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DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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A mourner leaves a candle at the scene of a shooting in Dayton, Ohio, Aug. 4, 2019. Pope Francis joined Catholic Church leaders expressing sorrow after several mass shootings in the United States. (CNS photo/Bryan Woolston, Reuters)

Pope Francis joins prayers for victims of deadly shootings in U.S.

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Pope Francis joined Catholic Church leaders expressing sorrow after back-to-back mass shootings in the United States left at least 31 dead and dozens injured in Texas and Ohio Aug. 3 and 4.

After the prayer called the Angelus in St. Peter's Square on Aug. 4, the pope said he wanted to convey his spiritual closeness to the victims, the wounded and the families affected by the attacks. He also included those who died a weekend earlier during a shooting at a festival in Gilroy, California.

"I am spiritually close to the victims of the episodes of violence that these days have bloodied Texas, California and Ohio, in the United States, affecting defenseless people," he said.

He joined bishops in Texas as well as national Catholic organizations and leaders reacting to a bloody first weekend of August, which produced the eighth deadliest gun violence attack in the country after a gunman opened fire in the morning of Aug. 3 at a mall in El Paso, Texas, killing at least 22 and injuring more than a dozen people.

Less than 24 hours after the El Paso shooting, authorities in Dayton, Ohio, reported at least nine dead and more than a dozen injured after a gunman opened fire on a crowd at or near a bar in the early hours of Aug. 4. The suspected gunman was fatally wounded and police later identified him as 24-year-old Connor Betts, of Bellbrook, Ohio.

On Aug. 4, after the second shooting become public, the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the chairman of the bishops' domestic policy committee offered prayers, condolences and urged action.

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Community unites for vigil against hate following shootings



Community members take to the streets after a prayer vigil in downtown Scranton on Monday, August 5, 2019.

SCRANTON – Just hours after more than 30 people were killed in two different mass shootings in Texas and Ohio, dozens of people gathered in downtown Scranton for a Vigil against Hate and Gun Violence.

The service, held at Saint Luke's Episcopal Church on Wyoming Avenue, featured prayers, reflections and speakers.

Monsignor Dale Rupert from the Cathedral of Saint Peter represented Bishop Bambera and all of the clergy from the Diocese of Scranton.

Offering words of prayer, Monsignor Rupert prayed for the victims of both recent tragedies.

"Lord, our sisters and brothers were suddenly and violently taken from us, come swiftly to their aid and have mercy on them and comfort their families and friends," Monsignor Rupert prayed. "Lift us up from the depths of sadness, hate and grief into the peace and the light of your presence."

Other faith leaders in the community also offered their thoughts.

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Volunteers work to improve a shrine in Sullivan County....Page 14



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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SCOTT TOWNSHIP – As seminarians from the Diocese of Scranton came together this week for their annual summer gathering at the University of Scranton Conference and Retreat Center, they enhanced their knowledge of ongoing child protection efforts in the Diocese.

Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, and Kathleen Bolinski, LSW, Safe Environment Coordinator, had a roundtable discussion with all 12 seminarians from the Diocese about what is being done to safeguard children.

“This has been a challenging time,” Monsignor Muldowney acknowledged, citing the release of the Pennsylvania Grand Jury report in August 2018.

The discussion, which included a question-and-answer session, is part of an ongoing effort to make sure child safety is forefront in the minds of clergy members and the next generation of clergy members.

Bolinski began the discussion by highlighting the Diocese’s child protection efforts, which have been underway since before 2002 when the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops released its Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

Bolinski highlighted and discussed the mandatory background checks that are required for clergy, volunteers and employees throughout the Diocese, the ongoing safe environment training that children receive in both Catholic schools and religious education classes and the VIRTUS training program that more than 30,000 people across the Diocese have now taken.



Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, and Kathleen Bolinski, LSW, Safe Environment Coordinator, discuss child protection efforts in the Diocese of Scranton with seminarians on Tuesday, August 6, 2019. (Photo/Eric Deabill)

Bolinski also told the seminarians that she considers her position to be a resource for schools, parishes and clergy to make sure child protection efforts are followed. She ended her presentation by explaining the role of Mary Beth Pacuska, Victim Assistance Coordinator, who assists individuals who may have been abused.

“She is not an office based position so Mary Beth has a cell phone that is with her 24-7 and she is available to take phone calls. She listens to what victims have to say, she responds to their needs, she offers services to them,” Bolinski said.

During his discussion with the seminarians, Monsignor Muldowney acknowledged the pain of the sexual abuse survivors he has met and talked with over the last several years. He also thanked

the seminarians for their willingness to consider a priestly vocation.

“It is a tough time, it’s a very challenging time, but if you believe in the calling you received from God, knowing that this is a discernment period for you, and you’re willing to keep moving forward trusting in God and asking for God’s grace, I say thank you,” Monsignor Muldowney said.

Echoing many of Bolinski’s remarks, Monsignor Muldowney also told the seminarians, “You need to be proud of who you are and what you do... We are part of the solution.”

Every year, seminarians from the Diocese of Scranton come together for a summer gathering. They get a chance to pray, meet different Diocesan leadership and discuss their formation goals.

In letter, pope encourages priests dejected by abuse crisis

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis acknowledged the shame and frustration felt by priests who are discouraged by the actions of fellow clergy members who betrayed the trust of their flock through sexual abuse and abuse of conscience and power.

In a letter addressed to priests around the world Aug. 4, the pope said that many priests have spoken or written to him expressing “their outrage at what happened” and the doubts and fears the sexual abuse crisis has caused.

“Without denying or dismissing the harm caused by some of our brothers, it would be unfair not to express our gratitude to all those priests who faithfully and generously spend their lives in the service of others,” he said.

Commemorating the 160th anniversary of the death of St. John Mary Vianney, patron saint of parish priests, the pope praised those priests



Pope Francis uses incense to bless new priests before their ordination Mass in May 2014. (CNS photo/Stefano Rellandini)

who, like their patron, carry out their mission “often without fanfare and at personal cost, amid weariness, infirmity and sorrow.”

However, he also shared his concern that many priests “feel themselves attacked and blamed for crimes they did not commit.”

The revelations of sexual abuse and cover-up by clergy members, he

explained, has “been a time of great suffering in the lives of those who experienced such abuse, but also in the lives of their families and of the entire people of God.”

The pope added that priests have not been immune to the pain felt by the faithful and “embody a spiritual fatherhood capable of weeping with those who weep.”

“Countless priests make of their lives a work of mercy in areas or situations that are often hostile, isolated or ignored, even at the risk of their lives,” he said. “I acknowledge and appreciate your courageous and steadfast example; in these times of turbulence, shame and pain, you demonstrate that you have joyfully put your lives on the line for the sake of the Gospel.”

Nevertheless, the pope said, the current crisis is a time of “ecclesial purification” that “makes us realize that without (God) we are simply dust.”

Protecting God's Children: A Continuing Effort

Nearly one year after the release of the Pennsylvania Grand Jury report, Diocesan leaders understand that shock, anger and disappointment are still seared in the minds of many people in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania. We continue to apologize to all survivors of sexual abuse for the sorrow and pain that they and their families have suffered. There is simply no place in civilized society for the abuse of children – and certainly not within the Church.

Since the release of the Grand Jury report in August 2018, the Diocese of Scranton has continued to build upon past efforts and has taken new steps to help restore trust in the Church. We know that regaining that trust will take time and it will happen only when the faithful encounter behavior on the part of our clergy – bishops, priests and deacons alike – that warrants such trust.

Since the release of the Grand Jury report, the Diocese of Scranton has taken the following steps:



•On August 14, 2018, publicly released a list of credibly accused individuals. The list includes priests, religious and lay employees and included information about each individual, his/her assignment, work history and last known residence. This public listing built upon a similar list released to all district attorneys in the eleven counties of the Diocese of Scranton in the spring of 2016.

•On August 31, 2018, Bishop Joseph Bambera permanently restricted former Bishop James Timlin from representing the Diocese of Scranton at all public events, liturgical or otherwise. The decision came after Bishop Bambera took the unprecedented step of asking the Diocese's Independent Review Board to review how Bishop Timlin handled allegations of abuse. While Bishop Bambera engaged the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) leadership and the Holy See throughout the process, his decisions were made without the benefit of a precise protocol to follow at that time. (In June 2019, the USCCB endorsed a protocol regarding available non-penal restrictions on Bishops and Bishops Emeritii who abused or failed to protect children.)

•Following the release of the Grand Jury report, listening sessions were held in many of the 118 parishes throughout the Diocese of Scranton, with professional counselors available in numerous locations.

•On September 15, 2018, the Diocese held a Day of Atonement and Healing.

•Utilized communication tools, including the Diocese of Scranton website, *The Catholic Light* and parish bulletins to provide information about how the Diocese of Scranton responds to allegations of sexual abuse of minors.

•Continued to mandate background checks and training programs for all clergy, employees and volunteers. To date, more than 30,000 people have gone through the VIRTUS training program, which provides information on ways to prevent abuse and methods to properly report suspicions of abuse. Mandated reporter training is also required for all priests and deacons engaged in active ministry, parish life coordinators, seminarians, adult staff working in parish offices, school employees, as well as adult employees and volunteers who have direct contact with children.

•On January 10, 2019, the Diocese updated its credibly accused individuals list, adding 11 new names based on information provided since the Grand Jury report.

•On January 22, 2019, the Diocese of Scranton launched its Independent Survivors Compensation Program which is designed to help survivors of childhood sexual abuse. This fund helps individuals abused by clergy, religious as well as lay employees. Since every case of child sexual abuse is horrific, there is no distinction regarding who can be compensated, if the abuse occurred in a Diocesan-related facility or by one of our employees or clergy. Funding for the Program will come primarily from the pending sale of the Diocese of Scranton's long-term health care facilities.

•In an effort to be transparent, on May 10, 2019, the Diocese of Scranton issued a 90-day report on the Independent Survivors Compensation Program. At that time, determination letters containing offers of payment to 31 individuals totaling \$3,640,000 had been made. As of that report, 17 claimants had accepted offered compensation and been paid more than \$2,155,000. A final report on the Independent Survivors Compensation Fund will be issued upon the completion of the Program this fall. (NOTE: A copy of the 90-day update is available on the Diocese of Scranton website www.dioceseofscranton.org)

•Throughout the course of the last year, Bishop Bambera has continued to meet privately with survivors of sexual abuse. Sadly, those conversations have taught him a great deal about everything that the survivors have endured and all the sufferings that they have carried for far too long.

•On April 9, 2019, the Executive Director of the Children's Advocacy Center of Northeastern Pennsylvania was invited to speak with Diocesan School principals and administrators to explain more about the agency's policies and procedures. Blue ribbons and pinwheels were put on display at all 20 Diocesan schools to raise awareness of the epidemic of child abuse.

•In May 2019, a workshop for safe environment managers was held at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton. The new initiative was designed to enhance the knowledge and skills of those people managing safe environment information throughout the Diocese. The workshop builds upon the mission of the Safe Environment Advisory Committee, created in October 2016, which ensures the highest standards of safety for our children, youth and vulnerable adults. The committee is made up of volunteer members who represent all areas and roles within the Diocese and provides feedback and recommendations on policies and practices of the Safe Environment Program.

•The Diocese has and will continue to cooperate with all investigations according to the law.

•Provided ongoing counseling and spiritual guidance for anyone impacted by clergy abuse in the Diocese.

•The Diocese has used clergy gatherings and its annual Convocation of Priests to re-emphasize all policies so religious leaders clearly understand their duties.

•Every member of the clergy who exercises ministry in the Diocese of Scranton, coming here from a different Diocese or religious order, is first required to submit a "Letter of Suitability" to the Bishop. This letter, signed by the priest/deacon's Bishop or canonical superior, is a testimonial that the priest/deacon is in good standing. Likewise, any priest/deacon from the Diocese of Scranton that is exercising ministry outside the Diocese is required to submit a "Letter of Suitability" to the Bishop of that home Diocese.

•The Diocese of Scranton continues to assess sexual abuse in all situations beyond that of the sexual abuse of minors. In order to confront the abuse of power against adults, including vulnerable adults, the Diocese is in the process of establishing a Review Board to address that topic.

•The Diocese of Scranton fully embraces the recent legislation of Our Holy Father, *Vos estis lux mundi*, which recognizes the crimes of sexual abuse "cause physical, psychological and spiritual damage to the victims and harm the community of the faithful."

•During the June 11-13, 2019 meeting of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Bishop Bambera voted in favor of, and strongly supports, all four new policies and procedures proposed, including (1) implementing our Holy Father's document, (2) affirming the commitments he made at his ordination to respond directly and appropriately to cases of sexual abuse of minors and vulnerable persons while engaging the expertise and support of lay faithful and involving law enforcement where appropriate, (3) approving a protocol for non-penal restrictions on bishops and (4) establishing an independent third-party reporting system to accept abuse allegations confidentially.

Mass for Atonement and Healing Planned

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will celebrate a Mass for Atonement and Healing for Survivors of Abuse on Monday, September 16, 2019, at 12:10 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. Everyone in the Diocese of Scranton is invited to participate.

The Mass will also be broadcast by CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton.

All Roads Lead to Scranton for National Cursillo Encounter Marking 75th Anniversary of the Movement's Birth

Undaunted by weather woes and travel troubles, nearly one thousand Catholic faithful from across the United States and the Atlantic were not to be denied their ultimate pilgrimage destination three weeks ago — the University of Scranton — for the 29th National Encounter of Cursillo.

The Diocese of Scranton and its Cursillo Secretariat were chosen and blessed to host the July 19-21 Encounter, which was commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Movement.

Descending on the University campus for the historic gathering was a huge throng estimated to include 900 Cursillistas (Cursillo members), four Catholic bishops

united Cursillo group who have their all in pulling together to make all those Cursillistas from all over the country and the world feel welcome and well cared for.”

The massive display of fiery faith, ironically, coincided with the sweltering weekend heat provided by Northeastern Pennsylvania, and, providentially, put the pilgrims joyfully in the throes of the annual Solemn Novena to Saint Ann that had just got underway in West Scranton.

