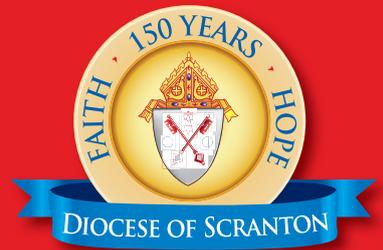


The Catholic Light



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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2018

Sesquicentennial Mass To Be Celebrated March 4

The Diocese of Scranton's Sesquicentennial Celebration continues with a Pontifical Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter marking the actual Anniversary Sunday of the founding of the Diocese. The liturgy will be celebrated on March 4, 2018, at 3 p.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Mass will give thanks to God for the many blessings He has bestowed on us – from the first Catholics to settle here, to the formal establishment of our Diocese by Pope Pius IX in 1868, and throughout its growth in the ensuing years.

Pope Francis has appointed His Eminence, Roger Michael Cardinal Mahony, Archbishop Emeritus of Los Angeles, to be his representative at the Mass. Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., will be the principal celebrant. Bishop Joseph

C. Bambera will give the homily.

Bishop Bambera expressed his gratitude to the Holy Father for appointing a personal envoy for the celebration, and also thanked Archbishop Chaput for joining us as the principal celebrant. The Bishop noted that the territory that now comprises the Diocese of Scranton was once part of the jurisdiction of Philadelphia.

"We are truly blessed for this opportunity to celebrate the Eucharist, to commemorate 150 years of faith and service to God and His people, and to honor all of the clergy, religious and laypersons who built the foundations of our Diocese and have enabled this local Church of northeastern and northcentral Pennsylvania to flourish from its inception to the present day," Bishop Bambera said.

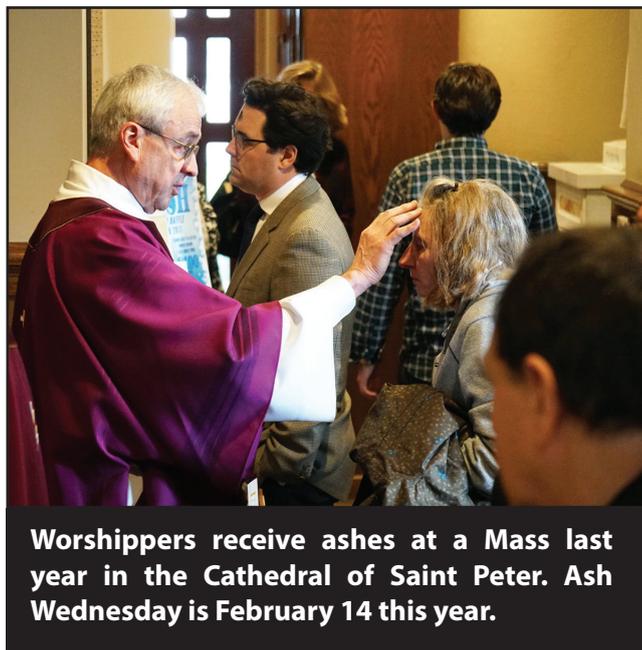
Continued on page 3

Diocese Preparing to Enter Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday, February 14, will mark the start of the solemn 40-day season of Lent. Parishes throughout the 11-county Diocese of Scranton will distribute ashes as a sign of penance and to remind individuals of Lent's call to a more complete gospel lifestyle.

At the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, ashes will be distributed during the 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Masses. Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will be the principal celebrant of the 12:10 p.m. Pontifical Mass. CTV: Catholic Television will broadcast the 12:10 p.m. Mass.

Ash Wednesday invites believers to participate in the ancient rite of receiving the sign of the cross on the



Worshippers receive ashes at a Mass last year in the Cathedral of Saint Peter. Ash Wednesday is February 14 this year.

forehead with the reminder "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Lent's invitation to repentance and conversion may also be found in the optional words of this rite:

"Repent, and believe in the Gospel." These ashes are gathered from the burned branches of palm carried the previous year in the Palm Sunday procession.

Continued on page 2



An estimated 100,000 people – including many from the Diocese of Scranton – participated in the annual March for Life on January 19 in Washington, D.C. The sun was shining and the blue sky was cloudless as they gathered on the National Mall to mark the anniversary of the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. Calling it "the single most significant social justice cause of our time," March for Life President Jeanne Mancini said the event is about educating people about abortion and mobilizing to end it, and to love all those women and families who are facing a troubled pregnancy and other needs.

For photos of Diocesan pilgrims at the March, please see pages 10-11.

BISHOP BAMBERA'S LENTEN MESSAGE

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Recall the first words of scripture proclaimed every year in the liturgy of Ash Wednesday. They are taken from the book of the Old Testament prophet Joel. "Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping and mourning. Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the Lord, your God."

In his 2018 Lenten message to the Church, Pope Francis echoes the words of the prophet Joel. He acknowledges that "because of the increase of iniquity" in our world and in our lives, "the love of many will grow cold." And so, with great hope, the Holy Father invites us to embrace the season of Lent as "a sacramental sign of our conversion" – "Brothers and sisters, once again ... Lent summons us, and enables us, to come back to the Lord wholeheartedly and in every aspect of our lives."

In the midst of the many challenges of life that can cause our hearts to grow cold and indifferent to the world in which we live and to the plight of our suffering brothers and sisters, Pope Francis bids us to reflect carefully upon the three-fold challenge of Jesus found in Saint Matthew's Gospel.

"The Church, our Mother and Teacher," the Holy Father notes, "offers us in the Lenten season the soothing remedy of prayer, almsgiving and fasting. ... By devoting more time to *prayer*, we enable our hearts to root out our secret lies and forms of self-deception, and then to find the consolation God offers. He is our Father and he wants us to live life well. ... *Almsgiving* sets us free from greed and helps us to regard our neighbor as a brother or sister. ... And *fasting* weakens our tendency to violence; it disarms us and becomes an important opportunity for growth. On the one hand, it allows us to experience what the destitute and the starving have to endure. On the other hand, it expresses our own spiritual hunger and thirst for life in God."

Yet, for all that the season of Lent challenges us to embrace, it invites us to do so

within the context of our consideration of the sacrament of Baptism. On the First Sunday of Lent, we will welcome catechumens into the ranks of the elect; those from our midst who have begun the journey of conversion and who will soon experience the saving power of Jesus in the Easter mysteries of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Their "yes" to the Lord's call gives us hope and should encourage us to recommit ourselves to the vows that were made at our own baptisms. Their "yes" reminds us that we too are called to look beyond ourselves to something more in life.

Finally, one of the great gifts given to us by the Church to assist us in our response to the Lord's invitation to renewal is found in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. To provide for the celebration of this Sacrament in a generous manner, once again, all of the parishes of the Diocese of Scranton will participate in *The Light Is On For You*. Every Monday evening during the Lenten season, beginning on the first Monday of Lent, February 19, and continuing through Monday of the last full week of Lent, March 19, confessions will be heard in every parish from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

My friends, Lent calls us to recognize that the renewal of our hearts *is* possible. As Pope Francis reminds us, "If at times, the flame of charity seems to die in our hearts, know that this is never the case in the heart of God! He constantly gives us a chance to begin loving anew."

May we support one another during this wonderful season of renewal and come to discover the true reason for our hope as we journey together to Easter joy.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

† *Joseph C. Bambera*

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

Bishop of Scranton



Holy Season of Lent *Continued from page 1*

Ash Wednesday Retreat

The Office for Parish Life will offer a retreat on Ash Wednesday, February 14, at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton. The day will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 2:30 p.m.

Reverend Thomas P. Looney, CSC, will lead the retreat with the theme "Create in Me, a Clean Heart, O God." Father Looney is the College Chaplain and Director of Campus Ministry at King's College in Wilkes-Barre. He will offer the retreat in three parts with time for reflection and personal prayer

The retreat day will include Mass celebrated in the Cathedral with distribution of ashes. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available prior to Mass. Lunch will be served following the noon Mass.

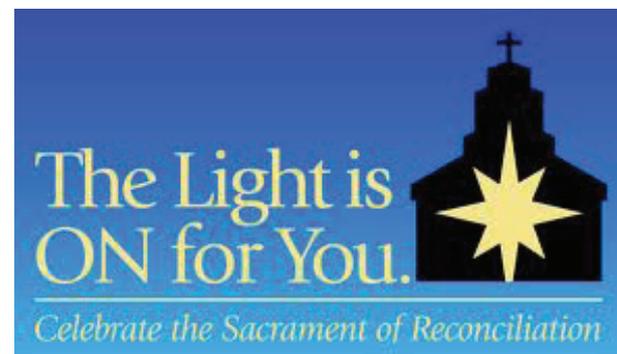
The fee for the day is \$30, which includes lunch. To register, call Mary Anne Malone at the Office for Parish Life, 570-207-2213, or e-mail Mary-Anne-Malone@dioceseofscranton.org.

Encounter Lent: Companions on the Journey

Through the Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl, we share the journey with members of our human family around the world, and commit our Lenten prayers, fasting and almsgiving to deepening our faith and serving those in need. CRS Rice Bowl, now in its 43rd year, raises funds for those who need support and services in communities throughout the U.S. and overseas. Participants journey throughout the 40 days of Lent through daily reflections and offering small, suggested sacrificial gifts to fill their Rice Bowls.

Twenty-five percent of all contributions stay in local dioceses to support hunger and poverty prevention programs. The remaining 75% goes to support CRS' humanitarian programs overseas, providing life-saving assistance and hope to impoverished and vulnerable communities.

Catholic Relief Services offers a variety of resources to assist parishes, groups and individuals to participate. Please visit <https://www.crsricebowl.org>



The Light Is On for You

The Church encourages us to make confession a regular part of our spiritual life, especially during the holy season of Lent, as we reflect on our baptism and repentance. Again this year, parishes are participating in a Lenten initiative called The Light Is On for You. Every Monday evening during the Lenten season, beginning on the first Monday of Lent, February 19, and continuing through Monday of the last full week of Lent, March 19, confessions will be heard in every parish from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. so that Catholics can come to or return to this incredible source of God's grace, mercy and healing. New resources reflecting the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese will be available from the Office of Parish Life and the Diocesan website.

Devotions at the Cathedral of Saint Peter

During Lent the Cathedral of Saint Peter will offer several ways in which the faithful can deepen their relationship with Jesus and come to know him in a more intimate way.

On Fridays the Stations of the Cross will be prayed following the 12:10 p.m. Mass and Novena to Saint John Neumann. The Stations will air on CTV live on February 16 after the 12:10 p.m. Mass on that day and then on succeeding Fridays at 11:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

On Sundays, February 18, 25; March 11, 18 and 25, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will begin at the conclusion of the 5 p.m. Sunday Mass. Evening Prayer and Benediction begin at 6:30 p.m. (*Note: there will be no 5 p.m. Mass on Sunday, March 4, the day of the Diocesan Anniversary Celebration that begins at 3 p.m. There will still be adoration starting at 6 p.m. with Evening Prayer and Benediction at 6:30 p.m.*)

21 Parishes have achieved an Annual Appeal Participation Rate of 40% or more

Twenty-one parishes have achieved a participation rate among their parishioners of 40% or more for the **2017 Diocesan Annual Appeal: Walk Together in the Light of Christ.**

More than 40% of parishioners have made contributions to the Annual Appeal in the following parishes: Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace Parish, Hawley – 44%; Epiphany Parish, Sayre – 44%; Immaculate Conception Parish, Scranton – 44%; Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Wyalusing – 44%; Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Peckville – 40%; Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary Parish, Jermyn – 40%; Saints Peter & Paul Parish, Towanda – 56%; Saint Ann Parish, Shohola – 45%; Saint Boniface Parish, Williamsport – 54%; Saint Brigid Parish, Friendsville – 44%; Saint Elizabeth Parish, Bear Creek – 47%; Saint Frances X. Cabrini Parish, Carverton – 42%; Saint John the Baptist Parish, Larksville – 40%; Saint John Neumann Parish, Lords Valley – 43%; Saint Katharine Drexel Parish, Pleasant Mount – 40%; Saint Lawrence Parish, South Williamsport – 45%; Saint Mary Parish, Waymart – 43%; Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Pocono Pines – 50%; Saint Michael Parish, Scranton – 56%; Saint Peter Parish, Wellsboro – 49%; and Saint Thomas More Parish, Lake Ariel – 40%.

