



GoodNewsNotes

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

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2017 CATECHIST CAMP



LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION-Fulfilling the Vision Targets

In 2016 Catechist Camp, we introduced the work of LifelongFaith Associates in *Re-Imagining Faith Formation for the 21st Century*. This year's Catechist Camp (August 8-12) will provide two different **Innovation Labs**, designed and facilitated through LifelongFaith Associates. **See detailed description in box on page 2.**

Timeframe each day: 9:00am-5:00pm:

- Tuesday, August 8 — Orientation/Basic Certification for new Parish Catechists and Catholic School Teachers — Diocesan Pastoral Center
- Wednesday, August 9—Digitally Enabled Faith Formation Workshop— St. Ann Parish, Williamsport
- Thursday, August 10—Digitally Enabled Faith Formation Workshop— St. Leo Parish, Ashley
- Friday, August 11—Faith Formation for Every Adult in the Parish—St. Luke Parish, Stroudsburg
- Saturday, August 12—Faith Formation for Every Adult in the Parish— Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton

To reserve a spot for your parish team for any of these workshops please complete the form at: <https://tinyurl.com/Catechist-Camp>

CATECHIST CONVOCATION - Family/Whole Community Catechesis, with keynoter Joan Weber from Center for Ministry Development.

- October 14, 9am-3pm—CATECHIST CONVOCATION Ministries of WORD Diocesan Pastoral Center (Registration Information coming soon!)

**Mass of Remembrance
July 13, 7:00pm
Cathedral of St. Peter**



WORD Convocation



The WORD Convocation, also known as the Convocation for Catechists, will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2017 at Diocesan Pastoral Center, in Scranton.

The Keynote Speaker will be Joan Weber, Project Coordinator of

Families on a Mission and Lifelong Faith Formation for the Center for Ministry Development.

The Convocation will include Mass, the Keynote, Lunch and Workshops. Joan's keynote topic is "Whole Family Catechesis." Mark your calendars now!

National Catholic Youth Conference November 15-19, 2017



Are you being CALLED to be a part of the Diocese of Scranton delegation to the NCYC in November? Our group has filled two buses already. Are there students and potential chaperones in your parish who would like to join us for an exciting pilgrimage to Indianapolis for NCYC? Contact Mary Anne Malone to reserve a spot on a third bus: mary-anne-malone@dioceseofscranton.org or 570-207-2213, x1100. More information, videos, forms and planning team contacts can be found on the diocesan website: [NCYC 2017](#).

Digitally Enabled Faith Formation: This workshop selects and presents the best approaches for integrating digital strategies into faith formation. Learn how to use digital tools, methods, and resources that are best suited for faith formation with all ages and generations. Discover where you can find great digital tools and curate digital faith formation resources. Each participant will design and implement new or enhanced programming that utilizes digital tools and methods.

Jim Merhaut is the Founder and Director of Coaching to Connect, a training and coaching service offered to individuals, organizations, and couples. He is an author and co-author of nine books and dozens of other publications, including the award-winning book, *Your Catholic Family: Simple Ways to Share the Faith at Home*. Jim's most recent contribution was to the Lifelong Faith book, *Seasons of Adult Faith Formation*. He was also the principal writer and project coordinator for *Families on a Mission: A Family Service and Mission Experience*. Jim is a 30-year veteran in Church ministry having worked in parish, diocesan, Catholic school, university and retreat center settings. Jim's experience in digital ministry includes designing and developing all digital outreach for Coaching to Connect and digital ministry project coordination for his church clients including social media, website design and management, graphic design, video production, audio production and more. Jim is also a musician and a national performing and recording artist with JD Eicher. Jim and his wife, Debbie, have five children and reside in Youngstown, Ohio where they enjoy organic gardening, walks in the park, and pursuing a simple lifestyle.



Faith Formation for Every Adult in the Parish: Adult faith formation today: workshops, retreats, small groups? Yes – and much, much more! When we realize all the options we see how possible it is to provide vibrant faith formation for all adults. Who are these adults - young adults, midlife adults, mature adults, and older adults? We'll explore the interests, concerns, questions, and faith/life journeys of each of these seasons of life of today's adults – and how to respond and engage each of them in adult faith formation. Looking at resources and practical examples of things that have worked, *we'll begin to create a do-able and effective adult faith formation plan and possibilities for your parish.*



Sr. Janet Schaeffler, OP, is a facilitator of days of reflection/retreats, parish missions, workshops/presentations, author, university teacher, and facilitator of online classes for the University of Dayton and Boston College. Janet created and publishes GEMS - a monthly newsletter from an ongoing international best practices study on adult faith formation. In April 2010 Janet received the Distinguished Service Award in Catechetics from NCCL .

