



November 2018

# GoodNewsNotes

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

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## An Evening Celebrating the Vocation of Marriage

**Saturday, November 10, 2018  
at 6:00PM**

**Diocesan Pastoral Center,  
Scranton**



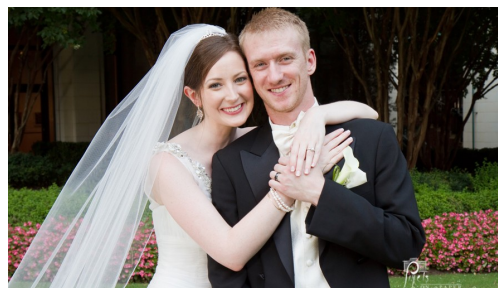
***Are you interested in learning more about the vocation of marriage?***

***Are you already living out this rewarding and challenging vocation?***

***Do you minister to those who do?***

Please join us as we gather to enjoy a presentation and celebrate the vocation of marriage. Any who support, participate in, or minister to those living out this sacramental vocation are warmly welcomed.

**Jim Merhaut**, an inspiring presenter and the author of *Your Catholic Family: Simple Ways to Share the Faith at Home* and many other books and articles, will speak on the topic of "Marriage: A Journey of Expanding Appreciation for Others". A time for fellowship and dessert will follow.



There is no fee, and light refreshments will be served.

Please **RSVP by Wednesday, November 7** to Jennifer Housel, Director for Community and Family Development, Office for Parish Life, (570) 207-2213 x 1104, [jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org)

**Closing Mass for the  
150th Anniversary Year  
#leaveamark18**

Sunday, November 4  
at 5:00PM  
Cathedral of Saint Peter





# 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."



## Echoes of Faith

Do you want to know more about your faith? Are you a catechist or DRE who is looking for a way to earn a certificate in catechesis? Can you spare an hour a week? The Echoes of Faith 3.0 is for YOU!

Created by the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) and published by RCL Benziger, *Echoes of Faith* is an online education program offering basic adult formation in the Catholic Faith.

With fourteen modules divided into three categories, the Echoes of Faith Learning Center can be used for parish Adult Faith Formation and for Basic Catechist Certification. It is also one way to complete the pre-requisites for the Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry.

Contact [Mary-Anne-Malone@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:Mary-Anne-Malone@dioceseofscranton.org) for information on how to get started for an affordable \$15 a year.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION  
SPEAKER  
PRAISE & WORSHIP MUSIC  
RECONCILIATION  
SOCIAL

**Friday, November 16 at 7:00PM**

**St. Matthew Parish  
78 Ridgeway St., East Stroudsburg**

and

**Monday, December 3 at 6:30PM**

**Nativity of Our Lord Parish  
127 Stephenson St., Duryea**

*For more information,  
visit [www.vocations.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.vocations.dioceseofscranton.org)  
or call 570-780-2996.*

## 2018 Ministry Skills Workshop Series

# "Ecumenism & Interfaith Dialogue, and Intercultural Competencies"

**November 17, 2018 from 9:00AM to 3:00PM  
Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton**



Ecumenism and the Interfaith Dialogue: Fr. Alex Roche will explain Vatican II's call to dialogue with our fellow Christians and those of other faiths, what has happened since the Council to continue this dialogue, and how the dialogue plays out in parish life.

Cultural Diversity and Parish Unity: Alejandra Marroquin will unpack best practices for parishes with culturally diverse populations to encourage integration and unity within the Church.

Fr. Alex Roche is Pastor at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Lake Silkworth and Chaplain at Misericordia University and Holy Redeemer High School.

Alejandra Marroquin is the Adult Behavioral Health Coordinator for Lackawanna/Susquehanna Counties. For the past 12 years Alejandra has worked with the Hispanic-Latino community in the greater Scranton Area, giving presentations and interviews in relation to the Hispanic- Latino community and immigration awareness.

