# The Catholic Light DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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# Growth & Expansion





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# The Catholic Light

(ISSN 0164-9418)

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF SCRANTON



#### DIOCESE OF SCRANTON MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Catholic community of the Diocese of Scranton, are called through Baptism to imitate the servant leadership of Jesus Christ. In union with Our Holy Father, the Pope, we proclaim the Gospel faithfully, celebrate the sacraments joyfully, and boldly promote life, justice and peace in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

#### POLICY STATEMENT

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# Diocese announces new Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera announces the selection of Mrs. Kristen Donohue as Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Scranton. Mrs. Donohue will begin her position on July 1, 2019.

"I am genuinely excited and very much looking forward to serving all of the students and community as the Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Scranton," Donohue said. "It is an honor to be part of a dedicated team of professionals working to provide the best, faith-based education for our students."

For the last eight years, Mrs. Donohue has served as Principal of Western Wayne Middle School, taking on the dual role of Curriculum Director for the Western Wayne School District since 2017. In addition to her administrative roles at both the high school and intermediate levels, Mrs. Donohue brings nearly a decade of teaching experience to her new position.

As Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Scranton, Mrs. Donohue will be tasked with ensuring the academic excellence of the more than 4,500 students in the Diocese's school system by enhancing current curriculum, implementing innovative technology programs and fostering professional development within a faith-based model.

The Diocese of Scranton currently operates 20 Catholic schools across its 11-county Diocese, of which 16 are elementary schools and four are high schools.

"Her passion and commitment for our mission and her desire to ensure excellence for our students both academically and spiritually is exactly what is needed to move our schools forward," Jason Morrison, Secretary of Catholic Education/Chief Operating Officer said. "Mrs. Donohue's breadth of experience will allow her to bring new, innovative curriculum enhancements that will ensure our students experience the best educational opportunities available within all of Northeastern and North Central Pennsylvania."

In her new position, Mrs. Donohue will report directly to Mr. Morrison who is responsible for all administrative aspects of Catholic Education in the Diocese of Scranton, including enrollment, development, academic success and financial stability. The Diocese of Scranton has implemented this new, innovative model for Catholic Education to better position its schools for the future.

At a time when public schools are being forced to scale-back programs, Diocesan Catholic Schools will be investing in curricular enhancements, including moving towards the "STREAM" model of education ("STREAM" is an acronym for Science, Technology,



Mrs. Kristen Donohue will become the new Superintendent of Catholic Schools.

Religion, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics). This will be complemented by programs that build critical thinking and writing skills, like the Collins Writing Program.

"As Superintendent, I am committed to ensuring that the rigorous education we provide is aligned to the Catholic mission of our schools, while also preparing our students with the 21st century skills needed to be successful in college and beyond," Donohue said. "Our Catholic identity is what sets us apart from other educational institutions and it is important that our students have a genuine understanding and appreciation for the application of their Catholic education in their daily lives now and ultimately as productive members of society."

Mrs. Donohue was selected for the Superintendent position after a nationwide search. In addition to the leadership of the Diocese, applicants were vetted by a search committee. Members included Mr. Donald Bayzick (retired Hazleton Area School District Assistant Superintendent and retired Holy Family Academy, Hazleton, Principal), Lois Draina, Ph.D. (retired Dean of the College of Education and Human Development at Marywood University, who previously spent more than 20 years as an administrator and educator in Catholic

Schools including Superintendent in the Diocese of Richmond) and Father Joseph Verespy (Pastor, Saint Nicholas Parish, Wilkes-Barre).

"My Catholic grade school, high school and college experience provided me a phenomenal, faith-based education that prepared me to be thoughtful and reflective in my personal and professional life. My husband, Patrick, and I chose Catholic school for our children because we not only believe in the core values of the Catholic Church, but also because we wanted the best education available, just as our parents had done for us," Donohue said. "I am excited to contribute to the great work happening in our Diocesan schools and will continue to promote a truly excellent Catholic school experience for our students."

Mrs. Donohue is a graduate of the University of Scranton, receiving a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education and Spanish and a Master of Science in Educational Administration. She is currently on track to receive her Superintendent Certification from Wilkes University this summer.

Mrs. Donohue, her husband, and three children reside in Clarks Summit. Her school-age children attend Our Lady of Peace School, and they are parishioners of Saint Gregory's Parish in Clarks Green.

# Pope issues new norms on mandatory abuse reporting, bishop accountability

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -Pope Francis has revised and
clarified norms and procedures
for holding bishops and religious
superiors accountable in protecting
minors as well as in protecting
members of religious orders and
seminarians from abuse.

The new juridical instrument is meant to help bishops and religious leaders around the world clearly understand their duties and church law, underlining how they are ultimately responsible for proper governance and protecting those entrusted to their care. For this reason, the new document establishes a clearer set of universal procedures for reporting suspected abuse, carrying out initial investigations and protecting victims and whistleblowers.

The new document, given "motu proprio," on the pope's own initiative, was titled "Vos estis lux mundi" ("You are the light of the world"), based on a verse from the Gospel of St. Matthew (5:14).

"The crimes of sexual abuse offend Our Lord, cause physical, psychological and spiritual damage to the victims and harm the community of the faithful," the pope said in the document, released by the Vatican May 9. The norms go into effect June 1.

In order to stop all forms of abuse from ever happening again, not only is "a continuous and profound conversion of hearts" necessary, there must be "concrete and effective actions that involve everyone in the church," he wrote.

Cardinal Marc Ouellet, prefect of the Congregation for Bishops, said the new norms ascribe a new role to heads of dioceses by making them responsible for alerting the proper Vatican authorities of all forms of suspected abuse, including the possession, distribution or creation of pornography involving a minor.

He told Vatican News that the norms respond to Pope Francis' continued insistence for concrete and effective measures to ensure bishops and religious superiors have a very clear understanding of what their obligations are and what they should and should not do when it comes to safeguarding.

It also requires all priests and

religious to report suspected abuse or cover-ups and encourages any lay person to report through a nowmandated reporting "system" or office in each diocese.

How the office or "system" works will be up to each diocese, but "the idea is that anyone who has suffered abuse can have recourse to the local church, while being assured they will be well received, protected from retaliation, and that their reports will be treated with the utmost seriousness," Andrea Tornielli, editorial director of the Dicastery for Communication, told Vatican News.

The new norms now stipulate:

- -- Procedures for the investigation of bishops, cardinals, patriarchs, religious superiors and all those who lead -- even temporarily -- a diocese or particular church, including personal prelatures and personal ordinariates.
- -- Leaders will be held accountable not only with suspected cases of committing abuse themselves, but also accusations of having interfered with, covered up or failed to



address abuse accusations they were aware of.

- -- When the accused individual is a bishop, the metropolitan will receive a mandate from the Holy See to investigate or delegate a person in charge of the preliminary investigation. A status report must be sent to the Holy See every 30 days, and the investigation completed with 90 days with some exceptions. Vatican offices are also held to specific timeframes and prompt action.
- -- By June 2020, every diocese in the world must create an office or "public, stable and easily accessible systems" for reporting suspected abuse against a minor

Pope Francis prays in front of a candle in memory of victims of sexual abuse as he visits
Saint Mary's Pro-Cathedral in
Dublin in 2018. Pope Francis has revised and clarified norms and procedures for holding bishops and religious superiors accountable in protecting minors as well as in protecting members of religious orders and seminarians from abuse. (CNS Photo/Paul Haring)

or vulnerable person, failure of compliance of abuse guidelines by bishops or superiors, and cases of interference or cover-ups in either a civil or canonical investigation of suspected abuse.

-- All priests and religious that become aware of abuse or its cover-up must alert their bishop or religious superior promptly.

-- A minor is anyone under the age of 18 and a vulnerable person is "any person in a state of infirmity, physical or mental deficiency, or deprivation of personal liberty which, in fact, even occasionally, limits their ability to understand or to want to otherwise resist the offense."

Continued on page 7

# Diocese provides update on Independent Survivors Compensation Program

The Diocese of Scranton is providing information concerning the first 90 days of operations for the Independent Survivors Compensation Program.

The Program, launched on January 22, 2019, provides financial support to victims of clergy sexual abuse and promotes their healing and recovery. The Program is purely voluntary and open to individuals who submitted a complaint of sexual abuse to the Diocese before the Program was first announced as well as individuals who had not previously submitted a complaint.

The Program operates independently of the Diocese. It is administered by Kenneth Feinberg and Camille Biros, two nationally recognized experts with the full authority to provide assistance to survivors based on the circumstances of each case. The Program's operations are monitored by an Independent Oversight Committee comprised of Robert Gillespie, Jr., former Luzerne County District Attorney, Ralph H. Meyer, President and

Chief Executive Officer Emeritus with Guthrie Healthcare System, and Robin Engels, MA, MSW, LCSW, a licensed clinical social worker.

"We know that no amount of money will be able to take away the pain that a survivor of sexual abuse has faced, but I was pleased to learn from the Administrators that, in just a few short months, the Program has been able to bring swift justice for many victims. We look forward to its continued success," Bishop Joseph C. Bambera said.

In the first three months of the Program's operation, 49 claims have been submitted by individuals who had previously raised claims of abuse. Feinberg and Biros have completed their review of nearly two-thirds of these claims and sent determination letters – containing offers of payment -- to 31 individuals totaling \$3,640,000. Seventeen claimants have accepted the offered compensation and have been paid more than \$2,155,000. The fourteen others have not yet indicated if they will accept the

offer. No claimants have rejected the offered compensation.

In addition, during the same period, 54 previously unknown persons have come forward with allegations and registered on the Program website. Of these new claim registrants, 51 have been accepted into the Program. One remains under consideration. Two were deemed ineligible to participate in the Program because they did not meet the Protocol criteria – specifically: one registrant was not a minor and the other was not subjected to sexual abuse. These new claims which must be registered by July 31st – will be processed by the Administrators after they complete processing the previously-known

"We are very pleased with the progress and success of the Scranton Independent Survivors Compensation Program. We will continue to work with all those individuals submitting claims and appreciate the ongoing full support and cooperation of the Diocese of Scranton," Camille Biros, CoAdministrator of the Scranton Program said.

The Program is not only open to survivors of abuse committed by priests from the Diocese of Scranton, but also survivors of abuse committed by members of religious communities as well as lay employees of the Diocese. Even survivors who have previously settled claims against the Diocese have been able to participate in order to ensure that they are treated as favorably as the claimants in the Program.

There is no monetary cap on any claims, either in the aggregate or for any individual.

The first claims were submitted to the Program on January 29th, within a week of the announcement of the Program. Claims for previously-known claims are handled in the order they are received and are typically processed within thirty days. Individuals who have previously raised complaints have until September 30, 2019 to file

claims. Individuals who have not

previously raised a complaint must register to participate by July 31, 2019. These registrations will be reviewed in the order in which they are received.

The Diocese and the Program's Independent Oversight Committee urge all people who have interest in participating to visit www.ScrantonDioceseISCP. com for more information.

This Program is one of many steps the Diocese has taken to assist survivors of abuse. Survivors can continue to receive assistance from the Diocese including counseling or spiritual direction and referrals to support groups. The Diocese strictly adheres to a zero tolerance policy and immediately notifies law enforcement, the District Attorney and child protective services when abuse is reported. When an allegation of abuse appears credible, the Diocese removes the priest from ministry pending an investigation. The Diocese fully cooperates with law enforcement for any necessary investigation.

# Saint Eulalia Parish dedicates new religious education center

ROARING BROOK TOWNSHIP --As the voice of Lukas Iannone, 11, echoed through Saint Eulalia Parish, it was clear a new day was dawning in the North Pocono region of Lackawanna County.

After years of planning and a full year of construction and renovation, the church community gathered on Sunday, May 5, to dedicate the new Monsignor F. Allan Conlan Religious Education Center.

"We planned this about five and a-half years ago. We had town hall meetings with all the people in the parish to say 'what do you think' and they all came up with a plan and look at what we got!" Monsignor John W. Jordan, pastor, Saint Eulalia Parish, said.

The new religious education center has nine new classrooms in addition to remodeling eight existing classrooms. It also features new gathering spaces for youth groups, music ministers, meetings and other celebrations.

"There were so many young children in this community that we needed space. We needed more conducive classrooms. We were crowded," Elizabeth Strasburger, Director of Religious Education, said.

Space became the Church's driving

force behind the expansion project.

"This North Pocono area is a real growing area and many young families have moved in and brought their children. We have more Baptisms than deaths thank God!" Monsignor Jordan said.

As part of the roughly \$2 million renovation project, the Parish Center was also remodeled and its kitchen updated. The Choir Loft inside the Church was also expanded to provide music ministers comfortable space to lead liturgical celebrations.

"These resources will be a vibrant center for parish activities, a place where community and Church come together, a place where people get to know one another and give witness to faith in Christ, and our children learn the teachings of our faith," Monsignor Jordan said.

Described by Parish members as the "Third Cornerstone Project," planning for the new religious education center began in 2014. A groundbreaking ceremony was held in 2017.

Bishop Joseph Bambera celebrated Mass and held a dedication ceremony for the new facility.

"Look at what you've done for





Top: Bishop Joseph C. Bambera dedicates the new Monsignor F. Allan Conlan Religious Education Center at Saint Eulalia Parish on Sunday, May 5, 2019.

Bottom: Part of the more than \$2 million renovation project. (Photos/Mike Melisky)

# "Look at what you've done for all these years as a parish community!"

-Bishop Joseph C. Bambera









Top Left: The new religious education center has nine new classrooms, including space for kindergartens to learn about their faith.

Top Right: One of the religious education classrooms used by more than 350 children enrolled in Saint Eulalia's youth programs.

Bottom Left: Monsignor John W. Jordan, Pastor, Saint Eulalia Parish, along with Bishop Joseph C. Bambera and Father John J. Kilpatrick, who served as the parish's third pastor.

Bottom Right: Hundreds of people attended a reception after the dedication of the new religious education center on Sunday, May 5, 2019.

all these years as a parish community. You've celebrated life and you've called one another to respect and reverence that unique and treasured gift of God, life, made in God's own image and likeness," Bishop Bambera said.

Calling upon the Gospel message on the Third Sunday of Easter, the Bishop highlighted how Jesus questioned Peter if he loved him and if so, he needed to build his church.

Bishop Bambera said the Saint Eulalia Parish community has been fulfilling that mission.

"You've taught people to read and to write and to sing the praises of God, you've fed families and you've clothed the poor, you've healed bodies and spirits, you've consoled, you've buried and you've converted hearts to the Lord," the Bishop said.

Monsignor Jordan was thankful for the Bishop's visit and acknowledgment of parishioners' hard work and dedication in making the project a reality.

"It puts a real affirmation on the part of the people for their work that the Bishop would come and say thank you, praise you, you're praising God for what you've built here and it's a sign of your faith and if they didn't have that this would just be a building," Monsignor Jordan said.

