



August 2019

GoodNewsNotes

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

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Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Thursday, August 15, 2019
Holy Day of Obligation

Certificate in Ministry Studies



CENTER for MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT

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, 2019**—Online *Orientation Meeting* with all applicants (offered in the afternoon and evening)
- **September 28, 2019** —In-person course #1 - Diocesan Pastoral Center
 - o *Principles of Youth Ministry* OR
 - o *Principles and Vision for Lifelong Catechesis*
- **October 13- November 9, 2019** -- 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 kitty-scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org



WORD

"I CALL us to be servant leaders who are people of the WORD, preaching, teaching, evangelizing and cherishing the Gospel message throughout our entire lives."



Last Call for Catechist Camp

The Office for Parish Life is planning a one-day Catechist Camp for everyone involved in catechetical ministry or family-oriented faith formation. The one-day camp will be presented in five parishes of our Diocese between August 3–9, 2019.

Saturday, August 3—8:30am-3:30pm)

Resurrection Parish, Muncy

Monday, August 5—1:00-7:30pm)

St. John Parish, East Stroudsburg

Tuesday, August 6—1:00-7:30pm)

St. Eulalia Parish, Elmhurst

Thursday, August 8—1:00-7:30pm)

Holy Name of Jesus, Hazleton

Friday, August 9—1:00-7:30pm)

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Swoyersville

FORMAT:

Welcome Prayer followed by the general session:

"To Every Creature: Preaching the Good News to All" — Father Brian J. T. Clarke

Breakout Session—Five Stations

"Practical Steps to Living Our Mission According to the Church"—Jacki Douglas

Camp-inspired Dinner (lunch on August 3)

Breakout Sessions:

- "Becoming a Family for Others"—Catherine Butel (Red)
- "Don't Be a Voluntourist: Creating Mission Trips with a Purpose"—Shannon Kowalski (White)
- "*Gente Puente*(People Bridge)"—Luis Rivera (Green)
- "Ordinary Holiness on the Journey of Extraordinary Mission"—Kitty Scanlan (Yellow)
- "Let's Talk Politics: Forming Faithful Citizens"—Katy Windels (Blue)

Closing:

"Living your Gift!" —Jennifer Hayes Housel

If you are a parent, a parish or school religion teacher/catechist, a youth minister or a volunteer in any parish or school ministry involving children, youth and families, this day is designed for you. Please join us at the location that is most convenient for you. Cost for the day is \$20. For more information, contact Jacki Douglas: (570) 207-2213 or jdouglas@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.



Thursday, August 22—1:00PM-2:00PM

Holy Rosary Parish, Hazleton

Tuesday, August 27—1:30PM -2:30PM

St. Maria Goretti Parish, Laflin

Thursday, September 5—2:00PM to 3:00PM

Saints Peter & Paul Parish, Towanda

Thursday, September 26—6:00PM to 7:00PM

Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton

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

Scouting Religious Emblem Training

We are pleased to announce that the annual Training Session for those who are interested in becoming counselors for the Boy Scout Religious Emblems Program will take place on **Tuesday, August 13, 2019 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Diocesan Pastoral Center**, located at 330 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton. In addition to those who would like to become trained counselors, we invite current counselors to refresh their skills and to share the wisdom which has come from serving as Religious Emblem Counselors. There is no charge for this session, but youth manuals and counselor manuals will be available for purchase. In order to adequately prepare for this evening, we ask you to please RSVP by Friday, August 9th by contacting Jacki Douglas at 570-207-2213 or by e-mail: jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org.

Word Convocation—Save the Date

The Office for Parish Life invites DREs, catechists, RCIA teams, youth ministers, Catholic school teachers, those on parish WORD Commissions and anyone engaged in ministry of the Word to plan on attending the WORD Convocation/Convocation for Catechists on **Saturday, October 19, 2019 from 9:00AM to 3:00PM at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton**. The keynote speaker is Sr. Janet Schaeffler, OP. Look for more information next month.

"I CALL us to be servant leaders who WORSHIP our God
and celebrate the Sacraments in union with the universal Church."

WORSHIP



Fall Bishop's Youth Awards

In response to Bishop Bambera's Spring Confirmation schedule, we will begin hosting the Bishop's Youth Award Masses annually this Fall. The Bishop Youth awards will be presented in four parishes of our diocese. Details were sent out by email to all nominators.

