

The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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Diocese of Scranton
2019 DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

SERVING IN *faith*
WITH HOPE
AND GRATITUDE

Diocesan Annual Appeal impacts lives throughout the region

WILKES-BARRE – Even before the doors open daily at 11:00 a.m., people in need begin lining up outside of Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre. They gather in the heat and the cold and on holidays. The need takes no days off.

Longtime volunteer Miki Shergalis knows the importance of the facility which has been helping people in her community for more than 35 years.

“There is a big, big need in this community,” Shergalis said. “There are many people who are working but just can’t make ends meet so they come here for a meal.”

As meals are served, the room fills with voices as people socialize and connect with one another.

“I thank God for a place like this. I come here three or four times a week when I can get on the bus,” one guest named Dan said. “Saint Vincent’s is more than just a kitchen. They have a clothing place and a food bank where you can take stuff home. Without Saint Vincent’s what would there be?”

Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton operates the Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen, which serves more than 100,000 meals each year to individuals and families in need.

Catholic Social Services is supported, in part, by the Diocesan Annual Appeal. The 2019 Appeal officially began the weekend of September 7 and 8 in all parishes throughout the Diocese with the presentation of the Appeal video.

The goal for this year’s Diocesan Annual Appeal is \$5 million and the theme for the 2019 campaign is “Serving in Faith with Hope and Gratitude.”

“Thank you for your support of the Diocesan Annual Appeal. We are able to help so many people in need because of your generosity,” Bishop Joseph C. Bambera said. “As we reflect on our Catholic faith, may we open our hearts to be filled with God’s grace and mercy. I am always so grateful and humbled by the support from the people of northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.”

CHANGES TO 2019 APPEAL

While the Church strives to restore trust and hope after a challenging year, parishioners will notice several changes to the 2019 Diocesan Annual Appeal.

“We have made sure that every parish benefits from the Appeal or has the opportunity to do so,” Bishop Bambera said. “Whether it is through their local priest that is celebrating Mass or from a social justice grant that every parish can apply for!”

In 2019, gifts to the Diocesan Annual Appeal will provide direct support to parishes for faith formation programs that will help parishes in their efforts to offer opportunities for people to grow in their faith.

The 2019 Diocesan Annual Appeal will also provide increased support for Catholic Social Services to help clothe, feed, shelter and assist those in need in our communities.

Begun last year, donors will once again be able to designate exactly which ministry they would like to support.

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Diocese holds Mass for Atonement and Healing

SCRANTON -- As the Church continues to respond to the tragic reality of sexual abuse of minors by clergy, for the second year in a row, the Diocese of Scranton held a Mass for Atonement and Healing.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera was the principal celebrant and homilist for the Mass, which was held on Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:10 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Mass is held near the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows, which recognizes the Blessed Mother’s intense suffering and grief during the passion and death of our Lord.

During his homily, Bishop Bambera reflected on the year since the Pennsylvania Grand Jury report was released in 2018. He once again asked for God’s healing, mercy and forgiveness, calling what happened one of the darkest moments in the history of the Catholic Church and certainly in our 150 year history as a Diocese.

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Bishop Joseph C. Bambera offers a silent prayer for the survivors of sexual abuse and for the Diocese of Scranton at the beginning of the annual Mass for Atonement and Healing which was held on Monday, September 16, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. (Photo/Eric Deabill)

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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.

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Bishop pays tribute to first responders at Blue Mass

DICKSON CITY – As the nation paused to commemorate the anniversary of 9/11 last week, public safety personnel from northeastern and north central Pennsylvania were also recognized for their service and sacrifice.

A Blue Mass was held at Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish on Sunday, September 8, 2019. Bishop Joseph C. Bambera was celebrant and homilist.

A Blue Mass, named for the traditional color of the uniform worn by many public safety personnel, provides an occasion to recognize the dedication and self-sacrifice of police, fire and emergency personnel, including paramedics, ambulance and life support system operators, emergency 911 dispatchers, volunteer agencies and units.

“Every day, you – our First Responders – make incredible sacrifices to bring peace and harmony to our world. While far from being perfect – for none of us are – your selfless efforts to love, to serve, to heal and to protect remind us that it is indeed possible, with God’s grace, to live out the Gospel in a tangible, loving and selfless manner,” Bishop Bambera said during his homily.

