



March 2019

GoodNewsNotes

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

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Ash Wednesday
March 6, 2019

Rite of Election
Sunday, March 10, 2019
at 2:30PM
Cathedral of Saint Peter

The Light Is ON for You
Mondays in Lent
from 5:30—7:00PM



In Good Company

**A Retreat for Directors of Religious
Education and Youth Ministers**

April 5-6, 2019

Directors of Religious Education and Youth Ministers are invited to take part in an overnight retreat during Lent at the Diocesan Pastor Center in Scranton. The retreat will have three parts:

Friday, April 5, 6:00 – 10:00 pm

DREs and Youth Ministers will gather for prayer and reflection on the theme, “In Good Company.” Building on the relationships created among parish leaders, DREs and Youth Ministers are better equipped to nurture the young people entrusted to them. Light refreshments will be served. There will be no charge for Friday evening.

Overnight (optional)

Accommodations will be provided by Microtel Inn & Suites by Wyndham, Dickson City. A discounted rate is available for those who wish to stay in the Scranton area overnight.

Saturday, April 6, 9:30 am – 2:30 pm.

DREs and Youth Ministers will join other parish and school leaders for “Accompanying Youth on Their Journey of Faith and Discernment” led by the Center for Ministry Development.

The workshop explores ways to help youth pray and discern their vocation. Topics include:

- ◆ Accompany Young People Today
- ◆ Becoming a Faith Companion
- ◆ Helping Youth Pray, Discern and Explore their Vocation

The workshop will include practical ideas and starting points within these topics and explore the ministry implications for youth ministry, catechesis, sacramental preparation, and parish life. It is designed for all parish leaders whose ministries touch the lives of adolescents – including pastors, parish life coordinators, deacons, pastoral associates, coordinators of youth ministry, leaders in faith formation and catechists, Confirmation preparation leaders, Catholic School teachers and service/social concerns leaders. Cost for the day (including lunch): \$50.00. **To register, please visit the diocesan website at www.dioceseofscranton.org.**



Ash Wednesday Retreat

The Office for Parish Life will offer a Retreat on Ash Wednesday, March 6, 2019 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. The faithful of the Diocese are invited to share in this day of prayer.

Fr. Joseph F. Sica will offer the retreat in three parts with time for reflection and personal prayer. The day will include the 12:10 p.m. Mass celebrated in St. Peter's Cathedral with distribution of ashes. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available prior to Mass, and lunch will be served after Mass.

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

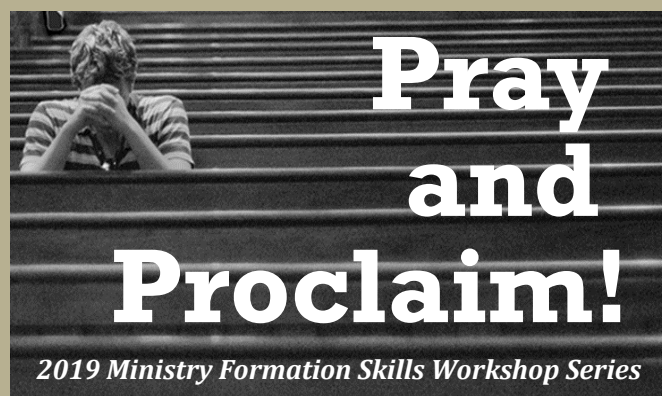
Echoes of Faith Information Night

Mary Anne Malone will offer an **introduction to the Echoes of Faith program on Wednesday, March 27 from 6:30 to 8:00p.m. at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton** for anyone who is interested in online Adult Faith Formation. It is especially valuable for parish catechists who want to earn a Certificate as a Master Catechist. You will learn how easy it is to get started in Echoes of Faith. You will be able to preview the modules that are offered, and learn how to navigate through the program.

Created by the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) and published by RCL Benziger, Echoes of Faith is an online education program offering basic adult formation in the Catholic Faith. With fourteen modules divided into three categories, the Echoes of Faith Learning Center can be used for parish Adult Faith Formation and for Basic Catechist Certification. It is also one way to complete the pre-requisites for the Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry. Contact Mary Anne Malone: Mary-Anne-Malone@dioceseofscranton.org or 570-207-2213, ext. 1100, to register.

Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation

Looking to learn more about your faith, or gain enrichment for your parish ministry? Members of the faithful across the Diocese of Scranton are invited to consider taking a course through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation! Cycle 2 Session dates run from March 10—April 13, 2019. Registration is now open and closes March 6. [Click here](#) to view the Course Calendar for 2019 or visit <https://vlcff.udayton.edu/> and click 'calendar.'