“It is wonderful to see parishes with such a large percentage of parishioners donating to the Annual Appeal,” said Jim

Bebla, Diocesan Secretary for Development. “We are so grateful for everyone’s participation.”

To date, more than \$4.8 million in gifts and pledges has been raised, bringing the campaign to 96% of the \$5 million goal. More than 29,000 donors have made pledges to this year’s Diocesan Annual Appeal. Sixty parishes have surpassed their Annual Appeal goal so far.

Parishes that have surpassed their goal since the last issue of *The Catholic Light* was published include Good Shepherd Parish, Drums; Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Dorrance; Our Lady of Hope Parish, Wilkes-Barre; Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Dunmore; Our Lady of the Snows Parish, Clarks Summit; Saint Ann Parish, Williamsport; and Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Susquehanna.

Parishioners and friends who have not yet made a gift to the Appeal are asked to consider a donation to help reach the Diocesan Annual Appeal goal. Some parishes have included an Appeal Special Collection envelope in parishioners’ February envelope packets. Interested donors may also make an online gift to the Diocesan Annual Appeal by visiting www.annualappeal.org or by calling the Diocesan Development Office at 570-207-2250, or by sending a donation to: Diocesan Annual Appeal, 300 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA, 18503-1279.



Pictured at the presentation of Fidelity Bank’s \$120,000 donation to the Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Foundation are, from left: Bob Miller, Diocesan Secretary for Financial Services and Chief Finance Officer; Monsignor David L. Tressler, Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Education and Superintendent of Schools; Joseph Tomko, Vice President and Commercial Relationship Manager, Fidelity Bank; and Jim Bebla, Diocesan Secretary for Development.

Fidelity Bank Makes \$120,000 Gift to Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Foundation

Fidelity Bank recently made a gift of \$120,000 to the Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Foundation in support of its tuition assistance program. This donation is part of the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program. Fidelity Bank has supported need-based tuition assistance for Diocesan Catholic School families through the State’s tax credit program since 2002.

“We are grateful to Fidelity Bank for their continued support. Through the generosity of Fidelity Bank and other local businesses, the Diocese of Scranton’s Scholarship Foundation is able to provide more than 1,000 students with much needed tuition assistance,” said Jim Bebla, Diocesan Secretary for Development.

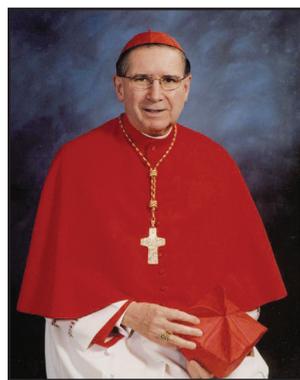
With branches located throughout Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, Fidelity Bank offers full-service Trust & Investment Departments, a mortgage center, and an array of personal and business banking products and services.

Mass on March 4 to Celebrate 150th Anniversary of the Diocese

Continued from page 1

The Cathedral will be filled to capacity for the Mass. Those attending will include clergy, religious, and lay representatives of various Diocesan institutions, agencies and councils; delegates from the 120 parishes, and representatives from Diocesan Catholic schools. At all Masses on this weekend, all parishes in the Diocese and every Catholic are encouraged to acknowledge the anniversary and offer their prayers of thanksgiving.

The Mass will be available to all for viewing on



Roger Michael Cardinal Mahony

the live broadcast by CTV: Catholic Television, live streaming on the internet, and later on the website: www.dioceseofscranton.org.

This special liturgy is



Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.

part of a year-long Sesqui-centennial Celebration that began on the First Sunday of Advent, December 3, 2017, with a Pontifical Mass in the Cathedral celebrated

by Bishop Bambera. Justin Cardinal Rigali, Archbishop Emeritus of Philadelphia and former Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Scranton, presided.

Numerous annually occurring and specially focused events throughout the year are spotlighting our Anniversary and the history of our Diocese. Among them is a Diocesan Day of Service being planned for March 3, and a Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., on September 22.

Each parish has received a parish participation kit, with suggestions and resources for commemorating the more local aspects of the 150th Anniversary in every part of the Diocese. The 2018 calendar produced by the Office for Parish Life features references to significant historic sites, and a companion app for smartphones is being developed.

The Catholic Light continues its periodic series of special center sections of Diocesan history; this edition features Catholic

education. Special segments are also airing on the CTV program “Our Faith, Our Diocese.” An Anniversary Year page has been posted on the Diocesan website at www.dioceseofscranton.org, and WVIA-TV is producing a documentary that will air in March.

The celebration will close with the Anniversary Year Concluding Mass on November 25, 2018, the feast of Christ the King, at the Cathedral. The Most Reverend Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, will be the principal celebrant.



Pilgrims who attended the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) in November gathered in the Diocesan Pastoral Center on Saturday, January 27. The reunion consisted of ice breakers, lunch, the opportunity to reflect on the pilgrimage, conversation with Bishop Bambera about the experience, and a video presentation. For more information about youth ministry programs/events, contact Shannon Kowalski, coordinator for youth and young adult ministry, at 570-207-2213.



Our Lady of Alta Gracia

Bishop Bambera participated in the celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Alta Gracia at Annunciation Parish in Hazleton on January 21. Worshippers filled Saint Gabriel Church for the Mass. Our Lady of Altigracia is also known as Our Lady of High Grace. She is Protector and Queen of the hearts of the Dominicans, as well as the patron saint of the Dominican Republic.

CLERGY APPOINTMENT

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

Senior Priest

Reverend Peter Tran, from the Diocese of Saint Paul, Canada, to Senior Priest, Epiphany Parish, Sayre, effective March 1, 2018.



BISHOP BAMBERA'S SCHEDULE

February 10 – Mass - World Day of the Sick, Saint Peter's Cathedral, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.

February 14 – Ash Wednesday Mass, Saint Peter's Cathedral, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.

February 17 – Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen, Wilkes-Barre, 9:00 a.m.

February 18 – Rite of Election, Saint Peter's Cathedral, Scranton, 2:30 p.m.

February 19-20 – New Momentum Conference on *Amoris Laetitia*, Boston

February 22 – Lenten Day of Recollection for Priests, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton

Praying for Christian Unity

The Diocese of Scranton participated in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, gathering with various area Christian faith communities to pray together for the full visible unity of the one Church of Jesus Christ. The theme for this year's observance was "Your Right Hand, O Lord, Glorious in Power," taken from the book of *Exodus* 15:6 and expressing the determination of the Lord to form a people whom He could call His own.



Dinner meeting for members of the local Polish National Catholic Church clergy.

The Catholic Light Photos/Mike Melisky

HOLY HOOTENANNY!

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was celebrated in song as the Abington Ecumenical Ministerium presented a Holy Hootenanny concert at Saint Benedict Church in Clarks Summit.

The combined choirs and voices of 15 area churches, pictured below, filled the air with joyful sound.



The Diocese hosted an Ecumenical Celebration of God's Word on January 25 in the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton. Pictured are the principals, from left: Monsignor Vincent J. Grimalia, Coordinator for Ecumenism and Interfaith Relations, Diocese of Scranton; Very Reverend Zbigniew Dawid, Pastor, Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish, Dupont; Very Reverend Timothy Creemens, Dean, Holy Resurrection Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre; Reverend Craig Miller, Assistant to the Bishop, Upper Susquehanna Synod, Lewisburg; Scranton Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; Bishop Barbara Collins, Upper Susquehanna Synod, Lewisburg; Pastor Dave Twiss, Green Ridge Assembly of God Church, homilist; Reverend James E. Lease, Director of the Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, Diocese of Harrisburg; Reverend Rebecca Tanner, Pastor, Ashley Presbyterian Church; Reverend Jerome Wolbert, O.F.M., Pastor, Saint John's Byzantine Catholic Church, Hazleton.



Dinner meeting with Orthodox, Eastern Catholic and Latin Rite clergy.



REGULATIONS FOR LENT 2018

All faithful of the Diocese of Scranton are reminded of Diocesan Statute No. 41, which addresses the penitential aspect of Lent:

“The season of Lent is penitential in nature and during Lent penance should be not only internal and individual, but also external and social (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, No. 5, 109). Pastors are obliged to avoid scheduling activities in the parishes which in any way could possibly detract from the external and social penance required by Lent.”

Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2018 marks the beginning of Lent. The following fast and abstinence regulations are observed:

- **Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, March 30, 2018, are days of fast and abstinence.**
- **Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence.**
- **All Catholics who have reached their 14th birthday** are to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and on all Fridays during Lent.
- **All Catholics over 18 years of age to the beginning of their 60th year** are bound to the obligation of fasting. Those bound by this rule may take only one full meal and two smaller meals unless dispensed or excused.

Lenten Reminders

Lent is a time for sacrifice and for spiritual renewal as we reflect upon our baptism and the call given to each of us to walk as disciples of the Lord.

As faithful followers of Jesus, we are traditionally encouraged to honor the sacred season of Lent by embracing the three pillars of Lenten observance:

- **Almsgiving** – generously giving to those in need
- **Fasting** – practicing self-discipline and self-denial
- **Prayer** – reading, hearing and reflecting on the Word of God

Lent is also a penitential season. It is a time to seek forgiveness, to look inward, and to admit our shortcomings and failures. It is a time to regroup and to prepare. How can you spend your time during Lent?

- By “giving up” things you hunger after, such as sweets or alcohol; or activities you desire, such as vacations, concerts or movies.
- By “doing” things to help others, such as offering an extra donation to the poor or helping those in need by providing food or clothing.
- By “adding” to our normal routine, such as going to daily Mass, praying the Stations of the Cross and going to confession.

One of the greatest opportunities given by the Church to assist us in our response to the Lord’s invitation to conversion is found in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Once again, the Diocese of Scranton is participating in “*The Light Is On for You.*” Every Monday evening during the Lenten season, beginning on the first Monday of Lent, February 19, continuing through Monday of the last full week of Lent, March 19, confessions will be heard in every parish from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

For more information, please visit the Diocesan website at: www.dioceseofscranton.org and go to the Office for Parish Life page.

Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney
Vicar General of the Diocese

Couples Invited to Participate in Wedding Anniversary Celebration

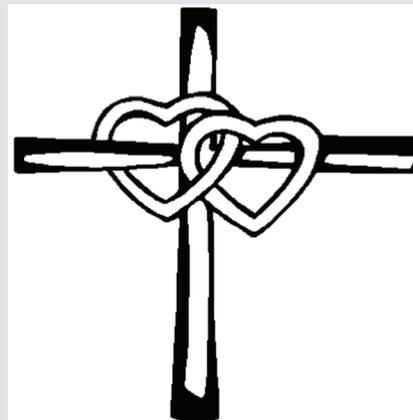
On June 10, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will celebrate the Wedding Anniversary Mass at 2:30 p.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, for couples celebrating their 25th or 50th year of marriage in 2018.