Pointing out recent mass shootings in places like El Paso and Dayton, the Bishop acknowledged those same attacks could have taken place right here locally.

“While praying that God will spare us from such violence, we acknowledge today, during this Mass, that you, our First Responders, place yourselves daily in harm’s way in the performance of your duty – a duty linked to the burdens of your work that we often fail to sufficiently appreciate. In celebrating this Mass for you, we thank you for your commitment to the common good. We thank you for your sacrifices. And we thank God for your resolve to serve in a selfless manner the countless people entrusted to your care,” Bishop Bambera said.

While some people take public safety employees for granted because they do their jobs so well, Bishop Bambera said it is only appropriate to pray for their well-being and assure them of God’s abiding protection.

“We honor you today as heroes of our Church, our society and our world. We honor you because you



Above Left: Dickson City Police Chief William Bilinski places his hand over his heart during a Blue Mass at Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish on September 8, 2019.



Above Right: A first responder salutes the American flag prior to the conclusion of the Blue Mass.

Below: Bishop Joseph C. Bambera and Monsignor Patrick J. Pratico, Pastor, Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, pose with first responders from Dickson City, Throop, Mayfield and their families following the Blue Mass. (Photos/Mike Melisky)



have chosen to respect and reverence life – the noblest thing that any of us can do. You are heroes because you serve your brothers and sisters without discrimination. You are heroes because in the face of evil, you respond firmly and resolutely to protect and serve the common good. You are heroes because when duty calls, you are there and willing to give all that you have – even your own life – for others. You are heroes because by your efforts, you build up the human family – the family of God,” Bishop Bambera said.

To read Bishop Bambera’s homily as it was prepared for delivery at the Blue Mass, visit www.dioceseofscranton.org.

Remembering 9/11/01



The annual *Tribute in Lights* illuminates New York City’s skyline September 10, the eve of the 18th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. Nearly 3,000 people died in New York, Washington and Shanksville, Pa. in the 2001 attacks. (CNS Photo/Andrews Kelly, Reuters)



Dear Friends,

Each year, the Catholic Church dedicates the month of October as a time of prayer, reflection and action on behalf of the gift and dignity of human life, from conception until natural death. Respect Life Month particularly calls us to pray and work for legal protections for the unborn and vulnerable members of our society. Yet, sadly, more than forty years after Roe v. Wade, each October seems to mark an anniversary of too much time passing and too little action from our leaders.

The headlines of this past year have reflected a discouraging trend. While some states have significantly restricted access to abortions, many others have voted to permit abortions later in pregnancy, doubling down on efforts to legalize abortion up until birth. Even in our own state, efforts to restrict abortion have largely been pushed down by partisanship and infighting. Looking beyond the headlines, we can see a movement away from supporting a culture of life. We can see a growing disregard for the dignity of the human person and especially the dignity of the unborn child. And we can also see a nationwide trend toward violence and hatred.

The theme of this year's Respect Life Month is "Christ Our Hope: In Every Stage of Life." As Catholics, we are called to both prayer and action in protection of human rights and dignity. When we watch the evening news or check social media, we are often bombarded by stories of violence against human life. Abortion, euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide are obvious threats – but the increased violence in our society and a lack of care for the poor and vulnerable are also just as much of a challenge to the dignity of life.

This ongoing disregard is not owned by one particular party, social group, or point of view. Rather, this disregard originates from our society's failure to recognize each person as being infinitely valuable in the eyes of God — and from our failure to see one another as we truly are. When we fail to unite in our mission to promote the dignity of all life, we begin to lose our understanding of ourselves as one human family.

The well-known Gospel story of the Good Samaritan, proclaimed a few weeks ago, teaches us of the truly radical nature of God's love that we are called to embrace as his disciples. When we encounter those who are different from us, or those who hold different values, or even those who have hurt the ones we love, it is not enough to forgive and then to express indifference. The love of God challenges us to run to those people, even if they are invisible to the rest of society, and to embrace them as if they were the presence of Christ himself. We must embrace the unborn, and we must also embrace the immigrant, the unrepentant sinner, and those who are passing through the end of their lives on earth. Each of these souls is equal and infinitely great in the eyes of God.

