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Pope: No more excuses; time for 'all-out battle' against sex abuse



Pope Francis, cardinals and bishops attend a Mass on the last day of the four-day meeting on the protection of minors in the church at the Vatican Feb. 24, in this image taken from Vatican television. (CNS photo/Vatican Television via Reuters)

VATICAN CITY (CNS)

—The time has come for an “all-out battle” against the abuse of minors, erasing this abominable crime from the face of the earth, Pope Francis said, closing a global four-day summit on child protection in the Catholic Church.

For quite some time, the world has been aware of the “serious scandal” the abuse of minors by clergy has brought to the church and public opinion, both because of the dramatic suffering it has caused victims and because of the “unjustifiable negligence” and “cover-up” by leaders in the church, he told people gathered in St. Peter’s Square.

Since the problem is present on every continent, the pope said he called leaders of the world’s bishops and religious superiors to Rome because “I wanted us to face it together in a co-responsible and collegial way,” he said after praying the Angelus Feb. 24.

“We listened to the voice of victims, we prayed and asked for forgiveness from God and the people hurt, we took stock of our responsibility, and our duty to bring justice through truth and to radically reject every form” of sexual abuse and the abuse of power and conscience, he said.

“We want every activity and every place in the church to be completely safe for minors,” he said, which means taking every possible measure so that such crimes never happen again.

It will also entail working with great dedication together with people of good will everywhere in order to fight this “very grave scourge of violence” that affects hundreds of millions of minors around the world.

The pope’s noonday summary of what he called a “very important” meeting came after he delivered his closing remarks at the end of Mass Feb. 24.

Surrounded by the ornate frescoed walls and ceiling of the Sala Regia, the pope told some 190 cardinals, bishops and religious superiors from around the world, “the time has come, then, to work together to eradicate this evil from the body of our humanity by adopting every necessary measure already in force on the international level and ecclesial levels.”

However, despite the importance of knowing the sociological and psychological explanations behind this criminal act of abuse, he said, the church must recognize this is a spiritual battle against the “brazen, aggressive, destructive” power of Satan.

“I see the hand of evil that does not spare even the innocence of the little ones. And this leads me to think of the example of Herod who, driven by fear of losing his power, ordered the slaughter of all the children of Bethlehem,” the pope said.

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“Everyone of us is treasured by God”

Even before the annual Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities Mass began on Sunday, February 24, Eric Dodson and Gerard Wazeter were on a mission.

The two men each practiced for their special role as lector in the service. They did not disappoint.

“It was special today. It was a special day. I did a lot of practicing!” Mr. Wazeter said. The 28 year old is a parishioner at Saint Frances X. Cabrini Parish in Carverton.

After the Mass, Mr. Dodson, a parishioner at Saint Nicholas Parish in Wilkes-Barre also reflected on what the day meant for him. “I had a really good one, a good time,” Mr. Dodson said.

The liturgy celebrates the many gifts those with developmental or intellectual disabilities bring to the Church and the community.

Volunteers served as greeters, singers, lectors, gift bearers and altar servers.



Residents of Saint Joseph's Center were gift bearers at Mass.

While speaking with television reporters after the Mass, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera said, “This is probably one of the most meaningful Masses that we celebrate all year.”

During his homily, Bishop Bambera said that every single person is a part of God’s plan.

“More than you realize, your unwavering trust in God and your example of acceptance, forgiveness, gratitude and selfless love and mercy provide us all with priceless lessons for how best to live as disciples of Jesus,” Bishop Bambera said.

“Our presence together at this Mass is a blessed reminder that we are all a part of God’s plan. Each of us is treasured by God, for being just the way we are and each of us is well-equipped for the ministry of service in the Church.”

The Bishop concluded his homily saying, “My friends, thank God that we belong to a Church that reminds us that God’s criteria for fitting in is vastly different from the world’s. Thank God for our cherished brothers and sisters with disabilities who give us a glimpse of what it truly means to fulfill today’s gospel mandate of Jesus when he says, ‘Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful!’ For beyond a doubt, you best teach us how to be merciful, how to love generously, how to forgive and how to bless our world with God’s peace!”



Parishioners exchange the Sign of Peace during Mass.

Diocese Preparing to Enter Season of Lent



A worshipper receives ashes at a Mass last year.

Ash Wednesday, March 6, will mark the start of the solemn 40-day season of Lent. Parishes throughout the 11-county Diocese of Scranton will distribute ashes as a sign of penance and to remind individuals of Lent’s call to a more complete gospel lifestyle.

At the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, ashes will be distributed during the 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Masses. Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will be the principal celebrant of the 12:10 p.m. Pontifical Mass.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent, is typically the one day within the liturgical year that rivals Easter and Christmas, with throngs of people flocking to our churches despite the fact that there is no obligation to attend Mass. Faithful come to worship, to pray and to be so marked with the sign of the cross that all who encounter them know who they are as followers of Jesus – our crucified and risen Savior.

It's fair to say, however, that while the rituals and words of Ash Wednesday remain the same as they always have been, this year is different. The Church in the United States – and beyond – has been through a year of tremendous suffering, upheaval and frustration as it has confronted the reality of countless numbers of allegations of sexual misconduct and cover-up by Church leaders. Some Catholics have stopped going to Church altogether because of this scandal. And those who remain undoubtedly have had their faith tested and their confidence in the Church's ministers shaken.

But Ash Wednesday and Lent, by their very nature, carry with them opportunities like no other time within the Church year. With a focus upon conversion, forgiveness and the new life that we are given through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus, our participation in the journey of Lent – from Ash Wednesday to Easter – has the power to renew our spirits and strengthen our hope. Indeed, this unique journey provides us with a framework within which all of us can affirm that while heartbroken because of the reality of sin within our midst and in our lives, this is still our Church. And this Church – this community of saints and sinners – is still the visible body in and through which Christ is present and at work among us.

This year, more than ever, Lent beckons each of us to stand in awe of God's merciful love and to utter words that we would be wise to offer every day of our lives, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You alone have the words of life" (John 6:68).

During this blessed season, our parishes will provide numerous opportunities for prayer and reflection. Of note will be the creation of a special Stations of the Cross through which we will pray for the healing of victims and their families and for the renewal of all our lives as believers in Jesus. To provide for the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in a generous manner, once again, all of the parishes of the Diocese of Scranton will participate in The Light Is On For You. Every Monday evening during the Lenten season, beginning on the first Monday of Lent, March 11, and continuing through Monday of the last full week of Lent, April 8, confessions will be heard in every parish from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

For many of us, the question of "what's next" in the Church has arisen more than we would likely care to admit. Yet, we must never forget that it is in and through the life of the Church that our faith is most fully nourished. This same Church still remains our surest hope for salvation and peace, not because we have earned it or deserve it, but because of the grace of God and the call freely given to each of us through Baptism to live as disciples of Jesus.

May our embrace of this holy season enable us to glimpse into the mystery of God's plan for our salvation. Choosing to allow his merciful love and forgiveness to shine forth within the Church – this all too human body of believers – God continues to call each of us to "go forth" and to never lose sight of the mission entrusted to our care: to bring life to the world through our faith in Jesus Christ.

Wherever we fit into the Church – as a family member, parishioner or leader – may we support one another during this difficult moment in our history and so discover the true reason for our hope as we journey together to Easter.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

+ Joseph C. Bambera

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



Queridos hermanos y hermanas,

Miércoles de ceniza, el inicio de la Cuaresma, es típicamente un día dentro del año litúrgico que rivaliza con semana Santa y Navidad, con multitudes de gente que acuden a nuestras iglesias a pesar de que no existe ninguna obligación de asistir a la Misa fieles vienen a adorar, a orar y a ser tan marcado con la señal de la cruz que todos los que les encuentro saben quiénes son como seguidores de Jesús, nuestro Salvador crucificado y resucitado.

Es justo decir, sin embargo, que si bien los ritos y las palabras del miércoles de ceniza se mantienen como siempre han sido, este año es diferente. La iglesia en los Estados Unidos y más allá, ha tenido un año de tremendo sufrimiento, agitación y frustración ya que se ha enfrentado la realidad de innumerables denuncias de abusos sexuales y encubrimiento por líderes de la Iglesia. Algunos católicos han dejado de ir a la iglesia en conjunto debido a este escándalo. Y los que se quedan sin duda han tenido su fe probada y su confianza en ministros de la Iglesia sacudidos.

Pero el miércoles de ceniza y Cuaresma, por su propia naturaleza, llevan consigo oportunidades como ningún otro momento dentro del año de iglesia. Con un foco sobre la conversión, el perdón y la nueva vida que se nos da a través del sufrimiento, muerte y resurrección de Jesús, nuestra participación en el camino de la Cuaresma, desde el miércoles de ceniza hasta Semana Santa – tiene el poder de renovar nuestro espíritu y fortalecer nuestra esperanza. De hecho, este caminar único nos proporciona un marco dentro del cual todos nosotros podemos afirmar que mientras el corazón roto por la realidad del pecado en medio nuestro y en nuestra vida, esta sigue siendo nuestra Iglesia. Y esta Iglesia, o sea esta comunidad de Santos y pecadores – es el cuerpo visible en y a través de que Cristo está presente y en el trabajo entre nosotros.

¿Este año, más que nunca, la Cuaresma invita cada uno de nosotros estar en el temor del amor misericordioso de Dios y pronunciar palabras que seamos sabios ofrecer cada día de nuestras vidas, "Señor, a quién iremos? Solo tú tienes palabras de vida" (Juan 6: 68).

Durante esta época bendita, nuestras parroquias proporcionará numerosas oportunidades de oración y reflexión. Enfocando en la creación de una vía crucis especial por la cual oramos por la sanación de las víctimas y sus familias y para la renovación de toda nuestra vida como creyentes en Jesús. Para proporcionar a la celebración del Sacramento de la reconciliación de una manera generosa, una vez más, todas las parroquias de la diócesis de Scranton participará en "Es la Luz para Usted". Cada lunes por la noche durante la tiempo de Cuaresma, comenzando en el primer lunes de Cuaresma, 11 de marzo y continuando hasta el lunes de la última semana de Cuaresma, 8 de abril, se escuchará confesiones en todas las parroquias de 5:30 PM a 7:00PM.

Para muchos de nosotros, la cuestión es "que sigue en la Iglesia" ha surgido más de lo que sería probable que importa admitir. Sin embargo, no debemos olvidar que es en y a través de la vida de la Iglesia que más completamente se nutre nuestra fe. Esta misma Iglesia sigue siendo nuestra esperanza segura de salvación y de paz, no porque se lo han ganado o se lo merecen, sino por la gracia de Dios y la llamada que se da libremente a cada uno de nosotros por el bautismo a vivir como discípulos de Jesús.

Puede nuestro acogimiento de esta Santa temporada nos permiten vislumbrar en el misterio del plan de Dios para nuestra salvación. Para aceptar que su amor misericordioso y perdón brille dentro de la Iglesia – En este el cuerpo de los creyentes tan humano, Dios continúa el llamado a cada uno de nosotros a "salir" y nunca perder de vista de la misión confiada a nuestro cuidado: para traer vida al mundo a través de nuestra fe en Cristo Jesús.

Donde encajamos en la iglesia, como miembro de la familia o líder, en nuestra parroquia – podemos dar apoyo mutuo durante este momento difícil de nuestra historia y así descubrir la verdadera razón de nuestra esperanza como transitamos juntos a la Pascua.

Fielmente suyo en Cristo,

+ Joseph C. Bambera

SER Joseph C. Bambera, D.D.,
Obispo de Scranton



Regulations for Lent 2019

All faithful of the Diocese of Scranton are reminded of Diocesan Statute No. 41, which addresses the penitential aspect of Lent:

“The season of Lent is penitential in nature and during Lent penance should be not only internal and individual, but also external and social (Sacrosanctum Concilium, No. 5, 109). Pastors are obliged to avoid scheduling activities in the parishes which in any way could possibly detract from the external and social penance required by Lent.”

Ash Wednesday, March 6, 2019 marks the beginning of Lent. The following fast and abstinence regulations are observed:

- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, April 19, 2019, are days of fast and abstinence.
- Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence.
- All Catholics who have reached their 14th birthday are to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and on all Fridays during Lent.
- All Catholics over 18 years of age to the beginning of their 60th year are bound to the obligation of fasting. Those bound by this rule may take only one full meal and two smaller meals unless dispensed or excused.

Lenten Reminders

Lent is a time for sacrifice and for spiritual renewal as we reflect upon our baptism and the call given to each of us to walk as disciples of the Lord.

As faithful followers of Jesus, we are traditionally encouraged to honor the sacred season of Lent by embracing the three pillars of Lenten observance:

- Almsgiving – generously giving to those in need
- Fasting – practicing self-discipline and self-denial
- Prayer – reading, hearing and reflecting on the Word of God

Lent is also a penitential season. It is a time to seek forgiveness, to look inward, and to admit our shortcomings and failures. It is a time to regroup and to prepare. How can you spend your time during Lent?

- By “giving up” things you hunger after, such as sweets or alcohol; or activities you desire, such as vacations, concerts or movies.
- By “doing” things to help others, such as offering an extra donation to the poor or helping those in need by providing food or clothing.
- By “adding” to our normal routine, such as going to daily Mass, praying the Stations of the Cross and going to confession.

One of the greatest opportunities given by the Church to assist us in our response to the Lord’s invitation to conversion is found in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Once again, the Diocese of Scranton is participating in “The Light Is On for You.” Beginning on the first Monday of Lent, March 11, and continuing through Monday of the last full week of Lent, April 8, confessions will be heard in every parish from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

For more information, please visit the Diocesan website at: www.dioceseofscranton.org and go to the Office for Parish Life page.

Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney
Vicar General of the Diocese



World Day of Prayer for the Sick

As the opening hymn of *Healing River of the Spirit* sounded throughout the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Monday, February 11, 2019, Bishop Bambera celebrated the 27th World Day of Prayer for the Sick.

The Mass was attended by more than 100 people, including 11 residents of Saint Mary’s Villa in Elmhurst Township, who took a special van ride to attend the service.

“I think the whole thing was beautiful,” resident Anne Goetze said. “This is the first time I’ve been here.”

During the Mass there was a celebration of the

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

“What a special gathering this is in our Cathedral today – a moment of prayer that has the power to touch our lives profoundly – and why? Because Jesus is among us!” the Bishop said.

He noted that all of us seek a life of peace and free from pain.

“None of us want to suffer. Neither did Jesus. The very night before he died, he prayed that the cross might pass him by. And yet we know so very well from our faith that it didn’t. Jesus accepted the cross as a part of his Father’s will. He carried it,” the

Bishop said.

Bishop Bambera offered special prayers for those who are burdened physically or emotionally with diminished health and those who serve or care for the sick.

The Bishop ended his message explaining the importance of the Sacrament of the Anointing, saying, “some of us may experience a physical healing but all of us will encounter the Lord Jesus who promises to touch our spirits and give us peace.”

That peace was felt by Goetze as she left the Cathedral.

“I loved it,” Goetze said.



Father Christopher S. Sahd (left) and Father Jeffrey J. Walsh, V.E. (right), take part in the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.



Diocesan Annual Appeal Helping to Serve Others

More than \$3.5 million in gifts and pledges has been contributed to the Annual Appeal, bringing the campaign to 70% of the \$5 million goal. More than 18,000 donors have made pledges to this year's Diocesan Annual Appeal.

"Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this year's Annual Appeal. I am also grateful to our pastors, parish staffs and Appeal parish representatives for their help in inviting parishioners to consider their support of the mission of the Diocese of Scranton. The continued generosity of our faithful allows us to fully serve all those who come to us in need," said Bishop Joseph C. Bambera.

"I recognize and understand that some parishioners are struggling with the decision to give to the Diocesan Annual Appeal this year given the challenges

we face as a Church," Bishop Bambera added. "As we address these serious concerns and work to restore trust and hope, I believe we have an opportunity to unite together to insure that our Catholic faith remains strong in service to one another. I ask all parishioners to prayerfully consider joining us in this good work."

Diocesan ministries supported by gifts to the Annual Appeal include Catholic Social Services; parish social justice programs; Catholic education in our 20 Diocesan Catholic schools and in our parish religious education programs; care for our current and retired priests and support for seminarians preparing for the priesthood; parish life and pastoral planning efforts; and communication programs such as *The*

Catholic Light and Catholic TV. Gifts to the Appeal are used solely to support these ministries and will not be used to defray legal fees or to fund the recently established Survivors Compensation Program. Ministries supported by the Appeal are highlighted in this year's Diocesan Annual Appeal video that can be viewed on the following link: www.annualappeal.org

Annual Appeal gifts may be made through a parish special collection, by calling the Diocesan Development Office at 570-207-2250 or by sending a donation to: Diocesan Annual Appeal, 300 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA, 18503-1279. Parishioners and friends may also make an online gift to the Diocesan Annual Appeal by visiting <http://annualappeal.org/donate-now/>

Pope Francis concludes sex abuse summit

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Just as the pagans once sacrificed children on their altars, such cruelty continues today with an "idolatrous sacrifice of children to the god of power, money, pride and arrogance," he said.

While the majority of abused minors are victims of a person they know, most often a family member, he said, it is "all the more grave and scandalous" when a member of the church, particularly a priest, is the perpetrator "for it is utterly incompatible" with the church's moral authority and ethical credibility.

"Consecrated persons, chosen by God to guide souls to salvation, let themselves be dominated by their human frailty or sickness and thus become tools of Satan," he said.

There is no excuse for abusing children, who are an image of Jesus, he said, which is why it has become increasingly obvious "the gravest cases of abuse" must be disciplined and dealt with "civil and canonical processes."

"Here again I would state clearly: if in the church there should emerge even a single

case of abuse -- which already in itself represents an atrocity -- that case will be faced with the utmost seriousness."

In fact, he said, the church should recognize that people's anger over the mishandling of abuse is nothing other than a reflection of "the wrath of God, betrayed and insulted by these deceitful consecrated persons."

"The echo of the silent cry of the little ones who, instead of finding in them fathers and spiritual guides, encountered tormentors will shake hearts dulled by hypocrisy and by power," Pope Francis said. "It is our duty to pay close heed to this silent, choked cry."