Some of her most recent books are *Deepening Faith: Adult Faith Formation in the Parish*; *Reflections and Prayers for Advent 2016* (2017 forth-coming); *The Spirituality of the Catechist*; *The Creed: Understanding and Sharing What We Believe*; *Teaching Kids to Care, Marian Prayers from our Tradition*; *Hope: Scripture Reflections and Conversations*; *How to Talk to Children about Jesus*; *Activities for What Makes Us Catholic*; and a contributor to *The Seasons of Adult Faith Formation*.

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

WORSHIP

WORSHIP Convocation

The WORSHIP Convocation will be held on Saturday, **October 28, 2017** at Marywood University in Scranton. This day-long event will feature keynote speaker, Dr. Elaine Rendler, a nationally recognized musician, teacher, composer, pastoral liturgist, speaker, and author of *In the Midst of the Assembly* and *This Is the Day*, as well as the writer of weekly columns and music suggestions in *Today's Liturgy* for more than 30 years, offering practical wisdom to generations of pastoral musicians. The WORSHIP Convocation will also feature breakout sessions for various liturgical ministries. Please save the date and plan on joining us!



Upcoming National Association of Pastoral Musician (NPM) Events

■ National Convention

The 40th Annual National Convention of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians will take place on July 11-14, 2017 in Cincinnati, Ohio. The theme for this year's convention is "Formed as One: Union of Voices, Unity of Hearts" and offers workshops for everyone involved in music ministry from directors, organists, pianists, choir members, cantors and parish liturgists. For more information, [click here](#) or visit www.NPM.org

■ Scranton NPM Summer Gathering

If you are unable to attend the National Convention in Cincinnati, please plan on joining us for the NPM Scranton Chapter Summer Gathering on Monday, August 7, 2017 beginning at 6:00PM at Exaltation of the Holy Cross in Hanover Township. We will begin with an informal cookout with hotdogs, hamburgers and beverages provided, but we are asking those attending to bring a covered dish to share. Afterwards, we will listen to the insights and experiences of those from our diocese who attended the NPM National Convention in Cincinnati. To register, please visit the following link or contact Nancy Valtos at 570-207-2213, ext. 1119 by Thursday, August 3rd.

■ Annual Musicians' Mass

Mark your calendars now and invite all members of your parish music ministry to join us on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at 7:00PM at the Cathedral of St. Peter for the annual Musicians' Mass celebrated by Bishop Bambera. This gathering would be a great way to begin a new season of music of ministry in your parish by having choir members, cantors, instrumentalists, organists, pianists, and choir directors renew their commitment and be commissioned for their ministry. Please plan on joining us!



EXALTT!

XLT

EXALTT!

Adoration-Speaker-
Praise & Worship Music-
Reconciliation-Social

Friday, July 28

Divine Mercy Parish
312 Davis St. Scranton
7:00-9:00pm

For more information,
call 570-780-2996.



Mass of Remembrance for Victims of Violent or Tragic Death

The Diocese of Scranton is offering the annual Mass in remembrance of victims of violent or tragic death. This Mass is offered for the families and friends of those who have died in tragedy, especially through murder, suicide, or accident.

The Mass is scheduled for **Thursday, July 13, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in Saint Peter's Cathedral, 315 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton.** All persons who have lost a loved one through tragic and traumatic death are invited to this liturgy.

We ask that the names of deceased loved ones are registered on forms which are available in the parish office or accessed on the Service and Social Concerns webpage on the Diocese of Scranton's website [Mass of Remembrance-Registration form](#). Questions concerning this Mass may be directed to the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213.

