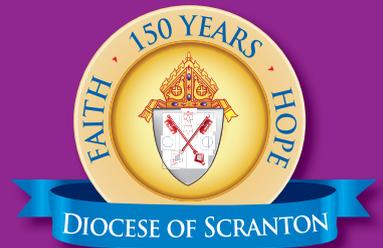


# The Catholic Light



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## 'You are called by God'

Parishes in the Diocese of Scranton are eager to welcome into the Catholic Church 260 men, women and children who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil. The Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion, the ritual at which these persons acknowledge their intention to receive the sacraments, was celebrated last Sunday, February 18, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. Bishop Joseph C. Bambera presided.

*Please see pages 4-5.*

## Metropolitan of Pennsylvania To Celebrate Anniversary Mass

The Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., D.D., Archbishop of Philadelphia and Metropolitan of the ecclesiastical province of Pennsylvania, will make his first visit to the Diocese of Scranton when he serves as principal celebrant of the Pontifical Mass marking the actual 150th Anniversary Sunday of the founding of the Diocese. The liturgy will be celebrated on Sunday, March 4, 2018, at 3 p.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

"It fills me with great joy to be the principal celebrant for this Mass as part of the commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Scranton," Archbishop Chaput said. "Philadelphia and Scranton have shared a special bond beginning with the early days of the Church in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Since the time of missionary parishes served by traveling Philadelphia



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

bishops and priests, to the establishment of Scranton as its own diocese in 1868, to the present day, we are inextricably linked as part of God's family.

"I send my prayerful best wishes to the bishop, priests, deacons and lay faithful of the Diocese of Scranton on the occasion of your sesquicentennial.

May God bless you abundantly for many years to come."

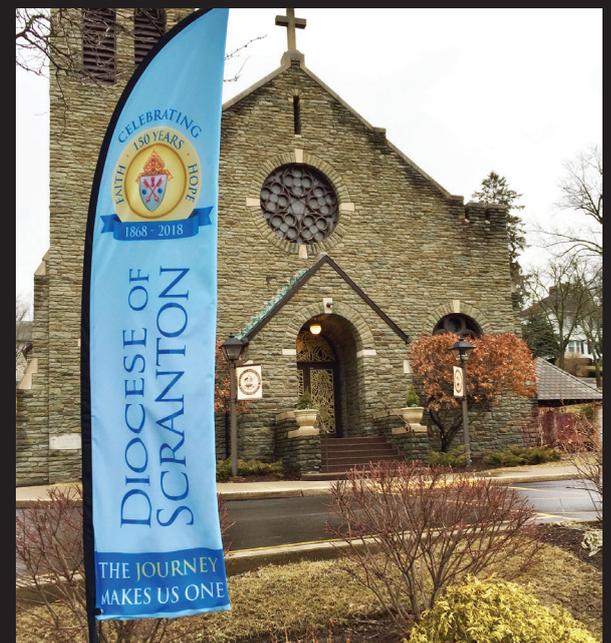
Archbishop Chaput, a Kansas native, joined the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin, Saint Augustine Province, in 1965. He was ordained to the priesthood on August 29, 1970.

Archbishop Chaput received a Master of Arts in Theology from the University of San Francisco in 1971. He served as a seminary instructor, pastor, and in administrative positions for the Capuchin Province of Saint Augustine in Pittsburgh and the Capuchin Province of Mid-America, including chief executive and provincial minister.

Archbishop Chaput was ordained Bishop of Rapid City, South Dakota, on July 26, 1988. Pope John Paul II appointed him Archbishop of Denver on February 18, 1997, and he was installed on April 7 the same year.

*Continued on page 2*

## Anniversary in the Air!



It's beginning to look a lot like a Sesquicentennial Celebration, everywhere you go! In the coming days and weeks, you will start to see colorful banners featuring the 150th Anniversary logo and theme, "The Journey Makes Us One," displayed proudly at parishes, Catholic schools and the agencies of Catholic Social Services. Pictured above is a banner outside Our Lady of the Snows Church in Clarks Summit.

THIS ISSUE'S 150TH FEATURE

ECUMENICAL AND INTERFAITH RELATIONS



## Archbishop Chaput celebrating Mass

*Continued from page 1*

As a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribe, Archbishop Chaput was the second Native American to be ordained a bishop in the United States, and the first Native American archbishop.

Pope Benedict XVI appointed him Archbishop of Philadelphia on July 19, 2011. He was installed as the 13th bishop and ninth archbishop of Philadelphia on September 8, 2011.

In 1999, building on the efforts of his predecessor in Denver, Archbishop Chaput founded St. John Vianney Theological Seminary, an affiliate of the Pontifical Lateran University.

In 2002, assisted by his Auxiliary Bishop José Gomez, Archbishop Chaput founded Centro San Juan Diego in response to the pastoral and educational needs of the growing Hispanic community in Colorado. He later co-founded the national Catholic Association of Latino Leaders (CALL) and helped in the founding of ENDOW, a leadership initiative of Catholic women to “Educate on the Nature and Dignity of Women.” He was also instrumental in creating the Denver-based Augustine Institute, an independent, lay-run graduate school for the formation of lay Catholic leaders, catechists and evangelizers.

Archbishop Chaput served on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, 2003-2006. In 2005, he was named a member of the official U.S. delegation to Cordoba, Spain, for the “Conference on Anti-Semitism and Other Forms of Intolerance,” sponsored by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The national Becket Fund for Religious Liberty awarded him the 2009 Canterbury Medal for his work in advancing religious freedom.

Archbishop Chaput served on the Board of Directors for The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. (1994 – 2009) and the National Catholic Bioethics Center (1993 – 2006). He serves on the board of directors for Eternal Word Television Network, Birmingham, Alabama (1996 – present); The Catholic Foundation of Northern Colorado (1998 – 2011); St. John Vianney Theological Seminary in Northern Colorado (1999 – 2011); Redemptorists Mater Seminary in Northern Colorado (1998 – 2011); The Fellowship of Catholic University Students (2001 – present); Catholic Association of Latino Leaders (2007 – present); World Youth Alliance International (2010 – present). As Archbishop of Philadelphia, he serves as the ex-officio Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary.

For the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops, Archbishop Chaput has served as Chair of the Subcommittee on Native American Catholics; a member of the Committee for Cultural Diversity in the Church and the Task Force for Health Care; a member of the Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty; and a consultant to the Committee for Pro-Life Activities. He also served on the Committee for Divine Worship, the Committee for Migration, the Committee for Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, and the Task Force on Strengthening Marriage.

Archbishop Chaput served the Holy See as an Apostolic Visitor to U.S. seminaries, (2005 – 2006); the Diocese of Toowoomba, Australia, (2007); and the Legion of Christ for Canada and the United States, (2009 – 2010). In February 2014 he was appointed to the Pontifical Council for the Laity by Pope Francis. In 2015, he hosted the World Meeting of Families and visit of Pope Francis to Philadelphia. He participated in the 2015 Synod of Bishops on the Family in Rome and was named a permanent member of the council for that synod.

He is author of three books: *Living the Catholic Faith: Rediscovering the Basics* (Servant, 2001), *Render Unto Caesar: Serving the Nation by Living Our Catholic Beliefs in Political Life* (Doubleday, 2008); *Strangers in a Strange Land: Living the Catholic Faith in a*

*‘There Is One Body and One Spirit’*

## Commissioned Hymn to be Premiered at Anniversary Mass

Faithful in the region will have the opportunity to sing a new song to herald the Sesquicentennial of the Diocese.

A new hymn, entitled “There Is One Body and One Spirit,” will be premiered at the Mass on March 4, 2018, in the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Diocese.

The commissioned hymn will be performed for the first time by the Diocesan Festival Choir, consisting of 55 choir members from parishes around the Diocese. Linda Phillips Orseck, Director of Liturgical Music at the Cathedral, will direct the musical ensemble that includes a brass quartet, timpani and other instruments.

All parishes in the Diocese have also received the hymn and are encouraged to introduce it at their liturgies as they join in celebrating the Anniversary on that weekend, and beyond that date they are free to continue to utilize the hymn.

The composer is Karl De-



**Karl DeBoeser**

Boeser, choir director at Christ Lutheran Church in Allentown, where he leads the traditional four-part Chancel Choir as well as the Immanuel Singers, a contemporary women’s chorale. His formal training includes bachelor’s and master’s degrees in music from Shenandoah University and SUNY at Stony Brook, N.Y., specializing in composition, choral/vocal technique, piano and conducting.

“There Is One Body and One

Spirit” is written in four-part harmony with lyrics based on select verses from Saint Paul’s letters: Ephesians, I Corinthians, Philippians and Romans. The text reflects the rich cultural history of the Diocese of Scranton, with many different ethnic backgrounds coming together in the unity of the Catholic faith, and the lyrics also echo the Diocesan 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary theme, “The Journey Makes Us One.”

Mr. DeBoeser has also orchestrated the piece for various instruments to help embellish congregational singing.

According to Mr. DeBoeser, in his music he strives to be creative, tuneful, a little bit challenging and inspiring.

“Pairing Christian messages/themes with music to make a beautiful artistic expression is the kind of writing I enjoy most,” he says. “Music makes the message more compelling and meaningful.”

The composition can be viewed on the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary page of the Diocesan website.

### HOW TO WATCH THE ANNIVERSARY MASS

+ Watch live on CTV: Catholic Television. The Mass will be rebroadcast on CTV on Tuesday, March 6, at 8:00 p.m., and Wednesday, March 7, at 10:00 a.m.

+ Watch the live stream on the Internet:

- Go to [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org)
- Under the News-Videos-Photos menu tab, choose Catholic Television.
- Scroll down that page and click on View Daily Mass.
- Click on Daily Mass from the Cathedral.
- Click on the Play button.

• The live broadcast of the Mass will appear on the screen. The video can be expanded to full screen for viewing. During the Mass it is possible to scroll backwards on the timeline to review parts of the Mass one may have missed or wants to hear again.

+ The video will also be available to view on the Diocesan website later that evening. Under the News-Videos-Photos menu tab, choose Watch Videos and click on the link for the Mass.

*Post-Christian World* (Henry Holt and Co., 2017) and numerous talks, articles and pastoral letters.

The Mass on March 4 celebrates the formal establishment of the Diocese of Scranton by Pope Pius IX on March 3, 1868.

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. Liturgical guides and other resources have been provided to parishes by the Office for Parish Life.

The Mass will be available to all for viewing on the live broadcast by CTV: Catholic Television, live streaming on the internet, and later on the website: [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org).

This special liturgy is part of a year-long Sesquicentennial 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.

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.

# NEPA Genealogical Society Completes Historic Parish Records Preservation Project

*More than 3,600 register books were digitized*

Representatives of the Northeast Pennsylvania Genealogical Society (NEPGS), an all-volunteer non-profit located in Hanover Township, have presented a digital drive storage unit to Scranton Diocese officials which contains the digitized sacramental records of all parishes within the 11 counties of the Diocese.

The project was formally launched in May 2016 and the delivery of the drive on February 13 marks the culmination of an ambitious 20-month effort led by the records preservation team at NEPGS. Reflecting on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Diocese being celebrated this year, the decision to digitally preserve the irreplaceable parish records was of utmost importance considering the age and fragile condition of the older sacramental register books.

“Parish sacramental records are a vital part of our history,” said Bishop Joseph C. Bambera. “On a practical level, this will be a great help to our parishes to fulfill their



responsibility to preserve the records and make them accessible when needed. We are deeply grateful to the staff and volunteers of the Genealogical Society who worked so carefully and diligently to complete this challenging project.”

The digital drive storage unit was presented to the Diocese by NEPGS representatives Kenneth Stoddard,

Vice President; Alan Drust and Jim McAndrew, Records Preservation co-chairs.

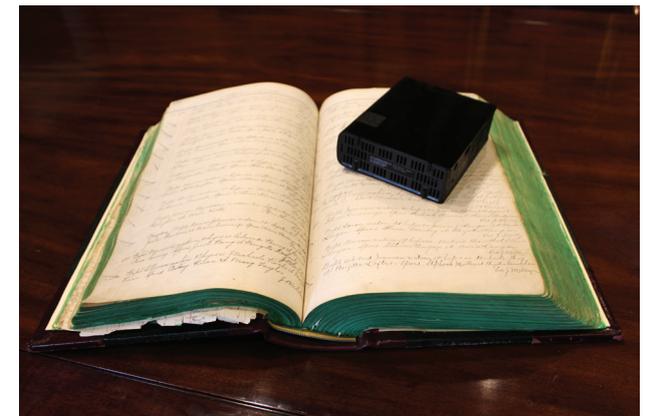
According to Mr. Stoddard, the process involved multiple trips to each parish and working with parish office staff to catalog and inventory the register books. The records preservation team at NEPGS's facility digitized each register book, which involved

high-resolution photography of each page followed by “cropping” to adjust and size the images. Finally, renaming each image and arranging and organizing the images into a “digital register book.” Each parish then received an external computer hard drive which contained their own digital library of all register books for the parish.



