

U.S. bishops have frank exchange with pope about abuse scandal

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The leaders of the U.S. bishops' conference said they shared with Pope Francis how the church in the United States has been "lacerated by the evil of sexual abuse."

"He listened very deeply from the heart," said a statement released after the meeting Sept. 13.

Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, met the pope at the Vatican along with Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston, president of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, vice president of the USCCB, and Msgr. J. Brian Bransfield, general secretary of the conference.

The USCCB statement described the encounter as "a lengthy, fruitful and good exchange," but did not enter into details about what was discussed or whether any concrete measures were taken or promised.

"We look forward to actively continuing our discernment together, identifying the most effective next steps," the statement said.

Cardinal DiNardo originally announced that he was requesting a meeting with Pope Francis last Aug. 16. The request followed the release of the Pennsylvania grand jury report on sexual abuse cases in six Pennsylvania dioceses and the announcement of credible allegations of child sexual abuse committed by Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick,



Pope Francis meets with officials representing the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops at the Vatican Sept. 13. Pictured from left are Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, vice president of the conference, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, president of the conference, Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston, president of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, and Monsignor J. Brian Bransfield, general secretary of the conference.

the former cardinal-archbishop of Washington. Two dioceses also had announced allegations of inappropriate contact between Archbishop McCarrick and seminarians, resulting in settlements totaling more than \$100,000.

In his Aug. 16 statement, Cardinal DiNardo said that the USCCB Executive Committee had established three goals: "an investigation into the questions surrounding Archbishop McCarrick; an opening of new and confidential channels for reporting complaints against bishops; and advocacy for more effective resolution of future complaints."

The U.S. bishops specifically requested the Vatican to conduct an apostolic visitation into questions surrounding Archbishop McCarrick. Opening a new process for reporting complaints against bishops and the more effective resolution of such

complaints also would require the support and involvement of the Vatican, since only the pope has the authority to discipline or remove bishops.

Following allegations by Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò that Pope Benedict XVI had imposed sanctions on Archbishop McCarrick and that those sanctions had been ignored by Pope Francis, Cardinal DiNardo issued another statement Aug. 27 reiterating his call "for a prompt and thorough examination into how the grave moral failings of a brother bishop could have been tolerated for so long."

Archbishop Viganò's statement "brings particular focus and urgency to this examination," the cardinal's statement said. "The questions raised deserve answers that are conclusive and based on evidence."

Continued on page 4

A TIME OF ATONEMENT AND HEALING

As the Church continues to respond to the tragic reality of the sexual abuse of minors

by clergy, to accompany survivors on their journey to healing, and to acknowledge past sins and mistakes, Pope

Francis last month invited all of us to engage in a penitential exercise of prayer and fasting. Bishop Bambera accepted this invitation on behalf of the Diocese and asked us to observe A Time for Atonement and Healing.

As part of this observance, the Bishop celebrated a Mass last Saturday, September 15, in the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton. *Please see page 3.*



Worshippers participate in the Mass of Atonement and Healing celebrated by Bishop Bambera last Saturday.

Respect for Life



Pictured above are Catholic School students who offered a presentation that depicted their renditions of life issues at last year's Respect Life Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter. As we prepare to observe Respect Life Month again in October, Bishop Bambera reminds us that this sacred season, as it does every year, calls us to focus our prayers upon a renewed commitment to treasure and preserve human life from the moment of conception to natural death. See a message from the Bishop on page 2.

Pope revises catechism to say death penalty is ‘inadmissible’

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Building on the development of Catholic Church teaching against capital punishment, Pope Francis has ordered a revision of the Catechism of the Catholic Church to assert “the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person” and to commit the church to working toward its abolition worldwide.

The catechism’s paragraph on capital punishment, 2267, already had been updated by Saint John Paul II in 1997 to strengthen its skepticism about the need to use the death penalty in the modern world and, particularly, to affirm the importance of protecting all human life.

Announcing the change recently, Cardinal Luis Ladaria, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, said, “The new text, following in the footsteps of the teaching of John Paul II in ‘*Evangelium Vitae*,’ affirms that ending the life of a criminal as punishment for a crime is inadmissible because it attacks the dignity of the person, a dignity that is not lost even after having committed the most serious crimes.”

Evangelium Vitae (“The Gospel of Life”) was Saint John Paul’s 1995 encyclical on the dignity and sacredness of all human life. The encyclical led to an updating of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, which he originally promulgated in 1992 and which recognized “the right and duty of legitimate public authority to punish malefactors by means of penalties commensurate with the gravity of the crime, not excluding, in cases of extreme gravity, the death penalty.”

At the same time, the original version of the catechism still urged the use of “bloodless means” when possible to punish criminals and protect citizens.

The catechism now will read: “Recourse to the death penalty on the part of legitimate authority, following a fair trial, was long considered an appropriate response to the gravity of certain crimes and an acceptable, albeit extreme, means of safeguarding the common good.

“Today, however, there is an increasing awareness that the dignity of the person is not lost even after the commission of very serious crimes. In addition, a new understanding has emerged of the significance of penal sanctions imposed by the state. Lastly, more effective systems of detention have been developed, which ensure the due protection of citizens but, at the same time, do not definitively deprive the guilty of the possibility of redemption,” the new section continues.

Pope Francis’ change to the text concludes: “Consequently, the church teaches, in the light of the Gospel, that ‘the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person,’ and she works with determination for its abolition worldwide.”

In his statement, Cardinal Ladaria noted how Saint John Paul, retired Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis had all spoken out against capital punishment and appealed for clemency for death-row inmates on numerous occasions.

The development of church doctrine away from seeing the death penalty as a possibly legitimate punishment for the most serious crimes, the cardinal said, “centers principally on the clearer awareness of the church for the respect due to every human life. Along this line, John Paul II affirmed: ‘Not even a murderer loses his personal dignity, and God himself pledges to guarantee this.’”

Mass on Respect Life Sunday Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton Sunday, October 7, 2018 – 10 a.m.

The Diocese of Scranton will observe Respect Life Sunday with the celebration of the Mass on Sunday, October 7, at 10 a.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will serve as the principal celebrant for this special liturgy which highlights the Catholic Church’s respect for the sanctity and dignity of life spanning all stages and conditions, from conception to natural death. It celebrates the life of the unborn, persons with disabilities, the deaf, the ill, and those in the last stages of earthly life. The liturgy is also offered for victims of abortion, euthanasia, and the death penalty.

Students representing Diocesan Catholic schools and parish Religious Education programs, in addition to representatives of organizations that work to uphold the sanctity and dignity of human life, will serve in various ministerial roles at the Mass.

The faithful of the Diocese are invited to attend this special liturgy. CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton, will broadcast the Mass live.

BISHOP BAMBERA’S LETTER FOR RESPECT LIFE MONTH

Dear Friends,

In 1972, the year before the United States Supreme Court ruled on *Roe v. Wade* to legalize abortion in the United States, Pope Paul VI set aside the first Sunday of October as “Respect Life Sunday.” Since that time, the Catholic Church has dedicated the month of October, starting with the first Sunday, as a special season to promote a culture of life in our world. This year is no exception as we reflect upon the theme of “Every life – cherished – chosen – sent” by God to build a better world.

This sacred season, as it does every year, calls us to focus our prayers upon a renewed commitment to treasure and preserve human life from the moment of conception to natural death. As such, we have and should continue to work tirelessly to create a culture that moves beyond a cavalier attitude that has sadly resulted in far too many lives being lost through abortion, euthanasia, physician assisted suicide and capital punishment.

The blessed work about, however, has not been enough. Tragically, it has worked an end to abortion in all of its stages, particularly Church proclaimed from pulpits life – have stolen it from the most vulnerable in our midst. The sad reality of our lives as Catholics, impacted by the report of the 40th statewide Grand Jury investigating sexual abuse of children by members of the clergy, reminds us that we have much more work to do if our voices are ever to be regarded as credible in this vital conversation.

Pope Francis has asserted that each person, including ourselves, has a reason to hope, because each person “has a place in God’s heart from all eternity.” Because of this unique relationship of the human person to the Creator, every life demands absolute protection from conception to natural end. As such, respect for the dignity of every human being must be upheld – even when such a posture places us in opposition to popular values, political expediency, and the tide of today’s evolving cultural norms.

Yet, most fundamentally, the dignity of every human being must also be upheld by those of us who proclaim that message most boldly – particularly the leaders of our Church. If there is not an integrity to what we preach and how we live, the lives of the most vulnerable in our midst will always be in jeopardy. It is simply not acceptable for us to work to preserve life in the womb and then disregard its value once a child is born.

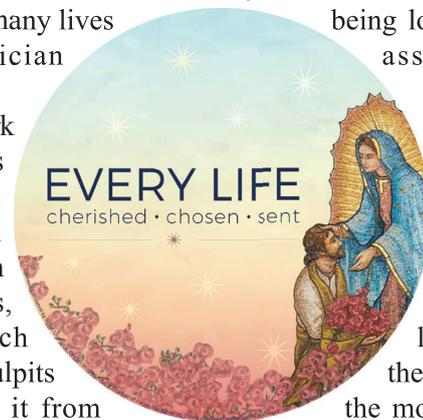
This moment in the life of our Church has brought us to a new and broader understanding of the sanctity of human life. Pope Francis has often reminded us that every person – from the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, to the criminal who is least supportive of our values – “has an inviolable right to life” and “is a masterpiece of God’s creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect.” To that list belongs victims – survivors – of sexual abuse as well as “every life cherished, chosen and sent” by God.

May our merciful and loving God forgive and sustain us as we work ever more earnestly to establish a culture of respect for life, beginning first with those lives entrusted to our care, including our own.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

+ *Joseph C. Bambera*

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Scranton



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Bishop Celebrates Mass for Atonement and Healing

Following is Bishop Bambera's homily for the Mass for Atonement and Healing he celebrated on Saturday, September 15, at 12:10 p.m. in the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton:

It's been one month since the release of the report of the 40th statewide Grand Jury investigating child sexual abuse by members of the clergy in the Catholic Church. It's often said that "time heals." In this instance, however, the passing of time only seems to complicate our thoughts regarding what is arguably one of the darkest moments in the history of the Catholic Church and certainly in our 150-year history as a Diocese.

To say that this is a difficult time is an understatement. For victims – survivors – of sexual abuse, some of whom may be with us today, I cannot begin to imagine what these days have been like for you. While you have endured the pain of abuse for years, decades and, in some instances, for half a century, the release of this report undoubtedly has led to a mixed reaction on your part. Surely, it validates all that you have experienced and wanted to share for so long. On the other hand, sadly, it brings to the fore painful memories that so many of you have sought to push to the recesses of your hearts and minds in order to simply survive from one day to the next.

As a bishop of this local Church, I offer my sincere apology. While these words may appear to many of you to be empty, they are not. My meetings with many of you have sadly taught me a great deal about all that you've endured and all the suffering that you've carried for far too long. I acknowledge, however, that your determination of the sincerity of my words may take some time and you may need to find a reason for why my words should be trusted.

For those who have been abused, none of us here today know the depth of your pain. I am sorry that a Church leader misused his power and abused you. I am sorry for your pain and the ways in which this abuse has affected your life's journey. There simply is no place in a civilized world for the abuse of children – and certainly not within the Church. ... If you can, I pray that you find it within your hearts to one day forgive us.

I ask forgiveness from your families who have suffered so much – with you and for you. Just a week ago, I met with three siblings of a victim of abuse by a priest in our Diocese. The abuse took place decades ago, yet this family still suffers and grieves the loss of so much life and potential for their brother and their lives together.

I also ask forgiveness from the countless numbers of good and faithful Catholics like so many of you who are here today or praying today in your parish churches who have been hurt by the reality of abuse within our Church.

The Church let you down. You deserved better.

So many of you have shared with me your personal struggles as you seek to make sense of such behavior, in some instances by those whom you knew and trusted. As your leaders, we have failed you. Yet, we are humbled by so many of you who still seek to live your faith, and even in the midst of the betrayal of trust, share your love and support for so many of us who have let you down. Please forgive us.