The church must combat this evil, both inside and outside its walls, he said, and protect children "from ravenous wolves."

The Catholic Church must "hear, watch over, protect and care for abused, exploited and forgotten children, wherever they are," he said. And to do that, the church "must rise above the ideological disputes and journalistic practices that often exploit, for various interests, the very tragedy experienced by the little ones."

Because concrete measures will need to be adopted on a local level, the pope pointed to the work of international organizations in their "Seven Strategies for Ending Violence against Children" and guidelines and other resources produced by the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors.

The church, he said, must concentrate on the protection of children, being serious in bringing justice and healing to victims and undergoing genuine purification; proper training for priests and religious is necessary, as are strong guidelines by bishops' conferences.

The pope urged all Catholics to help the Church be liberated "from the plague of clericalism, which is the fertile ground for all these disgraces."

"The best results and the most effective resolution," he said, will occur when the Church commits itself to "personal and collective conversion, the humility of learning, listening, assisting and protecting the most vulnerable."

Lycoming-Tioga Regional Appeal Chairs



Lycoming-Tioga clergy chair Father Brian Van Fossen and Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. Rooney Jr.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera has invited Father Brian Van Fossen and Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. Rooney Jr., to serve respectively as 2018 Annual Appeal clergy and lay chairs for the Lycoming-Tioga region.

"I advocate for the Diocesan Appeal for many reasons," said Father Van Fossen, "especially because it provides care for our older priests along with our seminarians. I look toward our priests and seminarians who are faithful to their vocation and the pursuit of holiness. They are truly inspirations in the midst of all the evil in the world."

Another significant component of the Appeal, according to Father Van Fossen, is the hope it offers for countercultural education. "The Appeal supports our Catholic School systems and the leadership development taking place behind the scenes in our parishes and schools," he explains. "I have been in education all my life, as student, administrator or educator. A strong education system can lead students to self-discovery, along with leading our communities in living the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Father Van Fossen is pastor at Saint Joseph the Worker Parish, Williamsport, and also serves as an assistant vocation director in the Diocese, works closely with the annual Catholic Men's Conference, volunteers at youth and young adult events and assists at Saint John Neumann Regional Academy.

Father Van Fossen was raised in Nanticoke and graduated from Bishop Hoban High School, Wilkes-Barre. He holds degrees in philosophy, theology, and student personnel services. After working in higher education until 2001, he discerned his vocation and entered Saint Pius X Seminary.

Paul H. Rooney Jr. and Tacie Kimble Rooney are parishioners of Saint Ann's Parish, Williamsport. Paul is president of Paul H. Rooney Jr. Consulting, L.L.C. and serves on the All One Foundation of Northeastern PA, the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School Board, and the Saint John Neumann Regional Academy Marketing & Outreach Committee.

The Rooneys have two daughters, Michelle Smith and Stephanie Snyder, and four grandchildren: Jeffrey and Joshua Hamilton, students at Saint John Neumann, and Savannah Snyder and Makenna Hess. "For me and Tacie, the Appeal gives us the opportunity to give back to those who are less fortunate than we are. It comes back to the Christian values that our parents instilled in us growing up: that we should share our blessings with others," said Paul H. Rooney Jr.

"Diocesan ministries are very important to us, especially Catholic education," said Mr. Rooney. "We don't want to see any child or family turned away because of a financial hardship."

"I'm thankful for our Catholic schools," said Tacie, "and the effect it's had on our grandsons, two fine young men. I believe their education allows them to better deal with life's difficulties. I'm also grateful for Catholic Social Services, the kitchens and shelters and all the support they give to those in need. I can't imagine not having a home for my family," she added.

"We are facing a difficult time in our Church," Mr. Rooney concluded. "Although, we may feel hurt or betrayed, we can't change the past ... If we are to call ourselves Christians, we need to continue the good work of Christ by helping those who are hurting and bring light to those in darkness ... We have a responsibility. We need to support those who directly benefit from the gifts to the Appeal. Let us put our faith into action."

Monsignor James J. McGarry Passes Away

Monsignor James J. McGarry, pastor emeritus of Our Lady of the Snows, Clarks Summit, died on February 15, 2019 at Holy Family Residence, Scranton.

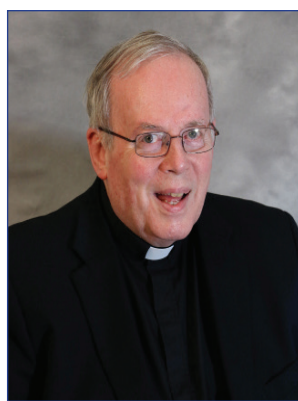
Monsignor McGarry, the son of the late William Vincent and Mary Patricia (Burke) McGarry, was born in Pittston, on June 16, 1944. He received his early education at Saint Mary Assumption Elementary and Saint John the Evangelist High School in Pittston. Monsignor entered the seminary at Saint Charles College, Catonsville, Md. He completed his studies for the priesthood at Saint Pius X Seminary, Dalton, and was ordained to the priesthood on May 9, 1970, by the Most Rev. J. Carroll McCormick, D.D., late

Bishop of Scranton.

Monsignor McGarry served as assistant pastor at Our Lady of the Snows, Clarks Summit; Annunciation, Williamsport; and Saint John the Evangelist, Wilkes-Barre.

He served as administrator pro tem at St. Aloysius, Ralston, and administrator at Nativity of our Lord, Scranton. Monsignor was assigned his first pastorate at Nativity of Our Lord, Scranton, in 1984, where he served for 12 years. He was assigned pastor at Our Lady of the Snows, Clarks Summit, in 1995, where he remained until his retirement and appointment as pastor emeritus in 2015.

Monsignor McGarry



Monsignor McGarry

was named a prelate of honor by Pope St. John Paul II on March 14, 1998, and given the title Monsignor.

In addition to his parochial duties, Monsignor served as director of Campus Ministry at Williamsport Community College, the Advisory Board of the Diocesan Office for Continuing Education of

Priests 1993-1996, and the Diocesan Presbyteral Council.

The qualities and gifts that Monsignor brought to priestly ministry were always at the service of the parishes that he served. Always mindful that his pastoral activity was modeled in the vision of the Second Vatican Council that challenged the Church to evangelize and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Monsignor enfolded that vision daily with zeal, enthusiasm and compassion.

As associate pastor at Annunciation Parish in Williamsport and as pastor of Nativity of Our Lord in Scranton and Our Lady of the Snows in Clarks Summit, Monsignor believed that the realization of the Church

was in the parish, where he inspired and directed collaboration between parish staff and parishioners. It was from this collaboration that numerous apostolates and ministries, including Catholic education, allowed people to participate actively and fully in the life of the Church.

He held a deep conviction that Catholic education was not only an essential aspect of the life of the parishes that he served, but was also an essential aspect of the life and mission of the Church. Monsignor worked tirelessly to ensure that the mission of Nativity of Our Lord School in Scranton and Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green were deeply connected to parish life

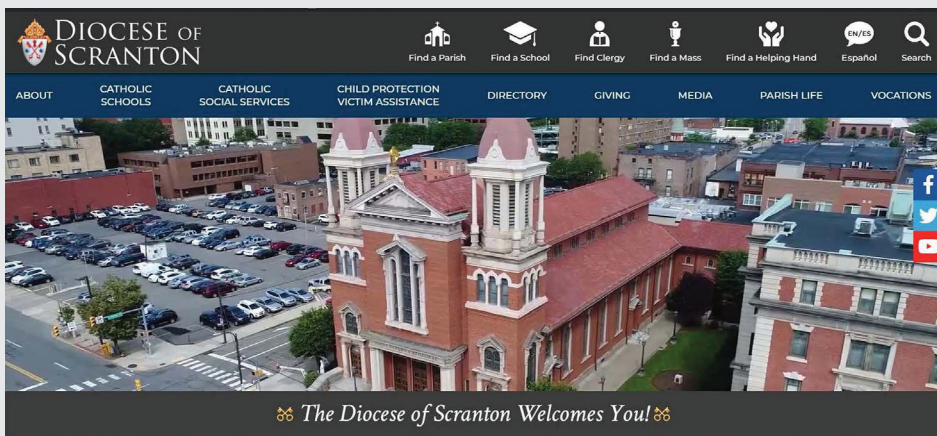
and were a welcoming and transformative presence for his parishioners.

Monsignor is survived by his sister, Mrs. Eileen Loftus; and brother, William R. McGarry and wife, Carol, of Forty Fort, Pa.; and John Divine, brother-in-law, of West Pittston; and several nieces and nephews; and grandnieces and nephews.

He was also preceded in death by his sister, Catherine Devine; and brother-in-law, William Loftus.

A Pontifical Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera on February 19 at Our Lady of the Snows Church, Clarks Summit. Interment was to be held in Saint John the Evangelist Parish Cemetery, Pittston.

Diocese Launches New Website



❧ The Diocese of Scranton Welcomes You! ❧

The Diocese of Scranton has launched a completely redesigned website in an effort to streamline existing information and better promote its mission.

The new website, at www.dioceseofscranton.org, is mobile-friendly and allows visitors to learn more about the 118 parishes, 20 schools and other services offered throughout the 11-county Diocese.

The new website represents all facets of the Diocese and provides easy navigation and search capabilities. The previous website for the

Diocese had not been redesigned in approximately ten years.

“Our website is an important tool for not only representing the Diocese and its mission but more importantly it helps people live our faith fully and share it freely with others,” Bishop Joseph C. Bambera said. “The new site provides dynamic, specialized and relevant information to visitors.”

Besides captivating images of the Diocese and its faithful on the homepage, the new website easily allows visitors to find a parish, Mass, school or clergy member in their community.

One of the top reasons people visit the Diocesan website is to find a Mass or a parish. The parish search option allows Catholics to find a Mass based on zip code up to a 50-mile radius.

“Certainly our goal is to facilitate the most effective and timely communication with the members and leaders of each of our parishes,” Catherine Butel, Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life said. “This dynamic new website will be such a valuable tool in making these connections.”

The new website will also replace the former Catholic Social Services site providing people an

easy and convenient way to access any of the 110 programs offered throughout the Diocese of Scranton.

“The mission of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton is to serve individuals and families in poverty and hardship and respond compassionately to their needs. As a Catholic agency, we advocate for individual dignity and self-sufficiency and actively give of ourselves to replace despair with hope.

“The new website allows us to share information regarding the work that we do, with the hope that we continue to have the privilege to serve those in need,” Mary Theresa Malandro, Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Human Services and Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Social Services said.

A unique feature of the new website also allows visitors to change the language and interact with the entire site in Spanish.

Diocese names new secretary of communications

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of the Diocese of Scranton has announced the appointment of Mr. Eric Deabill as Secretary of Communications.

Mr. Deabill’s responsibilities will include working with regional media to promote the good works of the Diocese and the Catholic Church by spreading news about the various ways its parishes, schools and ministries serve all people of northeastern and central Pennsylvania.

Mr. Deabill will also serve as editor-in-chief of *The Catholic Light*, supervise Catholic Television and oversee the Diocesan website, Facebook, Twitter and all other forms of social media.

“I consider serving Bishop Bambera and the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton to be a tremendous privilege,” Mr. Deabill said. “I look forward to shining a light

on the positive things happening every day in the nearly 120 parishes and 20 diocesan schools from Williamsport to Scranton, Towanda to Stroudsburg.”

A native of Ellington, Conn., Mr. Deabill earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from Marist College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Prior to joining the Diocese of Scranton, he worked as a reporter for WBRE/WYOU-TV in Scranton.

Mr. Deabill succeeds William Genello, who began working for the Diocese of Scranton in 2000 as editor-in-chief of *The Catholic Light*. He was appointed to the additional position of executive director of communications in 2005.

Mr. Deabill lives in Jefferson Township with his wife Lisa and his son. He is an active parishioner and lector at Saint Eulalia’s Parish in Roaring Brook Township.

U.S. Catholic officials welcome Catholic-Muslim document signed by pope

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The declaration signed by Pope Francis and Sheik Ahmad el-Tayeb, the grand imam of al-Azhar, during the pope’s trip to the United Arab Emirates “is a clarion call for robust dialogue that leads to peace,” said the Catholic chairman of the National Catholic-Muslim Dialogue and the chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

“In our increasingly hostile world in which violence too often predominates between Christians and Muslims -- violence that has led to tragic consequences for the most vulnerable humans --

we welcome with great joy this historic joint statement on human fraternity,” said Cardinal Blase J. Cupich of Chicago and Bishop Joseph C. Bambera of Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Pope Francis and Sheik el-Tayeb, a leading religious authority for many Sunni Muslims around the world, signed “A Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together” Feb. 4 in Abu Dhabi.

“We, who believe in God and in the final meeting with him and his judgment, on the basis of our religious and moral responsibility, and through this document, call



Pope Francis and Sheik Ahmad el-Tayeb, grand imam of Egypt’s al-Azhar mosque and university, sign documents during an interreligious meeting at the Founder’s Memorial in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates on Feb. 4. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

upon ourselves, upon the leaders of the world as well as the architects of international policy and world economy, to work strenuously to spread the culture of tolerance and

of living together in peace,” the document said.

They also urged religious and political leaders to “bring an end to wars, conflicts, environmental

decay and the moral and cultural decline that the world is presently experiencing.”

But the centerpiece of the declaration was a call on Christians and Muslims to recognize and respect one another and work together for the good of humanity.

Commenting on the document Feb. 8, Cardinal Cupich and Bishop Bambera urged “all people of goodwill, especially leaders of nations and religious groups,” to read and study the declaration “in the hope that it might serve as a resource to overcome division through a renewed commitment to dialogue and the establishment of goodwill.”

Abortion Expansion Concerns

New York

New York state “has become a more dangerous one for women and their unborn babies” with the passage of a bill to expand abortion called the Reproductive Health Act and Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s signing it into law, said the New York State Catholic Conference.

Among its provisions are: granting non-doctors permission to perform abortions; removing protection for an infant accidentally born alive during an abortion; and allowing late-term abortions.

“Let us all pray for the conversion of heart for those who celebrate this tragic moment in the history of our state,” a statement from the Catholic conference said.

Virginia

Richmond Bishop Barry C. Knestout said the words “horrific, outrageous, vicious” were “in my heart” when he heard about a measure proposed in the Virginia Legislature to expand the “brutal practice of abortion.”

The bill, which was tabled by a subcommittee of the House of Delegates, would have expanded the state’s abortion law by loosening restrictions on third-trimester abortions that are currently allowed in order to take into account the risk of the pregnancy to the mother’s “physical or mental safety.”

It also would have required only one doctor to sign off before the procedure is performed; now three must sign off.

Vermont

The Bishop of the Diocese of Burlington said an abortion bill working its way through the Vermont Legislature “goes too far.”

Bishop Christopher J. Coyne said the proposal, H. 57, “goes far beyond Roe v. Wade,” the U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, by “guaranteeing unrestricted abortion through all nine months of pregnancy.”

This, he added, “means that a baby in the womb can be terminated right up to the moment of natural birth. My friends, that is not abortion.”

The bill’s sponsors say it isn’t intended to change or pre-empt abortion law but simply “codify current access.”

STATEMENT OF BISHOP JOSEPH C. BAMBERA

“The legislation that was signed into law in New York State is abhorrent. Similar legislation that was proposed in Virginia comes frighteningly close to infanticide.

While some lawmakers dispute that fact, what abortion advocates have said in the past would be ‘safe, legal and rare’ now comes close to allowing abortion up to the point of birth.

We can’t let this moment pass in silence.

These bills should be a wake-up call to the faithful and call to action.

Our very existence is in jeopardy when injustices like this are allowed.

In addition to our prayers, advocacy efforts and the ability that we are given to express our values through the right to vote, Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton pledges the resources of our charitable agencies to any woman experiencing an unplanned pregnancy, to support her in bearing her infant. There are life-affirming choices available.

All of life is precious and disrespect for any human life, especially the most vulnerable, is intolerable.”

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

His Excellency, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, announces the following appointments, effective as indicated.

ADMINISTRATOR

Reverend James T. Tracy, from Assistant Pastor, Saint Boniface, Williamsport, and Saint Lawrence, South Williamsport, and Sacramental support at Saint Thomas Parish, Elkland, and Saint Peter Parish, Wellsboro, to Administrator, Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish, Jermyn, effective March 1, 2019.

SENIOR PRIEST

Reverend Christopher S. Sahd, from Leave of Absence, to Senior Priest, Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Honesdale, effective February 25, 2019.

ASSISTANT PASTOR

Reverend Wilfredo Milan Mamani Cusicanqui, from Diocese of Corocora, Bolivia, to Assistant Pastor, Holy Name of Jesus Parish, West Hazleton, effective February 15, 2019.



BISHOP BAMBERA’S SCHEDULE

March 3 - Mass - Saint Matthew Parish, East Stroudsburg, 10:45 a.m.

March 4 - Mass - Lackawanna County Prison, Scranton, 12:00 p.m.

March 6 - Ash Wednesday Mass - Saint Peter’s Cathedral, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.

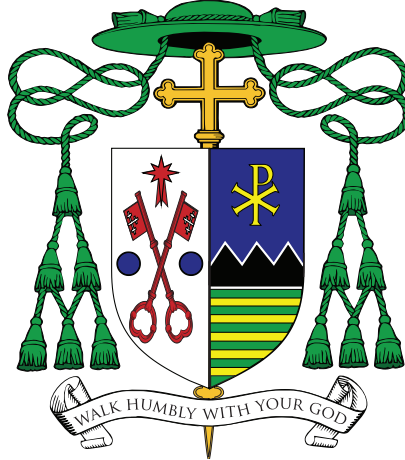
March 9 - Saint Patrick’s Parade Day Mass - Saint Peter’s Cathedral, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.

March 9 - Vocations Retreat - Villa of Our Lady, Mount Pocono

March 10 - Rite of Election - Saint Peter’s Cathedral, Scranton 2:30 p.m.

March 12-13 - USCCB Administrative Committee Meeting Washington, DC

March 14 - Lenten Day of Reflection for Priests, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton



February 28, 2019

Dear Friends,

In recent months, you have likely heard me pledge increased transparency on behalf of the Diocese of Scranton. As a part of those efforts, I am pleased to present the audited financial statements of the Administrative Offices and the Diocese of Scranton for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

The following statements reflect improvement in our overall financial health. I am responsible for ensuring your financial contributions to the Church are used to make an impact in the way you intended. Each time I review our finances, I find myself incredibly humbled and grateful for your kindness and for the strong sense of community we have created within our Diocese.

