

# GoodNewsNotes

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

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## Creatively Reaching Out to Persons with Disabilities



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

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

### Presenters:

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

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



## Able to Include

**Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children**

Monday, January 23, 2017

**Ecumenical Celebration of the Word of God**

Wednesday,  
January 25, 2017  
at 12:10PM at the  
Cathedral of St. Peter

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

*Feb. 13 at St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Pocono Pines*

*Feb. 20 at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Castellano Center, Williamsport*

*Feb. 21 at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton*

*Feb. 27 at Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Wilkes-Barre*

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



# WORD

"I CALL us to be servant leaders who are people of the WORD, preaching, teaching, evangelizing and cherishing the Gospel message throughout our entire lives."

## I.S.L.I.

The next ISLI Retreat will be held at Camp Ladore in Waymart from Friday, February 24 – Sunday, February 26, 2017. I.S.L.I. (International Student Leadership Institute) is open to all high school students who wish to learn about leadership and improve their already existing decision-making and problem-solving skills through the teachings of the Catholic faith. [Online registration](#) is now open. There are a limited number of spaces available, so don't delay.

## National Catholic Youth Conference 2017 (NCYC)

NCYC 2017, attended by over 20,000 young people from all parts of the United States, will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana on November 16-18, 2017. The theme is "Called/Llamados." The Diocese of Scranton will send a delegation to NCYC by bus leaving November 15 and returning November 19. Is your parish "Called" to participate in this pilgrimage? Information packets will be sent out in February. For immediate informa-

tion, contact Mary Anne Malone by phone: (570) 207-2213, ext. 1100 or e-mail: [mary-anne-malone@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:mary-anne-malone@dioceseofscranton.org).

## DRE Network Meetings

DREs and Parish Catechetical Leaders are invited to attend one of the January DRE Network Meetings. Four parish locations have been selected for your convenience. **Each meeting will be held from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.** This is a great opportunity for DREs to meet and connect with one another. In addition to updates from the Office for Parish Life, Kathy Bolinski, Safe Environment Coordinator for the Diocese of Scranton, will speak about safe environment initiatives. You will also hear from Katie Kernich, a representative of Catholic Relief Services, who will guide us through the Lenten Rice Bowl program and will show us how to access online classroom resources made available by CRS. Please choose one of these dates and plan to join other parish DREs for an



evening of prayer, fellowship and formation.

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

### Monday, January 23

Gate of Heaven Parish  
Dallas

### Tuesday, January 24

St. Paul of the Cross Parish  
Scranton

### Thursday, January 26

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish  
Montoursville

### Tuesday, January 31

Holy Rosary Parish  
Hazleton

## Youth Minister Retreat

The Office for Parish Life is offering a retreat experience for parish Youth Ministers and adult Youth Ministry team leaders on Friday and Saturday, January 13 & 14, 2017 at St. Gabriel Retreat Center in Clarks Summit. The cost of \$80 per person covers the retreat program, overnight lodging and three meals. [Click here](#) to register.

## A New Season of *ARISE Together in Christ* to be offered Lent 2017

Leaders from several parishes throughout the Diocese of Scranton will be coming together at the end of January to hold trainings for *ARISE* Season Four: *New Heart, New Spirit*. This season of the small group faith-sharing process—spanning the weeks of Lent—will address the need for reconciliation and healing in our lives, in parishes and throughout the world. These training sessions are being offered to assist parish leaders in their understanding of grief, forgiveness, healing, and to provide ways to create an environment for healing in faith communities. This upcoming Lenten season is also an opportunity for interested parishes to discern starting participation in the *ARISE Together in Christ* process for Fall 2017; *ARISE* gives parishioners a framework within which to respond to the invitation to grow in faith through weekly reflections on Scripture, sharing how the Word of God relates to daily life, and cultivating active discipleship through Christian social action. Participants journey deeper into their faith during each of the five seasons. Greg Kremer from RENEW International can be reached at 908-242-0447 to offer interested parishes more details about the *ARISE* process and how it can unfold for your parish.

**About RENEW International**—RENEW International is a canonically-recognized Catholic organization based in Plainfield, NJ, in the Archdiocese of Newark. RENEW International fosters spiritual renewal in the Catholic tradition by empowering individuals and communities to encounter God in everyday life, deepen and share faith, and connect faith with action.