**Saturday, April 6, 2019,
from 9:00AM-2:30PM
St. Monica Parish, West Wyoming**

***Presented by
Dr. Maria Poggi Johnson and Kitty Scanlan***

Dr. Maria Poggi Johnson will give introduction to basic public speaking techniques, and provide opportunity for participants to try out these methods.

Kitty Scanlan will discuss topics such as: Why do we pray? How do we pray? What are some ideas and resources for planning prayer with groups, or in the classroom? The ways in which ministers cultivate spirituality outside of the Mass not only enriches Sunday worship but can bring the reality of God into our everyday lived experience.

Dr. Poggi Johnson is a professor of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Scranton.

Kitty Scanlan is the Coordinator for Lay Ministry Formation for the Diocese of Scranton in the Office for Parish Life.

**For more information
contact Kitty Scanlan at 570-207-2213.
To register, visit www.dioceseofscranton.org.**

Bold Choices Retreat: Finding Your Passion and Living It Fully

A 24-hour retreat for young adults (18-35) that includes presentations and interactive sessions on prayer, making choices based in faith, finding your passion, the art of discernment, small group discussions & more.

**Friday, April 12-Saturday, April 13
Registration: \$65
For more information and/or to register,
visit vocations.dioceseofscranton.org.**

Intercultural Music Ministry Workshop

Saturday, March 30, 2019

at Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Wilkes-Barre

Invite your music directors, instrumentalists, cantors and choir members to join us for an Intercultural Music Ministry Workshop on Saturday, March 30 at Our Lady of Fatima Parish, 134 S. Washington St., Wilkes-Barre. Damaris Thillet, Director of Worship for the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, will be leading the day workshop designed for pastors, liturgical coordinators and music ministers serving in parishes with Hispanic and Latino populations. Topics will include:



- ♦ Liturgical formation of music ministers
- ♦ Planning music suitable for the liturgy as envisioned by the church document, *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship*
- ♦ Preparing bilingual liturgical celebrations that are truly intercultural

A native of Puerto Rico, Damaris Thillet studied at Temple University in Philadelphia. She frequently collaborated with her late husband, Diego Correa, in music ministry. As a team, they served the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Camden, New Jersey, for many years. Serving as the northeast regional representative for the Instituto Nacional Hispano de Liturgia, Damaris is also one of the founders and current president of the East Coast Hispanic Pastoral Musicians Association. During the 2016 United States visit by Pope Francis, she was invited to lead the Spanish choir at a Mass to close the World Meeting of Families.

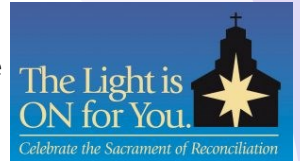
The cost for the day is \$30.00 and includes lunch. To register, please contact Luis Rivera, Coordinator for Parish Cultural Integration, at 507-207-2213 or at lrivera@dioceseofscranton.org.

Rite of Election

The **Rite of Election** will be celebrated by Bishop **Bambera on Sunday, March 10 at 2:30PM** (please note the change in time from previous years). If you have not yet registered your catechumens and candidates, please do so as soon as possible by visiting the diocesan website, www.dioceseofscranton.org, [Parish Life](#), [Christian Initiation & Sacraments](#).

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 7:00 p.m. so that Catholics can come to or return to this incredible source of God's grace, mercy and healing. [Parish resources](#) can be found on the diocesan website.



Evening of Reflection for Music Ministers

The Scranton Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians will hold a meeting on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 beginning at 6:00PM at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish located at 116 Hughes St., Swoyersville. The topic for the evening will be "Making Music in a Beautiful yet Wounded World: An Evening of Reflection on the Season of Lent" led by Sr. Chris Koellhoffer, IHM.



The season of Lent invites us to accompany Jesus as he lives today in a world both beautiful and broken. He calls us to create with our lives new art, songs that speak to both the pain and the promise of our times. Join us this evening with Sr. Chris as we reflect together on being bearers of hope and healing in a world full of madness and mayhem, but also music.

The meeting begins with dinner at 6:00PM, followed by the presentation at 7:00PM, and concludes with Night Prayer. All are welcome to attend. There is no cost for the event, but a free-will offering will be taken up to help offset the cost of dinner. To register, please [click here](#) or visit www.ScrantonNPM.com or contact David Baloga at 570-207-2213 ext. 1158 by March 8th.

Evening of Reflection for Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

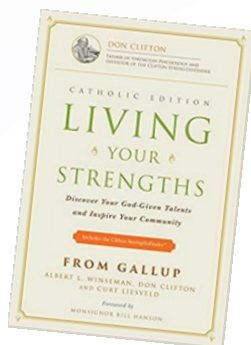
St. Leo Parish in Ashley will be holding an Evening of Reflection for Extraordinary Ministers of Communion on Wednesday, April 3 beginning at 6:00PM. The theme of the evening will be "*The Body of Christ: Our Identity and Purpose*" and will be led by David Baloga, Director for Worship in the Office for Parish Life. To register, please contact St. Leo Parish at 570-825-6669.