Each year, your contributions help us make an impact on the individuals in our communities who most need our support. We offer assistance to those facing poverty and hardship through services such as food pantries, youth service programs and community outreach, emergency shelter programs, permanent housing services and more. And, we are always looking for ways to serve our elderly population.

Catholic education has long been one of our core offerings. We aim to prepare faith-filled leaders and life-long learners and last year, we educated nearly 5,000 students in one of our 20 Catholic Schools and more than 17,000 children in parish-based programs.

With your ongoing support, we can continue to improve the way we educate our students. This year, we installed new leadership within the Catholic education system to better serve our students and future leaders. This was a critical move as we are working to reshape Catholic education through a new and innovative organizational model. We believe this model will strengthen the system, while supporting the long-term financial sustainability for the schools.

Our ongoing efforts to serve our mission, though, are secondary to what was a very dark year for the Diocese of Scranton as we navigated and fully complied with the Pennsylvania Grand Jury investigation. As it pertains to the financials of the Diocese, the pages that follow outline legal expenses related to the investigation, as well as our ongoing efforts to review and improve our child protection protocols, and to promote healing for survivors.

These efforts to promote healing and recovery are a priority and will be reflected in our budget moving forward. We are hopeful, though, that legal expenditures will continue to diminish as we shift our focus to healing and compensation of survivors. I want to assure you that compensation for survivors of abuse will be funded by existing Diocesan assets and available reserves. We will sell assets and borrow money as necessary. While every dollar of the diocese represents someone's generous gift, I believe it is important to emphasize that money collected in parishes and from the Diocesan Annual Appeal will not go towards the funding of this program. The Diocese is also not financially responsible for legal fees to defend a priest accused of sexual abuse.

Amidst a challenging year, the Diocese of Scranton took meaningful steps forward. I am grateful for your continued generosity. Support of your parishes and our Diocesan Annual Appeal enable us to fulfill our mission of service to our brothers and sisters in the greater Scranton region. We could not achieve this without our community, and we are exceptionally grateful.

May God continue to bless you and your families.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Joseph C. Bambera

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

Diocesan Administrative Offices Combined Financial Statements

June 30, 2018 and 2017

As in previous years, the financial statements of the Diocesan Administrative Offices of the Diocese of Scranton have been independently audited. The report of the independent auditor, McGrail Merkel Quinn & Associates, P.C., Certified Public Accountants, present fairly the financial position and the related statements of activities and cash flows of the diocese as of June 30, 2018 and 2017.

The financial statements include activities related to the Diocesan Administrative Offices, not activities related to Catholic Social Services and the Diocesan School System. These organizations are separately audited. The statements also do not include parish activities.

There was an excess of revenues over expenses relating to operations in the amount of \$2,000,000 in the 2017-2018 year when compared to the previous fiscal year. The following items contributed to this increase:

- Donations increased by \$2,400,000
- There was an increase of \$850,000 in gains realized on the sale of investments
- Medical insurance premiums increased \$600,000

Total operating expenses in the amount of \$32,500,000 were consistent with the prior year operating expenses.

Net assets increased by \$3,600,000. This can be attributed to an excess of revenues over expenses in the amount of \$2,500,000 and a positive change in net unrealized gains and losses on investments in the amount of \$1,500,000.

On the balance sheet contributions receivable increased \$1,100,000. This amount represents pledges received related the interior renovations for Saint Peter's Cathedral.

Legal fees related to the Pennsylvania Grand Jury investigation related to sexual misconduct in the Diocese of Scranton were \$991,337 in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017 and \$496,563 in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018. These amounts are included within the audit report with legal and professional fees, listed under the Self Insurance program.

In the 2017-2018 fiscal period, audits were successfully conducted on all four school systems. The audit reports issued by the independent auditors all contained clean opinions. These audits were made possible by the complete consolidation of the accounting for all school accounts by the schools' business office in the 2015-2016 year.

The Diocesan Finance Office increased the number of parish internal control reviews which will result in all parishes having on-site reviews at least once every three years. These reviews are intended to evaluate internal controls established by parishes in an effort to safeguard parish assets. Reports related to the reviews are provided to Pastors to review with Parish Finance Councils, with the purpose of developing corrective plans when controls are deemed weak.

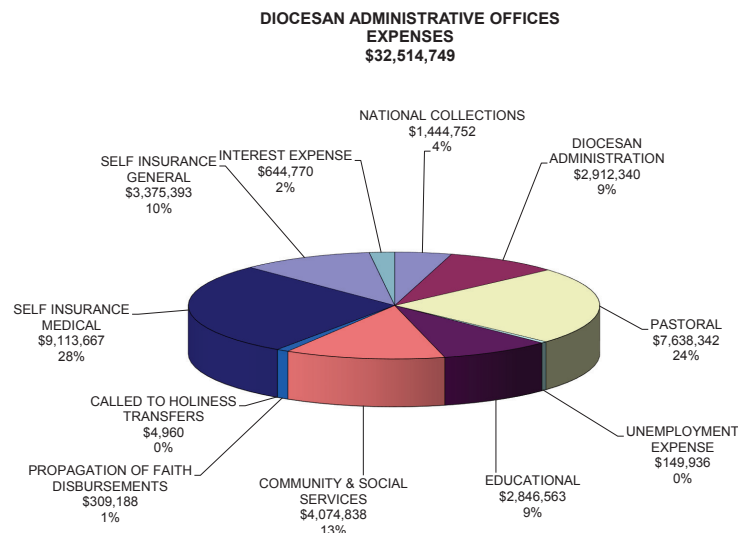
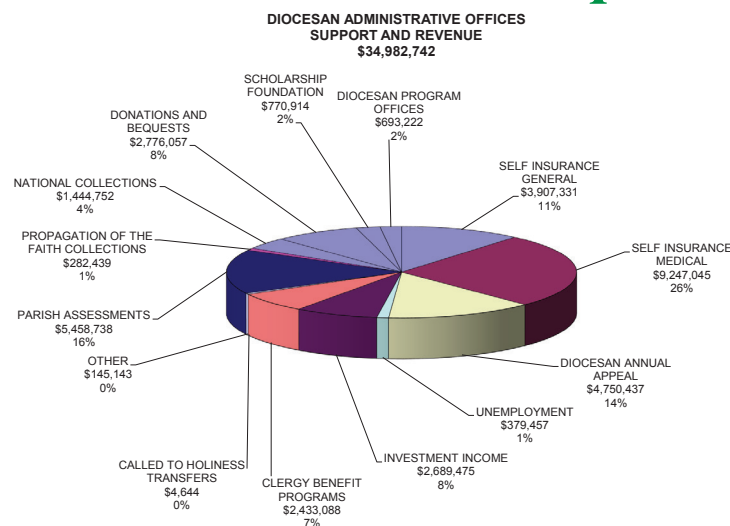
A grant writer was hired in an effort to aggressively seek out grants for use by Diocesan Schools, Catholic Social Services and other Diocesan entities.

The Diocese remains vigilant regarding its finances including all funds entrusted to it. All hires are carefully scrutinized for need and where possible replacements are very often made by consolidating and streamlining positions. Thoughtful, careful budgets are prepared for all Diocesan entities, which are consistently monitored throughout the year.

To view the full financial report, please visit www.dioceseofscranton.org.

Robert J. Miller, Chief Financial Officer

Operating Funds



Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Diocesan Administrative Offices of the Diocese of Scranton which comprise the statements of financial position as of June 30, 2018 and 2017, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the

reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Diocesan Administrative Offices of the Diocese of Scranton as of June 30, 2018 and 2017, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The accompanying supplementary information in Schedules 1 to 5 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

McGrail Merkel Quinn & Associates, P.C.
January 3, 2019

Statements of Activities – Years Ended June 30, 2018 and 2017

	2018				2017			
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Revenues, gains and other support								
Parish assessments								
Diocesan	\$ 4,506,163	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,506,163	\$ 4,433,197	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,433,197
Clergy Care and Wellness	952,575	-	-	952,575	927,323	-	-	927,323
Intra-Diocesan billings								
Self-insurance premiums - General	3,907,331	-	-	3,907,331	3,853,622	-	-	3,853,622
Self-insurance premiums - Medical	9,247,045	-	-	9,247,045	8,647,547	-	-	8,647,547
Clergy benefit programs	2,433,088	-	-	2,433,088	2,624,106	-	-	2,624,106
Diocesan Program Revenues -								
Schedule 1	693,222	-	-	693,222	454,669	-	-	454,669
Diocesan Annual Appeal	-	4,750,437	-	4,750,437	-	4,806,527	-	4,806,527
Special collections	-	26,173	-	26,173	-	42,967	-	42,967
Donations and bequests	2,623,359	152,698	-	2,776,057	145,915	187,753	-	333,668
Scholarship Foundation contributions	-	770,914	-	770,914	-	1,170,847	-	1,170,847
Custodial receipts								
National collections	-	1,444,752	-	1,444,752	-	1,026,632	-	1,026,632
Unemployment	379,457	-	-	379,457	376,772	-	-	376,772
Called to Holiness transfers	4,644	-	-	4,644	92,655	-	-	92,655
Propagation collections	282,439	-	-	282,439	384,795	-	-	384,795
Other revenue	118,970	-	-	118,970	212,673	-	-	212,673
Investment income	1,287,654	109,396	6,997	1,404,047	1,125,446	111,677	7,677	1,244,800
Net realized gain on sale of investments	1,285,428	-	-	1,285,428	438,970	-	-	438,970
Net realized gain on sale of property	-	-	-	-	1,952,404	-	-	1,952,404
Net assets released from restrictions (Note 6):								
Satisfaction of program restrictions	7,286,090	(7,286,090)	-	-	7,494,374	(7,494,374)	-	-
Total revenues, gains and other support	\$ 35,007,465	\$ (31,720)	\$ 6,997	\$ 34,982,742	\$ 33,164,468	\$ (147,971)	\$ 7,677	\$ 33,024,174
Expenses								
Pastoral - Schedule 2	7,638,342	-	-	7,638,342	7,903,724	-	-	7,903,724
Educational - Schedule 3	2,846,563	-	-	2,846,563	3,534,452	-	-	3,534,452
Community and Social Service - Schedule 4	4,384,026	-	-	4,384,026	3,738,189	-	-	3,738,189
Administrative - Schedule 5	15,401,400	-	-	15,401,400	15,613,437	-	-	15,613,437
Called to Holiness transfers	4,960	-	-	4,960	197,151	-	-	197,151
Custodial disbursements								
National collections	1,444,752	-	-	1,444,752	1,026,632	-	-	1,026,632
Unemployment	149,936	-	-	149,936	93,105	-	-	93,105
Interest expense	644,770	-	-	644,770	482,266	-	-	482,266
Total expenses	32,514,749	-	-	32,514,749	32,588,956	-	-	32,588,956
Excess of revenues over expenses	2,492,716	(31,720)	6,997	2,467,993	575,512	(147,971)	7,677	435,218
Other changes								
Provision for bad debt	(526,863)	-	-	(526,863)	(224,431)	-	-	(224,431)
Pension-related changes other than net periodic pension cost	2,130,654	-	-	2,130,654	2,841,930	-	-	2,841,930
Transfer to lay pension plan	(1,972,948)	-	-	(1,972,948)	(3,734,604)	-	-	(3,734,604)
Change in net unrealized gains and losses on investments	1,487,036	-	-	1,487,036	2,496,033	-	-	2,496,033
Increase (decrease) in net assets	3,610,595	(31,720)	6,997	3,585,872	1,954,440	(147,971)	7,677	1,814,146
Net assets, beginning	(2,164,023)	4,478,287	3,072,697	5,386,961	(4,118,463)	4,626,258	3,065,020	3,572,815
Net assets, ending	\$ 1,446,572	\$ 4,446,567	\$ 3,079,694	\$ 8,972,833	\$ (2,164,023)	\$ 4,478,287	\$ 3,072,697	\$ 5,386,961

Statements of Financial Position

June 30, 2018 and 2017

Assets

	2018	2017
Cash and equivalents	\$ 8,072,513	\$ 6,175,488
Certificates of deposit	2,183,000	4,460,000
Accounts receivable, less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$3,276,964 in 2018 and \$3,009,579 in 2017	4,378,333	3,777,533
Accrued interest receivable	83,331	104,005
Contributions receivable	1,171,014	69,285
Due from Catholic Cemeteries	161,444	75,038
Prepaid expense	509,503	686,203
Cash subject to program restrictions	5,291,485	5,327,584
Notes and loans receivable	3,518,184	3,678,968
Investments	60,344,777	58,672,278
Land, buildings and equipment, net	6,372,854	6,598,244
Other assets	366,425	563,975
Total assets	\$ 92,452,863	\$ 90,188,601

Liabilities and Net Assets

	2018	2017
Accounts payable	\$ 753,035	\$ 719,919
Custodial funds payable	508,684	683,262
Accrued interest expense	205,273	149,684
Contributions payable	2,258,178	2,200,972
Scholarships payable	844,918	849,296
Liability for pension benefits	9,641,262	11,003,576
Accrued claim expense	2,003,342	2,095,087
Accrued postretirement benefit obligation	10,131,682	11,052,447
Loan payable	3,518,184	3,678,968
Due to Diocese of Scranton Institute	23,093,504	22,404,334
Funds on deposit		
Catholic Cemeteries Perpetual Care and other funds	17,931,914	17,413,932
Other Diocesan organizations Perpetual Care	12,590,054	12,550,163
Total liabilities	83,480,030	84,801,640
Net assets		
Unrestricted	1,446,572	(2,164,023)
Temporarily restricted (Note 6)	4,446,567	4,478,287
Permanently restricted (Note 7)	3,079,694	3,072,697
Total net assets	8,972,833	5,386,961
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 92,452,863	\$ 90,188,601

Statement of Cash Flows

June 30, 2018 and 2017

	2018	2017
Operating activities		
Increase in net assets	\$ 3,585,872	\$ 1,814,146
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash used in operating activities:		
Net realized gain on sale of investments	(1,285,428)	(438,970)
Net unrealized gain on investments	(1,487,036)	(2,496,033)
Net realized gain on sale of property	-	(1,952,404)
Amortization on investments	2,062	54,107
Depreciation expense	372,590	381,049
Provision for bad debt	526,863	224,431
Increase in accounts receivable	(1,127,663)	(1,347,744)
Decrease in accrued interest receivable	20,674	2,276
Increase in contributions receivable	(1,101,729)	(23,962)
(Increase) decrease in due from Catholic Cemeteries	(86,406)	511,414
Decrease (increase) in prepaid expense	176,700	(173,209)
Decrease (increase) in other assets	197,550	(183,058)
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	33,116	(61,343)
(Decrease) increase in custodial funds payable	(174,578)	73,822
Increase (decrease) in accrued interest expense	55,589	(5,345)
Increase in contributions and scholarships payable	52,828	1,234,933
Decrease in liability for pension benefits	(1,362,314)	(2,038,306)
(Decrease) increase in accrued claim expense	(91,745)	207,507
Decrease in accrued postretirement benefit obligation	(920,765)	(759,565)
Increase in due to Diocese of Scranton Institute	689,170	77,770
Contributions and interest restricted for long-term investment	(6,997)	(7,677)
Net cash used in operating activities	(1,931,647)	(4,906,161)
Investing activities		
Change in temporarily restricted cash	\$ 36,099	\$ 423,366
Change in permanently restricted cash	(6,997)	(7,677)
Purchase of fixed assets	(147,200)	(345,441)
Proceeds from sale of property	-	3,139,597
Principal collected-loans receivable	160,784	155,973
Purchase of investments	(29,575,152)	(40,458,846)
Proceeds from sale of investments	32,957,052	42,106,464
Net cash provided by investing activities	3,424,586	5,013,436
Financing activities		
Proceeds from interest and contributions restricted for:		
Investment in endowment	6,997	7,677
Principal payments on loan	(160,784)	(155,973)
Funds on deposit		
Additions	578,414	288,374
Withdrawals	(20,541)	-
Net cash provided by financing activities	404,086	140,078
Net increase in cash	1,897,025	247,353
Cash and equivalents, beginning	6,175,488	5,928,135
Cash and equivalents, ending	\$ 8,072,513	\$ 6,175,488

The accompanying Notes are an integral part of these Financial Statements.

Note 1 - Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Nature of Operations

The accompanying financial statements are limited to reporting financial transactions of the Diocesan Administrative Offices of the Diocese of Scranton (the Diocese). Other organizations, which are owned and operated by the Diocese of Scranton and maintained separately from the Administrative Offices, are not reported on in these financial statements, including Little Flower Manor, Catholic Schools, Catholic Youth Center, Catholic Social Services, Diocese of Scranton Institute and other Diocesan service organizations. These statements also exclude the financial transactions of the parishes and the Diocesan and parish cemeteries.

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles; the more significant of which are described below.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Notes to Financial Statements

Public Support and Revenue

Contributions received and unconditional promises to give are measured at their fair values and are reported as an increase in net assets. Gifts of cash and other assets are reported as restricted support if they are received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets, or if they are designated as support for future periods. When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the Statements of Activities as net assets released from restrictions. Contributions with donor-imposed restrictions that are met in the same year as received or earned are reported as unrestricted revenues. An allowance is made for uncollectible contributions based upon management's judgment and analysis of the creditworthiness of the donors, past collection experience and other relevant factors.

Endowment contributions and investments are permanently restricted by the donor. Investment earnings that are available to be distributed are recorded as temporarily restricted support.

Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable consists of assessments billed to parishes and other Diocesan organizations for insurance, priests' pension and health insurance and Diocesan programs and operations. Based on management's evaluation of collectibility, the Diocese has established an allowance for uncollectible accounts.

Investments

Investments in equity securities with readily determinable fair values and all investments in debt securities are measured at fair value in the Statements of Financial Position. Investment income or loss (including realized gains and losses on investments, interest and dividends) is reported in the Statements of Activities as increases or decreases in unrestricted net assets unless the income is restricted by donor or law.

