



JANUARY 2015

# OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

GOOD NEWS NOTES

## VATICAN SYNOD CONSULTATION 2015

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PARISH LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES	2
LENTEN LITURGICAL PREPARATION SESSIONS	2
CHRISTIAN INITIATION RESOURCES	2
NPM GATHERINGS	2
BECOMING A PARISH OF INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES	3
LOVE IS OUR MISSION FEBRUARY FAMILY OPPORTUNITIES	4 5
ISLI FEBRUARY	5
LTP VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS 2015	6
JUSTFAITH MINISTRIES WEBINARS	6

At the conclusion of the Extraordinary Synod last October, Pope Francis decided to make public the *Relatio Synodi*, the document which summarized the synod's work. At the same time, the Holy Father indicated that this document would be the *Lineamenta*, or outline, for the XIV Ordinary General Assembly to take place from October 4-25, 2015, to treat the topic, "The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and the Contemporary World."

As the report states: These proposed reflections, the fruit of the synodal work that took place in great freedom and with a spirit of reciprocal listening, are intended to raise questions and indicate points of view that will later be developed and clarified through reflection in the local Churches in the intervening year leading to the XIV Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. (*Relatio Synodi*, #62)

With this in mind, we have "one year to mature, with true spiritual discernment, the proposed ideas and to find concrete solutions to so many difficulties and innumerable challenges families must confront" (Pope Francis, *Concluding Discourse*, October 18, 2014).

[Click Here for Survey And Resource Materials on Family](#)

For the Diocese of Scranton, Bishop Bambera has asked all of the faithful "to prayerfully and purposefully consider the questions prepared by the Vatican and, if you are interested in participating, complete the on-line survey that has been developed.

### Save the Date

First Annual Diocesan Men's Conference

Saturday, April 25  
King's College Campus

Details and Registration open at:  
[www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org)

### DRE Network Meetings

**Tuesday, January 20**  
**Diocesan Pastoral Center**  
330 Wyoming Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18503

**Tuesday, January 27**  
**St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish**  
5112 Pocono Crest Road  
Pocono Pines, PA 18350

**Thursday, January 29**  
**SS. Peter & Paul Parish Center**  
12 Hudson Road  
Plains, PA 18705

**Tuesday, February 3**  
**Resurrection Parish**  
75 Musser Lane  
Muncy, PA 17756



Many people are eager to learn about the [Diocese of Scranton Pilgrimage for the Papal Visit](#) to U.S. in September, 2015. We are preparing the details for round trip bus and participation in the Papal Mass in Philadelphia on Sunday, September 27th. There will be multiple departure sites around the Diocese. Details soon!

## PARISH LENTEN JOURNEY

**Ash Wednesday  
Retreat**

Wednesday, February 18  
9:00am-3:00pm  
Diocesan Pastoral Center



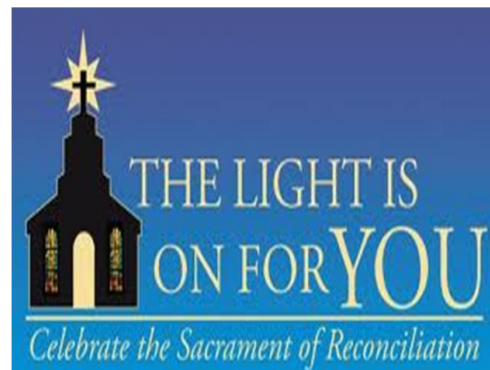
All Are Welcome!  
Register: 570-207-2213

The Diocese of Scranton is again observing The Light is on For You, with all parishes open for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Mondays in Lent, 5:30-7:00pm.

Resources to assist your preparation are on the Diocesan website. Please find copy-ready pew cards, bulletin announcements and inserts, Prayers of the Faithful, sample letter to send to parish households, and an article entitled: *How To Make a Good Confession*.

Local parish bulletins will specify details.