God's Compassionate Face: Grief Support Ministry Seminar

October 21, 2017, 9AM-3:30PM

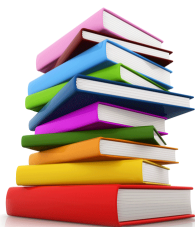
All who minister to the bereaved are invited to this daylong seminar on topics related to grief support ministry. Three sessions will address:

- "Walking with Those Grieving the Loss of a Child" with Brandice Ricciardi, M.S., NCC, LPC, HS-BCP, Faculty Specialist, University of Scranton; members of the local chapter of Compassionate Friends will also add their experiences as parents who have lost children.
- "Walking with Those Grieving Loss through Suicide" with Kathy Wallace, Northeast Suicide Prevention Initiative; Kathy is a retired mental health therapist.
- "Compassion Fatigue" with Theresa Doherty, MSPCC, Chaplain and Bereavement Counselor at Allied Services Hospice

In addition, there will be opportunities for discussion of the presentations, networking and prayer. Lunch is included. Stayed tuned for registration.

Check out Latest Additions to OPL's Little Free Library!

Looking for a good book on Catholic spirituality, Church teaching or ways to understand and live out your faith? Many people are hungry to grow in their understanding of their faith but it can be difficult to find and choose a book. This is a bridge between good materials and parishioners. Look at the latest suggestions on [Pinterest](#) or request a PDF version from Bernadette-rudolph@dioceseofscranton.org.



Latest Ideas for an Evening/Afternoon of Reflection

Bernadette Rudolph, MA, MS, Director for Family and Community Development, is available to present a 2-3 hour retreat for your parish. Recent topics include:

- **Disciples Are Called and Sent. You Are Called and Sent**
- **The Paschal Mystery: Living the Resurrection**
- **Living Your Strengths**
- **What If You Saw Yourself As God Does?**
- **Hospitality and Mercy**
- 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)

New Program to Support "Earlyweds" in Parish

Looking for a way to support young married couples (those married 5 years or less)? Offer them a chance to walk through Pope Francis' wise exposition of 1Cor 13 in *The Joy of Love*. Host this new 6-session program written by Bernadette Rudolph, MA, MS, in consultation with Ann Perrin, cnd, lmft, that features individual reflection, couple discussion and group activities. Because Millennials like to construct their own knowledge, leading the program simply means that a more seasoned married couple facilitates the discovery process. (Support for setting up the program is provided.) Help young couples to understand more deeply the reading so many of them choose for their wedding ceremony and to grow in their ability to love. Contact Bernadette Rudolph via [email](#) or call (ext 1104) to discuss starting this in your parish.



National Natural Family Planning Awareness Week July 23-29, 2017

The Catholic Church in the United States will celebrate National NFP Awareness Week beginning July 23. This year's theme is *It's Time! Say "Yes" to God's Plan for Married Love*. The purpose of the week is to "celebrate and reverence God's vision of human sexuality."

The Catholic Church teaches that Natural Family Planning is a morally acceptable way for married couples to balance their constant openness to the procreative purpose of sex within marriage and their responsibility to bring into the world children they can responsibly nurture. NFP allows a couple to work with the woman's fertility cycle, rather than see it as an obstacle. Furthermore, NFP encourages the married couple to develop a level of intimacy that includes and goes beyond intercourse.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops offers a number of resources for parishes to promote NFP awareness during NFP Awareness Week on the USCCB website, www.usccb.org. More information about NFP is also available on the Diocese of Scranton's website, www.dioceseofscranton.org, on the "Office for Parish Life" page, under "Marriage and Family."

"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."

SERVICE

Regional SERVICE Gatherings

OPL's Service and Social Concerns held four Regional Gatherings last month in Lords Valley, Muncy, Throop, and Wilkes-Barre.

About 100 folks from about 20 parishes participated in this two-hour workshop which focused on supporting our parishes' Social Concerns efforts and encouraging our worshipping communities to break open our Bishops' 1993 document: "Building Communities of Salt and Light" – found [HERE!](#)

This challenge from our Bishops calls us to consider building up a vibrant Parish Social Ministry that includes not only the works of CHARITY but also the work of JUSTICE and PEACE-MAKING – all with a reminder that we are part of a global Church!

If your parish was not able to attend these gatherings, we'd be glad to bring this workshop to your community (one parish or a few nearby parishes) this Summer!

If your parish was there and would

like to follow up with a focus on a certain aspect of what was presented, ex., the Two Feet of Christian Service: charity AND justice; or Faithful Citizenship and hosting Advocacy Sundays at your parish; or how to incorporate Peacemaking into your parish; and/or how to INTEGRATE Catholic Social Teaching throughout the parish – *Adult Faith Formation, Holy Name Society, Knights of Columbus, Liturgical Ministry, RCIA, Religious Education, Youth Ministry* etc... please contact Richard DeBona and set up a time convenient for your parish community!