*Left:* Representatives of the Northeast Pennsylvania Genealogical Society (NEPGS) recently presented a digital drive storage unit to Scranton Diocese officials containing the digitized sacramental records of all parishes within the 11 counties of the Diocese. The project was a 20-month effort, led by the records preservation team at NEPGS, to digitally preserve the parish records. Seated from left are Linda Price, J.C.L., Chancellor of the Diocese; Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; and Kenneth Stoddard, NEPGS vice president. Standing are NEPGS Records Preservation Co-chairs Alan Drust and Jim McAndrew.

*Below:* The digital drive storage unit contains 347,000 images of the records from more than 3,600 parish register books including, pictured here, the Saint Peter's Cathedral Parish Baptismal Register for 1877-1899.



Sacramental registers for all closed or consolidated churches and missions were also digitized, including some which predate the formation of the Diocese itself. More than 3,600 register books were digitized, resulting in over 347,000 digital images.

Office staff at the parishes now can conveniently access their digital sacramental register books on their computers via external hard drives provided by NEPGS. This approach will also help to arrest further deterioration of the register books since they will be handled less frequently.

The project also created a remarkable resource for genealogical research, Mr. Stoddard noted. Containing a wealth of information, this digitized collection of parish records is one of the most important historical collections available for our region. In total, records from 120 parishes/185 church-

es/42 missions and 5 chapels spanning the period from the 1830s to present day have been digitally preserved.

Those seeking sacramental records only should call the respective parish office. Those who are interested in family research must contact the Northeast Pennsylvania Genealogical Society. Research access to the records collection is limited to the in-house network at the NEPGS facility and is governed by the privacy guidelines established with the Diocese at the project outset.

The NEPGS office is located inside the caretaker's house in the historic Hanover Green Cemetery, 689 Main Road, Hanover Township. Hours are Thursdays 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and the second Saturday of each month 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Further details are available from NEPGS at [www.NEPGS.com](http://www.NEPGS.com) or by contacting them at 570-829-1765.

## *Heritage of Helping*

### **March 3 Day of Service Will Honor Diocesan Tradition of Responding to Community Needs**

On March 3, in celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Scranton, Catholic Social Services will lead a Diocesan-wide Day of Service – an outreach of commonality and gratitude to the many worthy organizations that share the Church's commitment to the people of the region.

The Diocese has asked more than 30 human services organizations in the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre-Hazleton area to be sites for service activity. These include soup kitchens, nursing homes, health care institutions, charities, and agencies that provide various types of assistance to people in need.

Based on the response, teams of volunteers – including clergy and religious, staff, parishioners and students – will offer their time and energy during the day to participate in the mission of the organization.

“The Catholic Church has a long history of serving

people in need, the disadvantaged and the vulnerable. As Christians, it's a core tenet of our faith,” said Mary Theresa Vautrinot, Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Human Services/Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Social Services.

“Since its earliest days and continuing to the present, the Diocese and our caring people here have responded to the needs in the region through established institutions, by sponsoring and supporting charitable and service endeavors, and individuals' commitment to helping others. Our Day of Service honors that heritage and expresses our gratitude to everyone who has participated in that mission.”

Organizations and individuals interested in participating either as a site for service activity or in a volunteer capacity are asked to call Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton at 570-207-3808.



*‘Jesus is speaking to you today’*

## Diocese Celebrates Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion

Parishes in the Diocese of Scranton are eager to welcome into the Catholic Church 260 men, women and children who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil. The Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion, the ritual at which these persons acknowledge their intention to receive the sacraments at the coming Easter Vigil, was celebrated last Sunday, February 18, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. Bishop Joseph C. Bambera presided.

Those who will be received into the Church through Baptism at the Easter Vigil, called catechumens, have been participants in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults for many months. At the Rite of Election, the Church ratified their readiness for the sacraments of initiation, and after inscribing their names in the Book of the Elect, the catechumens, now called “the elect,” manifested their desire to receive these sacraments before the Bishop.

During the celebration of the Call to Continuing Conversion, which immediately followed the Rite of Election, those already baptized in the Christian faith in another denomination, and now seeking full communion with the Catholic Church – called candidates – presented themselves to the Bishop, and, after having their readiness for the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist affirmed by their sponsors, were invited by the Bishop to join with the Church during Lent in a spirit of repentance and renewed fidelity to their baptismal covenant, so that they will be prepared for the joyous reception of the holy sacraments.

Those adults who were baptized Catholic but never confirmed, who have been preparing for the reception of the sacrament of confirmation at the Easter Vigil, were invited to participate in the ceremony by standing with the candidates for full communion.

In his homily, Bishop Bambera reflected upon his own journey of faith and call to priesthood, and eventually a very unexpected invitation – a *call* – to serve the People of God as a bishop.

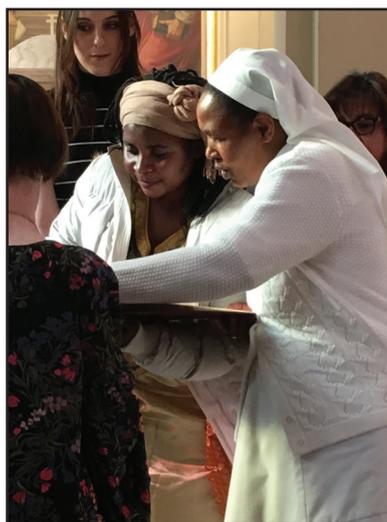
“My friends, in the same, unexpected and surprising way, God continues to *call* all of us to a deeper relationship with him,” the Bishop said. “He continues to *call* us to set aside that which is known and comfortable to journey with him into the unknown – to forge with God a deeper and more intimate relationship of trust and love – and, in turn, to proclaim that relationship through the love and service of the lives that God entrusts to our care.”

Addressing the catechumens and candidates, he urged them to remember “the power of this moment in your lives. Jesus is speaking to *you* today, inviting *you* to a relationship with him – calling *you* by name to follow him. He is inviting you to walk a path that leads to a life of meaning, purpose and peace. He is saying, through his invitation, that your life – with all of its struggles and joys, with all of its blessings and challenges – has a unique place and role to play within his plan. ... This day, as never before, hear the words of Jesus that come to us from Saint John’s Gospel on the very night before he died, ‘It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain.’”

“Today, my friends, *you* are called by God. *Your* name will be spoken. *Your* name will be heard. And *your* name will be written in the Book of the Elect. My dear catechumens and candidates, as he has done since the beginning of creation, God places his hand on *your* shoulders today and chooses *you* to participate in his Kingdom. Through the touch of your godparents and through the affirmation of the Church gathered around you in this sacred cathedral, God calls *you* forth to walk with him in faith. The initiative is God’s. The response is yours.”

Bishop Bambera cautioned that the journey will have its challenges, and the cost of discipleship can be great. “Yet, one thing is certain. The journey will lead you to discover meaning, hope and life if you remain rooted in the life of God – if you are selfless in your love – and if you serve generously, making the pattern of Jesus’ life your own.

“Your ‘yes’ to the Lord’s call this day reminds us that we are all called to lead lives rooted in the life and mission of Jesus.”



The Catholic Light Photos/Mike Melisky



# Journeys of Faith...

## Catechumens Share Their Stories of the Paths Traveled Leading Them to the Catholic Church

Sometimes, in order to fully appreciate the beautiful faith they inherited freely just by coming into the world, birthright Catholics need to hear the stories of the ones who followed a long, circuitous — often difficult — road to discover the blessed fruits of Catholicism.

Two such stories follow, provided by a pair of catechumens — those who will be received into the Church through Baptism during the upcoming Easter Vigil — who participated in the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion ceremony held last Sunday in the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

Mike Davison very much looks forward to the day when he comes into full communion with the Catholic Church as a member of Saint Michael Parish in Canton.

The 49-year-old husband and father of two was brought up in a devout Presbyterian family, though never baptized as a Christian. He and his wife Mindy — a so-called “cradle Catholic” — have been married since 1998, raising their children Matthew, 16, and Molly, 14, in the Catholic faith.

According to Mike, despite her young age, Molly easily embraces her Catholicism and has been recognized as a seven-year altar server at Saint John Nepomucene Church in Troy, where the family attends Mass regularly.

“Many of our church members tell my wife, my mother-in-law and me how they admire Molly’s faith and devotion and that they find inspiration in her,”

he says. “So, I’ve always been surrounded by great faith, but never joined the Church or accepted faith completely. I suppose it has worn on me for a long time. Maybe it was easier to explain doubt in Jesus and God than to accept.”

Though never making that commitment to the Lord, Mike’s life bespeaks of strong values. An accomplished athlete and college football player, the devoted family man served in the U.S. Army, is an active member of the Troy Lions Club, and built his own company — Barefoot Pellet Co. in Troy — where he serves as plant manager.

However, Mike admits he isn’t without flaws — especially when it comes to alcohol. “I was drinking too much,” he acknowledges, which in a way led to his own personal epiphany. An experience, he relates, “where Molly and Jesus came to me or Jesus came through Molly.”

Though he knows this enlightenment occurred nearly two years ago, the exact date and time escape him.

“I can tell you I was seated at our table in our home and I drank more than I needed,” Mike recalls. “Molly came and looked at me and said, ‘Dad, you need to stop.’”

Out of the mouths of children come words of wisdom.

According to Mike a breakdown process began at that point and he finally articulated his desire to join his wife and children in a genuine faith in Jesus Christ.

“I was angry at myself, and I was tired of sitting on the sidelines at church,” he admits. “Molly and I started crying. We were hugging as I kept up my spillage cry for Jesus and God. This is when it happened.

“I saw and felt Jesus, and I said to Molly, ‘Jesus was here, wasn’t he?’” She confirmed the same.

Now, doubts of Jesus as his Savior were impossible, but changes had to be made. Mike often reminds himself of a line from the movie “Shawshank Redemption”: “Get busy living or get busy dying.”

“I use the quote to drive myself to a corrected path — the path of Jesus Christ,” he says.

Complicated medical surgeries — the most recent being 11 hours long — have led to some soul-searching and even tested his new-found faith. Today, Mike is



Mike Davison poses proudly with his 14-year-old daughter Molly last Sunday in Saint Peter’s Cathedral.

healthy and strong and gets more excited with each week that draws him closer to his acceptance into the Catholic Church.

“To be strong in faith has taken me some time and I know I’m not complete. But to get where I want to go, you have to believe and join the show.”

### Jamie Kinghorn

“I had no idea what I was missing for 40 years in my life,” begins Jamie Kinghorn, a catechumen in the RCIA program at Saint Ann Parish in Williamsport. “All I did know was that I felt empty.”

Raised without religion, coupled with years of battling alcoholism and other addictions, Jamie admits living life on her own terms.

“I somehow lost all hope with living,” she recounts, “and I lived sinfully.” A lifestyle that eventually led to incarceration.

The “blessing in disguise” motivated Jamie to better her situation by attending school and becoming a peer assistant — helping other women who were released from prison to find resources and sharing with them her story. “However, I still felt something was missing,” she says.

A life-threatening experience slightly more than a year ago had Jamie convinced she was going to die. However, she recalls, fear and dread were replaced by a calm that she firmly believes with all her heart was nothing short of Divine.

“I knew that no matter what happened in that moment I was going to be okay,” she says. “I began (saying) small prayers, but I was still at a loss as to how I should become closer to God.”

Then came the “signs” — in

the form of a religious sister who mysteriously came her way one day just to tell Jamie, “God loves you.” And then there was meeting her future fiancé, Edward Gatusky, a life-long Catholic who invited Jamie to attend Mass with him.

“My first time at Saint Ann’s was so amazing,” Jamie remembers. “It was a Sunday morning, the sun light was coming through the stained-glass window.”

A captivating sermon by the pastor, Father John Victoria, ushered in a moment that “I felt all of God’s love rush over me and into my heart.”

“I understand now that He has been there all along just waiting for me to come to Him,” she says. “It was and still is God who has kept me safe and has been by my side protecting me during the best and worst of times of my life.”

She is also thoroughly convinced that the Lord brought Edward and her together to be joined in marriage — which will come this July — and to create a partnership without which, Jamie claims, she never would have found God on her own.

“God most definitely puts people in our lives at the proper time, and this journey is only starting!”

Today, Jamie dreams of becoming a motivational speaker, an opportunity she describes as an “absolute blessing” and one that, she prays, will give her the golden opportunity to encourage others to never give up — no matter their struggles in life.

“Because God is there, waiting, wanting the very best for each and every one of us,” she concludes.



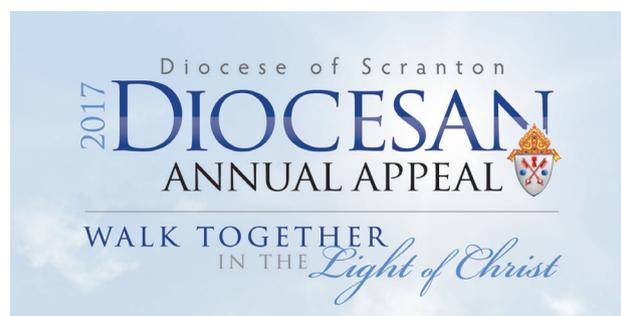
Jamie Kinghorn, second from left, is pictured in the vestibule of Saint Peter’s Cathedral following the Rite of Election on Sunday with her sponsor, Sharon Buehrer; future stepson, Michael Gatusky; and fiancé, Edward Gatusky.