Through all of the pain of the past year, Christ has shown himself to be our only true hope. As such, our faith in Jesus leads us to confront life issues with a unique combination of courage and humility. In the face of changing cultural norms, we must allow Jesus' example to permeate who we are and all that we do on behalf of human life.

This calling, entrusted to each of us, is echoed in the simple yet profound words of Pope Francis: "The right to life means allowing people to live...allowing them to grow, to eat, to be educated, to be healed, and to be permitted to die with dignity."

May we continue to be guided by the light of Christ and the teachings of our Church, as we remember that human life is equal and infinitely valuable among all people and in all of its stages. May we, as a Church, continue to take action to protect the dignity and sanctity of this life, even as we walk through the different journeys of our own lives.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

+ *Joseph C. Bambera*

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Scranton



**Please join us for the Respect Life Mass
on Sunday, October 13 at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in
Scranton at 10:00 a.m.**

Prayers offered for sexual abuse survivors at Mass for Atonement and Healing

Continued from page 1

"One year later, I can stand before you and tell you that we have done a lot to change and to continue to create a safe place in the Church, especially for our young people. We've trained over 30,000 staff and volunteers and continue to cooperate with law enforcement. We attempt to be as transparent and open in our actions as we possibly can be and we have established a fund to compensate, in some small way, survivors of abuse," Bishop Bambera said.

"Yet, one year later, there is still pain. A year can't change a lifetime of suffering. Survivors of abuse continue to be burdened by the ramifications of such inhuman behavior on the part of those who should have been trustworthy," the Bishop added.

"None of us will ever know the depth of the pain that survivors endure. Yet, in courageously sharing their pain, so many of them with whom I've spoken this past year have taught me a great lesson. They've taught me that if the Church is truly intent upon creating safe environments for its children and all of God's people, we (the Church and especially Church leaders) must never forget or allow time to numb us to the pain that was so willfully inflicted on innocent lives by those who postured themselves as God's representatives and ministers of his love and mercy. Indeed, an authentic recognition of the pain of that cross is the only thing that can truly prompt us to change and to create a Church deserving of people's trust."

The Mass for Atonement and Healing wasn't just focused on the survivors of sexual abuse, the Bishop prayed for all people who suffer, whether it be from cancer or other illnesses or other types of abuse.

"God could have chosen to save the world in any way he wanted. Yet he chose to relate to it – to us who are made in his very image and likeness – through his son Jesus, who took on human flesh and substance. He chose to have Jesus carry a cross so that we, in our suffering, might discover a God who understands because he too carried a cross – a God who suffers with us – and a God who overcomes suffering with resurrection and life," Bishop Bambera said.

While noting that the sexual abuse crisis has understandably caused some people to step away from the Church, the Bishop ended with a pledge.

"As Bishop of this local Church, I deeply apologize for the pain that has been inflicted upon far too many of you by leaders of our Church. Once again, I ask for forgiveness from the countless numbers of you who have suffered so much. I pledge to continue to do all within my power to create a safe place for our children and for all of our people to worship, to pray, to learn and to grow in their faith. I pray that we will all find hope in those wonderful words from Saint Paul's second letter to the Church at Corinth as he speaks to us of the treasure of faith:

We hold this treasure in earthen vessels that the surpassing power may be of God and not from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body. (II Corinthians 4:7-11)

If you would like to read Bishop Bambera's full homily from the Mass for Atonement and Healing, visit www.dioceseofscranton.org.

Church of Saint Gregory expansion becomes “beacon” for the community

Project is “Built of Living Stones”

CLARKS GREEN – Just hours before the dedication of a new ministry center at the Church of Saint Gregory, Father John M. Lapera, stood outside the facility in the dark with the center’s lights on for the first time.

“It lit up and it glowed,” Father Lapera said.

After more than five years of discussion, planning, raising money and construction, the new ministry center was finally ready for its public debut.

“Our ministry center will be a beacon that calls the community to the inner life of the spirit!” Father Lapera told a standing-room-only crowd just hours later at a Mass of Thanksgiving and dedication on Saturday, September 7, 2019.

“We did this together,” Father Lapera said. “This celebration is about all of us!”