And to the many, many good and faithful priests and deacons of this Diocese and beyond – to women and men religious who are so vital to the life of our Church – my heart breaks for you. Because most of the abuse that took place by priests, you are tainted by the sins of others.

*'May we pray for the courage to once again
walk together in faith to renew the Church of Christ'*

One priest shared with me that on the day following the release of the Grand Jury report, he rushed to a local hospital to anoint a parishioner. As he was quickly walking through the hospital lobby to do what he was ordained to do for the Church, a woman whom he did not know confronted him with these words, "Shame on you." ... I'm sorry that you have to bear that burden. But I also pray that you find the strength to move forward and to continue to share the life of Jesus with those of us who so desperately need to experience it – even and particularly as you bear your portion of his cross.



Prayer for Healing for Victims of Abuse

God of endless love, ever caring, ever strong, always present, always just: You gave your only Son to save us by the blood of his cross.

Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace, join to your own suffering the pain of all who have been hurt in body, mind, and spirit by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.

Hear our cries as we agonize over the harm done to our brothers and sisters. Breathe wisdom into our prayers, soothe restless hearts with hope, steady shaken spirits with faith: Show us the way to justice and wholeness, enlightened by truth and enfolded in your mercy.

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts, heal your people's wounds and transform our brokenness. Grant us courage and wisdom, humility and grace, so that we may act with justice and find peace in you.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Finally, to our seminarians, I am so sorry that you have to face this reality as you seek to find your place in service of the Lord Jesus and his people. As difficult as this moment may be for you, remember that you are not part of the problem, but are a part of the solution.

When it was announced that the Grand Jury report was to be released sometime time between August 8th and 14th, I was concerned that we had planned to celebrate the Rite of Candidacy for some of our seminarians in the evening of August 8th. To my surprise, one of our seminarians asserted that if the report was to be released that day, he would gladly state to news reporters and all who would listen his pride in serving a Church where his gifts are needed and welcomed. ... How blessed we are to have seminarians – and so, so many faithful people who are committed to living their faith now, more than ever!

Today's memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows is a profound reminder to all of us of the brokenness of our world. Yet, it is also a memorial that is rooted in the reality of the Paschal Mystery – the life, death and resurrection of Mary's son, Jesus. Indeed, were Mary to be presented to us with no experience of this world's suffering and pain – never having the body of her Son placed across her knees and into her arms when he was taken down from the cross – we'd have no reason to turn to her in confidence when all else has failed.

Yet, here we are today, turning to Mary in our moment of desperation. For you see, Mary has trodden all the paths of our human existence. She has known the darkness and suffering, loneliness and pain. Yet, she stands before us as that little creature through whom God's grandeur shines forth. In Mary, we see the fullness of what Christ can do for us who turn to the Savior for healing, life and salvation.

A few weeks ago, shortly after the Grand Jury report was released, we were all challenged by a Gospel passage that so providentially spoke to our hearts. It came from the sixth chapter of Saint John. In that particular Gospel, we heard that some followers of Jesus were disappointed and scandalized by his words and by his actions. And they left him. ... When they left, Jesus turned to Peter and said, "Will you leave me?" Then he looked at all of the apostles and posed another question, "Will you all leave me, too?" And Peter responded with these words of faith, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of everlasting life."

"To whom shall we go?" ... "Why should we stay?" ... I suspect that somewhere in the midst of however we answer this question, we'll find *something* that has to do with faith – and the belief that for, as imperfect as the *members* of the Church may be – especially its leaders – God has given us the grace to discover within this community signs of his life, his mercy, his love, and a reason to hope – the surest and the only things that will give us lasting peace. Mary – our dear Lady of Sorrows – knew that! May God give us the wisdom to recognize the blessing of faith and its power to heal, to forgive and to change hearts.

My friends, I beg you to open your lives to the power of God – to be like the apostles and to stay with the Lord Jesus and with his Church in this dark time. For as disappointing as this moment in the life of the Church is for us all, the life of Jesus – not the broken lives of Church leaders – is the only life that can bring us to a place of peace.

May we pray for the courage to once again walk together in faith to renew the Church of Christ and to reflect his life and love to a world so desperately in need of it. Our Lady of Sorrows – pray for us!

Pocono Parish Celebrating Golden Jubilee

TANNERSVILLE — As the Diocese of Scranton continues to celebrate its 150 years of history in 2018, Our Lady of Victory Parish in the Poconos is observing the 50th anniversary of its founding as a faith community this year.

Special events highlighting Our Lady of Victory's Golden Jubilee will culminate this Sunday, Sept. 23, when Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will serve as principal celebrant of a Mass of Thanksgiving accentuating the half-century milestone of the parish.

“Commemorating our parish's 50th anniversary is important to the parish because it brings together the past, the present and the future to celebrate that which is and should be a very important part of our lives — our faith in Christ,” said Father Richard Czachor, who has served as the second pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish since 1999. “We are reminded of what happened from the beginning. We learn of the struggles and successes of those starting the parish and building a new community of faith.”

Our Lady of Victory first opened its doors in 1948 as a mission church — serving 70 families — and later became known as Our Lady of Victory Chapel. In September of 1968, Father Henry Zapotocki was appointed the founding pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish, located on Route 611 in Tannersville.

Today, the vibrant parish community worships in the new, modern church dedicated in 2002 on Cherry Lane Road that

serves as the spiritual home to more than 1,400 families.

The Our Lady of Victory anniversary celebration has included a parish summer barbecue, recent youth day gathering, children's and teens' art contest, and the publication of an up-to-date Parish Pictorial Directory as part of an extensive social media campaign commemorating the 50th jubilee year.

“In the present, our faith is strengthened by our working together as a parish community (and) honoring those who left us their legacy of faith. We work from the same strong belief to build up our present community of faith as we recognize its importance. And finally, we look to the future,” Father Czachor offered.

“Who will build upon our legacy? Who will carry on the faith commitment and share our faith with our children? We now leave them our legacy. Our 50th anniversary celebration will strengthen our parish because we are celebrating something very important in our lives — our faith.”

“We have a closed-knit parish family. We are very proud of our parish and its welcoming nature. The planning of these various events is designed so as to afford every member of our parish, adults and children, an opportunity to participate in the celebration of the 50th anniversary” said James Moloughney, chairperson of the anniversary committee. “Perhaps most exciting is the sharing of talents from parishioners who may not have previously felt able to become involved.”

Bishop leaders meet with Pope Francis

Continued from page 1

After the meeting with Pope Francis, Cardinal DiNardo said he was “filled with hope, but I also realize all these things might take purpose and time.”

“The Holy Father is the important figure for us in this,” Cardinal DiNardo said. “He sees the problem all over the church and throughout the world.”

“The pope is well informed,” the cardinal noted, “and he's also very, very attentive to what has happened to abuse victims in the church in the United States.”

It had been a whirlwind week for the cardinal. He arrived in Rome Sept. 12 following a meeting with the U.S. bishops' Administrative Committee, which consists of conference officers, regional representatives and the chairs of all the conference committees. Its task was to set the agenda for the November general assembly in Baltimore of all of the country's bishops.

Cardinal DiNardo described the Ad-

ministrative Committee meeting as “sober.”

“I thought there was a good deal of unity of the bishops on where we need to go” and on the fact that “we have to move into action” in terms of addressing the abuse crisis, he said. The cardinal said the bishops must be “united in purpose on solutions.”

Since Aug. 1 Cardinal DiNardo has issued five statements responding to various aspects of the sexual abuse crisis and has called for greater transparency and accountability in the church, particularly on the part of the bishops.

When asked where he finds hope during the current wave of scandals and controversy, he said, “Our trust is in the Lord.”

“Even the pope mentioned the cross, that you need to ... be crucified with the Lord — that's the only way you can deal with this, go through it. You have to listen to other people, and you hope that in that shared vision of mission, of cooperating together, you grow in hope.”



The vibrant parish community worships in this new, modern church dedicated in 2002 on Cherry Lane Road in Tannersville that serves as the spiritual home to more than 1,400 families.



BISHOP BAMBERA'S SCHEDULE

September 20 – Confirmation, St. Rose of Lima Parish, Carbondale; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Carbondale; and St. John Vianney Parish, Montdale; at St. Rose of Lima Church, Carbondale, 5:00 p.m.

September 21 – Inauguration of Reverend Scott R. Pilarz, S.J., 27th President of the University of Scranton, 11:00 a.m.

September 23 – Mass, 50th Anniversary of Our Lady of Victory Parish, Tannersville, 3:00 p.m.

September 24 – Mass, Diocesan Teachers' Institute, Our Lady of Fatima Parish at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church, Wilkes-Barre, 9:00 a.m.

September 26-27 – Provincial Meeting of Pennsylvania Bishops, Harrisburg

September 29 – Mass, Rite of Lector for Permanent Deacon Candidates, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.

September 30 – Confirmation, St. Vincent DePaul Parish, Milford, 4:00 p.m.

October 1 – Confirmation, St. Luke Parish, Stroudsburg, 5:00 p.m.

October 3 – 150th Anniversary Regional School Mass, Notre Dame System, Our Lady of Victory Church, Tannersville, 9:30 a.m.

October 4 – Confirmation, Annunciation Parish, Hazleton; Queen of Heaven Parish, Hazleton; and Holy Name of Jesus Parish, West Hazleton; at St. Gabriel Church, Hazleton, 5:00 p.m.

October 5 – Red Mass, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.

October 7 – Respect Life Sunday Mass, St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.

October 9-11 – U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Ecumenical and Interfaith Affairs Meeting, Chicago

A delegation of Knights of Columbus recently met with Bishop Bambara to present donations to support our seminarians and retired religious, and to brief him on current and planned initiatives statewide and in the Diocese.

The Knights affirmed their commitment to provide moral, financial and spiritual support to our future priests and religious at all stages of their formation.

Through the Refund Support Vocation Program (RSVP), councils and parish families will raise funds to support seminarians or religious in formation in their area. Though financial support is vitally important, it is not the only aspect of the RSVP program.

Councils are also called to provide their “adopted” seminarian or religious with moral support and prayers for their success. The goal is to have every council support at least one seminarian and to have every seminarian receiving support from at least one council.

The Pennsylvania State Council is also working to develop a standardized “Seminarian Support Package” that will contain personal items, such as toothpaste, shaving cream, washing detergent, cookies, candy, gift cards, etc. A typical package will contain items worth about \$250.

The Sacramental Gifts program supports families during the most important events in the life of the domestic Church: the sacraments.

Councils will play an integral role in these momentous faith events and

the lives of our families and parish community through prayer and the presentation of symbolic gifts. As children and adult members become more integrated into the life of the church and their parish.

Under the Sacramental Gifts Program, the State Council hopes to purchase Sick Call Kits to present to newly ordained priests.

The Knights continue to foster a close working relationship between pastors and Grand Knights, so that Knights can be of assistance in coordinating faith and family activities in parishes.

The Knights are also planning various initiatives to recruit new members, especially in the 18-35 age range, including an endeavor that will enable men to join online.

The Online Membership has been in effect since March. It has been very successful. Simply go to Kofc.org/Join



Knights Present Gifts to Diocese

Members of the Knights of Columbus at a meeting with Bishop Bambara were, seated from left: Pa. State Chaplain Reverend (Col.) Gregory D’Emma, the Bishop and Pa. State Deputy Mark Jago. Standing: E-Membership Director Jerome Wood, Life Director John Meenan, Pa. State Warden Bernard (Ron) Butkera, New Council North East DD53 Frank Socha, Immediate Past State Deputy Charles Vagnarelli, Father Don Williams, Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians, Master Central District John Fitzpatrick and Assistant Family Director George Schneider Jr.

VALLEY KNIGHTS HOSTING ROSARY RALLY SEPTEMBER 30 IN WILKES-BARRE

The combined Knights of Columbus (K. of C.) Councils of Wyoming Valley will host their 42nd annual Rosary Rally on Sunday, September 30, at Saint Nicholas Church, 226 S. Washington Street, Wilkes-Barre, where Father Joseph D. Verespy is pastor and Father Fidel Ticona is parochial vicar. A Rosary Procession from Saint Nicholas through city streets will begin at 2 pm., with the Knights carrying the Our Lady of Fatima Pilgrim Virgin Statue, followed by the participating faithful.