# Number of Parishes at or Near Goal for the Diocesan Annual Appeal

Sixty-four parishes have surpassed their Annual Appeal goal and 14 parishes are currently at 90% or more of their goal for the **2017 Diocesan Annual Appeal: Walk Together in the Light of Christ**.

Parishes between 90 and 99% of their goal are Holy Child Parish, Montrose; Holy Cross Parish, Olyphant; Holy Spirit Parish, Mocanaqua; Mary, Mother of God Parish, Scranton; Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Tunkhannock; Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish, Pittston; Resurrection Parish, Muncy; Saint Ann Basilica, Scranton; Saint John Neumann Parish, Scranton; Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Honesdale; Saint Joseph the Worker Parish, Williamsport; Saint Paul Parish, Scranton; Saint Rose Parish, Carbondale; and Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Dickson City. Many of these parishes listed are within \$2,000 or less of reaching goal.

Pastors and parishioners are reminded that parishes



that surpass their Annual Appeal goal will receive 75% of the amount the parish is over goal.

“We are grateful for the generous response of our parishioners throughout the Diocese,” said Jim Bebla, Diocesan Secretary for Development. “And we ask those who have not yet made a gift to consider joining us in support of our local Church during this blessed season of Lent.”

To date, \$4,875,000 in gifts and pledges has been raised, bringing the campaign to 97.5% of the \$5 million goal. More than 29,000 donors have made pledges to this year’s Diocesan Annual Appeal. Parishes that have reached goal since the last issue of *The Catholic Light* was published are Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Montoursville; Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Carbondale; and Saint Frances X. Cabrini Parish, Carverton. *Please see the next page for the full Parish Goal Report.*

Parishioners and friends who have not yet made a gift to the Appeal are encouraged to consider a donation to help reach the Diocesan Annual Appeal goal. Interested donors may make a gift to the Diocesan Annual Appeal by sending a donation to Diocesan Annual Appeal, 300 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA, 18503-1279, by going online at [www.annualappeal.org](http://www.annualappeal.org) or by calling the Diocesan Development Office at 570-207-2250.

## Precautions During Flu Season

Due to the widespread influenza (flu) activity currently taking place across the state of Pennsylvania and our nation, the clergy and faithful of the Diocese of Scranton are urged to observe the necessary standard precautions in protecting the health of others during this flu season. Because influenza is a contagious respiratory illness, some basic measures that can help to prevent the spread of influenza include:

- Practicing good hygiene, especially by washing your hands frequently with soap and water, and if possible, to use a hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your mouth, eyes and nose.
- Covering your mouth when you sneeze or cough.
- Getting a flu vaccine each year.

### Parishioners should be reminded that:

- If they are sick, especially with flu-like symptoms, they should stay home for their own well-being and that of others.
- If parishioners are sick or suspect they are sick with a contagious illness, they are not bound by the Sunday Mass obligation.
- The faithful should also be reminded that they should not receive from the chalice if they are feeling ill.

### At the pastor’s/parish life coordinator’s discretion, the following directives may be set forth temporarily until the influenza activity in our region subsides:

- Parishioners are urged, but not required, to receive Holy Communion on the hand instead of the mouth.
- Offering the Precious Blood to the faithful at Mass may be suspended, except for those who receive Holy Communion from the chalice out of medical necessity. Church teaching states that Christ, whole and entire, is received even under one form of Holy Communion.
- Exchanging the Sign of Peace without physical contact (i.e. shaking hands)—parishioners may still exchange nods, offer a verbal greeting, a smile, or a simple bow of the head.

### Pastors/parish life coordinators should take care that the following liturgical directives are followed in their parishes:

- All ministers of Holy Communion (clergy and lay) must wash their hands with soap and water prior to Mass, and if possible, use a hand sanitizer.
- All ministers of Holy Communion should be cautious not to touch the tongue or the hand of the communicant.
- Holy water fonts should be drained, cleaned, disinfected and refilled with holy water on a regular basis. Sponges in holy water fonts must be removed entirely.

For more information on influenza and the Liturgy, please visit the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org). You may also want to visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website at [www.CDC.gov/flu](http://www.CDC.gov/flu) for up-to-date information regarding the influenza activity in your area.

Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney, Vicar General of the Diocese



## FNCB Donates \$80,000 to Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Foundation

FNCB Bank, locally-based for over 100 years, has announced an \$80,000 Pennsylvania Education Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) donation to the Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Foundation. Since 2010, FNCB has contributed more than \$1,400,000 to local educational and scholarship organizations through the EITC initiative.

The Diocese of Scranton donation will help provide tuition assistance to students enrolled in pre-school, elementary and high school programs in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Each year, more than 1,000 families receive tuition awards from the Diocese foundation, many of which are funded through FNCB’s contributions.

“The EITC program has allowed us to help many non-profit organizations over the years,” said Gerard Champi, FNCB Bank President and CEO. “We are happy to help the Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Foundation assist many deserving students and their families.” The support of the Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Foundation is part of FNCB’s larger Community Caring initiative. As a true, local community bank, FNCB Bank is making a difference through volunteerism, donations and outreach programs.

**Pictured above at the presentation of the donation are from left: Brian Mahlstedt, FNCB Bank Executive Vice President, Chief Lending Officer; Monsignor David L. Tressler, Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Education/Superintendent of Schools; Jim Bebla, Diocesan Secretary for Development; Jerry Champi, FNCB Bank President and CEO; and James Bone, FNCB Bank Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer.**

PARISH	GOAL	PLEDGES	PERCENTAGE
All Saints - Plymouth	\$40,000.00	\$29,546.00	74%
Annunciation - Hazleton	\$35,000.00	\$29,423.00	84%
Ascension - Forest City	\$27,000.00	\$27,962.50	104%
Blessed Sacrament - Throop	\$17,000.00	\$20,262.00	119%
BVM Queen of Peace - Hawley	\$81,000.00	\$93,860.00	116%
Christ the King - Archbald	\$71,000.00	\$84,009.00	118%
Corpus Christi - West Pittston	\$32,000.00	\$36,946.00	115%
Divine Mercy - Scranton	\$67,000.00	\$70,070.00	105%
Epiphany - Sayre	\$90,000.00	\$95,785.10	106%
Exaltation of the Holy Cross - Hanover Twp.	\$16,500.00	\$20,375.00	123%
Gate of Heaven - Dallas	\$50,000.00	\$44,034.00	88%
Good Shepherd - Drums	\$26,000.00	\$28,577.99	110%
Holy Child - Mansfield	\$30,000.00	\$28,480.50	95%
Holy Cross - Olyphant	\$50,000.00	\$48,022.00	96%
Holy Family - Luzerne	\$42,500.00	\$46,625.00	110%
Holy Family - Sugar Notch	\$20,000.00	\$21,186.00	106%
Holy Name of Jesus - West Hazleton	\$23,000.00	\$19,900.00	87%
Holy Name of Mary - Montrose	\$21,000.00	\$17,505.00	83%
Holy Rosary - Hazleton	\$18,000.00	\$23,428.00	130%
Holy Spirit - Mocanaqua	\$30,000.00	\$29,390.44	98%
Immaculate Conception - Williamsport	\$28,000.00	\$24,285.00	87%
Immaculate Conception - Scranton	\$42,000.00	\$58,712.00	140%
Immaculate Heart of Mary - Dushore	\$41,000.00	\$30,279.38	74%
Mary, Mother of God - Scranton	\$60,000.00	\$58,081.00	97%
Most Holy Trinity - Cresco	\$65,000.00	\$55,810.00	86%
Most Precious Blood - Hazleton	\$38,000.00	\$51,385.38	135%
Nativity of Our Lord - Duryea	\$42,000.00	\$36,185.00	86%
Nativity of the BVM - Tunkhannock	\$34,000.00	\$31,350.00	92%
Our Lady Help of Christians - Dorrance	\$19,000.00	\$19,265.00	101%
Our Lady of Fatima - Wilkes-Barre	\$47,000.00	\$33,270.50	71%
Our Lady of Hope - Wilkes-Barre	\$40,000.00	\$43,671.67	109%
Our Lady of Lourdes - Montoursville	\$44,000.00	\$44,465.00	101%
Our Lady of Mount Carmel - Carbondale	\$25,000.00	\$24,980.00	100%
Our Lady of Mount Carmel - Dunmore	\$60,000.00	\$61,055.00	102%
Our Lady of Mount Carmel - Lake Silkworth	\$20,000.00	\$25,546.00	128%
Our Lady of Perpetual Help - Wyalusing	\$20,000.00	\$21,080.00	105%
Our Lady of the Abingtons - Dalton	\$17,500.00	\$13,165.00	75%
Our Lady of the Eucharist - Pittston	\$17,000.00	\$15,542.00	91%
Our Lady Immaculate Conception - Freeland	\$28,000.00	\$24,061.00	86%
Our Lady of the Snows - Clarks Summit	\$92,000.00	\$94,768.00	103%
Our Lady of Victory - Harveys Lake	\$39,000.00	\$44,888.00	115%
Our Lady of Victory - Tannersville	\$55,000.00	\$59,440.09	108%
Our Lady Queen of Peace - Brodheadsville	\$62,000.00	\$74,980.00	121%
Prince of Peace - Old Forge	\$36,000.00	\$23,190.00	64%
Queen of Angels - Jessup	\$28,000.00	\$22,863.00	82%
Queen of Heaven - Hazleton	\$31,000.00	\$33,660.00	109%
Queen of the Apostles - Avoca	\$25,000.00	\$28,220.00	113%
Resurrection - Muncy	\$35,000.00	\$32,790.00	94%
Sacred Heart of Jesus - Weston	\$12,000.00	\$9,556.00	80%
Sacred Heart of Jesus - Dupont	\$32,000.00	\$21,460.00	67%
Sacred Heart of Jesus - Peckville	\$44,000.00	\$49,952.45	114%
Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary - Jermyn	\$23,000.00	\$25,105.00	109%
SS Anthony & Rocco - Dunmore	\$50,000.00	\$41,751.91	84%
SS Cyril & Methodius - Hazleton	\$46,000.00	\$50,573.00	110%
SS Peter & Paul - Plains	\$70,000.00	\$49,136.25	70%
SS Peter & Paul - Scranton	\$14,000.00	\$8,485.00	61%
SS Peter & Paul - Towanda	\$33,000.00	\$43,101.00	131%
St. Andre' Bessette - Wilkes-Barre	\$32,000.00	\$25,115.00	78%