*\*Where possible, resources are also in Spanish.*



February 23	March 16
March 2	March 23
March 9	

## NATIONAL PASTORAL MUSICIANS – SCRANTON CHAPTER

The Scranton Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians will be holding a meeting on **Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>** at St. Jude Parish, 420 S. Mountain Blvd. Mountain Top. The topic for the evening will be “**The Director of Music: Qualities that Make for a Successful Parish Music Ministry**”. The presentation offered by David Baloga, Director for Worship for the Office of Parish Life, will examine the tools and resources available for preparing music for the liturgy and highlight the musician’s perspective and the expectations of the parish. The evening begins with dinner at 6:00PM followed by the presentation at 7:00PM and Night Prayer at 8:30PM. To register, please contact Mark Ignatovich no later than March 4<sup>th</sup> at [MarkIgnatovich@gmail.com](mailto:MarkIgnatovich@gmail.com) or 570-823-4168, ext. 130.



Also, please mark your calendars for the evening of **Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>** for a NPM presentation by **Fr. Paul Turner**, renowned liturgist and major contributor to Liturgy Training Publications, Liturgical Press and more. This event will be held at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave. Scranton.

**Lenten Preparation Gatherings**

...for all those involved with the preparation of liturgical seasons, especially Music Ministers, Liturgy Committees, Art and Environment Committees or anyone wanting to deepen his or her appreciation of the Lenten season.

- **Monday, Feb. 2 St. Peter's, Wellsboro, 6:30 p.m.**
- **Tuesday, Feb. 3 St. Ann's, Williamsport, 6:30pm**
- **Wednesday, Feb. 4 SS. Peter & Paul, Towanda, 6:30 p.m.**
- **Monday, Feb. 9 BVM Queen of Peace, Hawley, 6:30 p.m.**
- **Tuesday, Feb. 10 Gate of Heaven, Dallas, 6:30 p.m.**
- **Thursday, Feb. 12 St. John Bosco, Conyngham, 6:30 p.m.**

**To Register for any one of these sessions, please call Jennifer at 570-207-2213.**

**CHRISTIAN INITIATION MINISTRIES**

The Christian Initiation Resources page on the Office for Parish Life section of the Diocesan website is a growing tool for you to stay connected with each other and with us. Be sure to go there for information and all necessary forms for **Rite of Election** (Sunday, February 22) and the **Pentecost Sunday celebration of Adult Confirmation (May 24)**.

[Christian Initiation Resources](#)

Stay tuned for information about Fall RCIA team training.

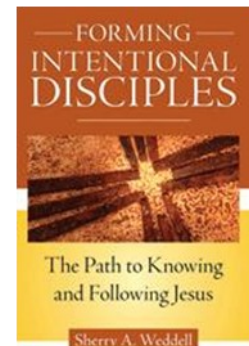
# How to Become a Parish of Intentional Disciples

with Katherine Coolidge of the Catherine of Siena Institute

Saturday, March 21, 2015

8:30AM-4:30PM

Diocesan Pastoral Center  
330 Wyoming Ave. Scranton



**Presenter: Katherine Coolidge** is the Called & Gifted Coordinator for Catherine of Siena Institute. She brings experience as a pastoral leader in RCIA, youth ministry, adult faith formation, lay ministry formation, evangelization, and, mostly recently, pastoral associate in a southern California parish. Her passion is helping parish leadership create a parish climate in which disciples are called, formed, equipped and sent in the service of Christ's mission in the world. She is a recognized master catechist in California and earned a Masters in Pastoral Studies from St. Joseph College of Maine. She contributed to the new book, *Becoming a Parish of Intentional Disciples*, as well as weekly to the blog, [Love Is Calling Ministries](#). Katherine is married to Michael for thirty-five years; together they have four young adult children and four grandchildren.



The Catherine of Siena Institute, founded by Sherry Weddell, author of *Forming Intentional Disciples*, is an affiliated ministry of the Western Dominican Province dedicated to equipping parishes for the evangelization and formation of lay Catholics for the sake of their mission in the world.

**In *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis challenges us to practice the “art of spiritual accompaniment,” to accompany those seeking God, as well as become missionary disciples who accompany missionary disciples.**

Therefore, this workshop will explore:

- The changing face of the people we are called to accompany –You can't assume the same things that have brought people back/into the Church will still work!
- The three concurrent journeys any Christian travels
- The five thresholds of the spiritual journey
- Evangelizing as an individual
- Evangelizing as a parish

Be a part of this vibrant workshop ...