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 marriage vows.

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 March 12. Parish lists are due to the Office for Parish Life by March 19.



2018 Ministry Skills Workshop Series

Rules and Regs: An Exploration of Canon Law and Administrative Strategies for Ministry

Saturday, February 3, 2018 from 9:00AM to 3:00PM

at Divine Mercy Parish, Scranton

Presented by Fr. Jeff Tudgay and Catherine Butel

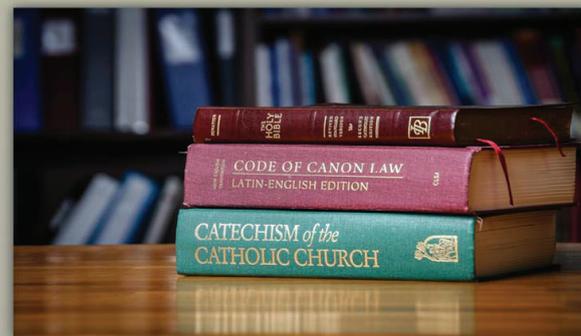
For the morning session, Fr. Jeff Tudgay will overview the components of Canon Law and focus especially on those of import for lay persons serving in leadership roles in various parish ministry areas such as Faith Formation, RCIA, Liturgy and Marriage Preparation.

In the afternoon, Catherine Butel will facilitate discussion and provide practical strategies for parish ministry topics such as: time management, project implementation, working relationships, and effective meeting design.

For more information contact Kitty Scanlan at 570-207-2213, x 1157,

or kitty-scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org.

To register, visit the Office for Parish Life page at www.dioceseofscranton.org.



Pope Francis' Prayer for Vocations



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

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

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

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Am I Called?

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

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

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

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

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

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



Bishop Hosts Project Andrew Dinner

The *Project Andrew Dinner* hosted by Bishop Bambera was held after Christmas in the Diocesan Pastoral Center. Priests, deacons, seminarians, and those who are being invited to consider a potential call to Diocesan priesthood from throughout the Diocese of Scranton were in attendance.

The event began with Evening Prayer in the Cathedral of Saint Peter led by Bishop Bambera. Following was a dinner in the Pastoral Center and special presentations on upcoming events and programs. All were encouraged to remain involved in their parishes/schools and to stay open to whatever God has in store for their lives. For more information, contact the Vocation Office at 570-207-1452.



Speaker - Praise & Worship Music - Eucharistic Adoration - Reconciliation - Social 7-9PM

Friday, February 9 – Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, 220 Church St., Moscow

Friday, March 23 – Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, 99 E Tioga St., Tunkhannock

Friday, April 27 – Saint Matthew Parish, 78 Ridgeway Street, East Stroudsburg

Friday, May 18 – Saint John Bosco Parish, 573 PA-93, Sugarloaf

All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Dominick Costantino at 570-780-2996.

Youth Retreats 2018

High School – I.S.L.I.

February 16-18

at Camp Ladore, Waymart

July 9-12

at Misericordia University, Dallas

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

Junior High – Up & Over

June 1-3

at Camp Orchard Hill, Dallas

September 28-30

at Camp Orchard Hill, Dallas

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

'Come and See'

A unique opportunity to answer the call to Missionary Discipleship

Friday-Saturday, February 23-24

Villa of Our Lady Retreat House, Mount Pocono

This vocation retreat is designed to help men aged 18 and older understand God's call to Diocesan priesthood. Interactive presentations will include: practical steps for discerning a vocation to Diocesan priesthood, seminary life, academics, spiritual life, and pastoral ministry. Seminarians and priests will share their vocation stories. There will be free time to relax, pray, and connect with others from throughout the Diocese.

For more information, contact your parish priest or deacon.



Father Jeffrey Walsh, Episcopal Vicar for Clergy, celebrated Mass and shared his vocation story at the "Come and See" retreat last February.

The Long-Term Impact of the March for Life

By Maria Gallagher
Legislative Director,
Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation

My initiation into the pro-life movement came on a cold January 22nd in seventh grade, when our teacher led us to our state Capitol for our own makeshift demonstration for life. As I stood shivering holding my sign, I wondered to myself, “Where are all the people?”

I had no idea they were in Washington, D.C., for the annual March for Life. Even though, as a young girl, I was a large consumer of television news, I had no knowledge of the March, or the vast crowds it attracted to the nation’s capital.

Times have not changed all that much — the March, which has been called the largest annual peaceful demonstration in the country, never attracts sufficient media attention. The appearance of the President via video feed this year merited some mention among national news outlets, but in-depth coverage of this impressive event is often difficult to find.

That is a shame, because it is truly a life-changing event. When I finally made it to the March as an adult, I was overcome by emotion as I saw the sea of humanity flowing through the streets of Washington, standing up and marching on behalf of those who will never see the sun above the U.S. Supreme Court building — the 60 million preborn children who have died from legal abortion since the tragic *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* cases of 1973.

What struck me at my first March was the sheer immensity of the crowd. As a young reporter, when I finally had some semblance of knowledge about the March, I envisioned a few thousand people — not the masses that descend on D.C. every year.

While I had come to the March to express my solidarity with preborn children and their mothers, I also felt the strong bond of fellowship with people of all ages, races, nationalities, and religions who had come together to celebrate life. I was awestruck in that moment, and I consider it to be one of the highlights of my life.

I salute all who sacrifice time, sleep, and comfort, who brave the elements, to march for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for our most vulnerable citizens. I weep with the women and men of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign, who courageously share their testimonies of life after abortion. And I smile with all the young people who have taken up the baton and march proudly alongside their parents and grandparents.

I hope there will come a day when we no longer have to march — when *Roe v. Wade* is overturned, and every single child from every conceivable circumstance is cherished and loved. But until that time, I am thankful for all those who, during the dead of winter, publicly witness to the joy of life — and our civic duty to protect it, no matter what the cost or inconvenience.

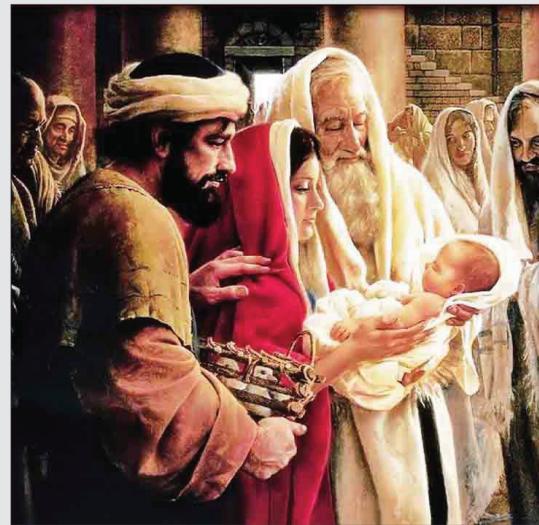
Editor’s Note: Photo coverage of faithful from the Diocese of Scranton who made the trek to Washington to participate in the 2018 March for Life can be found on pages 10-11.

Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi



Feast of the Presentation of the Lord -- February 2



Prayer Requests for Priests

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

February 1, Pope Francis; February 2, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI; February 3, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; February 4, Monsignor John Jordan; February 5, Father Joseph Kakareka; February 6, Father Louis Kaminski; February 7, Father William Karle; February 8, Monsignor Arthur Kaschenbach; February 9, Father

Joseph Kearney; February 10, Passionist Father Earl Keating; February 11, Father Robert Kelleher; February 12, Jesuit Father Herbert Keller; February 13, Father Brian Kelly; February 14, Father E. Francis Kelly; February 15, Father Gregory Kelly; February 16, Monsignor Joseph Kelly; February 17, Father John Kilpatrick; February 18, Father Shane Kirby; February 19, Father Michael Kirwin; February 20, Father John Kita; February 21, Father Kenneth Kizis.



The Catholic Light

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Diocese of Scranton
DIOCESAN
ANNUAL APPEAL

Volume 118 Number 2 — Thursday, February 1, 2018

Pastors Asked To Nominate Candidates for Permanent Diaconate

Pastors in the Diocese have been asked to nominate potential applicants for a new class of permanent deacon aspirants scheduled to start formation in August of this year.

Eleven deacons were ordained this past November and will complete their fifth and final year of formation this May. Another class of eight candidates is presently completing its second year and is scheduled for ordination in November 2020. It is the desire of Bishop Bambera to have two classes of permanent deacon candidates in formation at any given time.

Every applicant for the permanent diaconate must first be nominated by his pastor. Nominations for the new class forming this year are to be submitted no later than February 15, so that there may be sufficient time to process the applications before the summer.

As one of the fruits of the Second Vatican Council (1962-65), the permanent diaconate was restored in this country in 1968. Today over 18,300 permanent deacons are serving in U.S. dioceses with some 2,600 candidates preparing for ordination. Twenty-five years ago, on November 27, 1993, the first class of 24 permanent

deacons was ordained for the Diocese of Scranton. Seventy-six deacons now actively serve our Diocese, some having transferred here from elsewhere.

A permanent deacon is not a “mini-priest.” Nor is he a stand-in for the priest, nor an available approximation thereof in a time of a shortage of vocations to the ordained priesthood. They are ordained, Vatican II tells us, “not unto the priesthood, but unto a ministry of service”.... they serve the People of God in the ministry of the liturgy, of the word, and of charity” (LG 29).

The permanent diaconate is a sacramental sign of Jesus Christ who came among us “as one who serves the needs of all.” As Saint John Paul II told a group of permanent deacons, “the service of the deacon is the Church’s service sacramentalized ... By your ordination you are configured to Christ in his servant role. You are also meant to be living signs of the servanthood of his church.”

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 will be expected to remain celibate.

Applicants preferably already possess an undergraduate or college-level degree. Graduation from high school or its equivalent, however, is required along with the evident ability to complete the necessary studies during the formation period. A complete list of the requirements for acceptance along with a description of the admissions process and the entire five-year formation program may be found on the Diocese of Scranton’s website: www.dioceseofscranton.org Click on “Diocesan Offices” and proceed down to “Office for Permanent Diaconate Formation.”

In his Pastoral Letter, *Wounded and Loved, Regathering the Scattered*, Bishop Bambera shares his vision and hope for the local church in Scranton. There, he reminds us that by our Baptism each of us is called to servant leadership, which helps us to transform our hurting world through compassion, solidarity, justice and love. Service to God’s redemptive plan and taking an active part in society belongs to the baptismal mission of every Christian; however, the permanent deacon has a special witness to give.

Monsignor David Bohr, Diocesan Secretary for Clergy Formation, serves as the Director of the Office for Permanent Diaconate Formation. He stated, “Pastors are being asked to nominate men who are already active in ministries of service in their parishes, men who will help others live out their baptismal vocation and commitment to works of Christian charity. The deacon is a servant leader. Yet, every baptized Christian is called to ‘diaconal’ service. At the end of our lives, Jesus tells us in Matthew’s gospel, each one of us will be judged on our personal acts of charity, on our own diaconal service: ‘I was hungry and you gave me food, thirsty and you gave me drink, naked and you clothed me, sick and in prison and you visited me.’”

Anyone who feels he might have a vocation to the permanent diaconate and has not yet discussed it with his pastor should do so over the next couple of weeks, if he wants his application to be considered for the new formation class that will begin later this year. The Office for the Permanent Diaconate will then schedule information sessions in the early spring to explain further the application and formation process to all the nominees.