Land, Buildings and Equipment

Land, buildings and equipment are recorded at cost less accumulated depreciation. Donations of land, buildings or equipment are recorded at estimated fair value and are included in support unless restricted to a specific purpose. If donors stipulate how long the assets must be used, the contributions are recorded as restricted support. In the absence of such stipulations, contributions of property and equipment are recorded as unrestricted support. Depreciation is computed on the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of assets.

Long-Lived Assets

The Diocese reviews the carrying value of long-lived assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that carrying amounts of the assets might not be recoverable.

Contributions Payable

Contributions made and unconditional promises to make future contributions to other organizations are recognized when made or the promise conveyed. Contributions payable over more than one year are recorded at their discounted present value. Changes in discounts are recognized over the period of the promise as adjustments to contributions expense.

Excess of Revenues Over Expenses

The Statements of Activities include excess of revenues over expenses. Changes in unrestricted net assets which are excluded from excess of revenues over expenses include provision for bad debt, unrealized gains and losses on investments and transfers of assets to and from affiliates for other than goods and services.

Self-Insurance Programs

Diocesan organizations, including the Diocesan Administrative Offices, parishes and other institutions, are included in a combined plan for property, workers compensation and comprehensive liability insurance. Losses above a specific amount are insured with commercial insurance companies but losses below that amount are self-insured by the Diocese. The Diocese has a standby letter of credit in the amount of \$2,800,000 to provide security for future workers' compensation claim payments. The Diocese records as a liability amounts determined by its insurance administrator as the estimated liability for claims filed for insured losses under the program. The actual liability paid may be in excess of or less than the amounts provided. Refer to Note 10 for additional information.

Defined Benefit Plans

The Diocese recognizes the overfunded or underfunded status of its defined benefit plans as an asset or liability in its statement of financial position and recognizes changes in that funded status in the year in which the changes occur through other changes in net assets. Refer to Note 9.

Funds on Deposit and Notes and Loans Receivable

The funds on deposit are Catholic Cemeteries and other Diocesan organizations perpetual care funds. Interest rates range from 1.25% to 3.0%. The funds are invested in separate trust accounts at Merrill Lynch.

Advertising

All advertising costs are expensed as incurred. For the years ended June 30, 2018 and 2017, advertising expense amounted to \$55,650 and \$70,298, respectively.

Cash Flows

For the purpose of the Statements of Cash Flows, the Diocese considers all highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less when purchased to be cash equivalents. Cash is held in interest-bearing demand accounts and trust accounts at banks. Cash and cash equivalents for the purposes of the Statements of Cash Flows exclude temporarily and permanently restricted cash and cash equivalents.

During the years ended June 30, 2018 and 2017, the Diocese paid interest in the amounts of \$589,181 and \$487,611, respectively.

Income Tax Status

The Diocese is a not-for-profit organization that is exempt from income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

In accordance with the Financial Accounting Standards Board guidance on accounting for uncertainty in income taxes, management evaluated the Diocese's tax positions and concluded that the Diocese had taken no uncertain tax positions that require adjustment to the financial statements to comply with the provisions of this guidance. With few exceptions, the Diocese is no longer subject to income tax examinations by the U.S. federal, state or local tax authorities for years before 2014.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers. This new accounting guidance outlines a single comprehensive model for entities to use in accounting for revenue from contracts with customers. ASU No. 2014-09 is effective for the Diocese for fiscal 2020. Early application is permitted for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2016. The Diocese is assessing the impact this new standard will have on its financial statements.

In August 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-14, Not-for-Profit Entities (Topic 958): Presentation of Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Entities. The new guidance is intended to improve and simplify the current net asset classification requirements and information presented in financial statements and notes that is useful in assessing a not-for-profit's liquidity, financial performance and cash flows. ASU 2016-14 is effective for the Diocese for fiscal 2019, with early adoption permitted. ASU 2016-14 is to be applied retroactively with transition provisions. The Diocese is assessing the impact this standard will have on its financial statements.

Reclassifications

Certain items on the prior year's financial statements have been reclassified to conform to the current year's format.

Subsequent Events

The Diocese has evaluated subsequent events through January 3, 2019, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

Note 2 - Cash and Equivalents

Cash and equivalents at June 30, 2018, consisted of the following:		
FNCB Bank	\$	7,201,593
Community Bank		485,567
Citibank self-insurance checking		(64,210)
PNC Bank		3,634,485
Fidelity Deposit and Discount Bank – Self-insurance		755,977
Mid Penn Bank		132,043
KeyBank		23,677
Merrill Lynch		3,386,211
Fidelity Deposit and Discount Bank trust account		40,290
Petty cash		3,141
Less: Restricted cash		(7,526,261)
Total cash and equivalents	\$	8,072,513

Note 3 - Contributions Receivable

Contributions receivable, net, consisted of the following at June 30:		
	2018	2017
Contributions receivable in:		
Less than one year	\$ 613,163	\$ 69,285
One year to five years	557,851	-
Total contributions receivable, net	\$ 1,171,014	\$ 69,285

Contributions receivable at June 30, 2018 includes unconditional promises to give for the St. Peter’s Cathedral interior renovations and Diocesan Annual Appeal collections received after year end. The balance at June 30, 2017 consists of the Diocesan Annual Appeal collections received after year end.

Note 4- Investments

Investments at June 30, 2018 and 2017 are summarized as follows:				
	2018		2017	
	Cost	Fair Value (Carrying Value)	Cost	Fair Value (Carrying Value)
Unrestricted				
U.S. Obligations	\$ 9,091,043	\$ 8,939,334	\$ 12,410,754	\$ 12,382,731
Corporate Bonds	7,473,367	7,304,397	6,901,640	6,926,206
Corporate Equities	29,757,214	36,691,642	26,418,369	31,515,759
Mutual Funds	4,466,460	4,329,710	4,878,856	4,774,885
	50,788,084	57,265,083	50,609,619	55,599,581
Permanently restricted				
Cash	3,079,694	3,079,694	3,072,697	3,072,697
Total investments	\$ 53,867,778	\$ 60,344,777	\$ 53,682,316	\$ 58,672,278

As of June 30, 2018 and 2017, the above investments were deposited with Merrill Lynch and Fidelity Deposit and Discount Bank.

Unrestricted investment income and gains and losses consisted of the following:		
	2018	2017
Income		
Interest and dividends	\$ 1,287,654	\$ 1,125,446
Net realized gains on investment transactions	\$ 1,285,428	\$ 438,970
Other Changes in Net Assets		
Net unrealized gains on investments	\$ 1,487,036	\$ 2,496,033

Note 5 - Land, Buildings and Equipment

Land, buildings and equipment consisted of the following at June 30, 2018 and 2017:			
	2018	2017	Depreciable Lives
Land, buildings and improvements	\$ 9,977,878	\$ 9,917,681	20-40 Years
Equipment	3,590,904	3,531,944	3-10 Years
	13,568,782	13,449,625	
Less: Accumulated depreciation	7,195,928	6,851,381	
Total	\$ 6,372,854	\$ 6,598,244	
Depreciation expense amounted to \$372,590 and \$381,049 for the years ended June 30, 2018 and 2017.			

Note 6 - Temporarily Restricted Net Assets

Temporarily restricted net assets, as of June 30, 2018 and 2017, are available for the following purposes:		
	Net Assets	
	2018	2017
Saint Pius X Seminary/St. John Vianney	\$ 1,464,744	\$ 1,342,072
Villa St. Joseph	236,907	249,733
Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Foundation	88,119	78,664
Msgr. Paul F. Terracciano Tuition Trust Fund	5,763	5,290
Reverend Niebrzydowski Tuition Fund	12,803	12,683
Msgr. Jordan Tuition Fund	19,778	19,594
Christie D. Shull Fund	2,453,993	2,446,288
Stanley F. Abramek Fund	-	125,709
Campaign for Human Development Program	6,192	19,178
Restricted for program and educational expenditures	158,268	179,076
Total temporarily restricted net assets	\$ 4,446,567	\$ 4,478,287

Net assets were released from donor restrictions by incurring expenses satisfying the restricted purposes specified by donors as follows:

	Net Assets	
	2018	2017
Diocesan Annual Appeal Program costs	\$ 4,742,005	\$ 4,804,543
Campaign for Human Development Program costs	19,178	20,916
National Collections - collections remitted	1,444,752	1,026,632
Beatrice M. Eck Endowment Fund Scholarship	41,000	52,000
Villa St. Joseph Capital improvements	47,636	10,023
Seminary/St. John Vianney Fund improvements	18,303	70,212
Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Foundation Scholarships and program costs	973,216	1,510,048
Total restrictions released	\$ 7,286,090	\$ 7,494,374

Note 7 - Permanently Restricted Net Assets

Permanently restricted net assets, as of June 30, 2018 and 2017, are restricted to the following:		
	Net Assets	
	2018	2017
Permanent Endowment Funds		
Reverend Charles J. O'Donnell Scholarship Fund		
The income derived from invested funds is to be distributed for Mass stipends and seminarian training. Any remaining income is to be reinvested and become part of the principal.	\$ 106,365	\$ 106,365
Msgr. Paul F. Terracciano Tuition Trust Fund		
The income derived from invested funds is to be distributed for tuition to students attending Diocesan schools.	45,000	45,000
Beatrice M. Eck Endowment Fund		
85% of the income derived from invested funds is to be distributed for Catholic education in Lycoming County.	2,715,512	2,708,515
Fanucci Trust Fund		
The income derived from invested funds is to be distributed for Priest educational or career development including continuing education or Priestly formation.	212,817	212,817
Total permanently restricted net assets	\$ 3,079,694	\$ 3,072,697

Note 8 - Contributions Payable

Contributions payable amounted to \$2,258,178 and \$2,200,972 at June 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively. The balance of the payable at June 30, 2018 will be paid out within the next fiscal year.

Note 9 - Retirement Plans

Priests’ Pension Plan

There is a defined benefit pension plan in effect for all incardinated priests in good standing or priests in good standing permanently assigned to the Diocese. The entire cost of the Plan is paid by the parish or institution to which each eligible priest is assigned. The Plan is administered by the Bishop with advisory and consulting services available to him from a Retirement Board.

The Diocesan funding policy is to contribute annually amounts determined by actuarial estimates. Contributions are intended to provide not only for benefits attributed to service to date but also for those expected to be earned in the future.

Lay Employee Pension Plan

There is a defined benefit pension plan for the lay employees of the Diocesan Administrative Offices. Prior to June 30, 2009, the cost of the Plan was paid jointly by the Diocesan offices and the employees. The employee contribution was 3% of base salary each year and the employer contribution rate was 7%. In May, 2008, the decision was made to freeze the pension plan as of June 30, 2009. After that date, no further benefits will accrue in the plan.

Postretirement Medical Benefits

The Diocese provides certain health care benefits for all retired priests. The Diocese’s share of the estimated costs of benefits that will be paid after retirement is generally being accrued by charges to expense over the priests’ service periods to the dates they are fully eligible for benefits.

	Pension Benefits		Postretirement Medical Benefits	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
Obligations and funded status at June 30:				
Fair value of plan assets	\$ 13,883,744	\$ 13,518,367	\$ -	\$ -
Projected benefit obligations	23,525,006	24,521,943	10,131,682	11,052,447
Funded status at end of years	<u>\$ (9,641,262)</u>	<u>\$ (11,003,576)</u>	<u>\$ (10,131,682)</u>	<u>\$ (11,052,447)</u>
Amounts recognized in the Statements of Financial Position consist of:				
Liability for benefits	<u>\$ (9,641,262)</u>	<u>\$ (11,003,576)</u>	<u>\$ (10,131,682)</u>	<u>\$ (11,052,447)</u>
Net amount recognized	<u>\$ (9,641,262)</u>	<u>\$ (11,003,576)</u>	<u>\$ (10,131,682)</u>	<u>\$ (11,052,447)</u>

The accumulated benefit obligation for both defined benefit pension plans was \$23,525,006 and \$24,521,943 at June 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively. Both plans had accumulated benefit obligations in excess of plan assets at June 30, 2018 and 2017.

	Pension Benefits		Postretirement Medical Benefits	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
Net (gain) loss	\$ (595,977)	\$ (1,263,940)	\$ 128,241	\$ 50,205
Prior service cost	(97,004)	(97,004)	-	(47,179)
Change in assumptions	<u>(533,096)</u>	<u>(573,334)</u>	<u>(1,032,818)</u>	<u>(910,678)</u>
	(1,226,077)	(1,934,278)	(904,577)	(907,652)
Net periodic benefit cost	<u>1,087,347</u>	<u>1,307,903</u>	<u>(16,188)</u>	<u>148,087</u>
Total	<u>\$ (138,730)</u>	<u>\$ (626,375)</u>	<u>\$ (920,765)</u>	<u>\$ (759,565)</u>

The estimated net loss and prior service cost for the defined benefit pension plans that will be amortized from net assets into net periodic benefit cost over the next fiscal year are \$540,179 and \$97,004, respectively. The estimated net gain and prior service cost for the other defined benefit postretirement plan that will be amortized from net assets into net periodic benefit cost over the next fiscal year are \$211,295 and \$0, respectively.

<u>Assumptions</u>	Pension Benefits		Postretirement Medical Benefits	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
Weighted-average assumptions used in computing ending obligations:				
Discount rate	4.50%	4.25%	4.50%	4.25%
Rate of compensation increase	N/A	N/A	-	-
Weighted-average assumptions used in computing net cost:				
Discount rate	4.50%	4.25%	4.50%	4.25%
Expected long-term return on plan assets	7.50%	7.50%	-	-
Rate of compensation increase	N/A	N/A	-	-

The expected long-term return on plan assets was determined using average historical returns of the Diocese’s plan assets.

Assumed health care cost trend rates at June 30:	2018	2017
Health care cost trend rate assumed for next year	5.50%	5.50%
Rate to which the cost trend rate is assumed to decline (the ultimate trend rate)	5.50%	5.50%
Year that the rate reaches the ultimate trend rate	2021	2018

Plan Assets

The assets of the Plans are deposited in separate Merrill Lynch trust accounts for the Diocese of Scranton’s lay and priest pension plans.

In determining fair value for pension plan assets, the Diocese uses various methods including market, income and cost approaches. The Diocese utilizes valuation techniques that maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. The fair value hierarchy ranks the quality and reliability of the information used to determine fair values. Financial assets carried at fair value will be classified and disclosed in one of the following three categories:

Level I – Valuations for assets and liabilities traded in active exchange markets, such as the New York Stock Exchange.

Level II – Valuations for assets and liabilities traded in less active dealer or broker markets. Valuations are obtained from third party pricing services for identical or similar assets or liabilities.

Level III – Valuations for assets and liabilities that are derived from other valuation methodologies, including option pricing models, discounted cash flow models and similar techniques, and not based on market exchange, dealer, or broker traded transactions. Level III valuations incorporate certain assumptions and projections in determining the fair value assigned to such assets or liabilities.

The asset’s or liability’s fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value:

Common Stocks, Corporate bonds, U.S. Government and Agencies obligations, and Money Markets: Valued at the closing price reported on the active market on which the individual securities are traded.

The following tables set forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the assets at fair value as of June 30, 2018 and 2017.

Assets:	June 30, 2018			
	Level I	Level II	Level III	Total
U.S. Obligations	\$ 1,350,099	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,350,099
Corporate bonds	1,045,611	-	-	1,045,611
Common stocks	10,120,883	-	-	10,120,883
Money markets	1,367,151	-	-	1,367,151
	<u>\$ 13,883,744</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 13,883,744</u>

Assets:	June 30, 2017			
	Level I	Level II	Level III	Total
U.S. Obligations	\$ 1,609,878	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,609,878
Corporate bonds	661,227	-	-	661,227
Common stocks	8,521,956	-	-	8,521,956
Money markets	2,725,306	-	-	2,725,306
	<u>\$ 13,518,367</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 13,518,367</u>

The Diocese’s pension plan weighted-average asset allocations at June 30, 2018 and 2017, by asset category, are as follows:

	Pension Benefits	
	2018	2017
Equity securities	73.00%	63.00%
Debt securities	17.00%	17.00%
Other	<u>10.00%</u>	<u>20.00%</u>
Total	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>100.00%</u>

The Diocese’s investment policies and strategies include:

- 1) The Diocese, in keeping with Canon Law and Catholic philosophy, excludes investments in companies whose products or performances are inconsistent with Catholic teaching.
- 2) Bonds must be rated “A” or better and maturities are limited to a maximum of ten years. Purchases of preferred stock are not permitted.
- 3) The asset allocation policy is 60% for equities and 40% for cash and fixed income.

Cash Flows

Contributions	Diocesan contributions:	
	Pension Benefits	Other Benefits
2017 (actual)	\$1,411,931	\$ -
2018 (actual)	1,223,584	-
2019 (estimated)	1,000,000	-
There are no participant contributions after June 30, 2009.		
Benefit Payments	Benefit payments:	
	Pension Benefits	Other Benefits
2017	\$1,817,279	\$457,223
2018	1,911,300	475,296

The following benefit payments, which reflect expected future service, as appropriate, are expected to be paid:

	Pension Benefits	Other Benefits
2019	\$ 2,025,940	\$ 467,334
2020	1,973,347	478,970
2021	1,924,220	490,657
2022	1,910,416	517,449
2023	1,875,339	536,185
Years 2024-2028	8,796,325	2,957,337

403(b) Plan

On July 1, 2009, the Diocese established a 403(b) Plan for employees. The Diocese contributes 2% of gross earnings to all employees and also matches employee deferral contributions up to 4%. For the years ended June 30, 2018 and 2017, the Diocese contributed \$161,282 and \$167,879 respectively, to the 403(b) Plan for the employees of the Administrative Offices.

Note 10 - Self-Insurance Program

General

Under the terms of the general insurance plan, individual claims above a specific amount (\$500,000 for property claims, \$250,000 for liability claims, and \$500,000 for workers compensation claims in 2018 and 2017) are insured with commercial insurance companies. Prior to July 1, 1993, an aggregate loss fund (\$1,250,000 for 1993) was also in place to limit claim expenses for the Diocese to that amount for the claim year. For the years ended June 30, 1994 and thereafter, the loss fund protection was eliminated to reduce excess commercial insurance premium expense.

