meals served.

"I also wholeheartedly support the Appeal because I appreciate the priests of our Diocese. I especially want to help ill and retired priests who've given their lives in service to us, God's people," she concluded.

Our Lady of Guadalupe

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe was recently celebrated, particularly in the areas of the Diocese with large Latino populations. This annual observance commemorates the appearance of the Virgin Mary to a Mexican Indian, Juan Diego, in December of 1531. The Blessed Mother's message of hope continues to inspire people of Hispanic descent, especially those from Mexico. Our Lady of Guadalupe is venerated as patroness of the Americas.



Annunciation Parish, Saint Gabriel Church, Hazleton



The Catholic Light Photos/Carlos Nunez



**Saint John Neumann
Parish, Nativity of Our
Lord Church, Scranton**

The Catholic Light Photos/Mike Melisky



Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Brodheadsville



Saint Matthew Parish, East Stroudsburg



The Catholic Light Photos/Ken Schurman

Saint Patrick Parish, Scranton



Saint Nicholas Parish, Wilkes-Barre

The Catholic Light Photos/Mike Melisky



As of December 16, a weekly Spanish Mass is being celebrated at Saint Patrick Church at 1 p.m. to serve the Hispanic community in West Scranton. According to Father John Ruth, there have been several Hispanic baptisms and a wedding in the parish. Three Quinceaneras (in Latino culture, a girl's 15th birthday, signifying her transition from childhood to adulthood) are planned for 2019.

Father Alex J. Hazzouri

To Father Hazzouri's sisters-in-law, Mary Ann and Lorraine, his nephews and nieces, his caregivers, Michael, Rosemary, Anne and Barbara, to all of you, I join with Bishop Bambera, Monsignor Marini and Father Alex's brother priests in extending to you heartfelt sympathy because of the loss of Father. You know, however, it is a loss which is only partial since we do believe in our communion with the saints whether they are on earth, in purgatory or in heaven.

I ask that you think for a moment about a most interesting remark made twenty-five years ago by the unsurpassed scholar of the Bible — unsurpassed certainly in this country and likely even worldwide. He was Father Raymond Brown. Upon completion of his monumental volumes on *The Death of the Messiah*, Father Brown was asked if he planned now to write a book on the Resurrection of the Messiah. His answer was, "No, I would rather explore that area face to face."

Why do I ask that you think about this? Because our dear Father Alex also studied and taught the Bible. He was an accomplished scholar in this study with a degree of licentiate in Sacred Scripture received from the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome, and he served as a seminary professor of Sacred

Scripture. Now the time has arrived for him to come face to face with the loving God about whom he so faithfully studied and taught. And we are here, yes, to remember and honor him, but, above all else, fervently to pray and offer the Holy Sacrifice in order to assist him in coming face to face in the most holy embrace of God. We pray that Job's words, just proclaimed, will find their echo in Father Hazzouri's heart. "But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives. . . Whom I myself shall see: my own eyes, not another's, shall behold Him . . ."

We remember, then, the better to pray for him, this learned, gentle, shy priest. I say "shy," but perhaps I should say "modest" or "humble," for I recall how quick he was to scold me when he would hear me remark about his intelligence. "Stop it," he would demand. "Just say, if you must say something, just say that I studied hard." Fittingly we also recall this morning how, for over forty years, Father served Christ and His Church through assiduous study and by fulfilling parochial and chaplaincy assignments. Inevitably, from wherever he was serving, one heard about the excellence of his preaching.

Continued on Page 12

Father William B. Blake

We gather this morning in the midst of mourning and grief surrounded by the love of God and our faith to worship, praise and thank God for the gift of the life and priesthood of Father Bill Blake for 55 years.

He served this Diocese in various assignments as was seen in his obituary, as well as other ministries right up the last month of his life. Even in his retirement years, he was ready and willing to give of his service. How fitting it is to be here in this church this morning to give thanks to God.

Last Sunday we entered into the Season of Advent — a time of hope and joy in anticipation and waiting for the coming of the Lord when God will destroy death forever. Advent challenges us to be vigilant at all times and stand erect; raise your heads for your redemption is near at hand, as we heard in Luke's Gospel last Sunday.

Father Blake was indeed a man of vigilance in being prepared to meet the Lord.

The death of a priest is unlike the death of any other: We feel differently, deeply. We sense that losing him, we have lost not only the man but also his unique way of manifesting God. The voice that spoke of God has been silenced. Hands that once blessed are rested.

Since a priest is the one who takes on the person of Christ, his leave of us is some-

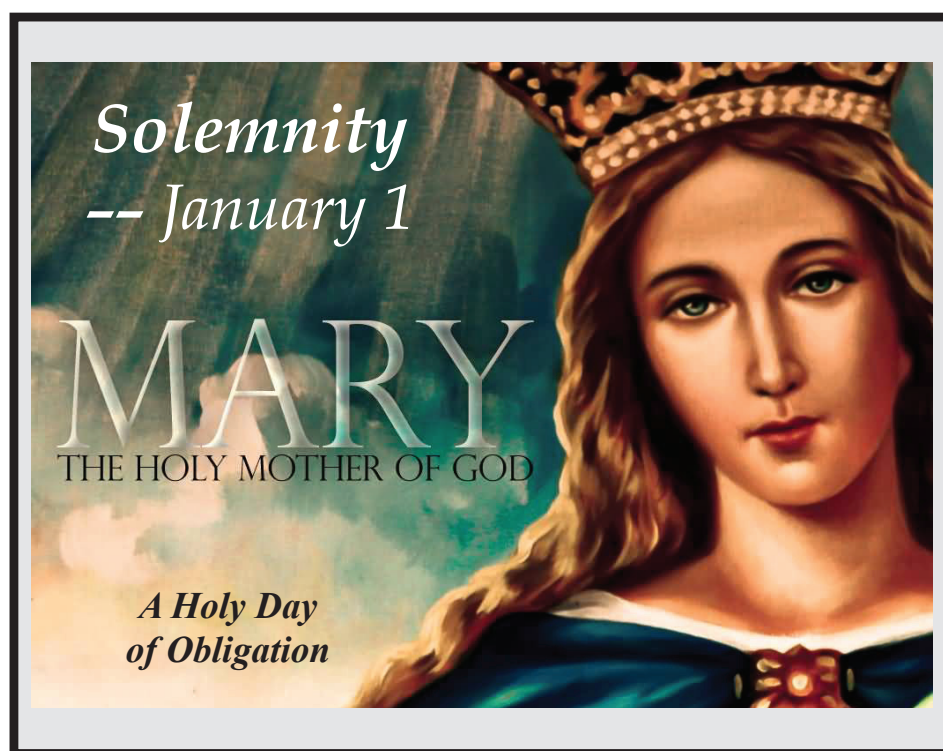
what of a loss in our very communication with the Lord. No one will ever exemplify Christ for us the way that Father Bill has done for us. He was a gentle man. He was a model of astounding humility, and most especially a generous spirit always ready to give to someone else. He was a man and priest of profound holiness.