**The cost of registration for this workshop is \$30, payable to The Diocese of Scranton.**

**Register online at [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org)**

**For more information or questions, contact Kitty Scanlan at 570-207-2213**



## Retreat for Music Ministers

St. Joseph the Worker Parish, 720 W. Fourth Street, Williamsport, PA will host a day-long retreat for all music ministers on **Saturday, November 10, 2018 from 10:30AM to 4:30PM and concluding with 5:00PM Mass.**

The event titled, “Offering All That We Have: A Retreat for Music Ministers” will be led by David Baloga, Director for Worship from the Office for Parish Life. The retreat will offer reflection on the gifts and talents (no matter how big or small) of music ministers, the role of music ministers in liturgy, and the commitment involved in serving God through music ministry.

There is no fee for the retreat, but a free-will offering will be accepted to help offset the cost of lunch. To register, please contact St. Joseph the Worker Parish at 570-323-9456 or [office@sjwparish.com](mailto:office@sjwparish.com) by Friday, November 2, 2018. It is our hope that cantors, singers, musicians and organists will come together to share a day of prayer, reflection and song.

## Looking to Have a Workshop for Your Liturgical Ministers?

Are your cantors or choir members in need of training on the basics of the ministry? Could your lectors or extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion use a “refresher” course or a day of reflection? Board Members of the Scranton Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians are here to help and are willing to travel to provide a workshop or session for your parish ministers. Some potential topics include:

- **Choir Basics: Making the Most of Out of What You’ve Got**
- **The Body of Christ: Our Identity and Purpose**
- **Reading vs. Proclaiming: The Role of the Lector**
- **Fostering Sung Prayer: Synchronizing the Organist, Cantor, Choir and Assembly**
- **Not Just a Pretty Voice: The Cantor as a Leader of Prayer**

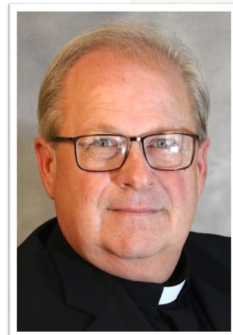
Please contact David Baloga at 570-207-2213, ext. 1158 or at [David-Baloga@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:David-Baloga@dioceseofscranton.org) to discuss how we can help address your parish’s needs. You can visit the Scranton Chapter of NPM online at [ScrantonNPM.com](http://ScrantonNPM.com).



National Association of  
Pastoral Musicians  
SCRANTON CHAPTER

## A Season of Hope: An Evening of Reflection on Advent

The Scranton Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians will hold a meeting on **Tuesday, November 13, 2018 beginning at 6:00PM at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, located at 1101 Willow St., Peckville.** The topic for the evening will be “A Season of Hope: An Evening of Reflection on Advent” led by Fr. Andrew Kurovsky, pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Peckville.



Given the many preparations and rehearsals leading up to Christmas Festival, we may be unable to set aside time to embrace fully the beauty and gift of the Advent season. This evening will provide participants an opportunity to reflect deeply on the spirit of hope that the season of Advent brings.

The meeting begins with dinner at 6:00PM, followed by the presentation at 7:00PM, and concludes with Night Prayer. All are welcome to attend. There is no cost for the event, but a free-will offering will be taken up to help offset the cost of dinner. To register, please visit the NPM Scranton Chapter website at [ScrantonNPM.com](http://ScrantonNPM.com) or contact David Baloga, NPM Scranton Chapter Program Director at 570-207-2213, ext. 1158 or at [David-Baloga@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:David-Baloga@dioceseofscranton.org) by Friday, November 9.



## Catholic Charismatic Renewal Musicians Needed



**MUSICIANS NEEDED!** Are you a musician interested in contemporary Christian Praise and Worship music? Would you be interested in supporting others in worship with your musical gift?

For more information, contact Jim Gialanella, Diocesan Office of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, at 570-333-4462, or 570-690-0851, [jimmyg@epix.net](mailto:jimmyg@epix.net).