PARISH	GOAL	PLEDGES	PERCENTAGE
St. Andrew - Wilkes-Barre	\$18,000.00	\$14,968.00	83%
St. Ann Basilica - Scranton	\$32,000.00	\$30,128.00	94%
St. Ann - Shohola	\$22,000.00	\$32,783.00	149%
St. Ann - Williamsport	\$63,000.00	\$64,706.00	103%
St. Barbara - Exeter	\$33,000.00	\$36,120.16	109%
St. Benedict - Wilkes-Barre	\$22,000.00	\$14,555.00	66%
St. Boniface - Williamsport	\$68,000.00	\$60,748.00	89%
St. Brigid - Friendsville	\$24,000.00	\$28,705.00	120%
St. Catherine of Siena - Moscow	\$67,000.00	\$78,910.00	118%
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton - Swoyersville	\$47,000.00	\$53,936.00	115%
St. Elizabeth - Bear Creek	\$25,500.00	\$29,898.67	117%
St. Eulalia - Elmhurst	\$42,000.00	\$31,974.99	76%
St. Faustina Kowalska - Nanticoke	\$50,000.00	\$57,598.71	115%
St. Frances X. Cabrini - Carverton	\$14,500.00	\$15,080.00	104%
St. Gregory - Clarks Green	\$79,000.00	\$86,891.15	110%
St. Ignatius Loyola - Kingston	\$90,000.00	\$71,896.52	80%
St. John Bosco - Conyngham	\$59,000.00	\$67,492.00	114%
St. John Neumann - Lords Valley	\$30,000.00	\$36,016.00	120%
St. John Neumann - Scranton	\$55,000.00	\$51,103.00	93%
St. John - E. Stroudsburg	\$61,000.00	\$63,314.00	104%
St. John the Baptist - Larksville	\$23,000.00	\$19,030.00	83%
St. John the Evangelist - Susquehanna	\$13,000.00	\$13,190.00	101%
St. John the Evangelist - Honesdale	\$68,000.00	\$67,429.00	99%
St. John the Evangelist - Pittston	\$60,000.00	\$61,959.00	103%
St. John Vianney - Montdale	\$32,000.00	\$34,475.00	108%
St. Joseph Marello - Pittston	\$29,000.00	\$31,041.00	107%
St. Joseph - Matamoras	\$40,000.00	\$33,910.08	85%
St. Joseph the Worker - Williamsport	\$80,000.00	\$75,118.75	94%
St. Jude - Mountain Top	\$84,000.00	\$94,560.20	113%
St. Katharine Drexel - Pleasant Mount	\$14,000.00	\$18,207.50	130%
St. Lawrence - Great Bend	\$12,000.00	\$9,905.00	83%
St. Lawrence - S. Williamsport	\$28,000.00	\$24,775.00	88%
St. Leo - Ashley	\$35,000.00	\$22,468.00	64%
St. Lucy - Scranton	\$20,000.00	\$12,762.00	64%
St. Luke - Jersey Shore	\$17,000.00	\$13,112.00	77%
St. Luke - Stroudsburg	\$120,000.00	\$142,502.00	119%
St. Maria Goretti - Laffin	\$45,000.00	\$31,963.50	71%
St. Martin of Tours - Jackson	\$10,000.00	\$10,495.09	105%
St. Mary of the Lake - Lake Winola	\$13,000.00	\$9,770.00	75%
St. Mary - Waymart	\$20,000.00	\$31,111.00	156%
St. Matthew - E. Stroudsburg	\$70,000.00	\$60,576.00	87%
St. Maximilian Kolbe - Pocono Pines	\$26,000.00	\$36,030.00	139%
St. Michael - Canton	\$13,000.00	\$19,367.00	149%
St. Michael - Scranton	\$10,000.00	\$10,620.00	106%
St. Monica - West Wyoming	\$33,000.00	\$35,457.00	107%
St. Nicholas - Wilkes-Barre	\$55,000.00	\$57,513.00	105%
St. Patrick - Milford	\$35,000.00	\$27,868.00	80%
St. Patrick - Nicholson	\$10,000.00	\$8,550.00	86%
St. Patrick - Scranton	\$45,000.00	\$39,035.00	87%
St. Patrick - White Haven	\$17,000.00	\$13,615.00	80%
St. Paul of the Cross - Scranton	\$55,000.00	\$42,718.26	78%
St. Paul - Scranton	\$70,000.00	\$62,996.00	90%
St. Peter - Wellsboro	\$46,500.00	\$49,241.50	106%
St. Peter's Cathedral - Scranton	\$75,000.00	\$89,575.00	119%
St. Rita - Gouldsboro	\$15,000.00	\$15,241.00	102%
St. Robert Bellarmine - Wilkes-Barre	\$36,000.00	\$37,057.00	103%
St. Rose - Carbondale	\$66,000.00	\$64,312.00	97%
St. Therese - Shavertown	\$75,000.00	\$89,639.40	120%
St. Thomas More - Lake Ariel	\$52,000.00	\$58,589.00	113%
St. Thomas the Apostle - Elkland	\$14,000.00	\$11,295.00	81%
St. Vincent de Paul - Milford	\$45,000.00	\$33,975.00	76%
Visitation, Blessed Virgin Mary - Dickson City	\$59,000.00	\$54,533.00	92%

# U.S. bishops declare national call-in day to urge Congress to save DACA

WASHINGTON (CNS) — After the Senate failed Feb. 15 to garner the 60 votes needed to move a bill forward to protect the “Dreamers,” officials of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops announced a “National Catholic Call-In Day to Protect Dreamers” Feb. 26.

“We are deeply disappointed that the Senate was not able to come together in a bipartisan manner to secure legislative protection for the Dreamers,” the USCCB officials said in a joint statement Feb. 19.

“With the March 5th deadline looming, we ask once again that members of Congress show the leadership necessary to find a just and humane solution for these young people, who daily face mounting anxiety and uncertainty,” they said.

The joint statement was issued by Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, USCCB president; Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, USCCB vice president; and Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Migration.

“We are also announcing a National Catholic Call-In Day to Protect Dreamers,” the three prelates said. They asked U.S. Catholics “to call their members of Congress next Monday, Feb. 26, to protect Dreamers from deportation, to provide them a path to citizenship, and to avoid any damage to existing protections for families and unaccompanied minors in the process.”

They added: “Our faith compels us to stand with the vulnerable, including our immigrant brothers and sisters. We have done so continually, but we must show our support and solidarity now in a special way. Now is the time for action.”

By day’s end Feb. 15, members of the U.S. Senate had rejected four immigration proposals, leaving it unclear how lawmakers will address overall immigration reform and keep the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program in place.

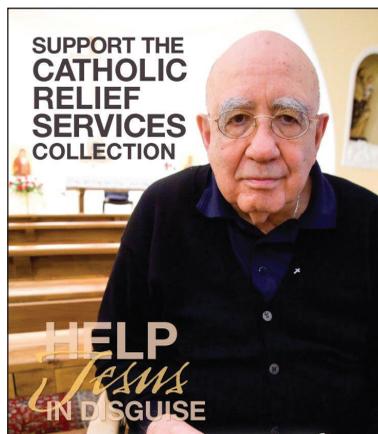
Needing 60 votes for Senate passage, a bipartisan measure that included a path to citizenship for an estimated 1.8 million Dreamers — those eligible for DACA — and \$25 billion for a border wall failed by six votes. The final vote was 54-45. A bill the Trump administration was supporting was defeated 39 to 60. Two other bills also failed.

The U.S. House was pressing on with its own bill, which by mid-day Feb. 16 was not yet up for a floor vote. Described as “hard line” by opponents, it includes keeping DACA in place, funding a border wall, ending the Diversity Immigrant Visa program, limiting family-based visas, requiring employers to verify job applicants’ immigration status and withholding federal grants from so-called “sanctuary” cities.

The U.S. House and Senate will be in recess for a week following the Presidents Day holiday.

The bishops and countless other immigration advocates have urged members of Congress to preserve DACA and protect the program’s beneficiaries by passing the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act, or DREAM Act, which has long been proposed. The bill is what gives DACA recipients the “Dreamer” name.

## Catholic Relief Services Collection



The Catholic Relief Services Collection, which will be taken up in the Diocese of Scranton March 10-11, supports Catholic Church organizations that carry out international relief and solidarity efforts.

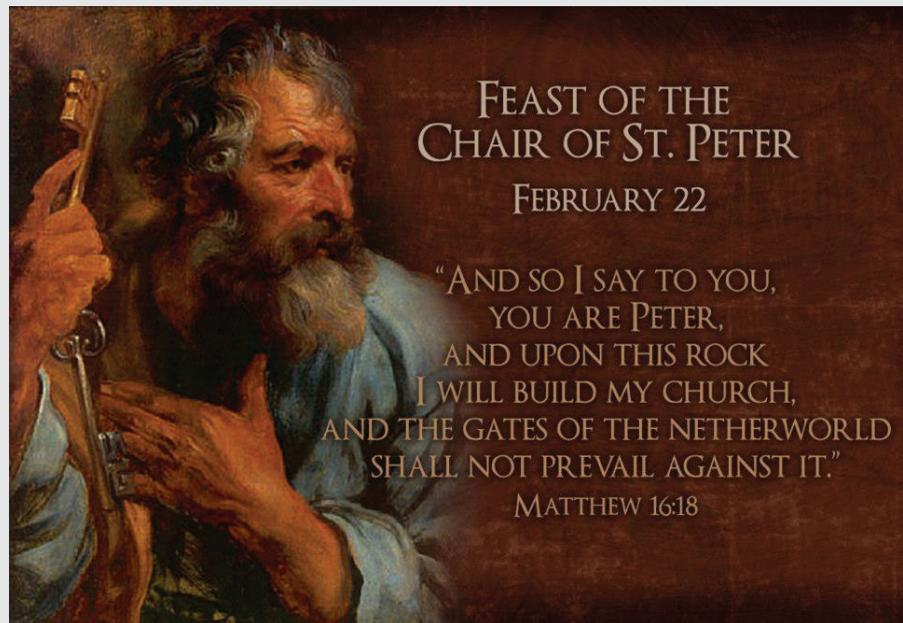
Programs include relief and resettlement for victims of persecution, war, and natural disasters; development projects to improve living conditions for the poor; legal and support services for poor immigrants;

peace and reconciliation work for people suffering from violence; and advocacy on behalf of the powerless.

In keeping with the theme “Help Jesus in Disguise,” the funds collected through the CRS Collection support vital Catholic programs that share in the Catholic mission of promoting the sacredness of human life and the dignity of the human person.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) Administrative Committee is responsible for grant-making from this national collection.

Entities within the USCCB that receive support include: the **Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church**, and the **Department of Justice Peace and Human Development** and the Department of **Migration and Refugee Services**. Other Catholic Church organizations that receive funds are: **Catholic Relief Services**, **Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.**, and the Holy Father’s Relief Fund for emergencies.



## Prayer Requests for Priests

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

February 22, Father Michael Kloton; February 23, Holy Cross Father Charles Kociolek; February 24, Father Bert Kozen; February 25, Father Stephen Krawontka; February 26, Holy Cross Father Brent Kruger; February 27, Father John Kulavich; February 28, Monsignor Alexander Kulik; March 1, Pope Francis; March 2, Pope Emeritus

Benedict XVI; March 3, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; March 4, Father Andrew Kurovsky; March 5, Father Joseph Kutch; March 6, Father John Lambert; March 7, Passionist Father Francis Landry; March 8, Father Vincent Langan; March 9, Father William Langan; March 10, Father John Lapera; March 11, St. Joseph Oblate Father Victor Leon; March 12, Father Albert Leonard; March 13, Jesuit Father John Levko; March 14, Father Michael Litcheck.



# The Catholic Light

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Diocese of Scranton  
**DIOCESAN**  
ANNUAL APPEAL

Volume 118 Number 3 — Thursday, February 22, 2018



### New Vocation Website

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

[vocations.dioceseofscranton.org](http://vocations.dioceseofscranton.org)



### 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.



# Celebrating One Year Since Launch

The Diocesan Offices for Parish Life and Vocations launched the Diocesan-wide XLT (Exalt!) in March of 2017. The attendance has been increasing as more and more individuals from throughout the Diocese of Scranton experience this event.

“After feedback at #LeaveaMark16, national conferences, World Youth Day, and a few brainstorming sessions in early 2017, it was clear that there was much energy and enthusiasm around this particular event,” said Dominick Costantino, program coordinator for the Diocesan Vocation Office. “Looking back a year later, it is great to see how the Spirit has been leading us in this new endeavor.”

An XLT evening consists of Eucharistic Adoration, a dynamic speaker, praise & worship music, a Gospel

reading and homily from a priest or deacon, the opportunity for the sacrament of Reconciliation, and a social.

When XLT first launched, it was held in one location, Divine Mercy Parish in Scranton, for a few months to get it established. In the fall, the event started moving throughout the four episcopal regions of the Diocese.

All ages are welcome to attend the event, but the majority this past year has been college students and young adults in their 20s and 30s. Many attend regardless of the location. Matthew Cunningham, a member of the planning committee and a graduate of Marywood University, attends monthly.

“XLT helps me to talk and pray with God at the end of a very busy week,” he said. “The musicians, speakers and priests are all great and help me

to grow in my relationship with Jesus. Being able to socialize and create community with young adults my age is also a great blessing.”

The next XLT will be held on Friday, March 23, at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Tunkhannock at 7 p.m. Praise and worship music will be led by *Countless Wonders* and Jack Rubano, director of religious formation for Holy Redeemer High School, will be the speaker.

“We are looking forward to our one-year celebration in Tunkhannock,” said Mr. Costantino. “We will continue traveling throughout the Diocese this season as well as in the fall. Individuals of all ages are welcome to join us!”

For more information about XLT, visit [vocations.dioceseofscranton.org](http://vocations.dioceseofscranton.org) or call 570-780-2996.



Countless Wonders led everyone in worship at the May 2017 XLT at Saint John Neumann Parish, Scranton.



Young adults who served on the XLT committee at the April 2017 XLT at Divine Mercy Parish, Scranton.



July 2017 XLT at Divine Mercy Parish, Scranton.



Father Robert Simon, pastor at Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, Moscow, was the presider and homilist at the November 2017 XLT at Saint Joseph Mareello Parish, Pittston.



Father Don Williams, Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians, thanks everyone for attending at the social following XLT.



Shannon Kowalski, Coordinator for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, was the first speaker at the March 2017 XLT at Divine Mercy Parish, Scranton.



*“Through this holy anointing may the Lord in His love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit.”*

The Diocese of Scranton observed the 26th World Day of Prayer for the Sick on Saturday, February 10, 2018. Bishop Bambera celebrated a Mass for the Sick at 12:10 p.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton. During the Mass there was a celebration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

“What a special gathering this is in our Cathedral today – a moment of prayer that has the power to touch our lives profoundly. And why? Because Jesus is present,” the Bishop said.

He noted that we all hope and pray for an end to pain – for healing – and for the lifting of the crosses that we carry. None of us wants to see those we love and care for burdened in any way. None of us wants to suffer; neither did Jesus.

“It is essential that we understand that when Jesus embraced his cross, he didn’t remove illness and suffering from

the human experience. Rather, by taking them upon himself, he transformed them and gave them new meaning,” Bishop Bambera said. “Through Jesus’ resurrection, the agony of the cross gave way to God’s triumph over sin and death. As such, for us as Christians, our suffering and pain no longer have the final word. Instead, through faith in Jesus and the power of his resurrection, his selfless, redeeming love envelops us and gives us hope.