Saint Eulalia Parish currently has more than 1,100 families with more than 350 children enrolled in its youth programs. When the Church on Blue Shutters Road was first dedicated in 1984, the parish consisted of 300 families with 75 kids in youth programs.

The new religious education center is named in honor of Monsignor F. Allan Conlan, pastor emeritus of Saint Eulalia Parish who served from 1996 to 2004. He died in 2012.

"He loved children. There wasn't anything he wouldn't do for the children. He was a teacher and he came and he made it comfortable," Strasburger said. "He would be humble to think that anything was named after him. He wasn't a 'showy' man. He never wanted anything. He only wanted people to be happy!"

While the dedication was a joyous occasion, Bishop Bambera told the parish their journey of faith is not complete. They have to go forth and continue to build the Lord's Church each day.

"While we have much to be thankful for this day, this beautiful parish complex will only shine forth as a vibrant sign of the love and the hope of God when all of you who have given it life continue to live your faith every day in service of Jesus Christ," Bishop Bambera said.

# Hazleton homeless shelter finds permanent home

HAZLETON -- The Divine Providence Homeless Shelter in Hazleton has finally found its permanent home.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera held a blessing ceremony on Thursday, April 25, at the Catholic Social Services complex, 214 West Walnut Street, to celebrate the completion of the permanent shelter and the new Bridge to Independence Program. Both are programs of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton.

Joined by the Governing Board of Catholic Social Services and other local dignitaries, Bishop Bambera acknowledged how this important project will directly impact the lives of people in southern Luzerne County.

"When we can make a difference in another person's life, we're doing the work that God calls us all to do!" Bishop Bambera said.

The new, permanent Divine Providence Homeless Shelter can host up to 20 clients each night. The shelter opens at 7:00 p.m. and is available to both men and women.

"This is overwhelming. This is a new beginning for this campus. It's a new beginning for the shelter!" Divine Providence Homeless Shelter supervisor and caseworker Amanda Deisroth said. "This is what the city needs. We're here to make their lives better!"

The homeless shelter program in Hazleton first started in February 2016, initially rotating its home, from week to

week, among area Churches. Since its inception three years ago, the shelter has already helped more than 500 people.

"The clients really help each other. They band together like their own little family," Deisroth said.

The doors of the new Divine Providence Homeless Shelter first opened in March and among the clients being helped is an 18-year-old college student and another woman who has a full-time job but doesn't make enough money to get her own apartment.

"They feel safe here. They feel like human beings!" Deisroth said.

"When I assumed responsibility for Catholic Social Services in January 2016, I quickly developed a healthy respect for the culture of Hazleton. The individuals living in this town truly understand the meaning of 'takin care of each other.' As a result, I wanted to find a way to infuse resources which would allow Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton to expand its ability to serve those in need," Mary Theresa Malandro, Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Human Services and Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Social Services said. "With the support of Bishop Bambera, Monsignor Thomas Muldowney, the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Luzerne-Wyoming Counties Mental Health and Developmental Services, and several other community contributors, my vision has come to fruition!"







Top: The common-area kitchen inside the new Bridge to Independence Program at the new Catholic Social Services Complex in Hazleton.

Bottom Left: One of the eight private bedrooms inside the Bridge to Independence Program.

Bottom Right: The common-area living room inside the Bridge to Independence Program. (Photos/Mike Melisky)





Top: After 14 months of renovations, the new Catholic Social Services Complex in Hazleton is complete.

Left: Bishop Joseph C. Bambera blesses the facility on Thursday, April 25, 2019.

Below: The new Divine Providence Homeless Shelter can accomodate up to 20 clients each night.



In addition to the Divine Providence Homeless Shelter, the new complex also features the new Bridge to Independence Program. It is a young adult residential program which serves people from ages 18 to 26. The new facility includes eight private bedrooms, a community room, as well as a common kitchen, dining room, laundry facility and office with computers. The goal of the Bridge to Independence Program, as its name implies, is to help develop and enhance life skills that will enable program participants to live independently and attain self-sufficiency.

"It is really nice here. They help you with budgeting, any goals you need. The facility is really nice," Siobhan Wenzel said.

Wenzel is one of the first two residents living at the facility. She says program administrators help them find a job if needed, manage a bank account and even learn to cook.

"Before I was here, I was in a different independent living (program) and I was aging out, but I still wasn't prepared to live on my own so this was like a God-send for me!" Wenzel said.

Catholic Social Services partnered with Luzerne-Wyoming Counties Mental Health and Developmental Services to create the Bridge to Independence Program. Funding, which totaled \$1 million, helped renovate the former CSS building and annual support is being provided toward the operation of the program.

A grant from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, in the amount of \$525,000, helped fund renovations to the part of the building that includes the Divine Providence Shelter and to the adjacent Family Center which houses Saint Joseph's Food Pantry. The entire renovation project also received financial support from several other charitable foundations and community organizations.

In addition to renovations at the West Walnut Street facility, which was the original home of the Our Lady of Mount Carmel School and rectory, the complex also houses the Catholic Social Services Family Center in the former Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church. The Catholic Social Services offices are also now located directly across the street in the original convent. Thus, the entire original Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish grounds now serve as a complete centralized campus for Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton, serving the Greater Hazleton Area.

"The support of the community at large to make this become a reality has been both humbling and inspiring," said Neil Oberto, program manager of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton's Counseling Services, serving the Greater Hazleton Area. "It is especially exciting to know that the buildings which served as Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish – and the church itself since 1907 – are now refurbished to continue service. There is no doubt 'divine providence' has been guiding this whole process."

# Good Luck Holy Cross Mock Trial Team!



Bishop Bambera visited Holy Cross High School in Dunmore on Thursday, May 9, and met members of the Mock Trial team who are competing in the National Championship this weekend in Georgia!

Above: Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney, V.G., poses with the Sisters of Life after giving them a tour of the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Wednesday, May 8, 2019. The Sisters of Life is a contemplative/active religious community of women founded in 1991 by Cardinal John O'Connor.

Below: Bishop Bambera hosted a dinner for the Little Sisters of the Poor at the Cathedral Rectory on Tuesday, April 23, 2019. The dinner was in acknowledgement of their service to the Diocese of Scranton for more than 110 years.



#### **CLERGY APPOINTMENTS**

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

#### **ADMINISTRATOR**

**Reverend Donald J. Williams** to **Administrator**, Christ the King Parish, Archbald, effective April 26, 2019. Father Williams will continue to serve as Diocesan Director of Seminarians and Vocations.

#### **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Reverend Paul C. Fontanella,** Pastor, Christ the King Parish, Archbald, to Leave of Absence, for personal reasons, effective April 26, 2019.



#### **BISHOP BAMBERA'S SCHEDULE**

May 18 - Marywood University Commencement Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza Wilkes-Barre Township, 1:00 p.m.

May 19 - King's College Commencement Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza Wilkes-Barre Township, 2:00 p.m.

May 25 - Diaconate Ordination Saint Jude Church, Mountain Top, 10:00 a.m.

May 26 - University of Scranton Commencement Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza Wilkes-Barre Township, Noon

**May 29 -** Holy Redeemer High School Graduation Kirby Center, Wilkes-Barre, 7:00 p.m.

May 31 - Holy Cross High School Graduation Marywood University, Scranton, 7:00 p.m.

June 1 - Notre Dame High School Graduation Notre Dame High School, East Stroudsburg, 11:00 a.m.

June 2 - Scout Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.

**June 4 -** Saint John Neumann High School Graduation Klump Center, Penn College, Williamsport, 7:00 p.m.

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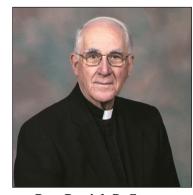
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Born Nov. 2, 1923, in Tresckow, Carbon County, son of the late Salvatore J. and Mary Ann LaMonica Cortez, Father Cortese received his early education at Tresckow Grammar School and graduated from West Hazleton High School. Following graduation, he entered Mount Saint Mary's College, Emmitsburg, Md., where he received his Bachelor of

Arts degree in 1945.

After completing studies for the priesthood at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, he was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Scranton on May 22, 1948, in Saint Peter's Cathedral by the Most Reverend William J. Hafey, late Bishop of Scranton.

Following ordination, Father Cortese was assigned as assistant pastor at the parishes of Saint Francis, Nanticoke; Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Carbondale; and Most Precious Blood, Hazleton. He then entered the United States Air Force as a Chaplain in September 1956, serving until his appointment to the Office of Planning and Development for the Diocese of Biloxi,



Rev. Patrick S. Cortese

Miss., from July 1980 until returning to his home Diocese.

Father Cortese was appointed administrator of Saint Mary Parish, Avoca, on March 4, 1983, and pastor of Ascension Parish, Williamsport, on July 22, 1983. He served as pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in Hazleton from January 1, 1986, until his retirement on September 5, 1989.

While serving in the U.S. Air Force, Father ministered at bases in the United States, Japan, England, Hawaii, Vietnam and Okinawa. He retired in 1980 with the rank of Colonel, which he held since 1973. During his meritorious service, the priest was awarded the U.S. Bronze Star, Legion of Merit, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Government Bronze Star and six commendation awards.

Father Cortese celebrated the 70th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood in 2018 with a special Mass celebrated Bishop

Bambera at Fritzingertown Senior Living Community in Drums, Luzerne County.

Surviving are nieces and nephews: Edward Pane and Anthony Pane, both of Hazleton; Mary Anne Mitchell and husband, John, Hazle Township; Ann Cortez Brogan, Polk, Venango County; Robert Cortez, Colorado; Patricia Strohmyer and husband, William, Clarion; and Frances Cortez, Canton, Ohio.

He was also preceded in death

He was also preceded in death by two brothers, Frank Cortese and Robert Cortez, and a sister, Mildred T. Pane.

Entombment with Air Force military honors was held in Calvary Cemetery, Drums.

#### New Guidelines issued for reporting abuse

Continued from page 3

- -- The definition of child pornography as any representation of a minor, regardless of the media used, "involved in explicit sexual activities, whether real or simulated, and any representation of sexual organs of minors for primarily sexual purposes."
- -- Bishops and religious superiors will be accountable not just for protecting minors against abuse but also for protecting seminarians, novices and members of religious orders from violence and sexual abuse stemming from an abuse of power. The norms apply to reports of "delicts against the sixth commandment" regarding clerics or members of religious orders and "forcing someone, by violence or threat or through abuse of authority, to perform or submit to sexual acts."
- -- Those who report abuse cannot be subjected to pressure, retaliation and discrimination or told to keep silent. The seal of confession, however, remains inviolable and is not affected by the new norms.
- -- Procedures for carrying out the preliminary investigation include the bishop immediately requesting from the Vatican that he or a delegate be assigned to begin

the preliminary investigation. If he considers an accusation is unfounded, the papal nuncio is informed. The Vatican will have 30 days to respond to the request and the bishop sends a status report to the Vatican every 30 days.

- -- When the investigation is complete, the bishop sends the results to the proper Vatican office, which then follows existing canon law
- -- The continued obligation to respect civil laws regarding mandatory reporting.
- -- Those who reported suspected abuse or cover-up will be told of the outcome of the investigation if they request to be informed.
- -- A fund can be set up by bishops' conferences, synods and church provinces to cover the costs of investigations.

The document is a follow-up to Pope Francis' 2016 document, "As a Loving Mother," on transparency and accountability of bishops and religious superiors.

The two documents together are meant to correct what had been a lack of or unclear procedures for investigating the way a bishop complies with already established norms against abuse and clearly expressing the consequences of noncompliance or cover-ups.

#### Three Seminarians to be Ordained as Transitional Deacons

Entering final year of formation for Priesthood



Left to right, pictured with Bishop Bambera at Candidacy in August 2018, are Seminarians Shawn Simchock, Bernie Gardzalla, Jonathan Kuhar and Kevin Miller.

Jonathan Kuhar, Kevin Miller and Shawn Simchock will begin the final step of their formation for the priesthood when they are ordained to the transitional diaconate by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera at a Mass on Saturday, May 25, at 10:00 a.m. in Saint Jude Church, Mountain Top. All are welcome to participate in this celebration.

Ordination as a transitional deacon generally occurs after a seminarian has completed at least three years of study in theology and takes place usually one year prior to priestly ordination. A deacon will be an ordinary minister of Baptism, and will be able to preside at weddings, assist the priest at Mass, proclaim the Gospel and preach, as well as preside at wakes and funeral services.

Mr. Kuhar is from Saint Jude Parish in Mountain Top and is studying at Saint Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, Maryland. Mr. Miller is from Saint Nicholas Parish in Wilkes-Barre and Mr. Simchock is from Queen of Heaven Parish in Hazleton. Both Miller and Simchock study at Pope Saint John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Massachusetts.



SPECIAL XLT (Exalt!) on Friday, May 24 at Saint Faustina Parish, Nanticoke, at 6:30 p.m.

All are welcome to pray with and for the Seminarians!

The evening will consist of Eucharistic Adoration, praise & worship music, brief reflections and a social.

Stay Connected on Twitter:

@DioceseofScr @BishopBambera

#### Diocesan Annual Appeal at \$3.7 Million, will conclude on June 30

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, has announced that the 2018 Diocesan Annual Appeal: The Journey Makes Us One, has raised more than \$3.7 million in gifts and pledges to date, 74% of the goal of \$5 million. The Annual Appeal has received gifts and pledges from nearly 20,000 donors. Last year at this time, the Appeal raised \$5 million in gifts and pledges from 30,000 donors.

"I am grateful to everyone who has supported the Annual Appeal this year. While we may not reach this year's goal, I am encouraged that so many parishioners have continued their generous commitment in support of our Diocesan ministries," said Bishop Bambera. "As we work together daily to restore trust in our Catholic church,

I hope that those who chose not to make a gift this year will return as donors when they feel confident in our ongoing efforts to ensure that no child is abused and no abuser is protected."

"Due to the Grand Jury report that was released in August, the Annual Appeal video was not shown in parishes and the Fall In-Pew Commitment Weekend was cancelled. These changes, which we believe were the right thing to do during this difficult year, posed challenges in meeting the Diocesan Appeal goal."

Twenty parishes have met their Annual Appeal parish goal. The full Diocesan Annual Appeal Parish Goal Report for all 118 parishes is shown at right. Parishes over goal are Blessed Sacrament Parish, Throop; Blessed Virgin Mary,

Queen of Peace Parish, Hawley; Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, Hanover Township; Holy Family Parish, Sugar Notch; Holy Rosary Parish, Hazleton; Our Lady of Hope Parish, Wilkes-Barre; Our Lady of Victory Parish, Harveys Lake; Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Brodheadsville; Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Peckville; SS. Peter & Paul Parish, Towanda; St. Ann Parish, Shohola; St. Brigid Parish, Friendsville; St. Elizabeth Parish, Bear Creek; St. Frances X. Cabrini Parish, Carverton; St. Luke Parish, Jersey Shore; St. Luke Parish, Stroudsburg; St. Mary Parish, Waymart; St. Michael Parish, Canton; St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton; and St. Rita Parish, Gouldsboro.