The Rosary Rally is dedicated to prayer and sacrifice in reparation for sin and for the salvation of souls as Our Lady has often requested. Those unable to process are invited to go directly to the Church at 3 pm., at which time the Grand Knights will lead the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary. Sunday’s Eucharistic liturgy will be celebrated immediately following the Rosary, and refreshments will be served after Mass in the school.

Shown are representatives from K. of C. Councils throughout the Wyoming Valley. Left to right: (1st Row) Michael Lanczak, Bill Jones, Deacon Michael Golubiewski, Jr., Saint Nicholas Parish, Michael Frantz, Reverend Joseph Verespy, pastor of Saint Nicholas Parish, Reverend Fidel



Ticona, Parochial Vicar, Saint Nicholas Parish, Christopher Calore, Rosary Rally chairperson. (2nd Row) Michael Golubiewski, Sam Wolfe, Jason Kowalski, William Leandri, Paul S. Makuch, Mark Perugino. (3rd Row) Francis Kennedy, Matthew Owazany, John Duesler, George Grantuskas, and Jeff Warchal. Gary Rodgers could not be present for picture.

#Leaveamark18

Diocesan Day of Service

Saturday, September 15, 2018

Young Servant-Leaders *'Leave A Mark' Throughout Diocese*

More than 150 high school students, college students, young adults, and adult leaders participated in the Diocesan Day of Service last Saturday, September 15. The event was co-sponsored by the Diocesan Offices for Parish Life and Vocations.

The day consisted of an Opening Mass in each pastoral region of the Diocese, service at nonprofit organizations in each region, lunch, and time to reflect on the experience.

“We are grateful to all who worked so hard to make our Diocesan Day of Service such a success,” said Dominick Costantino, program coordinator for the Diocesan Vocation Office and coordinator of the event. “It was a great day as members of the young church and those involved united together in prayer and service throughout our Diocese.”



Opening Mass for Luzerne County group at Saint Nicholas Parish, Wilkes-Barre, celebrated by Father Don Williams, Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians.

Left: Father John Chmil blessing volunteers serving in Monroe County at a special Mass at Saint Matthew Parish, East Stroudsburg.



Above and right: Volunteers serving – and getting to know the guests – at the Lycoming County SPCA in Williamsport.



Left: Volunteers from Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, Hanover Township, served at Ruth's Place, Wilkes-Barre.



Young Church Participates in Diocesan Day of Service



Volunteers painting at Shepherd's Maternity House, East Stroudsburg.



Landscaping at Saint John Neumann Parish, Scranton.



College volunteers are briefed on how they can help at Friends of the Poor in Scranton.



Volunteers at the Expectations Women's Center, Williamsport.



Volunteers in Scranton reflecting on the service experience at lunch.

Election 2018: Where Do the Candidates Stand?

By A.B. Hill
Pennsylvania Catholic Conference

Much is at stake in the world and right here in Pennsylvania. Election Day is approaching. On November 6, 2018, voters will choose who will lead our Commonwealth for the next few years. We must prayerfully consider for whom we cast our ballots.

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference neither supports nor opposes any candidate for public office, but aims to educate Catholic voters about candidates and their positions on key issues. A few candidates answered a questionnaire that the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference sent to every statewide candidate before the Primary Election this year. They took advantage of the opportunity to state their positions in their own words. U.S. Senator Bob Casey (D) and his opponent, Representative Lou Barletta (R), responded (read their questionnaire responses at pacatholic.org); the candidates for Pennsylvania governor did not respond. However, all of the candidates have made public statements and published campaign materials that reflect where they stand.

These are a few, but certainly not all, of the issues that may be of interest to Catholic voters.

Life & Dignity of the Human Person

PCC asked the U.S. Senate candidates to choose which statement reflects his position most accurately: a.) I support legalized abortion; b.) I oppose legalized abortion in all circumstances; or c.) I oppose legalized abortion, except when the life of the mother is in danger or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest. Both Casey and Barletta answered “c.”

The gubernatorial incumbent Tom Wolf (D) lists protecting a woman’s right to choose among his “progressive values” on his campaign website. The campaign cites his veto of Senate Bill 3 which he calls the “most extreme anti-choice bill in the country;” his work as a “former Planned Parenthood patient escort;” and his opposition to “Republican efforts to defund the (Planned Parenthood) organization” as evidence of his strong position on the issue. (wolfforpa.com)

The Republican candidate, former state Senator Scott Wagner, has publicly stated that he is “100-percent pro-life” and supports overturning *Roe v. Wade*. (youtube.com) In 2017, he voted in favor of Senate Bill 3 which would have banned the cruel and brutal practice of dismemberment abortions in Pennsylvania and restricted abortions after the 20th week of pregnancy.

Access to Health Care

PCC asked the U.S. Senate candidates about federal funding for Medicaid, a long-standing program that helps the poor have access to health care. Casey said he agreed with the statement, “Congress should maintain federal funding for the Medicaid program to strengthen it as a safety-net for low-income, elderly and disabled people.” Barletta said he supports a different statement, “Congress should cap federal funding and issue block grants for Medicaid giving more responsibility to the states,” and added that he supports “an improved Medicaid program that gives states the flexibility to provide better quality care for those in need.”

Wolf lists expanding Medicaid as a campaign priority and boasts, “One of (his) first actions as governor was to expand Medicaid giving an additional 720,000 Pennsylvanians the health care they need.”

Wagner has not prominently shared his opinion of Medicaid expansion specifically; but his campaign is on record saying, “Senator Wagner supports the full repeal of Obamacare. As a business owner, he has seen the dramatic increase in costs in the years since Obamacare was passed.” (PoliticsPA.com, 3/16/2017)

School Choice

The U.S. Senate candidates were asked to give their position on providing a federal tax credit to businesses that donate to scholarship organizations that provide scholarships for middle and low-income students at private and religious schools in grades kindergarten through 12. Casey responded, “I do not support such a tax credit. Businesses can already deduct charitable contributions.” Barletta said he supports the idea. (pacatholic.org)

Education is a prominent issue in the campaign for governor. Wolf has taken a strong stand against legislative proposals that would create state-funded education savings accounts, or vouchers, for individual students. In a statement, Wolf urged the Senate to vote against one such proposal, Senate Bill 2, saying he believed it “would siphon scarce

Feast of the Archangels -- September 29



Saint Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.

Be our protection against
the wickedness and snares
of the devil.

May God rebuke him,
we humbly pray;
and do Thou,

O Prince of the Heavenly Host -
by the Power of God -
cast into hell, satan and
all the evil spirits,
who prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls.

Amen.

- Pope Leo XIII

resources from public schools.” (Press Release, May 22, 2018) Wagner responded to a question about the same legislation during a telephone town hall meeting, saying, “I support all school choice.” (WHYY.com, May 17, 2018)

Further Information

All of these resources serve to educate voters about the issues and allow us to inform our consciences about which candidate will act in the best interest of the common good. As Catholic citizens, we have a moral obligation to participate in the political process. Mark your calendar for Election Day on November 6, 2018. Visit www.votespa.com to find out where your polling place is. Visit the PA Department of State’s website at www.dos.state.pa.us to see who else is on the ballot. Then exercise your faithful citizenship and VOTE!



The Catholic Light

(ISSN 0164-9418)

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Diocese of Scranton
DIOCESAN
ANNUAL APPEAL

Volume 118 Number 13 — Thursday, September 20, 2018

Prayer Requests for Priests

The Daily Prayer Request for Priests schedule for the next three weeks is as follows:

September 20, Father Eugene Carr; September 21, Father Edward Casey; September 22, Father John Chmil; September 23, Father Joseph Cipriano; September 24, Father Richard Cirba; September 25, Father Brian

J.T. Clarke; September 26, Father Brian J.W. Clarke; September 27, Father Charles Connor; September 28, Passionist Father John Connor; September 29, Father William Corcoran; September 30, Father Patrick Cortese; October 1, Pope Francis; October 2, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI; October 3, Bishop

Joseph C. Bambara; October 4, Father David Cramer; October 5, Father William Culnane; October 6, Father Charles Cummings; October 7, Father Richard Czachor, V.E.; October 8, Father Vincent Dang; October 9, Monsignor Michael Delaney; October 10, St. Joseph Oblate Father Alvaro de Oliveria.

Office for Parish Life

Save the Date!
WORD Convocation
(Convocation for Catechists)

Saturday, October 20, 2018
Diocesan Pastoral Center
330 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton

The Office for Parish Life invites DREs, catechists, RCIA teams, Youth Ministers, those on parish WORD Commissions and anyone engaged in Ministry of the Word to share in the WORD Convocation.

The Keynote Speaker will be Joan Weber offering a presentation entitled, "Calling Families to Be Living Gospels."

Joan is the Coordinator of the National Workshop Series and Lifelong Faith Formation at the Center for Ministry Development. Joan is the former president of the National Catholic Young Adult Ministry Association and content editor and author for the USCCB's book Connecting Young Adults to Catholic Parishes.

The day will begin at 9:00 with Mass in the Cathedral of Saint Peter, followed by the keynote presentation, lunch and a choice of workshops. Please save the date. Registration will be open soon.

For more information, please contact Mary Anne Malone: Mary-Anne-Malone@dioceseofscranton.org or (570) 207-2213, ext. 1100.

Up & Over Jr. High Retreat

The Up & Over Jr. High School Retreat is a weekend of fun, friendship, and faith for 6th – 8th grade students at the beautiful wooded Camp Orchard Hill in Dallas. You will spend time outdoors, meet new friends and learn how your God-given gifts can be used when you work with others as a team! There will also be a number of fun activities and events, including a movie, free time and an outdoor obstacle course. Come and join us for an outstanding experience. You will have a great time, meet new friends and come closer to God who loves you!

Registration includes cabin lodging, delicious home cooked meals, a t-shirt and unforgettable memories!

ARRIVAL: Friday, September 28, at 7:00 p.m.

DEPARTURE: Sunday, September 30, at 12:00 Noon

COST: \$140 (which includes a \$70 non-refundable deposit)
Some parishes help with the cost, so don't be afraid to ask!

Deadline to register is September 21, 2018 – Register online at Up & Over
Call Shannon Kowalski at 570-207-2213, x 1155 with questions or for more information.

Workshop for Music Ministers

The Office for Parish Life and the Scranton Chapter of the National Association for Pastoral Musicians are sponsoring a musicians' workshop with Dr. Elaine Rendler-McQueeney on Saturday, September 29, from 9:00AM to 12:30PM at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton. The topic of the workshop will be: "Here We Go Again: Rediscovering and Renewing Our Commitment to Music Ministry."

All cantors, choir members, choir directors, organists, pianists, and instrumentalists are encouraged to join us! This is a great way to begin a new season of music ministry in your parish! The registration fee is \$20, and the deadline to register is Monday, September 24. To register, click here or visit www.dioceseofscranton.org and click on 'Parish Life'.