“My sisters and brothers, Jesus is true to his word. Through his example of selfless love, we find the pattern for our journey in this world. Through his cross and resurrection, we discover the path to life, even and especially in our suffering. And through the wonderful Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, every one of us who approaches it with faith and hope will be healed.”

## Diocese Celebrating Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities Awareness Sunday

The Diocese of Scranton is celebrating Developmental & Intellectual Disabilities Awareness Sunday with a Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on Sunday, February 25, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will be the principal celebrant and homilist. The Mass will be sign-language interpreted for the hearing impaired.

This liturgy prayerfully celebrates the many gifts those with developmental or intellectual disabilities bring to the Church and the community. They are indeed full members of the Body of Christ! Partners in this celebration include Saint Joseph’s Center in Scranton, the Diocesan SPRED community (Special Religious Education) and the Catholic Deaf Community of the Diocese of Scranton.

All are welcome. CTV: Catholic Television will also broadcast the Mass.



## BISHOP BAMBERA’S SCHEDULE

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

**February 24** – Lenten Day of Recollection for Deacons and Wives, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton

**February 24** – Come and See Vocation Retreat, Villa of Our Lady Retreat House, Mount Pocono

**February 25** – Developmental & Intellectual Disabilities Awareness Sunday Mass, St. Peter’s Cathedral, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.

**March 3** – Diocesan-wide Day of Community Service

**March 4** – 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass, Commemoration of the Founding of the Diocese of Scranton, St. Peter’s Cathedral, Scranton, 3:00 p.m.

**March 8-14** – Committee Meetings, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

## Couples Invited to Participate in Wedding Anniversary Celebration

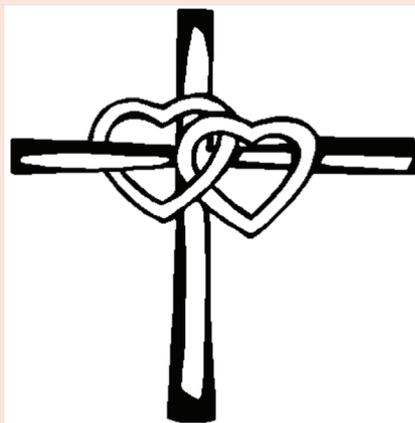
**On June 10, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will celebrate the Wedding Anniversary Mass at 2:30 p.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, for couples celebrating their 25th or 50th year of marriage in 2018.**

**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.**

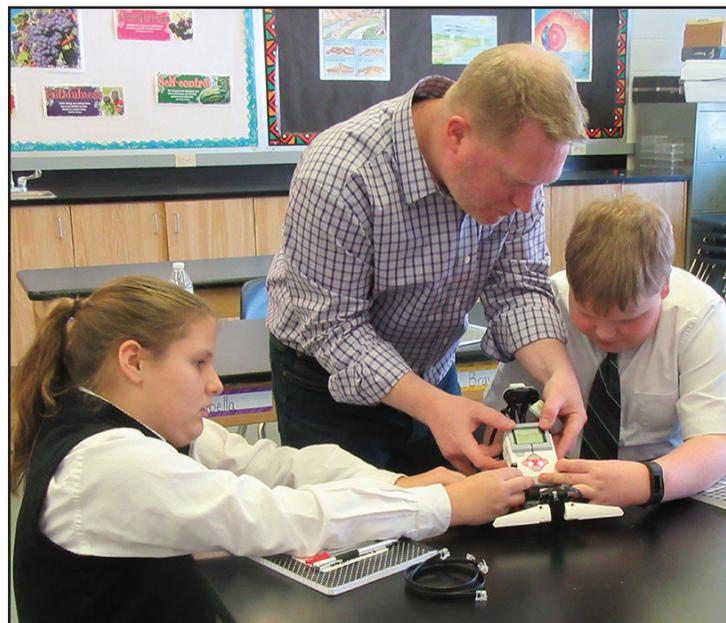


Diocese of Scranton  
**CATHOLIC**  
 SCHOOL SYSTEM  
 FAITH • ACADEMICS • SERVICE

*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.*



Members of the National Junior Honor Society at **All Saints Academy in Scranton** display some of the toiletry items they are collecting for the Little Sisters of the Poor.



Sixth-grade students at **Epiphany School in Sayre** learn the basics of computer science and robotics from Matt Cooper, Amazon Web Services, Cloud Architect. Using the LEGO Mindstorm EV3 platform, students create and program their own robots, creatures, vehicles and machines. The program combines LEGO building blocks, a programmable brick, motors, walk, grab, think and do almost anything they can imagine.



Students at **Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre** cheer on the players during the school's Catholic Schools Week Faculty vs. Seniors Basketball Game.



Dominick Ferentino, a student at **Holy Rosary School in Duryea**, demonstrates his karate skills by breaking a board held by Principal Mrs. Melissa Skutack during the school's Catholic Schools Week celebration.



**Notre Dame High School in East Stroudsburg** celebrates 50 Years! Pennsylvania State Representative Rosemary Brown and Pennsylvania State Senator Mario Scavullo present Notre Dame High School Principal Jeffrey Lyons with citations honoring the school's 50th anniversary at the school's Ash Wednesday Mass. Also pictured is Sister Mary Alice Kane, IHM, Principal of Notre Dame Elementary School.



Three students at **Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston** are preparing for the History Day Competition on Saturday, March 17, 2018, at Misericordia University. The History Day State Competition will be held on May 11-12 at Carlisle High School. Pictured from left: Jordyn Dutko, John Evans and Abby Jones.



As part of their Catholic Schools Week celebrations, students and faculty at **Holy Family Academy in Hazleton** collected pet food and cleaning supplies to be donated to local animal shelters.



In celebration of Catholic Schools Week, renowned author and storyteller Karen Elise Womack visited **Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg** and shared a story from her book series titled "The Adventures of Missy and Prissy." Pictured with Ms. Womack are students Andrew Ahnert, Harper Love, Jaclyn Agens and Michael Sheehy.



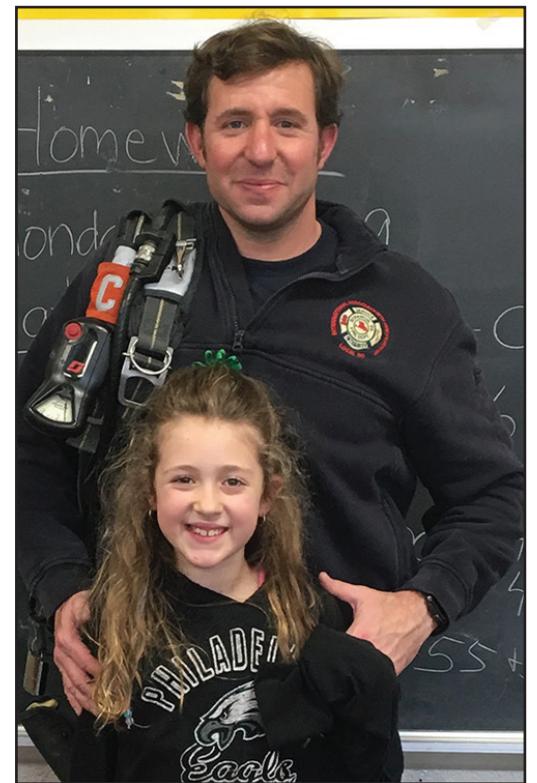
Students at **Monsignor McHugh School in Cresco** dress as their favorite character as part of the school's Catholic Schools Week celebrations.



The Children's Choir from **Saint Agnes School in Towanda** gets ready to perform at a Mass at Saints Peter & Paul Church in Towanda. The choir last sang at the church to celebrate the start of Catholic Schools Week.



As part of Catholic Schools Week, students at **Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter** celebrated 100 days of school with S.T.E.M. activities including creating a standing structure using exactly 100 block pieces, mixing “soup” with different dry materials to understand mixtures, and studying probability/ratio by flipping coins. At lunch, students snacked on cupcakes and a cake decorated with 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School!



As part of Catholic Schools Week, students at **Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton** invited their parents to speak to their classmates as a celebration of Career Day. On the same day, students also cheered on their favorite sports teams by wearing their jerseys.



During Catholic Schools Week, students at **Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport** welcomed Miguel Rodriguez (center of photo) from “Think Kindness” to present an assembly to the students on the power of kindness.



Students at **Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore** collected coins and bills in baby bottles as a fundraiser in support of Pennsylvanians for Human Life.



Seniors at **Saint John Neumann High School in Williamsport** celebrate their win at the annual Neumann Olympics during Catholic Schools Week.



Images shown above: Polish National Catholic Church leaders present Cardinal John O'Connor with an icon on the day he was made a cardinal by Pope John Paul II, May 25, 1985. | Clergy from Polish National Catholic and Roman Catholic Churches pray Stations of the Cross at Cathedral of Saint Peter, 1993. | Representatives of various Christian faith traditions at an Ecumenical Celebration of God's Word at the Cathedral of Saint Peter held annually during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 2014. | Abington Ecumenical Ministerium presents a Holy Hootenanny concert at Saint Benedict Church in Clarks Summit, featuring combined choirs and voices of 15 area churches, 2018.

# Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations

## PROMOTING SOCIAL JUSTICE, MORAL VALUES AND PEACE FOR ALL

Cardinal Walter Kasper, writing in "Martin Luther, An Ecumenical Perspective," has stated: "Christian ecumenism is concerned with the unity of the church in service to the unity and peace of the world."

Ecumenism and concern for inter-religious dialogue and cooperation is promoted by the Vatican II documents *Nostra Aetate*, the Declaration on the Relation of the Church with Non-Christian Religions; *Lumen Gentium*, the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church; *Dignitatis Humanae*, the Declaration on Religious Liberty; and *Ad Gentes*, the Decree on the Mission Activity of the Church.

Shortly after he became Bishop of Scranton on March 4, 1966, Bishop J. Carroll McCormick started working on the establishment of a Commission that would implement the vital work of the Second Vatican Council regarding ecumenism. On June 30, 1966, he named Monsignor Eugene J. Clark to the position of Diocesan Director of Ecumenism and Human Affairs and the new Commission was formed on September 15, 1966.

From the very inception of this Commission, historic barriers began to dissolve and a climate of understanding and cooperation developed. On several occasions, such as the *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*, communal prayer services were organized,

*"Christian ecumenism is concerned with the unity of the church in service to the unity and peace of the world."*

Cardinal Walter Kasper

congregations worshiped together and preaching duties were exchanged.

In those early days, the Commission took an active role in social service ministry. Priests, ministers and rabbis learned that their religious differences did not preclude jointly sponsored programs aimed at improving human conditions.

Because of a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit following the Second Vatican Council and a similar renewal within the Polish National Catholic Church, faithful in both churches started rediscovering one another increasingly as brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Calls for a dialogue between the Roman Catholic Church and Polish National Catholic Church go

back as far as 1966, when the Most Reverend Leon Grochowski, Prime Bishop of the PNCC, proposed such a dialogue to Bishop McCormick. Later, in 1980, Pope John Paul II expressed his desire that the National Conference of Catholic Bishops formally advance the relationship that exists with the PNCC and explore the possibility of further dialogue. This resulted in an exchange of correspondence between the leaders of both churches that would culminate in the first meeting for an official dialogue in Passaic, New Jersey, on October 23, 1984.

Monsignor Clark served as Director of Ecumenism until 1970 when Bishop McCormick appointed Monsignor Constantine V. Siconolfi as the new director. Following Monsignor Siconolfi, Father Leo J. McKernan served as Director of Ecumenism from 1987 to 1993. He was followed by then-Father Joseph C. Bambera who assumed the role as Director in 1993 and continued in that role for three years.

Following his appointment as Bishop of Scranton in 1983, Bishop John J. O'Connor played a major role in promoting the continuation of talks between the Roman Catholic and the Polish National Catholic Church. His involvement encouraged a re-awakening of the dialogue between the two churches.

Following Bishop James C. Timlin's installation



Dinner meeting with Orthodox, Eastern Rite and Latin Rite clergy on January 22, 2018.

as the eighth Bishop of Scranton on June 7, 1984, a number of significant gestures of reconciliation took place between the Roman Catholic and Polish National Catholic Churches, including the Service of Healing held in Saint Stanislaus Polish National Catholic Cathedral in Scranton, on February 15, 1992. Leaders of both churches asked publicly for forgiveness, and pledged to overcome their historic divisions.

In 1997 Bishop Timlin, then the Roman Catholic Co-Chairman of the dialogue, reiterated this request for forgiveness in a letter he issued on the centenary of the organization of the Polish National Catholic Church.

In response to Pope John Paul II's call to prepare for the Great Jubilee Year 2000, and in particular, to focus on deepening ecumenical relationships on

the local level, a new ecumenical endeavor was launched – the *Christian Communities Gathering of Northeastern Pennsylvania*. Under the guidance of Monsignor Vincent J. Grimalia, current Diocesan Coordinator for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, members of the *Christian Communities Gathering* meet several times a year for dialogue, fellowship and prayer that includes the annual Ecumenical Celebration of God's Word held at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

The Diocese has also participated in and hosted interfaith prayer services at various times, and there are a variety of interfaith activities in which Catholics participate. Some ministerial groups in our area are not only ecumenical but also inter-religious. One example is the *Wyoming Valley Inter-Faith Council*.