“From the beginning of the Movement in 1944, the Cursillo has been expressing its unique charism, and through this process many people have been able to rediscover themselves and God,

over the course of a three-day weekend. Punctuated by 15 talks, called *rolios*, by priests and lay faithful, the weekend’s major emphasis is to ask participants to take what they have learned back into the world — on what is known as the “fourth day.”

The method stresses personal spiritual development, as accelerated by weekly group reunions after the initial weekend.

Though founded in Mallorca, Spain, by a group of laymen in 1944 while they were refining a technique to train pilgrimage Christian leaders, Eduardo Bonnín is considered the founding father of Cursillo. Now identified as a Servant of God in the canonization process of the Catholic Church, his cause for sainthood opened in 2015.

Bonnín participated in the early years of the “short courses” in Mallorca and help develop the “cursillos” to the point that it became a major, active renewal movement in the Church. His travels to five continents led the spread of Cursillo worldwide.

Father Phil Sladicka, pastor of Queen of the Apostles Parish in Avoca, has been serving as spiritual advisor of the Cursillo Movement in the Scranton Diocese since 1998.

Emphasizing the Movement is mainly led by the laity, with spiritual direction provide by ordained clergy and other lay ministers, Father Phil said, “We are walking with our people on the journey to Jesus Christ and eternal life, and the main message of Cursillo is that ‘God Loves You!’”

Crucial to the Cursillo’s success is the “*ultreya*” — a Spanish word that translates: “Keep Going!” As Father Sladicka explains, the *ultreya* is a gathering that hopefully will bring a large group together to encourage and uplift each other to continue.

“The journey is sometimes compared to climbing the Mountain of the Lord,” he says, “and mountain climbers use that acclamation — ‘*ultreya!*’ — to encourage each other.”

Cursillo attendees would be quick to credit the “*ultreya*” cry for the driving (literally) force of faith that carried many pilgrims to



the milestone event, as stories soon emerged of incredibly long rental car and Uber rides taken by the determined, intrepid Cursillistas who ultimately made their way to their spiritual summit — in spite of widespread severe weather that grounded scheduled flights to the Scranton area.

“The Cursillo Weekend was a marvelous experience of coming together of so many dedicated people to share insightful approaches to the Cursillo Movement,” said Father Phil, who estimated that at least seven different languages

Encounter was all the language groups participating in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass together and praying the Our Father — each in their own language — with such peace and harmony. Truly the Mystical Body of Christ,” said Donna Valenti, head of the School of Leaders for the National Cursillo Region 2 Service Team, which includes parts of five states.”

“The joy and love were tangible throughout the Encounter,” the Corpus Christi parishioner from West Pittston stated. “All



through Christ and their brothers and sisters,” Bishop Joseph C. Bambera stated in his welcome address to those in attendance.

“Gathering in this manner, as the National Cursillo Movement, will surely provide for you a time of deepening in the Christ life and of renewing your commitment to make Christ the prime influence in society,” said Bishop Bambera, himself a member of Cursillo, who concelebrated the Encounter’s Pontifical opening Mass. “Our Holy Father is very fond of the Cursillo Movement and I share with him same sentiments about how valuable is your apostolic zeal and dedication.”

The Movement takes its name from Cursillos in Christianity — in Spanish, Cursillos de Cristiandad (“Short courses of Christianity”).

Cursillo focuses on showing Christian laypeople how to become effective Christian leaders



being heard during the weekend of liturgies, presentations and faith-sharing sessions. “The main approach to Cursillo is to make a friend, be a friend and bring a friend to Jesus.”

He was quick to join the chorus singing the praises of the University of Scranton and the team of Diocesan Cursillo leaders and volunteers from the local community and Northeastern District of Cursillo. The harmonic celebration of faith, which united a multitude of varying nationalities, cultures and tongues, was led by National Cursillo Encounter Liaison Jackie DeMesme Gray, from Washington, D.C., and Hoang Tran, National Cursillo Service Administrator.

“One of the many things that touched me deeply at the National

those Cursillistas animated by the conviction that God loves each and every one of us, and wanting everyone they meet in everyday life to know it as well, is very powerful. God gives each of us the privileged opportunity to be His instrument.”



and more than 50 priests from the four corners of America and Spain, where the Movement was born three quarters of a century before.

“My thoughts are many on this National Cursillo Encounter,” offered Cindy Hogan, a parishioner at Our Lady of the Eucharist in Pittston, who serves as Lay Director of the Cursillo Movement. “However, I feel that one of the best things that happened in that (hundreds) of people came to Scranton and saw a beautifully

Solemn Novena is tradition for faithful

SCRANTON – James Burke has been faithfully attending the Solemn Novena in honor of Saint Ann for the last 69 years.

Heat and humidity, including temperatures in the 90s this July, weren't enough to keep the Carbondale native away from the popular summertime tradition.

"It's a retreat for me every year. As I've grown into an adult, I like to make a retreat every year and return to prayer, go to confession, I do it every year at this time!" Burke said.

Burke is one of the tens of thousands of Christians that made the pilgrimage to the Basilica grounds.

"I always had a lot of intentions for Saint Ann and it seemed like they were always granted," Burke said.

Burke first attended the Novena with his family as a

young boy.

"We used to take the bus to Scranton and change into a Saint Ann's bus. There were buses in front of the Globe Store, they had Saint Ann's up at the top and you'd get on the bus and go home to Carbondale!" Burke said.

The Novena is also a tradition for Joan James of Dalton.

"I've been coming since my late teenage years. I just have a sense of peace about it!" James said. "Before my husband came into my life, I used to come here and say, 'Good Saint Ann, send me a man and she did!'"

The Solemn Novena in honor of Saint Ann is a 10-day event honoring the grandmother of Jesus.

Justine Silvi of West Pittston first started attending the Novena in 1995 after the death of her grandson.

"It means everything when I'm down, it helps me very much and it's just so important to me," Silvi said.

Irene Webb only lives two blocks away from the Basilica grounds and has also been attending the Novena since she was a child.

"When I leave here, I leave with such a good feeling and something inside me. I pray to Saint Ann every day," Webb said.

Webb says this year's Novena's preachers, Passionist Fathers Jack Conley and Rick Frechette, delivered especially powerful messages this year.

"The messages were down to Earth and what you really need to hear. They talk right to you, nothing foreign, right about everyday life," Webb said.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera celebrated the closing Mass of the Novena on July 26, 2019. During his homily, he talked about what an incredible time of prayer and worship the Novena is, thanking Father Rick and Father Jack for providing hope.

"You've challenged us to be more than we believe ourselves capable of being as disciples of Jesus. Above all, you have reminded us that we are loved – that God hasn't given up on any of us and never will. He continually calls us, as we are, to participate in his life and to proclaim his



Thousands of people attended the closing Mass of the Solemn Novena in honor of Saint Ann on Friday, July 26, 2019. (Photos/Mike Melisky)



Bishop Joseph C. Bambera blesses a woman with a relic following the closing Mass of the Solemn Novena to Saint Ann.

message of love to our broken world!" Bishop Bambera said.

Bishop Bambera called the West Scranton hilltop where the Basilica sits a place of love and mercy.

"Keep your eyes opened to see the signs of God's love, listen with care for his voice as he speaks to you a message of hope and hold fast to the memory of these days!" Bishop Bambera said.

The faithful of the Diocese of Scranton and beyond who always attend the Novena take a lot away from the event.

"I believe in Saint Ann and I've asked her favors that were taken care of. She does good," Irene Romeo of Carbondale said.

This year marked the 95th anniversary for the Solemn Novena in honor of Saint Ann.



Good Saint Ann, Pray for Us - Worshippers offer prayer intentions to Saint Ann on the grounds of Saint Ann's Basilica in West Scranton.

Students helping students: Summer food bag initiative helping those in need

ROARING BROOK TOWNSHIP – With a pile of granola bars sitting on the floor, members of the Saint Eulalia Parish youth group worked feverishly to open and stuff brown bags, eagerly wanting to help their neighbors in need.

On Tuesday, July 16, roughly a dozen young people gathered together to take part in the annual summer lunch bag program.

"Our kids pack and deliver 1,000 lunch bags to the North Pocono Food Pantry and those benefit children who typically receive free and reduced lunches during the school year and it's a hardship on their families during the summer for them to try and pay for those," youth ministry coordinator Kelley McConnell said.

The North Pocono Food Pantry assists roughly 200 local families each month.

Volunteers say packing the food bags



Members of the Saint Eulalia Parish youth group pack hundreds of food bags for the North Pocono Food Pantry on July 16, 2019.

provides them an opportunity to give back to others.

"This community has helped raise me so giving back to that community, the people less fortunate than I am, is extremely important," volunteer Luke Magnotta said.

The Saint Eulalia Parish youth group receives a social justice grant from the

Diocese of Scranton which enables members to purchase products for the lunch bags. Funding for the social justice grants comes from donations to the Diocesan Annual Appeal.

"It has honestly made all of this possible. We wouldn't have all of this food and wouldn't have all these bags without it and we just really want to thank everyone," volunteer Callie Bertha said.

"The past five years we have gotten \$750 from the grant and we've been able to purchase food that supplements this program along with donations from our parishioners here," McConnell said.

The lunch bags that are packed contain fruit, a juice box, granola bar and a snack item.

"It shows me how much our community is in need and how we can fulfill those needs," Bertha said.

The Saint Eulalia youth group is open

to students in grade six through 12. The group meets weekly and does a variety of spiritual, social and service projects.

"We come together every week to talk about how God has blessed us and how he continues to bless us in our everyday lives," volunteer Alison Rocco said.

"It has given me a sense of purpose. I look forward to coming every week," Bertha said. "This place has really opened me up and it's made me realize that I have a passion for help people!"

"Since I've been in the youth group, I've experienced so much with God, my relationship with Him has become so much stronger and I'm so grateful!" Rocco said.

Social justice grants, like the one that supports the Saint Eulalia summer lunch bag program, are open to parishes across the Diocese to support parish outreach ministries for their local communities.

Catholics focus on migrant children with rally, civil disobedience

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- A few hundred Catholic activists, including dozens of women religious, gathered outside at the foot of the U.S. Capitol July 18 urging politicians to stop its "inhumane treatment" of immigrant children at the border and reminding people of faith to take a stronger stand against current U.S. border policies.

The rally, on a sweltering Washington morning, included times of prayer, a few songs and several speeches. At one point, someone in the crowd started chanting, "Where are the bishops?" which was echoed by many participants, but later in the program, speakers read excerpts from messages that had been sent to the group from several U.S. bishops, thanking them for participating and urging them to continue to speak up about the border crisis.

A message from Bishop Robert W. McElroy of San Diego said in part: "We stand in a moment when our government has weaponized fear -- the fear being sown within our nation as a whole that refugees and immigrants, who have been America's historic lifeblood, have now become the enemy; and the even more reprehensible fear being unleashed upon the hearts and souls of immigrant mothers and fathers that they will be separated from their children purely as an act of intimidation."

Many of the speakers at the "Catholic Day of Action for Immigrant Children," organized by the groups Faith in Public Life and Faith in Action, were



Catholic leaders and advocates lay on the floor of the Russell Senate Office Building in Washington July 18, 2019, to protest the Trump administration's handling of detained immigrant children. (CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn)

primarily women religious who stressed the need to end the current practice of placing children in detention centers at the border and emphasized that the need to start a new wave of protest against these policies should be viewed as a pro-life stance.

Sister Carol Zinn, a Sister of St. Joseph of Philadelphia, and executive director of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, told the group: "Catholic sisters have a long history with immigrant communities. We have seen the pain, suffering, fear and trauma firsthand. In recent months, as the humanitarian crisis has escalated, we have joined the tens of thousands who are outraged at the horrific situation at our southern border."

She pointed out that women religious have been ministering to those in need and donated money to support those seeking safety, freedom, security and a better life for their families. "We are here today because of our faith. The Gospel commands, and the values

of our homeland demand, that we act," she added.

The message of urgency was essentially speaking to the choir because these activists, who showed their support with rounds of "Amen!" were clearly not new to this issue and many attended the rally particularly for its finale: when the arrests of 70 people for civil disobedience took place at the adjacent Russell Senate Office Building.

Those arrested were charged with "incommoding, crowding, and obstructing" and had to each pay a \$50 fine or request a court date. They were released that afternoon.

Mercy Sister Patricia Murphy, a 90-year-old from Chicago, who came to the event to take part in the civil disobedience, told Catholic News Service right before the rally that she "couldn't not be here."

The sister wore a purple shirt identifying her as a Sister of Mercy, a pin that said: "You are my Neighbor" and carried a placard with the face of Felipe

Gomez Alonzo, an 8-year-old from Guatemala who died from illness while in U.S. immigration custody after crossing the border with his father.

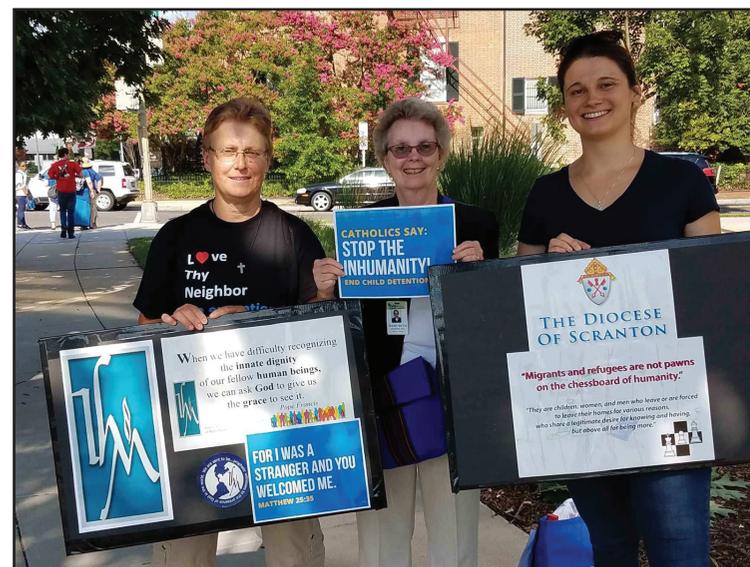
Sister Patricia said this would be her sixth arrest and she hoped the action would move others to do more. For the past 12 years, she has kept vigil, praying and protesting outside an immigrant detention center in Chicago every Friday morning.