While the Appeal continues until June 30, the expected reduction in gifts to the Appeal this year will likely have an impact on the amount of funds available to assist the Diocese in carrying out its ministries. Diocesan Annual Appeal gifts support the mission of our local Church to:

•feed the hungry, clothe and provide shelter and assistance for those most in need

•care for our retired bishops and priests who have faithfully served, and continue to serve, the needs of the faithful in our Diocese

•encourage and support our men who are in formation to become priests and deacons as we look to the future of our parishes and our Diocese

•support our young people in our Catholic schools and in our parish religious education programs by helping them to prepare for fulfilling and faith-centered lives

•renew and strengthen our parish communities by providing opportunities for all of us to more fully share their personal gifts in devoted service to God and one

•joyfully proclaim the message of the Gospel by informing and inspiring the faithful of our Diocese through The Catholic Light, CTV: Catholic Television, and the Diocesan website.

Parishioners may make gifts to the 2018 Diocesan Annual Appeal until the fiscal year ends on June 30, 2019. Anyone wishing to make a donation may access our online giving site at www. annualappeal.org or contact the Diocesan Development Office at Development@dioceseofscranton. org or 570-207-2250.

#### **Community Bank Contributes to Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Fund**



Community Bank N.A. recently made a contribution to the Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Foundation in support of need-based tuition assistance for students attending a Diocesan Catholic school. This donation is part of the Pennsylvania **Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program operated** by the State's Department of Community and Economic Development.

Community Bank presented the Diocesan Scholarship Foundation with a \$55,000 gift through the EITC program and a \$15,000 gift through the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) program. Since the tax credit program began, Community Bank (the former First Liberty Bank & Trust) has donated more than \$1 million to Catholic education in the Diocese of Scranton.

"We appreciate the continued generous support of Community Bank. This commitment has a significant impact in the lives of our Catholic school families," said Jim Bebla, Diocesan Secretary for Development.

Pictured (Left to Right): Bob Miller, Diocesan Secretary for Financial Services and Chief Finance Officer: Barbara Maculloch, PA President of Community Bank N.A., and Jim Bebla, Diocesan Secretary for Development.



The annual Mother's Day Adoption Mass was celebrated Sunday, May 12 at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The liturgy recognized all mothers, with a special emphasis on adoptive and foster mothers.



# DIOCESAN CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

The Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Scranton offer complete and compassionate service and are prepared to provide for all your burial needs. It is our privilege to assist you in planning the final resting place for your loved ones.

Memorial Day Masses will be celebrated at each Diocesan Cemetery on Monday, May 27, 2019. All are welcome to participate in these liturgies to pray for and remember the faithfully departed, especially our veterans.



#### **MEMORIAL DAY MASSES, MONDAY, MAY 27, 2019**

#### **CALVARY CEMETERY • 10AM**

Route 309. Drums 570-788-2150 at Good Shepherd Church

#### **CATHEDRAL CEMETERY • 10AM** 1708 Oram St., Scranton

570-347-9251 Crypt Chapel at rear of cemetery

#### **HOLY CROSS CEMETERY • 9AM**

at St. Mary's Church, Prince of Peace Parish, Old Forge 570-347-9251

#### MOUNT OLIVET CEMETERY • 10AM ST. CATHERINE'S CEMETERY • 10AM RESURRECTION CEMETERY • 10AM

612 Mt. Olivet Rd., Carverton 570-696-3636 at St. Frances X. Cabrini Church

#### Main St., Route 435, Moscow 570-842-8411

Outside Altar (Weather Permitting)

#### 4323 Lycoming Mall Drive • Montoursville 570-368-2727

# Parish Reports

DIOCESANI ANNUAL APPEAL

May 9, 2019

| MAY 9, 2019   | $\Lambda_1$  | NINOAL                     | ЛП                   | LAL  | <b>B</b> 4 |
|---|--------------|----------------------------|----------------------|------|------------|
| PARISH  |              | GOAL                       | PLEDGES              | Perc | ENTAGE     |
| All Saints - Plymouth                                       |              | \$40,000.00                | \$22,867             | .00  | 57%        |
| Annunciation - Hazleton                                     |              | \$35,000.00                | \$20,029             | .00  | 57%        |
| Ascension - Forest City                                     |              | \$27,000.00                | \$25,473             | .00  | 94%        |
| Blessed Sacrament - Throop                                  |              | \$17,000.00                | \$17,965             | .00  | 106%       |
| BVM Queen of Peace - Hawley                                 |              | \$81,000.00                | \$85,463             | .95  | 106%       |
| Christ the King - Archbald                                  |              | \$71,000.00                | \$54,121             | .00  | 76%        |
| Corpus Christi - West Pittston                              |              | \$32,000.00                | \$28,130             | .00  | 88%        |
| Divine Mercy - Scranton                                     |              | \$67,000.00                | \$36,793             | .07  | 55%        |
| Epiphany - Sayre  |              | \$90,000.00                | \$65,836             |      | 73%        |
| Exaltation of the Holy Cross - H                            | anover Twp.  | \$16,500.00                | \$18,815             | .00  | 114%       |
| Gate of Heaven - Dallas                                     |              | \$50,000.00                | \$31,827             |      | 64%        |
| Good Shepherd - Drums                                       |              | \$26,000.00                | \$17,749             |      | 68%        |
| Holy Child - Mansfield                                      |              | \$30,000.00                | \$20,430             |      | 68%        |
| Holy Cross - Olyphant                                       |              | \$50,000.00                | \$39,009             |      | 78%        |
| Holy Family - Luzerne                                       |              | \$42,500.00                | \$32,004             |      | 75%        |
| Holy Family - Sugar Notch                                   |              | \$17,000.00                | \$18,530             |      | 109%       |
| Holy Name of Jesus - West Hazl                              | eton         | \$23,000.00                | \$14,089             |      | 61%        |
| Holy Name of Mary - Montrose                                |              | \$21,000.00                | \$15,034             |      | 72%        |
| Holy Rosary - Hazleton                                      |              | \$18,000.00                | \$18,937             |      | 105%       |
| Holy Spirit - Mocanaqua                                     |              | \$30,000.00                | \$14,730             |      | 49%        |
| Immaculate Conception - Scranto                             |              | \$42,000.00                | \$40,233             |      | 96%        |
| Immaculate Conception - William                             | •            | \$28,000.00                | \$19,171             |      | 68%        |
| Immaculate Heart of Mary - Dusl                             | nore         | \$41,000.00                | \$22,318             |      | 54%<br>77% |
| Mary, Mother of God - Scranton<br>Most Holy Trinity- Cresco |              | \$60,000.00                | \$46,067             |      |            |
| Most Holy Trinity - Susquehanna                             |              | \$65,000.00                | \$44,890             |      | 69%<br>79% |
| Most Precious Blood - Hazleton                              | ı            | \$32,000.00<br>\$38,000.00 | \$25,180<br>\$35,204 |      | 93%        |
| Nativity of Our Lord - Duryea                               |              | \$42,000.00                | \$27,460             |      | 65%        |
| Nativity of the BVM - Tunkhanne                             | ock          | \$34,000.00                | \$20,650             |      | 61%        |
| Our Lady Help of Christians - Do                            |              | \$19,000.00                | \$12,095             |      | 64%        |
| Our Lady of Fatima - Wilkes-Bar                             |              | \$47,000.00                | \$28,463             |      | 61%        |
| Our Lady of Hope - Wilkes-Bar                               |              | \$40,000.00                | \$40,109             |      | 100%       |
| Our Lady of Lourdes - Montours                              |              | \$44,000.00                | \$33,304             |      | 76%        |
| Our Lady of Mount Carmel - Car                              |              | \$25,000.00                | \$14,920             |      | 60%        |
| Our Lady of Mount Carmel - Du                               |              | \$60,000.00                | \$52,516             |      | 88%        |
| Our Lady of Mount Carmel - Lal                              |              | \$20,000.00                | \$18,045             | .00  | 90%        |
| Our Lady of Perpetual Help - Wy                             |              | \$20,000.00                | \$11,306             |      | 57%        |
| Our Lady of the Abingtons - Dal                             |              | \$17,500.00                | \$9,835.0            | 00   | 56%        |
| Our Lady of the Eucharist - Pitts                           |              | \$17,000.00                | \$12,511             | .00  | 74%        |
| Our Lady Immaculate Conception                              | n - Freeland | \$28,000.00                | \$17,230             | .00  | 62%        |
| Our Lady of the Snows - Clarks S                            | Summit       | \$92,000.00                | \$72,932             | .00  | 79%        |
| Our Lady of Victory - Harveys La                            |              | \$39,000.00                | \$39,718             | .00  | 102%       |
| Our Lady of Victory - Tannersvil                            | lle          | \$55,000.00                | \$45,657             | .00  | 83%        |
| Our Lady Queen of Peace - Broom                             | lheadsville  | \$62,000.00                | \$63,391             | .00  | 102%       |
| Prince of Peace - Old Forge                                 |              | \$36,000.00                | \$13,734             | .50  | 38%        |
| Queen of Angels - Jessup                                    |              | \$28,000.00                | \$16,820             | .00  | 60%        |
| Queen of Heaven - Hazleton                                  |              | \$31,000.00                | \$24,245             | .00  | 78%        |
| Queen of the Apostles - Avoca                               |              | \$25,000.00                | \$17,600             |      | 70%        |
| Resurrection - Muncy  |              | \$35,000.00                | \$24,355             |      | 70%        |
| Sacred Heart of Jesus - Dupont                              |              | \$32,000.00                | \$12,785             |      | 40%        |
| Sacred Heart of Jesus - Peckville                           |              | \$44,000.00                | \$46,272             |      | 105%       |
| Sacred Heart of Jesus - Weston                              |              | \$12,000.00                | \$8,605.0            |      | 72%        |
| Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary -                             |              | \$23,000.00                | \$12,733             |      | 55%        |
| SS Anthony & Rocco - Dunmore                                |              | \$50,000.00                | \$31,150             |      | 62%        |
| SS Cyril & Methodius - Hazleton                             | n            | \$46,000.00                | \$30,753             |      | 67%        |
| SS Peter & Paul - Plains                                    |              | \$70,000.00                | \$35,728             |      | 51%        |
| SS. Peter & Paul - Scranton                                 |              | \$14,000.00                | \$6,690.0            | JU   | 48%        |

| Parish   | GOAL                       | PLEDGES                    | PERCENTAGE  |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| SS Peter & Paul - Towanda  | \$33,000.00                | \$33,616.00                | 102%        |
| St. Andre' Bessette - Wilkes-Barre                                   | \$32,000.00                | \$20,988.00                | 66%         |
| St. Andrew - Wilkes-Barre  | \$18,000.00                | \$8,339.12                 | 46%         |
| St. Ann Basilica - Scranton  | \$32,000.00                | \$26,870.50                | 84%         |
| St. Ann - Shohola  | \$22,000.00                | \$23,821.00                | 108%        |
| St. Ann - Williamsport   | \$63,000.00                | \$46,063.00                | 73%         |
| St. Barbara - Exeter   | \$33,000.00                | \$30,466.34                | 92%         |
| St. Benedict - Wilkes-Barre  | \$22,000.00                | \$9,295.50                 | 42%         |
| St. Boniface - Williamsport  | \$68,000.00                | \$44,807.46                | 66%         |
| St. Brigid - Friendsville  | \$24,000.00                | \$27,835.00                | 116%        |
| St. Catherine of Siena - Moscow                                      | \$67,000.00                | \$55,117.00                | 82%         |
| St. Elizabeth Ann Seton - Swoyersville<br>St. Elizabeth - Bear Creek | \$47,000.00                | \$38,042.00                | 81%         |
| St. Eulalia - Elmhurst   | \$25,500.00                | \$26,355.33<br>\$29,932.50 | 103%<br>71% |
| St. Faustina Kowalska - Nanticoke                                    | \$42,000.00<br>\$50,000.00 | \$42,957.16                | 86%         |
| St. Frances X. Cabrini - Carverton                                   | \$14,500.00                | \$14,689.85                | 101%        |
| St. Gregory - Clarks Green   | \$79,000.00                | \$66,393.85                | 84%         |
| St. Ignatius Loyola - Kingston                                       | \$90,000.00                | \$57,535.49                | 64%         |
| St. John Bosco - Conyngham   | \$59,000.00                | \$49,696.00                | 84%         |
| St. John Neumann - Lords Valley                                      | \$30,000.00                | \$24,023.00                | 80%         |
| St. John Neumann - Scranton  | \$55,000.00                | \$36,590.45                | 67%         |
| St. John - E. Stroudsburg  | \$61,000.00                | \$48,017.00                | 79%         |
| St. John the Baptist - Larksville                                    | \$23,000.00                | \$12,324.15                | 54%         |
| St. John the Evangelist - Honesdale                                  | \$68,000.00                | \$50,706.00                | 75%         |
| St. John the Evangelist - Pittston                                   | \$60,000.00                | \$45,202.42                | 75%         |
| St. John Vianney - Montdale  | \$32,000.00                | \$22,996.00                | 72%         |
| St. Joseph Marello - Pittston  | \$29,000.00                | \$26,654.00                | 92%         |
| St. Joseph - Matamoras   | \$40,000.00                | \$31,922.70                | 80%         |
| St. Joseph the Worker - Williamsport                                 | \$80,000.00                | \$77,572.00                | 97%         |
| St. Jude - Mountain Top  | \$84,000.00                | \$71,470.14                | 85%         |
| St. Katharine Drexel - Pleasant Mount                                | \$14,000.00                | \$13,825.00                | 99%         |
| St. Lawrence - S. Williamsport<br>St. Leo - Ashley                   | \$28,000.00                | \$15,895.00                | 57%         |
| St. Leo - Ashley St. Lucy - Scranton                                 | \$35,000.00<br>\$20,000.00 | \$13,595.00<br>\$8,060.00  | 39%<br>40%  |
| St. Luke - Jersey Shore  | \$17,000.00                | \$17,044.00                | 100%        |
| St. Luke - Stroudsburg   | \$120,000.00               | \$17,044.00                | 102%        |
| St. Maria Goretti - Laflin   | \$45,000.00                | \$20,349.94                | 45%         |
| St. Mary of the Lake - Lake Winola                                   | \$13,000.00                | \$6,865.00                 | 53%         |
| St. Mary - Waymart   | \$20,000.00                | \$22,405.00                | 112%        |
| St. Matthew - E. Stroudsburg   | \$70,000.00                | \$41,125.00                | 59%         |
| St. Maximilian Kolbe - Pocono Pines                                  | \$26,000.00                | \$22,010.00                | 85%         |
| St. Michael - Canton   | \$13,000.00                | \$14,611.00                | 112%        |
| St. Michael - Scranton   | \$10,000.00                | \$8,624.00                 | 86%         |
| St. Monica - West Wyoming  | \$33,000.00                | \$23,975.00                | 73%         |
| St. Nicholas - Wilkes-Barre  | \$55,000.00                | \$43,087.00                | 78%         |
| St. Patrick - Milford  | \$35,000.00                | \$22,645.00                | 65%         |
| St. Patrick - Nicholson  | \$10,000.00                | \$6,535.00                 | 65%         |
| St. Patrick - Scranton   | \$45,000.00                | \$25,298.00                | 56%         |
| St. Patrick - White Haven St. Paul of the Cross - Scranton           | \$17,000.00                | \$11,490.00                | 68%         |
| St. Paul - Scranton  | \$55,000.00                | \$29,738.72                | 54%<br>58%  |
| St. Peter - Wellsboro  | \$70,000.00<br>\$46,500.00 | \$40,687.00<br>\$35,843.00 | 58%<br>77%  |
| St. Peter's Cathedral - Scranton                                     | \$75,000.00                | \$80,963.00                | 108%        |
| St. Rita - Gouldsboro  | \$15,000.00                | \$15,025.00                | 100%        |
| St. Robert Bellarmine - Wilkes-Barre                                 | \$36,000.00                | \$32,276.70                | 90%         |
| St. Rose - Carbondale  | \$66,000.00                | \$55,261.72                | 84%         |
| St. Therese - Shavertown   | \$75,000.00                | \$47,538.00                | 63%         |
| St. Thomas More - Lake Ariel   | \$52,000.00                | \$48,110.00                | 93%         |
| St. Thomas the Apostle - Elkland                                     | \$14,000.00                | \$8,870.00                 | 63%         |
| St. Vincent de Paul - Milford  | \$45,000.00                | \$35,214.00                | 78%         |
| Vicitation Blaccad Virgin Mary Dickson City                          | ¢50,000,00                 | ¢42 005 00                 | 720/        |

Visitation, Blessed Virgin Mary - Dickson City \$59,000.00

\$42,885.00

73%

# Catholic Men's Conference Explores "What is Truth?"

WILKES-BARRE -- Nearly 500 men came together in late April to deepen their faith and learn more about the Gospel message.