In the Rite of Ordination of a Priest, we hear the Bishop say to the newly ordained priest as he hands him for the first time the chalice and paten: "Understand what you do, imitate what you celebrate, and conform your life to the mystery of the Lord's Cross."

Father Blake was faithful to those words. In his quiet and gentle way, he imitated the mysteries he celebrated and brought many people to a deeper encounter with Christ. He had a priestly heart that overflowed with genuine kindness, especially to his brother priests, family and friends. He was a giver all his life.

The Scriptures just proclaimed comfort all of us in knowing that the life lived that we celebrate in this good man and priest is realized in the mystery of what he preached and believed. The Suffering, Death and Resurrection of Jesus is the Paschal Mystery of our faith.

Continued on Page 12



Prayer Requests for Priests

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

December 20, Father John Lapera; December 21, Saint Joseph Oblate Father Victor Leon; December 22, Jesuit Father John Levko; December 23, Father Michael Litcheck; December 24, Holy Cross Father Joseph Long; December 25, Holy Cross Father Thomas Looney; December 26, Father Gregory Loughney; December 27, Holy Cross Father Robert Lozinski;

December 28, Father Edward Lyman; December 29, Monsignor Peter Madus; December 30, Jesuit Father Ryan Maher; December 31, Father Thomas Major; January 1, Pope Francis; January 2, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI; January 3, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; January 4, Jesuit Father Richard Malloy; January 5, Father Thomas Maloney; January 6, Father Joseph Manarchuck; January 7, Franciscan Father Pio Mandato; January 8, Father John Manno; January 9, Father Michael Marchetti.




The Catholic Light

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Diocese of Scranton
DIOCESAN
ANNUAL APPEAL

Volume 118 Number 17 — Thursday, December 20, 2018



Formation for Servant Leadership

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry Accepting Applications for January 2019

The Office for Parish Life encourages parish leaders to consider **application for the *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry* for January 2019!**

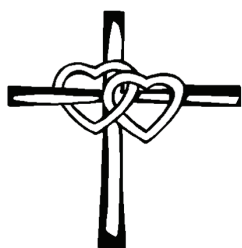
The *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry* is a ministry formation program designed to equip and advance the servant leadership capacities of individuals serving their parish in areas such as:

- Parish Pastoral Councils,
- Directors of Religious Education and Catechists,
- Liturgical Coordinators,
- 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.

Starting with our New Candidate Orientation Retreat on Saturday, January 26, 2019, the Office for Parish Life anticipates welcoming new candidates into the *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry* program in the New Year.

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.



Couples Invited To Participate In Wedding Anniversary Celebration

On June 30, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will celebrate the Wedding Anniversary Mass at 2:30 p.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, for couples celebrating their 25th or 50th year of marriage in 2019. This is an occasion to recognize the role married couples play in the Church's mission to bring God's faithful love into the world. Couples will have the opportunity to renew their commitment to marriage and to receive a blessing on their marriage from the Bishop. A reception will follow in the Diocesan Pastoral Center, where anniversary couples will be able to have their picture taken with the Bishop. Eligible couples should give their names and an April mailing address to their parish office before April 2. Parish lists are due to the Office for Parish Life by April 9.

Scranton Area Community Foundation Supports Saint Anthony's Haven with Critical Needs Grant

The Scranton Area Community Foundation supported Saint Anthony's Haven with a \$5,000 Critical Needs Grant to assist with expenses related to maximum and overflow occupancy during the winter months. Saint Anthony's Haven, a full-time overnight homeless shelter for men and women in Scranton, is a facility administered by Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton.

"December and January are typically brutal months in our shelter, as homeless men and women who otherwise might try to fend for themselves outside come to us seeking services, which requires us to bring in extra staff, food and supplies," said Mary Theresa Malandro, Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Human Services. "We are extremely grateful to the Scranton Area Community Foundation for recognizing that single-digit temperatures are not only extremely dangerous to those without permanent homes but place extra burdens on service providers and finances."

Foundation President and CEO Laura Ducceschi also recognized the giving that makes such grants possible.

"Through our many charitable donors, we are



The Scranton Area Community Foundation supports Saint Anthony's Haven homeless shelter with a \$5,000 Critical Needs Grant to assist with expenses related to maximum and overflow occupancy during the winter months. From left: Barbara O'Hara, SAF board member; Laura Ducceschi, SAF president/CEO; Mary Theresa Malandro, Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Human Services; Jim Bebla, Diocesan Secretary for Development; and Rosemary Broderick, SAF board chair.

pleased to assist Saint Anthony's Haven with expenses related to occupancy during the colder, winter months," she said. "We recognize the good work Saint Anthony's Haven is committed to carrying out in the region throughout the year through their emergency shelter."

As the weather grows colder, Malandro noted, the shelter typically sees more than 20 clients per night seeking beds and hot meals, but those numbers quickly grow, and shortages of beds become a common problem. When that happens, Catholic Social Services arranges for local motels to temporarily house clients

and pays the fee.

"We appreciate the local partner motels that are willing to make unused rooms available for our most vulnerable neighbors, and we are especially thankful for the partnership of the Scranton Area Community Foundation in making funds available to ensure no one goes unhoused at this challenging time of year," Malandro said.

For more information about Saint Anthony's Haven, on Olive Street in Scranton, contact Steve Nocilla, Diocesan Director of Housing and Residential Programs, at 579-209-9200, ext. 2103, or snocilla@cssscranton.org.

Susquehanna County Churches Forming New Parish

Three parishes that serve the faithful in Susquehanna County – Saint John the Evangelist in Susquehanna, Saint Lawrence in Great Bend and Saint Martin of Tours in Jackson – will take the next step in their journey together as a parish cluster to become one parish with three worship sites.

According to the pastor, Father David Cramer, the Pastoral and Finance councils of the three parishes engaged in extensive planning and made the proposal that was approved by Bishop Bambera and the Diocesan Episcopal and Priests' councils.

