

# Diocese of Scranton News Briefing



[www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org) Vol. 15 #8 5/29/2019



## 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.*

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## THREE SEMINARIANS ORDAINED AS TRANSITIONAL DEACONS



MOUNTAIN TOP -- Hundreds of people filled Saint Jude Parish on Saturday, May 25, as three local men were called forth to the Order of the Diaconate for service to the People of God in the Diocese of Scranton.

Jonathan P. Kuhar, Kevin M. Miller and Shawn M. Simchock began the final step of their formation to the priesthood when they were ordained to the Transitional Diaconate by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera.

"It's an amazing experience. It's indescribable. I'm moved, I'm touched, I'm blessed, I'm humbled, I'm happy, joyful, at peace, there's so much and so little I could say in the end, it's an amazing thing and to have my family and friends and Shawn and Kevin with me, it was a beautiful experience," Jonathan P. Kuhar said following the Mass.

"I first felt the call to the priesthood when I was 12 years old and it really came through just some really wonderful pastors that I had back in my home parish of Holy Savior in the east end of Wilkes-Barre, the old Irish Catholic parish up on the hill," Kevin M. Miller said. "The pastors there really encouraged me, they saw a love of God and a love of the Church and a love of people and how the people responded and said -- you might very well have this calling -- so they were very close to my mind and in my prayers."

"God's calling came to me through the untimely illness and death of my mother. They all say God writes straight with crooked lines so it was through that experience that I found my calling. It's funny because, my calling, I thought originally was to the Permanent Diaconate program and that's where I began back in 2014 and then I transitioned out of that after one year to the seminary," Shawn M. Simchock said.

*Read More about the Ordination in the June 6, 2019 edition of The Catholic Light.*

**TO VIEW A PHOTO ALBUM OF THE MASS, VISIT:**

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/DioceseOfScranton/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=1768806853221438](https://www.facebook.com/pg/DioceseOfScranton/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1768806853221438)

**TO WATCH THE MASS BROADCAST ON CTV: CATHOLIC TELEVISION, VISIT:**

<https://www.dioceseofscranton.org/media/ctv-catholic-television/diaconate-ordination-may-25-2019/>

**ANNUAL DIOCESAN SCOUT MASS THIS WEEKEND**

The annual Scout Mass will be held on Sunday, June 2, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will be the celebrant.

Scouts who have earned the *Ad Altare Dei*, *Pope Pius XII*, *I Live My Faith*, *Mary the First Disciple* and *Spirit Alive* religious emblems have been invited to the Mass.

Family members and scout leaders are also welcome to join in the celebration!

**SAVE THE DATE: PENTECOST CELEBRATION PLANNED**

# PENTECOST CELEBRATION

of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal  
in the Diocese of Scranton



**Michael Grogan**



**Bob Valiante**

**Date: 6-8-2019 (Saturday)**

**Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

## Diocesan Pastoral Center

330 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503

REGISTRATION AT 9:00 A.M. — PROGRAM STARTS AT 9:30 A.M.

Coffee and Donuts available at 9:00 A.M.

**FREE REGISTRATION ... FREE LIGHT LUNCH (Hoagie & Beverage)**

**\*\*\*MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED BY PHONE FOR LUNCH (SEE CONTACTS BELOW)\*\*\***

**Please leave your name, phone number and Hoagie selection**

**Cut-off date for ordering lunch is Monday 6-3-2019**

Choice of Tuna, Turkey or Italian hoagie (vegetarian special order)

**+++ A Free-Will Offering will be taken +++**



### HIGHLIGHTS ...

- Spirit-filled Prayer & Praise
- Inspiring Music & Anointed Worship
- Challenging Teaching
- Prayers for Healing

**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.

### RESERVATION CONTACTS:

Jim Roberts 570-267-1614  
Joyce Hudak 570-735-1068  
Cookie Ruppert 570-595-9327  
CCR Office 570-344-2214  
Email [ccrenewal@comcast.net](mailto:ccrenewal@comcast.net)  
(specify type of hoagie when registering)