Fall 2018

***Eucharistic Adoration – Speaker – Praise & Worship Music –
Reconciliation – Social***

Monday, October 15, 6:30PM

Saint Boniface Parish, 326 Washington Blvd., Williamsport

Friday, November 16, 7:00PM

Saint Matthew Parish, 78 Ridgeway St., East Stroudsburg

Monday, December 3, 6:30PM

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

***For more information, visit vocations.dioceseofscranton.org
or call 570-780-2996.***

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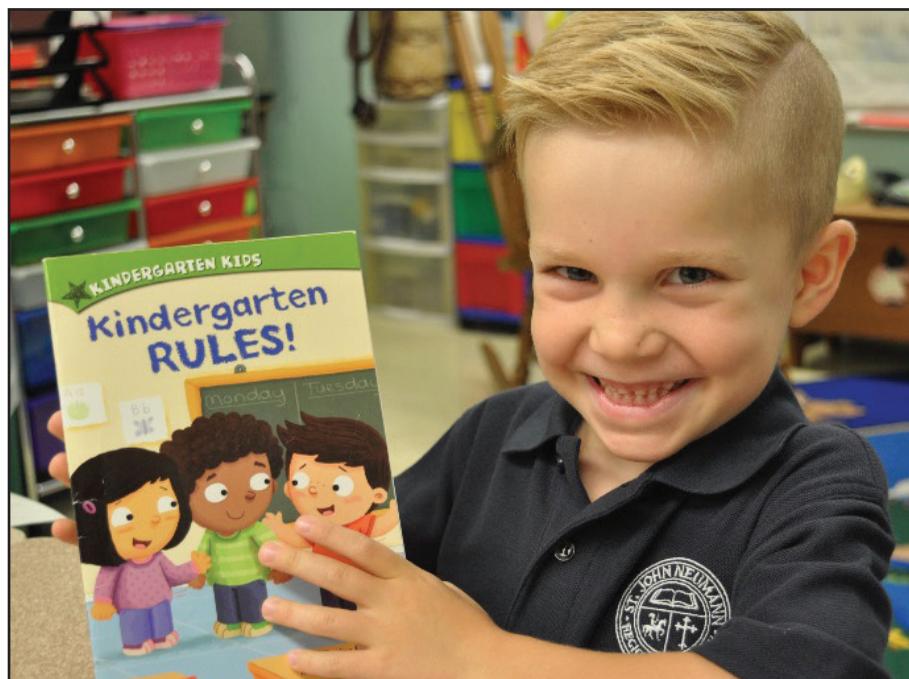
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Diocese of Scranton
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The Diocese of Scranton is committed to educating our students in an environment that is academically excellent and facilitates the development of moral judgment and Christian decision-making. We are proud to share the following successes of our students in the classroom and in their service to others. Each day, our schools are fulfilling their mission of preparing today's youth and young adults to become tomorrow's faith-filled leaders.

Our Diocesan Catholic Schools have welcomed students, faculty, administrators and families back for the new academic year. Here and on the following pages are photos representing schools as they began anew their commitment to the ministry of Catholic education.



Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport



Epiphany School in Sayre



Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton



Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green



Saint Agnes School in Towanda



Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore



Holy Cross High School in Dunmore



Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston



Monsignor McHugh School in Cresco



Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter



Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre



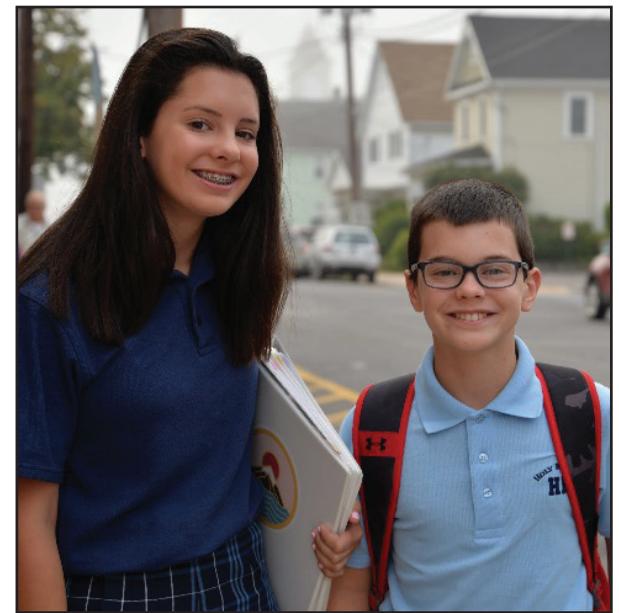
Holy Family Academy in Hazleton



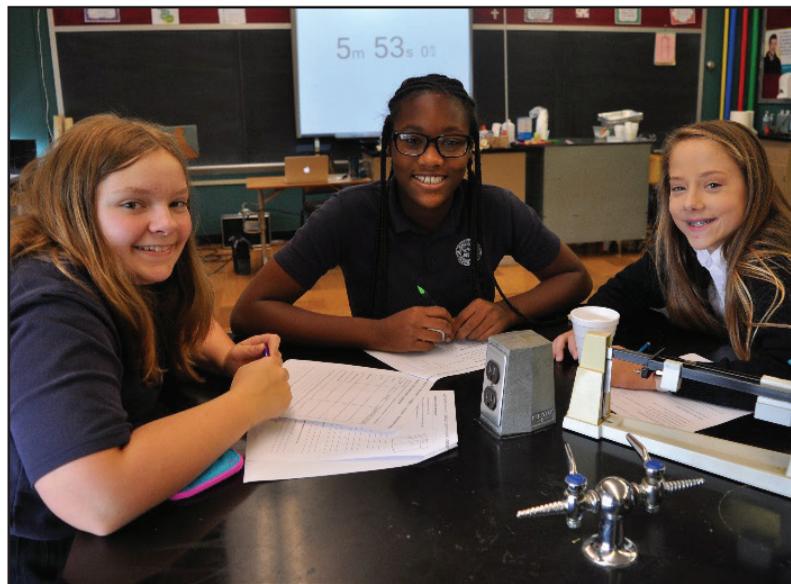
La Salle Academy in Jessup



Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School in Wilkes-Barre



Holy Rosary School in Duryea



Saint John Neumann High School in Williamsport



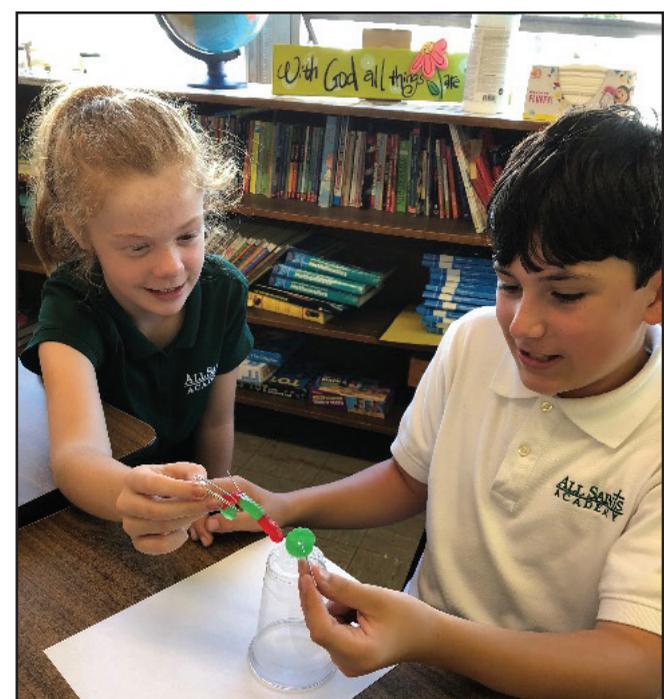
Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg



Saint Jude School in Mountain Top



Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg



All Saints Academy in Scranton

First Friday Devotions Throughout the Diocese

Masses & Devotions

— hosted by Holy Name of Jesus Parish in West Hazleton; held at the parish's Church of the Transfiguration, 213 W. Green St., West Hazleton. Holy Hour and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament held from 5 to 5:45 p.m., followed by celebration of Mass at 6 p.m.

— sponsored by the Men of the Sacred Heart; held at Saint Stanislaus worship site, 666 N. Main St., Wilkes-Barre. Confessions are heard beginning at 6 p.m., followed by recitation of the Rosary and Litany of the Sacred Heart at 6:30 p.m. Mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is celebrated at 7 p.m.

— hosted at Sacred Heart Church, 554 Main St., Weston; Mass with Eucharistic procession celebrated at 6:30 p.m. (confessions heard prior). Mass followed by Litany of the Saints and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 8 p.m. Adoration Holy Hour includes recitation of the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary, Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and silent prayer with closing benediction.

Pro-Life Rosary Vigils

— sponsored by the Catholics Defending Life Prayer & Awareness Team; group gathers from 1 to 1:30 p.m. at Lackawanna County Courthouse Square (on North Washington Ave.) in downtown Scranton. Recitation of the Rosary offered, along with pro-life meditations, Divine Mercy Chaplet and other prayerful devotions for the respect and dignity of all human life from conception to natural death. Pro-life signs are welcome.

— held outside the offices of Planned Parenthood, 63 N. Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre; group gathers at 9 a.m. Rosary prayers are offered for an end to abortion.

Eucharistic Adorations

— hosted by Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, 1101 Willow St., Peckville; exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins following the celebration of the 6:50 a.m. Mass and continues until 8 p.m. For more information, call the parish office (570-383-3244 ext. 2).

— sponsored by the Men of the Sacred Heart; hosted each month by Queen of Heaven Parish at Our Lady of Grace Church, Hazleton. Begins with Mass at 12:05 p.m. and concludes at 4 p.m. with the Rosary, Litany of the Sacred Heart, Communion service and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

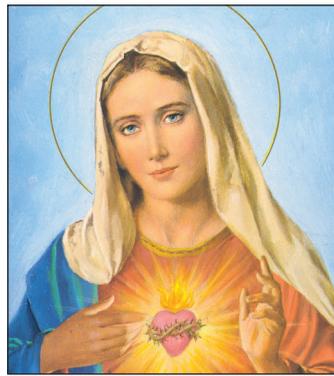
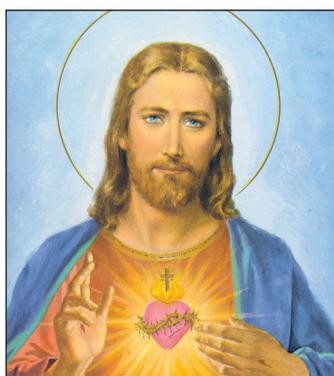
— offered for the special intention of vocations to the priesthood; hosted by Saint Ann Basilica Parish, Saint Ann's St., west Scranton. Adoration begins with 8:30 a.m. Mass and concludes with benediction at 4:45 p.m.

Healing Masses

— hosted by Saint Lucy Church, 949 Scranton St., west Scranton, beginning at 6:30 p.m. with a prelude of contemporary music and Marian hymns. Celebration of Healing Mass follows at 7 p.m. and includes anointing blessing and prayers for healing; recitation of the Rosary will also be offered, led by Adele Garofalo. Music ministry for the evening will be provided by Ernie Pappa.

— hosted by Queen of the Apostles Parish, Avoca; celebrated at 7 p.m. in Saint Mary Church, 715 Hawthorne St. For more information, call the parish rectory (570-457-3412).

Blue Army Reparation Vigil



The next monthly First Friday Reparation Vigil, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary and sponsored by the Blue Army, will be held **October 5** at St. Joseph's Oblate Seminary, 1880 Highway 315, Laflin (Pittston).

Devotions begin Friday evening at 8 p.m. with recitation of the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary, during which time confessions are heard. Mass of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is celebrated at 8:55 p.m., followed by benediction, litany and consecration to the Sacred Heart.

The vigil continues with the crowning of the Blue Army Pilgrim Virgin Statue, the Blue Army Pledge, Fatima prayers and Marian hymns, followed by litany and consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The vigil concludes with scapular enrollment at 10:15 p.m.



**SATURDAY,
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Holy Family Center,
Nanticoke, PA

Registration & Breakfast
8:00 – 9:00

Main Program
9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Conference Registration:
\$25pp (includes 3
meals on Saturday)

Friday Night Accom.
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** Attendance is limited to the
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Reservations Contact:
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Catholic Charismatic Renewal
PO Box 3306,
Scranton PA, 18505-0306
(570) 344-2214 or
ccrenewal@comcast.net

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This "Healing in Evangelization" Formation Day will discuss the basis for asking God for miracles of healing as found in Scripture and Tradition, and will model healing prayer using a four-step process. We'll have sessions that discuss:

- Healing Prayer in the Bible & Church History
- Healing Prayer Today & Modern Magisterium
- 4-Step Prayer Model
- Outpouring of the Holy Spirit
- Modeling Prayer for Healing
- Power Evangelization

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Joe Philip is currently the Director of the St Paul School of Evangelization. He is a former Campus Minister, theology teacher and retreat coordinator for Powers Catholic High School in Flint, Michigan. Joe earned his M.A. from Franciscan University of Steubenville. He has served as host of SHALOM WORLD television's series, "SEEKERS." He serves as Contributing Editor of "Shalom Tidings" magazine. This past June, he was one of the featured speakers for the inaugural Shalom Media Summit held in Rockford, Illinois. He and his wife, Tara, are the happy and devoted parents of three children.