As of January 1, 2019, the feast of Mary, Mother of God, they will become one parish with three worship sites. The

new name for the parish, which was selected from suggestions submitted by parishioners, will be Most Holy Trinity Parish. The churches will still retain the names of Saint John the Evangelist, Saint Lawrence and Saint Martin of Tours, and the Mass schedule and all the elements of the weekly routine will remain just as it is now.

The inaugural Masses for Most Holy Trinity Parish will be celebrated on the feast day of Mary, Mother of God at the vigil on Monday, December 31, at 7:00 p.m. at Saint Lawrence; on the Feast day, Tuesday, January 1, at 8:00 a.m. at Saint Martin and 7:00 p.m. at Saint John.

The parish also includes Saint Joseph Convent in Jackson.

Diocese Preparing for Launch of Independent Survivors Compensation Program

The Diocese of Scranton is continuing to make preparations for its Independent Survivors Compensation Program, which is expected to launch in January 2019. The Program is intended to promote healing and provide compensation for survivors of sexual abuse by clergy, religious or lay employees. The creation of this program is a part of Bishop Joseph C. Bambera's commitment to providing support to survivors and working to eradicate abuse from the Church altogether.

Participation in the Program by survivors is entirely voluntary. However, it

provides an opportunity for those who are time-barred from pursuing civil claims to share their experiences, identify their abusers and receive compensation as they continue to heal and recover. The Program will be administered by Kenneth Feinberg and Camille Biros, two leading experts in mediation and alternative dispute resolution. The pair have significant relevant experience as they are currently managing a number of high-profile compensation programs nationwide, including similar programs started by five Catholic Dioceses in New York, which

have collectively provided over \$200 million in compensation to more than 1,000 survivors.

The Diocese will abide by all compensation decisions, and Feinberg and Biros will have absolute autonomy in determining compensation for survivors. They will independently assess each claim and will determine the appropriate level of compensation based on a variety of factors including the duration of abuse suffered, the age of the victim at the time of the abuse, whether the Diocese was aware of the accused's tendencies and more. The

claims period will provide victims ample time to submit their claims. The result will be a swift, transparent and victim-centered process that will eliminate the need for lengthy litigation and will provide an opportunity for closure and justice amidst uncertainty around the amendment of the statute of limitations.

An Independent Oversight Committee will oversee the implementation and

administration of the Program. Members of the committee are currently being vetted and selected, and will be announced in the coming weeks. The Diocese will have no authority over this committee, and neither the Diocese nor the committee can overturn or appeal compensation decisions.

Parish and school assets, as well as contributions and bequests from parishioners and donations to the

Diocesan Annual Appeal, will not be used to fund the Program. While the Program will require significant resources, the Diocese will strive to maintain its core mission to serve the local community.

The Diocese will continue to share details about the Program as they become available and will soon launch a website for survivors to obtain more information and claim forms.

Christian Communities Gathering



The Christian Communities Gathering of Northeastern Pennsylvania held its quarterly meeting on December 5 at Holy Resurrection Orthodox Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre. A presentation on the environment was offered by Reverend Carmen Bolock, Ecumenical Officer, Polish National Catholic Church and pastor of Saint Mary's Polish National Catholic Church; and Rabbi David Swartz of Temple Hesed and Executive Director of the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life. Formed in 1999, the Christian Communities Gathering focuses on deepening ecumenical relationships on the local level.

First row, from left: Reverend Carmen Bolock, Ecumenical Officer, Polish National Catholic Church and pastor, Saint Mary's Polish National Catholic Church; Reverend Bruce Gowe, pastor, Dorranceton and Luzerne United Methodist Churches; Monsignor Vincent J. Grimalia, Scranton, Diocesan Coordinator for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations; Rabbi David Swartz, Temple Hesed, Executive Director, Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life; Very Reverend Archpriest Timothy Cremeens, Holy Resurrection Orthodox Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre; Protodeacon Sergei Kapral, Holy Resurrection Orthodox Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre.

Back row: Reverend Rebecca Tanner, Moderator, Ashley Presbyterian Church; Phil Yevics, Secretary, Scranton Ministerium; Reverend Charles Warwick, Saints Clement and Peter Episcopal Church, Wilkes-Barre; Reverend Thomas Looney, CSC, Director of Campus Ministry, King's College; Reverend James Lease, Harrisburg, Diocesan Director of Ecumenism and Interfaith Relations, Pastor Saint Joseph, Danville; Reverend David Quesenberry, Pastor, Plymouth Christian Church; Canon Maria Tjeltveit, Rector, Episcopal Church of the Mediator, Allentown; Reverend Jerome Wolbert, OFM, Pastor, Saint John the Baptist Byzantine Church, Hazleton.

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

His Excellency, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, announces the following appointments, effective as indicated.

PASTOR

Reverend Edward J. Casey, from Assistant Pastor, Our Lady of the Snows Parish, Clarks Summit, to Pastor, Saint Ann Parish, Shohola, and Saint John Neumann Parish, Lords Valley, effective January 3, 2019.

ADMINISTRATOR

Reverend Richard W. Beck, to Administrator, *pro tem*, Saint Ann Parish, Shohola, and Saint John Neumann Parish, Lords Valley, effective November 26, 2018. Father Beck will continue to serve as Pastor of Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace Parish, Hawley.

ASSISTANT PASTOR

Reverend Jose Joseph Kuriappilly, to Assistant Pastor, Epiphany Parish, Sayre, effective November 19, 2018.

ASSISTANT PASTOR

Reverend Babu Muttickal, from the Diocese of Kottapuram, Kerala, India, to Assistant Pastor, Our Lady of the Snows Parish, Clarks Summit, effective January 3, 2019.



BISHOP BAMBERA'S SCHEDULE

December 21 – Advent Mass for Chancery Staff, St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.

December 22 – Mass – SCI Waymart, Waymart, 9:00 a.m.

December 24 – Christmas Vigil Mass, St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton, 4:00 p.m.

Midnight Mass, St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton, Midnight

December 25 – Christmas Mass, Merli Veterans' Center, Scranton, 9:30 a.m.

January 2-8 – U.S. Bishops' Retreat, Mundelein Seminary, Chicago

January 9 – Mass – Capuchin Sisters, Tunkhannock, 4:00 p.m.



The Holy Name Society of Saints Anthony and Rocco Parish in Dunmore sponsored a Christmas Giving Tree to benefit the residents of Saint Joseph's Center in Scranton. Society members are pictured loading the truck with the gifts for delivery last Sunday.