Prior to the civil disobedience arrests at the Russell Senate Office Building, participants continued to hold signs with their message and speak out in protest. After warnings from police that they would be arrested if they stayed in the building's rotunda, those who

chose to stay recited the Hail Mary as they waited to be handcuffed and escorted out by police.

Moments before the arrests, Sister Donna Korba, a Sister of the Servants of Mary in Scranton, Pennsylvania, said her participation at the day's gathering stemmed from her life of activism including recently volunteering at the U.S.-Mexico border with other sisters last December and the 12 years she spent in Guatemala.

"There are no easy answers, but we need to look at root causes of immigration," she said, recalling that when she asked one father from Guatemala why he would make the arduous journey to the United States he told her: "Because my children are hungry."



Participating in the Catholic Day of Action for Immigrant Children in Washington, D.C. on July 18, 2019, was Sister Donna Korba, IHM, Director of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation for the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters, Sister Mary Beth Hamm, SSJ, Congregational Coordinator of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation for the Congregation of Bon Secours of Paris, and Katy Windels, Coordinator for Service and Social Justice at the Diocese of Scranton.

Bishop blesses festival grounds



Bishop Joseph C. Bambera gathered with organizers of the annual Saint Joseph's Center Festival on Friday, July 26, 2019 to bless the festival grounds and pray for the volunteers and staff who have supported the mission of Saint Joseph's Center throughout its long history. (Photo/Eric Deabill)



BISHOP BAMBERA'S SCHEDULE

August 17

Masses at Holy Family Parish, Luzerne
4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

August 24

Installation Mass, Christ the King Parish, Archbald
4:30 p.m.

"This machine is going to save countless lives"

Knights of Columbus groups raising money for ultrasound machines

SCRANTON – Care Net Pregnancy Center of Scranton, a non-profit healthcare organization that helps pregnant women, received an important tool thanks to the fundraising efforts of several Knights of Columbus groups.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera held a blessing ceremony for a new ultrasound machine on Wednesday, July 24, at the facility's location at 415 Hickory Street in South Scranton.

"My presence here is related to the heart of what I'm called to do," Bishop Bambera told the assembled crowd right before the blessing. "This is the place where I need to be because it reflects the

heart and soul of the message of the Gospel so I'm so pleased that you invited me to be a part of this."

Several Knights of Columbus councils raised money to buy the facility its first ultrasound machine, valued at more than \$22,000. The groups include: Saint John Neumann/Good Shepherd Council #12571, Lords Valley, which contributed \$7,750; Saint John Neumann Council #14009, Saint Clair, which contributed \$3,000; Saint John Neumann/Good Shepherd Squires Circle #5811, which contributed \$250; along with matching funds of \$11,000 from the Supreme Council Knights of Columbus.

"I want to congratulate my brother Knights for the great job they did in getting this machine into this center. I'm just overwhelmed with the fellowship and you really live up to the principals of our order," Mark Jago, State Deputy, Knights of Columbus said.

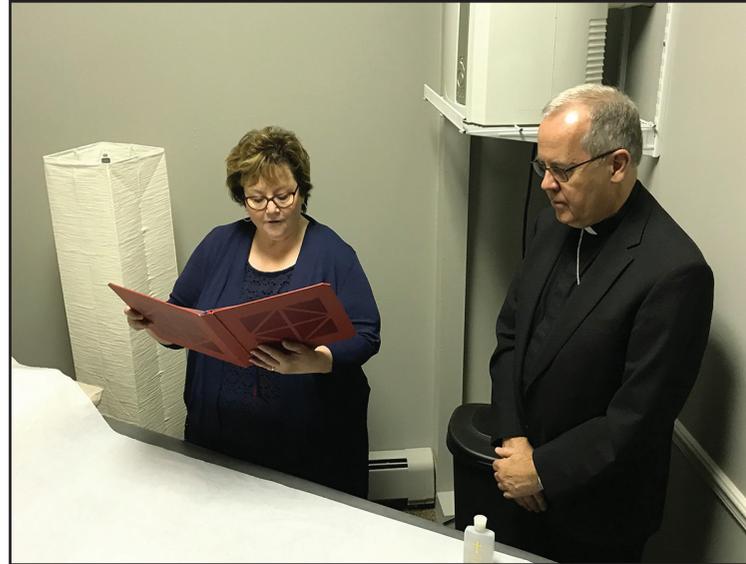
An ultrasound machine uses high-frequency sound waves to produce images from inside the body, allowing a pregnant woman to see her unborn child.

"This machine is going to save countless lives and we estimate that there is at least one or two a week because of the women that come in here, 90 percent of them that see that child, will decide to keep that child," Jago said.

Pat Kelly, Director of the Care Net Pregnancy Center of Scranton, says there is no doubt the new machine will help save lives from abortion.

"I just want to tell you what a blessing this is to be able to now, in addition to a free pregnancy test, to be able to offer a free ultrasound to confirm a viable pregnancy, this will just enable women to really be empowered to make that informed choice, that truly informed choice," Kelly said.

In 2009, the Knights of Columbus set out to place 1,000 ultrasound machines in pro-life pregnancy centers across the country within ten years and the organization has already surpassed its goal.



Pat Kelly, Director of the Care Net Pregnancy Center of Scranton, reads prayer intentions during a blessing ceremony with Bishop Joseph C. Bambera for a new ultrasound machine on Wednesday, July 24, 2019.

Over the last decade, Knights at the state and local levels have partnered with the Supreme Council to fund ultrasound machines for pregnancy centers across North America. When a state or local council raises 50 percent of the cost, the Supreme Council provides the other 50 percent.

"Life, made in the image of God, starts at the very moment of conception and that's what we're called to preserve, that's what we're called to respect," Bishop Bambera said immediately before the blessing. "What we are reflecting here is nothing more than the right to life, a right that every one of us in this room has been blessed to receive and to maintain and all we're asking is that every life has the same chance that we have and what a great,

great blessing this is!"

The bishop prayed for all of the people who will work with the new ultrasound machine as well as the people who visit the center.

"We pray for those mothers and fathers who come here, who come looking to find a way forward and we pray for the spirit to fill their hearts and that they choose life!" Bishop Bambera said.

In addition to Care Net Pregnancy Center in Scranton, Knights of Columbus groups have also helped to raise money for ultrasound machines in other parts of the Diocese of Scranton, including the Expectations Women's Center in Williamsport and the Pregnancy Resource Center of the Poconos in Stroudsburg, according to the Knights of Columbus website.



Knights of Columbus groups from several different communities raised money to purchase this new ultrasound machine for the Care Net Pregnancy Center in Scranton. (Photo/Eric Deabill)

March for Life coming to Harrisburg next year

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference and the Pennsylvania Family Council has announced they will be hosting the first-ever March for Life in Pennsylvania. The event will be held in Harrisburg on May 18th, 2020, beginning at 11 a.m. and culminating with a rally on the front steps of the Capitol along Third Street.

"We are so proud to be bringing the pro-life power of March for Life to Pennsylvania," said Eric Failing, the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference. "This is an excellent opportunity to tap into the strong pro-life passion in Pennsylvania to continue this important fight."

"We're excited to bring

this outstanding display of pro-life support to Pennsylvania," said Michael Geer, President of Pennsylvania Family Institute, the Commonwealth's largest pro-life, pro-family statewide organization.

The March for Life started in Washington, D.C. as a small demonstration and rapidly grew to be the largest pro-life event in the world. It has taken place every year since the Roe vs. Wade case was decided in 1973. Organizers have since begun reaching out to conduct rallies in other states.

"We are thrilled to bring a state March for Life to Pennsylvania," said Bethany Peck, Director of Grassroots Engagement for March for Life. "We feel strongly called to expand the impact of the March

for Life by facilitating state-wide March for Life events in state capitols across America."

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, which is the public affairs arm of Pennsylvania's Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania, and the PA Family Council have been very active in working on pro-life legislation. Both groups helped pro-life lawmakers in the state House of Representatives pass the Down Syndrome Protection Act as well as the Compassion and Care for Medically Challenging Pregnancies Act. This fall they will work to secure passage for both of these bills in the Senate along with a fetal heartbeat bill expected to be introduced in September.

Pro-lifers: Wen's firing has meaning

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Following the news Dr. Leana Wen was fired by Planned Parenthood as its president, several pro-life leaders remarked that the organization was upset the physician had emphasized the need to expand Planned Parenthood services beyond abortion.

"Leana Wen entered Planned Parenthood to great fanfare. As a physician, it was anticipated that she would evolve the organization, long seen as a partisan platform, into a health care institution," said Catherine Glenn Foster, president and CEO of Americans United for Life.

"And when Dr. Wen tried to do precisely that, she was fired. She refused to allow abortion to



Dr. Leana Wen, then Planned Parenthood president, speaks outside the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington D.C. on May 21, 2019. (CNS photo/James Lawler Duggan, Reuters)

dominate Planned Parenthood's agenda, all the way from the very top down to every talking point," she added in a July 18 statement. "Dr. Wen's termination is emphatic proof that Planned Parenthood has been, is and will be nothing more than a political machine."

Catholic Social Services committed to helping preserve marriages

Marriage counseling services offered in Wilkes-Barre, Scranton and Hazleton

By **ALAN K. STOUT**
Special to *The Catholic Light*

Most Americans are probably familiar with the statistics on marriage in the United States. On average, nearly 50 percent of all matrimonial unions end in divorce. Among Catholics, the number is about 28 percent, and thus the reality is that although two people with the best of intentions had at one time made a lifelong commitment to one another, a portion of those marriages fail.

Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton, through its marriage counseling services, tries to help preserve some of those marriages. The key to this, of course, is a desire and a willingness from each partner to try to save the marriage. If that is the case, Catholic Social Services can help. In fact, professional counselors at CSS advise that sometimes, it's best for couples to attend counseling even before making the commitment to marriage.

"When we work with prospective couples, we create 'love maps,' which the couples can do together," says Scott Masotti, a CSS counselor who specializes in relationship counseling. "Love maps ask couples to truly examine how well they know one another

and how receptive and invested they are towards meeting one another's long-term goals. Sometimes, when we create the love maps, there will be dynamics that neither partner necessarily likes. But the longer we allow those dynamics to be present in our relationships, the harder they become to change. It's not that they become unchangeable, but it becomes more difficult. Being proactive and trying to get ahead of problematic dynamics in a relationship is very important in enjoying a happy and successful marriage."

Masotti, who holds a master's degree in marriage and family therapy, says that one mistake that married couples often make is waiting too long to seek counseling. Sometimes, fighting and bickering can result in so much tension and disconnection that saving the marriage becomes much more difficult.

"People tend to come when a great deal of damage has already been done," he says. "And that's why it's our role, as counselors, to provide that hope for unique possible outcomes within their relationship, where they can have a happy and healthy love story. That's where the counselor comes in, to try and create that hope. That

can be challenging if you already have deep-rooted problems in your relationship. It's definitely important to come sooner rather than later."

Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton, through a team of professional counselors, offers marriage counseling in its Wilkes-Barre, Scranton and Hazleton offices. Dr. Peg Mahoney, who works out of the Scranton office, agrees with Masotti in that one of the most important steps towards saving a marriage can be making that first phone call.

"That step is very, very important," says Mahoney. "At some level, they're both willing, or they wouldn't be here, but sometimes one is very willing to try while the other is willing to placate. It's not so much that both partners are equally committed. But the fact that they're here suggests that they are indeed open to doing something on some level.

"Very often," she adds, "people come to counseling as their last resort, and by that time there are so many wounds that it's very difficult to bring the relationship around. It's not impossible. If people are committed, it happens. Coming sooner, when troubles first begin to emerge, is a much more effective way to deal with marital issues or relationship issues. Sometimes, one partner thinks that everything is fine, and then they find out there has been infidelity, or financial issues, or whatever it might be, and the bottom drops out. You go from zero to 60 in no time at all. It isn't, 'We're having troubles. Let's go get it fixed.' Instead, it all just kind of crashes."

Everything from financial problems, to communication issues, to substance abuse can contribute to a failed marriage or problems within a marriage. In the case of a couple from Luzerne County, it was medical issues. Judy, a client of Masotti's in Hazleton, says the



she and her husband of 48 years began to have serious marital issues after her husband began to face health problems and had difficulty in accepting his diagnoses. Catholic Social Services was able to help.

"We needed to meet and talk about how we could strengthen our marriage," Judy says. "There were a lot of things that were causing conflict in our relationship that were pulling us apart. Scott has helped us to focus on the positives and not be so consumed and overwhelmed with the multiple health issues of my husband. We focus on the positives in our life and being grateful. It's been a journey. We were seeing him every week for a good year and a half, and now it's about every two weeks. We have our 'up' days and our 'down' days, but we focus on remaining strong as a couple and weathering the storm. Scott has really helped with all of that."

Masotti says couples that are debating over whether or not to seek marriage counseling need to know that they will not be judged.

"It's not as scary as people make it out to be," he says. "I think people might be fearful about disclosing some of the intimate aspects of their life, but the people that they're going to see are capable of processing those intimate components. They're also going to meet you where you are. You're not going there to be criticized. You're not going there to be evaluated. You're going there to be comforted and supported, and to discuss your own feelings and methods as to how to improve the quality of your relationship."

Mahoney concurs.

"As a counselor, I don't give advice," she says. "That's not our role. What I do is invite the

couple into a process of exploring what's going on, what's brought them there, and inviting them each to notice their contribution to the situation. In many cases, it can certainly be lopsided and not necessarily an equal contribution. And so it's an invitation to explore the relationship."

Mahoney says that one way to go about such exploration is through what is called "narrative therapy." As its name suggests, it involves open and honest ongoing dialogue.