Joe Philip

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Divine Mercy Pilgrimage on Feast of Saint Faustina

PITTSTON—The Eucharistic Apostle of Divine Mercy Cenacle will host their annual pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Mass., in October to coincide with the Feast of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska — the saint of Divine Mercy.

The pilgrimage will be held on Saint Faustina's feast day,

Friday, Oct. 5, which this year commemorates the 80th anniversary of her death.

The bus excursion will depart for the Divine Mercy Shrine at 7 a.m. from the grounds of Saint Maria Goretti Church, 42 Redwood Drive, Laflin. Estimated arrival time at the shrine in Stockbridge is 11 a.m.

Upon arrival, pilgrims will participate in the day's events at the Mother of Mercy outdoor shrine, beginning with a presentation on Saint Faustina.

The remainder of the day's itinerary is as follows: 1 p.m. — Eucharistic adoration and opportunity for private confessions; 1:30 p.m. — recitation of the Rosary for Life; 2 p.m. — celebration of Holy Mass; 3 p.m. — Divine Mercy Chaplet, benediction, veneration of first-class relic of Saint Faustina, and blessing of religious articles; and 4:45 p.m. — departure from shrine for home, including dinner stop at Bogie's Restaurant in Great Barrington, Mass.

Cost for the pilgrimage, including complimentary snack items/water, entrance fee to the Divine Mercy Shrine and full-course dinner, is \$67 per person.

For more information and reservations, contact Cathy Mack, trip coordinator and leader of the Divine Mercy Cenacle, at (570-654-6063).

Charismatic Mass, Healing on Sunday

SCRANTON — Catholic Charismatic prayer groups in the Diocese of Scranton invite all faithful to participate in a Charismatic Mass and healing service hosted by Queen of the Apostles Parish in Avoca on Sunday, Sept. 23, at St. Mary Church, 715 Hawthorne St., Avoca.



Fr. August Ricciardi

The Eucharistic liturgy will be offered at 7 p.m., preceded by recitation of the Rosary at 6:30 p.m.

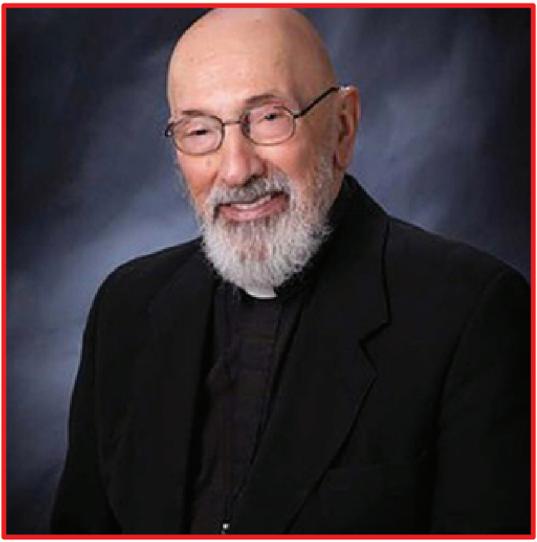
Serving as celebrant for the Mass will be Father August Ricciardi, pastor of Prince of Peace Parish in Old Forge, and spiritual director of the Charismatic Renewal in the Scranton Diocese.

A healing service will follow the Mass, with Father Ricciardi and leaders from Charismatic prayer groups ministering to those who desire prayers for healing.

Fellowship and light refreshments will conclude the gathering.



THE ORDER OF MALTA
SCRANTON CHAPTER
PRESENTS



AN EVENING OF HEALING
WITH
Monsignor John Esseff

**WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 10, 2018**

**ST. PAUL'S CHURCH
1510 PENN AVE., SCRANTON**

CONFESSIONS - 6:00PM

HEALING MASS & ANOINTING - 7:00PM

MSGR. JOHN ESSEFF
MAIN CELEBRANT & HOMILIST

MSGR. NEIL VAN LOON
MASS CONCELEBRANT &
CHAPLAIN ORDER OF MALTA,
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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Samaritan House, a ministry of the Parish of Saint Peter in Wellsboro, will celebrate 20 years of its apostolate of serving and caring for the terminally ill in the community with a reception on Sunday, Sept. 23, from 2 to 4 p.m. For more information, contact www.samaritanhouseofwellsboro.com.

Fr. Michael Kirwin and parishioners of

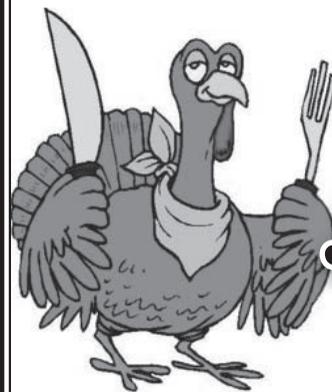
St. John Vianney Parish

Montdale & Royal, PA

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Coming from South take Route 81 North to Exit 201,
turn right on Route 438, travel 2.2 miles



Father Cizek Day Slated October 21

SHENANDOAH — The Father Walter Cizek Prayer League invites all faithful for the annual observance of Father Cizek Day on Sunday, Oct. 21, celebrating the exemplary spiritual life, works and unwavering faith of Jesuit Father Walter J. Cizek.

The day will be highlighted by the celebration of Divine Liturgy at 2 p.m. in Saint Casimir Catholic Church, 229 North Jardin St., Shenandoah.

Serving as principal celebrant and homilist will be Bishop Alfred A. Schlert of Allentown. A social will follow the liturgy in the church hall.

Prior to the Eucharistic celebration, the Father Walter Cizek

Prayer League Center, 218 West Cherry St., Shenandoah, will be open to visitors earlier in the day from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Father Cizek served the Jesuits as a teacher and missionary in Eastern Europe. It was during this ministry that the Catholic priest was arrested by Soviet authorities and imprisoned for numerous years in a labor camp in Siberia.

Upon his historic release, Father Cizek wrote the much-revered spiritual books *With God in Russia* and *He Leadeth Me*, which offer his meditations on acceptance and forgiveness, despite the horrific experience of surviving Communist prison camps.



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Spiritual Offerings

Charismatic Mass & Healing Service — SEPT. 20, hosted by St. John Bosco Parish in Conyngham; 7 p.m. in St. John Bosco Church. Music ministry by Sue Shaw begins at 6:45 p.m. Guest celebrant: Father August Ricciardi, spiritual director of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the Diocese of Scranton. Light refreshments will follow the Mass and healing service. All faithful are welcome.

Weekly Bible Study — SEPT. 21, hosted by St. Lawrence Parish in Great Bend; held every Friday at 7 p.m. in the Trinity Center, adjacent to St. Lawrence Church. All are welcome.

Friday Pro-Life Rosary Vigil — SEPT. 21, sponsored by the Catholics Defending Life Prayer & Awareness Team; group gathers every Friday from 1 to 1:30 p.m. at Lackawanna County Courthouse Square, North Washington Ave., in downtown Scranton (weather permitting). Recitation of the Rosary offered, along with pro-life meditations, Divine Mercy Chaplet and other prayer devotions for the respect and

dignity of all human life from conception to natural death. Pro-life signs are welcome.

Weekly Queen of Our Hearts Rosary Prayer Service — SEPT. 22, hosted every Saturday morning at Good Shepherd Church in Drums; group gathers weekly beginning at 11 a.m. Devotion includes recitation of the Chaplet of the Infant of Prague, the Holy Rosary, and Chaplet of the Divine Mercy. Prayer petitions may be submitted at the church. All faithful are welcome.

Spiritual Support Group: Scranton Mental Health Ministry — SEPT. 22 & OCT. 13, hosted by the Cathedral of St. Peter in Scranton; providing a safe, supportive space for individuals who are experiencing mental illness. Group meets at 10 a.m. on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month in the Bishops Hall at the Cathedral Rectory, 315 Wyoming Ave. Meetings will be approximately 90 minutes; refreshments provided. Participating Scranton parishes include St. Peter's; Mary, Mother of God; and Immaculate Conception. For more information, contact Deacon Ed Shoener (Cathedral), (570-344-7231);

Sunday Charismatic Mass & Healing Service — SEPT. 23, sponsored by Catholic Charismatic prayer groups in the Scranton Diocese; hosted by Queen of

the Apostles Parish at St. Mary Church, 715 Hawthorne St., Avoca. Rosary recitation begins at 6:30 p.m., followed by celebration of Mass at 7 p.m. and prayers for healing. Celebrant: Father August Ricciardi. Gathering concludes with light refreshments and fellowship.

Sunday Our Lady of Guadalupe Rosary Devotion — SEPT. 23, hosted by St. Lucy Church, 949 Scranton St., west Scranton; devotion held every Sunday evening from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the church or at the outdoor grotto (weather permitting) through the first week of December. Includes recitation of the 15 decades of the Rosary (Joyful, Sorrowful & Glorious Mysteries) and additional prayers offered for the special intentions of world peace, an increase in vocations to the priesthood/religious life, and an end to abortion.

Weekly "Flame of Love" Prayer Group Meeting — SEPT. 24, hosted by St. Barbara Parish at St. Anthony of Padua Church, Memorial St., Exeter; prayer group meets every Monday at 11:15 a.m. Mass is celebrated at 12:10 p.m. following recitation of the "Flame of Love" Rosary. All faithful are welcome.

Continued on
Page 17

Group Plans Outdoor Rosary Rallies

A group of Diocesan faithful dedicated to an increase in devotion to the Blessed Mother will host consecutive public Rosary rallies on Saturday, Oct. 13, in Lackawanna and Luzerne counties.

Commemorating the 101st anniversary of the final Marian apparition at Fatima, Portugal, on Oct. 13, 1917, the outdoor Rosary devotions will coincide with the 23,000 rallies being sponsored that day throughout the country by "America Needs Fatima" for greater spiritual conversion and reparation for sins.

The Rosary Crusade in Scranton begins at 12 noon with a public prayer rally at Lackawanna County's Courthouse Square on

North Washington Ave., with prayers and Rosary recitation led by Josie Roman.

Three hours later, at 3 p.m., an outdoor Rosary rally will be hosted at the Fatima shrine of the grounds of Saint Joseph's Oblate Seminary, Route 315, Laflin (Pittston). Saint Joseph Oblate Father Joseph Sibilano, director of the seminary, will lead the devotion and public recitation of Rosary prayers.

Local musical artist and vocalist Ernie Pappa will provide the music ministry at both events. All faithful are welcome to participate.

For more information, contact Josie Roman at (570-342-5614) or the Oblates of Saint Joseph seminary at (570-654-7542).

Prayers & Devotions to Our Lady of Fatima

Our Lady of Fatima, Queen of the Rosary!

The Rosary and Devotion to
Our Lady of Fatima, Queen of the Rosary,
will be held at

**Our Lady of Victory Church, Harveys Lake,
Saturday, October 13 at 7:00 p.m.**

*Our Lady asks you to attend and
bring a friend as we pray for peace.*



Spiritual Offerings

Evening of Marian Devotion — SEPT. 25, hosted by the Diocesan Legion of Mary in response to the Blessed Mother's request at Fatima for prayers for world peace; devotion begins at 6 p.m. at Most Holy Trinity Parish Center Chapel, 236 Route 390, Cresco. Prayer service includes recitation of the Rosary, Fatima prayers, hymns and newly composed music for the Scriptural mysteries, led by Ernie Pappa. All are invited to attend and offer devotional prayers to Mary for peace throughout the world.

"Alpha" Spirituality Course Sessions — SEPT. 25-NOV. 20, hosted by St. Ignatius Loyola Parish, 330 North Maple Ave., Kingston; weekly series gatherings offered on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8 p.m. "Alpha" courses provide a safe and open environment to explore life issues and a path to happiness through Jesus Christ; sessions include meal-sharing, video screening and faith discussions in the context of small group interaction. All faith questions are welcome

and encouraged. Pre-registration requested by Sept. 4; contact the parish office at (570-288-6446).