COMMUNITY

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

Living Your Strengths Workshops Coming Soon!

Do you envision a parish community in which every member is valued for his or her unique gifts and talents? Could your parish benefit from having parishioners serve in ways they enjoy and in which they can do a great job? Would you like to see parishioner engagement move from a 'slots to fill' approach into a strengths-based ministry approach?



When parish members serve in the ministries that are well-suited to their God-given unique strengths and abilities, a dramatic shift in parishioner engagement can occur. In order to help facilitate strengths-based parishioner engagement, the Office for Parish Life will be offering Living Your Strengths Workshops beginning in early 2019. These workshops can help your parishioners identify their unique strengths, and explore the ways in which those strengths can be used to best serve the parish community. A workshop can also serve to help your ministry teams learn how the strengths of each team member can complement and enhance the strengths of those with whom they serve. This knowledge can lead to greater understanding, appreciation, and productivity within ministry teams.

To learn more about Living Your Strengths Workshops, or to schedule a workshop for your parish group, please contact Jennifer Housel, Director for Community and Family Development, (570) 207-2213 x 1104, jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org.

Couples Invited To Participate in Wedding Anniversary Celebration

On June 30, 2019 Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will celebrate the Wedding Anniversary Mass at 2:30 p.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, for couples celebrating their 25th or 50th year of marriage in 2019. This is an occasion to recognize the role married couples play in the Church's mission to bring God's faithful love into the world. Couples will have the opportunity to renew their commitment to marriage and to receive a blessing on their marriage from the Bishop. A reception will follow in the Diocesan Pastoral Center, where anniversary couples will be able to have their picture taken with the Bishop. Eligible couples should give their names and an April mailing address to their parish office before April 2. Parish lists are due to the Office for Parish Life by April 9.



Worldwide Marriage Encounter Share Group

Have you attended a Marriage Encounter Weekend?

Would you like to gather with other WWME alumni in a small group sharing community?

Would you like to extend an invitation for others to join a current WWME Share Group?

There is a new WWME Share Group being hosted by John and Joanie Walsh of St. Lucy's Parish. If your spouse and you have attended a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend, gathering with a WWME Share Group could be a great way to extend the benefits of the Weekend for your marriage. If you would like to attend this gathering in the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre area, please contact John or Joanie at (719) 339-9970, joaniewalsh528@hotmail.com.



If you are already involved with a WWME Share Group in the Diocese of Scranton, and would like your group to be listed on our Marriage Support webpage so that others might join you, please contact Jennifer Housel, Director of Community and Family Development, (570) 207-2213 x 1104, jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org

Worldwide Marriage Encounter



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
SPEAKER
PRAISE & WORSHIP MUSIC
RECONCILIATION
SOCIAL

Monday, March 11—6:30-8:30PM

Saint Nicholas Parish,
226 S. Washington St., Wilkes-Barre (lower church)

Monday, March 25—6:30-8:30PM

Saint Boniface Parish
326 Washington Boulevard, Williamsport

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

"I CALL us to be servant leaders who engage in SERVICE to our neighbors near and far and who work for justice and stewardship to hasten the Reign of God."

SERVICE

Postcard Campaign Update

During the months of January and February, we collected more than 2,000 postcards from more than 50 parishes across the diocese. During these months, we have met with several staffers in district offices to deliver our postcards and talk about our pro-life commitments on behalf of the Diocese. There are only a few more meetings left! If you are interested in joining our Advocacy Team in delivering these postcards to your Congressional Representative in District 7 or 8, please contact Katy Windels at the Office for Parish Life. Thank you for your personal advocacy efforts on these issues!

Theology on Tap

The next Diocesan Theology on Tap event will be held on Monday, March 11 from 7-9 PM at Sabatini's Bottleshop in Exeter, PA. Glenn Willis, Ph.D., a professor of theology at Misericordia University, will be speaking on the topic of "The Devil You Know: A Lenten Reflection on the Problem of Evil." All young adults ages 21-40 are welcome to attend. There will be a suggested donation of \$7 to cover food and soft drinks. Contact Katy Windels or Shannon Kowalski at 570-207-2213 for more information.