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL  
OF THE DIOCESE OF SCRANTON  
PO BOX 3306  
SCRANTON, PA 18505  
570-344-2214  
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*Accompanying Catholics  
in Building a Culture of Pentecost  
to Support the New Evangelization*

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the Diocese of Scranton will host its annual Pentecost Celebration on Saturday, June 8. The event will be held at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Avenue in Scranton, beginning with registration and coffee/donuts from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. The main program will be offered from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The program will feature times of song and praise, as well as presentations by Michael Grogan and Bob Valiante.

Michael Grogan is a legally blind Catholic lay missionary who had a radical spiritual conversion while on a youth retreat in 1993. 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 and musician, and is the founder and director of Prophetic Encounters Ministry.

Bob Valiante has been involved in the Charismatic Renewal of the Catholic Church in various capacities for 48 years. He is a past coordinator of the Service Team for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the Diocese of Scranton. He is the founder and past coordinator of the annual Catholic Charismatic Conference held every summer in Scranton, which is in its 37th year. A member of St. John Neumann Parish in Scranton, Bob has been appointed by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera to be his Liaison to the Charismatic Renewal in our Diocese, and also as the overall Coordinator of the Charismatic Renewal for the Diocese of Scranton.

There is no cost to attend the Pentecost Celebration, which includes a free lunch (hoagie and beverage). However, you must register by June 3 for the free lunch, and specify your preferred hoagie (Tuna, Turkey, or Italian).

For more information and registration, contact the Catholic Charismatic Renewal office, P.O. Box 3306, Scranton, PA 18505-0306; phone (570) 344-2214; or email [ccrenewal@comcast.net](mailto:ccrenewal@comcast.net).

### 10TH VOCATIONS GOLF CLASSIC QUICKLY APPROACHING



Parishioners and friends of the Diocese of Scranton have expressed their overwhelming support for the priesthood through the Vocations Golf Classic since it began 10 years ago.

"Each year, donors and golfers from throughout the 11 counties of our Diocese participate in this event to help foster vocations and provide direct assistance to seminarians on their journey to the priesthood. We are very grateful," the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, said.

Bishop Bambera is honorary chair for the 10th Annual Vocations Classic to be held Monday, July 8, at Blue Ridge Trail Golf Club, Mountain Top. The tournament features a captain and crew format on the 27-hole course. The day begins with lunch at 11 a.m., 12 noon start and reception and dinner immediately following.

Reverend Donald J. Williams, Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians, is event chair.

Tournament proceeds fund discernment programs for men considering the priestly vocation as well as help cover costs for men in seminary formation. Funds may also be used to alleviate concerns for men responding to God's call who have prior financial obligations, Rev. Williams explained.

"As a Diocese, we are blessed with good men in seminarian formation. We're also engaging a significant number of potential candidates who may one day be of priestly service to the Diocese," Rev. Williams said.

"I join with our Bishop and the golf committee in inviting everyone to make a donation in memory of a friend or loved one," the vocations director added. "The tournament also provides an opportunity for golfers, sponsors and seminarians to meet informally and enjoy a relaxing day outdoors."

Donations of any amount are welcome. Golfer packages at \$250 include cart and green fees, lunch, dinner and reception. Hole sponsorship are \$100. For credit card donations, reservations or information go online to [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org), and select the GIVING subtitle, or call the Diocesan Development Office at 570-207-2250.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE GOLF CLASSIC OR TO REGISTER, VISIT:**

<https://www.dioceseofscranton.org/vocations-golf-classic/>

Committee members planning the 10th Annual Vocations Golf Classic to be held Monday, July 8, at Blue Ridge Trail Golf Club, Mountain Top, include as pictured above, seated from left, Karen Clifford, Monsignor David Bohr, Secretary for Clergy Formation; Marilouise Agnone Ruane, Director of Stewardship, Golf Co-Chair; Rev. Donald Williams, Director of Vocations and Seminarians, Chair; and Attorney Joseph O'Brien. Standing are Christopher DiMattio, Paul Woelkers, Rev. Joseph Evanko, William Genello, Rev. Jeffrey Walsh, Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; Thomas Considine, Dominic Rinaldi, Michael Brown, Rev. David Cappelloni, and Jim Bebla, Secretary for Development. Bishop Joseph C. Bambera is honorary chair.