Wednesday Eucharistic Adoration — SEPT. 26, hosted at St. Joseph's Oblate Seminary, Route 315, Laflin; Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held every Wednesday evening from 6 to 7 p.m. in the seminary chapel. Includes recitation of the Rosary and opportunity for confessions. Mass celebrated at 7 p.m., followed by Novena prayers to St. Joseph and St. Joseph Marelo, founder of the Oblates of St. Joseph religious congregation. For more information, contact the OSJ seminary at (570-654-7542).

Weekly Bible Study — SEPT. 26, hosted by Prince of Peace Parish in Old Forge; weekly sessions offered on Wednesdays from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room at St. Lawrence Church, Main St., Old Forge. Guest facilitator: JoAnn Wilbur. All faithful are welcome; refreshments will be provided.

Wednesday Eucharistic Adoration — SEPT. 26, hosted by Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Tunkhannock; exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament offered every Wednesday from 3 to 5 p.m. in Nativity BVM Church, 99 East Tioga St., Tunkhannock. All faithful are welcome. For more information, call (570-881-9916).

Weekly Divine Mercy Devotion — SEPT. 26, hosted by St. Lawrence Parish in Great Bend; Hour of Mercy devotion held every Wednesday at 3 p.m. in St. Lawrence Church. All faithful are welcome.

Bereavement Support Group — SEPT. 26, last in a series of consecutive weekly meetings, addressing topics dealing with the grief process in order for participants to find healing; Bereavement Support Group meets on Wednesday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the

*Continued on
Page 21*

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REGISTRATION: Cost: \$20 Register online at: Facebook Events: Full of Grace 2018 OR <https://goo.gl/forms/PpaHe4z2TospaBor2> (Late registration will be taken at the door)

WHERE: **IHM Center**, 2300 Adams Avenue, Scranton, PA 18509

Theresa Maxis Conference Center (Lower, back parking lot)

WHO?: Young women 7th – 12th grade

CONTACT: dosfullofgrace@gmail.com

or, for more information, call and leave a message: 570-346-5414



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Mission Message

Go Forth

**By Father Brian J.T. Clarke
Diocesan Director,
Pontifical Mission Societies**



“Take up your cross and follow me.” With these words, Jesus challenged Peter and the other disciples to commit themselves to a life that would be centered on Christ, on the cross, and the resurrection. In the same vein, Jesus charged them to embrace a life and a ministry that would not be easy, one that would not be without struggle and strife.

Sound familiar? Our Church, the Church we love and the Church that belongs to you and me, finds Herself in the midst of a scandal of momentous proportion. We are facing the horror of innocence robbed and the equally inconceivable inaction in the leadership of our Church. And yet, we still are called to muster the energy and the words to continue the Mission of the Church, to evangelize.

Jesus surely knew the brokenness of His own band of self-chosen companions and certainly divined that subsequent disciples would be committed, yet broken

and sinful, vessels. And here we are, bruised, broken and battered, yet called. “Wounded and Loved” — to borrow the words of Bishop Bambera.

The cross now lowered on the shoulder of the Church is a heavy one, but it is ours to bear together. We bear it because the Mission must go on. Despite our very public and our very obvious brokenness, we remain resolute in the task given to us by Christ Himself, to bear the cross and follow Him.

Tempted as we may be to shun the cross or to avoid it, it is ours. We bear the burden together and become Simons of Cyrene for one another, for victims, for families, for one another as we endure the sad reality that our Church must be ready to be purified, to be healed, to be strengthened.

If there’s ever a time to deny ourselves and to shoulder the cross, it’s now. In the midst of this shouldering the cross, I hope we become more aware of the mission of the Church in terms of evangelization. Surely, we are tempted to be meek at this time, to be silent and stayed in the wake of a very public shame. But the devil is in the details and orchestrates that temptation to be silent and to see this time of shame and disgust as

time to hold back from our efforts to bring others to Christ and His Church.

More than any time perhaps in history, we need to be servant leaders and pour ourselves out in love and in sacrifice to each other; to be missionaries that use words, but to join those words with action in humble submission to the challenge of Saint Francis to preach the Gospel and, if necessary, use words.

We need charity and denial of self more than ever. Many, including our Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, have recognized how doctrine and worship come later in terms of people’s embrace of the faith; for, they see and hear and embrace that later. What they see first is charity. They see faithful Christians bearing the cross and bearing the crosses of others with tenderness and mercy. They see a faithful band of believers who empty themselves in love for one another.

As we go forth into the world with this cross, we do so committed to the Gospel mandate to embrace the virtue of charity and give of ourselves in love. This will purify us...this will bear us up...this will continue to change the world.

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Papal Intention for October 2018

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Youth group members from Saint Vincent de Paul Parish in Milford traveled to Connecticut this summer for a week of service at Catholic Heart Work Camp. Off with a blessing from their pastor, Father John Boyle, the youth arrived at the camp all smiles, and then flexed their “Jesus Strong” muscles — ready to serve.

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Pittsburgh Diocese plan will see number of parishes drop from 188 to 57

PITTSBURGH (CNS) — After three years of discussions, Pittsburgh Bishop David A. Zubik said the 188 parishes of the diocese will be placed into 57 groupings that will eventually become new parishes.

Bishop Zubik said the effort was designed to promote vibrant faith and revitalize parishes.

The announcement detailed the maximum number of weekend Masses per grouping and timelines for each grouping to work toward mergers and clergy assignments.

The move to groupings — part of a diocesan planning initiative called On Mission for The Church Alive! — were to take effect Oct. 15. No church closings are part of the plan's first phase.

The groupings are expected to merge into new parishes between 2020 and 2023, however.

"No matter how the church is structured, it is the responsibility of all the faithful — bishops and priests included — to make faith, hope and love remain alive in the world around us," he said in announcing the plan, the result of meetings and discernment that began in 2015.

"Our churches will continue to be places where local Catholics gather to be nurtured and nourished by the God who loves us. Yet, On Mission! gives us a new context and new opportunities to make ever more alive a faith that abides both within and outside of our church walls," he said.

The diocesan plan is being driven by reduced Mass attendance and participation in the sacraments and a declining number of priests.

The diocese reported that since 2000, Mass attendance decreased more than 40 percent and participation in the sacraments fell 40 percent to 50 percent. Meanwhile, the number of diocesan priests available for active ministry is expected to decline from about 200 to 112 by 2025.

Launched in April 2015, the planning process invited Catholics to envision how parishes, schools and ministries can best respond to

the changes in their communities. The diocese said nearly 30,000 parishioners participated in meetings and provided feedback that guided the decisions announced by the bishop.

"For three years, we have labored to discern how to best position our local church for the future," Bishop Zubik said in a letter to parishes. "We must respond to the reality that populations have shifted, that many Catholics have

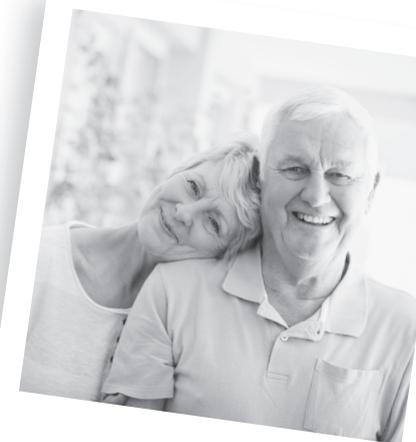
drifted away from Mass and that we will have fewer priests.

"We need to share and mobilize our resources to draw people deeper into the faith, seek the lost and serve those in need."

Under the new setup, a priest who serves as administrator will lead a clergy team for each grouping. An administrator has all the rights and responsibilities of a pastor but does not have a specified term to serve.

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DICKENS CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL, WELLSBORO – Dinner – Dec. 1
PA CHRISTMAS AND GIFT SHOW – Harrisburg – Dec. 1
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Spiritual Offerings Throughout the Diocese

Continued from Page 17

Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave., Scranton (across from St. Peter's Cathedral). Anyone interested in attending is asked to contact the Cathedral Parish office at (570-344-7231).

"40 Days for Life" Pro-Life Gathering — SEPT. 26-NOV. 2, offered for the special intention of ending abortion; Rosary is prayed each weekday, Monday thru Friday, at 9 a.m. in front of the offices of Planned Parenthood, 63 N. Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre. Pro-life campaign draws attention to the evil of abortion through prayer & fasting, constant vigil, and community outreach. For more information, visit: www.40daysforlife.com.

Spiritual Retreat — SEPT. 29, hosted by the Capuchin Sisters of St. Joseph Convent in Jackson; offered from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at St. Martin of Tours Church, Routes 492 and 92, Jackson. Open to all men and women free of charge. Retreatants are requested to provide their own lunch; coffee and tea will be available. No reservations required.

Nazareth Day: A Day with the Sisters — SEPT. 29, a visitation day experience for young women, in grades 8 thru 12, to share in the religious life of the Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth; hosted by the Capuchin Sisters from 10 a.m. to

5 p.m. at Mother of God Convent, 215 Wellwood Drive, Tunkhannock (website: cnsisters.com). Anyone interested in attending is asked to call Sister Margaret at (570-836-2737) for more information.

Healing Mass — SEPT. 30, hosted at the chapel of St. Joseph's Oblate Seminary, Route 315, Laffin; Mass celebrated at 3 p.m., preceded by musical prelude at 2:30 p.m. provided by Ernie Pappa and the Sacred Heart Singers. Celebrant: St. Joseph Oblate Father Joseph Sibilano, seminary director; anointing and healing service will be offered during the Sunday Eucharistic liturgy. All are welcome.

42nd Annual Knights of Columbus Rosary Rally — SEPT. 30, sponsored by the combined Knights of Columbus of Wyoming Valley; hosted by St. Nicholas Parish in Wilkes-Barre. Rosary procession through city streets with the Our Lady of Fatima Pilgrim Virgin Statue begins at 2 p.m. from St. Nicholas Church, 226 South Washington St.; procession returns to the church at 3 p.m. for recitation of the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary, followed by celebration of Sunday's Eucharistic liturgy. Refreshments will be served after Mass in the school.

Padre Pio Prayer Ministry — OCT. 3, hosted by St. Faustina Kowalska Parish in Nanticoke;

begins with celebration of Mass at 6 p.m. at the parish worship site of Holy Trinity Church, 520 South Hanover St., Nanticoke, followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, intercessory prayers to St. Padre Pio, recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and benediction.

Williamsport Religious Book Study — OCT. 3, 10 & 17, hosted by Lutheran Shared Ministry's School of Religion; held each evening from 7 to 8 p.m. in Fellowship Hall at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 142 Market St., Williamsport. Ecumenical sessions will lead participants in a book discussion of *The Name of God is Mercy*, written by Pope Francis and Andrea Tornielli. A communal prayer service culminates the program series on Oct. 24 at 7 p.m., featuring music ministry by a combined choir. For more information, call (570-323-4619).

Bereavement Support Gatherings — OCT. 3 & 21, hosted by Our Lady of the Snows Parish in Clarks Summit; support group meetings held on the first Wednesday of the month, at 10 a.m., and the third Sunday of the month, at 2 p.m., in the Gathering Room (lower level) of Our Lady of the Snows Church, 301 South State St., Clarks Summit. All are welcome; no registration is required.

Scranton Mental Health Ministry: Spiritual Support Group for Family & Friends — OCT. 4, hosted by the Cathedral of St. Peter in Scranton; providing a safe, supportive space for parents, family members and friends of individuals who are experiencing mental illness. Group meets at 6 p.m. on the first Thursday of the

Continued on Page 23

Ladies of Charity Fundraiser Party

WILKES-BARRE — The Ladies of Charity of the Diocese of Scranton will host their annual Bingo/Card Party on Sunday, Sept. 30, at 2 p.m. in the cafeteria of St. Aloysius Church at St. Robert Bellarmine Parish in Wilkes-Barre.