Parishioners at the Church of Saint Gregory launched a building campaign to meet the needs of its evolving parish community. With the original building dedicated in 1976, a groundbreaking for the new ministry center was held in August 2018.

The expansion is designed to enhance the spiritual life of the parish family in the areas of Worship, Word, Community and Service.

“This is a wonderful day!” William Burkavage, Forward in Faith Campaign Steering Committee member, said. “This was envisioned to be a beacon of light to the rest of the community of what is going on, the spirit, in this parish and this Church!”

Due to the expansion project, the Church of Saint Gregory will now benefit from additional space which is flexible for various configurations of both large and small gatherings.

The new ministry center consists of the Narthex, a large multi-purpose



After years of discussion and planning, the Church of Saint Gregory dedicated its new ministry center on Saturday, September 7. With its lights on, the facility is being regarded as a “beacon” to the nearby community.

gathering room; the Library, a space for quiet study and for gathering young parishioners for the Children’s Liturgy of the Word; the Dialog Chamber, a large conference room whose name recalls Saint Gregory’s writings; and the Learning Suite, a tiered room for rehearsals, lectures and meetings.

“This is where we come from Church and this is the crossroads where we come together as a community to go out into the greater world to serve as Christ as taught us, to be disciples out there,” Burkavage said.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera participated in the Blessing of the ministry center. Father Lapera says it was the Bishop’s Pastoral Letter to the Diocese of Scranton, *Wounded and Loved, Regathering the Scattered*, which helped inspire the project.

“He was the inspiration for this ministry center. It was his vision and his pastoral, *Wounded and Loved*, that challenged every parish in the Diocese to do pastoral planning, develop a strategic

plan, define goals and objectives and prepare for the future,” Father Lapera said.

During his homily, Bishop Bambera reflected on the Gospel passage from the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time which featured two short parables which make clear the demands of discipleship. The Bishop said “authentic discipleship” is gauged by the depth of our love and highlighted the work underway by the people at the Church of Saint Gregory.

“In this wonderful parish, you celebrate life and call one another to a profound respect for this sublime gift of God. You work to instill appreciation for the teachings of our faith in young and old alike. You worship and pray with great energy and devotion. You feed families and clothe the poor. You reach out welcoming immigrants as they seek a way forward in hope for themselves and their families. You work to heal bodies and spirits, you console those who grieve and seek to open hearts to the Lord,” Bishop Bambera said.

The Bishop encouraged those who attended the dedication and worked so hard for its success to continue to go forth in love as true disciples of Jesus and continue to build his Church.

“More than you might ever imagine or admit, you have been and continue to be the voice, the hands and the heart of Jesus – faithful disciples – in so many ways,” Bishop Bambera said. “Not perfect disciples – for none of us are – but authentic enough to create the rock solid foundation upon which this house of God now rests.”

A key message in the creation of the new ministry center touches on that “rock solid foundation.” Father Lapera has stressed the Church’s new ministry center is “Built of Living Stones.”

“As wonderful as the space will be, even more important are the individuals, families and friends of the Church of Saint Gregory – the living stones – who have so generously contributed prayer, service and sacrificial gifts to the building project,” Father Lapera added.

“The whole campaign was built that way. It wasn’t a pyramidal campaign of big donors. Everybody was a part of this mission, all of us living stones!” Burkavage said. “Look at the plaques, there are nearly 700 names of the families and people who are the living stones of this parish!”

In addition to the Ministry Center expansion, the current Church has received renovations, including the expansion of the choir area, new carpet, garden restoration, new organ and tabernacle along with provisions for seating in the Narthex of the Church for special occasions and overflow crowds.

The cost of the renovation and expansion project is \$3.5 million. Two-thirds of that money has been raised by parishioners.



Part of the expansion project at the Church of Saint Gregory includes two new conference/meeting rooms.



During the Mass of Thanksgiving, Bishop Bambera blesses the Church’s new Tabernacle.



In addition to an expanded Narthex area, the Church now has additional informal space for meeting and fellowship.

Burial Rites Held for Father Vincent Langan, Longtime Pastor of Northern Tier Parishes

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera served as principal celebrant of a Pontifical Mass of Christian Burial on Sept. 7 at Saint Patrick Church, Scranton, for Father Vincent F. Langan, pastor emeritus of the former parishes of Saint John the Evangelist in South Waverly and Saint Joseph in Athens.