The fifth annual Catholic Men's Conference took place on Saturday, April 27, at Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre.

The theme for this year's conference was "What is Truth?" providing the ultimate answer that God is the measure of all things and his truth is revealed in his son, Jesus Christ.

In welcoming the crowd, emcee Dan Gallagher, Community Affairs manager for the Diocese of Scranton, said now is the time for Catholic men to step forward.

"It is our community and families that are looking for us for guidance and inspiration. We, in turn, as Catholic men, are looking to Christ for inspiration," Gallagher said.

The first of three speakers, Dr. Ray Guarendi, a father of ten adopted children, spoke on the proper raising of children with love, saying however, love without discipline is wrong.

"Be a guy that means what he says," Dr. Guarendi told the group.

As men search for self-confidence and authority, Dr. Guarendi told the group more women setting the standards.

"More and more women are doing the lioness' share of the discipline, setting the standards, and we guys are along for the ride," the clinical psychologist and author said.

Dr. Guarendi is a world-known Catholic media host. His radio show, "The Dr. Is In," airs on more than 400 stations and his show, "Living Right with Dr. Ray," is televised on the EWTN Global Catholic Network.

"Half the questions I get are people saying to me, tell me how to make somebody act different, tell me how to make somebody not be that way...I have a hard enough time getting myself to change!"

The second speaker at the conference was Father Philip Bochanski, a priest of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

He spoke on human sexuality being a gift from God that must be used in a pro-creative and generous relationship of permanent fidelity, in imitation of God.

"To live a moral life in terms of sexuality is to respond to the way that God has made us and he makes us out of love and he calls us to our vocations because he sees us and he knows us and he loves us!" Father Bochanski said.

Father Bochanski said God makes us all different so that we can be in relationships.

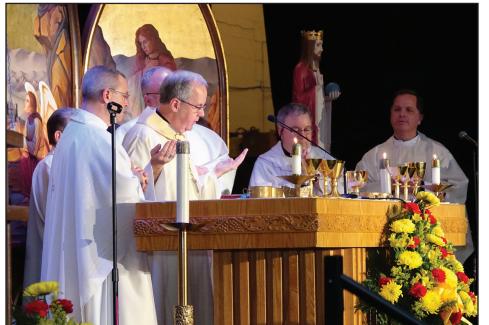
"To be created in the image and likeness of God means that we're made to be in loving relationships in which we give of ourselves to each other," he said.

Father Bochanski also described the role of a man and woman in marriage.

"Marriage is not just any relationship between human beings. It was established by the Creator with its own nature, essential properties and purpose," he said.

Besides the speakers, the Catholic Men's Conference also offered time for Eucharistic Adoration, celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and prayerful devotion

"When men come together, we cannot only fix cars and fix buildings, but we can build a society that is rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ," Father Brian F. VanFossen, pastor of Saint Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport said.



Bishop Joseph C. Bambera celebrates the Closing Mass of the fifth annual Catholic Men's Conference on Saturday, April 27, 2019.



Top: Vendors were invited to sell products during the fifth annual Catholic Men's Conference at Holy Redeemer High School.

Below: Dr. Ray Guarendi speaks with conference participants after his discussion on the proper raising of children with love. (Photos/Mike Melisky)



Father Donald J. Williams, Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians, also spoke to the crowd. He urged the men to be on the lookout in their parishes and workplaces for men who could be of future service to our Diocese as priests.

He also said there is a need to raise up priestly people.

"The real vocations crisis is the erosion of the faith in the family. If people are not practicing their faith, if they're not living their life for Christ, where are we going?" Father Williams asked.

After lunch, Doug Barry, a husband and father of five, who founded RADIX, a Catholic apostolate, energized the crowd.

"We have really lost touch with what faith is all supposed to be, what it's supposed to do for us, how it's supposed to affect our lives, how it should be like the blood in our veins!" Barry said.

The former co-host of EWTN's "Life on the Rock," Barry currently hosts the network's new program "BATTLE READY."

"God has made it very clear. Saint John

Paul II has even said that all of society flows through the family and the family is rooted in the marriage between the husband and the woman," Barry said.

Barry emphasized the man is supposed to be the spiritual head of the home and the woman is supposed to be the spiritual heart of the home.

"When it comes to your faith, when it comes to your personal relationship with God, when it comes to your part of this battle, and those that have been entrusted to your care, when it comes to all that God is calling you to do in the thick of what's going on in our world right now, two words, OWN IT!" Barry said.

Barry also encouraged those men in attendance to pray the rosary and not be embarrassed to use holy water to bless their homes.

"As men, we're the spiritual leaders of our family and we need to be ready to fight, protect, defend; body, mind and soul!" Barry said.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera was the









Top Left and Right: Conference participants join in prayer.

Above Left: Father Brian F. VanFossen, pastor of Saint Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport, addresses the crowd.

#### Above Right: Speaker Doug Barry energizes the crowd.

principal celebrant and homilist for the closing Mass of the Men's Conference.

Speaking directly to those who gathered, Bishop Bambera said, "Your presence affirms your willingness to confront the evils of a world that seems to have gone awry in so many ways and to be used by God to turn hearts to the truth of the Gospel message."

"As its planners so beautifully articulated, this conference is intended to 'remind us that God is the measure of all things and His truth is revealed in His son Jesus Christ.' Brothers, the voice of Jesus that proclaims His truth reveals nothing short of the message of divine mercy!" Bishop Bambera said.

The bishop also spoke about how our showing mercy is the essence of the Gospel.

"So what does it mean to be a man, brothers? It means that we fight for the truth! But we fight not with weapons of hatred or condemnation. We're called to fight with the weapons of mercy and forgiveness that are nothing short of the heart of the Gospel. What do you think is more reflective of the truth that Jesus proclaims - to stay angry with your son or daughter for a lifetime because of a choice that they made - or to love them in spite of it? What's the more convincing way to peace - to draw a line in the sand and to keep at a distance those who have given evidence of sin in their lives – or to proclaim as Jesus did from the cross in his dying words, 'Father, forgive them, they know not what they do?" Bishop Bambera said.

As the Men's Conference wrapped up, the men were sent forth with a mission.

"I'm hoping you will return to your respective communities with a new passion and excitement about your Catholic faith and an even greater desire to share the message of Christ with others at home," emcee Dan Gallagher said.

Even as the conference ended, organizers are already looking forward to next year's event which is slated for April 25, 2020.



Father Don Williams, Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians, speaks with conference participants during a break in the program.

#### Featured Speaker Jill Metz to address women at upcoming **Catholic Women's Conference**

By Mary Rable Special to The Catholic Light

Jill Metz can't wait to share her miraculous story with the women who attend the second annual Catholic Women's Conference on June 22, 2019 at the University of

Metz, a recent convert to Catholicism, was enjoying her life working as a mixed media artist and instructor. She felt called by God to paint the saints but felt unworthy of such a commission. After six months of patient and gentle nudging from the Holy Spirit, she accepted the challenge and attempted to paint the image of Mary, Mother of God. The finished painting was an image of a woman she knew was not Mary. However, the name "Lucy" kept repeating itself in her mind as she painted.

Metz began researching Saint Lucy and found she is the patron saint of eye ailments. This is significant because Metz had a mysterious eye ailment that obscured her vision. She began praying to Saint Lucy and, before she could even begin medical treatment, her eye was healed. The connection between Saint Lucy and Saint Rose is also noteworthy. Saint Lucy Filippini was a teacher, instrumental in educating young women. Saint Lucy was chosen by Saint Rose Venerini, the Catholic Women's Conference patron saint, to be her successor, continuing the important work she started.

In addition to sharing her miraculous story of faith, Metz is dedicating the painting to the conference.

Ms. Metz shares this wisdom on her website TruOriginal.com, "I have discovered over time that my vocation as a sacred artist is all about showing up, pouring out, and trusting that the Holy Spirit will make something beautiful. If you look close enough at the lives of the Saints and the artwork here, you'll see brokenness, victories, but mostly I hope that you will see surrender. Just like the Saints before us, we all have a story to tell. I believe that when we turn our stories towards His grace, He can transform them into one beautiful song."

Eucharistic Adoration will be led by Sister Mercy Marie, S.V., of the Sisters of Life Convent, accompanied by Christian music group "His Own." Before entering religious life, Sister Mercy Marie was the director of programs at a Catholic education program for women, Endow (Educating on the Nature and Dignity of Women). She will lead attendees in Eucharistic Adoration with her contagious joy and love of the Lord.

In addition to Ms. Metz and Sister Mercy Marie will be keynote speaker Teresa Tomeo, bestselling author, syndicated Catholic talk show host and international motivational speaker. Megan Murphy, a local speaker, teacher and evangelist, will serve as master of ceremonies, guiding the day with warmth and humor. The conference will also feature the Christian music group, "His Own," from Nashville. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Bambera.

The event will be held at the Byron Center at the University of Scranton. The cost is \$40 for an early-bird ticket, and \$50 after June 9. Student tickets are \$20. Women religious can attend at no charge. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.



To Register for the Upcoming Women's Conference visit:

**CWCNEPA.com** 

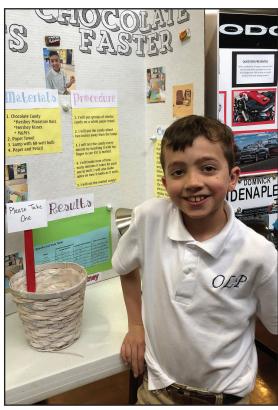


The first grade students at **All Saints Academy in Scranton** sit with their BeeBots as they prepare to welcome families to "Night at the Museum"... an evening STREAM Fair, Educational Fair, Science Fair, and Art Exhibit.

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.



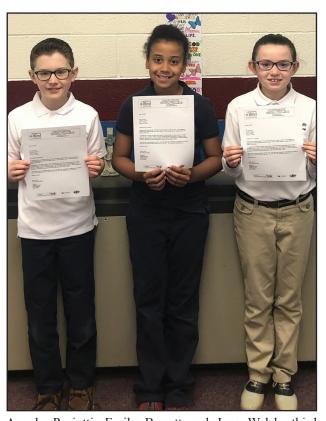
Nine students from Monsignor McHugh School in Cresco were named School Winners in the 28th Annual Zane-Bloser National Handwriting Content and now will be entered to win at the state level and then the national level. Pictured are some of the winners holding their Zane-Bloser certificates: Areia Liburd, Frank Palmenta, Katie Thompson, Riley Baker, Zoie Zimmerman, Kelly Kubasek and Lynnea Vitalleti.



Joseph Courtney, a fourth grade student at Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green, stands ready to explain his project at the school's Science Fair: comparing the melt rate of Hershey's Miniatures, Hershey's Kisses, and M&M's.



The second graders from **Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore** recently went on a Communion retreat to Saint Gabriel's Monastery with Miss Valerie and Sister Olive.



Angelo Paciotti, Emily Barrett and Jane Walsh, third grade students at **La Salle Academy in Jessup**, won the Lackawanna Blind Association's Magic World of Vision poster contest. The students' winning posters will be published in eye-safety coloring books that are distributed to preschool children.



The fourth grade class from **Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg** had a wonderful day touring the Pennsylvania State Capitol Building during their spring trip to Harrisburg.



The sixth grade class at **Saint Agnes School in Towanda** start the month by honoring the Blessed Mother with their annual May Crowning celebration.



Under the direction of Music Teacher, Mr. Jackson Fiore, and their teacher Mrs. Jennifer Snyder, the seventh grade class at **Holy Rosary School in Duryea** recently performed their annual Resurrection Play.



Sister Kathleen Kelly, principal of **Epiphany School in Sayre**, and Rev. Andrew Hvozdovic, pastor of Epiphany Parish, congratulate the Epiphany students who completed the most laps during the school's annual Race for Education. Through the generous sponsors of the races, the school earned more than \$10,000 for the school's technology program.



The American Classical League and the National Junior Classical League, sponsors of the National Latin Exam, congratulate the 23 students from **Holy Cross High School in Dunmore** for their achievements; Nine students received Cum Laude honors, five students received Magna Cum Laude honors, eight students received Silver Medal Maxima Cum Laude honors, and one student, Erika Pica, received Gold Medal Summa Cum Laude honors.



The Jazz and Rock Band from **Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg** provided the entertainment at the Pleasant Valley Ecumenical Network's Community Service Fair. The band members also made a generous donation to PVEN's food pantry.



Since the beginning of the school year, the eighth grade class at **Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter** has been learning about income, saving and investing, debit and credit, and how to budget. Recently they were able to put all the skills they learned into practice by participating a life scenario at "Finance Park," where they made shopping decisions, paid bills, and invested in the stock market. Finance Park is a Junior Achievement Program where students calculate net monthly income and determine a livable budget.