The event, which is the sole fundraiser of the year that enables the Ladies of Charity to continue their apostolate of providing charitable works, offers card and bingo games with monetary and door prizes.

Raffle tickets will also be sold during the event. Admission fee is \$2; refreshments are provided. All are invited and new members are always welcome.

For more information, contact Barb at (570-474-5531).

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Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement.

It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the *Code of Canon Law* and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator, Mary Beth Pacuska at (570-862-7551) or to Diocesan officials, including the Vicar General, Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney, V.G., at (570-207-2269).

Aviso al Respeto de Reportar el Abuso Sexual de Un Menor de Edad

Es la norma de la Diócesis de Scranton reportar cualquier alegación de abuso sexual de un menor de edad a las autoridades. Si usted es una víctima de abuso sexual cometido por un sacerdote, diácono, religioso o empleado laico, o voluntario de la Diócesis de Scranton, usted está obligado a reportar el asunto inmediatamente a las autoridades de la ley.

Si algún sacerdote, diácono, religioso, empleado laico o voluntario de la Diócesis de Scranton tiene sospecha de que un menor de edad ha sido sujeto a cualquier forma de abuso, incluyendo abuso sexual de menor de edad, el asunto será reportado a las autoridades de la ley.

Es la norma de la Diócesis defender todas las regulaciones civiles y del estado. Al fin de que la Diócesis esté comprometida igualmente a defender las normas del Código de Derecho Canónico y defender los principios de la Carta Para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes (Conferencia de los Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos), lo cual incluye apoyar a las víctimas de abuso sexual en pos del bienestar emocional y espiritual.

Por eso, información respecto a una alegación del asunto sexual de un menor de edad, debe ser reportada a la Coordinadora Diocesana de Asistencia para Las Víctimas, Mary Beth Pacuska, a (570-862-7551) o a los oficiales diocesanos incluyendo El Vicario General, Monseñor Thomas M. Muldowney, a (570-207-2269).



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Upcoming Spiritual Offerings Throughout the Diocese

Continued from Page 21

month in the Bishops Hall at the Cathedral Rectory, 315 Wyoming Ave. Meetings will be approximately 90 minutes; refreshments provided. Participating Scranton parishes include St. Peter's; Mary, Mother of God; and Immaculate Conception. For more information, contact Deacon Ed Shoener (Cathedral), (570-344-7231); Deacon Jan Mroz (Mary, Mother of God), (570-342-4881); or Deacon Pat McDonald (Immaculate Conception), (570-961-5211).

First Friday Marian Devotion & Healing Mass — OCT. 5, hosted by St. Lucy Parish at St. Lucy Church, 949 Scranton St., west Scranton; begins at 6:30 p.m. with recitation of the Rosary and devotional prayers led by Adele Garofalo. Healing Mass

celebrated at 7 p.m., including prayers for healing and anointing blessing. Music ministry provided by Ernie Pappa. All faithful are welcome.

Monthly Ladies Afternoon of Recollection — OCT. 6, hosted by the Ladies Society of St. Joseph Melkite Greek-Catholic Church, 130 North St. Frances Cabrini Ave., west Scranton; gatherings are held on the first Saturday of the month beginning at 1 p.m. Centered around the theme of prayer, sessions are offered for the spiritual enrichment of its members and the larger community; meetings end at approximately 2:15 p.m. and are followed by fellowship in the church hall. Anyone interested in attending may receive handout materials and Scripture readings in advance by emailing: melkite.scranton@gmail.com.

Saint Pio Group to Gather on Sunday

HONESDALE — The Saint Padre Pio Prayer Group invites all faithful to their devotional gathering on Sunday, Sept. 23, at Saint Mary Magdalen Church, 416 Church St., Honesdale, beginning with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 2 p.m.

Father William Langan, host pastor and group spiritual director, will lead the faithful in prayers offered for all priests, followed by recitation of the Rosary.

A reading from sacred Scripture will be followed by a spiritual reflection by Father Langan.

The Book of Special Intentions invoking the intercession of Saint Padre Pio will be presented, and prayers and petitions for other special intentions will be offered.

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick will be administered to those who are seriously ill or about to undergo surgery.

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy will be chanted at 3 p.m., followed by Liturgy of the Hours (vespers), benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, a closing hymn to the Blessed Mother and individual blessing with the relic of Saint Pio.

Weekly Bereavement Support Group — OCT. 9-NOV. 13, hosted by the Bereavement Ministry of the parish community of Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace and St. Veronica, Hawley; support group will meet on Wednesday mornings from 9 to 11:30 a.m. (following celebration of Mass) in the parish hall. Six-week program offered to those seeking healing by addressing topics dealing with the grief process. For more information, contact Rosemarie at (570-390-4196) or the rectory office at (570-226-3183).

Evening of Healing with Monsignor Esseff — OCT. 10, presented by the Scranton Chapter of the Order of Malta; hosted at St. Paul's Church, 1510 Penn Ave., Green Ridge section of Scranton. Healing Mass celebrated at 7 p.m., preceded by the opportunity for confessions at 6 p.m. Main celebrant & homilist: Monsignor John Esseff; Mass concelebrant: Monsignor Neil Van Loon, host pastor and chaplain of the Order of Malta, Scranton Chapter. For more information, call (570-341-7941) or

email: Contact@MaltaofScranton.org.

Evening of Prayer with the Sisters of IHM — OCT. 10, sponsored by the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary; monthly prayer service held on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel at the IHM Center, 2300 Adams Ave., Scranton. For more information, call (570-346-5404).

Continued on Page 24



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Monthly Evening of Marian Devotion — OCT. 15, hosted by the Oblates of St. Joseph, Diocesan Sacred Heart Enthronement Guild, and the Legion of Mary; devotion begins at 6 p.m. in the chapel of St. Joseph's Oblate Seminary, Route 315, Laflin (Pittston). Prayer service includes recitation of the Rosary, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Fatima prayers, hymns, and newly composed music for the Scriptural mysteries led by Ernie Pappa, who will facilitate the evening.

Annual Flea Market — SEPT. 22, sponsored by St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Old Forge; held in the church hall, 320 Vine St. Market hours: Saturday (bag & box sale), 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sale items include antiques, jewelry, household goods,

All are invited to attend and offer devotional prayers to Mary for world peace.

Meeting of Lay Carmelites — OCT. 20, hosted by Our Lady of the Mountains Lay Carmelite Chapter; meetings held on the third Saturday of each month at Little Flower Manor, 200 S. Meade St., Wilkes-Barre. For more information, contact Rose Bordi at (570-445-5457).

Gathering of the Secular Discalced Carmelites — OCT. 21, canonically established community of the Diocese of Scranton; gatherings are usually held on the third Sunday of every month at Holy Annunciation Monastery in Sugarloaf, Luzerne County. All are welcome, especially those who feel called to a deeper consecration in life and wish to experience Carmelite spirituality and community. Call Ann Marie Fierro (570-454-4493), Nicole Tranguch (570-751-4729) or Marie Schimmelbusch (570-822-6561) for more information.

furniture, and children's items; variety of ethnic foods, baked goods and refreshments will also be available.

University of Scranton Performance Music Series: Family Weekend President's Concert — SEPT. 22, celebrating the inauguration of Jesuit Father Scott R. Pilarz as University president; featuring the University of Scranton Concert Band & Concert Choir, with special guest Dr. Wycliffe Gordon. Concert begins at 7:30 p.m. in the University's Houlihan-McLean Center on campus, corner of Mulberry St. & Jefferson Ave. Performance is open to the public free of charge.

Potato Pancake Picnic & Flea Market — SEPT. 23, sponsored by the Men's Club of Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, Buttonwood section of Hanover Township; held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the church bazaar grounds. Cost for potato pancakes is \$5 per person (five pancakes with no

22nd Anniversary Celebration of the Wyoming Valley Knights of Columbus "Tomb of Unborn" — OCT. 21, prayerful commemoration begins at 2 p.m. at the Knights' Tomb of the Unborn, located at the top of Mount Olivet Cemetery in Carverton; Rosary prayers will be recited. All Knights of Columbus of the Wyoming Valley and area faithful are invited to attend. For more information, contact Patrick Umbra at (570-822-3597).

Fall Preached Retreat: "The Passion of Jesus Christ" — OCT. 19-21, hosted by St. Gabriel's Retreat Center in Clarks Summit; open to both men and women. Retreat begins on Friday evening at 7 p.m. (no meal served) and concludes following the noon meal on Sunday. Retreat director: Passionist Father Richard Nalepa of St. Paul's Monastery in Pittsburgh. For more information and reservations, call (570-586-4957) or email: kporter@epix.net. Deposit is required.

limit); soft drinks and water will be available. Flea market continues on Friday, Sept. 28, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Saturday, Sept. 29, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Friday, Oct. 5, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and Saturday, Oct. 6, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Annual Turkey Bingo & Raffle — SEPT. 23, sponsored by the Christian Women of Our Lady of Hope Parish in Wilkes-Barre; hosted at the Marymount Parish Center, 154 South Hancock St., Wilkes-Barre. Doors open at 12 noon; early bird games start at 1 p.m. Admission fee: \$3. Raffle drawing prizes include handmade quilt and three handmade afghans. Raffle tickets and refreshments available for purchase.

Weekly Bingo — SEPT. 24, hosted by Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Dickson City; bingo games held every Monday evening, with doors opening at 4:30 p.m. Early bird games begin at 6:40 p.m.; regular games start

Continued from Page 24

at 7 p.m. Admission fee includes 20 games; progressive jackpot each week. Homemade food sold before the bingo; homemade pizza available during the games and for take-out. Return coupon for new players; door prizes awarded each week. Van shuttle service provided free of charge from Carbondale and Scranton. For more information, call (570-489-2091).

18th Annual Craft Fair — **SEPT. 29**, sponsored by the Women's Guild of Divine Mercy Parish, Davis Street, Minooka section of Scranton; held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the parish center. Featuring displays by more than 40 local crafters, including handmade jewelry and seasonal decorations & gifts; door prizes awarded throughout the day. Refreshments available for purchase. Admission fee: \$2.

Music Ministers Workshop September 29

The Office for Parish Life and the Scranton Chapter of the National Association for Pastoral Musicians is sponsoring a musicians' workshop with Dr. Elaine Rendler-McQueeney on Saturday, September 29, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton.

The topic of the workshop will be: "Here We Go Again: Rediscovering and Renewing Our Commitment to Music Ministry." All cantors, choir members, choir directors, organists, pianists, and instrumentalists are encouraged to participate.

The registration fee is \$20, and registration may be completed on the Diocesan website: www.dioceseofscranton.org, under Parish Life. Deadline to register is Monday, September 24.

Elaine Rendler-McQueeney is a nationally recognized musician, teacher, author, composer, pastoral liturgist and speaker. She holds a doctor of musical arts degree (DMA) in organ performance from The Catholic University of America.

She serves as associate professor of music theory at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, and for many years was

Misericordia Open House — **SEPT. 29**, open house event sponsored by Misericordia University in Dallas (Back Mountain section of Luzerne County); for high school students and their parents. Program begins with registration at 9 a.m. in the Anderson Sports and Health Center, followed by "Meet the Coaches" session from 9 to 10 a.m. Open house held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; includes campus tours, faculty session and lunch, and meetings with representatives of student services, athletics and financial aid. For more information and registration, contact the Misericordia Admissions Office at (570-675-4449 or 1-866-262-6363) or by email: admiss@misericordia.edu.

Take-Out Pasta Dinner — **SEPT. 30**, hosted by Queen of the Apostles Parish in Avoca; take-out dinners available from 11 a.m.

to 3 p.m. in the parish hall, 742 Spring St., Avoca. Menu includes pasta & meatballs, salad, bread and dessert. Dinner cost: adults, \$10; children (ages 3 to 12), \$6. Event also includes sale of quarts of pasta sauce (\$5 each) or with meatballs (\$7 each), and homemade cannoli (\$3 each). For dinner tickets and to pre-order sauce and cannoli items, call the parish office at (570-457-3412). Deadline is Sept. 26.