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

**Sunday, January 13, 6 PM, Saint Jude Parish,
420 South Mountain Boulevard, Mountain Top**

**For more information, visit vocations.dioceseofscranton.org
or call 570-780-2996.**



Student volunteers from Holy Cross High School in Dunmore are joyful givers as they lent a helping hand with this year's annual Christmas Toy Giveaway program sponsored by the University of Scranton.



Odyssey Fitness Center in Wilkes-Barre recently held a food collection drive for the Saint Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre, a program of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton. Shown, from left: Justin Eck, Marissa Udzella, Mike Cianciotta, program manager, Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen; Greg Banks, executive director, Odyssey Fitness Center; Cindy Bloch, food collection drive organizer; Ryan Savka and Patti Mackiewicz. For information about volunteer opportunities with the Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen or its donation needs, call (570) 829-7796, ext. 301.



The Diocese of Scranton

The Catholic Light

Published Every Third Thursday

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January 10 - 31	February 28	March 14	April 4 - 18
May 16	June 6 - 27	July 18	August 8 - 29
September 19	October 10 - 31	November 21	December 19

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Editorial Eulogy: Father Alex Hazzouri

Continued from Page 8

Again, as we are calling to mind our priestly Father and brother, let us not forget his fidelity in bearing the cross which was his. Father Alex’s sensitive person often brought him painful episodes of worry, anxiety and acute concern which most of us have not had to endure. He might have very well said, as did his divine Master, that God did not ask him for things apart from himself. God asked rather for the surrender of his very own self, his very person. Jesus, the only Master Father would ever follow, spoke of this surrender of one’s person this way: “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you have prepared for me holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight in (But) Behold, I come to do your will, O God” (Heb. 10: 5-7).

Let us rejoice now, sad though this moment may be, in bringing to mind how patiently and uncomplainingly our good Alex bore the cross of the body God prepared for him, i.e., how submissively he suffered the person the provident God created him to be as he passed through his years on earth. Saint Francis de Sales could well have been one of Father’s patron saints for this Saint urged that we be patient with the whole world, but especially with ourselves.

In choosing the Gospel for this Mass, I thought the one you heard about Jesus at the gates of the City of Nain would particularly please Father, once my classmate, now my deceased brother priest, because this Gospel so accurately mirrors what we are about right now. We read that a mother was on the way to bury a son. A mother is doing precisely that right here this morning. Here she is Holy Mother the Church and Holy Mother the Church at this moment is you, I, and all of us together.

Editorial Eulogy: Father William Blake

Continued from Page 8

His soul, now in the hands of God, is at peace. He is no longer away from the Lord, for he walked this earth not by sight but by faith. He is now home with the Lord as he awaits his final judgment before the seat of Christ.

The Gospel gives us the scene of Jesus’ Crucifixion and Death on the Cross. He handed over his Spirit: “It is finished.” Father Blake a few days ago died the same. As much as he probably wanted to stay with all of us, he handed over his spirit and said, “It is finished.”

As Father Blake enters eternity, we should all be ever so grateful for knowing and loving him, and pray that we all will meet again when every tear will be wiped away and every sin obliterated and all of

As his mother on the way to bury our son we avoided a direct route to the cemetery and, instead, have come here, to this holy place, in order to, just like the mother in the Gospel, in order to encounter Jesus. But, if we were to ask Jesus to repeat his miracle, as related in the Gospel, and to touch our son’s coffin and give him back to us, his mother, the Church, Christ, you can be sure, would in turn ask us: “Do you think dear Father Alex, your son, would actually prefer leaving my arms in order to return to yours?” “Never,” of course, would have to be our answer.

May we speak a word not in behalf of Father but speak it in his place. It is a word given to us by the once Cardinal and now Venerable John Henry Newman and it reflects Father Alex’s refined, graceful soul, a memory of which we do well to hold on to. The Venerable Newman wrote:

“May He support us all the day long, till the shades lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in His mercy may He give us a safe lodging, and a holy rest and peace at the last.”

We have loved Father Hazzouri in life; let us not forget him in death.

Eternal rest grant to him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Excerpted from the homily by Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus John M. Dougherty at the Mass of Christian Burial celebrated for Father Alex J. Hazzouri on Nov. 19 at Saint Ann Maronite Catholic Church in Scranton.

us can rejoice in that one family that has no end — the family of the people of God.

Now the priest — this priest — meets the reality of what he has always lived, as the grace of the resurrection, so abundant in his life, now becomes his reality and the reward in death. What he has lived, what Christ has given us through him, now he becomes. May Christ, the Living Bread we now celebrate, raise him up on the last day.

May we embrace Advent hope in the midst of our grief and mourning, and let it sustain us in the living of our days. God bless you.

Excerpted from the homily by Father Richard J. Cirba at the Mass of Christian Burial celebrated for Father William B. Blake on Dec. 5 at Queen of Angels Parish in Jessup.

January 18

How to Get to the March for Life

Buses Scheduled for 46th Anniversary Event in Washington

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

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

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

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

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

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



HONESDALE

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

MONROE COUNTY (POCONOS)

Contact Joan Berdela, (570) 421-8636.

SCRANTON

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

BRADFORD COUNTY

Contact Rob Howard at (570) 395-3417 or rshoward1@frontiernet.net. Bus departs from Athens at 5 a.m., with pick-up stops in Wysox, Wyalusing and Tunkhannock.

WILLIAMSPORT

Contact Evelyn Rall, (570) 398-0722.

WYOMING VALLEY

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

Misericordia Adult Learner Open House Jan. 9

DALLAS — The Misericordia University Center for Adult and Continuing Education will hold an Open House on Wednesday, Jan. 9, for adult learners who are interested in continuing their education.

The event will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Huntzinger and Alden Trust Rooms (218-219), Sandy and Marlene Insalaco Hall, on the Misericordia campus.

The Adult Learner Open House is offered to adults interested in obtaining more information about the university’s undergraduate and graduate programs and for prospective students inquiring about entering or returning to college.

Guests may attend the event at their convenience and speak with faculty and representatives from admissions and financial aid.

Common topics includes credit transfer, credit for life experiences, financial aid eligibility, evening and weekend class schedules at the campus in Dallas, online courses, and the Misericordia accelerated degree programs.

Adult learners may register online at misericordia.edu/archopenhouse. For more information, contact the Center for Adult and Continuing Education at (570-674-6791) or email: admissmu@misericordia.edu.

Diocese of Scranton

CATHOLIC

SCHOOL SYSTEM

FAITH • ACADEMICS • SERVICE

The Diocese of Scranton is committed to educating our students in an environment that is academically excellent and facilitates the development of moral judgment and Christian decision-making. We are proud to share the following successes of our students in the classroom and in their service to others. Each day, our schools are fulfilling their mission of preparing today's youth and young adults to become tomorrow's faith-filled leaders.



