



# OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

GOOD NEWS NOTES

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## Living Your Strengths Evening Retreat



**Tuesday, December 6, 5:30-9:00PM**  
**Diocesan Pastoral Center,**  
**330 Wyoming Ave, Scranton**

The Advent/Christmas season is a time for giving gifts as a sign of love. Have you ever thought of yourself as a gift? God has never made another person like you. Statistics bear this out! Unwrap the science and the spirituality of *Living Your Strengths* this Advent. You will see how God has laid out your path in the talents you have been given and how everyone around you likewise has a different (and complementary) set of strengths. Celebrate St. Nicholas Day by celebrating the unique and wonderful gifts God has given you!

Presenter: Bernadette Rudolph,  
 Director for Family and Community Development

Cost: \$10 for dinner. Also you need to get a code from the book, *StrengthsFinder 2.0* by Tom Rath. You can purchase a hard copy from [Amazon](#)—making sure it is new so you get an un used code—or an e-book directly from [Gallup](#).

Please take the *StrengthsFinder2.0* survey and bring the results with you Dec 6.

Contact Jennifer at 570-207-2213 or [oplgeneral@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:oplgeneral@dioceseofscranton.org) to register.



LIVING  YOUR  STRENGTHS

*Discover Your God-Given Talents*

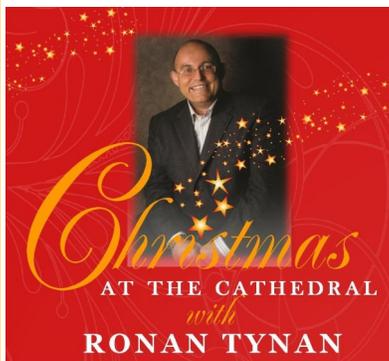
## Books Make Great Christmas Gifts!

Need ideas? Visit the [Little Free Library](#), OPL's collection of good books for parishioners to learn about Catholic spirituality, Scripture, the saints, Eucharist, ecclesiology and more -- all in the spirit of Vatican III! This can be a bridge between good materials and parishioners. You can access the site through Pinterest or by emailing [Bernadette Rudolph](#) for a pdf listing. New books were added in November. Titles are recommended for various uses:

- The Eucharistic adoration chapel library
- Adult catechesis
- Individual enrichment
- Small group study
- "Thank you" gifts for volunteers
- The parish library

## Christmas at the Cathedral Concert

The Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton is honored to welcome back Ronan Tynan in concert on Friday, December 16 at 8:00PM featuring the season's most beloved Christmas selections and year-round favorites. [Click here](#) for tickets.



## Day of Prayer and Solidarity with Immigrants

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has directed that a Day of Prayer with a focus on the plight of refugees and migrants be observed on Monday, December 12, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The goal of this Day of Prayer is to place before God the needs, fears and struggles of all those who have come to our country seeking a better life.

To assist with this observance, the USCCB has prepared a [Scriptural Rosary](#) entitled "Unity in Diversity" with prayers for migrants and refugees as well as a summary pamphlet of the 2003 pastoral letter, "Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope" available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

## World Day of Peace 2017

Pope Francis has chosen "*Nonviolence: A style of politics for peace*" as the theme for the 50th World Day of Peace, commemorated each year on January 1. 2017 marks the 50th anniversary of the Catholic Church's World Day of Peace. Inspired by both St. Pope John XXIII's encyclical [Pacem in terris](#) and his own encyclical [Populorum progressio](#), Pope Paul VI introduced the commemoration of the [World Day of Peace](#) in 1967; it is now celebrated every year on the first day of January.

Visit [Catholic Nonviolence Initiative](#) to find resources to learn more about and celebrate the World Day of Peace on January 1 and beyond.

Consider reading the [message of Pope Francis](#) to Cardinal Peter K.A. Turkson and the [USCCB message](#) regarding the 2017 World Day of Peace.

In his Message for the 50th World Day of Peace, celebrated on Jan. 1, 2017, Pope Francis urges families, faith communities, government leaders, and the international community to practice non-violence and work to build a just peace. □

This Advent might be a time for your parish to consider starting a Pax Christi chapter. Visit Pax Christi International's website - [www.paxchristi.net](http://www.paxchristi.net) and Pax Christi USA's website at [www.paxchristiusa.org](http://www.paxchristiusa.org).

## Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry Program 2017

The Office for Parish Life encourages parish leaders to consider **application for the *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry* for January 2017!**

The *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry* is a ministry formation program designed to equip and advance the servant leadership capacities of individuals serving their parish in areas such as Pastoral Council, Director of Religious Education and Catechist, Liturgical Coordinator, Parish Staff, Volunteer Ministry teams, and others!

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

Starting with our New Candidate Orientation Retreat on Saturday, January 28, 2017, 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](mailto:Kitty-Scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org) for application information, materials, and application submissions.**

## Creatively Reaching out to Persons with Disabilities

**What?** An evening of networking and sharing of ideas/resources

**Who should attend?** DREs, pastors, catechists, buildings-and-grounds committee members and anyone interested in finding ways to better minister to and include parishioners with physical or mental disabilities



### Presenters:

Bernadette Rudolph will facilitate networking and sharing of ideas/resources.

Rev. Dick Hockman, CSC, will speak about the spiritual needs/abilities of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and introduce the SPRED program. Fr. Dick has a professional background and long history in special education and assists the Diocese of Scranton in parish-based SPRED programs.