"We try to look at the issue, and we try to separate the issue from the couple," she says. "Rather than finger-pointing and saying, 'Well, if you would do this' or 'Well, if you would just change that,' we take a look at what the issue is, and then they ask, 'What are we — together — going to do about it?' It changes the orientation from this adversarial situation to a team approach. They realize that a problem has arisen, and that they each had a contribution to the problem, and they then explore how they — together — are going to address the problem. It begins to change the dynamic of the interaction.

"It's all process-oriented," she concludes. "They ask themselves, 'What is the process we need to enter into in order to foster healing and growth within the relationship.'"

For more information on Catholic Social Services programs, contact:

Scranton
(570) 207-2283

Wilkes-Barre
(570) 822-7118

Hazleton
(570) 455-1521



Summer programs at Catholic Youth Center are huge hit

WILKES-BARRE -- Francesco Pesce's first visit to the Wyoming Valley Catholic Youth Center involved picking weeds as part of a service project for the 2018 Diocesan "Leave a Mark" Day.

Now, the 21-year-old is back at the facility helping young children grow and learn through its popular summer program.

Since May, Pesce has been working at the CYC as a counselor, supervising third grade students.

"I figured if I'm going into secondary education, which is what I'm studying at King's (College), I'm a senior and want to be a school teacher, I figured this would be a great experience," Pesce said.

Pesce is responsible for more than a dozen kids on a daily basis through the summer.

"To be honest, this is the first job I've had in my life where I can say I wake up every morning and even if I'm very exhausted I'm very glad to come to work. I just love dealing with the kids," Pesce said.

During the summer months, the energy inside the CYC is palpable as a total of 246 students are registered for the agency's summer program. Daily attendance ranges between 200 and 210 students, between the ages of six and 13.

"The first day that camp starts it's a completely different atmosphere," CYC Executive Director Mark Soprano said.

The nonprofit recreation agency, located on South Washington Street, opened its doors in 1948.

Soprano says the growing summer program is especially important for the community.

"Some of these kids, if they didn't have a program such as this, they might be home alone," Soprano said. "We're happy to be able to provide this program on such a scale with the size of this facility."

MORE THAN JUST CHILDCARE

While the CYC may have been considered, in the past, a place for kids to simply hang out, the focus now is on educational programs and social development.

"We try to get the kids out of the building as much as possible," Soprano said.

During the summer months, staff members regularly take young people to the movies on Wednesdays and the Wilkes-Barre farmers market on Thursdays.

"They get dollar snow cones over there at the farmers market. They run the place dry. They like the farmers market too because they can do shopping for their families," Pesce said.

Members of the Wilkes-Barre police and fire departments and other agencies have also been invited into the CYC to do programs with the kids.

"We want to give them the best experience possible while they're here and expose them to different things in the community," Soprano said.

During the summer months, the CYC also places a special emphasis on reading activities to make sure students don't regress in their learning.

"By having a library here at the CYC with hundreds of books available to the kids, we make a point that a few times a week the kids go down there and have quiet time and they read. They pick up a book and if the child wants to take that book home, just like a library, they can sign that book out and take it home with them," Soprano said.

At a time when many kids are glued to their cell phones, the CYC also teaches the kids cooking skills. During the recent summer months, young people have made their own pizzas and cookies.

"We want to try and give these kids exposure to different careers and avenues in life that they can take," Soprano said.



The Wyoming Valley Catholic Youth Center provides outdoor space for children to have fun and socialize. (Photos/Eric Deabill)

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

To find out what impact the CYC is making on young people, you only have to ask them.

Ema, 12, has made several friends during the summer program.

"We play games sometimes, dodgeball and kickball. I like running around," Ema said.

The Hanover Township girl says she likes spending time in the pool especially during the hot summer months.

"I like that we go swimming. We go swimming every day," Ema said.

As she gets ready to enter seventh grade, Ema says she also enjoys the weekly trips to the Wilkes-Barre farmers market.

"We bring money and get to buy stuff. I like the candy apples," Ema said.

RESPIRE PROGRAM BEGINS

Besides serving young children, the CYC has also started a new respite program to help give caretakers a break.

"We were approached because there is a need in the community," Soprano said.

Working with Luzerne County Mental Health & Developmental Services, the CYC developed a program that allows a caretaker to bring a child to the facility for care so that they can have a short break.

"Since July 1, the program has really taken off where we're having between eight to 10 children a day," Soprano said.

The CYC will even pick children up if needed. Some of the kids currently taking part in the respite program live in the Dallas, Warrior Run and Hunlock Creek areas.

"We're giving the kids a great experience where they can come and get some physical exercise, they can swim, they can learn a few things, take part in our art programs, but also give the caretaker a much needed break," Soprano said.

Some of the caretakers taking part in the new program are grandparents who are raising kids.

"One of the families, it is the great-grandfather who is in his 70's that is caring for the children and they're here two to three days a week," Soprano said.

20 YEARS OF 24 HOUR CARE

This year marks the 20th year that the CYC has provided child care 24 hours a day.

In addition to the summer program, with two gyms, a pool area and outdoor space, the CYC is able to offer swim lessons, basketball leagues, after-school and day care programs.

In recent years, it hasn't just been young people from the Wyoming Valley that take part in programs at the CYC. Kids from the Scranton and Hazleton areas now also take part.

"So many people hear the CYC and see the front of the building but once they come in, they're in awe of what takes place in here, when they see the number of children and they see what the children are doing," Soprano said.

For more information on the programs and services provided at the Wyoming Valley Catholic Youth Center, call (570) 823-6121.



The Catholic Youth Center is located at 36 South Washington Street in Wilkes-Barre.



Francesco Pesce, counselor at the Wyoming Valley Catholic Youth Center, plays basketball with a young man attending the summer camp program on Tuesday, July 23, 2019.

The Season of Creation: 'Web of Life'



*By Monsignor Vincent
J. Grimalia*
Diocesan Coordinator
for Ecumenical
and Interfaith Relations

Getting to know one another and dialogue is important but so is working together on common concerns and problems as members of one human family, sharing a common home. Prayer and action are necessary to overcome fear, hatred and violence. Lives can be enriched in getting to know and love people of different cultures, races, religions, ethnic groups, and different points of view. Even when people think or act differently, there is a need for civility.

In his 1998 encyclical on "Faith and Reason," Saint John Paul II saw the importance of dialogue and collaboration in these words: "A ground for understanding and dialogue is all the more vital nowadays, since the most pressing issues facing humanity include ecology, peace and the co-existence of different races and cultures."

When he issued his encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si*, on Care for Our Common Home, Pope Francis stated that it was now a part of the social teaching of the Church. Parish social justice or social action committees can help a parish promote care for the environment, and when we read other statements, on the Day of Prayer, we see that ecumenical and interfaith collaboration and cooperation with seekers, unbelievers and all people of good will is encouraged. Concern for the care of the Earth is one example of where prayer, dialogue and collaboration are needed.

Everyone is called to be concerned with care of the Earth. In his September 1, 2016, message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of the Earth, Pope Francis added care of the Earth to the seven traditional spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

"As a spiritual work of mercy, care for our common home calls for a 'grateful contemplation of God's world' (*Laudato Si*), which 'allows us to discover in each thing a teaching which God wishes to hand on to us.' As a corporal work of mercy, care for our common home requires 'simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness' and 'makes itself felt in every action that seeks

to build a better world.'"

On August 6, 2015, Pope Francis issued a letter that stated: "Sharing the concern of my beloved brother, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, for the future of creation...I wish to inform you that I have decided to institute in the Catholic Church the 'World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation' which, beginning this year, is to be celebrated on 1 September, as has been the custom in the Orthodox Church for some time."

In a joint message of Patriarch Bartholomew and Pope Francis in 2017, the church leaders stated: "United by the same concern for God's creation and acknowledging the Earth as a shared good, we fervently invite all people of goodwill to dedicate a time of prayer for the environment on 1 September. On this occasion, we wish to offer thanks to the loving Creator for the noble gift of creation and to pledge commitment to its care and preservation for the sake of future generations. After all, we know that we labor in vain if the Lord is not by our side, if prayer is not at the center of our reflection and celebration. Indeed, an objective of our prayer is to change the way we perceive the world in order to change the way we relate to the world.

"The goal of our promise is to be courageous in embracing greater simplicity and solidarity in our lives...The annual World



**Deacon
Ed Kelly**

**Parish Life
Coordinator,
Saint Mary
Parish, Waymart**

**Ordination
Year: 2004**

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

+ Parish Life Coordinator

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

+ Preaching
+ Serving at the Altar
+ Visiting the sick in hospitals, nursing homes, assisted-living homes, and the homebound

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

+ Responsible for all aspects of parish life as a Parish Life Coordinator

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

+ Not to ignore the call and tug to serve the Lord

Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation will offer individual believers and communities a fitting opportunity to reaffirm their personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of creation as well as his pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live.

"The celebration of this Day, on the same date as the Orthodox Church, will be a valuable opportunity to bear witness to our growing communion with our Orthodox brothers and sisters. It is my hope that this Day will in some way also involve other Churches and ecclesial Communities, and be celebrated in union with similar initiatives of the World Council of Churches."

The Secretary of the Dicastery for Pro-

moting Integral Human Development, in a letter dated May 23, stated: "An ecumenical steering committee suggests a theme for each year's seasonal celebration. The theme for 2019 is 'The Web of Life,' a theme that reflects both our role as the stewards of creation and the urgent need to protect the rich tapestry of biodiversity that the Creator has woven. Species loss is accelerating, with a recent United Nations report estimating that our way of life threatens one million species with extinction. That is approximately one in nine of all species on Earth."

There are a variety of organizations that help in planning, promoting and celebrating the Season of Creation, predominantly the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (www.usccb.org). Key words: The Season of Creation; Prayers to Care for Creation.

Diocese Advocating for Dairy Farmers in Crisis throughout Region

The rural communities of our Diocese rely primarily on manufacturing and agricultural jobs. Particularly in the northern regions of our state, dairy farming is an important industry that has suffered across the country since the 1980s farming crisis. The current crisis is in the dairy sector; however, it is just a microcosm of what is happening across our rural communities. As larger “factory” farms take over the industry, small family farms are struggling to stay afloat. Furthermore, dysfunctional weather systems continue to take a toll on farms, further harming crop yields.

We are in the midst of an agricultural crisis, and the Diocese of Scranton is in a unique position to respond to some larger societal issues. Since the release of the 2013 papal encyclical *Laudato Si'*, environmental issues are at the forefront of conversations in the Catholic community. However, the encyclical also instructs, “Any approach to an integral ecology, which by definition does not exclude human beings, needs to take account of the value of labor, as Saint John Paul II wisely noted in his encyclical *Laborem Exercens*.” (LS 124)

For the first time in history, more people live in urban areas than rural communities; it is easier than ever to forget where our food comes from, and to ignore those people who



spend their livelihoods ensuring that we have enough to eat. Our growing disconnect from the natural world exacerbates problems like climate change and distances us from vulnerable members of our community.

Throughout the past few months, the Diocese of Scranton has been working with dairy farmers in our communities to advocate for a fair milk price. Recently,

representatives from the dairy farming community and the Diocese of Scranton met with Senator Bob Casey’s office to discuss these issues and had a very productive conversation about protecting family farms and promoting pro-life values. Farmers are asking for a floor price of “\$20 per hundredweight” in order to ensure that all family farmers are compensated for their

wages — and they are also asking for help from the people of our Diocese!

The Office for Parish Life hopes to initiate further efforts in the coming months and to challenge our legislators to introduce bills to protect family farms. In the meantime, farmers in our diocese ask for your continued prayers. Please consider adding intentions for farmers in our communities in your family and parish prayers, and please contact the Office for Parish Life if you would like to get involved in further advocacy efforts.

In a Diocese as geographically diverse as Scranton, there are numerous economic, social and political issues facing our cities and towns. It can be hard to keep track of all the social justice issues throughout North-east Pennsylvania, but it is also essential for us, as Catholics, to pay attention to the world around us. As faithful citizens, we are called to protect human life and dignity. A truly pro-life Church must speak out against all injustice to ensure that the most vulnerable members of our communities are the priority of our social and political efforts. As a community, we must continue to form consciences within our parishes and learn more about the challenges that face our communities. Help us join our dairy farmers in fighting for life and justice!

El Paso bishop meets with victims of mass shooting, family members

Continued from page 1

“The lives lost this weekend confront us with a terrible truth. We can never again believe that mass shootings are an isolated exception. They are an epidemic against life that we must, in justice, face,” said Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, USCCB president, in a statement issued jointly with Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development.

“God’s mercy and wisdom compel us to move toward preventative action. We encourage all Catholics to increased prayer and sacrifice for healing and the end of these shootings. We encourage Catholics to pray and raise their voices for needed changes to our national policy and national culture as well,” the statement continued.

Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr, who heads the Cincinnati Archdiocese, which includes Dayton, said it was “with a heavy heart” Catholics turned to prayer this Sunday. “As tragic and violent shootings continue in our country,” in El Paso and now Dayton, “I ask for everyone of faith to join in prayer for the victims and their loved ones.

In the shooting in El Paso, police arrested 21-year-old Patrick Crusius, of Allen, Texas. Several news organizations

said local and federal authorities are investigating whether the shooting was a possible hate crime since the suspected gunman may be linked to a manifesto that speaks of the “Hispanic invasion” of Texas.

The bishop of El Paso, Texas, met with the families of those who were killed and wounded during the Aug. 3 shooting at a Walmart in the city where he serves, and in a statement following the meeting said his heart “was breaking,” after seeing up-close the human aftermath of the crime.

“As a minister I am called to be present to those who suffered this attack and to their families. I need to do so with a sense of composure,” said Bishop Mark J. Seitz in the statement. “But as I visited with victims and those they love, my heart was breaking within me. Their questions are mine as well. Why the innocent children? Why the mothers with babes in their arms? Why should any human being ever be subjected to such violence?”

Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, conveyed a personal message from Pope Francis to Bishop Seitz saying the pontiff was “deeply saddened to learn of the tragic shooting” in El Paso. The pontiff assured all those affected by the attack of “his spiritual closeness and “prays that Almighty God may grant eternal rest to

the dead and healing and consolation to the wounded and those who grieve.”

“With the hope that harmony and fraternal solidarity may always prevail over violence, Pope Francis invokes upon all of you the divine blessings of peace and strength,” said the cardinal’s message. The text was released Aug. 5 by the El Paso Diocese.

Bishop Seitz participated in an Aug. 4 evening vigil for the victims with other faith leaders as part of the InterFaith Alliance of the Southwest, less than a mile from where the shooting took place, the local El Paso Times newspaper reported on its website. Gathered with members of the Jewish community as well as of other faiths, Bishop Seitz and other Catholics from the diocese lit candles and prayed for the victims.

In various news shows and in his statement, Bishop Seitz concentrated on the example of Jesus as a way out of the divisions that many believe led to the killings.

“Once again in our nation we see the face of evil. We see the effects of a mind possessed by hatred,” he wrote. “We see the effects of the sinful and insipid conviction that some of us are better than others of us because of race, religion, language or nationality.”

Prayer vigil in Scranton brings together members of different faiths after deadly shootings

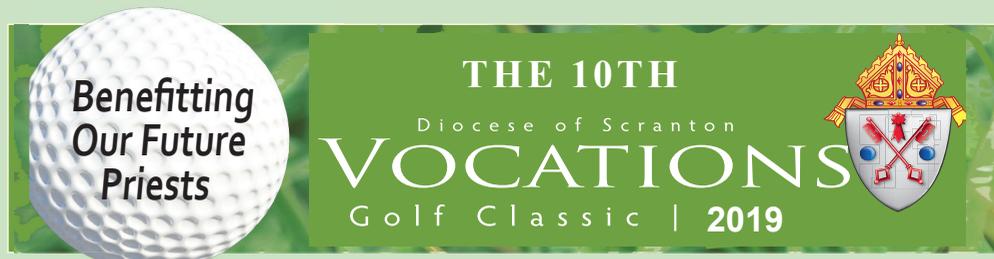
Continued from page 1

“I fear the daily occurrence of these tragedies and the rise of domestic terrorism,” Reverend Rebecca A. Barnes from Saint Luke’s Episcopal Church said. “As every faith tradition pretty much teaches, we are to love one another and love God so we can’t sit back for ourselves!”

After citing statistics on the number of gun deaths nationwide, Dr. Marwan Wafa, chancellor of the Penn State Scranton campus, called on lawmakers in both state and federal lawmakers to take meaningful action to reduce the number of deadly incidents.

“Is there a secret number beyond which you are going to take action?” Dr. Wafa said.

Following the speakers, people who turned out for the vigil lit candles and took to the streets of Scranton, walking around Courthouse Square, as a visible sign of hope and solidarity.



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Bishop Joseph Bambara, center, standing with seminarians assisting at the tournament, from left, Rev. Mr. Kevin Miller, Marc Phillips, David Pirolli and William Asinari. Second row: Shawn Simchock, Rev. Mr. Jonathan Kuhar, Mark Watrucki, Jan Carlo Perez, Michael Boris and Andrew McCarroll. Seminarians not pictured are Mark DeCelles and Bernard Gardzalla.

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Also assisting at the Classic are, from left, Sally Spudis, tournament major sponsor; Marilouise Ruane, director of Stewardship and event co-chair; and Irene Bambara, mother of Bishop Bambara. Standing, same order, Susan Ruane, administrative assistant, Office of Clergy Formation; Father Don Williams, director of Vocations and Seminarians and event chair; Carole Paswinski, Kieran Williams, mother of Father Williams; and Diane Mosley, mother of Father Joseph Mosley.

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Habitat for Divinity



For a second year in a row, students and adults from Saint John the Evangelist in Pittston, Our Lady of the Snows in Clarks Summit and Immaculate Heart of Mary in Dushore gathered at the Shrine of Saint John Neumann in Sugar Ridge, Sullivan County. The church, originally named Ss. James and Phillip, was founded in 1854 by Saint John Neumann, Bishop, during a visit to the area. In 1883, that original log cabin church burned down and the current church was built in its place. During the week, this team of students and adults worked on finishing the exterior painting, repairing doors and windows, resetting and cleaning fallen grave makers, and erecting a newly crafted 12 foot cross.



Do you know a young person who is making a difference in our community and Diocese?

Nominate them for The Catholic Light's inaugural 20 under 40 award!

Many faithful say young people are the future of the Church. That isn't the case. Young people are a part of the Church right now and they are leaving their mark each day.

At the conclusion of Mass for this year's World Youth Day in Panama, Pope Francis' last words were for the young people of the Church... "We are on a journey," the Holy Father reminded them. "Keep walking, keep living the faith and sharing it...you are not the tomorrow, you are not the 'meantime,' you are the Now of God."

Do you know a religious education or Catholic school teacher that has helped you deepen your faith or your child's faith? Is there a young person in your parish that is making a difference in your community? Do you know someone who is living a life of faith and service to our Diocese and our world at large?

The Catholic Light is launching a new effort to recognize the young people who are actively and fully engaged in the Catholic Church through a new effort called the Diocese of Scranton's 20 Under 40.

We believe that good news should be shared and that our faithful young people deserve special recognition. We are asking Pastors, Parish Life Coordinators and everyday parishioners to nominate the young people and dedicated volunteers in their midst.

The final 20 will be featured in a fall edition of *The Catholic Light* and through Diocesan social media accounts.

NOMINATION GUIDELINES

-Nominee must be between 18 and 39 years of age as of December 31, 2019

-Nominee should be committed to serving others and providing leadership to his or her parish, school and/or the Diocese of Scranton

-Individuals may nominate themselves for recognition

-If nominating multiple individuals, separate forms should be completed for each nomination

WINNERS WILL BE SELECTED BASED ON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA

-Demonstrates impact to their field/ministry/community

-Brings recognition and pride to the work of the Diocese of Scranton

-Ability to uphold and enhance the core values and mission of the Diocese of Scranton

Candidates must be willing to submit a headshot, if selected, which can be published

NOMINATION INSTRUCTIONS

-The deadline for nominations is Friday, September 20, 2019.

-To nominate someone for recognition, visit www.dioceseofscranton.org and fill out an online submission form. Written submissions can also be mailed to:

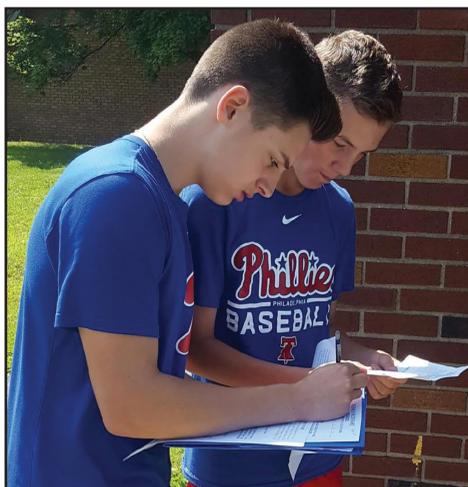
The Catholic Light
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 330 Wyoming Avenue
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-For more information, call The Catholic Light Office at (570) 207-2229

Diocese of Scranton
CATHOLIC
 SCHOOL SYSTEM
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The Diocese of Scranton is committed to educating our students in an environment that is academically excellent and facilitates the development of moral judgment and Christian decision-making. We are proud to share the following successes of our students in the classroom and in their service to others. Each day, our schools are fulfilling their mission of preparing today's youth and young adults to become tomorrow's faith-filled leaders.

Teachers and administrators in the Diocese of Scranton recently spent two days engaged in STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, Math) training at Holy Cross and Holy Redeemer High Schools in preparation for the 2019-20 school year. Led by a team from All Saints Academy, educators had STREAM experiences of doing, making and creating by engaging in a stacking activity using plastic cups, rubber bands, string, and no hands. In addition, the teachers also learned a handful of applications for BeeBots and Spheros, education-based robots that students will code and program as they work on interdisciplinary lessons.



Some eighth grade students at **Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green** recently participated in a grammar and writing skills workshop as they prepare for the 2019-20 school year. The culmination of their course was working in collaboration using the knowledge they acquired to solve clues in a scavenger hunt.



Students from **All Saints Academy in Scranton** performed the musical *Bugz*, entertaining family and friends, while also stressing the importance of kindness and friendship. *Bugz* is set at a picnic where all the insects have a role...the Lady Bugs are in charge of proper etiquette, the Army Ants handle security, the Fireflies provide the light, and the Bumble Bees are the entertainers. What should they do when Stinky Bug wants to join them?



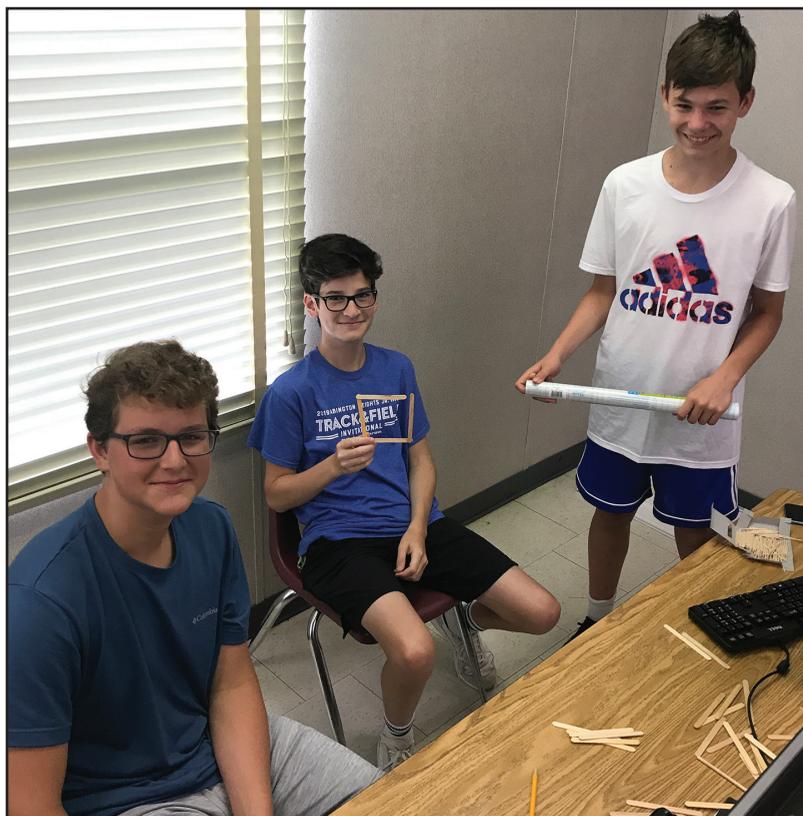
Sydney Millard and Adelyn Hischak are just two of the students enjoying a “day on the range” after reading *Ghost Town at Sundown* as part of the “Magic Treehouse” Summer Camp at **Saint Jude School in Mountain Top**.



The fourth grade class at **Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore** finished the school year becoming both researchers and artists. As part of a lesson on the solar system, each student did an in-depth research project about the sun and planets and also had to create a small model of the celestial body they studied.



Students at **Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport** love to read and know it's even more fun when you read with a friend!



Rising freshmen at **Holy Cross High School in Dunmore** work on their STREAM activity during the “Head Start to High School — Google Classroom” class by exploring the concept of a water wheel with limited supplies after practicing with Google Classroom, Docs, Slides and Sheets.

Hannah Cooley and Reagan Martin, students at **Holy Rosary School in Duryea**, spent part of their summer attending the school's STREAM Camp. One of the favorite sessions was learning about color, which included tie-dyeing t-shirts, creating their own kaleidoscopes, and painting with marbles.





Thomas Betterly and Lucia Kennedy, graduates of **Holy Family Academy in Hazleton**, assist with getting the school ready for the 2019-20 students by painting, cleaning, and organizing the uniform exchange.



At the end of the school year, students at **Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg** participated in the school's annual Race for Education, with proceeds dedicated to enhancing the STREAM curriculum. Posing with NDES Principal Sister Mary Alice Kane, IHM, are Alexander Nehlsen, Matthew Nehlsen, Joseph Esopo and Nicholas Esopo — the school's top RFE fundraisers.



The Cheer Squad at **Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre** proudly show off their trophies after recently placing first at the Game Day Division Cheer Camp.



Eric Mangual, Erin Duffy, Rachel Flynn and Alex Kelly, 2019 graduates of **Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg**, proudly wear their college shirts as they prepare for the next step of their academic journey.



Using microscopes, sixth grade students at **La Salle Academy in Jessup** recreate Robert Hooke's investigation on discovering and naming cells.



Church picnics and festivals are always in need of volunteers and who better to ask than our students? Here some students from **Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School in Wilkes-Barre** assist with a golfing game at Saint Nicholas Parish's Summer Bazaar.



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AUGUST SCHEDULE

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

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

Scranton Delegation at NPM Convention



Nine church musicians from the Scranton Diocese attended the 42nd Annual Convention of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) held July 16-19 in Raleigh, N.C. The theme of the convention was "That You May Be Healed." Thousands of liturgical musicians from all over the country and beyond participated in the event, which featured keynote presentations by Father J. Michael Joncas, Marie Monville, Sister Judith Kubicki, John Flaherty, as well as institutes in music and liturgy, workshops by prominent liturgical composers, concerts and exhibits. Participants from the Diocese are pictured with Most Rev. Mark J. Seitz, Bishop of El Paso, Texas, and Episcopal Moderator of NPM. Shown from left are: Marge Stahura, Joanne Stahura, John Schoonover, Joan Schoonover, Bishop Seitz, Nancy Valtos, Marilee Beyer, Joan Roginski and Liz Powell. Also in attendance was Tom Wierbowski.

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Charismatic Fall Retreat Slated September 13 & 14

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) of the Diocese of Scranton will host its annual Fall Retreat September 13 & 14 at the Villa of Our Lady Retreat House in Mount Pocono.