Students from the Individualized Instruction Program at **Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston** take a break after passing out Christmas cards to the residents at Saint Luke's Villa in Wilkes-Barre.



In preparation for the holiday season, Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade students from **Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton** gathered for a Thanksgiving Mass at Saint Paul Church and then posed as a reminder of the reason for the season.



As students at **Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg** await the birth of Jesus, they celebrate weekly Advent Services to focus on the four themes of hope, peace, love and joy. Students have also put an emphasis on service to their community during this season of giving, participating in projects like Toys for Tots



Cienna Pugliese, Matthew Welkey, Michael Collins, Loveah Williams, Jack Quinn, Reagan Martin, Chase Valeski and Cassidi Quinn, students at **Holy Rosary School in Duryea**, show off the treats they received in their shoes after a visit from Saint Nicholas.



The 3rd graders at **Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore** hosted a bake sale to raise money to adopt animals from World Wildlife Foundation. Thanks to the generosity of their fellow classmates, they were able to adopt two animals: an Emperor Penguin Chick and a Red Panda.



The 2nd grade class at **Holy Family Academy in Hazleton** show off the unique hats they made for Thanksgiving.



The 4th grade class at **All Saints Academy in Scranton** recently completed their Lackawanna County Junior Deputy Program. Officer Philip Chiavacci has spent the past few months educating the children on such topics as Drug and Alcohol Abuse, Personal Safety Around Strangers, Shoplifting, Vandalism and Gun Safety.



On his recent Feast Day, Saint Nicholas made a special appearance to the students at **Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School in Wilkes-Barre**.



The 7th and 8th grade students at **Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg** presented "The Most Epic Birthday Party Ever." The musical centers on siblings Skyler and Charlie, who rarely get along, but must develop respect for one another after all the adults mysteriously disappear during Skyler's birthday party and the kids have to create a brand new society



To assist in the spirit of the season, **Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter** recently presented a play depicting the Nativity according to the Gospel of Saint Luke. The play was a culmination of the annual Christmas Season Concert presented by the school community.

After their performance at the school's annual Christmas Program, students from the 5th and 6th grades at **Epiphany School in Sayre** gather for a photo to remember the moment.



Students at **Saint Agnes School in Towanda** brought in donations for the Bradford County Humane Society in memory of "Amazing Grace."



Eight students from **Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green** were chosen as winners of the Lackawanna County Drug and Alcohol Art Contest. Student artwork will be displayed on billboards throughout the county, reminding others of the dangers of drugs and alcohol.



Members of the senior class at **Holy Cross High School in Dunmore** enjoyed a pizza party after their annual "Deck the Halls" party.

Pope Encourages Young People Ahead of Next Month's World Youth Day

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a video message to young men and women around the world, Pope Francis called on them to provoke an uprising of change by serving others.

In helping those who are suffering, both young believers and nonbelievers can find “a strength that can change the world,” the

pope said in a video message to youths for the upcoming World Youth Day in Panama.

“It is a revolution that can overturn the powerful forces at work in our world. It is the ‘revolution’ of service,” he said in the message released by the Vatican last month.

The theme for the World

Youth Day celebrations, which will take place Jan. 22-27, is taken from the Gospel of St. Luke, “May it be done to me according to your word.”

In his message, the pope said those words uttered by Mary during the Annunciation are “the positive reply of one who understands the secret of vocation: to go

22-27 JAN 2019

WORLD YOUTH DAY

“I AM THE SERVANT OF THE LORD.
MAY IT BE DONE TO ME ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD” (LK 1:38)

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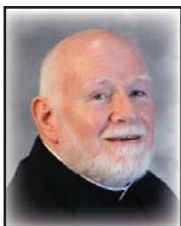
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beyond oneself and place oneself at the service of others.”

Life, he said, can only find meaning when serving God and others. Like Mary, young people must engage “in conversation with God with an attitude of listening” so that they may discover their calling either in marriage, consecrated life or the priesthood.

“The important thing is to discover what God wants from us and to be brave enough to say ‘yes,’” the pope said. “When God has a proposition for us, like the one he

had for Mary, it is not intended to extinguish our dreams, but to ignite our aspirations.”

Pope Francis encouraged young people to say ‘yes’ to God’s calling, which is “the first step toward being happy and toward making many people happy.”

“Dear young people,” the pope said, “take courage, enter within yourselves and ask God: ‘What do you want from me?’ Allow God to answer you. Then you will see how your life is transformed and filled with joy.”

Ten Traveling from Our Diocese

Ten young adults will be representing the Diocese of Scranton at the upcoming 15th World Youth Day, being hosted by the country of Panama Jan. 22-27. The Diocesan contingent will begin their pilgrimage to Central America for the international Catholic event beginning on Jan. 19, as they joyfully anticipate joining Pope Francis and an estimated one million other young Catholics from around the world.

“Diocesan pilgrims have been preparing for the pilgrimage since April in anticipation of the many diverse opportunities to actively engage in and fortify their faith,” said Shannon Kowalski, Diocesan Coordinator for Youth/Young Adult Ministry in the Office for Parish Life, who will lead the Scranton World Youth Day delegation.

In addition to traditional World Youth Day activities — Papal Welcome Ceremony, Stations of the Cross, Saturday Evening Prayer Vigil, and Closing Mass with Pope Francis — pilgrims will have the opportunity to visit the iconic Panama Canal and participate in a Rainforest Retreat, led by nationally renowned Catholic speaker Steve Angrisano.

Joining Shannon for the 2,200-plus-mile trek for World Youth Day 2019 in Panama City will be her fellow parishioner from Saint Catherine of Siena in Moscow, Stephen Hinline; Abbe Truschel and David Pirolli, members of Saint Jude Parish, Mountain Top; Charles Rennekamp, Saint Peter Cathedral Parish, Scranton; Dominick Costantino, Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, Hanover Township; Meghan Donohue, Most Holy Trinity Parish, Mount Pocono; Raphael Micca, Holy Spirit Parish, Fairmount Springs; Stephen McNulty, Saint Eulalia Parish, Elmhurst; and Father Jerry Shantillo, pastor of Saint Matthew Parish, East Stroudsburg.