Students from **Saint Jude School in Mountain Top** had the opportunity to experience live classical music when they visited the Northeast Philharmonic's 2019 Young People's Concert, "Inspired By Nature: Earth, Wind, & Fire," which featured the works of artists such as Beethoven and Vivaldi.



The SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) Club at **Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School in Williamsport** hosted a Safe Driving event in conjunction with PENNDOT, the Williamsport City Police, and UPMC Susquehanna. Students in grades 9-12 took part in the interactive program where driving under the influence and driving while distracted scenarios were simulated. The dangers of driving while impaired, as well as texting and driving, were also addressed.



Amelia Anderson, a sophomore at Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre, is presented with the National Latin Award by Mr. Tim Casey, foreign language teacher and Dean of Students at HRHS, for achieving a perfect score on the 2019 National Latin Exam. In addition to Amelia's honor, HRHS students Jack Riley, Kip Miller, Alex Hajkowski, Max Rosen and Olivia Lewis all won gold medals for their Exam achievement.



The first grade Science Club at Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston made Elephant Toothpaste. In this experiment, yeast works as a catalyst to remove oxygen from hydrogen peroxide. Dish soap is then mixed with the oxygen and water creating the foam. Since this happened so fast, lots of bubbles were created causing an exothermic reaction as well. By gently squeezing the bottle, the students were able to feel the heat that was produced.

# Commencements Begin for Catholic Colleges Throughout Diocese

DALLAS — Dr. Tanya Trippett, a pediatric hematologic oncologist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center who specializes in the care of children with lymphomas, was the keynote when Misericordia University hosted its 93rd annual undergraduate commencement ceremony on May 11 in the Anderson Sports and Health Center on campus.

Brennan O'Donnell, Ph.D., president of Manhattan College, served as guest speaker for the graduate commencement exercises earlier in the day in the Anderson Center.

Graduation activities also included a baccalaureate Mass on May 10 in the Lemmond Theater in Walsh Hall.

During the ceremonies, Misericordia presented honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees to Dr. Trippett, President O'Donnell and his wife, Angela Alaimo O'Donnell, Ph.D., a native of West Wyoming and award-winning writer, who serves as a professor at Fordham University, New York City, and associate director of Fordham's Curran Center for America Catholic Studies.

The graduate ceremony also saw the Misericordia University Alumni Association present Dr. Michael and Tina MacDowell with the Honorary Alumni Award, bestowed to individuals who are

## Misericordia Event **Aids in Cancer Fight**

DALLAS - The Misericordia University "Colleges Against Cancer Chapter" surpassed last year's fundraising total by generating more than \$36,000 for the fight against cancer during the ninth annual Relay for Life event on campus in April.

The student-run fundraiser for the American Cancer Society has grown incrementally since it raised \$7,000 during its inaugural effort in 2011. Overall, the annual event has raised more than \$266,000 since its inception.

The 2019 Misericordia Relay for Life in the Anderson Sports and Health Center featured 40 teams. Top fundraiser was the Misericordia field hockey program with \$3,368.



Dr. Tanya Trippett

not graduates yet have made significant contributions toward the university through lifelong devotion and lovalty.

Dr. MacDowell served as the 12th president of Misericordia during 1998-2013.

#### Marywood to Hold 101st Commencement

The 101st annual commencement of Marywood University will be staged on Saturday, May 18, at 1 p.m. at the Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza in Wilkes-Barre Township.

Marywood's three colleges will confer nearly 900 degrees to undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students hailing from 22 states and eight countries.

Serving as principal speaker for the university's graduation ceremony will be Robert Wicks, Psy.D., of Ellicott City, Md., professor emeritus at Loyola University of Maryland. He will be conferred an honorary doctorate during the event.

A world-renowned speaker and faculty member at universities and schools of psychology, medicine, nursing, theology and social work, Dr. Wicks has an international reputation for helping to restore the lives of those traumatized by brutal conflicts.

He has served in the wake of massive tragedies, such as those in Rwanda and Cambodia, and regularly assists aid workers, medical professionals, and men and women serving in the U.S. military.

A native of Queens, N.Y., Dr. Wicks earned his master's degree in clinical psychology from Saint John's University and doctorate from Hahnemann



**Dr. Robert Wicks** 

Medical College and Hospital.

Dr. Wicks has published more than 50 books that have been translated into multiple languages, including the best-selling Riding the Dragon: 10 Lessons for Inner Strength in Challenging Times and Perspective: The Calm within the Storm.

He has merited a host of honors and awards, including the coveted Holy Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice - the highest medal awarded to laity by the Papacy for distinguished service to the Roman Catholic Church.

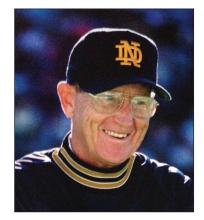
#### Former Coach Lou Holtz To Address King's Grads

Lou Holtz, who led the University of Notre Dame to its last national collegiate football championship in 1988, will deliver the principal address at the 70th annual commencement exercises of King's College, which will get underway on Sunday, May 19, at 2 p.m. at Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza in Wilkes-Barre Township.

The University of Notre Dame and King's College in Wilkes-Barre were both founded and are administered by the Congregation of the Holy Cross.

Hailed as the only college football head coach to lead six different teams to post-season bowl games, Coach Holtz will also receive an honorary doctorate from King's during the ceremony where more than 400 graduates will receive either a bachelor's or master's degree.

Inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2008, Coach Holtz mentored his teams to a total of 243 wins, despite never inheriting a squad



Lou Holtz

that had a winning record the previous season.

In addition to Notre Dame, the coaching great has headed the football programs at William & Mary, North Carolina State, University of Arkansas, University of Minnesota, and University of South Carolina. In all, he coached the programs to 23 bowl appearances, including nine consecutive bowl games with Notre Dame.

Following his retirement from the sidelines, Coach Holtz began a distinguished career as a highly respected college football commentator for CBS, ESPN and Sirius Radio. He is the author of several best-selling books and is renowned as a much-sought-after motivational speaker.

The former coach and his wife, Beth, formed the Holtz Charitable Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization established to assist economic development in East Liverpool, Ohio, where the couple grew up and attended high school.

#### Alumna Slated As U of S Speaker

The University of Scranton announces distinguished alumna Kathleen Sprows Cummings, Ph.D., the director of the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism at the University of Notre Dame, will be the principal speaker at the university's undergraduate commencement on Sunday, May 26, beginning at 12 noon at the Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza in Wilkes-Barre Township.

Dr. Cummings, who received her bachelor's degrees in both history and philosophy and master's degree in history from the



**Dr. Kathleen Cummings** 

University of Scranton in 1993, will be conferred an honorary degree from her alma mater during the ceremony.

As director of the Cushwa Center, the keynote speaker leads research projects, seminars, conferences and publications with the nation's top scholars who explore Catholicism's role in U.S. history.

Her books include the recently published A Saint of Our Own: How the Quest for a Holy Hero Helped Catholics Become American, New Women of the Old Faith: Gender and American Catholicism in the Progressive Era, which won three 2009 Catholic Press Association awards, and Citizen Saints: Catholics and Canonization in American Culture.

Research for the books brought her to Rome several times, where she worked in the Vatican Secret Archives and in other religious archives in the city.

An expert on gender in Catholicism, Dr. Cummings has served as a media commentator on contemporary events in the Church, including NBC's live coverage of the canonization of Popes John Paul II and John XXIII, as well as Pope Francis' historic visit to America in 2015.

Dr. Cummings was a full-tuition Presidential Scholar while attending the U of S, before earning a second master's degree and doctorate from the University of Notre Dame.

She received Scranton's Frank J. O'Hara Distinguished Alumni Award for religion and spirituality in 2013 and, earlier this year, was bestowed the university's Pedro Arrupe, S.J., Award for Distinguished Contributions to Ignatian Mission and Ministry.

# Bishop's Youth Awards honor student service and leadership









Top: Hundreds of students attend the first Mass to receive their Bishop's Youth Awards on

Middle Left and Right: Students accept their awards for Bishop Joseph Bambera at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

Bottom: Principal Benjamin Tolerico and Reverend Cyril D. Edwards, V.E., pose for a picture with students from Holy Cross High School in Dunmore. (Photos/Mike Melisky)

SCRANTON -- They came from every corner of the Diocese, students in eighth and twelfth grade, ready to accept their awards for service and leadership.

"It was a pretty great feeling and to be recognized by the Church is a pretty big deal I think," Kate Franceschelli, a parishioner of Saint Catherine of Siena Church in Moscow said. "There's a lot of youth participation which is really amazing and to be recognized for that means a lot to me."

Franceschelli, a high school student at Scranton Prep, is an altar server at her Church and also is involved in the youth choir.

"I love being part of it. I think it's a really great community thing too getting to bond with the altar servers and the other kids involved in the same faith as you. It's awesome!" Franceschelli said.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera presented the Bishop's Youth Awards to 774 students representing parishes and Catholic schools throughout the Diocese of Scranton during Masses at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Tuesday, May 7, and Thursday, May 9.

Since 1996, the Bishop's Youth Award has recognized young people of the Diocese of Scranton for their commitment to faith and service in their parishes and schools.

"It was definitely a huge honor for me, especially it being my first time getting the award. I thought it was nice to be recognized," Enzo Cicco, a member of Saint Lucy's Parish in Scranton said

Cicco has been an altar server since around third grade and has helped out at numerous other events at his Church.

"Just to see the youth in the Church is a big thing and it's for up-and-coming generations to see!" Cicco said.

Nominated by their pastors, parish life coordinators, principals, directors of religious education and/or youth ministers, these young people have been described as devoted to the parish, natural servant-leaders and excellent examples to their peers and others.

"I was nominated by my youth group leader Kelly because I've been a CCD teacher for about four years at our Church and I've also been a part of the youth group for about six years and I've just tried to get as involved as possible in the Church," Callie Bertha, a North Pocono High School student and parishioner of Saint Eulalia Church in Roaring Brook Township said.

While admitting her mother is very proud of her for receiving the award, Bertha says seeing so many people honored shows the Church is vibrant and alive.

"It's pretty important because sure you get a lot of academic awards and all that but it's nice to be recognized for your faith!" Bertha said.

During each Mass to hand out the awards, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera praised the students.

"I hope you realize what a difference you make in our world and in our Church!" Bishop Bambera

On Tuesday evening, Father Cyril D. Edwards, V.E., gave the

"Somebody thinks they see Jesus in you. That is why you are here!" Father Edwards said.

Father Edwards told the honorees they go to Mass not because they have to but because they want to and need to. Instead of being an obligation, he says they see it as an invitation.

"Someone thinks they see goodness in you. You're proud of your faith!" Father Edwards said.

"You give us hope. Hope is priceless and hope is precious. You give that to us!" Father Edwards

On Thursday evening, Father Alex J. Roche gave the homily.

"There's somebody out there that thinks you're not just the future of the Church, you're the present of the Church, you're a great example, a great witness, you're really doing something right in living your faith!" Father Roche said.

Father Roche got the students in the crowd engaged by asking specific lessons or morals that they learned from movies or cartoons, using examples like Dora the Explorer and Toy Story 3.

"Each one of you has a very specific gift from God, each one of you was created utterly unique. and each one of you was created to do something very special and powerful in the world. There is some person, some place, some group, some situation, some time that is waiting for you, waiting for you to bring the gift that God has given you," Father Roche said.

Father Roche also challenged the students to remain active.

"Right now in this moment, the world and the Church needs you, needs you to continue doing what you've been doing, needs you to go out into the world and bring the gift that only you can bring, to proclaim the truth of our faith that we can come to know and to love Jesus Christ," Father Roche said.

For honoree Kacie Hogan, a senior at Meyers High School in Wilkes-Barre and parishioner at Saint Andrew's Church, she felt inspired after learning she was receiving the Bishop's Youth Award

"It's cool for me. It's telling me that I am helping a lot and I'm not just doing it for nothing!" Hogan said.

"As I've grown up and spent more time in the Church it does have a deeper meaning," Zachary Blau, parishioner at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Throop said.

"I've been an altar server since third grade, and then I always volunteer at any Church events, our chicken barbeque that we have in the summer, our family festival, our bingo games, I help decorate the Church for all the holidays as well too," Blau said.

At a time when not all his friends are involved in the Church. Blau says he is proud to devote time to his spiritual life and honored to get the Bishop's Youth Award.

"I was thrilled. It was like, this is all the hard work, because all the years that I've put in going to Church and volunteering and all the long nights and long shifts volunteering meant something!" Blau said.

The Bishop's Youth Award was developed by the Office for Parish Life and the Office for Catholic Schools. The award is the highest recognition offered to Catholic youth of the Diocese of Scranton.

Bishop Bambera closed each Mass with the words of Pope Francis in his Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation "Christus Vivit" which was published earlier this

"Dear young people, my joyful hope is to see you keep running the race before you, outstripping all those who are slow or fearful. Keep running, attracted by the face of Christ, whom we love so much...May the Holy Spirit urge you on as you run this great race of life. The Church needs your momentum, your intuitions, your faith, we all need you," Bishop Bambera said reciting the words of the Holy Father.









Top: Hundreds of students attend the second Mass to receive their Bishop's Youth Awards

Middle Left and Right: Students accept their awards from Bishop Joseph Bambera at the **Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.** 

Bottom: Students from Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston pose for a picture with Bishop Bambera after the Mass concluded. (Photos/Mike Melisky)

MAY 16, 2019 • THE CATHOLIC LIGHT



Summer Gathering of Diocesan Seminarians with Bishop Bambera August 2018

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## Meet the Deacons



**Deacon James** Meizanis

**Corpus Christi** Parish, **West Pittston** 

> **Ordination** Year: 2015

#### DESCRIBE YOUR ROLE AS A DEACON IN THE PARISH WHERE YOU ARE ASSIGNED. WHAT KIND OF SERVICE MINISTRY ARE YOU INVOLVED IN?

At Corpus Christi Parish, I perform most of the funeral vigil services. As time permits and as needed, I visit the sick and those in nursing homes. I perform many of the baptisms in the parish and preach one weekend a month. I teach the Confirmation class along with adult scripture study programs. I also maintain the parish website.

#### WHAT IS MOST FULFILLING ABOUT SERVING IN **OUR DIOCESE AS A PERMANENT DEACON?**

It is most fulfilling to me to be able to help people. As a Deacon who has a family and a career, the triumphs and struggles that I have encountered are things that many of my parishioners have gone through or are going through. I can share my life experiences with them to help them on their life's journey. There are so many of the things that I am able to do as a Deacon that are fulfilling, including preaching, administering the sacraments, and helping people through life's struggles. It is of special importance to be able to share with people the glory, greatness, and immense love of our Lord God.

