

Diocese of Scranton News Briefing



www.dioceseofscranton.org Vol. 15 #9 6/20/2019



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.

[Subscribe to News Briefing](#)



In This Issue

[Bishops Take Action on Abuse Crisis](#)

[World Refugee Day Celebration Planned](#)

[Catechist Camp Planning Underway](#)

[10th Vocations Golf Classic Approaching](#)

[Events for the Young Church](#)

[Confirmation 2019 Photos](#)

[Summer Bazaars, Picnics and Festivals](#)

[Follow the Diocese on Social Media](#)

BISHOPS TAKE ACTION ON ABUSE CRISIS AT USCCB MEETING



The Diocese of Scranton is committed to protecting its young people and ensuring that the local Church of Scranton continues to address issues of child sexual abuse with vigilance and fidelity.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera attended the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops General Meeting in Baltimore from June 11-13, 2019 and voted in favor of the four new policies/procedures that were proposed during the meeting.

During that meeting, the USCCB overwhelmingly voted to approve proposals to hold bishops accountable for instances of sexual abuse of children or vulnerable persons, sexual misconduct, or the intentional mishandling of such cases. The bishops also re-committed themselves to involving and utilizing lay professional experts, which is already the practice of the Diocese of Scranton.

The bishops approved four important measures during their assembly. They include:

Voting to implement the document "Vos Estis Lux Mundi" ("You are the light of the world") which was issued by Pope Francis in May to help the Catholic Church safeguard its members from abuse and hold its leaders accountable.

Approving the document "Acknowledging Our Episcopal Commitments," in which bishops affirmed the commitments they made at ordination, including the commitment to respond directly and appropriately to cases of sexual abuse of minors and vulnerable persons.

Voting for a protocol regarding non-penal restrictions on bishops which outlines what canonical options are available to bishops when a retired bishop resigns or is removed "due to sexual misconduct with adults or grave negligence of office, or where subsequent to his resignation he was found to have so acted or failed to act."

Establishing an independent third-party reporting system to accept [abuse](#) allegations confidentially, by phone or online. A more detailed proposal for the third-party reporting system, including financial and structural elements, is in the planning process. The reporting system would begin no later than May 31, 2020 but bishops are hoping it can be available sooner. It's important to note that anyone who has suffered sexual abuse should not wait for the national reporting system to be in place. Survivors can contact local civil authorities to file a report as soon as possible and may also report to Church authorities by existing means, including contacting Victim Assistance Coordinator, Mary Beth Pacuska at (570) 862-7551 or Vicar General Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney at (570) 207-2269.

These efforts are the latest in a series of steps the Diocese of Scranton and the Church has taken to respond to the sin of sexual abuse.

Committed to Accountability ONGOING STEPS

"Be diligent in these matters, be absorbed in them, so that your progress may be evident to everyone."
(1 Tim 4:15)



Charter & Essential Norms

June 2002, Revised June 2011 and June 2018

- Zero Tolerance
- Required Reporting to Public Authorities
- Lay Review Boards
- Victim Assistance Coordinators
- Safe Environment Training
- Background Checks
- Two John Jay studies of abuse in the Church

Motu Proprio

May 2019

- Reporting Systems
- Timely Investigations
- Survivor Support
- Whistleblower Protection
- Conflict of Interest Ban
- Lay Involvement
- Compliance with Civil Law
- Grounded in the Law and Life of the Local Church

Implementation Directives

June 2019 General Assembly

- Outlines Use of Lay Experts to Investigate and Publicize Allegations
- National 3rd Party Reporting
- Strengthens Conflict of Interest Ban
- Pastoral Care for Those Harmed
- Affirms Duties of Metropolitan

Protocol

June 2019 General Assembly

- Guidance on Bishops Who Were Removed or Who Resigned for Reasons Related to Sexual Abuse or Abuse of Power
- Guidance on Participation of Such Bishops Removed or Resigned in USCCB Meetings

Episcopal Commitments

June 2019 General Assembly

- Bishops Included in Codes of Conduct that Must Include Prohibitions Against Sexual Misconduct and Harassment
- Bishops Renew Pledge to Be Subject to the Charter
- Commitment to Ongoing Formation for Bishops
- Commitment to Include Expertise of Lay Professionals



Copyright © 2019, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C. All rights reserved.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY CELEBRATION PLANNED FOR SATURDAY AT NAY AUG PARK



Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton will help note "World Refugee Day" on Saturday, June 22 with a special event at Nay Aug Park in Scranton. The celebration and festival will take place from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

World Refugee Day honors the strength, resilience and courage of millions of refugees throughout the world. All are welcome to come to this free event to share in the rich cultural heritage of the refugee communities in Northeastern Pennsylvania. It will feature cultural music and dance, games and crafts for children, chances to win gift baskets and light refreshments. The event is being sponsored by Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton, in cooperation with United Neighborhood Centers, The University of Scranton, Head Start, Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit and The Hexagon Project.