A resident of Villa Saint Joseph in Dunmore, Father Langan passed away peacefully on Sept. 1 at Holy Family Residence, Scranton.

Son of the late Leo P. Langan and Evelyn Klemish Langan, and grandson of the late William and Mary Schneider Langan and Joseph and Eva Novak Klemish, Vincent Langan was born in Scranton on April 5, 1934. He received his early education at Saint John the Baptist School, Scranton, and graduated from Saint Patrick High School in West Scranton.

An all-star high school football player, young Vincent also

lettered in basketball and baseball. In 1950, he was named Outstanding Player in the Catholic Football Conference and was honored as "Athlete of the Week" by radio station WQAN in 1951.

Having attended the University of Scranton, Father Langan entered Saint Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, Md., where he completed his studies for the priesthood. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Scranton on June 11, 1960, in the Cathedral of Saint Peter by Most Rev. Jerome D. Hannan, fifth bishop of Scranton.

Following his ordination, Father Langan received a summer assignment as assistant pastor *pro tem* at Saint Mary Parish in Mount Pocono. In October 1960, he was appointed assistant pastor at Holy Trinity Parish, Hazleton, serving until his appointment as assistant pastor at Saint Therese Parish, Shavertown, in June 1965.



Rev. Vincent F. Langan

Father Langan was assigned to minister in residence at Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Scranton, in September 1968, while serving as Diocesan Director of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD), Director of the Family Life Bureau and Little Flower Camp.

He was appointed assistant pastor of Epiphany Parish, Sayre, in 1968 and was subsequently assigned as assistant pastor of the parishes of Saint Ignatius, Kingston, in 1973, and Saint Mary

of the Assumption, the following year. While serving at Saint Mary's he led the restoration efforts at the William Street Cemetery.

Father Langan received his first pastoral assignment on Sept. 9, 1975, when he was appointed to Saint John the Evangelist Parish, South Waverly. In January 1988, Saint Ann's in Bentley Creek was linked with Saint John's, and Saint Joseph Parish, Athens, was added to his pastorate in September 1996.

He would serve as pastor of three faith communities for 35 years until his appointment as pastor emeritus of Saint John's and Saint Joseph's on July 15, 2009.

Father was assigned as administrator *pro tem* at Saint Brigid Parish, Friendsville, in 2016, after which he was transferred to Scranton, where he assisted area priests in the Diocese. He also served as chaplain of Saint Joseph's Center, Scranton, until his recent retirement from active

ministry for reasons of health.

In addition to his parochial duties, Father Langan served as chaplain of Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre, providing spiritual comfort and care to patients and families for decades.

In 2010, Father Langan celebrated his 50th anniversary of ordination with a Pontifical Golden Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Bishop Bambera. In honor of his 50 years of priesthood, a grotto was dedicated in the jubilarian's name at Epiphany School in Sayre.

Surviving are a sister, Evelyn Chernesky of Fort Wayne, Ind.; numerous nieces, nephews, great nephews and great nieces. He was preceded in death by a brother, Leo, in 1941; two sisters, Rita McGrath, in 2008, and Theresa Langan, in 2016; and a niece, Carol Chernesky, in 1970.

Interment was held at Saint John's Cemetery in Scranton.

Pennsylvania House wins appeal regarding prayer policy

By Al Gnoza
Pennsylvania Catholic Conference
Communications Director

In a case involving the Pennsylvania state legislature, the U.S. Court of Appeals has upheld the traditional practice of opening each session with a prayer.

Pennsylvania Speaker of the House Mike Turzai (R-Allegheny) praised the decision.

"We are pleased that the Third Circuit has found that our prayer complies with the United States Constitution," Turzai said, "and has issued a precedent-setting decision entirely in the House's favor. As a result, we expect the House to be able to resume its tradition of welcoming guest chaplains as it has in the past."

In 2016, a group of atheists and other non-believers sued the House claiming their exclusion as guest chaplains violated the

Constitution. The plaintiffs also challenged the presiding officer's traditional request to rise for the prayer and the pledge to the flag.

Last year, a federal judge in Harrisburg ruled in favor of the plaintiffs and limited the practice to member-led prayers but the House appealed. Late last month a three-judge panel of the Third Circuit ruled in the House's favor on all counts.