# COMMUNITY

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

## FOCCUS Facilitator Training & Refresher

The Office for Parish Life will offer a FOCCUS Premarriage Inventory Facilitator Training and refresher option on Saturday, December 8, 2018. The training will be held at the Diocesan Pastoral Center from 9AM to 3PM, a light lunch will be included. (Holy Day Mass will be held at the Cathedral at 8AM) The Full Training fee is \$100 for an individual or \$150 for a couple. For those who have already taken the 5-hour training and have a *FOCCUS Facilitator Manual* and a Certification number, but want to refresh their knowledge about FOCCUS Facilitating, the refresher option fee will be \$50 per person. If you, parish staff, or Sponsor Couples in your parish are interested in this training or refresher, please contact Jennifer Housel, Director for Community and Family Development, (570) 207-2213 x 1104, [jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org).



### A Wonderful Opportunity for Parish-Based Precana Ministry

*What is the FOCCUS® Pre-Marriage Inventory?*

*The FOCCUS® Pre-Marriage Inventory is a comprehensive, user-friendly tool for use by lay individuals, couples or professionals who are helping couples prepare for marriage, and who become trained as FOCCUS Facilitators. The FOCCUS® Inventory is designed to help engaged couples appreciate their unique relationship, learn more about themselves, and discuss topics important to their lifelong marriage.*

*If you would like to discern whether you are called to be a FOCCUS Facilitator, please speak to your pastor about this ministry in your parish.*

## A Simple and Meaningful Way to Support Engage Couples

Is your parish looking for a way to support your parishioners who are involved in the PreCana process? One simple way to show an engaged couple your care is to send a personal letter of prayer and support to them on their PreCana Day of Reflection. The Marriage Sponsor Couple Ministry at St. Therese's Church has recently begun this beautiful practice.

To learn more, please contact Beth Aciukewicz, [aciukewicz.beth@gmail.com](mailto:aciukewicz.beth@gmail.com), at St. Therese's, or Jennifer Housel, Director for Community and Family Development, Office for Parish Life. [jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org) (570) 207-2213 x 1104.

## Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation

Looking to learn more about your faith, or gain enrichment for your parish ministry? Members of the faithful across the Diocese of Scranton are invited to consider taking a course through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation! Cycle 1 (2019) Session dates run from January 20 through February 23. Registration is now open and closes January 16, 2019. [Click here](#) to view the Course Calendar for 2019 or visit <https://vlcff.udayton.edu/> and click 'calendar.'

**November 21-23, 2019**  
**Indianapolis**

**GROUP LEADER INFO MEETING**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15TH  
10:30AM  
DIOCESAN PASTORAL CENTER  
330 WYOMING AVE, SCRANTON



For More Information,  
Contact Shannon Kowalski at 570-207-2213 x1155





## Advocacy Team

Are you passionate about service and social justice? Do you want to increase your political involvement? Are you looking for an opportunity to advocate for your Catholic moral beliefs? The diocese is developing a team of passionate Catholics who want to advocate for their Catholic values to their senators and representatives. We will meet quarterly to discuss current bills and the positions of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference. Annual events will include a presentation at the 2019 SERVICE Convocation and an Annual Advocacy Day at the State Capitol. For more information, or to sign up for the 2019 Advocacy Team, please contact Katy Windels at [Katy-Windels@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:Katy-Windels@dioceseofscranton.org).

## Disability Ministries

In the coming months, the Diocese of Scranton will be hosting Open House opportunities for persons with disabilities and their families. We want to learn more about your experiences and see how we can develop ministries to welcome all members of our parish communities. If your parish is interested in hosting one of these sessions, or would like to offer any suggestions on the development of these ministries here in the Diocese of Scranton, please contact Katy Windels at [Katy-Windels@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:Katy-Windels@dioceseofscranton.org).