#### WHAT IS THE MOST CHALLENGING THING ABOUT SERVING AS A PERMANENT DEACON?

The most challenging thing for me as a Deacon is balancing my family, career, and my ministry. It can be extremely challenging at times to give enough time and attention to each of these important areas. Also, it is challenging but important to make time to keep up with personal and spiritual growth.

#### WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO A MAN WHO FEELS CALLED TO THE PERMANENT DIACONATE AND IS CONSIDERING TAKING THE NEXT STEP?

I would say to the man that the Diaconate may be one of the most difficult and challenging things that you do in your life, but it is also one of the most rewarding and awesome experiences that you will encounter. I would not trade it for anything.



# 3,485 Years of Religious Life Celebrated

SCRANTON — Fifty years is a long time to do just about anything but the last five decades have brought a tremendous amount of joy to Sister Mary Beth Makuch, a member of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius.

"I just knew this is what I was supposed to do. I prayed about it," Sister Mary Beth Makuch, SS.C.M. said. "You know somehow that this is what you're supposed to do and I followed the spirit!"

Sister Makuch was one of 58 people recognized at a Mass and Jubilee Celebration for Women and Men Religious at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on Sunday, April 28, 2019.

Sister Makuch made

her first profession in 1969 just about three years after high school.

"They were graced years. It's a wonderful life and it's been good and God has been good to me. I'm very blessed. I've had many ministries. I taught school, primary grades for about 25 years. I ministered to the folks who are deaf and I was a minister to the deaf for 23 years in the Diocese of Scranton and also folks with developmental disabilities," Sister Makuch, SS.C.M. said.

Women and men celebrating jubilee anniversaries were honored at the Mass.

One member in attendance at the Mass, Sister Miriam Butz, R.S.M., was celebrating 80 years of service to the Lord.



Bishop Joseph C. Bambera and Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney, V.G., pose with those celebrating Jubilee anniversaries in 2019. (Photos/Mike Melisky)

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera was the principal celebrant and homilist at the Jubilee Celebration.

"We also gather in prayer to reflect upon a unique gift that is a part of the life-giving Church of the risen Jesus: the gift of Consecrated Life. We reflect upon women and men who have understood and embraced the Lord's universal call to holiness and mission," Bishop Bambera said. "We join together in our Cathedral to acknowledge women and men celebrating jubilees of 25, 50, 60, 65, 70, 75 and even 80 years in religious life who collectively represent over 3,485 years of service to the People of God. What a blessing you have been and continue to

be for all of us."

Bishop Bambera also celebrated each Jubilarian's embrace of the mission that Jesus entrusted to his apostles and all of those baptized – to witness the life and mercy of the risen Lord and build the Church.

The Bishop also spoke the words that Pope Francis said earlier this year at a Mass celebrated on the occasion of the World Day of Consecrated Life.

"This then is the consecrated life," Bishop Bambera said, quoting Pope Francis. "It is praise which gives joy to God's people, prophetic vision that reveals what counts. When it is like this, then it flowers and becomes a summons for all of us to counter mediocrity:

womer

to counter a devaluation

of our spiritual life, to

counter the temptation

to reduce God's

importance, to counter

an accommodation to a

comfortable and worldly

life ... Consecrated life

today is not about survival,

it is not about preparing

ourselves for death ...

It's about new life. It is

a living encounter with

the Lord in his people.

It is a call to the faithful

obedience of daily life

and to the unexpected

surprises from the Spirit.

It is a vision of what we

need to embrace in order

to experience joy: Jesus."

Makuch, she was happy to

attend the Mass, calling it a

wonderful day to celebrate

with other religious men and

For Sister Mary Beth

"It's a wonderful way to show our oneness. We're different communities, we do different ministries but when it comes down to it, we're all doing it for the Lord, for the kingdom, for the Church, for God and it gives us a sense of solidarity," Sister Makuch, SS.C.M. said.

When asked about what she would say to someone else considering religious life, Sister Makuch responded, "Pray. Pray over it. Pray about it and be open to God because we don't know, we don't know...I didn't want to be a nun since I was a little girl but somehow if you feel that calling, be open, be open to God and pray for discernment."



Women religious who serve the Church take part in a Jubilee Mass celebrating Anniversaries of Religious.



Jubilarians honored at Mass participate in the Renewal of Vows on Sunday, April 28.





#### **WELCOME TO THE CHURCH!**

A total of 178 people were baptized and received into full communion in the Church during Easter Vigil Masses across the Diocese of Scranton.

Thirteen people were welcomed by Bishop Joseph Bambera at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

During his homily, Bishop Bambera said, "they will tell you that for as broken and wounded as our Church may be, they have encountered the presence of God in this community of believers. They will tell you that they are here because they've experienced the risen Jesus living among us and in his Church!"





#### **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**

While the World Day of Prayer for Vocations was celebrated on May 12, the Diocese of Scranton celebrated with a Mass on Sunday, May 5, at Saint Rose of Lima Parish in Carbondale.

Bishop Joseph Bambera was celebrant and homilist.

On the 56th Anniversary of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Pope Francis said, "Let us join in prayer and ask the Lord to help us discover his plan of love for our lives, and to grant us the courage to walk in the path that, from the beginning, he has chosen for us!"





#### **UP & OVER RETREAT PLANNED**

The Up & Over Retreat is a weekend of fun, friendship and faith for sixth, seventh and eighth grade students at the beautiful wooded Camp Orchard Hill in Dallas.

It will take place from May 31-June 2. You will spend time outdoors, meet new friends and learn how your God-given gifts can be used when you work with others as a team!

"For a lot of students, this is the first retreat that they ever come to, so we try to make it fun and engaging," Shannon Kowalski, Coordinator for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, said.

Call (570) 207-2213 for more information.

# Editorial Eulogy

# Father Patrick S. Cortese

Please allow me to begin by thanking you for attending Father Cortese's Solemn Vespers this evening. I offer sympathy to those who mourn with us, especially Father's family and friends.

The priests gathered here this evening — like many of you – were associated with Father Cortese in many different ways and in varying degrees of friendship and fraternity.

Nevertheless, all of us belong to each other — for our priestly lives and ministries are forever linked to the sacred history of salvation in this local Church of Scranton.

George Bernard Shaw once wrote, "When I die, I want to be all used up."

Don't those words accurately describe the passing on of Father Patrick Cortese, affectionately known as Father Pat?

When he was called home early Thursday morning, his life was indeed all used up, all used up living out his call to the priesthood, all used up serving God's people, and all used up preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Just take one year and think of the baptisms, the Communions, Reconciliations, weddings, anointings, funerals, home visits, hospital calls, telephone messages, parish meetings, appointments with parishioners, and multiply that by 70 years. Father Cortese is all used up in bringing Jesus into the many lives that were in need of help and healing.

Father Cortese was loved, admired, and respected by all the lives he touched. He gave unselfishly and completely to his ministry of the priesthood. He was truly a person of great sincerity and compassionate care.

Today we pause to say "thank you" to Almighty God for placing Father Cortese in our lives. He is inescapably built into so many memories here at Holy Rosary and at Saints Cyril and Methodius Parish, in the other communities that he has served throughout the Diocese, and in many Air Force bases throughout the world.

People say, "There are births and deaths every day," and so there are. These are a part of the circle of life. However, what makes this piece of the circle so different is our lives have intimately mingled with Father Pat's life, isn't that why we hurt and grieve today, because we have grown to love him so much?

Our tears today are shed not only for him leaving us, but also for ourselves, knowing that our lives will never be the same because we will miss him, and have to wait for our own resurrection to see him again. So we mourn today for the time that has passed, the places we have shared and the world we once inhabited together.

Doesn't this teach us to appreciate the gift of life and the gift of each other? Too often we neglect paying attention to what really matters and who is really important. We put off saying, "I love you," "I forgive you," and "I care about you." Very often it is too late. How many times do we say tomorrow I will make the visit, the telephone call or spend time with the kids. Strangely enough, our tomorrows will run out.

Yes, death is the greatest of all teachers because it embraces everything that we do. With death comes loss: We lose all the earthly things like music and mountains, family and books, walks and sunsets, fishing and boating, sports and movies, worship and prayer, friends, and even love. One thing we can all agree upon and say with certitude: This life is short and it does not last forever. As we grow older, we realize the suddenness with which death looms over our lives.

We always know that death is present when someone close to us has died. We see it every day in obituaries where people younger than ourselves have died or suddenly we wake up and something is wrong. The doctor calls us about a recent test; we suddenly realize that life swings on a hinge and can drastically change in an instant.

As faith-filled Christians, however, we take Jesus at his word when he promises that our lives will have meaning and we will live forever. Jesus himself tells us that death is not the final word. The final word is life — everlasting life.

Archbishop Oscar Romeo, who was martyred for his faith and was recently canonized as a Saint, wrote this of priests: "Priests plant seeds that one day will grow...Priests water seeds already planted; knowing they hold the potential for doing good works in God's Church."

Father Cortese did just that in many areas of our Diocese and in many parts of the world throughout his 70 years of priestly ministry. He planted and nurtured seeds of faith and hope when people felt like giving up on life.

Father Maximilian Kolbe gave his own life in Auschwitz so that a married man might live and return to his family.

During the attack of the Twin Towers in New York on 9/11, a priest — Father Michael Judge, who was also a fire department chaplain — died in the inferno of the Twin Towers as he rushed to the assistance of rescue personnel.

The deaths of these priests — like many priests before them — are seen as acts of great compassion and priestly love. And certainly they are. But most priests don't die so dramatically.

But the death of Father Cortese is no less valuable for the Church and no less precious in the eyes of God. For each of them, as well as for Father Cortese, death represented their final configuration to the death of the Lord Jesus Christ, in anticipation



June 1 & 2 Weekend

Through Internet, social networks, television, radio, and print, the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC) helps the Church spread the Gospel message through the media locally and nationally. This collection will be taken up in the Diocese of Scranton the weekend of June 1-2. Half of all donations to the CCC collected in each diocese stay in that diocese to support local communications needs, such as television programming and diocesan publications.

In the Diocese of Scranton, these include *The Catholic Light* newspaper that is mailed to more than 50,000 readers; CTV: Catholic Television, which has a potential audience of 250,000 households; the Diocesan website; *News Briefing* electronic newsletter; social media such as Facebook and Twitter; and interaction with public media.

of their sharing in His Resurrection.

As priests, we touch and influence so many people in ways that we may never be aware of, at least on this side of eternity. Father Cortese was one of those worthy priests. And, I hope that now, from his side of eternity, he is aware of the good that he has done in the lives of countless number of people here in the Diocese of Scranton and beyond.

Throughout the many years of his ministry, Father Pat's warmth and wisdom that was forged from his own spiritual journey — a caring presence gathered from his own experiences in his life and in his priesthood over the years — his life of service to Christ and his people spoke for itself. He lived out his priesthood in a remarkable faithful way.

When Jesus said to young Patrick Cortese many years ago, "Patrick, come and follow me," he responded with a resounding "YES" which he never took back and faithfully began to follow the Lord in his church for many years to come. He was pastoral shepherd to his people; always there for them — in sickness and in health, in good times and difficult times — until they closed their eyes for the last time.

When people from my parish community heard of Father Cortese's death, they were truly shocked. One woman said, "He loved being a priest and was completely dedicated to his priesthood."

That woman's remarks accurately sum up Father Cortese's life. Priesthood for him wasn't just an eight-hour-a-day job...It was his entire life!

Saint Paul uses these words in describing his own ministry: "I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith." Today these words so appropriately capture Father Cortese's life and ministry: "I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith."

And now, this priest — Father Patrick Cortese — meets the God he always loved and preached about to others. And God in his loving way says to him gently and sincerely, "Well done my good and faithful servant. Enter the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

A song that we occasionally sing at Mass has the refrain: "We remember, we celebrate, we believe." As we gather here this evening to pray for the eternal rest of the soul of Father Cortese, we too remember, we celebrate, and we believe.

May his gentle soul and souls of all the faithful departed be at rest and peace in the loving and forgiving arms of their loving Creator! Amen.

Excerpted from the homily by Father Michael J. Piccola at the Solemn Vespers service celebrated for Father Patrick S. Cortese on May 6 at Holy Rosary Church in Hazleton.

# Prayer Requests for Priests

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

May 16, Monsignor William Ward; May 17, Father Christopher Washington; May 18, Father Marek Wasilewski; May 19, Father Seth Wasnock; May 20, Holy Cross Father Jarrod Waugh; May 21, Father Joseph Weber; May 22, Monsignor William Feldcamp; May 23, Father Donald Williams; May 24, Father Bryan Wright; May 25, Father Daniel Yenkevich; May 26, Father Richard Zavacki; May 27, Father Michael Zipay; May 28, Father Joseph Adonizio; May 29, Saint Peter Priestly Fraternity Father Zachary Akers; May 30, Father Patrick Albert; May 31, Father John Albosta; June 1, Pope Francis; June 2, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI; June 3, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; June 4, Father James Alco; June 5, Monsignor Thomas Banick.

# Building A Culture of Encounter Through the Social Teaching of the Church and Modern Communication



By Monsignor Vincent J. Grimalia

Diocesan Coordinator for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations

The violence in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday involved attacking three Catholic Churches and some hotels. People were killed and others seriously wounded.

Less than a week later, on April 27, an active shooter fired upon a Jewish community gathered at a syngogue in Poway, Calif., near San Diego, on the last day of Passover..

Catholic bishops from around the U.S. were quick to condemn the attack, which left one person dead and three others injured.

"Our country should be better than this; our world should be beyond such acts of hatred and anti-Semitism," Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said in a statement. "This attack joins an all too long list of attacks against innocent people, people of all faiths, who only want to gather and to pray. It is a contradiction, a perverting of their teachings to believe that Christianity, Judaism, or Islam would condone such violence."

The burning of three black churches in our country recently — and violence involving Jewish Synagogues and Muslim Mosques, among other acts of hatred — are a reminder that prayer, conversion, education, and action are needed. After these tragedies there were gatherings for prayer and support. Ongoing action to respect diversity is needed as well.

Local Muslim groups have expressed sorrow for the Easter Sunday violence in Sri Lanka. During the Pope's visit to Morocco, King Mohammed VI said: "What all terrorists have in common is not religion, but rather ignorance of religion. Today, religion should no longer be an alibi for ignorant people, for ignorance or for intolerance."

When acts of violence occur, they stir up more fear and hatred.

Xenophobia means a fear of the different, "the other." Samaritans were "the

other" to Jews in the time of Our Lord, yet in the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus speaks of the feared and hated "other" as the person of mercy and compassion. He presented a challenge to the prejudice of his audience and a call to conversion — a change of attitude and outlook, a change of mind, and to see Samaritans as brothers and sisters in the one human family.

The compendium of the social teaching of the Catholic Church states: "The Church's social doctrine is an integral part of her evangelizing ministry ... (and) is itself a valid instrument of evangelization" — thus born of the always-new meeting of the Gospel message and social life.