"By a 2-1 vote the panel held the House's prayer practices were constitutional because they fit within the long history of legislative prayer in this country," Turzai said. "The majority explained that 'only theistic prayer can satisfy the historical purpose of appealing for divine guidance in lawmaking.'"

The Court also ruled as constitutional the request for all in attendance to rise for the prayer and the pledge, saying that the request was "not coercive."

Registration underway for WORD Convocation

Registration is now open for the WORD Convocation, also known as the Catechist Convocation.

The Diocesan 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 share in the WORD Convocation on Saturday, October 19, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton.

We are excited to present Sister Janet Schaeffler, OP, to give our keynote address. Sister Janet, an Adrian Dominican Sister, has spent many years in parish and archdiocesan catechetical ministry. Sister Janet currently accompanies others on their faith-journey through days of reflection/retreats, parish missions, workshops, catechist formation opportunities, adult faith formation opportunities, Myers-Briggs explorations as well as online courses through

Crossroads at Boston College, the VLCFF at the University of Dayton and the Vibrant Faith Institute.

Cost for the day is \$35.00. For more information, visit www.dioceseofscranton.org.

Please encourage those involved in catechesis in your parish to take part in this wonderful day of prayer and formation.

For more information, contact Jacki Douglas: (570) 207-2213 or jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org

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**Eucharistic Adoration, Praise and Worship Music,
Reconciliation & Social**

Sunday, October 20

6:00 p.m.

Church of Saint Gregory
330 N. Abington Road, Clarks Green

Sunday, November 17

7:00 p.m.

Saint Matthew Parish
78 Ridgeway Street, East Stroudsburg

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

Parish nursing program provides help and hope to homebound

Diocesan Annual Appeal helps fund social justice grant for program

CHESTNUT HILL TOWNSHIP – After becoming too ill to go to church on her own, Margaret Stanhope of Effort found both inspiration and friendship in an unexpected way.

As she battled cancer and dealt with the effects of radiation and chemotherapy, Stanhope took advantage of a new program offered by her parish, Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Brodheadsville.

Father Michael Quinnan, Pastor, recently decided to launch a Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program which was awarded a social justice grant from the Diocese of Scranton. A total of 44 parishes received social justice grants in 2018 due to generous gifts from the Diocesan Annual Appeal.

“I was an outgoing person. I didn’t sit home. I went to Church and had a lot of prayer groups and then there was nothing,” Stanhope said.

As part of the Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program, a volunteer would visit Stanhope at home to check on her health and brighten her spirits. The volunteer also joined her to pray and bring the Eucharist.

Fellow parishioner Michele Cohen was the volunteer with



Margaret Stanhope, left, prays with Michele Cohen inside her Effort home. As part of the Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish Nursing and Health Ministry Program, Cohen visits Stanhope on a regular basis.

the program who often visited Stanhope’s home and the pair quickly developed a friendship.

“I was looking for something to put my faith and nursing together because sometimes when you’re working in the hospital you can’t always pray with somebody,” Cohen said.

As a nursing instructor at a local community college, Cohen finds the program to be very valuable.

“I just think it’s a wonderful thing because I don’t think I would have ever gotten to know Margaret. The parish nursing opens up a whole new world. It unites the parish community I

think,” Cohen said.

As the pair reflected on how they came together, Cohen joked that it was all because of Father Mike’s desire to start this new ministry initiative and she didn’t really know what to expect at first.

“God has opened up a whole new world for me because I took that one step!” Cohen said. “It’s wonderful to see what God has in store for you.”

Stanhope says Cohen has helped her faith grow in a new way.

“She always brought prayer books and we prayed together. That was the part I missed the most,” Stanhope said. “I looked

forward to it. She came faithfully and when she didn’t come she made sure there was someone to fill in so I didn’t miss out.”

In all, Stanhope and Cohen gathered regularly for almost a year.

“I called it a blessing from God because a lot of people have no one,” Stanhope said.

Cohen says the Diocese of Scranton social justice grant that her parish received helps the Parish Nursing Program with “training and materials for books. I also think we’re going to get blood pressure cuffs.”