Reflecting both the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on Sept. 14 and the Extraordinary Month of Mission designated by Pope Francis for October, the theme for this year's retreat will be "Sharing in the Cross; Empowered for Mission."

Spiritual leader for the Charismatic Fall Retreat will be Father Ben St. Croix, a Canadian member of the Companions of the Cross religious community, whose patronal feast day is the

Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

Having joined the Companions of the Cross in 1993 and ordained in Ottawa in 2001, Father Ben has focused his ministry on a passion for evangelization and forming disciples of Jesus for mission.

During the past 18 years, he has served in campus ministry, parish work, and itinerant preaching at parish missions and retreats. He currently serves as liaison to the CCR for Cardinal Thomas C. Collins in the Archdiocese of Toronto.

For more information and retreat registration forms, contact the CCR office in Scranton at cce-renewal@comcast.net or by phone: (570) 344-2214.

Labor Day Weekend

Oblates' Labor Day Triduum, Mass to Honor Saint Joseph the Worker

PITTSSTON — The Oblates of Saint Joseph congregation will host their annual Labor Day Triduum and Mass in honor of Saint Joseph the Worker during the upcoming Labor Day Weekend, Aug. 30-Sept. 2, at the Oblates' seminary chapel, located on Route 315 in Laffin.

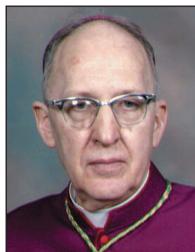
Masses during the Triduum — Friday, Aug. 30, through Sunday, Sept. 1 — will be celebrated each evening at 7 p.m., followed by devotional prayers to Saint Joseph as the patron saint of laborers. Confessions and recitation of the Rosary will precede each Mass.

The Triduum will conclude with a special Labor Day Mass honoring Saint Joseph the Worker on Monday, Sept. 2, at 11 a.m., concelebrated by the Oblate Fathers.

Principal celebrant and homilist will be Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus John M. Dougherty.

At the conclusion of the Mass, bread will be blessed and distributed to the faithful as a symbol of the "fruit of our labor." All are welcome.

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



**Bishop
Dougherty**

Remembrance Day for Abortion Victims

The Diocese of Scranton will participate in the seventh annual National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children on Saturday, Sept. 14 — Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross — when pro-life Americans will honor the memory of the nearly 60 million unborn victims of abortion since its legalization in 1973.

Diocesan observances on Sept. 14 will include a Memorial Service for Victims of Abortion to be held at 11 a.m. at Mount Olivet

Cemetery, 612 Mount Olivet Road, Carverton.

The pro-life gathering will take place at Mount Olivet's Wyoming Valley Knights of Columbus "Tomb for the Unborn," located on the top of the hill on the cemetery grounds.

During the memorial observance, the Rosary will be recited in remembrance of all aborted babies.

All faithful are invited. For more information, contact Ada Magni at (570) 693-1338.

Diocese of Scranton Presents

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August 3 -11, 2020

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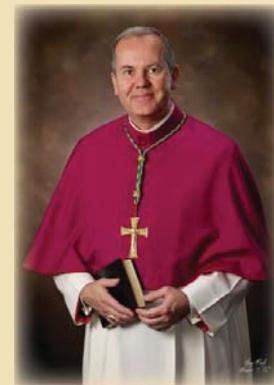


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Mary Ann Malone Installed in White Haven as First Parish Life Coordinator Laywoman in Diocese

After appointing her the first laywoman to serve as a Parish Life Coordinator in the Diocese of Scranton, Bishop Bambera installed Mary Ann Malone into the position at Saint Patrick Parish in White Haven on July 27.

With the installation of Mrs. Malone, there are currently several Parish Life Coordinators serving the Diocese, including permanent deacons, one religious sister and a layman.

Mrs. Malone, who resides in Sugar Notch with her husband Tom, most recently served as Diocesan Director for Word and Lifelong Faith Formation (formerly known as Director of Religious Education) in the Office for Parish Life since 2007.

She was previously the Director of Religious Education at the former Gate of Heaven School in Dallas for eight years.

When there exists an insufficient number of priests to serve every parish individually, Church law allows a Bishop to appoint a person other than a priest to provide the primary leadership in a parish and to attend to the pastoral care of the community, making daily decisions for the parish, and managing parish operations and finances. A deacon, vowed religious



or lay person can be appointed as a Parish Life Coordinator, while a priest is also appointed to serve as the Sacramental Minister to celebrate Sunday Masses, weddings, funerals and the sacraments, and to work collaboratively with the Parish Life Coordinator. In addition, a Priest Moderator is appointed to supervise the pastoral care and also serve as the Bishop's direct representative to the parish.

Coinciding with Mrs. Malone's appointment at Saint Patrick's, Reverend Peter J. O'Rourke now serves as Sacramental Minister for the parish, and Reverend Michael J. Piccola, V.F., Dean of Hazleton and pastor of Saints Cyril and Methodius Parish, Hazleton, is the Priest Moderator.

Nurses Week Blessing



Hospice of the Sacred Heart joined in the recent celebration of National Nurses Week by hosting a luncheon and blessing of hands for all staff registered nurses and licensed practical nurses at the Hospice of the Sacred Heart Center for Education in Moosic. National Nurses Week annually coincides with the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. Monsignor David Tressler, pastor of Saint Ignatius Loyola Parish, Kingston, and Hospice of the Sacred Heart Deacon Patrick Massino blessed the hands of all nurses and guests. Pictured above, Deacon Massino blesses the hands of Barbara Belardinelli, LPN. Shown in the background is Monsignor Tressler performing a blessing of hands.



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Mission Message

**Go
Forth**

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



“If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts” (Psalm 90). We prayed those words this past Sunday, words that have a dramatic weight to them. A hardened heart is devastating no matter how you look at this. The heart is rendered lifeless when it no longer can beat; it can’t receive and pump blood if it’s not tender. All of that is true, but the Psalmist is not talking about the mere physical functions of the heart. It’s something much deeper and symbolic.

In our cultural experience, the heart has such symbolic value. Songs, poems, and prayers refer to the heart as the core within us that receives love and is the source of our ability to love, in both romantic, familial, and sacrificial ways. However, for the world of David and the people of ancient Israel, the heart was not the seat of love and romance but the seat of the

intellect. The heart enabled one to think, to understand, to receive knowledge. And in the same vein as a physically hardened heart — pun intended — how can we function spiritually if we are incapable of knowing and understanding spiritual matters which God speaks to our hearts.

Blessed John Henry Newman — soon to be canonized — once wrote of God and how He communicates with us using the Latin phrase *cor ad cor loquitur*, heart speaking to heart. Newman beautifully offers in image of this exchange that happens when God reveals Himself to each of us: His heart speaks to our heart.

If our hearts are hardened because of vice and indifference, how will this exchange occur? God can break through anything for sure, but we have to be receptive and ready. He will not force Himself upon us. We must pray for a softened, tender heart to receive Him when He comes to us.

Not only will our softened hearts be opened and ready to receive Him, but we will also be freer, more willing, truly ready to know that He is calling us to love Him and to love our neighbors. In praying for a softened heart, we are praying to be more receptive to Him.

Surely, turning to the Sacred Heart of Jesus will change our hearts, change them into tender hearts that are ready to receive Him and to serve His Church and His people:

“O most holy heart of Jesus, fountain of every blessing, I adore you, I love you, and with lively sorrow for my sins I offer you this poor heart of mine. Make me humble, patient, pure and wholly obedient to your will. Grant, Good Jesus, that I may live in you and for you. Protect me in the midst of danger. Comfort me in my afflictions. Give me health of body, assistance in my temporal needs, your blessing on all that I do, and the grace of a holy death. Amen.”

Prayer Requests for Priests

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

August 8, Father Richard Ghezzi; August 9, Father Ryan Glenn; August 10, Holy Cross Father Anthony Grasso; August 11, Father Joseph Greskiewicz; August 12, Monsignor Vincent Grimalia; August 13, Father Louis Grippi; August 14, Father Eugene Gunning; August 15, Father Gerald Gurka; August 16, Saint Peter Priestly Fraternity Father Simon Harkins; August 17, Passionist Father Lee

Havey; August 18, Father Robert Hochreiter; August 19, Holy Cross Father Richard Hockman; August 20, Father Joseph Horanzy; August 21, Father Thomas Hudak; August 22, Father Andrew Hvozdovic; August 23, Holy Cross Father Daniel Issing; August 24, Passionist Father James O’Shea; August 25, Father George Jeffrey; August 26, Holy Cross Father Walter Jenkins; August 27, Monsignor John Jordan; August 28, Father Joseph Kakareka



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Spiritual Offerings Around the Diocese

Friday Pro-Life Rosary Vigil

— AUG. 9, sponsored by the Catholics Defending Life Prayer & Awareness Team; group gathers every Friday from 1 to 1:30 p.m. at Lackawanna County Courthouse Square (corner of Linden St. & North Washington Ave.) in downtown Scranton. Recitation of the Rosary offered, along with pro-life meditations, Divine Mercy Chaplet and other prayer devotions for the respect and dignity of all human life from conception to natural death. Pro-life signs are welcome.

Weekly Bible Study

— AUG. 9, hosted by St. Lawrence Parish in Great Bend; held on Fridays at 7 p.m. in the Trinity Center, adjacent to St. Lawrence Church.

Spiritual Support Group: Scranton Mental Health Ministry

— AUG. 10 & 24, hosted by the Cathedral of St. Peter in Scranton; providing a safe, supportive space

for individuals who are experiencing mental illness. Group meets at 10 a.m. on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month in the Bishops Hall at the Cathedral Rectory, 315 Wyoming Ave. Meetings will be approximately 90 minutes; refreshments provided. Participating Scranton parishes include St. Peter's; Mary, Mother of God; and Immaculate Conception. For more information, contact Deacon Ed Shoener at the Cathedral (570) 344-7231.

Sunday Our Lady of Guadalupe Rosary Devotion

— AUG. 11, 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.

Monthly Meeting of the Lay Fraternity of St. Dominic

— AUG. 11, hosted by St. Thomas Aquinas Chapter 413; afternoon gathering held on the second Sunday of every month 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@hotmail.com.

Weekly "Flame of Love" Prayer Group Meeting

— AUG. 12, 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.

Continued on Page 25

Theresians Seeking New Members

The Scranton community of Theresians International is extending an invitation to adult Catholic women in the area to join the spiritual organization, whose patroness is Saint Therese of Lisieux, the Little Flower of Jesus.

The Theresians of Scranton was founded in 1963 by the late Marion Clauss, who remained an active leader in the group until her death this past May.

The community meets on the second Tuesday of the month, September through June (except January) at Immaculate Conception Church, 800 Taylor Ave., Scranton.

Recitation of the Rosary begins the gathering at 11:30 a.m. in the adjoining chapel, followed by celebration of Mass in the main church at 12:10 p.m. The monthly meeting concludes with a luncheon at nearby Cooper's Restaurant, featuring a priest or religious sister as guest speaker.

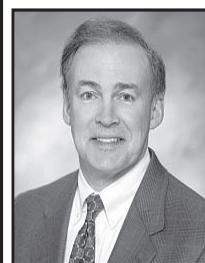
The Theresians' primary purpose is to foster vocations, mainly by prayer and example. Members' duties include daily recitation of the Theresian prayer, offering a personal Holy Hour each week (privately or in church), attending meetings regularly and paying the yearly dues of \$30.

The chaplain of each Theresian community is appointed by the Diocesan Bishop. Serving as the Scranton chaplain is Father James Paisley, pastor of the parish communities of Saint Therese, Shavertown, and Saint Frances Cabrini, Carverton.

Officers for the Scranton Theresians are: Mary Boretsky, president; Helen McDonough, first vice president; Felicia Kazmerski, second vice president; Pauline Bolock, secretary; Marie Conmy, treasurer; and Janet Monahan, publicity chairman.

The first meeting of the new season is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 10. Reservations for the luncheon are required one week in advance.

Any woman interested in becoming a member of the Theresians may call Mary Boretsky at (570) 780-3452; or Helen McDonough at (570) 341-9784.



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Divine Mercy Pilgrimage on Feast of Saint Faustina

PITTSTON—The Eucharistic Apostle of Divine Mercy Cenacle will host their annual pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Mass., in October to coincide with the Feast of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska — the saint of Divine Mercy.

The pilgrimage will be held on Saint Faustina's feast day, Saturday, Oct. 5.

The bus excursion will depart for the Divine Mercy Shrine at 7 a.m. from the grounds of Saint Joseph's Oblate Seminary, 1880 Highway 315, Laflin. Estimated arrival time at the shrine is 11 a.m.

Upon arrival, pilgrims will participate in the day's events at the Mother of Mercy outdoor shrine, beginning with a presentation on Saint Faustina.

The remainder of the day's itinerary is as follows: 1 p.m. — Eucharistic adoration and opportunity for private confessions; 1:30

p.m. — recitation of the Rosary for Life; 2 p.m. — celebration of Holy Mass; 3 p.m. — Divine Mercy Chaplet, benediction, veneration of first-class relic of Saint Faustina, and blessing of religious articles; and 4:45 p.m. — departure from shrine for home, including dinner stop at Cork 'N Hearth Restaurant in Lee, Mass.

Cost for the pilgrimage, including complimentary refreshments, Shrine entrance fee, and full-course dinner, is \$75 per person.

For more information and reservations, contact Cathy Mack, trip coordinator, at (570) 654-6063.