Deacon says serving the poor is one of the keys to his vocation

By Alan K. Stout
Special to *The Catholic Light*

Every Tuesday morning, Al Giacometti leaves his home in Old Forge and heads off to the Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen in Scranton, where, for the past five years, he has helped prepare and serve lunch. Initially, it was something Giacometti was required to do. Today, it is something that he still wants to do.

Giacometti is a permanent deacon in the Diocese of Scranton. He is retired from a 30-year career with the Department of Public Welfare. For the past two years, he has served as a deacon at Saint John Neumann Parish in Scranton.

“The reason I first came here (the Kitchen) was to do charitable work, as part of my formation for being a deacon,” he said. “I was supposed to be here for nine months, but I liked it so much that I ended up staying.”

A prospective deacon, during his second year of formation, must arrange with his pastor to be involved in at least two hours per week of parochial service, such as pastoral care of the sick in hospitals or at home; nursing home ministry; or ministry to the disabled, the aged, youth and young adults. Giacometti requested that he serve at the Saint Francis Kitchen, which serves a free, hot nutritious lunch each day of the year and dinner three times a week to the needy, given that he has always sympathized with the poor.

“One of the main ministries of a deacon is the ministry of charity,” he said. “Especially towards the poor. As deacons, that’s what we’re supposed to do, among other



For Deacon Al Giacometti, serving the guests at Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen is a moving experience: “In the poor, we see Christ.”

things, and in my view, that’s what a deacon should do: work with the poor.”

Giacometti says that one of his favorite parts of working at the Kitchen is the camaraderie shared with his fellow volunteers.

“I’ve gotten to know them all, and they’re all nice people,” he said. “And that makes it all the more fun.”

While again emphasizing that helping the poor is a part of his vocation, Giacometti added that he’s been very moved by seeing the guests at the Kitchen.

“In the poor, we see Christ,” he said. “And I get a lot out of serving the poor.”

Giacometti says he sees people from all walks of life at the Kitchen. And he’s happy to help serve them meals.

“I know many of them by name,” he said. “They’re nice people. We see parents coming in with children, people that work – the working poor – because they probably couldn’t afford to eat otherwise. And we see a lot of older people. It’s a mixture.”

Giacometti, like the other volunteers at the Kitchen, said anyone considering donating some free time at Saint Francis should do it.

“It’s a great experience,” he noted. “In fact, my nephew, Danny, as part of his senior project, volunteers three nights per week. It’s a great opportunity to meet new people and to see an aspect of society that you wouldn’t see otherwise. It’s an eye-opening experience, to see the people that come through here. ‘There but for the grace of God, go I.’ It could be any of us that comes upon hard times. And it’s a great opportunity to help people.”

For information about volunteer opportunities or the donation needs of the Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen, call (570) 342-5556.

Pro-Life Pilgrims from Diocese Join in 45th March for Life in Washington



The youth ministry group from Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Gilbert (Brodheadsville) traveled from the Poconos to attend this year's March for Life.



Students from Holy Cross High School in Dunmore, fittingly, join forces with members of the youth group from Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish in Hanover for the above snapshot. Below, Holy Cross sophomore students Aleah Schulte, left, and Keelin Schmelfenig serve as hospitality ministers for the Archdiocese of Washington's annual Youth Rally and Mass for Life preceding the 45th annual March for Life.



Members of the Faith in Action Youth Ministry from Annunciation Parish in Hazleton and the Saint John Bosco Parish Youth Group, from neighboring Conyngham, join together on the steps of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception during this year's March for Life in Washington. Pictured overseeing the young marchers (top center) is Saint Joseph Oblate Father Greg Finn, former pastor of Annunciation Parish.



Father Brian J.T. Clarke (center), pastor of the parish communities of Ascension, Forest City, and Saint Katharine Drexel, Pleasant Mount, leads a group of young people from the Diocese in prayer.



It was another fine showing from the Scranton Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life at the annual March in the nation's capital.



Representatives of the Wyoming Valley Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life, based in Wilkes-Barre, proudly display their banner among the crowd in front of the Washington Monument.



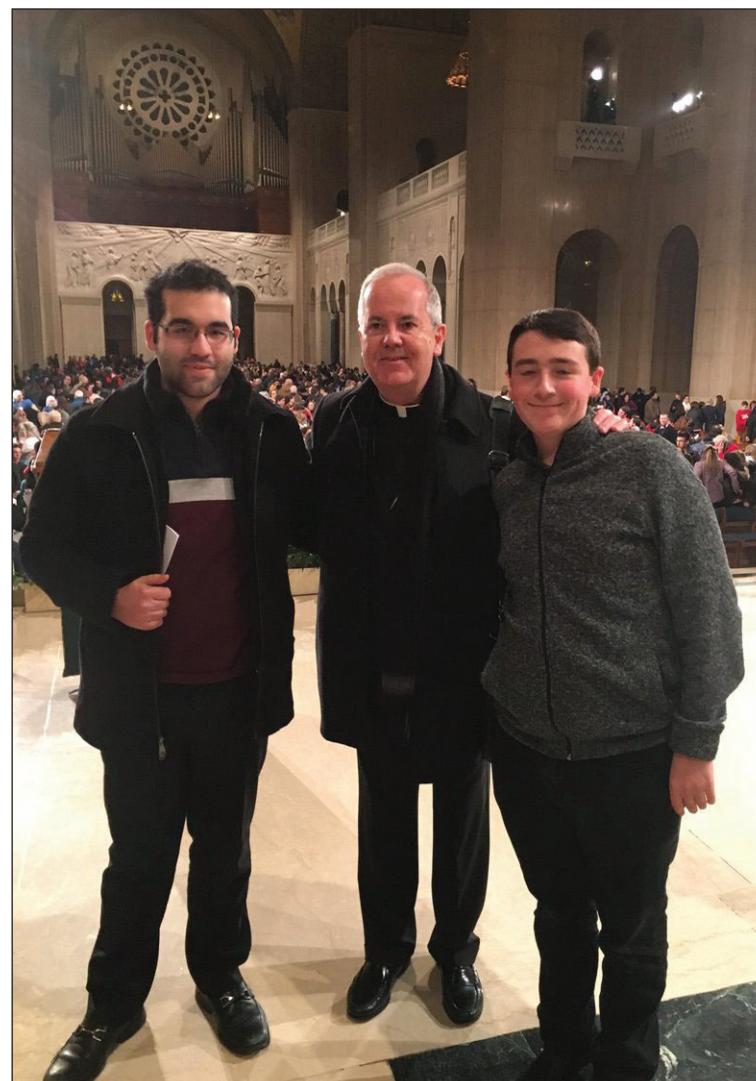
Above, Diocese of Scranton seminarians Andrew McCarroll, Mark Watrucki and William Asinari are shown in attendance at the Capitol One Arena in Washington for this year's Youth Rally and Mass for Life. Below, Bishop Bambara is pictured with two other Diocesan seminarians, Jan Carlo Perez (left) and Christopher Kircher, in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for the Mass on Jan. 18 that opened the National Prayer Vigil for Life prior to the next day's March. Bishop Bambara concelebrated both liturgies.



Bishop Bambara (center) is pictured with pro-life marchers from Towanda, along with Father Jeffrey Walsh (far left), Episcopal Vicar for Clergy, and Monsignor Thomas Muldowney (second from right), Vicar General of the Diocese.



Counted among the estimated crowd of 100,000 participants for the 2018 March for Life in Washington was the faithful contingent from Saint Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport.



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.



Jenna Robertson, a 6th grade student at Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore, placed 2nd at the Holy Cross Student Advisory Board Talent Show.



The Builders Club of Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter held their induction ceremony for the new officers and new members of the club. The Builders Club is the largest service organization for middle school and junior high students and is sponsored by the local Kiwanis Club.



On January 19, students from Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in the March for Life, which serves as a visible protest to the Supreme Court's decision to legalize abortion.



Students from All Saints Academy in Scranton shined at the Holy Cross Student Advisory Board's Talent show. Congratulations to Monica Fornasewski, Cecilia Matatics and Samantha Greenfield (1st place Grades 6-8), Christopher Transue (1st place Kindergartens-Grade 2), Adele Maynor (1st place Grades 3-5), and Fallon Price and Bridget Rasimovich (2nd place Grades 3-5). Students participated under the direction of Anthony Wozinski.



Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston recently held classroom Spelling Bees to determine which students would compete in the school's Spelling Bee during Catholic Schools Week. The winner of the school Spelling Bee will represent GSA at the Scripts National Spelling Bee Regional Competition in March. Pictured are Jordan Lech, Jadon White, Aiden Davies, Cole Bradley, Reagan Suda, Brianna Van Why, Cally Williams, Louis Michaels, Alyssa Evans, Cassie Gdovin, Eva Szura, Aubrey Curley, Mason Bagusky, Jack Riley and Izzy Roback.



Nicholas Sikorski, Megan Lutz and Kaitlyn Idhaw, students at **La Salle Academy in Jessup**, were winners in the 2017-2018 Patriot's Pen essay contest. The Patriot's Pen is a VFW-sponsored youth essay competition conducted nationwide which gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme was "America's Gift to My Generation." Nicholas placed 3rd in the District, while Megan and Kaitlyn placed 4th in the District.



Kindergarten students at **Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport** pose with the Eskimos they made after they read the book, *Mama, Do You Love Me?* by Barbara M. Joesse.



Kindergarten students at **Epiphany School in Sayre** listen and participate as Mrs. Fahnestock, a volunteer from Arnot Ogden Medical Center, presents Twitch and Twiggle, a Poison Prevention Program.



Students and faculty at **Monsignor McHugh School in Cresco** begin preparations for Catholic Schools Week by celebrating Mass together.



The 2nd grade class at **Holy Family Academy in Hazleton** hosted the school's recent Pro-Life Mass; the students made rose buttons as a symbol of being pro-life.



Pre-Kindergarten students at Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton created peace signs in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



A cake pop sale was recently held at Holy Rosary School in Duryea to raise money for 3rd grade student J.J. Concepcion's family, who reside in Puerto Rico and were impacted by Hurricane Maria. Pictured is the 3rd grade class with their teacher, Mrs. Kishbaugh, and the \$836 donation to the Concepcion family.



Students at Saint Jude School in Mountain Top are ready to greet prospective students and their families and talk about the great academics and activities during Catholic Schools Week.



Joseph Osborne, a sophomore at Holy Cross High School in Dunmore, has been selected as the school's Hugh O'Brien State Leadership Seminar Representative (HOBY), which will be held at Shippensburg University in May 2018. Katrina Beaver (standing) and Tori Kovalchick are the school's alternates to HOBY.

Viktoria Edkin, a sophomore at Saint John Neumann High School in Williamsport, recently submitted a poem to the Appelley Publishing National Student Poetry Contest. Her poem will be published in the Appelley Rising Star Collection and will be considered with submissions from other students across the USA, with winners for cash prizes selected in early April.



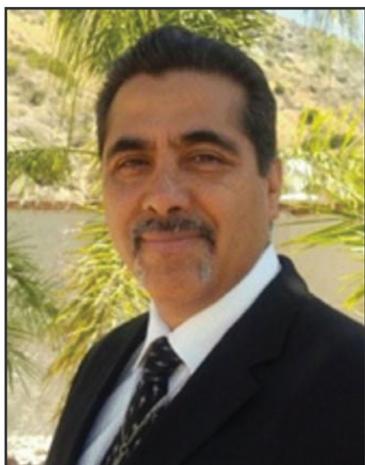

Some 6th grade students at Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg display the pyramids they created as part of a class project.