While Stanhope and Cohen belong to the same parish, it took their unique encounter through the nursing program to become acquainted with each other and become friends.

“I don’t think I would have gotten to know Margaret and found out what a wonderful person she is and gotten to know her faith

and she’s told me all about the wonderful things she’s done with the prayer groups she’s been in,” Cohen said.

Stanhope says she has received just as much.

“I got a new friend and I got a prayer partner and I just got lifted up. You need to be lifted up when you’re not well and she does that! To me, that’s the most important thing,” Stanhope said.

Social just grants, like the one that benefited the Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program are available to every parish in the Diocese of Scranton. The grants can be used for various needs and ministries, including: parish food pantries, care for the elderly, Hispanic ministry, migrant/refugee outreach, social justice education, homelessness, family outreach, prison ministry, care for the Earth, legislative advocacy or disability ministries.



2019 Diocesan Annual Appeal launches with new expanded opportunities for direct parish support

Continued from page 1

“While some people tell us to use their gift wherever it is needed most, some people who have a child in one of our 20 Catholic schools might like it to support our educational system or someone who enjoys reading *The Catholic Light* might want to designate their gift to our Catholic communication efforts,” Bishop Bambera added.

REGIONALIZED VIDEOS

One traditional aspect of the Diocesan Annual Appeal that helps explain the mission and its importance is a video that is shown in all parishes.

This year, instead of one video for the entire 11-county Diocese, a total of six different regional videos were produced.

“Our goal was to show the direct impact your gifts have in your local community,” Jim Bebla, Diocesan Secretary for Development, said. “We wanted to highlight the people and events that are supported by

the Appeal in each corner of our Diocese. From Saints Peter and Paul Parish in Bradford County that receives funding to help the Towanda Area Christian Outreach (TACO) regional food pantry to Saint Ann’s Parish in Shohola that serves dozens of its community members with a weekly meal in the summer, there is so much great work taking place and it is all due to your generosity.”

COMMITMENT WEEKEND

Appeal Commitment Weekend will be held in parishes in October with most parishes scheduling this collection for the weekend of October 5 & 6.

Prior to this weekend, all parishioners will receive a brochure/pledge envelope in the mail.

Appeal Commitment Weekend provides an opportunity for everyone to consider a gift in support of the ministries of the Diocese as well as submit a prayer intention that will be remembered at a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Bishop

Bambera at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 17.

WHO BENEFITS FROM APPEAL

Gifts to the 2019 Diocesan Annual Appeal will have a broad and lasting impact.

The Diocesan Office for Parish Life, Catholic Education, Communications and Media and Catholic Social Services will all receive a percentage of the funding that is received.

In addition, gifts also support clergy in two ways. First, it helps assist seminarians who are devoutly answering God’s call with passion and commitment. Second, the Appeal also supports our faithful, retired and ill clergy, many who provided decades to enriching the faith our local communities.

Although scaled back in scope because of the Grand Jury report that was released in August 2018, last year’s Appeal brought in \$3.74 million, reaching three-quarters of its intended goal.

While organizers hope that parishioners see the ongoing efforts to restore trust and hope in our local Church, Bishop Bambera says that shortfall did have an impact.

“We need your support more than ever. We don’t have unlimited resources and last year we were short and that translated into all of our wonderful mission activities receiving less,” the Bishop said.

Earlier this year, the Diocese of Scranton launched its Independent Survivors Compensation Program to assist survivors of sexual abuse. The Bishop adamantly stresses that no money from the Diocesan Annual Appeal will be used for that program.

“The Diocese of Scranton plans to fund the Independent Survivors Compensation Program through the sale of its long-term care facilities which was previously announced in March,” Bishop Bambera said. “While it was a difficult decision to make, we started discussing a potential sale in 2015 due to the ever-changing healthcare industry.”

WORDS OF THANKS

As Bishop Bambera formally launched the 2019 Appeal, he had words of thanks for the generous people throughout the Diocese that believe in its mission.

“Thank you for your support of the Appeal and all those individuals who are served by it,” the Bishop said.

“Thank you for your faith, a faith that is wonderful in good times, but a faith that is most especially tested and true in the challenging times, a faith you exhibit by the lives that you lead and that will make all the difference in the world to this corner of God’s kingdom!” Bishop Bambera said.