RENEW International has a four-decade record in revitalizing parish life in over 150 dioceses in the United States, touching the lives of 25 million people through its renewal processes. RENEW International also reaches many thousands outside the United States, having served people in 23 countries, across six continents and in 44 languages. The organization's web site is [www.renewintl.org](http://www.renewintl.org).





## Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry Program 2017

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

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

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

Starting with our New Candidate Orientation Retreat on Saturday, January 28, 2017, the Office for Parish Life anticipates welcoming new candidates into the *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry* program in the New Year.

**Prospective candidates are encouraged to contact Kitty Scanlan, Coordinator for Lay Ministry Formation, at 570-207-2213, or by email at [Kitty-Scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:Kitty-Scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org) for application information, materials, and application submissions.**

"I CALL us to be servant leaders who WORSHIP our God and celebrate the Sacraments in union with the universal Church."

## WORSHIP



### NPM—Preparing the Paschal Triduum

The Scranton Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians is sponsoring a day workshop on "**Preparing the Paschal Triduum**" on Saturday, February 18, 2017 from 9:00AM to 2:00PM at Divine Mercy

Parish, Scranton.

This workshop, led by Fr. Jack Lambert, pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, Plains, is designed for all liturgy committees, pastoral musicians, ministers of liturgical environment, priests and deacons and anyone else involved with preparing the celebration of the Paschal Triduum. There is no fee but a free will offering will be taken, and lunch will be provided. To register, please contact David Baloga, NPM Program Director, at 570-207-2213 or [register here](#) or online at [www.scrantonnpm.com](http://www.scrantonnpm.com).

### Rite of Election

The Rite of Election will be celebrated by Bishop Bambera on Sunday, March 5 at 3:00PM. RCIA Coordinator Information and Enrollment forms will be available on the diocesan website on January 17 under [Christian Initiation Resources](#). Parishes with new RCIA Coordinators are asked to contact Nancy Valtos at the Office for Parish Life and provide their new contact information.

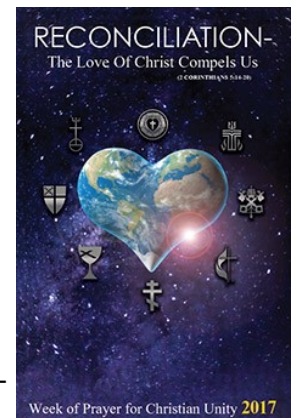
### World Day of the Sick

The Twenty-fifth World Day of the Sick will be celebrated on Saturday, February 11, 2017. Parishes around

the diocese are encouraged to offer a Mass for the Sick that includes the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick either on February 11 or another convenient day near it. [Resources for World Day of the Sick](#) can be found on the diocesan website.

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be observed from Wednesday, January 18 through Wednesday, January 25. This year marks the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. A sample ecumenical celebration of the Word of God produced by the Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute is available through the [USCCB website](#).



## LTP Virtual Workshops

Liturgy Training Publications is offering several different series of online workshops for cantors, lectors, extraordinary ministers of Communion, liturgists, teachers and catechists throughout the year. These virtual workshops are different than other webinars in that they invite participants to engage with the presenter and one another in providing feedback, reflections on the topic at hand, and discuss best practices and strategies for enhancing engagement in their ministries. Here are some of the upcoming virtual workshops:



### ■ Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Series:



1. **Understanding Christ's Presence in the Eucharistic Celebration**  
January 18, 2017 at 7:30PM
2. **Preparing to Serve as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion**  
February 1, 2017 at 7:30PM
3. **Become What You Receive: Living as a Disciple of Christ**  
February 15, 2017 at 7:30PM

### ■ Proclaiming the Seasons: Entering into the Lenten Scriptures—February 23, 2017 at 7:30PM

The cost for each session is \$10 or you can participate in all three of the Extraordinary Minister of Communion workshops for \$25. For more information or to register for any of these sessions or to see what other sessions are available throughout the year, please visit [www.ltp.org/virtualworkshops](http://www.ltp.org/virtualworkshops).

## COMMUNITY

"I CALL us to be servant leaders who build COMMUNITY through hospitality, respect, inclusion and holiness.