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- **BALTIMORE INNER HARBOR INDEPENDENT** — Aug. 31
- **CATSKILLS DOME TRAIN AND TIOGA DOWNS CASINO** — Sept. 7 — Lunch on the train
- **SIGHT & SOUND DINNER THEATRE** — Sept. 7 — The show is "Jesus". Hershey Farm Dinner
- **MAINE 5-DAY** — Sept. 8-12 — Three cruises, 2 in Maine and 1 in New Hampshire! Cog Railway Ride in New Hampshire, 9 Meals, Moose bus tour, Casco Bay, Portland

- **CORNING GLASS CENTER AND ROCKWELL MUSEUM** — Sept. 14 — Lunch at the Glass Center and shopping time in Corning
- **FEAST OF SAN GENNARO IN MANHATTAN** — Sept. 21
- **BLOOMSBURG FAIR** — Sept. 21
- **MEDIAEVAL TIMES DINNER THEATRE** — Sept. 28 — Knights on horseback in royal jousts! Feast with the Queen and her court.
- **SENECA LAKE WINE TRAIL** — Sept. 28 — Tasting at 4 vineyards and lunch at Wagner Vineyards
- **PA GRAND CANYON FALL FOLIAGE** — Oct. 5 — Lunch and a covered wagon tour in the canyon
- **SALEM & PROVIDENCE 3-DAY** — Oct. 11-13 — Haunted sites and haunting events in both cities, Lizzie Borden House, Salem Witch Museum



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October 1-8, 2020
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Spiritual Offerings Around the Diocese

Bereavement Support Group Session — AUG. 12, hosted by St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Milford; group meets on Monday evening from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the parish hall, 101 St. Vincent Drive (Route 739), Milford. Bereavement support sessions address topics dealing with the grief process to aid in healing. All are welcome; no registration required. Men's group will meet simultaneously. For more information, call the parish office (570) 686-4545.

Evening of Marian Devotion — AUG. 13, hosted by the Diocesan Legion of Mary in response to the Blessed Mother's request at Fatima for prayers for world peace; devotion begins at 6 p.m. at St. Ann's Basilica in West Scranton. Prayer service includes recitation of the Rosary, Fatima prayers, hymns and music for the Scriptural mysteries, led by Ernie Pappa. All are invited to attend and offer devotional prayers to Mary for peace throughout the world.

Weekly Eucharistic Adoration — AUG. 14, hosted by All Saints Parish in Plymouth; Eucharistic exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament held every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the daily chapel of the parish worship site of Nativity of the BVM Church, 66 Willow St., Plymouth.

Wednesday Eucharistic Adoration — AUG. 14, hosted at St. Joseph's Oblate Seminary,

Route 315, Laflin; Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held every Wednesday evening from 6 to 7 p.m. in the seminary chapel. Includes recitation of the Rosary and opportunity for confessions. Mass celebrated at 7 p.m., followed by Novena prayers to St. Joseph and St. Joseph Marelo, founder of the Oblates of St. Joseph religious congregation. For more information, contact the OSJ seminary at (570) 654-7542.

Weekly Bible Study — AUG. 14, 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 — AUG. 14, 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 — AUG. 14, hosted by Most Holy Trinity Parish in Susquehanna; Hour of Mercy devotion held every Wednesday at 3 p.m. at St. Lawrence Church, 380 Franklin St., Great Bend.

Meeting of Lay Carmelites — AUG. 17, hosted by Our Lady of the Mountains Lay Carmelite Chapter; meetings held on the third Saturday of each month, from 9 to 11 a.m., at the Oblates of St. Joseph Seminary, 1880 Route 315, Laflin (Pittston). For more information, contact Rose at (570) 507-2373 or Chris at (570) 239-8094.

Gathering of the Secular Discalced Carmelites — AUG. 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.

Continued on Page 27

Saint Paul's Block Party



September 13th, 14th and 15th
Fri and Sat: 5-10 pm
Sun: 11-5 pm

Live Entertainment

Fri: *Live Music*
Sat: *Crimson Tears ~ 7-10 pm*
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Raffle: \$2,000 & Other Assorted Prizes

Games of Chance ~ Variety Baskets ~ Refreshments ~ Potato Pancakes ~ Pizza Fritta Sausage and Peppers ~ Pierogies ~ Cabbage and Noodles ~ Buddy Clarke Wings ~ Mamma Mia's Pizza ~ Kids' Games ~ Candy Wheel Slide ~ Obstacle Course ~ Face Painting

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DIOCESAN DATEBOOK

"Rachel's Vineyard:" Post-Abortion Healing Retreat — Nov. 1-3. Confidential weekend retreat facilitates spiritual and emotional healing for men and women struggling with the impact and pain of abortion. Exercises based on Scripture are designed to help participants experience God's mercy and compassion, and to reconcile with their Church, themselves and their child. The retreat concludes with a memorial service and Catholic Mass of Entreatment. Participation is strictly confidential; financial assistance available. For more information, including registration, contact Denise Mengak at (570-822-7118, ext. 333) or drowinski@csswb.org; or Susan Walters at suezq22@verizon.net.



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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).

Aviso al Respeto de Reportar el Abuso Sexual de Un Menor de Edad

Es la norma de la Diócesis de Scranton reportar cualquier alegación de abuso sexual de un menor de edad a las autoridades. Si usted es una víctima de abuso sexual cometido por un sacerdote, diácono, religioso o empleado laico, o voluntario de la Diócesis de Scranton, usted está obligado a reportar el asunto inmediatamente a las autoridades de la ley.

Si algún sacerdote, diácono, religioso, empleado laico o voluntario de la Diócesis de Scranton tiene sospecha de que un menor de edad ha sido sujeto a cualquier forma de abuso, incluyendo abuso sexual de menor de edad, el asunto será reportado a las autoridades de la ley.

Es la norma de la Diócesis defender todas las regulaciones civiles y del estado. Al fin de que la Diócesis esté comprometida igualmente a defender las normas del Código de Derecho Canónico y defender los principios de la Carta Para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes (Conferencia de los Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos), lo cual incluye apoyar a las víctimas de abuso sexual en pos del bienestar emocional y espiritual.

Por eso, información respecto a una alegación del asunto sexual de un menor de edad, debe ser reportada a la Coordinadora Diocesana de Asistencia para Las Víctimas, Mary Beth Pacuska, a (570-862-7551).



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The Hazleton office of the Pregnancy and Maternal Health Program of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton is in need of new and gently used baby clothing, diapers, wipes and formula. The program, over the past year, has served more than 500 families, many of whom do not qualify for other financial assistance. In addition to products for infants, the program also offers counseling on parenting and healthy relationships, help with budgets and job applications and advice on nutrition and self-care. Shown, from left: Kiana Shoemaker, caseworker; Mary Kobrick Schell, program supervisor; Sandra Delgado, counseling coordinator; Stephanie Cuadros, caseworker; Samantha Benko, lead caseworker; and Jesselyn Fernandez, caseworker. For more information about the Pregnancy and Maternal Health Program, or to make a donation, call (570) 455-1521.

Spiritual Offerings Around the Diocese

Meeting of the St. Joseph Secular Franciscan Fraternity — AUG. 18, hosted at St. Joseph's Oblate Seminary, Route 315, Laflin. Liturgy of the Hours recited at 2 p.m. in the seminary chapel. Fraternity meets regularly on the third Sunday of every month; all professed members of the Secular Franciscans and interested men and women are welcome. Anyone interested in attending may contact Jim Gaffney at (570) 575-1703.

Monday Evening Marian Devotion — AUG. 19, hosted by the Oblates of St. Joseph; evening of Marian devotion begins at 6 p.m. in the chapel of St. Joseph's Oblate Seminary, Route 315, Laflin (Pittston). Prayer service includes recitation of the Rosary, Chaplet of Divine Mercy in song, Fatima prayers, hymns and music for the Scriptural mysteries. All are invited to attend and offer devotional prayers to the Blessed Mother for world peace.

Padre Pio Prayer Ministry — SEPT. 4, hosted by St. Faustina Kowalska Parish in Nanticoke; begins with celebration of Mass at 6 p.m. at the parish worship site of Holy Trinity Church, 520 South Hanover St., Nanticoke, followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, intercessory prayers to St. Padre Pio, recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and benediction.

Scranton Mental Health Ministry: Spiritual Support Group for Family & Friends — SEPT. 5, hosted by the Cathedral of St. Peter in Scranton; providing a safe, supportive space for parents, family members and friends of individuals who are experiencing mental illness. Group meets at 6 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month in the Bishops Hall at the Cathedral Rectory, 315 Wyoming Ave. Meetings will be approximately 90 minutes; refreshments provided. Participating Scranton parishes include St. Peter's; Mary, Mother of God; and Immaculate Conception. For more information, contact Deacon Ed Shoener (Cathedral), (570) 344-7231; Deacon Jan Mroz (Mary, Mother of God), (570) 342-4881; or Deacon Pat McDonald (Immaculate Conception), (570) 961-5211.

Women's Preached Retreat: "Finding the Gift of God's Mercy in Our Everyday Lives" — SEPT. 6-8, hosted by St. Gabriel's Retreat Center in Clarks Summit; retreat for women begins on Friday evening at 7 p.m. (no meal served) and concludes following the noon meal on Sunday. Retreat director: Passionist Father Richard Nalepa of St. Paul's Monastery in Pittsburgh. Cost: \$140 per person. For more information and reservations, call (570) 586-

4957 or email: kporter@epix.net. Deposit is required.

Fall Preached Retreat: "Praying the Passion" — OCT. 18-20, hosted by St. Gabriel's Retreat Center in Clarks Summit; open to both men and women. Retreat begins on Friday evening at 7 p.m. (no meal served) and concludes following the noon meal on Sunday. Retreat director: Passionist Father Curtis Kiddy. Cost: \$140 per person. For more information and reservations, call (570) 586-4957 or email: kporter@epix.net. Deposit is required.

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SEPTEMBER 13-14
 (Friday & Saturday)

**7:00PM FRIDAY to
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For more information
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**Registration
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 the Diocese of Scranton*

Catholic Charismatic Renewal
of the Diocese of Scranton

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Sharing in the Cross; Empowered for Mission
*“...they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and
 spoke the word of God with boldness.” (Acts 4:31)*

“All renewal in the Church must have mission as its goal...”
 (St John Paul II, quoted by Pope Francis in his Letter establishing
 October 2019 as an Extraordinary Month of Mission)

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- Inspiring music and songs
- Joyful praise and worship
- Mass
- Confession
- Healing prayer ministry
- Eucharistic Adoration

18th Annual Lebanese-American Food Festival — **AUG. 9-11**, hosted by St. Joseph Melkite Greek-Catholic Church, 130 N. St. Frances Cabrini Ave. (off lower Jackson St.) in West Scranton. Festival hours: Friday, 5 to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 4 to 10 p.m.; and Sunday, 12 noon to 7 p.m. Featuring authentic Lebanese foods and pastries, traditional picnic food, games, basket raffle and used book sale. For more information, visit: melkitescranton@gmail.com.

Chicken Barbecue & Cash Raffle — **AUG. 10**, sponsored by St. John Vianney Parish, Montdale, at St. Pius X Church grounds, 3615 State Route 106, Clifford Township (Royal); held from 12 noon to 5 p.m. Featuring barbecue chicken dinners (\$10 each) and a variety of foods and refreshments, live music, bake sale, basket raffles, games and prizes for all ages. Tickets for cash raffle drawing are \$10 each. For advance tickets or more information, call Tina at (570) 254-0502.

Chicken Barbecue & Basket Raffle — **AUG. 11**, sponsored by Prince of Peace Parish in Old Forge; held from 11 a.m. to 2

p.m. in the parking lot of Arcaro and Genell Restaurant, located on Main St., Old Forge. Take-out dinners available, with limited outside seating. Dinner includes half of barbecued chicken, pasta salad, corn on the cob, roll and dessert. Cost: \$10 per person. For advance ticket information, call Francis at (570) 451-0112. Walk-ins are limited.

Weekly Bingo — **AUG. 12**, hosted by Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Dickson City; bingo games held every Monday evening, with doors opening at 4:30 p.m. Early bird games begin at 6:40 p.m.; regular games start at 7 p.m. Admission fee includes 20 games; progressive jackpot each week. Homemade food sold before the bingo; homemade pizza available during the games and for take-out. Return coupon for new players; door prizes awarded each week. Van shuttle service provided free of charge from Carbondale and Scranton. For more information, call (570) 489-2091.

St. Mary’s Villa Golf Tournament — **AUG. 12**, hosted at Glen Oak Country Club in Clarks Summit; begins with registration and luncheon at 11 a.m., followed by shotgun start at 12 noon. Event concludes with cocktail

reception & dinner at 5:30 p.m. Tournament fee: \$150 per golfer. For more information, registration and sponsorships, contact David Leonori at (570) 842-5274 or dleonori@stmarysvilla.com.

Misericordia Open House — **AUG. 17**, open house event sponsored by Misericordia University in Dallas; for high school students and their parents. Program begins with registration at 9 a.m. in the Anderson Sports and Health Center, followed by “Meet the Coaches” session from 9 to 10 a.m. Open house held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; includes campus tours, faculty session and lunch, and meetings with representatives of student services, athletics and financial aid. For more information & registration, contact the Misericordia Admissions Office at (570) 675-4449 or 1-866-262-6363, or by email: admiss@misericordia.edu.

Annual Festival for the Intellectually Disabled — **AUG. 18**, sponsored by the local Alhambra Caravan (No. 4) of Alhambra, an international Catholic group of men and women dedicated to serving persons with special needs; held from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Plains American

Continued on Page 29

Passionist Nuns to Host Two Fall Retreats at Saint Gabriel’s

CLARKS SUMMIT — The Passionist Sisters of Saint Gabriel’s Retreat Center, 631 Griffin Pond Road, will host two upcoming fall weekend retreat experiences, beginning with a Women’s Retreat scheduled for the weekend of Sept. 6-8.

Theme for the retreat is “Finding the Gift of God’s Mercy in Our Everyday Lives.”

The second retreat weekend offering, “Praying the Passion,” will begin on Oct. 18. Open to both men and women, this retreat is designed to provide a more silent spiritual experience.

Serving as retreat director/preacher for the September program will be Passionist Father Richard Nalepa of Saint Paul’s Monastery in Pittsburgh. Passionist Father Curtis Kiddy will

lead the preached weekend retreat in October.

Both retreats begin on Friday at 7 p.m. and conclude following the noon meal on Sunday. No meals are provided by Saint Gabriel’s on Friday evening.

Registration fee for each retreat is \$140 per person. A deposit is required.