Anyone is welcome to attend and may contact Sonya Sarner, program manager for Refugees and Immigration services at Catholic Social Services, at (570) 762-2802.

SAVE THE DATE: CATECHIST CAMP 2019 PLANNING UNDERWAY

The Office for Parish Life is planning a one-day Catechist Camp for everyone involved in catechetical ministry or family-oriented faith formation. The one-day camp will be presented in five parishes of our Diocese between August 3 - 9, 2019. The dates and locations so far are as follows:

Saturday, August 3

8:30 am - 3:30 pm
Resurrection Parish, Muncy

Monday, August 5

1:00 pm - 7:30 pm
St. John Parish, East Stroudsburg

Tuesday, August 6

1:00 pm - 7:30 pm
St. Eulalia Parish, Elmhurst

Thursday, August 8

1:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Holy Name of Jesus Parish, West Hazleton

Friday, August 9

1:00 pm - 7:30 pm
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Swoyersville

If you are a parent, a parish or school religion teacher/catechist, a youth minister or a volunteer in any parish or school ministry involving children, youth and families, this day is designed for you. Please join us at the location that is most convenient for you. Cost for the day is \$20. Registration will be open soon! For more information, contact the Office for Parish Life at (570) 207-2213 or oplgeneral@dioceseofscranton.org.

10TH VOCATIONS GOLF CLASSIC QUICKLY APPROACHING

The 10th ANNUAL
Diocese of Scranton
VOCATIONS
Golf Classic | 2019

Benefitting
Our Future
Priests

MONDAY
JULY 8
CAPTAIN & CREW

There are now less than three weeks until one of the best events of the summer season -- and it's all for a good cause.

The 10th Annual Vocations Classic will be held Monday, July 8, at Blue Ridge Trail Golf Club in 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.

The event provides direct assistance to seminarians on their journey to the priesthood.

Be on the lookout for a promotion for the Golf Classic starting next week on WNEP-TV.

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, 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/>

YOUNG PEOPLE: DON'T TAKE A SUMMER BREAK FROM YOUR FAITH

Diocese of Scranton
Presents:

ISLI

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

A PEER-FACILITATED LEADERSHIP RETREAT
FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

JULY 8-11

at Misericordia University



@SCRANTON_YM



@ISLIDOS

For More Info:

Applications are
available online at
Dioceseofscranton.org

CALL (570)207-2213 X1155



NEXT XLT PROGRAM

MONDAY, JULY 29
6:30 PM
DIVINE MERCY PARISH
312 DAVIS STREET, SCRANTON

The evening consists of Eucharistic Adoration, Praise and Worship Music, Reflections, Reconciliation and a Social. The gathering is welcome to ALL PEOPLE!!

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

CONFIRMATION 2019 PHOTOS



(Photo: Saint Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport)

Through the laying on of hands and the anointing with the Chrism, the Sacrament of Confirmation increases the grace of Baptism, strengthens the gift of the Holy Spirit first received at Baptism, and unites us more fully to Christ and the Church.

This year, the conferral of Confirmation took place in all parishes of the Diocese of Scranton on the Solemnity of Pentecost (including the Pentecost Vigil) on Sunday, June 9, 2019 with Bishop Bambera extending the faculty to confirm to all pastors and sacramental ministers.

As of Wednesday, June 19, 61 parishes have turned in information on their respective confirmations to the Office of Parish Life, bringing a total of students to confirmed to more than 1150 students. Those numbers will only increase as parishes continue to report their information.

If you would like to see a collection of photos provided by parishes from across the 11 county Diocese of Scranton, visit:

<https://www.dioceseofscranton.org/media/confirmations-2019/>

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

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

Follow the Diocese on Social Media

www.facebook.com/DoS150/

www.twitter.com/BishopBambara

www.twitter.com/DioceseOfScr

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

[SafeUnsubscribe™ dan-gallagher@dioceseofscranton.org](#)

[Forward email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by e-newsletter@dioceseofscranton.org in collaboration with



[Try email marketing for free today!](#)