### Would You Like to Offer an Evening/Afternoon of Reflection?

Bernadette Rudolph, MA, MS, Director for Family and Community Development, is available to present a 2-3 hour retreat on the following:

**An Introduction to Prayer** – what is prayer about as well as an experience of various prayer styles  
**Living Your Strengths** – claiming the unique gifts of each person and recognizing that everyone's gifts are needed to truly be the Body of Christ

**Marriage as a Vocation: How Spouses Help Each Other Become Holier** – If a vocation is a path to God and marriage is a vocation, spouses walk with each other to God. What does that mean?

**Keeping the Doors of Mercy Open** – God was merciful long before the Year of Mercy and will continue to be, long after it has ended. We are called to do the same. Explore how we can live lives of mercy.

**Hospitality: A Ministry for Everyone** – Reflect on how God welcomes humans throughout the Bible, how Jesus models hospitality and calls us to welcome others. See how this simple element can transform parish life, if we all answer the call.

Other topics are also possible. These retreats can be extended up to a full day, if you wish. Contact Bernadette to discuss your ideas! (ext. 1104 or [Bernadette-Rudolph@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:Bernadette-Rudolph@dioceseofscranton.org))

### Rethinking Marriage Preparation

Do you ever wonder if your marriage preparation program is as effective as it could be? Authors Diana Macalintal and Nick Wagner suggest that we need to shift from simply preparing engaged couples for marriage and instead invite them into a discipleship which will sustain them long after the wedding day. Macalintal and Wagner have developed a way to use the RCIA model for marriage preparation. The process connects the couple into the parish community

as well as evangelizes everyone.

Sounds intriguing but what would it look like? Bernadette Rudolph invites you to join a regional reading group to read Macalintal and Wagner's book, *Joined by the Church, Sealed by a Blessing*, and discuss how its ideas might be adapted for your parish. She can organize and facilitate the group or you can do so on your own. You will need to purchase your own copy of the book. Dates and locations of the reading groups will be arranged at the convenience of group members. Please [click here](#) to register for a reading group.

DIANA MACALINTAL and  
NICK WAGNER

**JOINED  
BY THE CHURCH  
SEALED  
BY A BLESSING**

COUPLES and COMMUNITIES  
CALLED to CONVERSION TOGETHER





## “Tending to Self”

**February 11th from 9AM-4PM  
at the Diocesan Pastoral Center,  
330 Wyoming Ave, Scranton**

**Lisa Rigau, RN, MS, sports and wellness nutritionist, will share the importance of self care for good ministry. She offers training in the practice of loving kindness and self-compassion through contemplative prayer, mindfulness, mindful eating and conversation. This workshop will involve teaching, discussion and trying out what you learn.**

**Participants are asked to wear comfortable clothing.**

The cost of registration for each workshop is \$30 payable to the Diocese of Scranton. [Register online](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org) at [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org)

*“I CALL us to be servant leaders who engage in SERVICE to our neighbors near and far and who work for justice and stewardship to hasten the Reign of God.”*

## Nonviolence Seminar

This Lent, let us walk with the non-violent Jesus.

- Loving our enemies!?*
- Turning the other cheek!?*
- Walking an extra mile!?*
- Putting down the sword!?*

“Follow me” – says the nonviolent Jesus! Let us gather to discuss our Lord and Savior’s call!

*Q. Are there “successful” nonviolent movements? A. Recall Poland’s Solidarity movement with St. John Paul II.*

*A. MLK’s Civil Rights. A. Gandhi and the British Empire. A. Bringing down Pinochet, Marcos, Nazi Germany, Apartheid South Africa.*

Let us explore the writings of our Popes’ World Day of Peace messages – including the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary by Pope Francis entitled, “Nonviolence: a style of politics for peace,” as well as Merton, Romero, Gandhi, King, Tolstoy, Berrigan, Day, and even Joan Baez.

Would your parish community be interested in a Lenten series of 3, 4 or 6 weeks? Or even a one-time workshop?

Contact Richard DeBona, Director for Service and Social Concerns in OPL at 570-207-2213 x 1130; [Richard-DeBona@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:Richard-DeBona@dioceseofscranton.org)

## March for Life

Pro-life advocates throughout the Diocese of Scranton will join tens of thousands of their counterparts from across the nation for the 44<sup>th</sup> annual March for Life on Friday, Jan. 27, in Washington, D.C.