### FAITH FACTS:

- In his encyclical, *Ut Unum Sint*, issued May 25, 1995, Saint John Paul II stated "...promoting Christian unity, is not just some sort of 'appendix' which is added to the Church's traditional activity. Rather, ecumenism is an organic part of her life and work, and consequently must pervade all that she is and does; it must be like the fruit borne by a healthy and flourishing tree which grows to its full stature."

- In addition to its work regarding relations between Christian and other faiths, in 1967, the inaugural Diocesan Commission on Ecumenism and Human Affairs addressed a range of issues including racial discrimination and ministry to migrant workers.

- In 2008, a monument bearing God's Ten Commandments was installed on the grounds of Holy Cross High School in Dunmore. The monument, part of the national Project Moses initiative, was acquired through the generosity of Alan Goldstein, a member of Temple Israel in Scranton, and in cooperation with the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania.



- In 2017, Bishop Bambera was named national chair of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committee on Ecumenical and Inter-religious Affairs. It promotes dialogue between religions as well as dialogue between Christians and it is the U.S. Bishops' liaison with the Holy See for ecumenical matters. He also co-chairs the annual meeting of the Roman Catholic – Polish National Catholic Church dialogue, which was first established in 1984.

1967

Bishop McCormick was the first Scranton prelate to address a congregation at a synagogue, pictured here at Madison Avenue Temple in Scranton.



1993

Bishop James C. Timlin greets Bishop Anthony M. Rysz, head of the Central Diocese of the Polish National Catholic Church.



2017

Faith representatives at the annual Ascension Day of Prayer and Praise, organized by the Christian Communities Gathering of Northeastern Pennsylvania.



2018

Dinner meeting with members of the local Polish National Catholic Church



# Catholics Come Home Founder to Speak at Men's Conference May 5

One of the featured guests at this year's Catholic Men's Conference is Tom Peterson, a former entrepreneur who founded Catholics Come Home and VirtueMedia.

The conference is scheduled for May 5 at King's College in Wilkes-Barre. All Catholic men who want to grow in their faith are invited to participate.

Catholics Come Home and VirtueMedia are non-profit apostolates dedicated to promoting Catholic evangelization and the sanctity of human life.

In the first six years, Catholics Come Home has aired Catholic evangelization commercials in 38 dioceses and na-



**Tom Peterson**

tionally, helping lead a half million souls home to the Catholic Church.

In 2011 Catholics Come Home evangelization commercials were the first to air nationally on top TV networks like CBS and NBC, reaching 125 million viewers in every city across the

United States.

In January 2014, Catholics Come Home aired an evangelization commercial in all the major college football bowl games, featuring legendary coach Lou Holtz, promoting the goal of heaven, and inviting viewers to come home to the Catholic faith.

Recently, Mr. Peterson began to host a new television series, premiering worldwide in prime time on EWTN on Thursday and Sunday nights. The show is called "Catholics Come Home" and inspires Catholics to share their faith.

VirtueMedia's sanctity-of-life commercials help as many as 22,000 abortion-vul-

nerable women in a given month and were the first pro-life ads to air nationally on MTV, VH1 and BET.

Mr. Peterson speaks at National Catholic Conferences and pro-life events throughout the United States and internationally. He has presented at the Vatican and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Upon the election of Pope Francis, he was selected to offer live commentary on Fox News worldwide.

A husband, father and grandfather who lives in a suburb of Atlanta, Georgia, he encourages others to seek God's plan for

their lives, and to help change our world for the better. His book entitled *Catholics, Come Home* was published in 2013 by Image/Randome House.

The Catholic Men's Conference will bring together hundreds of Catholic men for good fellowship and a re-commitment to promoting and living out

their Christian heritage in their homes, workplaces and society.

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.

You can register on line at: [www.beamanconference.com](http://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](mailto:mkilmer@thekilmergroup.com).

## Respect Life Prayer Breakfast: *All of God's children are 'wanted'*

Ryan Bomberger doesn't like the word "unwanted."

"This is the whole lie of the abortion industry – that somehow if you're unplanned, you're going to be unwanted and unloved. There's no such thing as unwanted. Some of us in this room may have been unwanted by a biological parent, but we're all wanted by someone," Mr. Bomberger told a crowd of 450 at Fiorelli's in Peckville during the annual Respect Life Prayer Breakfast held by the Scranton Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life.

Mr. Bomberger can understand how everyone is wanted and has purpose. Conceived in rape, he was adopted by a loving family in Lancaster County. The original Bombergers had three children. His mother had grown up in a children's home



**Principals at the Respect Life Prayer Breakfast included, seated from left: Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; Helen Gohsler, president of the Scranton Chapter, Pennsylvanians for Human Life; Richard Gohsler; and Dr. Lisa Robertson, Light of Christ Church, Mount Cobb. Standing: Anne Domin, Pastor Enid Seung, Transformation Church of Jesus Christ, Scranton; Ryan Bomberger, principal speaker; Dr. Frank Schell, master of ceremonies, and Patrick Williams, chairman, Scranton Chapter of PHL.**

and noticed how a child with disabilities was left alone and prayed she could be a mother to those who have no mother. She and her like-minded husband ended up adopting 10 children of various ethnicities and abilities.

He said he hopes someday he can meet and thank his birth mother for her courageous decision to give up her child for adoption and not have an abortion.

Mr. Bomberger and his wife founded

Radiance Foundation about two years ago to expose the lies of the abortion industry, including Planned Parenthood, and tell people the truth about how precious every life is.

*Continued on page 17*

**Christ is Here!  
Come and See!**  
4th Annual Diocese of Scranton  
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Catholic Men's  
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*Jesus Himself is here, alive, and eagerly waiting for each of us. You live because of Him, and will live more abundantly when you draw closer to the Way, the Truth, and the Life. You will experience how Jesus dwells in you and you in Him. He loves us — what a beautiful consoling thought.*

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**Bishop Joseph Bambera**



**Fr. Michael Gaitley**

Author of best-selling books, including "Consoling the Heart of Jesus" and "33 Days to Morning Glory." He launched "Hearts Afire: Parish-based Programs for the New Evangelization." He frequently appears on EWTN, speaks at conferences and retreats throughout the country.



**Tom Peterson**

Founder of Catholics Come Home Inc. and VirtueMedia Inc., apostolates dedicated to promoting Catholic evangelization and the sanctity of human life. He encourages others to seek God's plan for their lives, and to help change our world for the better. Author of the book "Catholics, Come Home"



**Jesse Romero**

A former USA middleweight kickboxing champion and retired sheriff, Jesse is an award winning author, bilingual in English & Spanish. He leads retreats and parish revivals, and energetically shares Catholic teachings that fortify attendees with a deeper love for God.

**Information & Registration: 570-207-2213 [www.BeAManConference.com](http://www.BeAManConference.com)**



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Mail the completed form with your check or money order to:

**Office for Parish Life  
Diocese of Scranton  
330 Wyoming Ave  
Scranton, PA. 18503**

Attn: Men's Conference on memo line of the check

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Registration includes continental breakfast & lunch.  
If registering more than one person, please provide the additional information on a separate sheet.

- Registration Fee: \$35 each
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- Student \$15
- Priest/Deacon/Seminarian FREE

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# AOH 'Parading' for Donations for the Hungry

For the fourth consecutive year, the Ancient Order of Hibernians is planning to conduct a "Food Drive" in conjunction with the St. Patrick's Parade in downtown Scranton, which will be held this year on Saturday, March 10.

AOH volunteers will walk the parade line to collect any monetary and food donations to benefit the area's hungry poor.

## Prayer Breakfast

*Continued from page 16*

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera was grateful to Mr. Bomberger for bringing his message to those present and for people who continue to fight for life.

He quoted a message from Pope Francis to another group of Catholics taking part in an annual Day for Life: "All of life has inestimable value—even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor. They are all masterpieces of God's Creation, made in His own image, destined to live forever and deserving of utmost respect and reverence."

"Pretty powerful words, aren't they – words that we all need to sear into our hearts as we reflect on this great gift," Bishop Bambera said. "We are all called to recognize that "no life is an accident. No life is anything but a gift from God, made in the image and likeness of God."

According to organizers, all food donations will be distributed to local food banks. Any money collected will be given to the nearby St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen in Scranton.

Also, the second collection to be taken up at the St. Patrick's Parade Day Mass celebrated prior to the parade at 10 a.m. in Saint Peter's Cathedral will benefit St. Francis Kitchen.

He spoke of his cousin who had many challenges, but whose adoptive mother never gave up on him and he has been a beam of light at St. Joseph's Center's Carbondale residence.

"He is a powerhouse of respect and love that teaches us about the respect and reverence for life. And you all have stories like that — stories that have changed your hearts. Those are gifts from God," Bishop Bambera said.

He reminded the crowd to defend life, even when the world proclaims a different message because the world has always been broken because of sin.

The breakfast also paid tribute to two longtime members, who passed away this last year: Gary Cangemi, creator of the pro-life cartoon, "Umbert the Unborn," and Frank Germain, who was one of the founding members of the Scranton Chapter, more than 40 years ago.

Later in the day, the Scranton Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians will host a post-St. Patrick's Parade party and dinner, beginning at 4 p.m. at the Moosic Fire Hall on Birney Ave.

Admission cost for the family-friendly event is \$20 per person. Tickets at the door.

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The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) is the public affairs agency of the eight Latin Rite and two Eastern Rite Catholic dioceses in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Located in Harrisburg, PA, PCC currently employs a professional staff of eight individuals who are under the leadership and supervision of an Executive Director.

Due to the impending retirement of its present Executive Director, PCC is seeking a highly-qualified and experienced individual to assume that position.

Minimum qualifications include a bachelor's degree in theology, political science, public policy or a closely related field. A graduate level or law degree is preferred. Experience working as a lobbyist or equivalent legislative and public policy experience is essential. The successful candidate must demonstrate a knowledge of and fidelity to the mission of the Catholic Church and its public policy positions.

Applicants may present their qualifications by transmitting a curriculum vitae along with a letter of interest, in confidence, to:



PCC Executive Director Search Committee  
c/o Most Rev. Ronald W. Gainer  
Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg  
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Harrisburg, PA 17111-3710

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

## 'Gorzkie Zale' Polish Lenten Service Planned for March 11

The parish community of Exaltation of the Holy Cross Church, 420 Main Road, Buttonwood section of Hanover Township, invites all faithful to participate in a Polish Lenten service on Sunday, March 11, the Fourth Sunday of Lent.

The "Gorzkie Zale" (Bitter Lamentations), a moving Lenten service over 300 years old, will be offered in the church, beginning at 3 p.m. The devotion will conclude with benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The service, which recounts the Passion of Jesus — from his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane to his redeeming death on the cross — will be conducted by four priests of the Diocese: Father John Albosta, Father Richard Cirba (host pastor), Father James McGahagan and Father Richard Zavacki.

Musical accompaniment will

be provided by Dominick Costantino Jr. and the music ministry of Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish.

Incorporating prose and verse, chant and reading, prayer and meditation, the inspirational devotion reflects on the mystery of Christian redemption.

The Lamentations highlight the emotional nature of Polish spirituality, inviting all to share in the Lord's Passion as seen through the eyes of his mother Mary.

The devotional service can be experienced by all through the use of bilingual booklets, with both Polish and English lyrics. A light social will follow the devotion.

Anyone wishing to participate with the choir may contact Mr. Costantino at (570-706-6951). For more information, call (570-823-6242).

## 'Road to Resurrection' Continues in Pittston Area

**PITTSTON** — The Catholic parishes of Greater Pittston are continuing 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 is 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 is being held on consecutive Wednesday evenings during Lent at hosting parishes throughout the area.

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

**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 are also celebrating Sunday Evening Prayer during the season of Lent.

Evening Prayer with a reflection and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 5 p.m. on the designated Sundays of Lent.

The remaining Lenten Sunday prayer services at the hosting parishes include: **Feb. 25**, Corpus Christi; **March 4**, Queen of the Apostles; **March 11**, Saint Barbara's; and **March 18**, Saint John the Evangelist.

**Williamsport Parish Hosting Vast Collection of Sacred Relics**

Saint Joseph the Worker Parish, 702 West Fourth St., Williamsport, welcomes all faithful to a moving spiritual experience featuring more than 150 saintly relics when the parish hosts a special exhibit, "Sacred Relics of the Saints: Treasures of the Church," on Wednesday, March 7, at 7 p.m. Accompanying the impressive collection and exposition will be Father Carlos Martins of the Companions of the Cross and his

ministry, who will offer a teaching on the holy objects — some as old as 2,000 years. Among the treasures are relics of Saint Maria Goretti, Saint Therese of Lisieux (the "Little Flower"), Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Anthony of Padua, Saint Thomas Aquinas and Saint Faustina Kowalska. The exhibit also includes a portion of a veil of the Blessed Mother and one of the largest re-

maining pieces of the True Cross in the world. Those attending the sacred historical display are welcome to examine and venerate each relic and are encouraged to bring articles of devotion (such as Rosaries, prayer books, holy cards, etc.) and pictures of loved ones to physically touch the reliquaries as a means of intercession. For more information, contact the parish office (570-323-9456).