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LOVE to a
lonely world.*

*Christ bringing
HOPE to a
despairing world.*

*Christ bringing
FORGIVENESS
to a sinful world.*

*Christ bringing
NEW LIFE
to those who will
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Mission Message

Go Forth

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



“What should we do?” This was the question repeated three times in this past Sunday’s Gospel from Luke 3. Three groups seeking baptism came forward and asked that question before John baptized them. As a good teacher and guide, John challenged each group to embrace some significant changes in their lives.

To the crowds gathered, he said, “whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none.” To the tax collectors, he commanded “stop collecting more than what is prescribed.” And he enjoined the soldiers to stop their extortion of the people. I wonder if these groups were sorry they asked such a provocative question; no doubt, each may have found their new charge in life to be rather daunting.

This is a fine question for each of us to ask at Christmastime and as a preparation for resolutions we will make for 2019: “What should we do?” I wonder, how often do we make that a prayer to God rather than something we come up with on our own without much reflection. As we approach Christmas and the New Year, I

propose taking some time in prayer to ask God, “what should I do?”. How shall I spend these last days of preparation before Christmas? Is there anything, Lord, that You want me to change about my life in these days and months ahead?

Perhaps the Lord might be calling each of us to look at the long lists we have made of things that “need” to be done before Christmas, and start shaving some of those items off the list. Wouldn’t it be great to take the hour or two it might take to bake one last batch of sweets and spend that time reflecting on the manger scene in your home or on some of the religious images that grace the covers of Christmas cards from relatives?

Surely it would be a great grace to spend some extra time just pondering the scene of that nativity as we read the narrative of Luke 2:1-14. To spend time in prayer and reflection on the birth of Christ will make our celebration with loved ones even sweeter and so much more meaningful — as the saying goes, “Jesus is the reason for the Season.”

And even as we might cancel some last-minute shopping, baking, or decorating to enrich our own prayer and preparation for Christmas, it seems there’s something still that “we should do.” This Christmas, as with every year of solemn celebrations — and quite frankly each day — there are thousands of our Christian brothers and sisters who are persecuted for their faith, who live in fear of retaliation and violence for what they believe, who celebrate the sacraments of the Church in secret to otherwise avoid certain punishment from anti-Christian governments and neighbors.

In early December, some 100 Iranian Christians were arrested for sharing the Gospel in their neighborhoods. Many of these Christians were converts from Islam. (It is a crime in Iran for a

Muslim to convert to Christianity.) Chinese officials continue to hold in custody a prominent pastor — and dozens of his congregants — in a crackdown on “unregistered” Christian churches in the Communist country. Certainly, we can in our own right acknowledge aspects of Christian life, though not forbidden or criminalized in our own country, that are sometimes met with suspicion or concern and facing attitudes which label us as unenlightened or superstitious.

This past summer, Pope Francis gathered with religious leaders in Bari, Italy, to pray for peace throughout the world, especially in the Middle East. He warned against indifference and simply surrendering to the perception that we can do no more — that the battle is lost. “We want to give a voice to those who have none, to those who can only wipe away their tears.”

Isn’t it interesting how the Holy Father contextualizes the role of the Church — the role of each one of us — in terms of us having a power to help overcome this great evil and to alleviate the suffering of these poor souls? We have a power within us to bring peace because we have the power to bring Christ into the world through our prayer, by living virtuous lives, and sacrificing for each other.

So, “what should we do” this Christmas?

Let us pray, let us sacrifice, let us ensure that we are never unaware — or worse, indifferent — of the plight of Christians throughout the world who wish only to worship the Newborn King, who wish only for peace and civility, who desire only to share the love of Jesus with the world. Let’s pledge to take some serious time away from the many noisy distractions of our lives and spend that time growing closer to our Lord and praying that others can do so without fear.

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SCRANTON — Christmas liturgies celebrated at the Cathedral of Saint Peter will begin on Christmas Eve with a Solemn Pontifical Vigil Mass of Christmas at 4 p.m. Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will serve as principal celebrant and homilist.

The Eucharistic celebration will be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton.

In addition, CTV will air the following special programs during the Christmas season:

Solemn Mass of Christmas Eve in Rome — Mass with Pope Francis from Saint Peter's Basilica at the Vatican. Dec. 25 at 4 a.m.

Midnight Mass from the Holy Land — Eucharistic liturgy celebrating the Feast of the Incarnation from the Holy Land. Dec. 25 at 1 a.m.

Choral Meditations on the Nativity — Live performance of musical composition for the Birth of Our Lord, from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Dec. 24 at 10 p.m.

Live Solemn Mass of Christmas Eve — Celebrated at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Dec. 24 at 10:30 p.m.; encore Dec. 25, 12 midnight.

"Urbi et Orbi": Pope Francis' Christmas Message & Blessing to the World — Live Dec. 25 at 6 a.m. from Saint Peter's Square in Rome;

encores Dec. 25 at 3 p.m. and 11 p.m., and Dec. 31 at 12:30 p.m.

Live Solemn Mass of Christmas from EWTN — Christmas Mass celebrated by the Franciscan Missionaries of the Eternal Word from the EWTN Chapel in Irondale, Ala. Dec. 25 at 8 a.m.; encore Dec. 25, 6:30 p.m.

Solemn Mass of Christmas Day — Celebrated at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C. Dec. 25 at 12 noon; encore Dec. 26 at 12 midnight.

Catholic University of America's Christmas Concert — Broadcasts of the Christmas concert performance presented by The Catholic University of America in Washington: Dec. 25 at 9:30 a.m.; Dec. 27, 5 a.m.; Dec. 28, 1:30 p.m.; and Dec. 31, 10:30 p.m.

We Celebrate Christmas: The Birth of Jesus Christ — Celebration of the Lord's birth through short Christmas lessons, song, ballet dance, and puppetry. Dec. 25 at 4:30 p.m.

Saint Luke's Gospel: The Incredible Birth of Jesus — Frances Hogan discusses the Incarnation of Christ as the prophecy fulfillment in the House of David to bring Israel hope, conquer sin, and restore our fellowship with God. Dec. 26 at 6:30 a.m.



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Weekly Bible Study — DEC. 21, hosted by St. Lawrence Parish in Great Bend; held every Friday at 7 p.m. in the Trinity Center, adjacent to St. Lawrence Church. All are welcome.

Friday Pro-Life Rosary Vigil — DEC. 21, sponsored by the Catholics Defending Life Prayer & Awareness Team; group gathers every Friday from 1 to 1:30 p.m. at Lackawanna County Courthouse Square, North Washington Ave., in downtown Scranton (weather permitting). Recitation of the Rosary offered, along with pro-life meditations, Divine Mercy Chaplet and other prayer devotions for the respect and dignity of all human life from conception to natural death. Pro-life signs are welcome.