- If you are concerned about someone you know who has left the Church
- If you read *Forming Intentional Disciples* and were intrigued/excited
- If you are part of a parish pastoral council or parish staff and have made evangelization part of your parish plan
- If you are part of an evangelization team in a parish
- If you are in any parish ministry and wonder how to reach more people
- If you care about how to get young people interested in the Church

Registration available soon at [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org)  
Cost: Individual \$35 Parish Team of Five \$150

# Love Is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive

## A Year-long Parish Celebration of Marriage & the Family!

Suggested Opportunities for your parish to use to support marriages and families in the coming year up to and including the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia in September, 2015. Choose what fits your parish's needs!

[Click here for complete brochure](#)

[Click here for details on the January 2015 Opportunities](#)

### Details on the February 2015 Opportunities

#### 1. National Marriage Week, Feb 7-14, & World Marriage Sunday, February 15

**What is this about?** The annual observance of National Marriage Week encourages diverse groups to strengthen individual marriages, reduce the divorce rate, and build a stronger marriage culture, which in turn helps curtail poverty and benefits children.

**What can I do to help married couples in my parish?** Give them ways to reflect on and strengthen their marriages:

- Make them aware of some of the great resources available to them!

[For Your Marriage](#), which is sponsored by the USCCB is a TERRIFIC website for dating, engaged and married couples. You could direct couples to this page or print some of their articles in your bulletin. Here are some examples:

Give a little boost with a [Daily Marriage Tip](#)

Send them on a [7-day virtual marriage retreat!](#)

Suggest [some weekly dating ideas](#)

Host [Six Dates for Married Couples](#)

- Host a Valentine Café: Set up a little café with tables for 2 in your parish hall. Put some Hershey's kisses and 2-3 discussion starters on each table so couples can sit and talk for 10-15 minutes about some aspect of their married life. Like...
  1. Describe how you met your spouse. When did you realize he/she was really special and what was it you noticed?
  2. What qualities are you most grateful for in your spouse? Why?
  3. When have you felt like you and your spouse make a great team?
- Ask all the married couples to stand during mass and bless them. Do the same with engaged couples.
- Have cookies/donuts and punch after mass to celebrate the great vocation of marriage and how it is a pillar of your parish community.
- Offer couples the option of renewing their vows at the weekend liturgy.
- Include one or more prayers in the Prayers of the Faithful that celebrates the faithfulness of married couples and asks for fortitude. There are all kinds of couples to pray for!

#### 2. World Day of Prayer for the Sick, Feb. 11

The [National Association of Catholic Chaplains](#) has developed resources to help with the planning and celebration of World Day of the Sick (coinciding with the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes). The resources include suggestions and prayers for use by individuals as well as parishes and health care institutions.

- Share a family prayer service with someone who is sick in your family.
- Offer some kind of support or relief to a family member who is caring for someone who is sick.
- Affirm the healthcare providers who serve your family.

## Love Is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive (cont.)

### 3. Helping Families Choose Life, Part 2: Channeling the Energy of Your Pre-Schooler

**What is this about?** This is the second brief video in a series teaching parenting skills. Produced in collaboration with Catholic Social Services, it features Jennifer Barber and Shaliya Jones. They explain what is developmentally appropriate for 3-5 year olds and how you can help your child progress in a healthy direction. The presenters encourage appropriate safety parameters, taking time daily for interaction and bonding with your child and discipline based on routines and praise.

**What can I do with this to help parents in my parish?** Some options include:

- Get the word out – in the bulletin, parish webpage/Facebook page or newsletter for Pre-K or Kindergarten parents-- that this is available for viewing privately. Viewing links are listed below.
- Invite parents of tots and pre-schoolers for an evening/weekend/afternoon for reflection. Show the video and discuss. Use a prayer/reflective activity from [www.vibrantfaith@home.org](http://www.vibrantfaith@home.org).
- Show this to your parish Moms-and-Tots or Mommy-and-Me group and discuss. Use a prayer/reflective activity from [www.vibrantfaith@home.org](http://www.vibrantfaith@home.org).