## World Day of the Poor

The second annual World Day of the Poor will be observed on Sunday, November 18, 2018. The theme for this year's observance is "Let us love, not with words but with deeds" (1Jn 3:18). [Click here](#) to access resources in both English and Spanish provided by Catholic Relief Services to observe World Day of the Poor. The following intention can be included in the Universal Prayer on Sunday, November 18, 2018:

*For all the poor throughout the world and in our midst, that on this second annual World Day of the Poor, they may come to know more concretely the love and care of the Church, a love not with words but with deeds. Let us pray to the Lord/ Lord, hear our prayer.*



## Faithful Citizenship

### Forming Consciences



"Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship is the USCCB's official guide for Catholic voting. You can find a copy of the updated 2018 version of this document online at <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/>

As a Church, we do not advocate for one political party or another. Rather, we encourage you to use your Catholic faith as a moral guide for prevalent issues. The Gospels form the foundation for our Catholic moral system and are supported by the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. We encourage you to vote your conscience this Tuesday, November 6th!"

## Friends of the Poor Holiday Program Schedule



### FRIENDS OF THE POOR

Friends of the Poor will hold it's annual holiday programming in November and December. All are welcome; however, pre-registration is required for the Toy Giveaway.

- Tuesday, November 20th - Thanksgiving Dinner for Adults and Elderly at the Scranton Cultural Center 420 N Washington Ave, Scranton, PA 18503; Doors open at 5PM
- Wednesday, November 21st - Family to Family Thanksgiving Food Basket Program at the Scranton Cultural Center 420 N Washington Ave, Scranton, PA 18503; Doors open at 9AM
- Monday, December 3rd - Christmas Dinner for Adults and Elderly at St. Mary's Center 320 Mifflin Ave, Scranton, PA 18503; Doors open at 5PM
- Tuesday, December 18th - Christmas Toy Giveaway in Partnership with Catholic Social Services. Register with Catholic Social Services, 516 Fig Street, Scranton November 12th - 16th
- Thursday, December 20th - Family to Family Christmas Food Basket Program at St. Mary's Center 320 Mifflin Ave, Scranton, PA 18503; Doors open at 9AM

**To volunteer for or donate towards these events, please call Friends of the Poor at [570-340-6086](tel:570-340-6086).**

# Closing Celebration for the 150th Anniversary Year



## #leaveamark18

**Sunday, November 4, 2018 at 5:00PM  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton**

**R**ecognizing that a most fitting way to conclude the 150th Anniversary Year of the Diocese of Scranton will be with a view to the future, the closing event will be the **#leaveamark18** gathering planned for **November 4th, 2018**. This is the third year for this lively gathering of the “young church” with Bishop Bambera, **at the Cathedral of St. Peter, 5:00pm Mass and Reception** – and for this year it will also provide the opportunity for the young adults who gather to accept the invitation to shape the future of the Church of Scranton for generations to come.

The Diocesan Vocations Office, and leaders from the growing Diocesan young adult ministries, will be providing you with additional information about this event. Please plan now to personally invite young adults from your parish (18-35 year olds) and encourage them to attend this celebration.



### 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**  
 Director for WORSHIP: **David Baloga**  
 Coordinator for RCIA: **Fr. Bob Simon**  
 Coordinator for SERVICE and Social Justice: **Katy Windels**  
 Coordinator for Pilgrimages: **Fr. Andrew HvozdoVIC**  
 Director for COMMUNITY and Family Development: **Jen Housel**  
 Coordinator for Ecumenical/Interfaith Relations: **Msgr. Vincent Grimalia**  
 Consultant for Community Connections: **Dominick Costantino**  
 Coordinator for Lay Ministry Formation: **Kitty Scanlan**  
 Coordinator for Pastoral Council Development: **Ann Marie Cawley**  
 Coordinator for Parish Cultural Integration: **Luis Rivera**  
 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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**SUBSCRIBE**