Weekly Queen of Our Hearts Rosary Prayer Service — DEC. 22, hosted every Saturday morning at Good Shepherd Church in Drums; group gathers weekly beginning at 11 a.m. Devotion includes recitation of the Chaplet of the Infant of Prague, the Holy Rosary, and Chaplet of the Divine Mercy. Prayer petitions may be submitted at the church. All faithful are welcome.

Spiritual Support Group: Scranton Mental Health Ministry — DEC. 22 & JAN. 12, hosted by the Cathedral of St. Peter in Scranton; providing a safe, supportive space for individuals who are experiencing mental illness. Group meets at 10 a.m. on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month in the Bishops Hall at the

Cathedral Rectory, 315 Wyoming Ave. Meetings will be approximately 90 minutes; refreshments provided. Participating Scranton parishes include St. Peter's; Mary, Mother of God; and Immaculate Conception. For more information, contact Deacon Ed Shoener at (570-344-7231).

Wednesday Eucharistic Adoration — DEC. 26, 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 Marelllo, founder of the Oblates of St. Joseph religious congregation. For more information, contact the OSJ seminary at (570-654-7542).

Weekly Bible Study — DEC. 26, hosted by Prince of Peace Parish in Old Forge; weekly sessions offered on Wednesdays from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room at St. Lawrence Church, Main St., Old Forge. Guest facilitator: JoAnn Wilbur. All faithful are welcome; refreshments will be provided.

Wednesday Eucharistic Adoration — DEC. 26, hosted by Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Tunkhannock; exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament offered every Wednesday from 2 to 5 p.m. in Nativity BVM Church, 99 East Tioga St., Tunkhannock. All faithful are welcome. For more information, call (570-881-9916).

Weekly Divine Mercy Devotion — DEC. 26, 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.

Padre Pio Prayer Ministry — JAN. 2, hosted by St. Faustina Kowalska Parish in Nanticoke; begins with celebration of Mass at 6 p.m. at the parish worship site of Holy Trinity Church, 520 South Hanover St., Nanticoke, followed

by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, intercessory prayers to St. Padre Pio, recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and benediction. All faithful are welcome.

Bereavement Support Gatherings — JAN. 2 & 20, hosted by Our Lady of the Snows Parish in Clarks Summit; support group meetings held on the first Wednesday of the month, at 10 a.m., and the third Sunday of the month, at 2 p.m., in the Gathering Room (lower level) of Our Lady of the Snows Church, 301 South State St., Clarks Summit. All are welcome.

Scranton Mental Health Ministry: Spiritual Support Group for Family & Friends — JAN. 3, hosted by the Cathedral of St. Peter in Scranton; providing a safe, supportive space for parents, family members and friends of individuals who are experiencing mental illness. Group meets at 6 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month in the Bishops Hall at the Cathedral Rectory, 315 Wyoming Ave. Meetings will be approximately 90 minutes; refreshments provided. Participating Scranton parishes include St. Peter's; Mary, Mother of God; and Immaculate Conception. For more information, contact Deacon Ed Shoener (Cathedral), (570-344-7231); Deacon Jan Mroz (Mary, Mother of God), (570-342-4881); or Deacon Pat McDonald (Immaculate Conception), (570-961-5211).

First Friday Marian Devotion & Healing Mass — JAN. 4, hosted by St. Lucy Parish at St. Lucy Church, 949 Scranton St., west Scranton; begins at 6:30 p.m. with recitation of the Rosary and devotional prayers led by Adele Garofalo. Healing Mass celebrated at 7 p.m., including prayers for healing and anointing blessing. Music ministry provided by Ernie Pappa. All faithful are welcome.

Evening of Prayer with the Sisters of IHM — JAN. 9, sponsored by the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary; monthly prayer service held on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel

Continued on Page 25

Who makes house calls?

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

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

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



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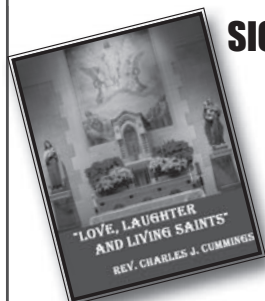


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CSS to Host Family-Oriented Workshop on Substance Abuse



Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton will host a free, six-week informational workshop on substance abuse from January 8 through February 12. The goal of the workshop is to help family members learn more about substance abuse in order to better support, assist and understand a family member who is battling a substance abuse problem. Topics will include “Use vs. Abuse,” “What is Addiction?”, “Co-Dependency and Enabling,” “How Families Can Help Themselves” and “How Families Can Help Others Seek Help.” The workshops will be offered on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Catholic Social Services, 33 East Northampton St., Wilkes-Barre. Dates include: Jan. 8, Jan. 15, Jan. 22, Jan. 29, Feb. 5 and Feb. 12. Seating is limited. To register, call Shaliyah Jones at (570) 829-3489 or e-mail: smjones@csswb.org. Shown, from left: JoAnne Donato, clinical supervisor, drug and alcohol program, Catholic Social Services; Shaliyah Jones, drug and alcohol treatment specialist, Catholic Social Services; Elizabeth Jenkins, drug and alcohol treatment specialist, Catholic Social Services; and Erin McClay, program manager, drug and alcohol program, Catholic Social Services.

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Williamsport ND Club Hosts Prayer Luncheon



Lycoming County Judge Marc Lovecchio served as principal guest speaker at the recent Prayer Luncheon hosted by the Notre Dame Club of Greater Williamsport, during which the jurist spoke about the county's "Innovated Solutions to the Drug Abuse Crisis." Father Brian Van Fossen, pastor of Saint Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport, offered the invocation for the gathering, and John Felix,

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- **FOXWOODS & MOHEGAN SUN 3-DAY, CONNECTICUT** — May 5-7 — Rebates!
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- **AMERICAN GIRL PLACE, NYC** — May 11 — Lunch at American Girl Café
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Sister Bonaventura, Former Head of Villa of Our Lady Retreat House, Laid to Rest

Bernardine Franciscan Sister Mary Bonaventura Radzai, former longtime administrator of Villa of Our Lady Retreat House in Mount Pocono, died Nov. 11 in Reading, where she had resided since 2014. She was 96.

A member of the Bernardine Franciscan women religious community, Sister Bonaventura was well known throughout the Diocese of Scranton as head of the popular spiritual retreat facility in the Poconos, where she ministered for 29 years.

