



GOOD NEWS NOTES

RENEW Process Launching for Parish Engagement in Faith-Sharing Communities

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In August and September, ten parishes across the Diocese will be preparing their small faith community facilitators for Renew International’s process of adult faith formation and parish renewal. Renew Team professionals have been on site here in the Diocese of Scranton several times in recent months, providing initial information sessions, then parish team training.

Once the Facilitator Training is completed, each parish will invite their members to join a parish group for the first season of *ARISE: Together in Christ*. This first season focuses on what it means to seek and encounter Christ — and the weekly sessions will look at this question through the lens of each of the gospel writers, and then the writing of St. Paul.



Participating Parishes at this time are:

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| St. John Bosco, Conyngham | Sts. Peter and Paul, Towanda |
| St. Vincent de Paul, Milford | Holy Name of Mary, Montrose |
| St. Therese, Shavertown | St. Frances X Cabrini, Carverton |
| Our Lady Queen of Peace, Brodheadsville | Epiphany, Sayre |
| St. John Neumann, Scranton | Cathedral of St. Peter, Scranton |

DID YOU MISS THE BOAT? No! If your parish is interested but was not quite ready for this launch timeline, please be assured that we will offer additional information sessions later this Fall in order to include as many parishes as possible in this exciting opportunity for evangelization and parish revitalization. RENEW materials are all available in Spanish, Vietnamese, and other languages. There are also special resources for children, teens and young adult groups. Call the Office for Parish Life 570-207-2213.

Mass of Remembrance

Thursday, July 16
7:00pm
Cathedral of St. Peter

For families and friends of persons who suffered violent or traumatic death.

FOCCUS Facilitator Training



Saturday, August 22, Queen of Peace, Brodheadsville:
A workshop will be held 9:30AM-3:30PM to train for using the FOCCUS premarital inventory with engaged couples. FOCCUS is a great tool for helping couples talk about key issues in married life that both the US Catholic Conference of Bishops and licensed marriage counselors agree are fundamental components.

This workshop prepares a person/sponsor couple to go over the results when an engaged couple take the survey. Priests, deacons, pastoral associates and married sponsor couples are all welcome to attend. Go to www.foccusinc.com and click on "Training" to register.

FOCCUS: Updating Parish Associations: **Did your parish change pastors/parochial vicars? Are you in a new parish assignment?** If so, your FOCCUS account should be updated to reflect the change in association. See page 5 of the revised "(Almost) Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about FOCCUS" for directions. For your convenience, this document is attached to the same email message which contained these July News Notes.

Grief Support Ministry



On June 2, Sr. Jane Connolly, RSM, gave a 2 hour workshop, hosted by St. Monica's, West Wyoming for 20 people from 7 parishes wishing to begin or further develop their parish grief support ministry.

Sr. Jane shared her wisdom/experience from ministering for many years in this area; she also provided information on the grief process, common emotions in grieving, complications and grief history, listening skills and how to lead a group.

Concise, accessible and with great handouts!

Is your parish interested in hosting just such a workshop? Are you interested in attending one? Call Bernadette at 570-207-2213, ext 1104, or email Bernadette-rudolph@dioceseofscranton.org.

Parish Youth and Young Adult Leaders:

Have you reserved a spot for your group to attend NCYC this coming November? There are a few openings still in the Diocesan delegation, but you must reserve your seats on the bus ASAP. Contact Mary Anne Malone: 570-207-2213 or Mary-Anne-Malone@dioceseofscranton.org

See You There!

NCYC





**FORMING INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES: SHERRY WEDDELL
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2015
ST. MONICA'S PARISH CENTER - WEST WYOMING, PA**

How can we transmit a living, personal Catholic faith to future generations? By coming to know Jesus Christ, and following him as his disciples.

These are times of immense challenge and immense opportunity for the Catholic Church.

Consider these statistics for the United States.

- Only 30 percent of Americans who were raised Catholic are still practicing.
- Fully 10 percent of all adults in America are ex-Catholics.
- The number of marriages celebrated in the Church decreased dramatically, by nearly 60 percent, between 1972 and 2010.
- Only 60 percent of Catholics believe in a personal God.

If the Church is to reverse these trends, the evangelizers must first be evangelized. In other words, Catholics-in-the-pew must make a conscious choice to know and follow Jesus before they can draw others to him. Sherry Weddell leads participants through steps that will help Catholics enter more deeply into a relationship with God and the river of apostolic creativity, charisms, and vocation that flow from that relationship for the sake of the Church and the world.

Learn about the five thresholds of postmodern conversion, how to open a conversation about faith and belief, how to ask thought-provoking questions and establish an atmosphere of trust, when to tell the Great Story of Jesus, how to help someone respond to God's call to intentional discipleship, and much more.

Be prepared for conversion because when life at the parish level changes, the life of the whole Church will change.

Join Bishop Bambera for World Youth Day 2016

World Youth Day 2016

WYD USA

Kick Off Event July 7, 2015

www.wydusa.org

Love Is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive

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

[Click here for complete calendar](#)



Summer 2015 Opportunity: *Family-to-Family-Based Service Project*

What is this about? Love and faith are always generative, moving us to reach beyond ourselves to help others. Help families bring their love and faith beyond the boundaries of their homes to help the larger community in which they live. Set up a family-oriented service project, which includes a picnic/social and prayer/reflection.

How do I do this? Look around your community for local needs and/or use one of the ideas in the [ACTION PLAN](#), which explains all the aspects of setting up a successful event for your parish.

Pope Francis' Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home

Online Book Club: July 29- August 25 ([Boston College C21 Online](#))

- What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us?
- What is the purpose of our life in this world?
- How can a society plan and protect its future amid constantly developing technological innovations?

Contemplate these questions and many more through a guided reading and facilitated discussions on Pope Francis' recent encyclical, *Laudato Si'*. Whether you've read a few pages or the whole letter, this course provides an opportunity to enter into conversation with others regarding its wide-ranging implications and allows you to reflect on the impact it may have on the way you and your local community address the needs of creation.

AND... Free Youth Sessions on Care for the Earth—from [Center for Ministry Development](#)

For your home or parish use: [A Reader's Guide to Laudato Si by Jesuit Father Thomas Reese](#)



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:

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

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

Event Coordinator for Diocesan Pastoral Center: **Sue Burke**

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

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

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



OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

330 WYOMING AVENUE

SCRANTON, PA 18503

(570) 207-2213

www.dioceseofscranton.org