Preached retreats consist of conferences on the spiritual life, time for personal meditation/reflection, prayer service, Sacrament of Reconciliation, and celebration of the Eucharistic liturgy.

Saint Gabriel’s facilities are also available for private, directed and hosted-group retreats.

For more information, call the Retreat Center office at (570) 586-4957 or email: kporter@epix.net.

Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese

Continued from Page 28

Veterans Pavilion in Plains (Wilkes-Barre). Open to the public free of charge. For reservations or for volunteer information, contact Ray Kownacki, Grand Advocate, at (570) 823-2894.

Seventh Annual Parish Golf Outing — **AUG. 18**, sponsored by St. Monica Parish in West Wyoming, to benefit projects of the parish's Christian Society; hosted at Four Seasons Golf Club in Exeter. Begins with registration at 12 noon, followed by tournament play at 1 p.m. Cost: \$55 per person, includes raffle drawings,

prizes, on-course refreshments and awards dinner at St. Monica parish hall. Registrations available following all weekend Masses; deadline is Aug. 14. For more information, sponsorships and donations, call Howard Kelley (570) 574-1677 or John Piszak (570) 313-8586.

"Island Dream" Dinner Dance — **AUG. 24**, sponsored by St. Eulalia's Parish, 214 Blue Shutters Road, Roaring Brook Twp.; hosted at the parish from 6 to 10 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.). Admission cost: \$25 per person (must be at least 21 years old), includes Caribbean foods

and desserts, soft drinks and adult beverages; cash bar. DJ music provided by Brian Foytack. For more information and reservations, call (570) 842-4785. Ticket deadline: Aug. 18.

Continued on
Page 31

PICNIC TIME

AUGUST

8, 9, 10 — St. John the Evangelist, Pittston, church grounds, Church & Broad streets.

9, 10, 11 — St. John the Baptist, Larksville, parish grounds, 126 Nesbitt St.

9, 10, 11 — St. Jude's, Mountain Top, parish grove, 420 South Mountain Blvd.

9, 10, 11 — St. Matthew's, East Stroudsburg, parish grounds, 78 Ridgeway St.

9, 10, 11 — Most Precious Blood (La Madonna del Monte Festival), Hazleton, parish grounds.

9, 10, 11 — SS. Anthony & Rocco, Dunmore, St. Rocco Church grounds, 122 Kurtz St., Bunker Hill section.

11 — St. Augustine's, St. Brigid Parish at Neumann Hall, Route 267, Choconut.

15, 16, 17 — St. John Neumann, Scranton, Nativity of Our Lord Church grounds, 633 Orchard St., South Scranton.

16, 17, 18 — Blessed Sacrament, Throop, parish grounds, 215 Rebecca St.

17 — St. Juliana's, Rock Lake, church grounds, Route 247-North (Creamton Drive).

17, 18 — Queen of Heaven (St. Mauro Festival), Hazleton, parish grounds, 750 North Vine St., Hazleton.

30, 31 — St. Mary's, Waymart, church grounds, 242 Carbondale Road.

31, SEPT. 1 — St. Mary's, Mocanaqua, Parish Park, Main Road.

31, SEPT. 1 — St. Martha's, Fairmount Springs, church grounds, 260 Bonnieville Road.

SEPTEMBER

2 — Immaculate Conception, Bastress, church grounds, 5973 Jacks Hollow Road.

5, 6, 7 — St. Boniface, Williamsport, church grounds, 326 Washington Blvd.

13, 14, 15 — St. Paul's, Scranton, church grounds, 1510 Penn Ave., Green Ridge section.

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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

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Settle all estate matters and distribute inheritances.

Inheritance Tax :

Utilize all discounts and proper deductions.
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- Medicaid Application Assistance

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For the third straight summer, members of the youth ministry of Saint Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport participated in the Steubenville Youth Conference at the Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio. Each year the students prepare spiritually for the youth pilgrimage and raise funds to cover costs to attend the conference. This summer, the contingent from Lycoming County was joined by youth and young adults from the neighboring parishes of Saint Ann, Saint Boniface, Saint Lawrence and Our Lady of Lourdes. In all, 32 pilgrims, including chaperones and Saint Joseph the Worker pastor Father Brian Van Fossen, made the trek to America's heartland to grow in faith and fellowship. The young Catholics from the Scranton Diocese joined their counterparts from across the country for sacramental devotion, inspiring Christian music and dynamic speakers, including Father Leo Patalinghug — a.k.a. "The Cooking Priest" — who is pictured above with Megan Adams.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Purse Bingo Fundraiser

Big Brothers Big Sisters of The Bridge will sponsor a Purse Bingo & Shopping Expo fundraising event on Sunday, Sept. 22, at Saint Maria Goretti Parish in Laflin. Doors open at 12 noon and games begin at 1 p.m.

Admission cost is \$30 and includes bingo sheets for 20 games, food and soft drink refreshments. Special games may be purchased for an additional cost.

The event will also include theme basket and cash raffle drawings, displays by local vendors, and a cash bar. Designer purse name brands will include Michael Kors, Coach, Dooney & Burke, and Kate Spade.

To reserve tickets or become a sponsor, visit: bbbsnepa.org. For more information, call Big Brothers Big Sisters at (570) 824-8756, or Denise Ogurkis at (570) 986-1889.

IHM Sister Margo McCormick Dies; Served as Catholic High School Principal

SCRANTON — Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Margo McCormick was buried following a Mass of Christian Burial on July 25 at the IHM Center. She died July 20 at Specialty Hospital in Wilkes-Barre.

Born April 5, 1940, in Scranton, daughter of the late Austin and Irene Ferrick McCormick, Sister Margo entered the Congregation of Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary on Sept. 7, 1957, and made her final profession of vows March 14, 1965.

She earned her bachelor's degree in English from Marywood College and a master's degree in

mathematics from the University of Dayton.

During her religious life, Sister Margo ministered in Catholic education in the Diocese of Scranton, serving on the faculty of Bishop Hannan High School, Scranton, where she eventually became principal. She also served as principal at the Diocesan high schools of Notre Dame, East Stroudsburg; Seton Catholic, Pittston; and Sacred Heart, Carbondale, and taught at IHM schools in Manhasset, N.Y.; New Bern, N.C.; and La Plata, Md.

Sister Margo also served as assistant superintendent of schools in the Diocesan Office of

Education in Trenton, N.J.; consultant for the IHM Congregation Consultation Center, Scranton; director of operations and manager of development at Marywood; and resource coordinator at Employment Opportunity and Training Center in Scranton.

From 2013 until the time of her death, she was a grant writer in communications for the Catherine McAuley Center in Scranton.

Surviving are three sisters, Mary Ellen Jeffers, Scranton; Kathleen Nathan, Winnetka, Ill.; and Patricia Hansen, Clarks Summit; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Interment was held at Saint Catherine's Cemetery in Moscow.

Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese

Labor Day Weekend Chicken Barbecue — SEPT. 1, sponsored by St. Ann Parish in Shohola; held from 12:30 to 5 p.m. at the Lackawaxen Volunteer Fire Department Picnic Pavilion, Route 590, Lackawaxen. Featuring complete barbecued chicken dinner, beverage refreshments and funnel cakes; also includes children's activities, raffle drawings and theme baskets. Dinner cost: adults, \$10; children, \$5. Tickets available after all weekend Masses or by contacting the parish office at (570) 832-4275.

Labor Day Picnic — SEPT. 2, sponsored by Immaculate Conception Church, 5973 Jacks Hollow Road, Bastress; featuring family-style turkey & ham dinner, served from noon to 6 p.m. in the parish hall. Cost: adults, \$9.50; children (ages 4 to 12), \$4. Also includes refreshments, games, summer foods and treats.

Used Book Sale — SEPT. 12-15, sponsored by Holy Name of Jesus Parish in West Hazleton; held in the school building's lower level auditorium. Sale hours: Thursday & Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and following the 4 p.m. Mass until 6 p.m.; and Sunday (Bag Day), 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Books are pre-sorted according to content; sale also includes CDs, DVDs, VHS tapes and cassettes at reduced prices. All proceeds benefit the Capital Campaign to renovate the former Transfiguration School building.

For more information, call Mary Ann Heller (570) 454-3215, or Bernie Antolick (570) 455-2413.

25th Annual Lebanese Heritage Festival — SEPT. 14 & 15, sponsored by St. Ann Maronite Church in West Scranton; held in the church hall, Sumner Ave. & Price St. Festival hours: Saturday, 2 to 9 p.m., and Sunday, 12 noon to 7 p.m. Featuring traditional homemade Lebanese foods & pastries, coffee house, theme baskets, raffle drawings and beverages.

Ninth Annual Take-Out Pasta & Meatball Dinner — SEPT. 19, hosted by St. Lucy Church, 949 Scranton St., West Scranton; take-out dinners only, served from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Dinner includes penne rigate w/meatballs, salad, Italian bread & biscotti. Orders may be picked up in the church auditorium; drive-thru service also available in the church parking lot (containers provided). Dinner cost: \$10 per order. Tickets available by contacting St. Lucy Rectory (570) 347-9421, Jack (570) 344-1672, or Joe (570) 955-7469, or at the drive-thru entrance. All proceeds benefit the St. Lucy Church Restoration Fund.

Fall "Oldies" Dinner Dance — SEPT. 27, 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 "oldies" music for listening and dancing pleasure provided by Millennium. Patrons may provide their own beverages; includes basket raffle and other prize drawings. Cost: \$20 per person (must be at least 21 years of age). Tickets may be obtained at the parish office at 668 North Main St., Wilkes-Barre, or by calling Tina at (570) 814-9227.

Fall & Holiday Craft Show — SEPT. 28, sponsored by the Social Concerns/Respect Life Ministry of Queen of Apostles Parish in Avoca; held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parish hall, 742 Spring St., Avoca. Includes food and drink refreshments and raffle table. Vendors and crafters interested in renting display space may call Jane Maxwell (570) 335-8678, or the parish office (570) 457-3412

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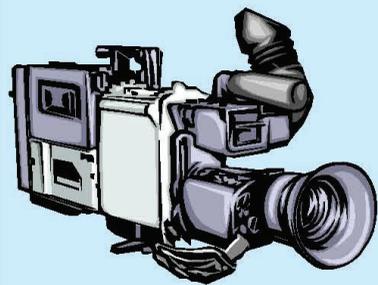
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Office for Parish Life Announces Upcoming Programs

Certificate in Ministry Studies

The Office for Parish Life is partnering with Center for Ministry Development to provide specialized tracks in ministry formation. The Certificate in Ministry Studies is a ministry education program for adults in ministry with youth, families and adults, in both parish and school settings. The program includes four online courses and eight in-person courses.

These in-person courses are offered in our Diocese over a two-year period, at minimal cost to the participants because of funds provided through the Diocesan Annual Appeal. The Certificate program leads to a Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies or Certificate in Lifelong Faith Formation. Parishes benefit especially by enrolling coordinators of both ministry areas in the program together.

The Program Schedule for 2019-2020 is as follows: • September 4 — Online Orientation Meeting with all applicants (offered in the afternoon and evening) •

September 28 — In-person course #1 — Diocesan Pastoral Center: Principles of Youth Ministry or Principles and Vision for Lifelong Catechesis • October 13 — November 9 — First online course: Visioning for Catholic Youth Ministry/Catholic Faith Formation • February 2020 — Second online course: Leading Ministry • March 14, 2020 — In-person course #2 — Practice of Ministry (location TBD by participants) • June 24 & 25, 2020 — In-person courses #3 Foundations for Ministry Leadership and #4 Skills for Christian Leadership.

Persons interested in more information and/or to enroll in the Certificate in Ministry Studies should contact Kitty Scanlan at 570-207-2213 or at kittyscanlan@dioceseofscranton.org

Meet Jacki Douglas

The Office for Parish Life is pleased to welcome Jacki Douglas as the new Director of Word and Lifelong Faith Formation. Jacki cordially invites all the Directors

of Religious Education and Youth Ministers to come to a "meet and greet" on the dates below (these are the same meeting dates and times to which Kathy Bolinski has already invited safe environment coordinators).

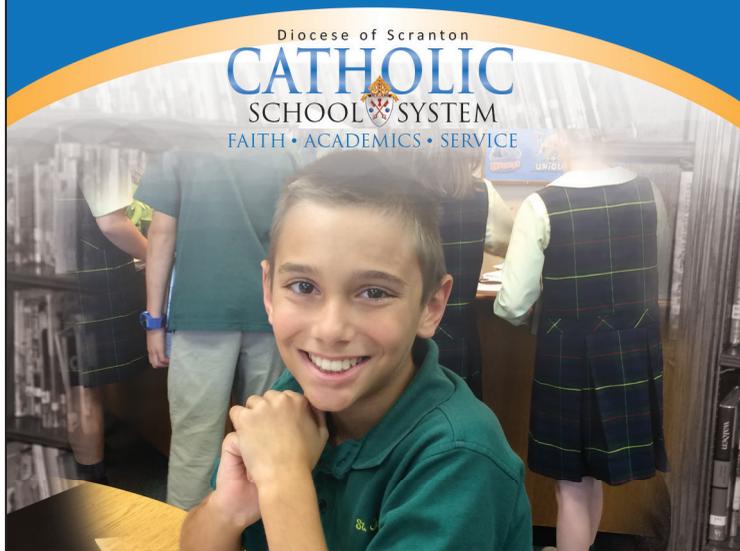
At these meetings, Jacki will go over some practical ways to make your ministry a little easier and more enjoyable for you, your catechists, and your youth. We want to hear what we can do to help your ministry.

Upcoming meeting dates are as follows: Thursday, August 22 — 1 to 2 p.m., Holy Rosary Parish, Hazleton; Tuesday, August 27 — 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Saint Maria Goretti Parish, Laffin; Thursday, September 5 — 2 to 3 p.m., Saints Peter & Paul Parish, Towanda; Thursday, September 26 — 6 to 7 p.m., Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton.

To register, please contact Jacki Douglas at jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org or 570-207-2213, ext. 1100.

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