**Holy Cross' Delaney Scholarship to Honor Teacher's Memory**

The Noreen Delaney Scholarship Committee will host a kick-off fundraiser on Saturday, April 7, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Andy Gavin's Eatery & Pub, 1392 North Washington Street, Scranton. The scholarship honors the legacy of Noreen Delaney, former English teacher at Bishop O'Hara High School and Holy Cross High School, Dunmore, who passed away on December 23, 2017. The

scholarship was founded in tribute to Mrs. Delaney's dedication to Catholic education with the goal of assisting future students reach their highest potential at Holy Cross High School. Mrs. Delaney dedicated 33 years to teaching English at Bishop O'Hara High School and Holy Cross High School, where she also served as the chair of the English Department. She inspired count-

less students through her passion for literature and her commitment to excellence through education. Donations to the Noreen Delaney Scholarship Fund will be accepted at the kick-off fundraiser. Checks can be made out to Holy Cross High School and mailed to the Noreen Delaney Scholarship Fund in care of: Holy Cross High School, 501 E. Drinker Street, Dunmore, PA 18512.

**Catholic Choral to Present Lenten Concerts in March**

Continuing its 69-year tradition of inspiring prayer and meditation through sacred music, the Catholic Choral Society will present two concerts during the season of Lent. The first Lenten concert will be performed on Sunday, March 11, at 3 p.m., hosted by Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish at Holy Trinity Church, 116 Hughes St., Swoyersville. The parish is served by Father Joseph Pisaneschi, pastor, and Deacon John Ziegler.

The Forest City Historical Museum, 631 Main St., Forest City, will host the Choral Society's second concert during Lent on Sunday, March 18, at 3 p.m. Accompanying the Catholic choir as guest performers for the musical program will be members of the Forest City Regional High School choral group, directed by Alison Yuravich. Both concerts are open to the public free of charge; a free-will offering will be accepted. Ann Manganiello serves

as music director for the Catholic Choral Society; Jean Shields is accompanist. For more information, call (570-575-1040) or visit: www.catholicchoralsociety.org.

**Enthronement Guild Office Relocates**

SCRANTON — Father Daniel Toomey, spiritual moderator of the Enthronement of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Guild in the Scranton Diocese, announces the office of operations for the Enthronement Guild has relocated from its previous home in the IHM Center at Marywood University to Saint Joseph's Oblate Seminary, Route 315, Laflin (Pittston). To mark the new chapter in the history of the Enthronement Guild, a Mass of Celebration and Healing will be held on Sunday, March 18, at 3 p.m. in the chapel of the Oblates seminary. Principal celebrant for the liturgy will be Saint Joseph Oblate Father Joseph Sibilano, OSJ seminary director. A prelude of music will be performed by the Sacred Heart Singers, directed by Ernie Pappa and Jennifer Michel, who will also provide the music ministry for the Mass. A display of religious items will be available to all faithful in attendance. All are welcome to participate in the special liturgy, which will be followed by refreshments.

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<p><b>3-DAY SPRING FLING TO ATLANTIC CITY</b> APRIL 15-17, 2018 <b>\$219 PP</b> "Stay At Resorts Casino" Bus-2/Nights Hotel/\$25 Slot Play \$60 Meal Credit &amp; House Show</p>	<p><b>5-DAY CAPE COD &amp; MARTHAS VINEYARD TOUR</b> SEPTEMBER 24-28 <b>\$899 PP</b> Whale Watch, Hyannis, Lobster Cruise + More! Popular Fall tour! Call Now.</p>	<p><b>4-DAY MONTREAL GET-A-WAY TOUR</b> OCTOBER 5-8 <b>\$659 PP</b> Great Tour including Meals &amp; Tours. Stay right in Downtown Montreal.</p>

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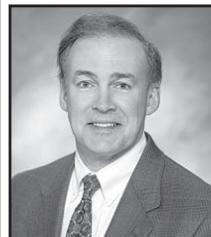
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## Mark Your Calendar — Around the Diocese

### Spiritual Offerings

**“40 Days for Life” Pro-Life Gathering** — FEB. 22-MARCH 23, offered for the special intention of ending abortion; Rosary is prayed each weekday, Monday thru Friday, at 9 a.m. in front of the offices of Planned Parenthood, 63 N. Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre. Pro-life campaign draws attention to the evil of abortion through prayer & fasting, constant vigil, and community outreach; for more information, visit: [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com).

**Friday Holy Hour for Vocations** — FEB. 23, 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.

**Weekly Bible Study** — FEB. 23, hosted by St. Lawrence Parish in Great Bend; held every Friday at 7 p.m. in the Trinity Center, adjacent to St. Lawrence Church. All are welcome.

**Friday Pro-Life Rosary Vigil** — FEB. 23, sponsored by the Catholics Defending Life Prayer & Awareness Team; group resumes weekly gatherings every Friday (except on First Fridays) from 1 to 1:30 p.m. at the Pro-Life Monument located next to St. Peter’s Cathedral in Scranton (300 block of Wyoming Ave.). Recitation of the Rosary offered, along with pro-life meditations, Divine Mercy Chaplet and other prayer devotions for the respect and dignity of all human life from conception to natural death. Pro-life signs are welcome.

**Lenten Monday Rosary Devotion** — FEB. 26-MARCH 26, hosted by St. Joseph’s Oblate Seminary, Route 315, Laflin (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 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.

**Wednesday Eucharistic Adoration** — FEB. 28, hosted at St. Joseph’s Oblate Seminary, Route 315, Laflin; Adoration of

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

**Weekly Divine Mercy Devotion** — FEB. 28, 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.

**Lenten Wednesday Eucharistic Adoration** — FEB. 28-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.

**Scranton Mental Health Ministry: Spiritual Support Group for Family & Friends** — MARCH 1, hosted by the Cathedral of St. Peter in Scranton; providing a safe, supportive space for parents, family members and

*Continued on Page 21*

### Charismatic Mass, Healing Service Set

SCRANTON — Catholic Charismatic prayer groups in the Diocese of Scranton invite all faithful to participate in a Charismatic Mass and healing service hosted by Queen of the Apostles Parish in Avoca on Sunday, March 11, at Saint Mary Church, 715 Hawthorne St., Avoca.



**Fr. August Ricciardi**

The Eucharistic liturgy will be offered at 7 p.m., preceded

by recitation of the Rosary at 6:30 p.m.

Serving as celebrant for the Mass will be Father August Ricciardi, pastor of Prince of Peace Parish in Old Forge, and spiritual director of the Charismatic Renewal in the Scranton Diocese.

A healing service will follow the Mass, with Father Ricciardi and leaders from Charismatic prayer groups ministering to those who desire prayers for healing.

Fellowship and light refreshments will conclude the gathering.

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## Spiritual Offerings

Continued from Page 20

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).

**Catholic Charismatic Prayer Breakfast** — **MARCH 3**, sponsored by prayer groups of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the Diocese of Scranton; held from 9 to 11 a.m. at Queen of the Apostles Parish Hall, 715 Hawthorne St., Avoca. Featuring songs of praise, teaching and complete breakfast buffet. All are welcome. Reservations requested by Feb. 25; contact Jim at (570-267-1614) or jim@echoes.net.

**Monthly Ladies Afternoon of Recollection** — **MARCH 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

### W-B Church Hosting Taizé Service

WILKES-BARRE — Saint Nicholas Parish will host a "Taizé Prayer Around the Cross" service on Monday, March 19, at 7 p.m. in the upper church of Saint Nicholas, 226 South Washington St., Wilkes-Barre.

Taizé is a meditative style of communal prayer, with sung repetitive refrains to create a gentle rhythm.

Voices united in song offer a way of reflection focusing on the Passion of Christ, including

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.

**Monday Night Worship & Healing Service** — **MARCH 5**, hosted by St. Faustina Kowalska Parish in Nanticoke; devotion begins at 7 p.m. at the parish worship site of Holy Trinity Church, 520 South Hanover St., Nanticoke. Includes Eucharistic adoration, praise and worship, and healing service; main celebrant: Father Michael Kmoitek, a member of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. All faithful are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Paul Walters at (570-332-2963).

**Bible Study Series: "First and Second Books of Samuel"** — **MARCH 6**, hosted by St. Ann's Shrine Basilica, 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, Clarks Summit. For more information, call (570-586-2791). Registration fee is \$5 per session.

**Padre Pio Prayer Ministry** — **MARCH 7**, hosted by St. Faustina Kowalska Parish in Nanticoke; begins with celebration of Mass

an opportunity for veneration of the cross.

Music ministry for the prayer service will be provided by Rob Yenkowski, director of music at King's College, Wilkes-Barre, and the King's Cantores Christi Regis performance choir.

Faithful are invited to participate free of charge; a free-will offering be accepted.

For more information, call the rectory office at (570-823-7736).

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.

**Spiritual Support Group: Scranton Mental Health Ministry** — **MARCH 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.

Continued on Page 23

## DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

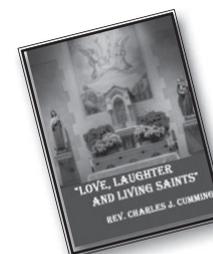


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Mission Message

**Go Forth**

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



Here we are! Ash Wednesday has come and gone and we are nearing the end of the first week of Lent. We might welcome the notion that this solemn season seems already to be flying by. It might bring some secret relief that if time continues to flash by we'll be at Easter's door ready to celebrate and reclaim our feasting on food, drink, and merriment. Do yourself a favor, pull back on those reins; permit yourself to be renewed each day of this season and allow the pending celebrations of Easter to be ever in your heart but not to eclipse what God has in store for you during these holy days.

We know well that Lent is a time that we spend in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to commemorate the time Jesus spent in prayer and fasting in the desert: "By the solemn forty days of Lent the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 540). The Catechism so beautifully

captures the meaning of Lent: We *unite* ourselves to the mystery of Jesus in the desert. Somehow, we are being called to enter into the desert with Jesus. I have not necessarily engaged this element of this time of sacrifice and prayer, to approach Lent through the lens of the "mystery" of the desert.

It's ironic that the concept of mystery often eludes us or takes on something of a literary thrust in which we conceive of having to investigate clues in order to find a solution to a problem or to solve a crime (hat tip Father Dowling). However, mystery in the Christian tradition (especially as it's used in the New Testament) is not necessarily a pursuit of the individual who must investigate in order to find answers; rather, the discovery of what's been hidden in mystery is something that's granted through revelation.

The word mystery comes from a Greek word, *mustérion*, which does not refer to something unknowable or out of our grasp of knowledge. No, a mystery in our tradition is that which is able to be known by revelation, that is by God uncovering for us what has been hidden.

The time Jesus spent in the desert can be mysterious to us. Sure, the scriptures recount for us the temptations of Christ during His fasting in the desert, but there are not pages and pages of accounts of what unfolded in our Lord's life during that period of time. Certainly, it's not our place, *per se*, to speculate on what else happened or could have happened over the course of those 40 days, but I'd like to bridge the experience of Jesus in the desert to our experience of Lent in our own time.

Jesus clearly chose to go out into the desert because it provided

a certain solitude and quiet. Deserts were not on the bucket lists of a lot of folks back in the 30s. Yes, people might seek them out today as a destination of a holiday tour, but they're not spending 40 days praying and fasting out there.

I have reflected lately on this image of the desert and have made in my own prayer a contemporary comparison to the life of the homeless and alone of our inner cities, to the desperate solitude and struggle of our rural poor, to the very public, yet often ignored poverty of those living in the "third world" and in war-torn places throughout the globe.

I have no strong desire to go to the desert for any reason (even spiritually), but I am called to imitate Jesus as He did and go there. The Church has called me — has called all of us — to unite with the mystery of Christ in the desert. We're not merely to unite ourselves to the time in history of Jesus in the desert, but how He is ever-present in the "deserts" of the modern world — places where few want to go and places where many more ignore and overlook (those "hidden" places of the world). He is waiting there for us ready to reveal something, to unlock a mystery.

This Lent, we pray that we will have the spiritual strength and resolve to go out into the desert spiritually, but also go out to the physical desert of poverty and need and to minister to the poor and those in need. It is there that the mystery of Christ's love is revealed and that our union with Him will be fortified. Let us go forth!

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# Mark Your Calendar — Around the Diocese

## Spiritual Offerings

Continued from Page 21

Participating Scranton parishes include St. Peter's; Mary, Mother of God; and Immaculate Conception. For more information, contact Deacon Ed Shoener (Cathedral), (570-344-7231); Deacon Jan Mroz (Mary, Mother of God), (570-342-4881); or Deacon Pat McDonald (Immaculate Conception), (570-961-5211).

**Sunday Charismatic Mass & Healing Service — MARCH 11**, sponsored by Catholic Charismatic prayer groups in the Scranton Diocese; hosted by Queen of the Apostles Parish at St. Mary Church, 715 Hawthorne St., Avoca. Rosary recitation begins at 6:30 p.m., followed by celebration of Mass at 7 p.m. and prayers for healing. Celebrant: Father August Ricciardi.

