

JANUARY 2016



OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

GOOD NEWS NOTES

DIOCESAN CONGRESS 2016

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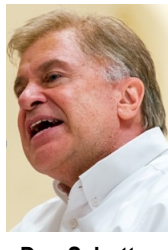
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The Diocesan Congress will convene with a **Friday evening concert, October 7th**, at 7:00pm at the Cathedral of St. Peter. Then the University of Scranton will again host the full **Congress day of workshops, networking, and Liturgy: October 8th**, 9:00am-5:00pm. Stay tuned for many more details to come. The Congress theme is guided this year by these words of Pope Francis:

*The Gospel tells us constantly to run the risk of a face-to-face encounter with others, with their physical presence which challenges us, with their pain and their pleas, with their joy which infects us in our close and continuous interaction. True faith in the incarnate Son of God is inseparable from self-giving, from service, from reconciliation with others. The Son of God, by becoming flesh, summons us to the **revolution of tenderness.** (EG #88)*



Fr. James Martin
Keynote



Dan Schutte
Year of Mercy
Concert



Alice Camille
Spirituality



Jack Jezreel
JustFaith

Many additional great workshop presenters, pastoral leaders, and parishioners from all parishes of the Diocese of Scranton! Plan now to put yourself here in this picture with them!

REGISTRATION DEADLINE EXTENDED

Diocese of Scranton- World Youth Day Pilgrimage 2016

There is still time to become part of this special delegation to join with young adults from around the world and Bishop Bambera — tour Warsaw, Krakow and other sights in Poland—receive Pope Francis and his message. For webinar and registration, go to:

<http://events.signup4.com/WYDScranton>

Information and Planning Session

Thursday, January 14, 2016 - 6:30-8:00pm

Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave, Scranton, PA 18510

Please encourage anyone you know who might be interested to attend - deposits for travel must be made by January 20, 2016.



Christian Unity Prayer Service

Monday, January 25
12:15pm
Cathedral of St. Peter
[Resources for Unity Octave](#)





**Diocesan Certificate
in Lay Ministry
2016 Skills Workshops**
(All parish ministers
are welcome.)

Living Your Strengths: Jan 30, 9AM-3PM

*Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish
535 North Main Street, Pittston*

Each member of the Body of Christ has a special and unique purpose. Bernadette Rudolph, Diocesan Director for Family and Community Development, will help participants understand the particular gifts God has given them and how God is asking them to use their gifts. Participants will also learn about the need to partner with others, who have different gifts, to accomplish all the work of parish life. Participants should take the Gallup Strengths' Finder survey online BEFORE the workshop, so register early to get your log-in code.

Skills workshops are offered quarterly—for more information and registration for each workshop (\$30), go to www.dioceseofscranton.org (Office for Parish Life/Skills)

WORKS OF MERCY

Gathering of those currently involved in prison ministry and those seeking to expand it in your parish:

Friday, January 15, 1:30PM

Office for Parish Life, 330 Wyoming Ave, Scranton

The meeting has three goals:

- To share what is currently being done for those in prison throughout the diocese
- To identify needs for this ministry in our area
- To publish ideas for **How Can We Visit the Imprisoned?** - a list of suggestions for parishes to increase awareness of and care for those in prison for the Year of Mercy.



Please invite others who may be interested.

RSVP by January 14 to

Jennifer-Andres@dioceseofscranton.org

Extraordinary Minister of Communion Training

The Office for Parish Life will offer training for new Extraordinary Ministers of Communion on February 2nd, 9th and 16th, 2016 (Tuesdays) from 6:30PM-9:00PM in the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave., Scranton. Please call the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213 or email David-Baloga@dioceseofscranton.org to register for one of these sessions. Please note that it is necessary for candidates to attend all three sessions.

Lector Training

The Office for Parish Life will offer a two-part formation session for new (or current) Lectors on February 18th and 15th, 2016 (Thursdays) from 6:30PM-9:00PM in the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave., Scranton. Please call the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213 or email David-Baloga@dioceseofscranton.org to register for one of these sessions.

Ash Wednesday Day of Reflection

The Office for Parish Life will offer a Day of Reflection on Ash Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton. The day will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m.

Dr. Marie Noël Keller, RSM, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Institute on Sacred Scripture, Misericordia University, will lead the Day of Reflection with the theme, *"The Works of Mercy According to Luke."*

Mass will be celebrated in St. Peter's Cathedral with distribution of ashes. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available prior to Mass.