Medical

As of July 1, 2005, the Diocese instituted a self-insurance medical plan. Under the terms of the plan, there is insurance coverage for individual claims exceeding \$185,000 with a maximum annual reimbursement of \$1,815,000.

Note 11 - Loan Payable

In December, 2004, the Diocese entered into a loan agreement with the Monroe County Industrial Development Authority (the Authority) to provide funding for a construction project at Notre Dame Junior Senior High School (the School). The Authority issued a revenue note in the amount of \$7,500,000 and subsequently sold the note to PNC Bank, NA. The proceeds were then loaned to the Diocese, and the Diocese agreed to pay all amounts due by the Authority under the note to the Bank. The note called for monthly payments of \$35,531, including principal and interest of 3.88%, until December, 2014, at which time the note was refinanced. The note was refinanced with the Authority in the amount of \$4,048,000 and was subsequently sold to FNCB Bank. The note calls for payments of \$22,539, including principal and interest of 3.00%, until January 2025. The Bank has a security interest in the property, and the Diocese is subject to various covenants; refer to the agreements for details. As disclosed in Note 1 to the financial statements, the School is an organization not reported on in these financial statements. Therefore, a loan receivable from the School has been recorded in the Statement of Financial Position in the same amount as the Loan Payable. The balance at June 30, 2018 and 2017 amounted to \$3,518,184 and \$3,678,968, respectively.

Note 12 - Diocesan Annual Appeal

The Diocesan Annual Appeal is a Diocesan program started as a means of supporting the charitable, educational and pastoral services of the Diocese. Campaigns for the years ended June 30, 2018 and 2017 had budget goals of \$5,000,000, respectively, which would be used to finance various Diocesan programs.

Based on the terms of the Appeal, each parish was assigned a “Parish Goal,” which represented its portion of the overall Diocesan goal. Parishes shared in the success of the campaign to the extent that they received seventy-five percent of the funds which were raised in excess of their goal.

Funds raised by the 2017 Diocesan Annual Appeal totaled \$4,994,718. The Diocese returned to parishes \$244,281 representing seventy-five percent of the funds raised in excess of the individual parish goals for the 2017 campaign. Also, contributions receivable of \$79,223 were recorded at their net realizable value in connection with the 2017 campaign; these contributions were collected within one year.

Funds raised by the 2016 Diocesan Annual Appeal totaled \$5,055,657. The Diocese returned to parishes \$249,130 representing seventy-five percent of the funds raised in excess of the individual parish goals for the 2016 campaign. Also, contributions receivable of \$69,285 were recorded at their net realizable value in connection with the 2016 campaign; these contributions were collected within one year.

Appeal Diocesan programs and expenditures were made accordingly:

	2018		2017	
	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	Actual
Direct aid to schools and Religious Education Grants	\$ 850,000	\$ 806,141	\$ 850,000	\$ 816,772
Communication and Evangelization	850,000	806,141	850,000	816,772
Social services	600,000	569,041	600,000	576,545
Clergy formation, education and Retirement	1,200,000	1 138,081	1,200,000	1,153,091
Parish Ministries	1,100,000	1,043,241	1,100,000	1,057,000
Campaign Cost	400,000	379,360	400,000	384,363
	<u>\$ 5,000,000</u>	<u>\$4,742,005</u>	<u>\$ 5,000,000</u>	<u>\$4,804,543</u>

Interest income earned on Appeal funds amounted to \$12,783 and \$7,233 for the years ended June 30, 2018 and 2017.

Note 13 - Called to Holiness

Parish Restructuring

Called to Holiness is the consolidation of parishes within the Diocese. Through this consolidation, whenever an ethnic parish closes and has net assets, part of the net assets will be given to the territorial parish which has assumed care of the former members of the closed parish. The part of the net assets not passed on, approximately 42%, will be retained by the Diocese to cover the net liabilities of closed ethnic parishes which become the responsibility of the Diocese. During the years ended June 30, 2018 and 2017, the Diocese received assets in the amount of \$4,644 and \$92,655, respectively, and made transfers and debt reductions in the amount of \$4,960 and \$197,151, respectively.

Note 14 - Cash Subject to Program Restrictions

Cash subject to program restrictions consists of the cash held to meet the requirements of temporarily restricted net assets.

Note 15 - Contingencies

Related Party Loans

The Diocese has agreed to guarantee repayment of principal and interest on the following bank loans of Diocesan organizations:

	Balance at <u>June 30, 2018</u>
Little Flower Manor	\$ 1,324,774

The Diocese had guaranteed the bank loans of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton, Inc. In June, 2018, the loan agreements were amended to include the Diocese as a borrower. There is a \$1,000,000 line of credit with interest at the Daily LIBOR rate plus 3.13% (5.22% at June 30, 2018). Borrowings amounted to \$630,866 at June 30, 2018. There is also a term loan payable in monthly installments of \$24,866 including principal and interest at the Daily LIBOR rate plus 1.50%. The balance outstanding at June 30, 2018 amounted to \$4,097,391. The loans are secured by real estate and are subject to financial performance covenants. Catholic Social Services is paying all amounts due and has recorded the total amounts outstanding as liabilities on its financial statements.

Litigation

The Diocese has several claims and pending legal proceedings that generally involve personal liability and employment issues. In the opinion of management and outside legal counsel, such proceedings are substantially covered by insurance, and the ultimate disposition of such proceedings are not expected to have a material adverse effect on the Diocese’s financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

In August, 2016, the Diocese was one of six Roman Catholic Dioceses in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be served with a subpoena from the Pennsylvania Attorney General’s Office requiring production of documents related to allegations of childhood sexual abuse. The Diocese has provided documentation in response to the subpoena. Findings were reported in August 2018 to support abuse victims. The Diocese is evaluating the impact of the grand jury report outcomes at this time and has announced an Independent Survivors Compensation Program will be created in January 2019. The Fund will be administered by a third party with an independent oversight committee.

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. In determining fair value, the Diocese uses various methods including market, income and cost approaches. Based on these approaches, the Diocese often utilizes certain assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability, including assumptions about risk and or the risks inherent in the inputs to the valuation technique. These inputs can be readily observable, market corroborated, or generally unobservable inputs. The Diocese utilizes valuation techniques that maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. Based on the observability of the inputs used in the valuation techniques, the Diocese is required to provide the following information according to the fair value hierarchy. The fair value hierarchy ranks the quality and reliability of the information used to determine fair values. Financial assets and liabilities carried at fair value will be classified and disclosed in one of the following three categories:

Level I – Valuations for assets and liabilities traded in active exchange markets, such as the New York Stock Exchange.

Level II – Valuations for assets and liabilities traded in less active dealer or broker markets. Valuations are obtained from third party pricing services for identical or similar assets or liabilities.

Level III – Valuations for assets and liabilities that are derived from other valuation methodologies, including option pricing models, discounted cash flow models and similar techniques, and not based on market exchange, dealer, or broker traded transactions. Level III valuations incorporate certain assumptions and projections in determining the fair value assigned to such assets or liabilities.

The asset’s or liability’s fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value:

Common Stocks, Corporate bonds, U.S. Government and Agencies obligations and Money Markets: Valued at the closing price reported on the active market on which the individual securities are traded.

The preceding methods may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, while the Diocese believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

The following tables set forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the assets at fair value as of June 30, 2018 and 2017.

Assets:	June 30, 2018			
	Level I	Level II	Level III	Total
U.S. Obligations	\$ 8,939,334	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,939,334
Corporate bonds				
Aaa credit rating	-	296,802	-	296,802
Aa1 credit rating	-	436,733	-	436,733
Aa2 credit rating	-	1,148,344	-	1,148,344
Aa3 credit rating	-	49,546	-	49,546
A1 credit rating	-	997,696	-	997,696
A2 credit rating	-	991,814	-	991,814
A3 credit rating	-	1,671,610	-	1,671,610
Baa1 credit rating	-	1,042,523	-	1,042,523
Baa2 credit rating	-	669,329	-	669,329
Total Corporate Bonds	-	7,304,397	-	7,304,397
Equities				
Industrials	3,824,197	-	-	3,824,197
Consumer Discretionary	4,288,601	-	-	4,288,601
Consumer Staples	2,487,702	-	-	2,487,702
Energy	3,085,636	-	-	3,085,636
Financial	5,522,495	-	-	5,522,495
Materials	1,201,793	-	-	1,201,793
Information Technology	8,477,764	-	-	8,477,764
Utilities	1,388,573	-	-	1,388,573
Health Care	3,751,432	-	-	3,751,432
Telecommunication Services	1,510,041	-	-	1,510,041
Real Estate	1,153,408	-	-	1,153,408
Total Equities	36,691,642	-	-	36,691,642
Mutual Funds	4,329,710	-	-	4,329,710
Restricted cash	3,079,694	-	-	3,079,694
	\$ 53,040,380	\$ 7,304,397	\$ -	\$ 60,344,777

Assets:	June 30, 2017			
	Level I	Level II	Level III	Total
U.S. Obligations	\$ 12,382,731	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,382,731
Corporate bonds				
Aaa credit rating	-	324,265	-	324,265
Aa1 credit rating	-	624,705	-	624,705
Aa2 credit rating	-	361,392	-	361,392
Aa3 credit rating	-	339,221	-	339,221
A1 credit rating	-	718,632	-	718,632
A2 credit rating	-	1,346,221	-	1,346,221
A3 credit rating	-	1,330,504	-	1,330,504
Baa1 credit rating	-	1,318,391	-	1,318,391
Baa2 credit rating	-	375,091	-	375,091
Baa3 credit rating	-	187,784	-	187,784
Total Corporate Bonds	-	6,926,206	-	6,926,206
Equities				
Industrials	2,816,421	-	-	2,816,421
Consumer Discretionary	3,503,813	-	-	3,503,813
Consumer Staples	2,859,644	-	-	2,859,644
Energy	2,539,504	-	-	2,539,504
Financial	4,664,547	-	-	4,664,547
Materials	1,211,339	-	-	1,211,339
Information Technology	6,929,059	-	-	6,929,059
Utilities	1,581,645	-	-	1,581,645
Health Care	3,007,839	-	-	3,007,839
Telecommunication Services	1,397,347	-	-	1,397,347
Real Estate	1,004,601	-	-	1,004,601
Total Equities	31,515,759	-	-	31,515,759
Mutual Funds	4,774,885	-	-	4,774,885
Restricted cash	3,072,697	-	-	3,072,697
	\$ 51,746,072	\$ 6,926,206	\$ -	\$ 58,672,278

Note 17 - Endowments

The Diocese’s endowment funds consist of approximately 8 individual funds established primarily for student scholarships that are donor-restricted funds. As required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, net assets associated with endowment funds are classified and reported based on existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions.

Endowment Net Asset Composition by type of fund as of June 30, 2018 and 2017 is as follows:

	2018			
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Donor-restricted endowment Funds	\$ -	\$ 2,623,169	\$ 3,079,694	\$ 5,702,863
	2017			
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Donor-restricted endowment Funds	\$ -	\$ 2,730,795	\$ 3,072,697	\$ 5,803,492

Changes in Endowment Net Assets for the years ended June 30, 2018 and 2017, are as follows:

	2018			
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Endowment net assets, beginning of year	\$ -	\$ 2,730,795	\$ 3,072,697	\$ 5,803,492
Investment return:				
Investment income	-	91,987	6,997	98,984
Total investment return	-	91,987	6,997	98,984
Contributions	-	770,914	-	770,914
Appropriation of endowment assets for expenditure	-	(970,527)	-	(970,527)
Endowment net assets, end of year	\$ -	\$ 2,623,169	\$ 3,079,694	\$ 5,702,863
	2017			
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Endowment net assets, beginning of year	\$ -	\$ 3,002,814	\$ 3,065,020	\$ 6,067,834
Investment return:				
Investment income	-	91,597	7,677	99,274
Total investment return	-	91,597	7,677	99,274
Contributions	-	1,170,847	-	1,170,847
Appropriation of endowment assets for expenditure	-	(1,534,463)	-	(1,534,463)
Endowment net assets, end of year	\$ -	\$ 2,730,795	\$ 3,072,697	\$ 5,803,492

The Diocese has adopted investment and spending policies for endowment assets that attempt to provide a predictable stream of funding to programs supported by its endowment while seeking to maintain the purchasing power of the endowment assets.

The donor-restricted endowment assets earn a fixed rate of return in the Diocesan Deposit Fund.

Diocese of Scranton
CATHOLIC
 SCHOOL SYSTEM
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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.



Jack Garvey, a Pre-Kindergarten student at **All Saints Academy in Scranton**, leads his "Paw Patrol" float along the indoor route during the school's Furry Friends Parade.



The 1st grade class, along with Principal Jason Tribbet, celebrate the 100th day of school at **Holy Family Academy in Hazleton**.



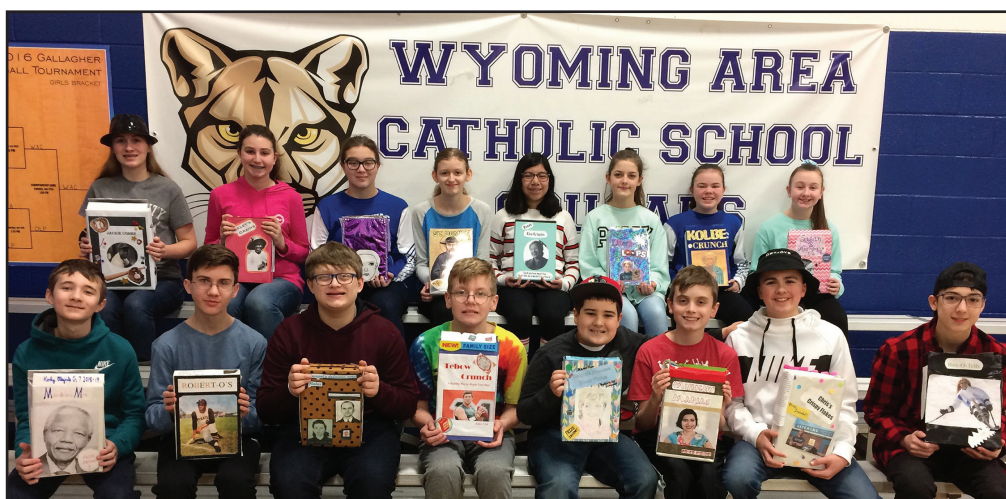
Students at **Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg** proudly display their 2nd quarter academic achievement awards.



Daniel Paone and Christopher Roshak, along with their 3rd grade classmates at **La Salle Academy in Jessup**, enrich their STEAM skills by working with KEVA planks, creating works of art or cleverly designed contraptions as the artists and engineers of tomorrow.



Bodhana Tomesh, a 2nd grade student at **Epiphany School in Sayre**, shares the story of Barbie creator, Ruth Handler, to visitors at the school's "Second Grade Invention Museum."



The 7th grade class of **Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter** recently researched people who have fought for human dignity. To educate classmates about their Human Rights Champions, they created a cereal box, which displayed biographical information, "ingredients" or characteristics of each person, a game and a prize reflecting the person's cause. Students posed with their boxes after giving an oral presentation to their classmates describing the accomplishments of their Champion.



The 2nd graders at **Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston** had a "dog-gone" good day celebrating their 102nd school day by making Dalmatian ears and enjoying a little break watching "102 Dalmatians."



Students cheer on the players at the annual "Faculty vs. 8th Grade" volleyball game during the Catholic Schools Week celebration at **Saint Jude School in Mountain Top**.



"Kids Who Collect" is an ongoing program at **Holy Rosary School in Duryea** which encourages students to help those in need. Some examples of their volunteerism include: Kyle Skutack collected canned goods for The Pittston Pantry; Anna Pietrowski made and sold bracelets to benefit The Ronald McDonald House; Karli Mahasky collected coats for The Family To Friend Organization; Ethan Licari collected children's toys for Janet Weis Children's Hospital; Paige Skibitsky collected jewelry for the Dress for Success Organization; and Sarah Lyons sold pink items to benefit the Paint Pittston Pink Organization.



Members of the Leo Club at **Saint John Neumann High School in Williamsport** help carry the toiletry and non-perishable food items they collected during Catholic Schools Week for the Little Sisters of the Poor.



Junior Alex Fouad uses palm writing to help during the annual Spelling Bee at **Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg**. Senior Eric Mangual (seated to the immediate right) was the winner. The Spellmaster was English Department Chair, Mrs. Jenna Curtis.



The cheerleading team at **Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton** organized a fundraiser for Coaches vs. Cancer at their “Pink Game.” The donations were made in honor of their cheer moderator’s mother, Cheryl Ann Vislosky, who passed away from breast cancer.



During a recent basketball game between the two schools, cheerleaders from **Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore** perform their routines alongside cheerleaders from the Jefferson Center, a special education school also located in Dunmore.



The Pro-Life Club from **Holy Cross High School in Dunmore** prepared over 150 “Bags of Love” for the Saint Francis Food Kitchen. Bagged lunches included sandwiches, drinks, fruit and a snack. Pictured are students Tori Kovalchick, Madelyn Klassner, Ashley Capone, Theresa Dutter, Jonelle Symonies, Leslie O’Connor and Caroline Shaffern, as they prepare the bags for delivery.



Students from **Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport** form the number “100” in celebration of their 100th day of school.

Father Joseph J. Matthey

We all remember the song “Send in the Clowns.” Made famous by Judy Collins, it has a melody that sticks in your mind. But only some understand the point of sending the clowns.

At the circus, when something goes wrong, they send the clowns out to divert our attention from the tragedy. Perhaps that high-wire or trapeze man has fallen or the lion attacked the lion tamer. They need someone to take our attention away from the carnage. The clown goes to work!

Is this how we view death? Look away, quickly, because it is more than we can handle. Death is “too much.”

Maybe some people are of that mindset — but not us. Notice that we write an obit and put it in the paper... with a picture of the deceased! We are Christians. Death cannot scare us — not after what Jesus did for us on the cross. His perfect love defeated the power of death. If anyone was scared, it was Jesus.

As we just heard in today’s Gospel, Jesus said, “I am troubled now. But what should I say? ‘Father save me from this hour’? It was for this hour that I came.”