Harvest Festival — **SEPT. 30**, sponsored by St. John Vianney Parish, Montdale & Royal; featuring a home-cooked turkey dinner served from 12 noon to 5 p.m. at Corpus Christi Church in Montdale (take-out orders available). Tickets at the door (adults, \$12; children, \$6). Also featuring wreaths & wall hangings, homemade baked goods, bountiful baskets, raffle drawings & prizes, and children's hayrides. Public is welcome.

Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary Bingo — **OCT. 3 & 17**, sponsored by Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary Parish, Jermyn; games held on the first and third Wednesdays of the month in the

the director of the Georgetown Chorale in Washington, D.C.

Elaine is perhaps best known as the editor of *Today's Liturgy*, the quarterly liturgy preparation magazine from OCP. Her weekly columns and music suggestions in *Today's Liturgy* have been offering practical wisdom to generations of pastoral musicians for more than 30 years.

The composer of *Keyboard Praise*, Volumes 1 and 2, a collection of organ arrangements based on traditional and contemporary hymn tunes, Elaine is also the artist behind *The Seven Last Words of Christ*, a recording of French composer Theodore Dubois' famous choral work.

She is also the author of two books: *This Is the Day* and *In the Midst of the Assembly*, collections of her best columns from *Today's Liturgy*, and co-author of *Celebrating Marriage, Revised Edition*.

Elaine is a prolific workshop leader and presenter, working with parishes and dioceses to focus on the preparation of ministers and selecting the music for the liturgy.

She currently resides in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, where she is music director and organist at her home parish.

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Continued on Page 26

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Catholic Happenings Throughout the Diocese

Continued from Page 25

parish center, 624 Madison Ave., Jermyn. Doors open at 5 p.m.; early-bird games start 6 p.m. (regular games, 6:30). Event includes homemade foods and desserts; specialty games, refreshments,

door prizes and progressive jackpot. Free admission; for more information, call (570-876-1061).

Columbus Day Weekend Craft Fair — OCT. 6 & 7, hosted by St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Pocono Pines; held on Satur-

day, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the lower level hall, 5112 Pocono Crest Road, Pocono Pines. Fair features white elephant sale and raffle drawings; children's items, homemade baked goods, and handmade arts & crafts by a vari-

ety of vendors. Homemade foods also available for purchase.

Fall Bingo — OCT. 7, hosted by the Confraternity of Christian Women of Holy Family Parish in Sugar Notch; held in the church hall, 828 Main St., Sugar Notch. Doors open at 12 noon; games begin at 1 p.m. Prizes include theme baskets, gift cards, small appliances, cash and door prizes. Homemade foods and refreshments available for purchase. Admission fee: \$5. Tickets available at the door, following all weekend Masses or by calling the rectory office (570-822-8983).

Annual Handmade Quilt Bingo — OCT. 7, sponsored by SS. Peter and Paul Parish, 13 Hudson Road, Plains; held in the parish's Bernardine Hall (former school auditorium). Doors open at 11:30 a.m. and games start at 1 p.m.; winners will choose from a wide variety of handmade quilts. Admission fee: \$20 (in advance) or \$25 (at door), includes six-card game piece for each regular game; other specials sold separately. For more information, contact the parish office at (570-825-6663).

Vendor Craft Fair & Car Show — OCT. 7, hosted by St. Faustina Kowalska Parish in Nanticoke; held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Parish Grove, located on Robert St., Sheatown section of Nanticoke. Event also features food concessions and musical entertainment.

Rummage Sale — OCT. 8 & 9, sponsored by the Confraternity of Christian Mothers of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, 116 Hughes St., Swoyersville; held in the school gymnasium. Sale hours: Monday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Tuesday (\$2 bag day), 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Includes sale of baked goods and refreshment items, including homemade halushki and wimpies.

University of Scranton Performance Music Series: In Recital — OCT. 12, featuring Alessandro Pittorino, organist; 7:30 p.m. in the University's Houlihan-McLean Center on campus, corner of Mulberry St.

& Jefferson Ave. Performance is open to the public free of charge.

Free Community Luncheon — OCT. 13, sponsored by Holy Rosary Parish in Hazleton; lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 12 noon in the parish hall at 240 S. Poplar St., Hazleton. Meal is offered to the community free of charge. All are welcome.

Annual Fall Festival — OCT. 14, sponsored by SS. Peter & Paul Parish in west Scranton; beginning at 11:30 a.m. in the church hall, 1309 West Locust St. Featuring homemade ethnic foods, including pierogi, pigs-in-the-blanket, potato pancakes, halushki, and traditional Portuguese foods & desserts; event also includes homemade bake sale items, theme basket raffle, games, and children's activities.

Catholic Worker Farm Dinner Benefit — OCT. 21, sponsored by the Social Justice and Stewardship committees of St. Therese Parish in Shavertown; roasted pork dinner fundraiser will benefit the work at the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker Farm in Harveys Lake. Dinner held from 2 to 6 p.m. in the parish's Father Sammons Hall, located in the church basement; event includes basket raffle and other activities. Dinner cost: \$15 per person, includes roast pork tenderloin and side dishes (take-out orders available). Advance reservations only; no tickets will be sold at the door. For advance tickets and more information, contact the parish rectory office (570-696-1144).

Toy Bingo — NOV. 4, sponsored by St. André Bessette Parish in Wilkes-Barre; hosted at St. Mary's Byzantine Social Hall, 522 Madison St., Wilkes-Barre. Doors open at 12 noon; games begin at 1 p.m. Admission fee: \$10. Seating is limited; advance reservations are encouraged. To purchase tickets or for more information, contact Mary at the parish office (570-823-4988).

Continued on Page 27

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



Rev. Joseph F. Sica

MELODIES OF THE DANUBE August 10-18, 2019

Plan to join Fr. Joseph Sica for a special cruise presentation on the Enchanting Danube River on THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4TH @ 6:30 PM at the Ramada Inn in Clarks Summit. Special Charter Rates will be offered & a representative from AMA Waterways will be on hand to answer your questions.

Please RSVP to TravelWorld at 570-342-5790. Hope to see you there!

- August 11—Budapest – EMBARKATION... Night Illuminations Cruise
- August 12—Budapest... Queen of the Danube Tour ... Free Time
- August 13—Bratislava ... Coronation City Walking Tour or Tastes of Slovakia Tour
- August 14—Vienna ... City Tour & Free Time
- August 15—Weissenkirchen ... Highlight Tour & Melk Abbey... Scenic Cruising
- August 16—Linz ... Walking Tour & Salzburg "Sound of Music" Tour
- August 17—Passau ... City of Three Rivers Walking Tour
- August 18—DISEMBARKATION



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Various Events to Mark Misericordia's 'Mercy Week'

DALLAS — Misericordia University will celebrate its founding by the Religious Sisters of Mercy with a series of events for the campus community and public during Mercy Week, to be held Sept. 23-28. All events are free and open to the public.

Throughout Mercy Week, Misericordia will address the critical concerns of the Sisters of Mercy, who founded the university in 1924. Those concerns include sustainability of the Earth's natural resources, immigration, nonviolence, racism, women and children. The schedule includes a lecture on ethics in politics and the screening of a documentary that helped defuse political tensions in Northern Ireland.

The Ethics Institute of Northeastern Pennsylvania at Misericordia University will present the Sister Siena Finley, RSM Second Annual Lecture on Ethics on Wednesday, Sept. 26, at 7 p.m. in Huntzinger Room 218 of Sandy and Marlene Insalaco Hall.

The topic, "How to Speak to Nones and All: A Politics of Integrity," will be presented by Bernard G. Prusak, Ph.D., associate professor of philosophy and director of the McGowan Center for Ethics and Social Responsibility at King's College.

On Thursday, Sept. 27, Mercy Week will continue with the screening of the documentary, "How to Defuse a Bomb: The Project Children Story," and a presentation by Denis Mulcahy, a retired and highly decorated NYPD Bomb Squad Officer who is featured in the film.

Mr. Mulcahy will discuss his work as one of the founding members of Project Children

Charity, an organization in New York that helped ease tensions in Northern Ireland by offering more than 22,000 children a six-week summer reprieve from the intrinsic, sectarian violence. Actor Liam Neeson is the film's narrator. The event will begin at 7 p.m. in Lemmond Theater in Walsh Hall.

Mercy Day, the anniversary date of the founding of Misericordia in 1924, will be celebrated on Monday, Sept. 24, with an ecumenical prayer service at 12 p.m. in the University Chapel in Mercy Hall. Religious leaders of various faiths will offer prayers and readings that address the theme of the critical concerns.

A Mercy Week liturgy also will be offered Sunday, Sept. 23, at 7 p.m. in the University Chapel. Special guests will include Mercy Associates of Misericordia University – volunteers who live the Mercy charisms and help further the work of the Sisters of Mercy in the community.

In addition, the Community Fiscal committee of the Misericordia University Staff Council will hold the annual "Stuff the Bus" project in the Wells Fargo Amphitheater on Thursday, Sept. 27, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The annual donations project supports the Domestic Violence Service Center.

Working in collaboration with Mercy Associates, the group is hoping to collect 175 items in honor of the 175th anniversary of the Sisters of Mercy coming to the United States. Items being collected include various personal care, first aid and household accessories, and clothing and health care products for women and babies. Only new items can be accepted for the collection, and donations from the

community are welcome.

Donation boxes will be prominently located in numerous buildings on campus, including Mercy Hall, Mary Kintz Bevevino Library, Trocaire Building, Anderson Sports and Health Center and Banks Student Life Center on the upper campus, and John J. Passan Hall at 100 Lake St., Dallas.

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39TH ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT

Rosary Novena

Saturday, Oct. 6th through Sunday, Oct. 14th at 7:00 P.M.

ST. LUCY'S CHURCH

949 Scranton Street – Scranton, PA

*The Rosary will be said by
candlelight in the Church.*

*The crowning of Our Blessed Mother
takes place each night.*

*The Novena will close each evening
with Solemn Benediction of the
Blessed Sacrament.*



Everyone is invited to attend. Handicap accessible.

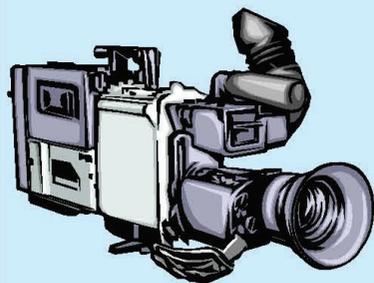
Rev. Sam Ferretti, Pastor – Deacon Carmine Mendicino, Director- Christopher Mendicino, Choir Director

Catholic Happenings

Third Annual Ukrainian Orphanage Fundraiser — NOV. 10, sponsored by the Orphan Outreach Ministry of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Gilbert (Brodheads ville); tricky tray games party to be held in the parish's McCawley Hall at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Route 209, Brodheads ville, with proceeds to benefit an orphanage for disabled children in war-torn Ukraine.

Doors open at 9 a.m.; drawings begin at 12:30 p.m. Food and beverage items will be available for purchase. Admission cost: \$10, includes two sheets of tickets; additional sheets available for purchase. Theme basket donations will be accepted at the parish office. For more information, contact Sandie Flannery at Flannery@QOPchurch.org or call (570-350-9652).

Watch Video



The Diocese of Scranton's website includes video of certain programs broadcast by CTV: Catholic Television. The programs include the Daily Mass from St. Peter's Cathedral, the monthly news program "Our Faith, Our Diocese" and other special programs. To watch the videos, go to www.dioceseofscranton.org. Click on "News & Events" tab and then click on Catholic Television.

The Catholic Light

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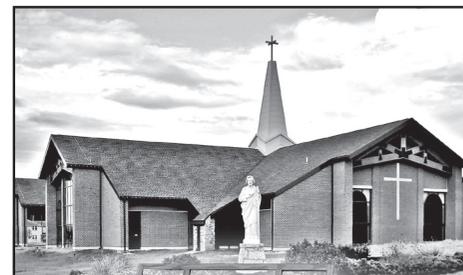
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