**Polish Lenten Service: "Gorzkie Zale" — MARCH 11**, hosted at Exaltation of the Holy Cross Church, 420 Main Road, Buttonwood section of Hanover Township; Lenten spirituality program of traditional Polish Bitter Lamentations begins at 3 p.m. A reception with light refreshments will follow. Anyone wishing to join the choir for the service may call Dominick at (570-706-6951).

**Evening of Lenten Devotion — MARCH 13**, hosted by the Diocesan Legion of Mary in response to the Blessed Mother's request at Fatima for prayers for world peace; devotion begins at 6 p.m. at St. Mary of Czestochowa Church, 417 Main St., Eynon. Prayer service includes recitation of the Rosary, Fatima prayers, hymns and newly composed music for the Scriptural mysteries, led by Ernie Pappa.

**Meeting of Lay Carmelites — MARCH 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).

**Slovak Stations of the Cross & Lenten Hymn Sing — MARCH 18**, sponsored by the Slovak Heritage Society of NEPA; hosted by Our Lady of Fatima Parish at St. Mary's Church of the Immaculate Conception, 134 South Washington St., Wilkes-Barre. Service begins at 2 p.m. with congregational singing of Lenten hymns; followed by Stations of the Cross, led by Society chaplain Father John Albosta. Booklets with English translations will be available for full participation; refreshments will follow the service. For more information, call Magdalen Benish (570-823-1222).

**Lenten Holy Hour — MARCH 19**, hosted by Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, 420 Main Road, Buttonwood section of Hanover Township; begins with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 6:30 p.m., followed by silent adoration and Lenten reflection by Father Richard Cirba, host pastor. Praise and worship music will be offered by the parish teen choir at 7 p.m.; Holy Hour devotion concludes with benediction. For more information, call (570-706-6951).

**Annual 13-Week Novena to St. Anthony of Padua — MARCH 20-JUNE 12**, hosted by Our Lady of Hope Parish, 40 Park Ave., Wilkes-Barre; St. Anthony Novena devotion offered on 13 consecutive Tuesday evenings, beginning each week at 5:30 p.m. in the parish church. Novena theme: "Patron Saints of the Hopeless: St. Damien of Molokai and St. Marianne Cope." All faithful are welcome to attend; for more information, call (570-824-7832).

**Digital Stations of the Cross Presentation — MARCH 25**, hosted by St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport; program focusing on the Passion of Jesus will be held from 6:15 to 8:30 p.m. at the parish worship site of Annunciation Church, 702 West Fourth St., Williamsport, following the celebration of the 5 p.m. Mass on Palm Sunday.

Digital presentation will provide a unique, meditative experience of the Stations of the Cross, concluding with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Parents are advised some scenes may be too intense for young children. For more information, contact Makenzie at (570-323-9456), or youthmin@sjwparish.com.

**"Amazing Grace": Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Devotion — APRIL 21**, hosted by Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Brodheadsville; Marian devotion will be held from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, 1402 Route 209, Brodheadsville. All faithful are welcome.

QUEEN OF THE APOSTLES PARISH

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- **9/11 MUSEUM, FREEDOM TOWER, WESTFIELD MALL** MAY 26
- **CAMDEN'S ADVENTURE AQUARIUM** JUNE 2 Admission, 3-D Film
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- **SIGHT & SOUND** JUNE 16 "Jesus", Hershey Farm Restaurant Dinner
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## Catholic Happenings

**Lenten Fish Bakes — FEB. 23, MARCH 9 & 23**, sponsored by St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport; dinner served from 4 to 6:30 p.m. in the Fleming Parish Center, 720 West Fourth St., Williamsport (take-outs available). Menu includes baked haddock, cole slaw, roll, applesauce, dessert and choice of macaroni & cheese/scalloped potatoes and stewed tomatoes/green beans. Cost: \$10 per person. For more information, call (570-323-9456).

**Lenten Friday Food Sale — FEB. 23-MARCH 23**, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Carbondale Council 329; held 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.

**Lenten Weekend Food Sale — FEB. 24-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.

**Weekly Bingo — FEB. 26**, 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).

**Lenten Friday Meatless Dinner — MARCH 2**, sponsored by St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport; dinner seating and take-out orders available from 4 to 6:30 p.m. in the parish's Fleming Center, 720 West Fourth St. Menu items include halushki, pierogi, vegetable pasta bake, salad, roll and dessert. Cost: adults, \$10; children and college students, \$5. Tickets at the door.

**University of Scranton Performance Music Series: In Recital — MARCH 3**, featuring Marg Davis (harp) and Jan Shadle (trumpet); 7:30 p.m. in the University's Houlihan-McLean Center on campus, corner of Mulberry St. & Jefferson Ave. Open to the public free of charge.

**Ham & Cabbage Family Dinner — MARCH 4**, sponsored by St. Andrew Parish in Wilkes-Barre; hosted from 12 noon to 4 p.m. in the parish hall at St. Patrick Church, Parrish St. Dinner includes ham, cabbage, potatoes, butter beans, bread, dessert and beverage (take-out dinners available). Cost: \$12, includes complimentary ticket for theme basket drawing. All tickets will be sold at the door.

**University of Scranton Performance Music Series: General Recital — MARCH 7**, featuring the University of Scranton Performance Music students; 7:30 p.m. in the University's Houlihan-McLean Center on campus, corner of Mulberry St. & Jefferson Ave. Performance is open to the public free of charge.

**Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary Bingo — MARCH 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

*Continued on Page 26*

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The Reginas of King's College in Wilkes-Barre will host their annual Penny Auction fundraiser on Sunday, March 18, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Sheehy Farmer Campus Center at King's.

Doors open at 1:30 p.m. for the event featuring games, prizes and light refreshments. Admission fee is \$2 per person.

All proceeds from the Penny Auction are donated by the Reginas support organization to benefit the Rev. Clement J. Podskoch Scholarship Fund, which provides financial assistance to area students attending King's College.

For more information, call Maureen Finnerty at (570-288-8706).

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# Catholic Happenings

*Continued from Page 25*

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** — **MARCH 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: vegetable beef. Pre-orders requested. For more information or to place orders, call (570-825-6370).

**Annual Ham & Cabbage Dinner** — **MARCH 10**, sponsored by Holy Family Parish in Sugar Notch; dinner served from 4 to 7 p.m. in the church hall, 828 Main St. (take-outs available from 3 p.m.). Cost: adults, \$10; children (under age 12), \$5. Tickets available after all weekend Masses or by calling the rectory (570-822-8983).

**Free Community Luncheon** — **MARCH 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.

**Basket Raffle Fundraiser** — **MARCH 11**, sponsored by the Youth Ministry of St. Faustina Kowalska Parish in Nanticoke; held in the parish center. Doors

*Continued on Page 27*

### Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

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

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

### Aviso al Respeto de Reportar el Abuso Sexual de Un Menor de Edad

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

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

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

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

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# Mark Your Calendar — Around the Diocese

## Catholic Happenings

*Continued from Page 26*

open at 10:30 a.m.; raffle drawings begin at 1:30 p.m. Basket raffle tickets cost \$5 for a sheet of 25 tickets. Admission is free of charge; food and refreshments will be available for purchase. For more information, call the parish office (570-735-4833).

**Penny Auction — MARCH 11**, sponsored by the Altar & Rosary Society of St. Joseph Marelo Parish in Pittston; held in the Parish Hall at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 237 William St., Pittston. Doors open at 1:30 p.m.; auction begins at 2 p.m. Includes chance drawings and prizes. Admission fee: \$1. Refreshments will be served.

**71st Annual Spaghetti Dinner — MARCH 14**, hosted by St. Luke Church, 120 Kendall Ave., Jersey Shore; all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper served for lunch, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., and dinner, 4 to 7 p.m. Take-out orders available all day. Includes homemade meatballs, salad, Italian bread, dessert and beverage. Cost: adults, \$9 (in advance) or \$9.50 (at door); children (ages 6 to 12), \$3.50. For advance tickets, call (570-398-0352 or 570-745-3301) or the parish office.

**Lenten Friday Food Sale — MARCH 16**, sponsored by Nativity of Our Lord Parish in Duryea; hosted from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Sacred Heart of Jesus Hall, 529 Stephenson St., Duryea. Featured food items include homemade red clam chowder, homemade pierogi

(prepared or frozen), halushki, pizza (baked or unbaked) and a bake sale. Both eat-in and take-out service provided. For more information, call the rectory office (570-457-3502).

**Homemade Pierogi Sale — MARCH 16 & 17**, sponsored by St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Moscow; sale of homemade potato cheddar pierogi held on Friday, 4 to 7 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the parish's Kelly Hall (lower level of church). Cost: \$7.50 (for baker's dozen); orders required by March 9. Contact Jan Demuth (570-842-2325) or Sandra DeMatteo (570-842-4264).

**St. Patrick's Day Extravaganza — MARCH 17**, hosted by St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport; begins at 6 p.m. Cost: \$15 per person (in advance) or \$20 (at door). Includes all-you-can-eat Irish buffet, entertainment and dancing; childcare services available, including food and games. For more information, call (570-323-9456) or email: [stewardship@sjwparish.com](mailto:stewardship@sjwparish.com).

**Annual Ham Bingo — MARCH 18**, sponsored by the parishioners of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Old Forge; begins at 1 p.m. in the church hall, 320 Vine St. Event features theme baskets, door prizes and various bingo specials; also includes a bake sale. Variety of food items and refreshments will be available for purchase beginning at 11 a.m. Admission cost: \$3.

**Spring Chicken Dinner — MARCH 18**, sponsored by Queen of the Apostles Parish in Avoca; serving from 12 noon to 4 p.m. in the parish hall, 742 Spring St., Avoca. Take-out orders available 11 a.m. to noon. Event will also feature cash and theme basket raffles. Dinner cost: adults, \$12; children (age 12 & under), \$8. For advance tickets contact the parish office (570-457-3412). Tickets will also be available at the door.

**Annual Chili & Salsa Cook-Off — APRIL 14**, 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. Admission cost: \$5. Anyone interested in entering the cook-off for chance to win a prize, contact Chuck at (570-242-2431).

### Little Sisters Plan Saint Pat's Celebration

SCRANTON — The Little Sisters of the Poor will host their fifth annual Saint Patrick's Day celebration and dinner on Sunday, March 11, at Holy Family Residence, 2500 Adams Ave., adjacent to Marywood University.

The event begins with a Mass at 11 a.m. in the Residence chapel, with an accompaniment of bagpipe music during the processional and recessional.

Dinner and entertainment, including Irish step-dancing

by the Crossmolina School of Dance, will follow from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

Traditional Saint Patrick's dinner includes ham & cabbage with potatoes and carrots, rolls, ice cream, and beverages.

Dinner cost for adults is \$12, and \$6 for children (ages 10 & younger). Tickets are available at the door or can be purchased in advance by calling (570-343-4065) or online at: [www.littlesistersofhepoorscranton.org](http://www.littlesistersofhepoorscranton.org).

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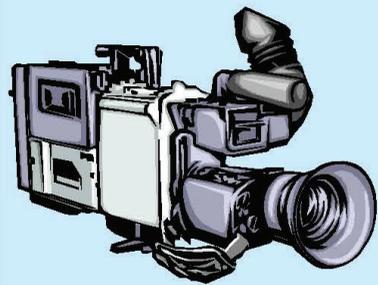
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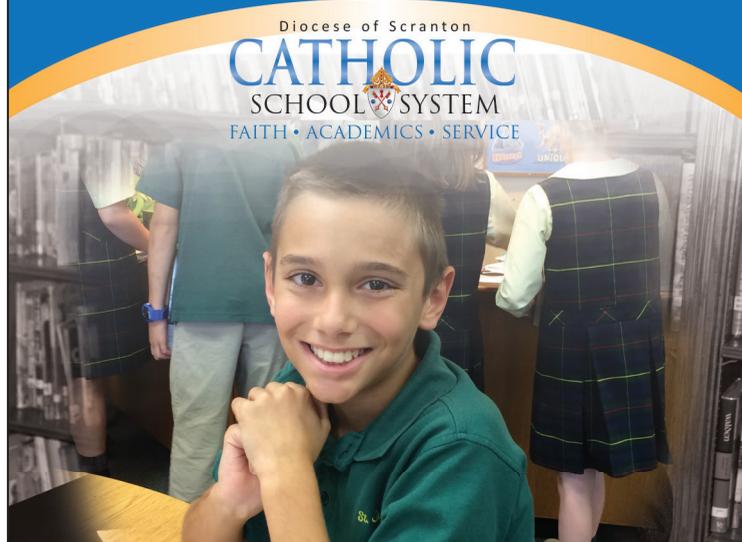
The Diocese of Scranton's website includes video of certain programs broadcast by CTV: Catholic Television. The programs include the Daily Mass from St. Peter's Cathedral, the monthly news program "Our Faith, Our Diocese" and other special programs. To watch the videos, go to [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org).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

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