**Where can I watch it?** *The following links should be ready by February 1*

*Our Faith, Our Diocese* on CTV (click here for February, 2015 schedule)

Click on the title above

The Office for Parish Life Facebook page

The Diocese of Scranton channel on [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com)

Click here for complete 2015 calendar with family resources and OPL programming



### 4. Intergenerational Lesson Plan for Lent

**What is this?** Catechesis for all members of the family that focuses on Lent, adapted from the Diocese of Greensburg, PA

**How can I use it with families in my parish?**

Invite parishioners to come after mass, during an afternoon/evening or in place of parish religious ed. Use the detailed lesson plan, posted on our webpage on [Marriage Support and Enrichment](#) after February 9, 2015.

## ISLI: UNDER CONSTRUCTION – Building a Better World

International Student Leadership Institute is an exciting, groundbreaking and life-changing experience.

**February 20th—22nd 2015**  
**@ Camp Ladore**  
**398 South Street, Waymart, PA**

For more info and to register: [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org)  
 or call Tommy McGrady  
 Coordinator for Youth and Young Adult Ministry  
 Office for Parish Life (570) 207-2213



At I.S.L.I. your students will...

- Come to be surrounded by a community that loves them...
- Come to discover their immense giftedness and immeasurable potential...
- Come to be empowered with the knowledge that they can and will do all things
- in Christ, for Christ and through Christ.
- Be empowered to transform their parishes, homes, and school communities.

If you want high school students to stand up and take their place in the life of your parish, this is the place to start!

## 2015 LTP Virtual Workshop Series

To accommodate the scheduling needs of those involved in various liturgical and catechetical ministries, each of these sessions is offered during the day and on a weekday evening. Each session will range from 75-90 minutes.

**Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>** – Welcomed into the Household of Christ: RCIA as an Opportunity for Parish Transformation

**Feb. 24 & 25<sup>th</sup>** – “But We’ve Always Done It This Way”: Introducing New Ideas in Our Liturgical Routines

**May 12 & 13<sup>th</sup>** – Preparing Parish Weddings: An Opportunity for Evangelization and Catechesis

**Aug. 26 & 27<sup>th</sup>** – Getting the Children (and Parents) of Your Religious Education Program to Mass

**Sept. 15 & 16<sup>th</sup>** – Engaging Teenagers: Building a Living Faith through the Word and the Mass

**Nov. 18 & 19<sup>th</sup>** – From Womb to Tomb: Baptisms and Funerals as Instruments of the New Evangelization

To register or for more info: [www.ltp.org](http://www.ltp.org)

## JustFaith Ministries Webinars

- Christians who want to develop a clear understanding of the role they play in social ministry at their church.
- Individuals who want to build a team committed to charity and justice.
- Existing team/committee members who want to plan and implement a successful social ministry project, with an increased circle of people.

The dates and details for the webinars include:

**January 29, 2015:** Identify Your Gifts, Ways to Form a Team, and Start a New Project

**February 26, 2015:** The 4 Food Groups for Healthy Social Ministry

**March 26, 2015:** The Secrets to Long Term Success

Each webinar is from noon to 1:00 p.m. and there is no cost to attend. People who plan to register can visit <http://tinyurl.com/webinars2015>.

## TEAM MEMBERS

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

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

Coordinator for Youth and Young Adult Ministries: **Tommy McGrady**

Director for WORSHIP: **David Baloga**

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

Director for SERVICE and Social Concerns: **David Clarke**

Coordinator for Diocesan Missions and

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

Coordinator for Mission Education: **Miriam Heverline**

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

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

Coordinator for Ministry with the Deaf and

Persons with Disabilities: **Sr. Mary Beth Makuch**

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

Consultant, Parish Pastoral Council Development: **Ann Marie Cawley**

Catholic Campus Ministers: **Courtney Hull, Caitlin Czeh**

Receptionist: **Jennifer Andres** Data Manager/Registrar: **Nancy Valtos**

Administrative Assistant: **Diane Franklin** Office Manager: **Marge Kosmahl**

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



OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE  
330 WYOMING AVENUE  
SCRANTON, PA 18503  
(570) 207-2213