The fee is \$30, which includes lunch.

To register, call Mary Anne Malone at the Office for Parish Life, 570-207-2213, or e-mail Mary-Anne-Malone@dioceseofscranton.org.

RITE OF ELECTION February 14, 2016

RCIA Coordinator Information and Enrollment Forms

Available now: www.dioceseofscranton.org/

[Christian Initiation resources](#)

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY RESOURCES



Calling the Church, calling each of us, to a Year of mercy, Pope Francis tells us: *“Mercy is the very foundation of the Church’s life. All of her pastoral activity should be caught up in the tenderness she makes present to believers; nothing in her preaching and in her witness to the world can be lacking in mercy. The Church’s very credibility is seen in how she shows merciful, compassionate love.”*

To facilitate your study and action toward becoming more merciful persons and communities during this holy year, **The Office for Parish Life has published a calendar titled “Becoming the Church of Mercy.”** Three copies were mailed to each parish, and it is also posted on the Diocesan website. If your parish would like additional copies, simply call the Office for Parish Life — you are also most welcome to copy any or all of it.

In addition to the many resources offered in this calendar, check the [Year of Mercy page of Diocesan website](#) for monthly updates like:

- Liturgical Resources for Winter’s Ordinary Season
- Catechetical Resources for the Year of Mercy
- The Year of Mercy Challenge! - action plan for youth groups
- Year of Mercy Intergenerational Catechesis (**NEW! Attachment with same email as this January News Notes**)
- Laudato si Study Guides

Lenten Preparation Sessions

It is not too early to think about Lent! The Office for Parish Life will be holding regional **Lenten Preparation Sessions** 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. These meetings will be held at the following locations:

Monday, January 11, 2016 at St. Boniface Parish, 326 Washington Blvd., Williamsport at 6:30PM

Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at Divine Mercy Parish, 312 Davis St., Scranton at 6:30PM

Thursday, January 14, 2016 at St. Vincent de Paul, 101 St. Vincent Dr., Milford at 6:30PM

To register for any of these sessions, please **contact the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213.**

TRAINING SESSIONS FOR PARISHES BEGINNING SEASON 2

- January 25, Monday-** Queen of Peace, Brodheadsville 6:00-8:00pm
January 26, Tuesday- St. Vincent de Paul, Dingmans Ferry 6:00-8:00pm
January 27, Wednesday- Holy Name of Mary, Montrose 6:00-8:00pm
January 28, Thursday- Sts. Peter & Paul, Towanda 6:00-8:00pm
January 29, Friday- St. John Bosco, Conyngham 6:30-8:30pm
January 30, Saturday- St. Peter Cathedral, Scranton 9:00-11:00am

INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR PARISHES PREPARING FOR SEASON 1 IN FALL OF 2016

- January 19** Diocesan Pastoral Center, Noon
St. Patrick’s Parish, Scranton, 7pm
January 20 TBA
January 21 Holy Child Parish, Mansfield, 7:00pm

Parishes interested in **attending** these info sessions (or hosting for January 20th), call Kitty MacLean at (570)-207-2213x1157.



REGIONAL NETWORK MEETINGS - CONFIRMATION UPDATES

For all persons involved with children and youth in religious formation:

- receive Diocesan updates;
- learn new ideas from each other; and,
- gain the support of persons in your neighboring parishes who share your goals and responsibilities.

Mary Anne Malone and Catherine Butel will facilitate together, and included in each meeting will be some new information about the **Sacrament of Confirmation in the Diocese of Scranton.**



Meeting Dates and Locations:

January 19, 6:30-8:30pm
St. Lawrence Parish, South Williamsport

January 21, 6:30-8:30pm
Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton

January 26, 6:30-8:30pm
Saints Peter and Paul Parish, Plains

January 28, 6:30-8:30pm
St. John Bosco Parish, Conyngham



TEAM MEMBERS

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

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

Director for WORSHIP: **David Baloga**

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

Director for SERVICE and Social Concerns:

Coordinator for Diocesan Missions and

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

Coordinator for Mission Education: **Miriam Heverline**

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

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

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

Coordinator for Ministry with the Deaf and

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

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

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

Events Coordinator, Diocesan Pastoral Center: **Sue Burke**

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

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www.dioceseofscranton.org



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