Understood in this way, this social doctrine is a distinctive way for the Church to carry out her ministry of the Word and her prophetic role: "In effect, to teach and to spread her social doctrine pertains to the Church's evangelizing mission and is an essential part of the Christian message, since this doctrine points out the direct consequences of that message in the life of society and situates daily work and struggles for justice in the context of bearing witness to Christ the Savior."

In his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis stated: "It is my hope that this Encyclical Letter, which is now added to the body of the Church's social teaching, can help us to acknowledge the appeal, immensity and urgency of the challenge we face."

Concern for the environment is a part of the social teaching of the Church, which is an integral part and valid instrument of evangelization.

Parish Social Justice Committees have an opportunity to assist the pastor in promoting the social doctrine of the church as an essential part of the evangelizing mission of the parish. This committee can help motivate all Catholics and encourage all people of good will to welcome our new neighbors



CNS Photo/Danish Siddiqui, Reuters

SRI LANKA (CNS) -- Catholic leaders canceled Sunday Masses for at least two weeks at Sri Lanka Churches as they fear new terrorist attacks after the Easter Sunday suicide bombings that killed more than 250 people.

Catholic schools have been closed until further notice. Although government schools reopened May 6, classrooms were nearly empty.

— the Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Baha'i and others, as well as other Christians and our Jewish friends.

In the document "Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together," signed by Pope Francis and Ahmad Al-Tayyeb, the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, they stated: "We resolutely declare that religions must never incite war, hateful attitudes, hostility and extremism, nor must they incite violence or the shedding of blood. These tragic realities are the consequence of a deviation from religious teachings."

Section 239 in the apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* states: "By preaching Jesus Christ, who is himself peace (cf. Eph 2:14), the new evangelization calls on every baptized person to be a peacemaker and a credible witness to a reconciled life. In a culture which privileges dialogue as a form of encounter, it is time to devise a means for building consensus and agreement while seeking the goal of a just, responsive and inclusive society."

Pope Francis, in his first Message for the 48th World Communications Day in 2014, used the image of the "Good Samaritan" as a "parable about communication" and the "other."

"How, then, can communication be at the service of an authentic culture of encounter? What does it mean for us, as disciples of the Lord, to encounter others in the light of the Gospel? In spite of our own limitations and sinfulness, how do we draw truly close to one another? These questions are summed up in what a scribe — a communicator — once asked Jesus: 'And who is my neighbor?'"(Lk 10:29).



This question can help us to see communication in terms of "neighborliness." We might paraphrase the question in this way: How can we be "neighborly" in our use of the communications media and in the new environment created by digital technology?

I find an answer in the parable of the Good Samaritan, which is also a parable about communication. Those who communicate, in effect, become neighbors. The Good Samaritan not only draws nearer to the man he finds half dead on the side of the road; he takes responsibility for him. Jesus shifts our understanding: It is not just about seeing the other as someone like myself, but of the ability to make myself like the other. Communication is really about realizing that we are all human beings, children of God. I like seeing this power of communication as "neighborliness."

We must learn how to dialogue — listening and speaking to others, building bridges, overcoming prejudices, building a culture of encounter — as disciples of Jesus Christ. The Church is the instrument and agent of the mission given to the apostles to preach the Gospel to all nations. As people who share in the mission, as members of the Church we must prayerfully work to overcome every form of prejudice and hatred: racial, religious, ethnic, and cultural.

To be Catholic is to be inclusive, welcoming all people as members of one human family, not excluding anyone because of their race, creed, culture or ethnicity.

Throughout the 11 counties of the Diocese of Scranton there are ecumenical, interfaith and civic groups that promote understanding and cooperation between various racial, religious, ethnic and cultural groups.

The Internet can also provide helpful information by visiting the site, "Scranton Penn State Campus Diversity Circles," (https://scranton.psu.edu/diversity-circle) and another site, "Everyday Democracy," (https://www.everyday-democracy.org/).

Our challenge and responsibility is to welcome our new neighbors, learn more about them and learn how to be good neighbors. All of us must "be a peacemaker and a credible witness to a reconciled life" as we work to build a culture of encounter, inspired by the Good Samaritan and the teaching of Jesus Christ, and guided by the social teaching of the Church.

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Christ is risen! Truly, He is risen! I am pleased to greet you with these words of victory and

The last time this column was published was on Holy Thursday and we were just entering into the Paschal Triduum and preparing for Easter. We have had plenty of time since then to work our way into the much more joyous and celebratory days of Easter after a Lent of focused prayer, intentional fasting, and thoughtful works of charity to our brothers and sisters. It's a relief to let go of all that spiritual and evangelical activity, right? Not so fast; it's just beginning.

How can we be silent or still after these days of such immense joy? I am reminded of two scenes from the Gospel which draw on the compulsion of so many to cry out in the name of Jesus because of joy: 1) the scene where the Pharisees insist that Jesus rebuke His disciples as they enter Jerusalem with Him and Jesus remarking famously, "I tell you, if they keep silent, the stones will cry out" (Lk. 19:40); 2) when Jesus warns against impending persecution with the rallying cry of "What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops" (Mt. 10:27).

What we have indeed heard and seen has not just been whispered to us but has been proclaimed loudly and with conviction. He is risen!! And cry out we must.

In some many instances within the early Church, we hear of instances of disciples risking all to proclaim the risen Savior. Again and again, they were told not to "preach in that name" (cf. Acts 5:28) and in so many instances risked and lost their lives because they had spoken "that name" and did so with love and deep faith to proclaim Jesus is Risen.

When it comes to you and me, we preoccupy ourselves about what might happen if we were to witness to our faith and do so at work, school, or even among friends or family. Surely, we won't be killed for doing so like the martyrs of the early Church. But we might be ridiculed, angrily reprimanded, or shamed by others. Perhaps we'll be called a radical, thought of as unsophisticated and irrational, accused of wanting the whole world to return to the dark ages.

Still, preach we must; witness we must; love we must. In the words of Blessed John Henry Newman, "God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission."

Yes, you and I have a mission, a "definite service" that's uniquely entrusted to us alone. If we do not speak, who will speak; if we do not act, who will act; if we do not love, who will love? God needs you; so, stop complicating matters with loads of self-deprecating notions of unworthiness. Simply pray, study, and act.

A little inspiration from Scripture might help. Just a few days ago, we read from the Acts of the Apostles of the exchange between Philip and the Ethiopian court official (see Acts 8:26-40).

The unnamed official was in his chariot reading from the prophet Isaiah, and Philip, inspired by the Holy Spirit, approached the chariot and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading." The Ethiopian responded quickly, "How can I, unless someone instructs me." Philip was then invited into the chariot and the rest is history.

Situations like this are perhaps more subtle than other more dramatic calls to witness in the Gospels and in Acts. There's little or no risk for us (the only risk perhaps is a missed opportunity).

Each day, you and I face opportunities to approach the "chariots" of others and invite them to hear and believe the saving message of Jesus Christ. Many times it is as subtle as that, just approaching someone and offering a hopeful word, a taste of what is

Philip simply took a few steps and asked a question. We can do likewise so that the mission that has been entrusted to our care won't be for naught.





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## Pittston Parish Plans 25th Anniversary Golf Event



The 25th annual golf tournament of Saint Joseph Marello Parish in Pittston will tee off on Sunday, June 9, at 8:30 a.m. at Edgewood Golf Course in Drums. This year's golf event will honor the living and deceased members of the Musto family of the Pittston area. The silver anniversary tournament begins with player registration at 7:45 a.m., followed by a shotgun start, with Captain & Crew format, at 8:30 a.m. Registration fee is \$85 per golfer, which includes green fees with cart, refreshments, and awards dinner at the Edgewood club house. Dinner cost for non-golfers is \$15 per person. Pictured are members of the Musto family along with Father Joseph Elston, pastor of Saint Joseph Marello Parish (far left), and Saint Joseph Oblate Father Jackson Pinheiro, assistant pastor. Registration deadline for the golf tourney is June 1. For more information and to register, contact Emory Guffrovich (570-655-1664) or the parish office (570-654-6902).

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# Annual Men's Retreat at Saint Gabriel's May 31-June 2

SOUTH ABINGTON TOWNSHIP — The annual Men's Retreat sponsored by The **Endless Mountains and Wyoming** Valley Men's retreat leagues will be hosted at Saint Gabriel's Retreat Center, 631 Griffin Pond Road, Clarks Summit, during the weekend of May 31-June 2.

Serving as retreat directors for the weekend will be Franciscan Father Pio Mandato and Sister Theresa May, of the Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth.

The retreat's theme is based on the Scripture verse: "Be Holy Because I Am Holy" (1 Peter

The weekend retreat gathering begins on Friday, May 31, with supper at 6 p.m. Departure

follows the noon meal on Sunday, June 2.

A Franciscan priest living as a missionary hermit in the Diocese of Scranton since 1998, Father Pio Mandato is a native of Italy who was raised in New Jersey. He entered the Capuchin Franciscan order at the age of 17, when he began his Franciscan and priestly formation.

Father Pio was ordained a Capuchin priest in 1985 and has since served in various apostolates, including hospital chaplaincy, ministering to the homeless, directing spiritual retreats and presiding at healing Masses.

Sister Theresa May, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., entered the Franciscan Missionaries of the

Infant Jesus in 1969 and served for two years in religious formation in Assisi, Italy, before returning the U.S. to minster in Catholic education.

In 1994, while serving in New Bedford, Mass., she helped establish a new community of religious Sisters devoted to prayer and poverty. The Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth is an apostolic contemplative community currently based in Tunkhannock. The Sisters lead lives of prayer and ministry through preached retreats, parish mission work, and service to youth and young adults.

Preached retreats at Saint Gabriel's consist of conferences on the spiritual life, private time for personal reflection, prayer services, opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and celebration of the Eucharistic liturgy. Weekend retreats require a deposit.

For more information and reservations, contact the Endless Mountains Men's Retreat League through Chris Ciprich (570-290-4464) or chris.ciprich@ gmail.com; or the Wyoming Valley Men's Retreat League, Ed Bezdziecki (570-899-0551) or bez226@yahoo.com.

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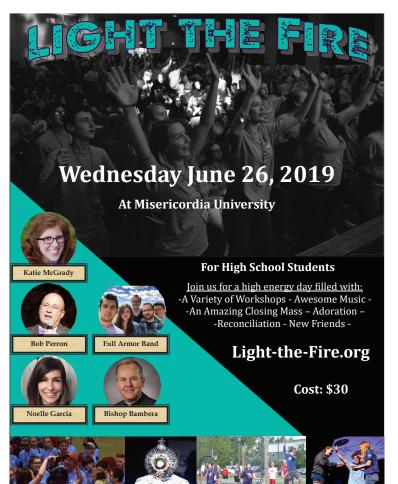
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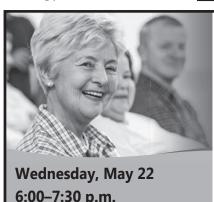
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#### **Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor**

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 Respecto 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

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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Weekly Bible Study — MAY 17, hosted by St. Lawrence Parish in Great Bend; held on Fridays at 7 p.m. in the Trinity Center, adjacent to St. Lawrence Church. All are welcome.

Gathering of the Secular Discalced Carmelites — MAY 18, canonically established community of the Diocese of Scranton; gatherings are usually held on the third Sunday of every month at Holy Annunciation Monastery in Sugarloaf, Luzerne County. All are welcome, especially those who feel called to a deeper consecration in life and wish

to experience Carmelite spirituality and community. Call Ann Marie Fierro (570-454-4493), Nicole Tranguch (570-751-4729), or Marie Schimmelbusch (570-822-6561) for more information.

Weekly Queen of Our Hearts Rosary Prayer Service — MAY 18, 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.

Meeting of Lay Carmelites - MAY 18, 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).

Religious Vocation Day of Discernment - MAY 19, hosted by the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius at Villa Sacred Heart in Danville; afternoon of prayer,

conversation and fellowship, concluding with a supper meal, offered from 3 to 6 p.m. Open to women ages 18 to 40. Reservations requested by May 17; responses accepted at sscmvocation@gmail.

Sunday Our Lady of Guadalupe Rosary Devotion — MAY 19, hosted by St. Lucy Church, 949 Scranton St., West Scranton; devotion held every Sunday evening from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the church or at the outdoor grotto (weather permitting) through the first week of December. Includes recitation of the 15 decades of the Rosary (Joyful, Sorrowful & Glorious Mysteries) and additional prayers offered for the special intentions of world peace, an increase in vocations to the priesthood/religious life, and an end to abortion.

Bereavement Support Gatherings — MAY 19 & JUNE 5, hosted by Our Lady of the Snows Parish in Clarks Summit; support group meetings held on the first Wednesday of the month, at 10 a.m.,

Continued on Page 28

# Parish Plans Young Adult Pilgrimage to Philadelphia

PITTSTON — Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Pittston announces plans for a one-day Young Adult Pilgrimage to Philadelphia it is sponsoring in June.

Open to all area young adults, the faith-themed pilgrimage exploring the rich Catholic history of the City of Brotherly Love will take place on Saturday, June 29.

Round-trip bus transportation will depart from Saint John the Evangelist Church, William St., Pittston, at 8:30 a.m. and arrive back at 10 p.m.

Itinerary for the excursion includes a private tour of the National Saint John Neumann Shrine, lunch at Spruce Street Harbor Park, visit to Old Saint Joseph's National Shrine (the oldest Catholic church in the city), attendance at Mass at Philadelphia's Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and

Paul (home of the crypt of Saint Katharine Drexel), and a dinner stop at Dave and Busters.

Cost for the pilgrimage is \$20 per person, excluding lunch and dinner. Limited space is available.

For more information and registration, call or text Steve Wallo at (570-764-2531).

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# Oblates of Saint Joseph to Celebrate Founder's Feast Day

PITTSTON — The Oblates of Saint Joseph religious congregation will host their annual celebration for the feast of their founder, Saint Joseph Marello, with a Triduum (three-day) devotion beginning on the upcoming Memorial Day weekend

The Triduum will be held daily Sunday thru Tuesday, May 26-28, in the chapel of Saint Joseph's Oblate Seminary, 1880 Route 315, Laflin.

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be celebrated each evening at 7 p.m., followed by Novena prayers to Saint Joseph Marello and individual blessing with the first-class

Mass will

relic of the saint. Prior to the evening liturgies, Confessions will be heard and the Rosarv will be recited.

The Feast of Saint Joseph Marello will be solemnly celebrated on Wednesday, May 29, with Masses offered at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. in the seminary chapel.

Serving as principal celebrant and homilist will be Very Rev. Matthew Spencer, OSJ, newly elected provincial supeior of the Oblates' USA Province.

Saint Joseph Marello (1844– 1895) was a priest of the Diocese of Asti in the Piedmont region of Italy, and founded the Oblates of Saint Joseph in 1878.