Jesus had probably seen a crucifixion and no doubt knew what a terrible death it would be. But he endured his fearful passion for us so that death would no longer have power over us. We are a people of hope. When they went to the tomb on Easter they found it empty, but it was FULL — not with a corpse, but full of hope, promise and joy and life.

In his new work, *Wrestling with God*, Ronald Rohlheiser notes that we can have three reactions to death: sadness, anger or fear. The first two will happen to most of us but the third has no room in the life of a Christian.

As the second reading pointed out, we walk by faith, not by sight. We are also a people of love — and love makes it hard to let go. But let go we must so our loved ones can go home to God.

Most of us will remember a second song, which is taken from the movie “Brian’s Song.” The dramatic theme line pines about trying to hold onto the hands of time — as if we could make time stand still. But, alas, we cannot.

How I wish I could make time stand still. I wish I could go back some 25 years when Father Joe first moved in as my assistant in Freeland. I worried that after 22 years as a pastor down the road in Taylor he might have trouble adjusting to a new life. But he was great.

He worked hard — no funeral too big, none too little. The people respected him and accepted him. It was like having two pastors in one parish, and we did great work.

I respected his wisdom and humor. He felt health issues becoming a problem, but quietly worked to handle them as best he could. He gave me room to travel with the youth group as we worked with the poor in Philadelphia. I could always count on him. He was a priest’s priest and it was an honor to have him with us in Freeland.

Those of you here a little earlier noticed that that body of the priest in the casket faces out to the people. When a layperson is buried, you face toward the altar. These are our postures when we attend Mass Sunday after Sunday.

Well, all of us — clergy or lay — must, when we die, stand before God for judgment. I have great hope that as he today stands before God, Father Joe Matthey will hear these words: “Well done, good and faithful servant, inherit the kingdom prepared for you.”

May our friend and brother rest in peace. Amen.

Excerpted from the homily by Father Cyril D. Edwards, V.E., at the Mass of Christian Burial celebrated for Father Joseph J. Matthey on February 1 at Divine Mercy Parish in Scranton.

Prayer Requests for Priests

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

February 28, Father Jean-Pierre Pilon; March 1, Pope Francis; March 2, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI; March 3, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; March 4, Saint Joseph Oblate Father Jackson Pinhero; March 5, Father

Joseph Pisaneschi; March 6, Father John Polednak, V.E.; March 7, Father Richard Polmounter; March 8, Father John Poplawski; March 9, Monsignor Patrick Pratico; March 10, Passionist Father James Price; March 11, Monsignor Joseph Quinn; March 12, Jesuit Father Kevin Quinn; March 13, Father Michael Quinnan.

Monsignor James J. McGarry

Jimmy always came in pieces.

Thornton Wilder once wrote, “All that we know about those we have loved and lost is that they would want us to remember them with a greater understanding of their reality. What is essential does not die but clarifies. The highest tribute to our loved ones is not grief but gratitude.”

Grateful for the many pieces! — Hardy laugh, his bellowing voice, the twinkle in his eye, the mischievous grin...

What is really important today is the man himself — a fully human person who loved people and life.

The first piece was Jim’s faith. It was this faith that shaped Jim’s life and ministry. He always had great confidence in people. He was certainly not naive; he knew people fail and miss the mark on many expectations. But he believed that there was a basic goodness in people and, if encouraged and given a chance, they would rise to the occasion. I know that he placed much more confidence in me than I ever deserved.

Another piece was courage. He seldom faltered when he was convinced of the correctness of a particular decision or course of action. He never held back because of the personal repercussions his stand might have. He had the courage to take a bold step — that necessary decisive step needed to bring every parish and school he served new life. It is for this reason he was a great pastor. When he did change his mind, it was not because of weakness or lack of resolve, it was because he was always listening.

There was an extraordinary human piece. He taught us that on this ever-shrinking planet, the houses of kindness, compassion, forbearance and forgiveness are so much larger and brighter and happier than the small, shadowy structures of anger, resentment and pride. His life proved that ordinary people really do make a difference. He had a great sense of humor and was always ready to help people see the lighter, more joyful side of life.

Jim was a dedicated, faith-filled priest whose every moment was extravagantly spent, both in word and example, inviting people to see that God really loves and cares for them and that, because of this, the world is not such a bad place after all.

Jim had a great wisdom regarding the Church. I believe he understood the Church as few people do. With a clear appreciation for theology, tradition and history, he understood that the Church is a dynamic, living reality, always subject to growth and renewal.

Continued on Page 28



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Diocese of Scranton
DIOCESAN
ANNUAL APPEAL



Volume 119 Number 3 — Thursday, February 28, 2019

Panama on Their Minds

Participating in World Youth Day gives one a new perspective on what it means to be Catholic. There were around 600,000 pilgrims gathered together in Panama, and yes, it was sometimes loud, messy, and disorganized. But in that “mess” was the Church: many parts, but one Body; diverse, but united in one Faith and one Lord.

For me, some of the highlights were finally seeing the Pope, being in a massive, loud and enthusiastic crowd that fell silent in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and being a part of the choir for a Latin High Mass. But there were many small moments of grace throughout the trip that were nearly as powerful.

I was blessed to be part of a fantastic group of pilgrims from the Diocese of Scranton and came home with much more hope for the future of our local Church than the day I left. One could not help but notice the abundance of joy, reverence, and deep faith. I am grateful to every one of my fellow pilgrims, to my supportive school and parish families that prayed for us, and to all who made World Youth Day possible. I feel all the more ready to face whatever God has in store in the coming years.

-- Raphael Micca

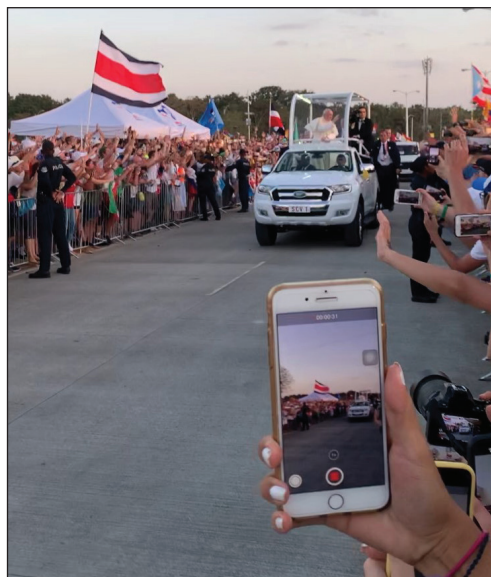
Holy Spirit Parish, Fairmount Springs

My experience at World Youth Day was one that I know will be one of those moments in my life that I can look back to and say that experience changed me. My personal experience at WYD was accompanied by nine other pilgrims from Scranton that would become my family. The journey we had together in the rainforest was what set the tone for our trip, it was spiritual, with lots of laughs and just great community. Each day was a new adventure that I got to experience getting continuously closer to God and to the people around me. The diversity that I encountered at WYD was what shocked me the most. You see the same people every Sunday at mass and the same people at certain religious events you attend but to realize that millions of people are doing the same thing across the globe is striking. To see that our faith is so alive among the youth is electric. People ask me if I was sad leaving, of course I was but I wasn't as sad as expected because I know that I was coming back a better man than when I left for WYD.

-- Stephen McNulty

Saint Eulalia Parish, Elmhurst

**Pope Francis
arrives at Campo
San Juan Pablo II
— Metro Park in
Panama City.**



Shannon Kowalski, Diocesan Coordinator for Youth/Young Adult Ministry, is pictured front and center for the group picture of the ten young adults who represented the Diocese of Scranton at the 15th World Youth Day in Panama in January. Shown behind Shannon are fellow pilgrims, from left: Stephen McNulty, Stephen Hineline, Abbe Truschel, Father Jerry Shantillo, Dominick Costantino, Raphael Micca, David Pirolli, Meghan Donohue and Charles Rennekamp.



Our World Youth Day Pilgrims Reflect on their Experience at Last Month's Global Gathering in Central America

World Youth Day was incredible and I am honored to have taken part of this experience. I most enjoyed our retreat in the rainforest, seeing Pope Francis and hearing his message during the opening Mass. It was inspiring to see the diversity of the Catholic Church, yet how we, as a spiritual body felt like one...one people, one faith under one spiritual father.

I was encouraged by Pope Francis' message to the church where he discussed embracing our unique differences. His message was inspiring to young people from all over the world who come together to celebrate Christianity.

The trip was also filled with many dichotomies, we felt exhilarated and excited and at the same time, fatigued. We felt joy, happiness, and a spiritual calmness because of the pilgrims from all over the world, but also felt sadness and despair because of the poverty around us.

What I brought home from World Youth Day was not just memories of a trip to Panama, it was a life altering belief that we are one people, walking in the footsteps of Christ for the betterment of the world. This trip was a journey of soul searching, faith inspiring and an investment in our Christian beliefs that we can do all this through Him who gives me strength (Philippians 4:13).

-- Abbe Truschel

Saint Jude Parish, Mountain Top

I consider myself blessed beyond measure to have had the opportunity to attend my fourth World Youth Day this past January in Panama. While each of the World Youth Days that I have experienced were impactful upon my life in some way, Panama 2019 will undoubtedly hold a special place in my heart. Our delegation started off as ten people from eight different parishes scattered throughout the Diocese of Scranton, but we came home as one family bonded together by prayer, adventure, and a whole bunch of inside jokes. There is something obviously profound about coming together with hundreds of thousands of faithful Catholics – both young and old. But it is difficult for me to put into words the graces that I feel I've received from my experience. All I can say is that the interior movements of the Holy Spirit have given me the grace to move forward as a minister in our diocese in service to the youth of our community.

-- Shannon Kowalski

Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, Moscow



Father Jerry Shantillo concelebrates Mass during the rainforest retreat prior to the official opening of World Youth Day '19.

This was my second time attending World Youth Day. While Panama was very different from Poland, it was still an incredible and transforming experience.

Steve Angrisano, who has spoken in our Diocese before, led a retreat for us on one of our first days we were there. Through music, prayer and some comedy, he really sent forth many powerful messages. One thing that stood out to me in his talk was the need for us to be fully present to those we encounter on a day to day basis — to be Jesus for everyone. All too often in our busy society we find ourselves preoccupied and distracted. We worry about our next meeting, where we are going after the conversation, talks that we had earlier in the day, and of course, our cellphone vibrating in our coat pocket. When we truly give the person in front of us our full attention, incredible things can happen.



Dominick Costantino with Veronica Alvarado from Diocesan.Com.

Pope Francis then told all of us in his Closing Mass homily: “You are not the ‘meantime.’ You are the now of God.” All of us, regardless of age, can truly impact our parishes, schools, communities, families and the world at large if we strive to be truly present to all those we encounter and be the “now of God.”

**-- Dominick Costantino
Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish,
Hanover Township**

World Youth Day 2019 will be an experience I will never forget. It offered the opportunity to meet and pray with a representation of the young, global Church that I was looking forward to and was more impactful than I expected. It is easy for our view of the Church to become very narrow as we settle into a routine and only focus on the challenges right before us. This opportunity to widen my view and see how alive and energized the Church actually is encourages me to bring the joy, courage, and devotion of our brothers and sisters from around the world back to the Diocese of Scranton. I was really surprised by the friendship that quickly developed between my fellow pilgrims from our Diocese. Praying, walking, eating, and talking together led to such a strong community that I will always cherish. Please pray with me that the graces of this pilgrimage bear fruit for our Diocese and the Church around the world.

**-- Charles Rennekamp
Saint Peter Cathedral Parish, Scranton**

My experience at World Youth Day reminded me of something I learned a decade ago while attending seminary in Rome, Italy: The Catholic Church is larger and more diverse than most of us ever imagined. That should not surprise us given how incredibly unique each human being is, but it does. At the same time there is a simplicity and profound joy that comes from a personal relationship with Jesus Christ that is nourished and supported in our local faith community in communion with Peter (Pope Francis).

When we experience the sheer size of the Universal Church at an event like World Youth Day it's a magical moment. To be part of the Church that is so large, historical, beautiful, joyful, and loving literally takes our breath away. Our youth, when given a retreat experience like WYD, readily discover just how close they can come to Jesus Christ through the Church, the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, and one another.

The youth remind us of what it was like to fall in love with Jesus and the Church when we were younger and life was much less complicated. We may change as we grow older but God does not. How does one stay rooted in their relationship with Jesus and the Church as an adult? Can we still experience the simplicity of our faith despite the seemingly enormity of our lives and responsibilities? Through their unbridled enthusiasm, the youth show us something we may forget at times: how Jesus Christ and his Church unlock our potential to be joy filled, loving, and holy people. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to travel with nine other pilgrims from our Diocese to World Youth Day.

**-- Father Jerry Shantillo
Pastor, Saint Matthew Parish, East Stroudsburg**



Diocese of Scranton World Youth Day pilgrims Stephen McNulty and David Pirolli give an interview to a Panamanian media camera crew.

Prayer. Excitement. Joy. Fellowship. Exhaustion. Reverence. Those are just a few words that describe the vast experiences of World Youth Day in Panama. A day in the rainforest. A crowded opening Mass. Reflecting on the Stations of the Cross. Walking miles for the overnight prayer Vigil and closing Mass. Throughout each of these WYD experiences, and so many more, our small group of ten had the opportunity to join hundreds of thousands of other young pilgrims from all over the world. We joined together, not for a vacation, not to escape the busyness of everyday life, but to embrace life, to embrace the blessings that God has given each of us. We were joined together in the love of Christ and in the love of our Church. No matter where in the world any person came from, we all shared a commonality in Jesus and in our faith. WYD is such a testament to the witness, the fire and spirit, of the young Church. It was especially beautiful to share daily in faith and fellowship with other young adults from our own Diocese. The young Church is very much alive in Scranton, and we are excited to continue witnessing to the faith back home. It was an incredible blessing to have the opportunity to attend WYD this year as one of the pilgrims from the Diocese of Scranton and to pray for the intentions of family, friends, my Parish community, and our entire Diocese.

**-- Meghan Donohue
Most Holy Trinity Parish, Mount Pocono**

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Mission Message

**Go
Forth**

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



We are in the final days of preparation for our observance of the Holy Season of Lent. This time of renewal presents us with the opportunity to engage the disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. For many of us, I suspect, we have an easier time with fasting more and praying more during Lent than we do with almsgiving, i.e. acts of charity to our brothers and sisters in need. I say that not because I think any of us are selfish or aloof, but that acts of charity require us in many ways to carve out deliberate time in our schedule to *do* something. It's not simply about *giving* more monetarily to an individual or group, but to act in specific and intentional ways.

The Church reminds us that acts of charity are truly penitential, not penitential because we are being punished. Furthermore, it's not that doing something for another somehow makes up for our sinfulness; rather, true penance, is an act whereby we seek to do something holy and positive precisely because we have done something evil. It's not a punishment but an act of love by which — with God's

help — we begin to remedy the residual effects of our sinfulness upon the world.

In the Church's Dogmatic Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*), the Church urges us to see that our penance is both individual and very much social and public: "During Lent penance should not be only internal and individual, but also external and social. The practice of penance should be fostered in ways that are possible in our own times and in different regions, and according to the circumstances of the faithful" (SC 110).

As such, the Church asks each of us to consider seriously and prayerfully what more we can do during this holy time to lift the burden of a brother or sister in need. Thankfully, God and His Church never asks us to do anything without first giving us the means by which we can embrace and accomplish God's will. We know well what are traditionally called the corporal works of mercy which come to us from the section of the Bible entitled The Judgment of the Nations (cf. Mt. 25:31-46). To summarize, these works of mercy are: to feed the hungry, to give water to the thirsty, to clothe the naked, to shelter the homeless, to visit the sick, to visit the imprisoned, to bury the dead.

Lent is the perfect time in the year to renew our intentions to be missionary disciples and to act in specific ways to serve those in need and to give them the hope and joy of the Gospel. I encourage each of you to study and pray over these corporal works as a means of putting into action your faith and to embrace God's will that those in need are cared for and given the divine love in each of us. It's certainly important for us to look at each of these works and be creative. Clearly, not all of us can bury the dead or visit the impris-

oned. However, it's also clear that we can minister to these needs in a myriad of way.

Burying the dead is rather specific and, quite frankly, is something done by professionals. For those of us who do not possess that skill set, we can "bury the dead" by attending the funeral rituals of our neighbors and fellow parishioners. Perhaps you know of someone in particular who had very few family or friends and whose funeral will be sparsely attended.

Joining in the celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial for that person and dutifully praying for him or her would be a beautiful way of living out that corporal work. How about visiting those imprisoned? Few of us have the clearances to pull up to our local prison to move about from cell to cell to bring prisoners joy and consolation. So, why not donate books, especially bibles or spiritual books, to a prison near your home?

Not all of these works of mercy are as literal as their presentation from Scripture. And that's a humbling and consoling reality, because it allows us to take time in prayer and reflection to ask God how we can serve Him and our brothers and sisters in unique and heartfelt ways.

As Lent calls us to prepare for Easter with works of prayer, fasting, and acts of charity, it's also a call to make these actions a part of everyday life; after all, to serve God and His people is at the heart of the mission of the Church and can never be confined to a particular period of time. Giving of ourselves in humility and love to God and one another is who and what we are as disciples of Christ. And so, we go forth to do just that.

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Spiritual Offerings Around the Diocese

First Friday Pro-Life Prayer Vigil — **MARCH 1**, monthly pro-life gathering to offer prayerful witness at the new Planned Parenthood location in Wilkes-Barre at 101 North Main St.; recitation of the Rosary begins at 9 a.m. for the special intentions of an end to abortion and closure of the Planned Parenthood facility. All faithful are welcome to participate.

First Friday Eucharistic Adoration — **MARCH 1**, hosted by Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, 1101 Willow St., Peckville. Exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins following the celebration of the 7 a.m. Mass and continues until 12 noon in the chapel.

First Friday Marian Devotion & Healing Mass — **MARCH 1**, 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.

First Friday Eucharistic Adoration — **MARCH 1**, 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 3:30 p.m.