**When and Where?** Each session is 6:30-8:30PM. All locations are wheelchair accessible.

- Feb. 13 at St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Pocono Pines
- Feb. 20 at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Castellano Center, Williamsport
- Feb. 21 at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton
- Feb. 27 at Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Wilkes-Barre

Please contact Jennifer at [oplgeneral@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:oplgeneral@dioceseofscranton.org) or 570-207-2213 to register.

## DRE Network Meetings

January DRE Network Meetings will be held in four locations. On the agenda will be Safe Environment Updates presented by Kathy Bolinski, Safe Environment Coordinator for the Diocese of Scranton. We will also have a presentation by our Catholic Relief Services Relationship Manager, Katie Kernich. Katie will guide us through the Lenten Rice Bowl program and will show us how to access online classroom resources made available by CRS. Please choose one of these dates and plan to join other parish DREs for an evening of prayer, fellowship and formation.

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

### Monday, January 23

Gate of Heaven Parish  
Dallas

### Tuesday, January 24

St. Paul of the Cross Parish  
Scranton

### Thursday, January 26

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish  
Montoursville

### Tuesday, January 31

Holy Rosary Parish  
Hazleton



R.S.V.P. to Mary Anne Malone (570) 207-2213, ext. 1100 or [mary-anne-malone@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:mary-anne-malone@dioceseofscranton.org).

## I.S.L.I.

The next ISLI Retreat will be held at Camp Ladore in Waymart from Friday, February 24 – Sunday, February 26, 2017. I.S.L.I. (International Student Leadership Institute) is open to high school students. Registration will be available at [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org) by mid-December.

## National Catholic Youth Conference 2017 (NCYC) Information Meeting

NCYC 2017, attended by 20,000 young people from all parts of the United States, will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana on November 16-18, 2017. The theme is “Called/ Llamados.” The Diocese of Scranton will send a delegation to NCYC by bus leaving November 15 and returning November 19. Is your parish “Called” to participate in this pilgrimage? Every parish is invited to attend an **Information Meeting on January 4, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the Diocesan Pastoral Center.**

R.S.V.P. to Jennifer Andres at (570) 207-2213, ext 1102.

## Coming to Know the Writings of Pope Francis Part IV:

Traditional Moral Teachings Frequently Misunderstood in *Amoris laetitia*

Tuesday, December 6,  
2:00-4:00PM

Wednesday, December 14,  
7:00-9:00PM

at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton

Please contact Jane Ludka at 570-591-5006 to register.

**Editor's Note:** The [2017 Office for Parish Life Calendar](#) is available either by contacting the Office for copies, or downloading from the Diocesan website. Each month focuses on one of the consensus goal areas surfacing in parish pastoral plans across the Diocese. For each month of our Good News Notes this year, we will also include a column like the one below – corresponding to the goal area for each month on the calendar.

## 10 Ways to “awaken the baptismal call to holiness and giftedness”

- Celebrate baptism within the Sunday assembly, inviting all present to renew their baptismal vows with the family;
- Deliver a multi-week homily series, integrated with bulletin inserts, featuring individuals in your parish who articulate this call in differing life contexts;
- Provide an adult formation session exploring images of God, images of holiness, and implications for everyday modern life;
- Gather a group to participate in the online VLCFF course titled: *Vocation to Ministry*
- In your annual Ministry Fair or Ministry Volunteer Appreciation event, emphasize the giftedness of each member of the parish, and the necessity for each person to actively live out this baptismal call to holiness;
- Create and implement a family-oriented gathering (or take-home experience) which allows the members to name the gifts they see in each other and the ways God is calling each of them to serve the mission of the Church and the needs of our world;
- For a designated period, place a brief affirmation near the baptismal font and holy water fonts, so that along with the sign of the cross each person might say something like: “I remember that by my Baptism I am called to holiness and gifted for mission.”
- During the Lenten season, focus all parish devotions and activities around this baptismal call and the Lenten/Easter opportunity to be renewed and deepened in it;
- Invite the neophytes to witness in the Sunday assembly, through the Easter season, sharing their experience of the transformative call to holiness;
- Design a community art project (with ways for everyone to participate) which depicts your parish’s conviction that “there are many gifts, but the same Spirit who is in all and works in all.” (1 Cor 12: 4-6)

## TEAM MEMBERS

Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life: **Catherine Jantsch Butel**

Director for WORD and Lifelong Faith Formation: **Mary Anne Malone**

Coordinator for Youth, Campus and Young Adult Ministry:

Consultant for Youth and Campus Ministry: **Fred Mercadante**

Director for WORSHIP: **David Baloga**

Coordinator for RCIA: **Fr. Bob Simon**

Director for SERVICE and Social Concerns: **Richard DeBona**

Coordinator for Diocesan Missions and

Director for Pontifical Missions: **Deacon Ed Kelly**

Coordinator for Mission Education: **Miriam Heverline**

Coordinator for Pilgrimages – **Fr. Andrew Hvozdovic**

Director for Family and COMMUNITY Development: **Bernadette Rudolph**

Coordinator for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations: **Msgr. Vincent Grimalia**

Coordinator for V Encuentro: **Alejandra Marroquin**

Coordinator for Lay Ministry Formation: **Kitty Scanlan**

Coordinator for Pastoral Council Development: **Ann Marie Cawley**

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