Catholic Men's Conference Set for May 5

All Catholic men who want to grow in their faith are invited to the Diocese of Scranton Catholic Men's Conference scheduled for May 5 at King's College in Wilkes-Barre.

The conference will feature inspirational speakers, Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and a concluding Mass celebrated by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera. Many ministries will be represented and a variety of books, CDs and other material will be available.

One of the featured guests at this year's conference is Jessie Romero, a dynamic bilingual Catholic speaker, former USA middleweight kickboxing cham-



Jessie Romero

pion and a retired sheriff. With his unique style, Jessie encourages his audience to rise above a life of mediocrity and embrace the true

hope that is from Jesus Christ. Jessie explains that we are called to be powerful witnesses for Christ.

The Catholic Men's Conference will bring together hundreds of Catholic men for good fellowship and a re-commitment to promoting and living out our Christian heritage in our homes, workplaces and society.

Information on other speakers will be forthcoming.

You can register on line at: www.beamanconference.com or call the Diocesan Pastoral Center at 570-207-2213. For more information or to volunteer, please call or email Michael Kilmer at 570-746-0100 or mkilmer@thekilmergroup.com.

Mass in Spanish on JMJ Radio

JMJ Radio recently began airing a live broadcast of a Mass in Spanish. The broadcast from Saint Gabriel Church in Hazleton airs Sundays at 7 p.m.

In addition, the station airs a weekly Spanish show hosted by Father Victor Leon from Annunciation Parish. The show airs on Sunday 1:00-1:30 p.m. and again on Saturday 7:30-8:00 p.m.

JMJ Radio broadcasts on 750 AM and 98.9 FM in the Wilkes-Barre and Scranton areas, 1490 AM in Hazleton, and 91.7 FM in Dushore. The station can also be heard at jmi750.com (click on the "listen live" button). Those who have a smart phone can download a free app, "Tuneinradio," and search for JMJ CATHOLIC RADIO.



Misa en español en Radio JMJ

La radio JMJ recientemente comenzó con su transmisión en vivo de misa en español. Se transmite desde la Iglesia de Gabriel en Hazleton los domingos a las 7 p.m.

Además, la estación transmite un programa semanal en español presentado por el padre Victor Leon de la parroquia Anunciación. El programa se transmite el domingo de 1:00 a 1:30 p.m. y nuevamente el sábado de 7:30 a 8:00 p.m.

La radio JMJ transmite en 750 AM y 98.9 FM en las áreas de Wilkes-Barre y Scranton, 1490 AM en Hazleton, y 91.7 FM en Dushore. La estación también se puede escuchar en jmi750.com (haga clic en el botón "escuchar en vivo"). Aquellos que tienen un teléfono inteligente pueden descargar una aplicación gratuita, "Tuneinradio" y buscar por JMJ CATHOLIC RADIO.

Diocese Observing World Day of the Sick

The World Day of the Sick offers us an opportunity to draw particularly close to people who are ill, and to those who care for them.

The Diocese of Scranton will observe the 26th World Day of the Sick on Saturday, February 10, 2018. Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will celebrate a Mass for the Sick at 12:10 p.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton. During the Mass there will be a celebration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick for anyone acutely or chronically ill, anyone suffering a debilitating condition, anyone facing surgery, the elderly, and all who might be a candidate for this sacrament. All are welcome. CTV: Catholic Television will broadcast the Mass live.

Each parish in the Diocese is also encouraged to schedule a similar celebration either on February 10 or another convenient day near it. Information and resources to help plan a liturgical celebration have been provided to each parish by the Office for Parish Life through the Diocesan website at www.dioceseofscranton.org (see Parish Life menu tab, then World Day of the Sick.) The website also contains information about the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.



Community Bank, N.A., Supports Diocese Scholarship Foundation

Community Bank, N.A., recently made a contribution to the Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Foundation in support of need-based tuition assistance for Catholic School families. The contribution was made through Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program. Community Bank, N.A. presented the Diocesan Scholarship Foundation with a \$55,000 contribution through the EITC program and a \$15,000 contribution through the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) program, which provides scholarship assistance to eligible families who reside within the boundary of an underperforming school, as determined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Since the tax credit program began, Community Bank, N.A., the former First Liberty Bank & Trust, has generously contributed nearly \$1 million to Catholic education in the Diocese of Scranton.

Barbara Maculloch, PA President of Community Bank, N.A., is shown presenting the gift to Jim Bebla, Diocesan Secretary for Development, center, and Bob Miller, Diocesan Secretary for Financial Services and Chief Finance Officer, right.

SUPPORT THE CHURCH
IN CENTRAL AND
EASTERN
EUROPE

RESTORE
THE CHURCH
BUILD
THE FUTURE

The Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe will be taken up in the Diocese of Scranton on Ash Wednesday, February 14. This includes the collection for the Church in Lithuania, Poland and Slovakia.

The countries in Central and Eastern Europe have faced many years of hardship. They have been oppressed by czars, radical communism, horrendous crimes against humanity, and revolutionary, civil, and world wars. Under communism, organized religion was opposed in favor of atheism to overthrow the power of the Russian Orthodox Church. Since the collapse of the former Soviet Union in 1991, Central and Eastern European countries have been working to rebuild political structures, social welfare, and their economies.

The USCCB Subcommittee on the Church in Central and Eastern Europe funds projects to build the pastoral capacity of the Church and to rebuild and restore the faith in these countries. The funds collected in the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe are used to support seminaries, youth ministry, social service programs, pastoral centers, church construction and renovation, and Catholic communications projects.



Images shown above: Students at Saint Agnes School, Towanda, 1926. | The Bernardine Sisters of Saint Francis, shown with Father Dudkiewicz, were the faculty of Saints Peter and Paul School, Plains, 1912. | Baccalaureate Mass for Holy Cross High School, Dunmore. | Students from Saint John Neumann School, Williamsport, 2017.

Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, 1850-1917, started numerous schools, orphanages and hospitals in Europe and the Americas. She visited with Italians of Scranton and Dunmore in the summer of 1899, and informed Bishop Michael J. Hoban of her desire for a school somewhere in the lower Lackawanna Valley.



That became a reality when the Bishop purchased the old #16 school from the Scranton School District. The building on Chestnut Street in West Scranton (since renamed Saint Frances Cabrini Avenue) was renovated and served as the school that bore her name, as well as a convent and academy for the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart – and part of the structure became the original Saint Lucy's Church. In effect, the need for classroom space led to the founding of a parish. In 1946, she became the first U.S. citizen to be canonized.

The marble statue of Mother Cabrini that once stood at the elementary school now sits on the grounds of Saint Lucy's Church in a shrine dedicated in 1998.



Third grade, Mother Cabrini School in West Scranton, 1951.

Teaching the Faith...

CATHOLIC EDUCATION PREPARES YOUNG FOR LIFE, SERVICE TO GOD AND OTHERS

A vital mission of the Catholic Church has been the teaching of the faith to our young people. Providing them with the academic and moral fiber to lead value-centered lives has been a hallmark of the Diocese since its earliest days to the modern regional school systems of today.

The arrival of various religious orders of women, as requested by our Bishops and supported by the growing number of parishes, was the foundation of Catholic schools in the region.

The Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Sisters of Christian Charity, Sisters of Mercy, Bernardine Sisters, Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Religious Teachers Filippini, Sisters of Saint Frances X. Cabrini, Daughters of Mercy and others immersed themselves in the teaching apostolate.

These congregations served the educational needs of the various ethnic, immigrant communities. They were pioneers in more ways than one; their presence enabled the first Bishop of Scranton, William O'Hara, to build a network of parochial schools in the major parishes throughout the Diocese.

In addition to parochial schools, the religious communities operated academies – secondary

(high schools) as we know them today. Eventually these came under the jurisdiction of parishes.

Throughout the ensuing decades, more schools were established, the curriculum expanded and facilities were developed to ensure that students were prepared for success in their chosen fields. In addition, more lay women and men began to staff the schools.

In recent years, with decreases in population and economic downturns affecting families and resources, the Diocese was compelled to evaluate all of its schools and make necessary adjustments. As a result, some buildings were closed and consolidated into regional systems with centralized administrations.

In addition to the faith formation that occurs in the Catholic schools, parishes throughout the Diocese offer religious education programs that engage thousands of children. These programs, staffed by dedicated personnel and volunteers, support parents as they pass on the faith to their sons and daughters. Sacramental preparation for First Communion, First Reconciliation and Confirmation is a key component of the programs. Participation in parish ministries and liturgies is encouraged. A number of parishes also provide

programs for older students to help them grow in their understanding of the faith. The Diocese, through the Office for Parish Life, provides a curriculum and resources for the parish religious education directors.



The Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary are among the religious orders that played a foundational role in the development of Catholic schools in the Diocese.

of Catholic education. With the goal to educate the whole person, Catholic schools instill in the young a lifelong commitment to live their faith and serve others. By providing them with opportunities to serve, Catholic schools prepare students for their future roles as good citizens, productive employees, compassionate leaders and, most of all, as committed faithful disciples within the Church.

What has remained constant throughout the years is the dedication of the many religious and lay teachers, administrators, support staff and members of the community to advance the mission

of Catholic education.

With the goal to educate the whole person, Catholic schools instill in the young a lifelong commitment to live their faith and serve others. By providing them with opportunities to serve, Catholic schools prepare students for their future roles as good citizens, productive employees, compassionate leaders and, most of all, as committed faithful disciples within the Church.

MISSION STATEMENT

“We, the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Scranton, are committed to educate students and their families in the Catholic faith. We provide a Catholic education that is spiritually sound and academically excellent. We strive to prepare our students to be faith-filled leaders and life-long learners dedicated to serving the Church and society.”

FAITH FACTS:



- The First Plenary Council of Baltimore in 1852 exhorted bishops to have a Catholic school in every parish to educate students in the faith as well as secular subjects. Bishop William G. O'Hara, the first Bishop of Scranton, established 24 schools. During the tenure of Bishop Michael J. Hoban, 86 schools were opened.
- The earliest known Catholic secondary school was Saint Joseph's Academy for girls in Susquehanna County, founded in 1856 by Father John V. O'Reilly and administered first by the Sisters of the Holy Cross and then the IHM Sisters.
- From 1868 to 1900, 16 secondary schools were established in the Diocese. Their facilities ranged from one room to dormitories.
- The IHM Sisters established Saint Cecilia's Academy (pictured above) in Scranton and Saint Rose Academy in Carbondale before the dawn of the 20th century. In 1902 they acquired Marywood Seminary.

NEXT ISSUE:
Ecumenism and Interfaith Relations

1873
Luzerne County - Saint Nicholas was the first schoolhouse in Wilkes-Barre.

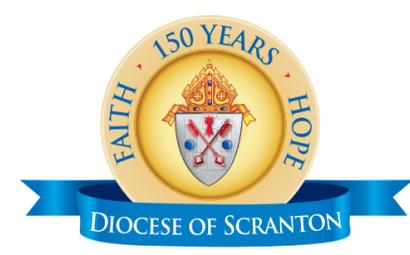
1875
Wilkes-Barre - Saint Mary's School was the first school the Sisters of Mercy established in the Diocese of Scranton.