A native of Shenandoah, Sister entered religious life in 1939 and earned her bachelor's degree in education from Villanova Uni-

versity and a master of education from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.

Prior to being appointed provincial superior of her congregation, she served throughout Pennsylvania for 38 years as a Catholic school teacher, principal and local superior.

Sister Bonaventura began her service at Villa of Our Lady in 1985 as the administrator and retreat coordinator. Highly regarded for her generosity, sense of humor and hospitality, she was also an accomplished organist.

Survivors include numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by three brothers and six sisters.

Interment was held at the Bernardine Franciscan Motherhouse cemetery in Reading.

Apostleship of Prayer

Papal Intention for January 2019

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



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Spiritual Offerings

Continued from Page 20

at the IHM Center, 2300 Adams Ave., Scranton (top of University Ave., beyond Marywood University). All are welcome.

Meeting of Lay Carmelites — **JAN. 19**, hosted by Our Lady of the Mountains Lay Carmelite Chapter; meetings held on the

third Saturday of each month at Little Flower Manor, 200 S. Meade St., Wilkes-Barre. For more information, contact Rose Bordi at (570-445-5457).

Gathering of the Secular Discalced Carmelites — **JAN. 20**, canonically established community of the Diocese of Scranton; gatherings are usually held on the third

Sunday of every month at Holy Annunciation Monastery in Sugarloaf, Luzerne County. All are welcome, especially those who feel called to a deeper consecration in life and wish to experience Carmelite spirituality and community. Call Ann Marie Fierro (570-454-4493), Nicole Tranguch (570-751-4729) or Marie Schimmelbusch (570-822-6561) for more information.

Catholic Happenings

Living Nativity Play 2018: "The Littlest Christmas Star" — **DEC. 24**, original live presentation inspired by the legend of the Nativity Star that guided the Three Kings to Bethlehem; hosted at St. John the Baptist Church, 126 Nesbitt St., Larksville. Annual Christmas Eve play begins at 4 p.m., followed by celebration of the Christmas Vigil Mass in St. John Church. This year's new Christmas production is written and directed by Father Gerald Gurka, host pastor. For more information, call the parish office at (570-779-9620).

Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary Bingo — **JAN. 2 & 16**, 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).

University of Scranton Performance Music Series: In Concert — **JAN. 6**, featuring the Scranton Brass Orchestra; 7:30 p.m. in the University's Houlihan-McLean Center on campus, corner of Mulberry St. & Jefferson Ave. Performance is open to the public free of charge.

Weekly Bingo — **JAN. 7**, 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).

Big Brothers Big Sisters Game Night — **JAN. 17**, to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of The Bridge, a program of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton; hosted from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Woodlands Inn and Resort in Wilkes-Barre (doors open at 5:30 p.m.). Participants/contestants will enjoy a fun evening of playing popular parlor games; everyone is welcome to attend. Tickets cost \$35 each or \$140 for a team of four; includes hearty appetizers and two complimentary beverages. Prizes awarded and raffle drawing will be held. Purchase tickets online at <http://www.bbbsnepa.com/gamenight/>. For more information, call (570-824-8756).

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

(570-455-1521) before Jan. 8. All proceeds benefit Catholic Social Services programs serving the Greater Hazleton area.

Respect Life Prayer Breakfast — **FEB. 2**, sponsored by the Scranton Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life; begins at 9 a.m. at Fiorelli's Catering in Peckville. Guest speaker: Seth Drayer, vice president for Created Equal, a pro-life education and outreach organization based in Columbus, Ohio. For more information, contact the Scranton PHL Pro-Life Center, 400 Wyoming Ave., Scranton; phone: (570-343-5099).



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Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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First Friday Devotions Throughout the Diocese

Masses & Devotions

— hosted by Holy Name of Jesus Parish in West Hazleton; held at the parish's Church of the Transfiguration, 213 W. Green St., West Hazleton. Holy Hour and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament held from 5 to 5:45 p.m., followed by celebration of Mass at 6 p.m.

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

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

Pro-Life Rosary Vigils

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

— held outside the offices of Planned Parenthood, 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.

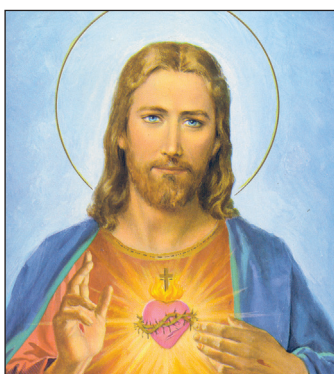
— offered for the special intention of vocations to the priesthood; hosted by Saint Ann Basilica Parish, Saint Ann's St., west Scranton. Adoration begins with 8:30 a.m. Mass and concludes with benediction at 4:45 p.m.

Healing Masses

— hosted by Saint Lucy Church, 949 Scranton St., west Scranton, beginning at 6:30 p.m. with a prelude of contemporary music and Marian hymns. Celebration of Healing Mass follows at 7 p.m. and includes anointing blessing and prayers for healing; recitation of the Rosary will also be offered, led by Adele Garofalo. Music ministry for the evening will be provided by Ernie Pappa.

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

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 **January 4** at Saint Joseph's Oblate Seminary, 1880 Highway 315, Laffin (Pittston).

Devotions begin Friday evening at 8 p.m. with recitation of the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary, during which time confessions are heard. Mass of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is celebrated at 8:55 p.m., followed by benediction, litany and consecration to the Sacred Heart.

The vigil continues with the crowning of the Blue Army Pilgrim Virgin Statue, the Blue Army Pledge, Fatima prayers and Marian hymns, followed by litany and consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The vigil concludes with scapular enrollment at 10:15 p.m.



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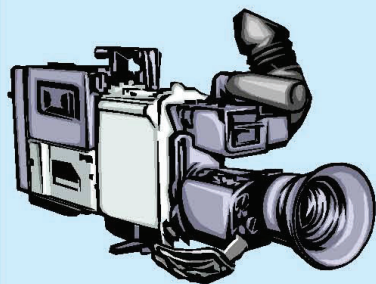
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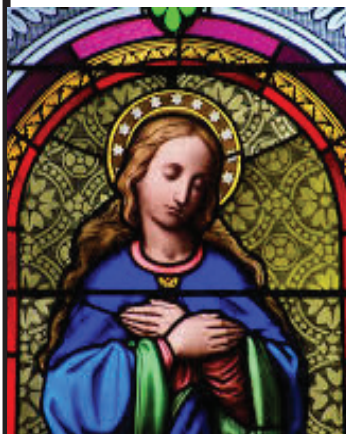
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