Southern Region

Monday, September 23, 2019 at 7:00PM
St. Nicholas Parish, Wilkes-Barre

Eastern Region

Monday, September 30, 2019 at 7:00PM
Our Lady of Victory Parish, Tannersville

Northern Region

Tuesday, October 1, 2019 at 7:00PM
St. Paul Parish (St. Paul Church), Scranton

Western Region

Monday, October 7, 2019 at 7:00PM
St. Boniface Parish, Williamsport

Resources for Ongoing Atonement and Healing

A year has passed since the Pennsylvania Grand Jury report was released that exposed the many cases of past sexual abuse in the Diocese of Scranton and the entire state of Pennsylvania. In an ongoing effort towards atonement and healing, all parishes are reminded to pray for victims of abuse during the month of August using the resources provided on the [diocesan website](#) (under Parish Life and Worship), especially the sample intercessions for the Universal Prayer. Additional liturgical and reflection resources for individuals, families and small groups including resources from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commission can also be found on the diocesan website.

Bishop Bambera will be offering a Mass for Atonement and Healing for Victims of Abuse on Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:10PM at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

Extraordinary Minister of Communion Training Session

Need to invite more faith-filled parishioners to serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Communion in your parish? The Office for Parish Life will offer an all-day training sessions for new Extraordinary Ministers of Communion on **Saturday, August 24, 2019 from 9:00AM to 2:30PM at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton.** There is no fee for the training and lunch will be provided. To register, please fill out the [EMHC Training Registration Form](#) or call the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213.

Resources for Selecting Liturgical Music

The Scranton Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians will hold a meeting on Monday, September 16 beginning at 6:00PM St. John Neumann Parish (Holy Family Site), located at 414 East Elm St., Scranton. The topic for the evening will be "Resources for Selecting Liturgical Music" presented by Danny Marx, Director of Liturgical Music at St. Gregory Parish, Clarks Green.

Explore the many resources that are available to select music that meets the demands of the sacred liturgy. Danny Marx will guide us through the process and offer recommendations for selecting the perfect liturgical music to suit the needs of parishioners as well as matching the ability of your cantors and choirs.

The meeting begins with dinner at 6:00PM, followed by the presentation at 7:00PM, and concludes with Night Prayer. All are welcome to attend. There is no cost for the event, but a free-will offering will be taken up to help offset the cost of dinner. To register, please complete the [online form](#), visit [ScrantonNPM.com](#), or contact David Balaga at 570-207-2213, ext. 1158 by September 12.

LTP Essentials in Liturgy and Initiation

Liturgy Training Publications is offering virtual courses on the **Essentials of Catholic Liturgy and the Essentials of Christian Initiation.** These training courses take place over six 90-minute sessions and are designed to provide participants with essential knowledge and skills needed for their ministry in liturgy or Christian initiation. Not only will participants join together in an interactive online classroom, they are invited to read texts and watch videos between the weekly session and will receive access to special downloads, videos and a class forum. The Essentials of Catholic Liturgy is a partnership between LTP and the National Association of Pastoral Musicians. Visit [www.ltp.org](#) for more information.

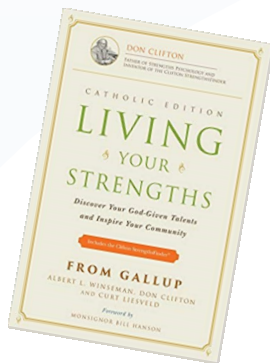


COMMUNITY

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

Living Your Strengths Workshops Available Now

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



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

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

Rachel's Vineyard Post-Abortion Healing Retreat: November 1-3, 2019

This confidential weekend retreat facilitates an intimate spiritual journey for those seeking to heal the impact of abortion in their life. Exercises based on scripture are designed to help participants experience God's mercy and compassion, and to reconcile with their church, their child, and with themselves. If your heart hears God's gentle invitation, take courage, for you are being called home to heal. Financial assistance is available.



For registration information contact: Denise Mengak, (570) 822-7118, ext. 3333, drowinski@csswb.org or Susan Walters, suezq22@verizon.net.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Share Group

Have you attended a Marriage Encounter Weekend?

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

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

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



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

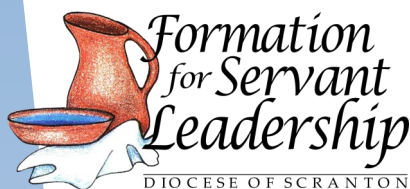
Catechetical Sunday

This year, the Church will celebrate Catechetical Sunday on September 15, 2019. The 2019 theme will be **"Stay with Us."** Those whom the Community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

Information about Catechetical Sunday (including resources for download and purchase) may be found on the [USCCB website](http://USCCB.org). "Stay With Us"...as we will continue to send more ideas to help your catechists feel the Holy Spirit inspire and guide them.



Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry Accepting Applications for Fall 2019



The Office for Parish Life encourages parish leaders to consider application for the Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry for Fall 2019!

The Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry is a ministry formation program designed to equip and advance the servant leadership capacities of individuals serving their parish in areas such as:

- Parish Pastoral Councils,
- Directors of Religious Education and Catechists,
- Liturgical Coordinators,
- Parish Staff,
- Volunteer Ministry teams,
- and others!

Through independent online study with the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF), as well as regional skills workshops and opportunities for prayer and reflection, Diocesan Certificate candidates enrich their knowledge, while also learning practical tools for effective parish ministry in their faith communities.

The Office for Parish Life looks forward to welcoming new candidates into the Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry program!

Prospective candidates are encouraged to contact Kitty Scanlan, Coordinator for Lay Ministry Formation, at 570-207-2213, or by email at Kitty-Scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org for application information, materials, and application submissions.

Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation

Looking to learn more about your faith, or gain enrichment for your parish ministry? Members of the faithful across the Diocese of Scranton are invited to consider taking a course through the University of Dayton's Virtual



Learning Community for Faith Formation! Cycle 6 runs September 8 through October 12, 2019. Registration is open now until September 4. [Click here](#) to view the course offerings in English and Spanish or visit <https://vlcff.udayton.edu/> and click 'calendar.'

Social Justice Trust Fund Grants

The Allocations Committee has finished reviewing applications for the Social Justice Trust Fund Grant and will be sending out letters in the next few weeks. Thank you to all the parishes who applied for funding this year! We are excited to be helping to fund great programs in over forty of our parishes. If you would like to show us your social justice programs for publication in the Catholic Light or in our social media pages, please contact the Office for Parish Life.

World Day of Prayer for Creation

The World Day of Prayer for Creation is on Sunday, September 1, 2019. Throughout the month of September, we will pray in a special way for the environment and for our own stewardship of our natural resources.

The Office for Parish Life will be sending resources to all parishes throughout the fall to help faith leaders to honor different pro-life holidays, including the World Day of Care for Creation and the World Day of the Poor. Please keep an eye on your inbox for some resources! As always, feel free to reach out to our office if you have any questions or suggestions. We are always looking for the best ways to serve our parishes, and we hope that these resources will help to meet your parish's needs!

YOUNG ADULT CAMPING TRIP

at Rickett's Glen State Park
August 23rd - 25th 2019

Open to those 18 & over.	\$10 per person for 1 night	Call Shannon or Katy for more info (570)207-2213
	\$15 per person for both nights	

"Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World"

"Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World" is the theme chosen by Pope Francis for the Extraordinary Mission Month. Awakening the awareness of the *missio ad gentes*, and reinvigorating the sense of responsibility for proclaiming the Gospel with new enthusiasm, are themes that combine the pastoral concern of Pope Benedict XV in his Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud*, published 100 years ago, with the missionary vitality expressed by Pope Francis in his recent Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*: "Missionary action is the paradigm of every work of the Church." (EG 15)

There are four dimensions, specified by the Pope, to live more intensely the journey of preparation for the Extraordinary Mission Month October 2019:

1. A personal encounter with Jesus Christ alive in His Church through the Eucharist, the Word of God, personal and communal prayer;
2. Testimony: missionary saints, martyrs and confessors of the faith, as an expression of the Church scattered throughout the world;
3. Missionary formation: biblical, catechetical, spiritual and theological;
4. Missionary charity.

The Office for Parish Life, in collaboration with the Office of the Pontifical Missions will be providing experiences and resources leading up to this special observance, and throughout the coming year, to help parishes and families to foster mission awareness and participation. Watch for this theme in:

- Catechist Camp 2019 (see page 1 of News Notes)
- OPL Calendar for 2019-2020
- October Extraordinary Mission Month events through Pontifical Missions
- Monthly suggestions for implementing this theme through 2020

OPL TEAM MEMBERS

Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life: **Catherine Jantsch Butel**

Director for WORD and Lifelong Faith Formation: **Jacki Douglas**

Coordinator for Youth/Young Adult Ministry: **Shannon Kowalski**

Director for WORSHIP: **David Baloga**

Coordinator for SERVICE and Social Justice: **Katy Windels**

Coordinator for Pilgrimages: **Fr. Andrew Hvozdozic**

Director for COMMUNITY and Family Development: **Jen Housel**

Coordinator for Ecumenical/Interfaith Relations: **Msgr. Vincent Grimalia**

Coordinator for Lay Ministry Formation: **Kitty Scanlan**

Coordinator for Pastoral Council Development: **Ann Marie Cawley**

Coordinator for Parish Cultural Integration: **Luis Rivera, OFS**

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