He served as bishop in the nearby Diocese of Acqui from 1889 until his death on May 30,

Saint John Paul II beatified Bishop Marello in 1993 in the saint's native city of Asti and then canonized him in 2001 at Saint Peter's Basilica in Vatican City, Rome.

The Oblates of Saint Joseph have been serving in the Diocese of Scranton since 1929 and also minister in 15 countries around the world.



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# **Spiritual** Offerings

Continued from Page 27

and the third Sunday of the month, at 2 p.m., in the Gathering Room (lower level) of Our Lady of the Snows Church, 301 South State St., Clarks Summit. All are welcome; no registration is required.

Weekly "Flame of Love" Prayer Group Meeting — MAY 20, hosted by St. Barbara Parish at St. Anthony of Padua Church, Memorial St., Exeter; prayer group meets every Monday at 11:15 a.m. Mass is celebrated at 12:10 p.m. following recitation of the "Flame of Love" Rosary. All faithful are welcome.

Annual 13-Week Novena to St. Anthony of Padua — MAY 21-JUNE 13, hosted by Our Lady of Hope Parish, 40 Park Ave., Wilkes-Barre; St. Anthony Novena devotion offered on 13 consecutive Tuesday evenings, beginning each week at 5:30 p.m. in the parish church. Novena theme: "Venerable Solanus Casey, OFM, Cap.:

Continued on Page 29



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# Spiritual Offerings Around the Diocese

Continued from Page 28

Spiritual Counselor & Wonder Worker." All faithful are welcome to attend; for more information, call (570-824-7832).

Weekly Bible Study — MAY 22, hosted by Prince of Peace Parish in Old Forge; weekly sessions offered on Wednesdays from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room at St. Lawrence Church, Main St., Old Forge. Guest facilitator: JoAnn Wilbur. All faithful are welcome; refreshments will be provided.

Wednesday Eucharistic Adoration — MAY 22, hosted by Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Tunkhannock; exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament offered every Wednesday from 2 to 5 p.m. in Nativity BVM Church, 99 East Tioga St., Tunkhannock. All faithful are welcome. For more information, call (570-881-9916).

Weekly Divine Mercy Devotion — MAY 22, hosted by St. Lawrence Parish in Great Bend; Hour of Mercy devotion held every Wednesday at 3 p.m. in St. Lawrence Church. All faithful are welcome.

Weekly Bereavement Support Group Sessions — MAY 22-JUNE 12, series of weekly meetings, addressing topics dealing with the grief process in order for participants to find healing; Bereavement Support Group meets on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave., Scranton (across from St. Peter's Cathedral). Anyone interested in attending is asked to contact the Cathedral Parish office at (570-344-7231).

Monthly Meeting of the Lay Fraternity of St. Dominic — JUNE 9, hosted by St. Thomas Aquinas Chapter 413; gathering held on the second Sunday of every month, following the Sunday morning Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church, Honesdale. All professed members, those in the process of formation or anyone interested in deepening their faith by following the Dominican spirituality and its four "pillars" (prayer, study, community and apostolate) are welcome. For more information, call Lay Dominican MaryAnn Cavanaugh, formation director, at (570-228-8624) or catholichomeschoolmom@hot mail.com.

Fatima Shrine Pilgrimage JUNE 13, bus excursion to Our Lady of Fatima Shrine in Washington, N.J.; sponsored by the Blue Army of the Scranton Diocese. Bus departure from St. Joseph's Oblate Seminary, Route 315, Laflin (Pittston) at 8 a.m. Pilgrimage includes visits to the Shrine's Rosary Walk & Garden, Stations of the Cross path, and gift shop; celebration of Mass, Eucharistic adoration, and opportunity for sacramental confessions. Cost: \$35 per person. For more information and reservations, contact John Witkosky at (570-288-4311).

#### Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Pilgrimage



Pictured are members of the group from Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Swoyersville who traveled on pilgrimage earlier this month to Emmitsburg, Maryland. The pilgrims attended Mass near Mount Saint Mary's Seminary, prayed at the Grotto Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, and venerated the tomb of Mother Seton during a tour of the Basilica of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. The group also viewed a film on the life of Mother Seton.

Catholic Women's Retreat
— AUG. 13-15, sponsored by
the St. Raphael Society Prayer
Group; retreat for women held at
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Michael Grogan

**Bob Valiante** 



Date: 6-8-2019 (Saturday) Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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REGISTRATION AT 9:00 A.M. — PROGRAM STARTS AT 9:30 A.M. Coffee and Donuts available at 9:00 A.M.

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**Michael Grogan** is a legally blind lay missionary, who, while on a youth retreat in 1993, had a radical conversion; his life was transformed by the love of Jesus and Our Blessed Mother. It was their love that led him to dedicate his life to evangelizing the poorest of the poor in the South Bronx, where he currently lives. His passion is helping gang members and street kids know of God's love and mercy. Through his ministry, dozens upon dozens of these kids have been transformed, leading them to receive the sacraments. Michael has a teaching ministry, is a professional speaker, musician and the founder and director of Prophetic Encounters Ministry.

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# Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese

Spring "Oldies" Dinner Dance — MAY 17, sponsored by St. André Bessette Parish in Wilkes-Barre; held from 6 to 10 p.m. at St. Mary's Byzantine Social Hall, 522 Madison St., Wilkes-Barre. Featuring homemade buffet dinner, including desserts and soft drinks; followed by live "oldies" music for listening and dancing pleasure provided by Millennium. Patrons may provide their own beverages; event also includes basket raffle and other prizes. Cost: \$20 per person (must be at least 21 years of age). Tickets may be obtained at the parish office at 668 N. Main St., Wilkes-Barre, weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., or by calling Tina at (570-814-9227).

Book Signing with Author Mike Aquilina — MAY 18, hosted by Heaven & Earth Gift Shop, located in The Guild Building, 400 Wyoming Ave., downtown Scranton; featuring award-win-

ning local author Mike Aquilina and his new book, *Villains of the Early Church: And How They Made Us Better Christians.* Event held from 1 to 4 p.m.; for more information, call (570-800-1877) or visit: heavenandearthgiftshop. com.

Gigantic Yard Sale Fundraiser — MAY 18, to benefit the Oblates of St. Joseph religious congregation; begins at 9 a.m. at St. Joseph's Oblate Seminary, 1880 Highway 315, Laflin (Pittston). Featuring gently used housewares, toys, baby items, books, holiday decorations, jewelry, purses, tools, furniture and more; includes sale of homemade baked items. For more information, contact the Oblates' seminary at (570-654-7542).

Cash & Designer Purse Bingo - MAY 18, hosted by Gate of Heaven Parish in Dallas; games begin at 12 noon in the school gymnasium (doors open at 11 a.m.). Admission cost: \$20 for 20 games; specials sold separately. Event also includes theme basket raffle, games of chance, cash and door prize drawings; bake sale, food and refreshments for sale. Tickets available daily at the parish office from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., and at all weekend Masses. For more information, call Carol at (570-675-1394).

Spring Fling — MAY 18, sponsored by St. John Bosco Parish, Route 93, Conyngham; held from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the parish center. Fundraiser event includes

flea market, tricky tray drawings, and food for purchase.

Country-Style Ham & Turkey Dinner — MAY 19, hosted by Immaculate Conception Church, 5973 Jacks Hollow Road, Williamsport; all-you-can-eat dinner served from 12 noon to 6 p.m. in the parish hall. Cost: adults, \$9.50; children (ages 4 to 12), \$4. Tickets available at the door.

Bingo & Basket Raffle -MAY 19, sponsored by All Saints Parish in Plymouth; hosted in the Holy Child Faith Formation Center, 119 Willow St., Plymouth. Doors open at 12 noon; games begin at 1 p.m. with cash prizes. Event includes 15 regular games and several specials. Admission cost: \$5, includes three cards for any regular game; additional regular and special game cards will be sold. Basket raffle tickets and refreshments available for purchase. Early reservations encouraged; limited tickets available at the door. For more information and advance tickets, call (570-332-1176).

Gift Card Bingo — MAY 19, sponsored by the Youth Ministry of Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, 420 Main Road, Buttonwood section of Hanover Township; doors open at 12 noon and games begin at 1 p.m. Featuring numerous top-prize gift cards from area restaurants and businesses; event also includes cash raffle drawing, door prizes, lunch menu and bake

Continued on Page 31

### Who makes house calls?

As of October 2015, I will now meet clients either at their home, or at a location they choose and no longer require clients to meet at my office. I have decided that I would change the way I meet with people so it will be as easy and as convenient as possible for the client.

Based on my practice, which consists of estate planning and administration along with elder law, I find that clients are more comfortable discussing such matters in familiar surroundings. While I know this may seem unconventional to some, I believe I will be able to serve clients much better in this fashion. If anyone is uncomfortable with home visits, I have a few locations where I can meet in an office setting. I look forward to meeting with my existing clients and especially meeting new clients that are looking for any assistance in estate or elder law matters.

#### **Elder Law**

- Guardianships
- Asset Protection Planning
- Medicaid Application Assistance

#### **Estate Administration**

#### **Probate:**

Settle all estate matters and distribute inheritances.

#### Inheritance Tax:

Utilize all discounts and proper deductions. Meet all requirements and deadlines.

- Powers of Attorney Living Wills Wills
- Trusts Guardianships Asset Protection Planning
- Medicaid Application Assistance

# **Estate Planning**

- Powers of Attorney Living Wills
- Wills Trusts Guardianships



# Michael J. Bendick

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Switzerland; Greece & Turkey; Budapest; Prague; Our Lady of Guadalupe; Colombia; Argentina; Domestic Destinations; etc...

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# Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese

Continued from Page 30

sale. Admission fee: \$5, includes 15 regular games and one door prize ticket; five special games available for \$1 each. For more information, call (570-328-4004).

Annual Bocce Tournament Fundraiser — MAY 25, hosted by the Old Forge Sons of Italy, to benefit the St. Francis Commons in Scranton, providing transitional housing to homeless veterans; held at the Arcaro & Genell Bocce Courts, Main St., Old Forge. Games start at 9 a.m. Entrance fee: \$100 per four-person team, includes continental breakfast, lunch and dinner; spectator tickets: \$20 each,

including all meals. Individual/corporate sponsorships available for \$100; includes four admission tickets and meals. For more information and registration, contact John Returra (570-687-0301) or Joe Mecca (570-507-0734); registration required by May 18.

Holy Cross High School Crusader Classic 5K Run & Orlando One-Mile Race—JUNE 1, fundraising event to benefit the track & field and cross country teams of Holy Cross High School in Dunmore; races begin at 8:30 a.m. at Holy Cross High School, 501 E. Drinker St., Dunmore. Courses start and finish on the high school grounds (Truman St.). For more

information on race participation/ awards and sponsorship, contact (570-383-0961).

Seventh Annual St. Jude International Fest — JUNE 1 & 2, sponsored by St. Jude Parish in Mountain Top; festival hours: Saturday, 4 to 11 p.m., and Sunday, 12 noon to 9 p.m., in the parish grove, 420 South Mountain Blvd. International festival features ethnic foods and beverages from around the world, as well as traditional American favorites. Entertainment: "Chester Avenue" on Saturday; local dance studios, Sunday afternoon. Grand prize cash raffle drawing on Sunday night; tickets available at the parish office or on the festival grounds.

Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary Bingo — JUNE 5 & 19, sponsored by Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary Parish, Jermyn; games usually held on the first and third Wednesdays of the month in the parish center, 624 Madison Ave., Jermyn. Doors open at 5 p.m.; early-bird games start 6 p.m. (regular games, 6:30). Event includes homemade foods and desserts; specialty games, refreshments, door prizes and progressive jackpot. Free admission; for more information, call (570-876-1061).



#### HEAVEN & EARTH



Book Signing by Mike Aquilina

Saturday, 5/18 1:00PM - 4:00PM

An award-winning author and host of numerous television series, Mike has written over 40 books on topics including church history, doctrine, and devotion.



Featured Book:

Villains of the Early Church: And How They Made Us Better Christians

Book Signing with Ceresa Comeo

Friday, 6/21 6:00PM - 8:00PM

Teresa is the Keynote Speaker of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Catholic Women's Conference, bestselling author, syndicated Catholic talk show host, and international speaker on taking our faith into our daily lives.



Featured Book:

Beyond Sunday: Becoming A 24/7 Catholic

Shop our book selection and spring giftware including beautiful ideas for Confirmation, First Communion, Weddings, Graduation and Mother's Day!

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# 5th Annual *Quo Vadis Days*June 23-26 at Misericordia

The Diocesan Vocations Office is gearing up for their annual *Quo Vadis Days* at Misericordia University in Dallas June 23-26.

The camp is designed for Catholic men in high school to deepen their faith, learn more about all vocations, and better discern God's call in their lives. It will feature dynamic talks, prayer, games, sports, activities, and music.

Participants will have the opportunity to meet Bishop Bambera, priests, college students and young adults serving on the leadership team and seminarians of the Diocese of Scranton.

Father Don Williams, Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians, is looking forward to the camp once again this year.

"This is the fifth year our office is sponsoring *Quo Vadis Days*," he said. "Because of our gatherings throughout the year and other programs we have been sponsoring, we are anticipating an increase in attendance this year. We know this will be possible with the help of priests, deacons, sisters, parish life coordinators, directors of religious education, and youth ministers."

Participants can register online at vocations.dioceseofscranton.org. For more information, please call 570-207-1452.

# **UPCOMING PICNICS**

#### **JUNE**

**6, 7, 8** — Divine Mercy, Scranton, church grounds, 312 Davis St., Minooka section.

**20, 21, 22** — St. Leo's/Holy Rosary, Ashley, parish grounds, 33 Manhattan St.

**20, 21, 22** — Mary, Mother of God, Scranton, Holy Rosary Center and grounds, West Market St. & Wayne Ave., North Scranton.

**20**, **21**, **22** — Corpus Christi, West Pittston, Immaculate Conception Church grounds, 601 Luzerne Ave., West Pittston.

**22**, **23** — St. Mary's (Our Lady Help of Christians), Dorrance, church grounds, 3529 St. Mary's Road.



#### **Watch Video**

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

# The Catholic Light

MAILING LABEL - Please be sure to enclose this label with any address changes and mail to The Catholic Light, 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503

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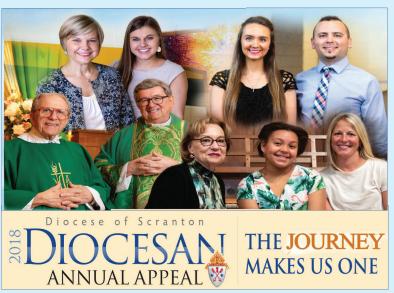
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# Please join us with a gift to the Diocesan Annual Appeal...

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



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

- 1. Catholic Social Services & Social Justice Grants 3. Clergy Education & Care...funds seminarian and ...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.
- 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 <u>www.AnnualAppeal.org</u> 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.