THE DEVIL YOU KNOW:

A Lenten Reflection on the Problem of Evil

Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities Awareness Sunday

Thank you to all who participated in our February 24th liturgy celebrating the unique gifts that persons with disabilities bring to our diocese. We are so grateful to all of our communities, and especially to the groups who helped us in the Mass. The Office for Parish Life would like to offer special thanks to the St. Joseph Center, SPRED Community, Arc of NEPA, the Catholic Deaf Community, and the Order of Alhambra, as well as all the community members who served as ushers, lectors, gift-bearers, and altar servers during the mass.

2019 YOUTH EVENTS

DAYBREAK: APRIL 26 - 28

UP&OVER: MAY 31 - JUNE 2

LIGHT THE FIRE: JUNE 26

NCYC: NOVEMBER 20-24

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT SHANNON KOWALSKI
AT 570-207-2213 X 1155

SENIOR ISOLATION WORKSHOP

The Scranton Area Ministerium will be hosting a Senior Isolation Workshop at the Diocesan Pastoral Center on Saturday, March 30 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The morning will begin with a presentation from Prof. Jim Siberski of Misericordia University addressing the challenge of senior isolation in our communities. Lunch is provided with an opportunity for fellowship and discussion of pastoral solutions.

We encourage any community member to attend this event. All pastors, youth ministers, and advocates of any faith tradition who are interested in combatting this serious challenge in our communities are welcome.

Diocese of Scranton - Office for Parish Life

CONFIRMATION RETREAT FACILITATOR TRAINING

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

Diocesan Pastoral Center
330 Wyoming Ave
Scranton, Pa 18503

9:00AM TO 12 NOON

Directors of Religious Education, Youth Ministers, Catechists, & Volunteers are encouraged to come learn the practicalities of facilitating a confirmation retreat. Tips, tricks, and tools of an effective retreat will be explored and free resources will be offered.

Call (570) 207-2213 x1155 to
Register By March 18th

Lenten Resources for Ongoing Atonement and Healing in the Church

Each parish in the Diocese of Scranton is encouraged to pray continuously for atonement and healing for victims of sexual abuse, especially during the Lenten season and during the month of April which is "National Child Abuse Prevention Month." The diocesan website has several resources for parishes to offer prayers for victims of sexual abuse that include:

- ♦ **Stations of the Cross Booklet for Atonement and Healing**
- ♦ ***The Light Is ON for You* resources focused on Healing in the Church**
- ♦ **Intercessions for the Universal Prayer**
- ♦ **Pieta Prayer Card** (in English and Spanish)
- ♦ **A Rosary for Atonement and Healing using the Sorrowful Mysteries**
- ♦ **Day of Atonement and Healing**—Family Participation Ideas for Home and Church
- ♦ **Prayer Booklet for Atonement and Healing**—for individuals or small groups
- ♦ **Prayer Resources from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**—includes a sample prayer service, a rosary for Healing and Protection of the Vulnerable among us, litany for healing, sample intercessions and songs
- ♦ **Liturgical Resources from the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions**—suggested Mass preparations, sample Word service within Eucharistic Adoration, sample intercessions, psalmody, hymnody, and talking points



During the season of Lent, parishes are also asked to set aside one Sunday Mass intention on the Fifth Sunday of Lent for the victims of sexual abuse by clergy in our diocese.

Parishes are also invited to burn a **candle before an image of the Blessed Virgin Mary** during the season of Lent as a reminder of Our Lady's intercession and of our constant prayers for those victims of abuse.

Other group discussion resources are *The Wounded Body of Christ* by Matthew W. Halbach, Ph.D. ([Twenty-Third Publications](#)) and *Healing Our Church* by Jerome Herauf and Charles Paolino ([RENEW International](#)).

OPL TEAM MEMBERS

Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life: **Catherine Jantsch Butel**
 Director for WORD and Lifelong Faith Formation: **Mary Anne Malone**
 Coordinator for Youth/Young Adult Ministry: **Shannon Kowalski**
 Director for WORSHIP: **David Baloga**
 Coordinator for SERVICE and Social Justice: **Katy Windels**
 Coordinator for Pilgrimages: **Fr. Andrew HvozdoVIC**
 Director for COMMUNITY and Family Development: **Jen Housel**
 Coordinator for Ecumenical/Interfaith Relations: **Msgr. Vincent Grimalia**
 Consultant for Community Connections: **Dominick Costantino**
 Coordinator for Lay Ministry Formation: **Kitty Scanlan**
 Coordinator for Pastoral Council Development: **Ann Marie Cawley**
 Coordinator for Parish Cultural Integration: **Luis Rivera, OFS**
 Events Coordinator, Diocesan Pastoral Center: **Sue Burke**
 Receptionist: **Jennifer Andres** Data Manager/Registrar: **Nancy Valtos**
 Administrative Assistant: **Diane Franklin** Office Manager: **Marge Kosmahl**



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