Also serving on the committee are Deacon Frank Hine, Michele Long, Scott Lynett, Monsignor Donald McAndrews, Thomas Medico, Frank Orlando, Kathy Oven, John Smith and Mark Soprano. All donations are welcome. Proceeds help foster vocations to the Diocesan priesthood and directly support seminarians. Donations are welcome in any amount and may be made in memory of friends and family.

**CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!!**

A total of 314 graduates are expected to graduate from the four Catholic High Schools of the Diocese of Scranton over the coming week.

We congratulate each and every graduate and the family and friends that have supported them along their educational journey.

This year, graduating students from the four high schools have earned more than \$45.8 million (Yes, you read that right \$45.8 MILLION) in scholarship money.





*2018 Photo from Notre Dame Graduation*

**GRADUATION SCHEDULE**

**Wednesday, May 29**  
**Holy Redeemer High School**  
7:00 PM  
Kirby Center, Wilkes-Barre

**Friday, May 31**  
**Holy Cross High School**  
7:00 PM  
Marywood University, Scranton

**Saturday, June 1**  
**Notre Dame High School**  
11:00 AM  
Notre Dame High School, East Stroudsburg

**Tuesday, June 4**  
**Saint John Neumann High School**  
7:00 PM  
Klump Center, Penn College, Williamsport

**CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN HELPS CHURCH EVANGELIZE  
AND INFORM CATHOLICS**



Catholic communications in all forms -- print, digital, broadcast, social media -- are essential to informing the Catholic faithful about the Catholic Church.

The annual Catholic Communication Campaign will take place in the Diocese of Scranton this weekend, June 1 and 2, which is also World Communications Day.

The annual, national appeal supports efforts in the United States and around the world to use the media, internet and print publications "to help people connect with Christ."

Fifty percent of funds collected remain in the Diocese of Scranton to support local communication efforts. The other half is used to support national projects in the United States and in developing countries around the world.

In the Diocese of Scranton, the campaign supports *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 and social media.

On the national level, the campaign supports the production of daily video Scripture reflections featured on the USCCB website that are viewed daily by millions of people.

**SUMMER BAZAARS, PICNICS AND FESTIVALS**



The Diocese of Scranton's new website already features dozens of summer bazaars, picnics and festivals that are being planned across the 11 county Diocese.

The list is constantly being updated and changed as new submissions come in.

For the current list, visit:

<https://www.dioceseofscranton.org/media/summer-bazaars-picnics-and-festivals/>

If you have an event that you would like to feature in the listing, email information to:

[EDeabill@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:EDeabill@dioceseofscranton.org)

For a listing of all Diocesan and parish events, visit: [Calendar](#)

#### Follow the Diocese on Social Media

[www.facebook.com/DoS150/](http://www.facebook.com/DoS150/)

[www.twitter.com/BishopBambera](http://www.twitter.com/BishopBambera)

[www.twitter.com/DioceseOfScr](http://www.twitter.com/DioceseOfScr)

[www.facebook.com/DioceseOfScranton](http://www.facebook.com/DioceseOfScranton)

You are also encouraged to visit the Facebook pages of other Diocesan departments. They are listed on our website at: <http://www.dioceseofscranton.org/media/social-media/>

*Thank you for connecting with us!*



Diocese of Scranton, 300 Wyoming Ave, Scranton, PA 18501

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