Friday Pro-Life Rosary Vigil — **MARCH 1**, sponsored by the Catholics Defending Life Prayer & Awareness Team; group gathers in St. Peter's Cathedral following celebration of the 12:10 p.m. Mass and Novena. 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.

Catholic Charismatic Prayer Breakfast — **MARCH 2**, sponsored by prayer groups of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the Diocese of Scranton; held from 9 to 11 a.m. at Queen of the Apostles Parish Hall (adjacent from St. Mary Church), 715 Hawthorne St., Avoca. Featuring songs of praise, teaching, witness, and buffet breakfast. For reservations, contact Jim at (570-267-1614) or jim@echoes.net.

Weekly Queen of Our Hearts Rosary Prayer Service — **MARCH 2**, hosted every Saturday morning at Good Shepherd Church in Drums; group gathers weekly beginning at 3 p.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.

Wednesday Eucharistic Adoration — **MARCH 6**, 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 Marelllo, founder of the Oblates of St. Joseph religious congregation. For more information, contact the OSJ seminary at (570-654-7542).

Scranton Mental Health Ministry: Spiritual Support Group for Family & Friends — **MARCH 7**, 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 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 at the Cathedral, (570-344-7231).

Sunday Charismatic Mass & Healing Service — **MARCH 10**, 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.

Continued on Page 27

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Oblates to Celebrate Saint Joseph's Feast

PITTSTON — Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will serve as principal celebrant and homilist for the feast day celebration of Saint Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and patron of the Universal Church, on Tuesday, March 19, at Saint Joseph's Oblate Seminary in Laflin.

The Mass commemorating the feast will culminate next month's annual Solemn Novena to Saint Joseph hosted by the Oblates of Saint Joseph religious congregation based in Pittston.

Beginning on Sunday, March 10, the Oblates' nine-day Novena honoring their patron saint will continue through Monday, March 18.

During the Novena offered at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Seminary Chapel, located on Route 315, Laflin, Masses are celebrated daily at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., followed by Novena prayers and individual

blessing with the first-class relic of Saint Joseph Marelllo, founder of the OSJ religious order.

Each Novena liturgy is preceded by Confessions and recitation of the Holy Rosary.

Bishop Bambera will preside at the Saint Joseph feast day Mass on March 19 at 11 a.m. Concelebrants for the liturgy will include Oblate priests and invited clergy of the Diocese.

At the conclusion of the Mass, special Saint Joseph medals will be blessed and distributed to the faithful in attendance

A second Mass celebrating the feast of Saint Joseph will be offered later in the day at the seminary chapel at 7 p.m. All are welcome to participate in the Saint Joseph Novena and feast day celebrations.

For more information, contact the OSJ seminary office at (570-654-7542).

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- **WASHINGTON CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL 3-DAY** — April 12-14 — Potomac Cruise, Festival Parade
- **SIGHT & SOUND DINNER THEATER, "Jesus"** — April 13 — Dinner
- **9/11 MUSEUM & CIRCLE LINE CRUISE, NYC** — April 20 — Circle Line meal
- **ELLIS ISLAND & LIBERTY ISLAND** — May 4 — Ferry fees
- **CONNECTICUT CASINOS 3-DAY** — May 5-7 — Foxwoods & Mohegan Sun
- **BALTIMORE INNER HARBOR & NATIONAL AQUARIUM** — May 11

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- **VICTORIAN CAPE MAY, NJ, "INDEPENDENT"** — May 18
- **PEDDLERS VILLAGE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL** — May 18
- **CATSKILLS DOME TRAIN & TIOGA DOWNS CASINO** — June 8 — Dome Train lunch, casino rebate
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Bio Sketch

Andre Mathieu made his profession of vows as a Passionist on March 4, 1962. He has served in various leadership and ministry capacities in the Province of St. Paul of the Cross. Brother Andre has an M.A. in Pastoral Theology and an M.S. in Gerontology (the study of Aging) as well as a certification in Death Studies. He has been in residence at St. Ann's since May, 2012.

St. Ann's Monday Novena Lenten Retreat

Directed by

BROTHER ANDRE MATHIEU, C.P.

Novena Retreat Theme:

DO NOT BE AFRAID!

Monday, March 11

Matthew 14:22-32 • Courage, it is I, do not be afraid! In the midst of life's storms, Jesus is with us.

Monday, March 18

John 14:21-27 • Transformation. The Holy Spirit gives us the gifts we need to live life.

Monday, March 25

1 John 4:7-21 • We are not alone. A God named Love walks with us on life's journey.

Monday, April 1

Matthew 7:7-11 & Romans 8:26-27
• Thirsting for God in prayer, we develop a relationship with God.

Monday, April 8

Luke 19:1-10 • Forgiveness. There is nothing that God will not forgive.

Monday, April 15 {Holy Week}

Luke 9:23-26 • Discipleship with Jesus. The cross is an integral part of life, but Jesus is with us.

Monday, April 22 {Easter Monday}

Matthew 28:1-10 • New Life. We are the people of the Promise.

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Lenten Spiritual Offerings

Ash Wednesday Retreat

The Office for Parish Life will offer a retreat on Ash Wednesday, March 6, at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton. The day will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 2:30 p.m. All faithful of the Diocese are welcome.

Father Joseph F. Sica, a priest of the Diocese of Scranton for over 36 years who currently serves as senior priest at Immaculate Conception Parish in Scranton, will lead the retreat with the theme "Unhappy with Life? Change It!" He will offer the retreat in three parts with time for reflection and personal prayer.

The retreat day will include Mass celebrated in the Cathedral with distribution of ashes. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available prior to Mass. Lunch will be served following the noon Mass.

The fee for the day is \$30, which includes lunch. To register, call Mary Anne Malone at the Office for Parish Life, 570-207-2213, or e-mail Mary-Anne-Malone@dioceseofscranton.org.

Encounter Lent: Called Forth from the Desert



Through the Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl, we share the journey with members of our human family around the world, and commit our Lenten prayers, fasting and almsgiving to deepening our faith and serving those in need. CRS Rice Bowl, now in its 44th year, raises funds for those who need support and services in communities throughout the U.S. and overseas. Participants journey throughout the 40 days of Lent through daily reflections and offering small, suggested sacrificial gifts to fill their Rice Bowls.

Twenty-five percent of all contributions stay in local dioceses to support hunger and poverty prevention programs. The remaining 75% goes to support CRS' humanitarian programs overseas, providing life-saving assistance and hope to impoverished and vulnerable communities.

Catholic Relief Services offers a variety of resources to assist parishes, groups and individuals to participate. Please visit <https://www.crsricebowl.org>



The Light Is On for You

The Church encourages us to make confession a regular part of our spiritual life, especially during the holy season of Lent, as we reflect on our baptism and repentance. Again this year, parishes are participating in a Lenten initiative called The Light Is On for You. Every Monday evening during the Lenten season, beginning on the first Monday of Lent, March 11, and continuing through Monday of the last full week of Lent, April 8, confessions will be heard in every parish from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. so that Catholics can come to or return to this incredible source of God's grace, mercy and healing.

Devotions at the Cathedral of Saint Peter

During Lent, the Cathedral of Saint Peter will offer several ways in which the faithful can deepen their relationship with Jesus and come to know him in a more intimate way.

On Fridays, the Stations of the Cross will be prayed following the 12:10 p.m. Mass and Novena to Saint John Neumann. The Stations will air on CTV live on March 8 after the 12:10 p.m. Mass on that day, and then on succeeding Fridays at 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

On the Sundays of Lent, March 10, 17, 24 and 31; April 7 and 14, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will begin at the conclusion of the 5 p.m. Sunday Mass. Evening Prayer and Benediction begin at 6:30 p.m.

Road to Resurrection

Parishes in the Greater Scranton area will present a Road to Resurrection series during the Lenten season, with Father Joseph Sica serving as homilist for each of the six weekly offerings to be hosted at various parishes.

The series, which opens March 7, will be held on consecutive Thursday evenings, beginning each week at 7 p.m.

Road to Resurrection schedule is as follows:

March 7 — Saint Ann's Basilica, West Scranton; **March 14** — Saint Patrick Church, West Scranton; **March 21** — Holy Rosary Church (Mary, Mother of God Parish), North Scranton; **March 28** — Saint Paul Church, Green Ridge section; **April 4** — Immaculate Conception Church, Hill section; **April 11** — Saint Peter's Cathedral, downtown Scranton.

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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 Respetto 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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Spiritual Offerings Around the Diocese

Evening of Prayer with the Sisters of IHM — MARCH 13, 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 (top of University Ave., beyond Marywood University). All are welcome. For more information, call (570-346-5404).

Meeting of Lay Carmelites — MARCH 16, 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 (570-209-4552).

Lenten Rosary Devotion — MARCH 18, hosted by the Oblates

of St. Joseph and the Diocesan Sacred Heart Enthronement Guild; evening of Marian devotion begins at 6 p.m. in the chapel of St. Joseph's Oblate Seminary, Route 315, Laflin (Pittston). Lenten prayer service includes recitation of the Rosary, sung Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Fatima prayers, Lenten hymns, and Litany of the Precious Blood. Music provided by Ernie Pappa; all faithful welcome.

Women's Lenten Retreat — MARCH 30, hosted by the Women's Society of SS. Peter & Paul Parish in Plains; held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the parish center. Retreat theme: "The Last Seven Words of Jesus." Guest moderators: Deacon Bill Behm, parish life coordinator at St. Andrew Parish, Wilkes-Barre, and his wife Jean. Cost: \$25 per person, includes con-

tinental breakfast and lunch. Open to all women. For registration, call Irene Martin at (570-825-4464) prior to March 23.

Healing Mass Celebration — MARCH 31, sponsored by the Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary Enthronement Guild; Healing Mass celebrated at 3 p.m. in the chapel of St. Joseph's Oblate Seminary, Route 315, Laflin. Includes anointing and prayers for healing; celebrant: St. Joseph Oblate Father Joseph Sibillano, seminary director. Music ministry provided by the Sacred Heart Singers, directed by Ernie Pappa, with musical prelude at 2:30 p.m. All faithful welcome.

Ministry Formation Skills Workshop Series: "Pray & Proclaim!" — APRIL 6, sponsored by the Diocese of Scranton Office for Parish Life; first series program offered from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at St. Monica Parish, West Wyoming. Guest presenters: Dr. Maria Poggi Johnson, professor of theology and religious studies at the University of Scranton; and Kitty Scanlan, Diocesan coordinator for Lay Ministry Formation. For more information, call Kitty Scanlan (570-207-2213); to register, visit: dioceseofscranton.org.



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AOH 'Parading' to Help Hungry

SCRANTON — For the sixth consecutive year, the Scranton Division 6 of the Ancient Order of Hibernians will conduct a "Food Drive" in conjunction with the annual Saint Patrick's Parade in downtown Scranton, which will be held this year on Saturday, March 9.

AOH volunteers will walk the parade line to collect any monetary and food donations to benefit the area's hungry poor.

According to organizers, all food donations and money collected during the 2019 drive will be contributed to the nearby Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen and Food Pantry.

Also, the second collection to be taken up at the Saint Patrick's Parade Day Mass celebrated prior to the parade at 10 a.m. in Saint Peter's Cathedral will benefit the Saint Francis apostolates.

Anyone attending the Mass and parade is asked to bring a non-perishable food item.



**March
2019**

**Eucharistic Adoration - Speaker - Praise
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**Monday, March 11, 6:30 PM --
Saint Nicholas Parish, 226 South Washington St.,
Wilkes-Barre**

**Monday, March 25, 6:30 PM --
Saint Boniface Parish, 326 Washington
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MARCH SCHEDULE

CTV LOCAL ORIGATION IS BOXED IN BOLD BORDER, OTHER PROGRAMMING IS FROM EWTN

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
12:00 AM	CATHOLICISM	SUNDAY MASS (Encore)	DAILY MASS (Encore)				FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	
1:00 AM	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	(1:10AM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	THE JOURNEY HOME (Encore)	MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE CLASSICS	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	THE WORLD OVER (Encore)	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY	
1:30 AM	GRANDPARENTS	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Encore)					G.K. CHESTERTON
2:00 AM	ICONS SPOTLIGHT							
2:30 AM	CATHOLIC ANSWERS LIVE		EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	
3:00 AM	EWTN ON LOCATION	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY	CATHOLICISM	REAL LIFE CATHOLIC	LIFE ON THE ROCK	BATTLE READY	CONSECRATION TO JESUS THROUGH MARY	
3:30AM		DEFENDING LIFE		CONSUMING THE WORD	SAINTS VS SCOUNDRELS	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOG	YOU'RE AMAZING	
4:00 AM	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	HOLY HOUR FOR HEALING AND JUSTICE	HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH	FUNDAMENTALS OF CATHOLICISM	BOB AND PENNY LORD PRESENT	WEB OF FAITH 2.0	SAVORING OUR FAITH	
4:30 AM			BEAUTY COMING ALIVE	PAPAL	FORGOTTEN HERITAGE	LIFE IS WORTH LIVING	EXTRAORDINARY FAITH	
5:00 AM	FR. RUTLER: CHRIST IN THE CITY	EWTN BOOKMARK	THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL	AUDIENCE(5:40AM)	EWTN SPECIALS	LIVING RIGHT WITH	CATHOLIC BEGINNINGS	
5:30 AM	GRANDPARENTS	A FORCE FOR GOOD	APOSTOLATE FOR FAMILY CONSECRATION	ANGELUS FROM NAZARETH(5:40AM)		DR. RAY	CATHOLICS COME HOME	
6:00 AM	ANGELUS WITH POPE FRANCIS	EWTN ORIGINAL PRODUCTIONS						
6:30 AM	WHERE GOD WEEPS	G.K. CHESTERTON	CHURCH AND THE POOR	MATTHEW'S TESTIMONY TO	ICONS SPOTLIGHT	THE CHOICES WE FACE	SAINTS vs. SCOUNDRELS	
7:00 AM	THE CHAPLET OF ST. MICHAEL					STATIONS OF THE CROSS	CHAPLET OF ST. MICHAEL	
7:30 AM	ROSARY FROM LOURDES	HOLY LAND ROSARY					THE HOLY ROSARY FROM LOURDES	
7:50 AM		LITANY OF LORETO	LITANY OF THE HOLY NAME	LITANY OF ST. JOSEPH	LITANY OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD	PAPAL AUDIENCE		
8:00 AM	SUNDAY MASS (Live)	DAILY MASS (Live)						
9:00 AM	(9:10AM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	SUNDAY BEST WITH FR. GROESCHEL	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION (ENCORE)	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	THE WORLD OVER (Encore)	HERMIE & FRIENDS	
9:30 AM	EWTN BOOKMARK	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE					STORIES FROM THE BIBLE	
10:00 AM	PRO LIFE WEEKLY	MOTHER ANGELICA	LIVE WITH PASSION	CTV SPECIAL	FOCUS	WEEKLY NOVENA TO ST. ANN	LENTE REFLECTION	
10:30 AM	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY	LIVE CLASSICS	FAMILY THEATER	PRESENTATION	FOCUS	FOCUS	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY	
11:00 AM	FUNDAMENTALS OF CATHOLICISM	WOMEN OF GRACE						BOB & PENNY LORD PRESENT
11:30 AM	HOLY ROSARY FROM LOURDES	THE CHOICES WE FACE	WEEKLY NOVENA TO ST. ANN	MUSIC AND THE SPOKEN WORD	MASTERPIECE DONUT SHOP	STATIONS OF THE CROSS	HOLY ROSARY FROM LOURDES	
12:00 PM	SUNDAY MASS (Encore)	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, LIVE AT 12:10 p.m. "DIOCESAN DATEBOOK" airs before and after Mass.						EWTN DAILY MASS (Encore)
12:30PM	(1:10PM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	PRO LIFE WEEKLY	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	FAMILY MATTERS	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY TOTAL	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE	
1:30 PM	IN CONCERT	SAINTS FOR TODAY	FORGOTTEN HERITAGE	SPECIALS	SAINTS ALIVE	CONSECRATION TO JESUS THRU MARY	EWTN BOOKMARK	
2:00 PM		CALLLED TO COMMUNION	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION	FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	THE JOURNEY HOME	SPECIALS	EWTN ON LOCATION	
2:30 PM								
3:00 PM	THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY IN SONG							
3:20 PM	REFLECTIONS	ROME'S HIDDEN CHURCHES	REFLECTIONS	ROME'S HIDDEN CHURCHES	REFLECTIONS	ROME'S HIDDEN CHURCHES	REFLECTIONS	
3:30 PM	THE HOLY ROSARY IN STAINED GLASS	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, (Encore)						ROSARY FOR LIFE
4:00 PM	GRAB YOUR CATECHISM	THE HOLY ROSARY DIOCESAN DATEBOOK						CALLLED TO COMMUNION
4:30 PM	LENTE REFLECTION	IMAGE OF GOD	MY TIME WITH JESUS	CHILDRENS SPECIALS	CAT CHAT	WAY OF THE CROSS FOR KIDS	CATHOLIC ANSWERS LIVE	
5:00 PM	THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL	EWTN BOOKMARK	THE CHOICES WE FACE	CONVERSATIONS FROM THE WORLD OVER SHOW	BOB & PENNY LORD PRESENT	A FORCE FOR GOOD	CONSUMING THE WORD	
5:30 PM	PASSIONIST SUNDAY MASS	SPECIALS						FUNDAMENTALS OF CATHOLICISM
6:00 PM	HOLY HOUR FOR HEALING AND JUSTICE	EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Live)						CHURCH AND POOR
6:30 PM	THE JOURNEY HOME	CATHOLICS COME HOME	REAL LIFE	CHURCH UNIVERSAL	TBA			DAILY MASS
7:00 PM		THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, (Encore)						
7:30PM		THE HOLY ROSARY	POPE'S AUDIENCE	THE HOLY ROSARY				
8:00 PM	SUNDAY BEST WITH FR. GROESCHEL	THE JOURNEY HOME (Live)	CTV SPECIAL PRESENTATION	EWTN LIVE	THE WORLD OVER (Live)	SPECIALS	EWTN CINEMA	
8:30 PM	CATHOLICS COME HOME	EWTN NIGHTLY NEWS (Encore)		EWTN NIGHTLY NEWS (Encore)				
9:00 PM	LIFE ON THE ROCK	WEEKLY NOVENA TO ST. ANN	THE CHOICES WE FACE	FOCUS	LIVE WITH PASSION	STATIONS OF THE CROSS		
9:30 PM	HOLY ROSARY W MOTHER ANGELICA	THE WORLD OVER LIVE (ENCORE)	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION (ENCORE)	FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	PRO-LIFE WEEKLY DEFENDING LIFE	LIFE ON THE ROCK	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY	
10:00PM	EWTN SPECIALS	BATTLE READY	THE CARPENTER'S SHOP	CROSSING THE GOAL	LONG RIDE HOME	REAL LIFE CATHOLIC	WEB OF FAITH 2.0	
10:30 PM		CATHOLIC BEGINNINGS						LENT: A SEASON OF GRACE
11:00PM	CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN	WOMEN OF GRACE						
11:30PM								

Editorial Eulogy: Monsignor McGarry

Continued from Page 19

His hero Saint John XXIII wrote, “the substance of the ancient doctrine of the deposit of faith is one thing, and the way in which it is presented is another,” and that the Church “must ever look to the present, to the new conditions and new forms of life introduced into the modern world which have opened new avenues to the Catholic apostolate.”