1904
Pittston - Saint John's School welcomed students from all denominations.

1916
Wyoming County - Saint Michael's Industrial School.

1953
Kingston - West Side Central Catholic High School.

2017
Williamsport - Saint John Neumann Regional Academy.



Howard Gospel Choir Performing February 17 at Kirby Center

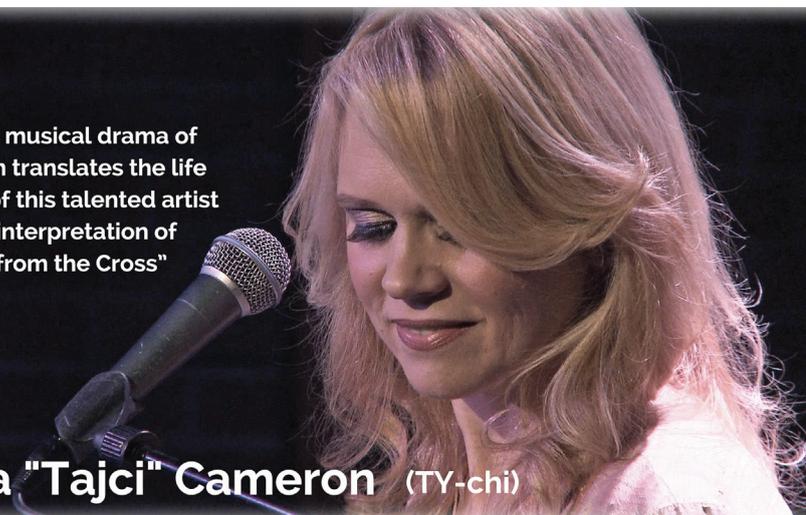
*Proceeds from Show Will Benefit
Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen, Wilkes-Barre*

A Lenten Concert

"I THIRST" - The Crucifixion Story

Lenten event with music and reflection

"This gripping musical drama of the Crucifixion translates the life experiences of this talented artist into a unique interpretation of Jesus' words from the Cross"
- EWTN



Tatiana "Tajci" Cameron (TY-chi)

*Presented by
Tatiana "Tajci" Cameron*

A STORY TOLD THROUGH MUSIC

AND SCRIPTURE QUOTES

THE CRUCIFIXION BECOMES A TURNING POINT

TOWARD HEALING AND RENEWAL OF FAITH.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2018

3:00 P.M.

ST. ANN'S SHRINE BASILICA

No Admission Charge – A Free Will Collection Will Be Taken



The Howard Gospel Choir of Howard University, Washington, D.C., will be performing in concert at the F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts, Wilkes-Barre, at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 17. Tickets are \$10. \$5 of each ticket sale will benefit Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen, Wilkes-Barre, a program of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton.

Tickets may be purchased in person at the Diocesan Chancery, 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, or in person or by phone through the Kirby Center Box Office, 71 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, 570-826-1100. For more information, please call Catholic Social Services at 570-207-3808.

Founded in the fall of 1968, the Howard Gospel Choir is the first collegiate choir of its kind in the world. With an active roster of 70-plus persons that consists of students and alumni from Howard University, as well as others from the surrounding community, the choir has set a very high standard as a premier performing arts ensemble.

The Howard Gospel Choir has performed at a wide variety of venues in and around the Greater Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Area including: The White House, the Capitol Building, DAR Constitution Hall, Washington National Cathedral, and the Smithsonian Museum of American History. In 2016, the choir was one of the featured artists to perform at the Kennedy Center Honors and also as part of ABC Television's "Taking the Stage," which celebrated the grand opening of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.

In 2016, the choir released their latest full-length album entitled "Glorious God" (available online at www.howardgospelchoir/GloriousGod). The CD is a diverse collective of musical offerings that reflect their musical legacy.

Bishops Applaud New HHS Initiatives on Conscience and Religious Freedom

WASHINGTON – Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Pro-Life Activities, and Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, chair of the USCCB's Committee for Religious Liberty, offered the following joint statement in response to the creation of a new Division on Conscience and Religious Freedom within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights:

"We applaud HHS for its significant actions to protect conscience rights and religious freedom. For more than forty years — dating back to the Church amendment of 1973 — Congress has enacted federal laws protecting rights of conscience in health care. We are grateful that HHS is taking seriously its charge to protect these fundamental civil rights through formation of a new division dedicated to protecting conscience rights and religious freedom. For too long, we have seen medical professionals . . . coerced by their employers into participating in abortion. And we have seen states like California, New York, and Oregon demand that even religious organizations cover elective abortions in their health plans. These violations of federal law require a remedy from HHS.

"We urge Congress to pass the Conscience Protection Act in order to give victims of discrimination the ability to defend their rights in court. No one should be forced to violate their deeply held convictions about the sanctity of human life."

Saint Ann Basilica to Host Dramatic Lenten Event

SCRANTON — Very Rev. Passionist Father Richard Burke, rector of the Basilica of the National Shrine of Saint Ann in west Scranton, announces Saint Ann's will host a dramatic musical presentation on the death and resurrection of Jesus during the upcoming season of Lent.



Father Richard Burke, CP

The live Lenten concert drama will feature Tatiana "Tajci"

Cameron in her performance of "I Thirst" — The Crucifixion Story, on Sunday, Feb. 25, at 3 p.m. in the basilica church.

The event is open to the public free of charge; a free-will offering will be collected.

Performed by Tatiana on more than 500 occasions, "I Thirst" has proven to be spiritually engaging and transformative for audience members. The dramatic portrayal of Jesus' death and resurrection through music and story speaks of the depth of God's restorative love and healing that is at the heart of spiritual growth.

Tatiana's inspiring music and themed concerts have been featured on major Christian and Catholic media, and she also hosts a weekly television series, "Waking Up in America."

The mother of three sons, the performer also ministers to help heal women in hurtful circumstances and mentors at the Tennessee Women's State Prison.

Her humanitarian efforts also include raising awareness of the evils of human trafficking and restoring the lives of its victims.



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DIOCESAN DATEBOOK

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



The Diocese of Scranton is celebrating the 150th Anniversary of its founding in 2018. Our Diocese has a rich and noteworthy history that we will recall in various ways through most of the year. *The Catholic Light* will publish a special commemorative edition to highlight the historic milestones and legacy of the holy and dedicated religious and lay men and women who have built, nurtured, guided and strengthened our Church and this Diocese from its inception through today.

This special edition, which will be included in the March 15 mailing to 50,000 readers with an additional 100,000 copies available in our 120 parishes, is a unique opportunity to offer congratulatory messages and be recognized as a supporter of the Diocese of Scranton and its mission as we celebrate our Sesquicentennial.

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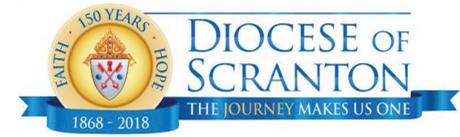
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FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

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

Road to Resurrection 2018

As the Diocese of Scranton celebrates its 150th Anniversary, the Scranton area parishes celebrate the 2018 Road to Resurrection



February 15th ~ 7:00 PM
 Divine Mercy Parish
 312 Davis St.
 Scranton, PA 18505
 Preacher — Father Brian J.T. Clarke

March 8th ~ 7:00 PM
 Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish
 322 Chestnut St.
 Dunmore, PA 18512
 Preacher — Father John A. Doris

February 22nd ~ 7:00 PM
 Saint Ann's Basilica
 1250 Saint Ann St.
 Scranton, PA 18504
 Preacher — Very Rev. Richard A. Burke, CP

March 15th ~ 7:00 PM
 Mary, Mother of God Parish
 316 William St.
 Scranton, PA 18508
 Preacher — Father Cyril D. Edwards, V.E.

March 1st ~ 7:00 PM
 Saint Paul Parish
 1510 Penn Ave.
 Scranton, PA 18509
 Preacher — Father Pio Mandato, FMHJ

March 22nd ~ 7:00 PM
 Saint Peter's Cathedral
 315 Wyoming Ave.
 Scranton, PA 18503
 Preacher — Monsignor Joseph G. Quinn

'Road to Resurrection' Series in Pittston Area

PITSTON — The Catholic parishes of Greater Pittston will continue their longtime tradition of hosting the "Road to Resurrection" spirituality series during the season of Lent.

Guest celebrant and homilist for the Lenten program offerings will be Father Jeffrey Walsh, V.E., Diocesan Vicar for Clergy and sacramental minister at Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish in Pittston.

The annual Eucharistic journey of faith and prayer will be held on five consecutive Wednesday evenings during Lent at hosting parishes throughout the area.

All Masses are celebrated at 7 p.m. The "Road to Resurrection" series schedule is as follows:

- Feb. 21** — Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish at Saint Mary, Help of Christians Church, Pittston;
- Feb. 28** — Corpus Christi Parish at Immaculate Conception Church, West Pittston;
- March 7** — Queen of the Apostles Parish at Saint Mary Church, Avoca;
- March 14** — Saint Barbara Parish at Saint Anthony of Padua Church, Exeter;
- March 21** — Saint John the Evangelist Parish at Saint John Church, Pittston.

The Catholic Deacons of the Greater Pittston Deanery will also celebrate Sunday Evening Prayer during the season of Lent.

Evening Prayer with a reflection and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will begin at 5 p.m. each Sunday of Lent.

Schedule for the consecutive Lenten Sunday prayer services at the hosting parishes includes: **Feb. 18, Our Lady of the Eucharist; Feb. 25, Corpus Christi; March 4, Queen of the Apostles; March 11, Saint Barbara's; and March 18, Saint John the Evangelist.**

All faithful are welcome to participate.

Saint Therese in Shavertown to Host Parish Mission

Father James Paisley, pastor of Saint Therese Parish, Shavertown, and Saint Frances Cabrini Parish, Carverton (Wyoming), announces a Parish Mission will be hosted at Saint Therese Church during Feb. 25-27.

Serving as guest preacher for the Saint Therese parish mission devotion will be Very Rev. Saint Joseph Oblate Father Paul McDonnell, provincial superior of the Oblates of Saint Joseph Holy Spouses Province in America.

The three-day spiritual experience will open on Sunday, Feb. 25, at 7 p.m. and continue at the



Father Paul McDonnell, OSJ

parish church through Tuesday, Feb. 27. Fellowship will follow each evening in Father Sammons Hall at Saint Therese's.

Theme for the parish mission is: "Embraced by Our Creator: Finding God in a Busy World."

Other activities being planned in conjunction with the mission include a "Soup and Scripture Study," Holy Hour for Vocations, Sacrament of Reconciliation (confessions), and a special event for the children of the Saint Therese religious education program.

Coordinating the event is the Adult Faith Formation Ministry team, consisting of the following parishioners: Tom Dettore, Matthew Ide, Beth Karwaski, Tom Mosca, Kristin Osipower, Bob Schefflee, Chris Somers, Mary Anne Susek, Mary Saraceno-Wright and Jen Zangardi.

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

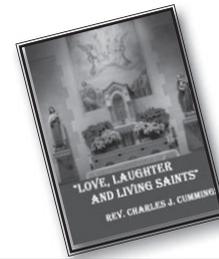


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Tannersville Parish Celebrating Golden Jubilee This Year



Our Lady of Victory Parish in Tannersville proudly unveiled the official logo heralding the parish's 50th anniversary celebration this year. As the Diocese of Scranton celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2018, Our Lady of Victory has earnestly begun planning for the golden jubilee of the parish's founding in 1968 — the Diocese's centennial year. Initially referred to as the Pocono Catholic Mission Church, the original parish worship site along the Route 611 corridor in Tannersville later became known as Our Lady of Victory Chapel. Father Henry Zapotocki was appointed the founding pastor of Our Lady of Victory on Sept. 20, 1968, shepherding the parish faithful until his retirement as pastor emeritus in July 1999. Now under the spiritual guidance of just its second pastor — Father Richard Czachor — the Pocono parish that began with a population of 70 families has grown to about 1,400. Various anniversary committees have been organized to commemorate the parish's 50th year, continually inspired by Father Zapotocki's signature greeting: "Everyone is always welcome at Our Lady of Victory."