Regional chapters of the Pennsylvanians for Human Life (PHL) will offer round-trip bus transportation. Bus reservations are requested as soon as possible.

The March for Life convenes with the traditional midday rally gathering on the grounds of the Washington Monument, followed by the march at approximately 1 p.m. Following the March for Life, partici-



**It’s not too late to register your parish for the V Encuentro Parish and Diocesan-based process for 2017!** While this process is designed especially for pastoral planning within the Hispanic/Latino communities of the United States, it is NOT limited to these communities – and there are **many ways for all of our parishes to benefit** from some level of participation in this process. You can confirm your parish’s participation by clicking the [V Encuentro Parish Participation Registration Form](#). If you have any additional questions or suggestions, feel free to contact Alejandra Marroquin or Catherine Butel at 570-207-2213.

## SERVICE

pants may visit their local congressional delegations or attend “The Silent No More” program at the U.S. Supreme Court building to hear speakers who have been personally affected by the evils of abortion. Departure times and costs vary. Details on bus schedules and costs throughout the region can be obtained from the following contacts:

- *Bradford County*—contact Rob Howard at (570) 395-3447
- *Honesdale*—contact St. John the Evangelist Parish at (570) 253-4561
- *Monroe County (Poconos)*—contact Patricia Murray, (570) 420-8083
- *Scranton*—contact Anthony De-Paola at (570) 906-1107
- *Williamsport*—contact Evelyn Rall at (570) 398-0722
- *Wyoming Valley*—contact Chris Calore at (570) 824-5621

## 10 Ways to “nurture parish members in the stewardship of their gifts”



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

1. Host a Living Your Strengths Retreat with Bernadette Rudolph, Director for Community and Family Development through the Office for Parish Life;
2. Include a gifts inventory instrument, matched to parish ministries, in your process of registering for the parish;
3. Recruit for specific parish projects by naming the gifts and talents needed for each task in order to implement or accomplish the goal and to achieve the benefits for the parish;
4. Cultivate an “attitude of gratitude” in every parish program and activity – reminding people that we give because we are blessed: “Freely have you received, freely give.”
5. Form a stewardship team for all aspects of parish life – their goal is to foster engagement by calling forth peoples’ investment of skills, talents, and financial support;
6. Gather a group to participate in the VLCCFF Course entitled “The Joy of the Gospel”
7. Form mentoring partnerships between the “long-timers” who have sustained parish ministries and activities for decades, and young adult members or couples who may not yet have actively participated but whose leadership could be developed;
8. Identify a “reach project” – something for which the parish feels called by its mission and which will require a significant contribution of time, talent and treasure over a year or more;
9. Make a deliberate point to generously acknowledge volunteers and donors – affirming their specific contributions and the ways these benefit the parish as a whole and build up the Kingdom of God.
10. Present the Diocesan Annual Appeal as an extension of the gifts of your parish reaching to needs beyond the scope of any one parish – and the benefits this also brings back to the vitality of your parish.

### OPL TEAM MEMBERS

Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life: **Catherine Jantsch Butel**  
 Director for WORD and Lifelong Faith Formation: **Mary Anne Malone**  
 Consultant for Youth and Campus Ministry: **Fred Mercadante**  
 Director for WORSHIP: **David Baloga**  
 Coordinator for RCIA: **Fr. Bob Simon**  
 Director for SERVICE and Social Concerns: **Richard DeBona**  
 Coordinator for Diocesan Missions and  
 Director for Pontifical Missions: **Deacon Ed Kelly**  
 Coordinator for Mission Education: **Miriam Heverline**  
 Coordinator for Pilgrimages: **Fr. Andrew Hvozdovic**  
 Director for Family and COMMUNITY Development: **Bernadette Rudolph**  
 Coordinator for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations: **Msgr. Vincent Grimalia**  
 Coordinator for V Encuentro: **Alejandra Marroquin**  
 Coordinator for Lay Ministry Formation: **Kitty Scanlan**  
 Coordinator for Pastoral Council Development: **Ann Marie Cawley**  
 Events Coordinator, Diocesan Pastoral Center: **Sue Burke**  
 Receptionist: **Jennifer Andres**    Data Manager/Registrar: **Nancy Valtos**  
 Administrative Assistant: **Diane Franklin**    Office Manager: **Marge Kosmahl**



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