He recognized the universal priesthood of all the baptized was foundation and inspiration to his call to sacred orders, not its weak reflection.

Jim believed that he did not speak this very Word (Scripture) through his own initiative, but because of the grace he received through the sacramental action of the Church, in and through all of you!

Now, in Jim’s final moments that were defined in so many ways by his loss of balance and mobility, the loss of executive cognition, the loss of freedom, I believe his spiritual life became even more enhanced. I read recently that research and science show that despite the confusion and loss caregivers see in loved ones, they still are greatly aware of God. The dementia cannot fully remove a person’s spirituality and could in theory enhance it.

When we are paralyzed by fear or illness, locked behind the closed doors of our broken spirit and dimmed minds, God still comes, stands inside our fears and

paralysis, and breathes out peace! There is no place where Jesus cannot, will not be!

This is the baptismal joy Jim shared in all his life as son, brother, uncle, priest, pastor and friend. He remained persistent in living life fully and with a sincerity and tenderness that makes saying farewell all that more difficult.

Jim’s legacy for all of us is so authentic. In all final judgments, including our own, we receive not only the benefits of our labor and our learning, but more importantly the bounty of our love. Jim taught us all that EXTRAVAGANT...AGAPE LOVE is the greatest gift.

With the many pieces of Jim’s life in front of us — gathered at this very Table of the Word and Eucharist, where, by the way, his parish ministry began and ended — listen again carefully

“But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives, and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust, and from my flesh I shall see God” (*Job 19:25-26*);

“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (*Romans 8:38-39*).

Untie him and let him go free!

Excerpted from the homily by Father John M. Lapera at the Mass of Christian Burial celebrated for Monsignor James J. McGarry on February 19 at Our Lady of the Snows Church in Clarks Summit.

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Keynote speaker Seth Drayer captures the attention of the hundreds in attendance at this year's Scranton PHL Prayer Breakfast February 2.

Referring to the recent passage of expansive abortion legislation in New York State, and a similarly proposed law in Virginia, the leader of a pro-life education and outreach organization urged people to speak the truth about abortion.

"If we go out of our comfort zones, God's love will change them," said Seth Drayer, vice president of Created Equal. "We have a great opportunity now to reach those who are on the fence."

Mr. Drayer gave his address to a crowd of approximately 500

people attending the 36th Annual Respect Life Prayer Breakfast at Fiorelli's Catering in Peckville. The breakfast is sponsored by the Scranton Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life.

Mr. Drayer said he knows many are disheartened by the passage of the "Reproductive Health Act" in New York.

Under the RHA, any health care practitioner is permitted to perform an abortion using his or her "professional judgment" if "the patient is within 24 weeks from the commencement of preg-

nancy, or there is an absence of fetal viability, or the abortion is necessary to protect the patient's life or health."

"If we defend babies and their parents as far as spiritual service to our Father, great things will come. God expects his people to be bothered about injustice," Mr. Drayer said.

Father Jeffrey J. Walsh, Episcopal Vicar for Clergy of the Diocese of Scranton, said he has been challenged to remain true to his pro-life conviction by those dedicated to life, especially the many young members of the "pro-life generation."

"As I pray about the issue of abortion in particular, it immediately becomes clear that it is a fundamental matter for individuals and for society to get it right," Father Walsh said.

The breakfast also honored Helen Gohsler, president of Pennsylvanians for Human Life, Scranton Chapter, who has served as president since 1982. Mrs. Gohsler plans to retire this year.

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Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese

Weekly Lenten Pierogi Sale

— **MARCH 1-APRIL 12**, sponsored by St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Moscow; weekly pick-up of advanced orders of homemade frozen pierogi every Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the church hall. Cost: \$7.50 per order (baker's dozen). To order, call Jan (570-499-6193); Mary Ann (570-842-4960); Betty Ann (570-842-6195); or the rectory office (570-842-4561).

Mardi Gras Celebration

— **MARCH 2**, sponsored by St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport; held from 7:30 p.m. to midnight in the Fleming Center, 720 West Fourth St. Event includes dinner and dancing. Cost: \$20 per person (in advance) or \$25 (at door); \$150 for table of eight (in advance). For more information & reservations, call (570-323-9456).

Great Basket Raffle & Chili Cook-Off/Salsa Competition

— **MARCH 2**, hosted by Most Holy Trinity Parish in Cresco; held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Monsignor McHugh Elementary School, Route 390, Cresco. Event includes taste-tasting contest, beginning at 12 noon, for local entries of chili and salsa dishes;

live musical entertainment, Knights of Columbus-sponsored video horse racing games, raffle drawing and children's activities, including face-painting and magician. Admission cost: \$5; other foods and drinks available for purchase. Giant basket raffle held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (when calling begins) in the school cafeteria. Anyone interested in sponsoring or entering the cook-off competition for prizes, call (570-242-2431) or (570-595-7463).

Night at the Races

— **MARCH 2**, 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 6 p.m.; races start at 7 p.m. Includes food and beverages. Admission fee: \$5 (must be at least 21 years of age to attend). For more information, including horse sponsorships and tickets, call (570-823-4988).

54th Annual "German Nite" Celebration

— **MARCH 2**, hosted by St. Nicholas Parish in Wilkes-Barre; begins at 6 p.m. in the school auditorium, 240 South Washington St., Wilkes-Barre. Featuring German-style dinner, including pork & sauerkraut, chicken francaise, bratwurst, mashed potatoes, halushki, green beans and beverages, served from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.; beverages served throughout the evening. Musical entertainment provided from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. by The Schutzengigles Oompah Band, a traditional seven-piece German ensemble. Cost: \$30 per person. Advance reservations only; no tickets sold at the door. Tickets available at the rectory office or by calling (570-823-7736).

Parish Bake Sale

— **MARCH 2 & 3**, sponsored by the Council of Catholic Women of St. Benedict Parish, 155 Austin Ave., Parsons section of Wilkes-Barre; sale of baked items will be held in the church hall before and after the 5:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday and the 11:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday.

Lenten Weekend Food Sale

— **MARCH 2-APRIL 14**, sponsored by SS. Peter & Paul Parish, 1309 W. Locust St., West Scranton; pierogi and clam chowder sold throughout Lent before and after all weekend Masses (Saturday, 4 p.m. & Sunday, 11 a.m.). Cost: pierogi, \$7 per dozen; clam chowder, \$7 per quart. To place orders, call the rectory office at (570-343-7015).

Ash Wednesday Fish Dinner

— **MARCH 6**, sponsored by St. Andre Bessette Parish in Wilkes-Barre; served from 4 to 6 p.m. in the parish's Father Zolcinski Hall, 668 North Main St., Wilkes-Barre (take-out orders available). Cost: \$10 per dinner. Advance sales only; to obtain tickets, call Mary at (570-823-4988). All proceeds benefit the Parish Social Justice Ministry.

Lenten Family Dinner & Movie Nights

— **MARCH 8 & 22**, sponsored by St. Peter's Cathedral; held in the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave., Scranton. Evenings begin with fellowship and light meal at 5:30 p.m., followed by movie presentation and refreshments at 7 p.m. Featured movies include "Joan of Arc" and "Clare and Francis." Offering: \$10 per person. For reservations, visit: www.stpeterscathedral.org; for more information, call the Cathedral office at (570-344-7231).

Continued on next page

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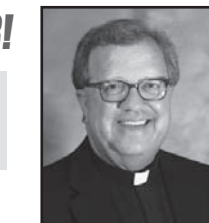
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Bowl For Kids' Sake Events Set

Big Brothers Big Sisters of The Bridge will host its annual Bowl For Kids' Sake events on two dates this year.

The bowl-a-thon fundraisers will take place on Saturday, March 30, at Skyland Bowling Center in East Stroudsburg; Bowl Arena in Hazleton; and Fritz's Lanes and Pro Shop in Lehighton.

On Saturday, April 13, the event will be held at Chacko's Family Bowling Center in Wilkes-Barre; P-Nut Bowl in Bloomsburg; and Faxon Lanes in Williamsport.

Bowl For Kids' Sake serves as the biggest annual fundraiser for the Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring program.

To register a team, visit www.bbbsnepa.org/bfks2019. To sponsor a lane, call (570) 824-8756, ex.3308.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of The Bridge is a program of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton.

Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese

Annual Ham & Cabbage Dinner — **MARCH 9**, sponsored by Holy Family Parish in Sugar Notch; dinner served from 4 to 7 p.m. in the church hall, 828 Main St. (take-out orders available from 3 p.m.). Event also includes raffle drawing and sale of homemade Easter eggs. Dinner cost: adults, \$10; children (under age 12), \$5. Tickets available at the door. For more information, contact the rectory office (570-822-8983).

Lenten Friday Food Sale — **MARCH 15**, sponsored by Nativity of Our Lord Parish in Duryea; hosted from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Sacred Heart of Jesus Hall, 529 Stephenson St., Duryea. Featured food items include homemade red clam chowder and seafood bisque, homemade pierogi (prepared or frozen), halushki, pizza, and a bake sale. Both eat-in and take-out service provided. For more information, call the rectory office (570-457-3502).

Lenten Take-Out Soup Sale — **MARCH 15 & 29**, sponsored by St. Peter's Cathedral; held from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave., Scranton. Pick-up of Manhattan clam chowder and butternut squash bisque on March 15; New

England clam chowder and cream of broccoli soup on March 29. Cost: \$8 per quart. Advance orders encouraged; contact the Cathedral at www.stpeterscathedral.org or call (570-344-7231).

St. Patrick's Day Extravaganza — **MARCH 16**, hosted by St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport; held from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. in the Fleming Center, 720 West Fourth St. Cost: \$15 per person (in advance) or \$20 (at door). Includes all-you-can-eat Irish buffet, beverages, and musical entertainment/dancing. For more information & reservations, call (570-323-9456).

Lenten Friday Fish Fry — **MARCH 22**, sponsored by the Holy Cross Men's Club of Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, 420 Main Road, Buttonwood, Hanover Twp.; eat-in or take-out service offered from 3 to 7 p.m. in the church hall. Dinner cost: \$9, includes fish, macaroni & cheese, cole slaw, stewed tomatoes and applesauce; children's macaroni & cheese portion: \$2. For more

information/tickets, call (610-844-2382).

Penny Auction — **MARCH 24**, sponsored by the Reginas of King's College, Wilkes-Barre; held from 2 to 4 p.m. on the third floor of the Sheehy Farmer Campus Center (doors open at 1:30 p.m.). Admission fee: \$2. All proceeds benefit scholarship fund for area King's students. For more information, call Maureen Finnerty (570-288-8706).

Spring Chicken Dinner — **MARCH 24**, sponsored by Queen of the Apostles Parish in Avoca; serving from 12 noon to 4 p.m. in the parish hall, 742 Spring St., Avoca. Event will also feature cash and theme basket raffles. Dinner includes half chicken, mashed potatoes/gravy, vegetable, cole slaw, dinner rolls, homemade dessert and beverages; take-out orders available 11 a.m. to noon. Dinner cost: adults, \$12; children (age 12 & under), \$8. Advance tickets may be purchased by contacting the parish office (570-457-3412). Tickets will also be available at the door.



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CSS Substance Abuse Workshop

Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton will host a free, six-week informational workshop on substance abuse from March 19 through April 23.

The goal of the workshop is to help family members learn more about substance abuse in order to better support, assist and understand family members battling a substance abuse problem.

Topics will include: "Use vs. Abuse," "What is Addiction?" "Co-Dependency and Enabling," "How Families Can Help Themselves" and "How Families Can Help Others Seek Help."

The workshops will be offered on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Catholic Social Services, 33 E. Northampton St. Wilkes-Barre. Dates include: March 19, March 26, April 2, April 9, April 16 and April 23.

Seating is limited. To register, call (570) 829-3489, ext. 3323, or e-mail smjones@csswb.org.

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<p>SUMMER SPLASH RIU - NEGRIL JAMAICA JUNE 20-27</p> <p>\$1499 PP</p> <p>All-Inclusive, Best Beach in Jamaica!!!</p>	<p>SPECIAL EUROPEAN CRUISE PLUS ROME & BARCELONA NORWEGIAN EPIC NOVEMBER 3-11</p> <p>\$2599 PP</p> <p>Visit Italy-France & Spain</p>
<p>NEW ORLEANS MAY 13-17</p> <p>\$1299 PP</p> <p>Stay at the Luxury Maison Dupuy Hotel Lot's of Inclusions! "Stay in the French Quarter"</p>	<p>THE ORIGINAL BROOKLYN PIZZA TOUR Sunday May 19 or Sunday June 9</p> <p>\$109 PP</p> <p>Bus-Brooklyn Tour & Coney Island Visit 2-Pizza Places #1 Day Trip Tour!!!!</p>
<p>3-DAY SUMMER IN NIAGARA FALLS JUNE 23-25</p> <p>\$349 PP</p> <p>"Stay on the Canadian Side"</p>	<p>435 Green Ridge Street Scranton, Pa. 18509 570-342-5790</p>

All Arrangements by: **TRAVELWORLD**
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Father James J. Walsh and the Parish Community Cordially invite All

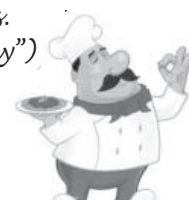


HOMEMADE PASTA & SAUSAGE DINNER

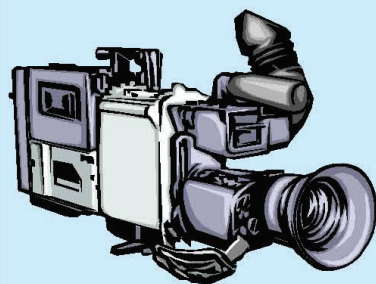
Saint Maria Goretti Church
Phone: 570-655-8956
Laflin Road, Laflin, PA 18702
website: www.stmariagoretti-laflin.org

SUNDAY, March 10, 2019
NOON TO 5:00 PM (eat-in)
NOON TO 4:00 PM (take-outs)
Includes Salad, Beverage, Dessert, Bread & Butter
(containers will be provided for take outs.
(Children 5 yrs. & under: free - "Eat in Only")
Donation \$12.00

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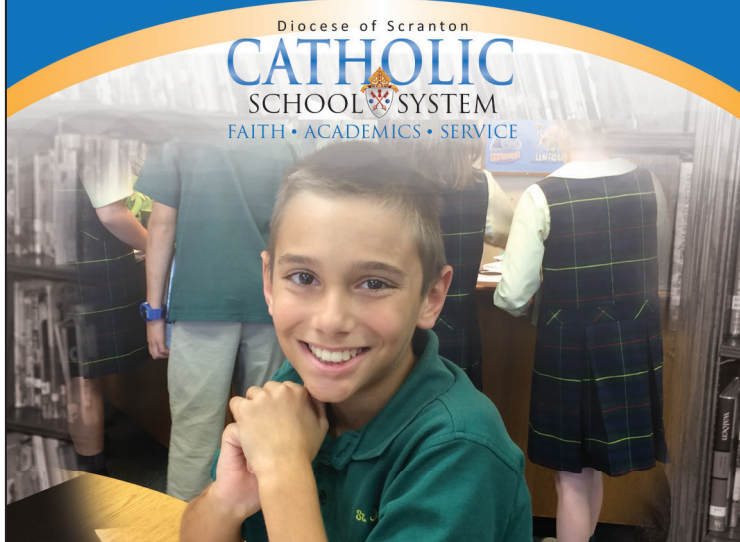
The Diocese of Scranton’s website includes video of certain programs broadcast by CTV: Catholic Television. The programs include the Daily Mass from St. Peter’s Cathedral, the monthly news program “Our Faith, Our Diocese” and other special programs. To watch the videos, go to www.dioceseofscranton.org.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

The Catholic Light

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Join us with a gift
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so that our Diocesan Ministries may continue
to fully serve all who come to us in need.



Diocese of Scranton
**2018 DIOCESAN
ANNUAL APPEAL**
**THE JOURNEY
MAKES US ONE**

Your donations to the Annual Appeal are used solely
to support the following five Diocesan Ministries.*

- 1. Catholic Social Services & Social Justice Grants** ...promote human dignity by meeting life’s most basic needs for more than 300,000 people annually.
- 2. Catholic Education in Schools & Parishes...** passes on the faith to nearly 20,000 students in Diocesan schools and parish education programs.
- 3. Clergy Education & Care...** funds seminarian and Deacon education, provides for our retired and ill priests and funds discernment programs.
- 4. Parish Life & Ministry Formation...** serves our parishes by fostering vibrant faith communities and offering programs to cultivate the “Young Church.”
- 5. Catholic Media & Communications...** shares the Gospel through *The Catholic Light*, the Diocesan website, and Catholic TV which offers broadcasts of the Daily Mass and produces local programming.

To Share Your Blessings:

- Call the Development Office at 570-207-2250 for a pledge or gift by credit card
- Go online at www.AnnualAppeal.org or
- Mail your check to Diocesan Appeal Office, 300 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA 18503

* Gifts to the Appeal will not be used to defray legal fees or to fund the Survivors Compensation Program.