SERVICE Convocation

Mark your calendars now and plan on attending our SERVICE Convocation which will be held on Saturday,

September 23, 2017. at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton.

The day will feature **Marie Dennis, Co-President of Pax Christi International**, who will present on the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative, Pope Francis' World Day of Peace message: "Nonviolence: a style of politics for peace" and "Integrating Gospel Nonviolence into the Life and Mission of the Church."

This date deliberately coincides with the gathering of ARISE Facilitators for Season Five Training. Their workshop will include many suggestions for ways to continue the small faith-sharing communities after Season Five.



#PartnerwithFrancis

The Diocese of Scranton will **#partnerwithfrancis** over the next few months to gather the voices of the young church (16-35) and those who work with them in preparation for Pope Francis' 2018 Synod on *Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment*. To get involved, participate in a Diocesan listening session and/or complete a survey online at www.partnerwithfrancis.org. For more information and/or to register for a listening session, please contact Dominick Costantino at 570-780-2996. Additional sessions will be scheduled.



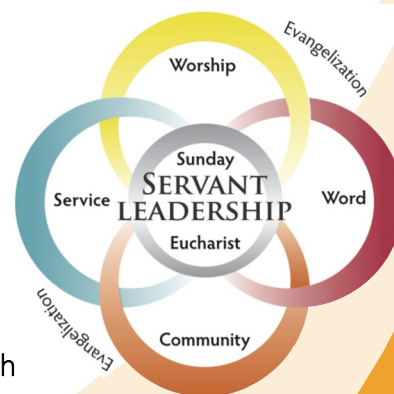
Date	Location	Time	High School Group (16-18)	College-Age Group (18-24)	Young Adult Group (25-35)
Tues July 18	Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, 3529 St. Mary's Road, Wapwallopen, PA 18660	7:00-8:30pm	✓	✓	✓
Tues July 25	Mary, Mother of God Parish, 316 William Street, Scranton, PA 18508	7:00-8:30pm	✓	✓	✓
	Your Group? Date, time Resources on website				

10 Ways to “provide vibrant liturgies”

1. Form and train a well-rounded Parish Liturgical Commission, spending quality time together to anticipate and facilitate the full liturgical cycle in all aspects of parish life;
2. Position parish leaders at each weekend liturgy with an “observation checklist” - have them take note of the experience from different spots, evaluating the sense of welcome, engagement, sound, sight-lines, etc.;
3. Heighten the value placed on “full, conscious and active” participation by every member of your parish assembly — What are all the possible ways people are invited to express themselves? Who is still on the margins and how can that be changed?
4. Every weekend when the community assembles, make sure something about the gathering connects with local life, and that something about the gathering will go out the door with each family;
5. Invest in quality music ministry—check with David Baloga, Director for Worship for guidance in planning, in selecting and training music ministry leaders, and in engaging the assembly in all dimensions of liturgy.
6. Regularly review how the liturgy of your parish interfaces with the faith formation, the service and social justice efforts, and the needs of all families or households;
7. Utilize the Liturgical Ministry training resource provided through the Office for Parish Life (let us know if you still need this tool);
8. Gather a diverse group of parishioners to study the Scriptures of each season and formulate themes for preaching and faith-sharing;
9. Invite a group from your parish to participate in the VLCFF online course entitled “Introduction to Liturgy” and/or the great webinars provided through LTP (Liturgy, Training Publications);
10. Consider every inch of your parish physical space and its capacity to enhance the experience of liturgy — How does it visually call us to pray? Set the tone for this liturgical season? Contribute to a sense of welcome and inclusion? Is there anything in the space which is not meaningful or intentional?

OPL TEAM MEMBERS

Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life: **Catherine Jantsch Butel**
 Director for WORD and Lifelong Faith Formation: **Mary Anne Malone**
 Coordinator for Youth/Young Adult Ministry: **Shannon Kowalski**
 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 Pilgrimages: **Fr. Andrew Hvozdovic**
 Director for Family and COMMUNITY Development: **Bernadette Rudolph**
 Coordinator for Ecumenical/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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