Immaculate Conception Parish Mission

Named **Catholic Artist of the Year** in December 2001, and was honored with seven other Unity awards for his music

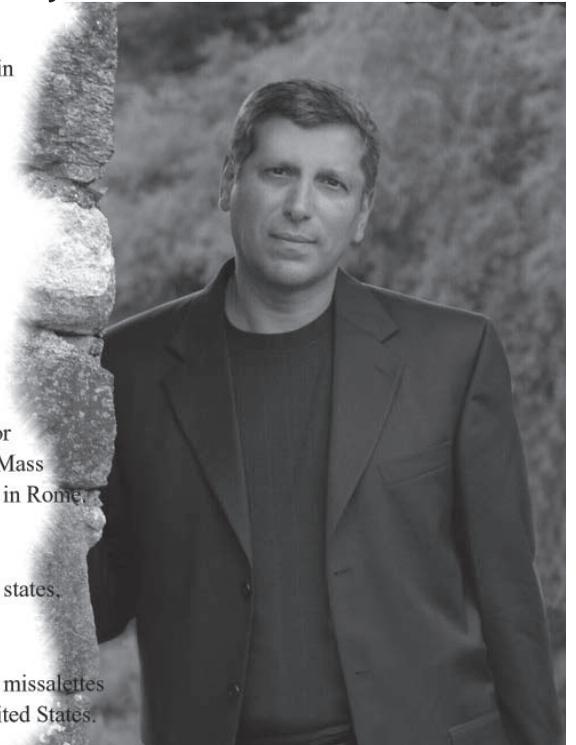
Sang his song "Sanctuary" during Communion at **Mother Teresa's** funeral in Calcutta, India

He was nominated for three **Grammy** awards.

Composed, recorded and, by invitation of the Vatican, performed for **Pope John Paul II** the first English Mass setting ever sung at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

Has presented more than **600** parish missions, seminars, and concerts in 49 states, Canada, Ireland, Israel and Italy.

His music is published in hymnals and missalettes used in over 10,000 parishes in the United States.



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VINCENT AMBROSETTI CONCERT • SUNDAY, MARCH 11 • 7PM

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Mission Message

Go Forth

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



If any of you subscribe to satellite radio, perhaps you can appreciate my problem: I pay for this service and listen to just three of the hundreds of channels available. It's a lot like cable television, I suppose.

One of the channels I listen to regularly is the BBC World Service. I tune in because I find it helpful to hear what's going on in the world, particularly regarding global issues and concerns that are not ordinarily covered by our national or local news. I am occasionally surprised by what I perceive to be news stories about some obscure place in Europe, Africa or elsewhere and sometimes callously think to myself, "who cares?"

Well, you know who does care about these seemingly obscure places and the newsworthy stories going on there? The people who

live there. How terribly myopic of me to shrug off some story about some small, perhaps largely unknown place where people live real lives and have real problems.

Apathy, the attitude of lacking concern for someone or something, is not always a deliberate, willful disposition. It may arise from our own busyness and localized concerns, but we should avoid it at all costs. In fact, it seems to me that God would encourage us to seek out news from faraway places so that we can pray for our brothers and sisters in need and deepen our solidarity with them.

I recently read a study which highlighted the ten most under-reported humanitarian crises of 2017. Did you know that the United Nations estimates — estimates, mind you — that 70 percent of the population of North Korea is food-insecure and relies on the government for food allotment? Even more startling, some 200,000 children are said to suffer from acute malnutrition.

Did you know that persecution and violence in Burundi is rampant and is driving people from their homes? Further, more than 2.6 million people — roughly a quarter of the country's population — have difficulty feeding their families.

If you never heard of either of these crises, that's not unusual. I certainly had no knowledge of these sobering statistics. The report which offered these stories, entitled "Suffering in Silence," hopes to raise the world's consciousness of the daily burdens that so many throughout the world suffer with very little reporting by

the media. Just a quick googling of the terms "Syrian humanitarian crisis" yielded in a news search nearly 130,000 stories.

In stark comparison, the story of North Korea's food crisis had only 51 news stories in 2017 compared to 282 stories on the sad situation in Burundi. It's not at all my intention to make us feel guilty about our ignorance regarding the issues that exist throughout our world; it's not really our fault. But, as my mother used to say, it may not be your fault, but it is your problem.

Indeed, it is. That's the unique quality of being a Christian. We recognize that the burdens and sufferings which are borne by anyone, even the stranger, is our problem.

Jesus pointed this out in the parable of the Good Samaritan who saw the victimized traveler and ministered to his needs. It's the charge from God, through Isaiah, encouraging us to "[share] your bread with the hungry, bringing the afflicted and the homeless into your house; clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own..." (Isaiah 58:7).

The Lord is not only calling us to great physical acts of charity but also to seek to be more aware of who is in need, in our neighborhoods and around the world. For those we cannot reach with our physical help, let us reach them with our prayers, our solidarity, and help to raise awareness of their suffering and need.

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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.

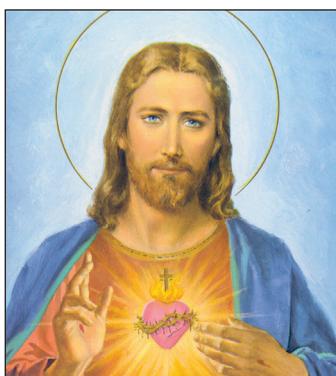
— offered for the special intention of vocations to the priesthood; hosted by Saint Ann Basilica Parish, Saint Ann's St., west Scranton. Adoration begins with 8:30 a.m. Mass and concludes with benediction at 4:45 p.m.

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

— hosted by Queen of the Apostles Parish, Avoca; celebrated at 7 p.m. in 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 **February 2** at Saint Joseph's Oblate Seminary, 1880 Highway 315, Laflin (Pittston).

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

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

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Sister Angelica Bove, Hazleton Native, Dies

YORK — Sister M. Angelica Bove, a member of the Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy at Villa Rossello in Newfield, N.J., died Nov. 11 at Misericordia Nursing & Rehab Center in York, where she had been a resident for two years.

Born Gloria Rita Bove in Hazleton, daughter of the late John and Mildred Lyate Bove, Sister Angelica entered the Congregation of the Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy, York, on Aug. 15, 1947, and made her profession of vows March 8, 1949.

She earned a bachelor's degree from College Misericordia, Dallas, and pursued further studies at the University of Scranton and Marywood College, Scranton, and Fordham University, New York City.

During her religious life, Sister Angelica ministered in Catholic education, serving in the Diocese of Scranton as principal of St. Mary Elementary School, Old Forge, and Monsignor Molino Elementary School, formerly Most Precious Blood School, in Hazleton.

While serving as principal at Monsignor Molino, Sister Angelica received a Scranton diocesan appointment as assistant superintendent of Catholic schools in the Hazleton area, serving in the capacity during 1990-92. She

also taught at Catholic schools in Massachusetts and New Jersey and served on the faculty and as secretary at the congregation's Our Lady of Mercy Academy in Newfield.

Prior to being appointed as superior of Mercy Residence in York in 2005, Sister also served as parish minister and coordinator of the Most Precious Blood Parish Outreach Program in Hazleton.

Surviving are a sister, Grace Meyers, Lancaster, Ohio; sister-in-law, Joan Bove, Pardeesville; and several nieces and nephews. She was also preceded in death by a brother, Robert.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Nov. 17 at Most Precious Blood Church, Hazleton, with Father Louis Grippe, host pastor, serving as celebrant and homilist. Interment was held at the parish cemetery.

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Spiritual Offerings

Scranton Mental Health Ministry: Spiritual Support Group for Family & Friends — FEB. 1, hosted by the Cathedral of St. Peter in Scranton; providing a safe, supportive space for parents, family members and friends of individuals who are experiencing mental illness. Group meets at 6 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month in the Bishops Hall at the Cathedral Rectory, 315 Wyoming Ave. Meetings will 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).

Friday Holy Hour for Vocations — FEB. 2, hosted by the Little Sisters of the Poor at Holy Family Residence, 2500 Adams Ave., Scranton; weekly devotion held every Friday at 4:30 p.m. in the Residence chapel. Holy Hour includes recitation of the Rosary, evening prayer (vespers) and benediction. All faithful are welcome.

Weekly Bible Study — FEB. 2, 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.

Monthly Ladies Afternoon of Recollection — FEB. 3, hosted by the Ladies Society of St. Joseph Melkite Greek-Catholic Church, 130 North St. Frances Cabrini Ave., west Scranton; gatherings are held on the first Saturday of the month beginning at 1 p.m. Centered around the theme of prayer, sessions are offered for the spiritual enrichment of its members and the larger community; meetings end at approximately 2:15 p.m. and are followed by fellowship in the church hall. Anyone interested in attending may receive handout materials and Scripture readings in advance by emailing: melkite.scranton@gmail.com.

Monthly Monday Night Worship — FEB. 5, hosted by St. Faustina Kowalska Parish in Nanticoke; monthly devotion begins at 7 p.m. at the parish worship site of Holy Trinity Church, 520 South Hanover St., Nanticoke. All faithful are welcome to join together for a Holy Hour of praise and worship with word and music. For more information, contact Paul Walters at (570-332-2963).

Padre Pio Prayer Ministry — FEB. 7, hosted by St. Faustina Kowalska Parish in Nanticoke; begins with celebration of Mass at 6 p.m. in 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.

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

Continued on Page 26

'Spiritual Adoption' Program for Unborn Seeks Daily Prayers

The Ladies of Charity of the Diocese of Scranton are inviting all women to join the apostolate in praying for unborn babies who are in danger of abortion.

The "Spiritual Adoption" program enables faithful to make a personal commitment to pray each day for one unborn child.

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

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

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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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Spiritual Offerings

Weekly Divine Mercy Devotion — FEB. 7, 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.

Weekly Bereavement Support Group — FEB. 7, 14 & 21, concluding sessions in a series of four consecutive weekly meetings, addressing topics dealing with the grief process designed for participants to find healing; Bereavement Support Group

meets on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave., Scranton (across from St. Peter's Cathedral). Anyone interested in attending is asked to contact the Cathedral Parish office at (570-344-7231).

Lenten Wednesday Eucharistic Adoration — FEB. 7-MARCH 28, hosted by Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Tunkhannock; exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament held every Wednesday

until Easter from 3 to 7 p.m. in Nativity BVM Church, 99 East Tioga St., Tunkhannock. All faithful are welcome.

Friday Pro-Life Rosary Vigil — FEB. 9, sponsored by the Catholics Defending Life Prayer & Awareness Team; group resumes weekly gatherings every Friday (except on First Fridays) from 1 to 1:30 p.m. at the Pro-Life Monument located next to St. Peter's Cathedral in Scranton

Continued on Page 27

Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Mark Your Calendar — Around the Diocese

Spiritual Offerings

Continued from Page 26

(300 block of Wyoming Ave.). Recitation of the Rosary offered, along with pro-life meditations, Divine Mercy Chaplet and other prayer devotions for the respect and dignity of all human life from conception to natural death. Pro-life signs are welcome.

Spiritual Support Group:

Scranton Mental Health Ministry — **FEB. 10 & 24**, hosted by the Cathedral of St. Peter in Scranton; providing a safe, supportive space for individuals who are experiencing mental illness. Group meets at 10 a.m. on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month in the Bishops Hall at the Cathedral Rectory, 315 Wyoming Ave. Meetings will be approximately 90 minutes; refreshments provided. Participating Scranton parishes include St. Peter's; Mary, Mother of God; and Immaculate Conception. For more information, contact Deacon Ed Shoener (Cathedral), (570-344-7231); Deacon Jan Mroz (Mary, Mother of God), (570-342-4881); or Deacon Pat McDonald (Immaculate Conception), (570-961-5211).

Evening of Marian Devotion

— **FEB. 13**, hosted by the Diocesan Legion of Mary in response to the Blessed Mother's request at Fatima for prayers for world peace; devotion begins at 6 p.m. at

the Basilica of the National Shrine of St. Ann, 1250 St. Ann St., west Scranton, followed by celebration of the regularly scheduled evening Mass at St. Ann's at 7 p.m. Prayer service will include recitation of the Rosary, Fatima prayers, hymns and newly composed music for the Scriptural mysteries, led by Ernie Pappa. All are invited to attend and offer devotion to Mary in praying for peace in America and throughout the world.

Monthly Gathering of Thesians International of Scranton — **FEB. 13**, led by Mary Boretsky, president; group gathers at Immaculate Conception Church in the Hill section of Scranton. Recitation of the Patriotic Rosary begins at 11:30 a.m. in the church's adoration chapel, followed by Mass celebrated at 12:10 p.m. Thesians' luncheon meeting follows at 12:45 p.m. at Cooper's Seafood House, North Washington Ave., Scranton. Month's guest speaker: Monsignor Michael Delaney, pastor of Holy Cross Parish, Olyphant, and Blessed Sacrament Parish, Throop.

Evening of Prayer with the Sisters of IHM — **FEB. 14**, sponsored by the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary; monthly prayer service held on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel at the IHM Center Chapel, 2300 Adams Ave., Scranton (top of

University Ave., beyond Marywood University). For more information, call (570-346-5404).

Meeting of Lay Carmelites

— **FEB. 17**, 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).

Lenten Monday Rosary Devotion

— **FEB. 19-MARCH 26**, hosted by St. Joseph's Oblate Seminary, Route 315, Laffin (Pittston); weekly devotions held every Monday evening during Lent at 6 p.m. in the seminary chapel. Includes recitation of the Rosary, prayers and newly composed Scriptural Mysteries led

Continued on Page 28

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Women's Guild to Host Annual Day of Reflection

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

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

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

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

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

Alhambra Announces Scholarship Program

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

The Alhambra Scholarship

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

The number of scholarships and amounts awarded vary from

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

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For information on further requirements and to obtain an application, contact Patrick Umbra, Alhambra Supreme Director for Region II, at (570-822-3597) or email: mbra4326@msn.com. Application deadline is Feb. 23.

Mark Your Calendar

Spiritual Offerings

Continued from Page 27

by Ernie Pappa; devotional evenings are supported by the Legion of Mary, America Needs Fatima apostolate, and Enthronement of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Guild in the Diocese. All faithful are welcome.

Bible Study Series: "First and Second Books of Samuel" — MARCH 6, hosted by the

Basilica of the National Shrine of St. Ann in west Scranton; weekly presentations begin at 7 p.m. at St. Ann's. For more information, call (570-347-5691). Beginning on March 3, the same program series will also be offered on Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. at St. Gabriel's Retreat House in Clarks Summit. For more information, call (570-586-2791). Registration fee is \$5 per session.



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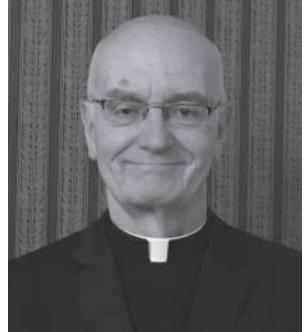
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Catholic Happenings

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

Weekly Bingo — FEB. 5, 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).

Parish Catholic Women's Council Meeting — FEB. 5, hosted by the Council of Catholic Women of St. Benedict Parish, 155 Austin Ave., Wilkes-Barre; meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the parish church hall. New members are welcome.

Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary Bingo — FEB. 7 & 21, 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).

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

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

Free Community Luncheon — FEB. 10, sponsored by Holy Rosary Parish in Hazleton; lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 12 noon in the parish hall at 240 S. Poplar St., Hazleton. Meal is offered to the community free of charge. All are welcome.

Parish Bake Sale — FEB. 10 & 11, sponsored by the Council of Catholic Women of St. Benedict Parish, 155 Austin Ave., Wilkes-Barre; sale of baked items will be held in the church hall before and after the 5:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday and the 8 a.m. Mass on Sunday.

Lenten Weekend Food Sale — FEB. 10-MARCH 25, sponsored by SS. Peter & Paul Parish, 1309 W. Locust St., west Scranton; pierogi

and clam chowder sold throughout Lent before and after all weekend Masses (Saturday, 4 p.m. & Sunday, 11 a.m.). Cost: pierogi, \$7 per dozen; clam chowder, \$7 per quart. To place orders, call the rectory office at (570-343-7015). Bake sale and basket raffle will also be held before and after both Masses during Palm Sunday weekend, March 24 & 25.

Pre-Lenten Stuffed Cabbage Dinner — FEB. 11, sponsored by St. Andrew Parish in Wilkes-Barre; dinner served from 12 noon to 4 p.m. (or until sold out) in the parish's St. Patrick Church Hall, 318 Parrish St., Wilkes-Barre. Menu includes three pigs-in-the-blanket, honey-glazed carrots, mashed potatoes, rolls, beverage and dessert (take-out orders available); bake sale will also be held. Cost: \$12 per dinner, includes complimentary ticket for "Bountiful Basket" chance drawing. Tickets available at the door.

Ash Wednesday & Lenten Friday Food Sale — FEB. 14 & FEB. 16-MARCH 23, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Carbondale Council 329; held on Ash Wednesday and every Friday during Lent (except Good Friday) from 12 noon to 6 p.m. at St. Rose Family Center in Carbondale.

Meatless food sale of homemade cabbage & noodles and clam chowder. Cost: quart containers, \$6 each; pint containers, \$3. Sale is take-out only.

Rummage Sale — FEB. 16 & 17, sponsored by St. Lawrence Parish in Great Bend; held in the Trinity Center church hall, 380 Franklin St., Great Bend. Sale hours: Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday (Bag Day), 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Halushki and homemade soups will also be available for sale. Public is welcome.

*Continued on
Page 31*

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Nanticoke Parish Youth Center Dedicated



A Youth Mass celebrated this past fall at Saint Faustina Kowalska Parish in Nanticoke included a special dedication of the new home for the Saint Faustina Youth Ministry, which continues to play an integral role in the life of the parish. The Saint Faustina Youth Center was officially dedicated to Attorney Joseph Lach as a memorial tribute to the late parishioner whose son, Joseph, provided the impetus behind the start of "Teen Masses" back in 2005. During the early years of the special liturgical celebrations for the parish youth, Attorney Lach and his wife Barbara would provide pizza afterwards for the young participants. In appreciation of the Lach family for their kindness, support and dedication to Saint Faustina Parish and the community, the youth ministry dedicated their new center in memory of the family patriarch, who passed away a few years ago. Shown during the dedication day are Father James Nash, pastor of Saint Faustina's who presided at the ceremonies; Barbara Lach and son Joe.

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Glen Lyon Knights of Columbus Install Officers



Pictured at the recent installation of the newly elected officers of Knights of Columbus Council 10676 at Saint Adalbert Church in Glen Lyon are, from left, Father Louis Kaminski, host pastor; Richard Laury, Henry Turchanik, Robert Shemansky, Grand Knight VJ George, Mike Frantz and District Deputy Jim Nardone.

Catholic Happenings

Night at the Races — FEB. 17, sponsored by Queen of the Apostles Parish at St. Mary Church, Avoca; held at the parish hall in the former St. Mary School, 742 Spring St., Avoca. Doors open at 5 p.m.; races begin at 7 p.m. Admission cost: \$5 per person, includes food and beverages. Horse sponsorships available for \$10 each; event program forms required by Feb. 9. Donations of food and baked goods are welcome. For more information, contact the parish office at (570-457-3412) or staff@queenoftheadaptles.com.

Sunday Buffet Breakfast — FEB. 18, hosted by St. Eulalia Parish, 214 Blue Shutters Road, Elmhurst (Roaring Brook Twp.); serving from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon in the parish hall. Featuring full breakfast menu, including made-to-order eggs, home fries, ham, sausage, pancakes, rolls, toast, juice, coffee & tea. Cost: adults (age 12 to 64), \$7; seniors (age 65 & older), \$6; children (age 6-11), \$3; children age 5 & under admitted free. Public is invited; tickets at the door.

Annual Chili & Salsa Cook-Off — MARCH 3, hosted by Most Holy Trinity Parish in Cresco; held from 12 noon to 3:30 p.m. at Monsignor McHugh Elementary School in Cresco. Event includes taste-tasting competition for local entries of chili and salsa dishes; live musical entertainment, Knights of Columbus-sponsored video horse racing games, raffle drawings, and other attractions. Admission cost: \$5; other foods and drinks available for purchase. Anyone interested in entering the cook-off for chance to win a prize, contact Chuck at (570-242-2431). Prize sponsorships available for local organizations and businesses.

The Catholic Light calendar lists events that are sponsored by the Diocese of Scranton, its parishes, schools and institutions, and other Catholic organizations in the Diocese. All submissions are subject to review before publication. To submit an item for consideration, send email to Kevin-McDonnell@dioceseofscranton.org, fax to 570-207-2271, or call 570-207-2229 for more information.

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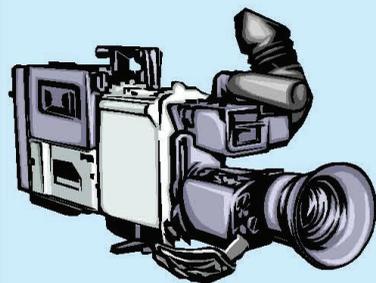
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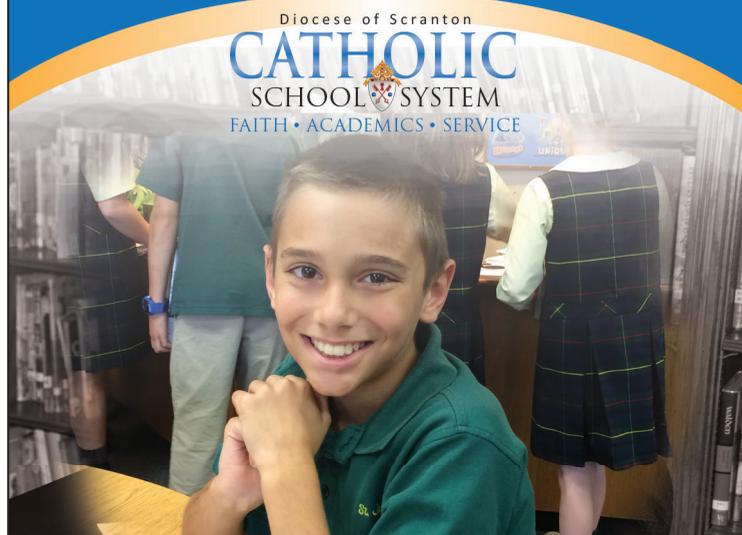
The Diocese of Scranton's website includes video of certain programs broadcast by CTV: Catholic Television. The programs include the Daily Mass from St. Peter's Cathedral, the monthly news program "Our Faith, Our Diocese" and other special programs. To watch the videos, go to www.dioceseofscranton.org.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

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