Parishioners may join us in support of this year’s Appeal by sending a gift to Diocesan Annual Appeal, 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA, 18503-1279.

Gifts can also be made online at www.AnnualAppeal.org or by calling the Diocese of Scranton Development Office at (570) 207-2250.

Diocese of Scranton
2019 **DIOCESAN**
ANNUAL APPEAL

SERVING *faith*
IN WITH HOPE
AND GRATITUDE

As the 2019 Diocesan Annual Appeal begins, your donations make a tremendous impact each and every day across our 11-county Diocese.

Your generous gifts support vital ministries that serve our brothers and sisters in Christ and enrich our faith community.

110,000
meals served
St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen



6,647
people served
in Catholic Social Services
Relief Assistance Program

16,555
nights of shelter
& supportive services
St. Anthony's Haven, Scranton
Mother Theresa's Haven, Wilkes-Barre
Divine Providence, Hazleton



care for **104**
retired & ill priests

Scholarships
for students in our **20**
Catholic schools



more than **250**
Chromebook
laptop computers
provided to our Catholic
middle school students

2,927
families served
in our Food and Clothing Pantries
in Scranton and Carbondale



44
Social Justice
grants to parishes for local
community outreach

250,000
households received
Catholic Television
on seven area cable
systems in our Diocese



12 seminarians
received support for tuition
and living expenses

*Ministries
Supported*
by the Annual Appeal

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

CATHOLIC MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

CLERGY FORMATION, EDUCATION & SUPPORT

PARISH LIFE & MINISTRY FORMATION

PARISH SOCIAL JUSTICE GRANTS

PARISH FAITH FORMATION GRANTS

Welcoming the Stranger

Food connects Gospel message and Italian Festival



Banners are carried into the Cathedral of Saint Peter for the Mass in Italian that is celebrated annually in conjunction with La Festa Italiana in Scranton. (Photos/Mike Melisky)

SCRANTON – Hundreds of people filled the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Sunday, September 1, to celebrate their Italian heritage and faith at the same time.

Father David Cappelloni, Chaplain, La Festa Italiana, was principal celebrant for the 2019 Italian Mass. Bishop Joseph C. Bambera presided and gave the homily. The annual liturgy is celebrated in conjunction with the four-day food festival, which is held only one block away on Courthouse Square.

In reflecting on the Gospel message of Saint Luke on the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Bishop Bambera highlighted the coincidence that it involved food.

The Gospel message ended, *“When you hold a lunch or a dinner; do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or your wealthy neighbors, in case they may invite you back and you have repayment. Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”*

Bishop Bambera used the first-hand experiences of his family, particularly his grandparents welcoming others into their home, to show how that Gospel message could be lived out.

“I personally recall my grandmother telling me how she and my grandfather – themselves poor immigrants from Poland – often welcomed strangers who were in need

who happened to be immigrants from countries other than their own. They may not have been able to understand each other, but they knew that they had an obligation to care for others and to give from what they had been blessed to receive. Their faith taught them that lesson,” Bishop Bambera said.

Noting that times have changed, the Bishop said every one of us still has the power, and the obligation, to fulfill the Gospel message and live together as brothers and sisters.

“While some of us may argue that times are different today - and they are to some degree - our grandparents and great grandparents saw life differently when they opened their doors to the poor and welcomed them to their tables to share from the little that they had. They respected life - even when it was a life different than their own. And they welcomed life - despite the fact that in some instances they themselves were not always welcomed. Why? Because they were humble enough to see that their success was not simply the result of their own efforts but due to the hand of God at work in their midst, blessing them in so many ways,” Bishop Bambera said.

This year’s Italian Mass was dedicated to the late Bishop Robert C. Morlino, a Dunmore native who was raised in Saints Anthony and Rocco Parish. A graduate of Scranton Preparatory School, he was appointed as the Ninth Bishop of Helena, Montana, and later the Fourth Bishop of Madison, Wisconsin. He died in Madison on November 24, 2018.



Bishop Joseph C. Bambera delivers the homily for the Mass in Italian that was held at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on Sunday, September 1, 2019.



BISHOP BAMBERA’S SCHEDULE

September 19 - Mass of the Holy Spirit for Chancery Staff
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.

September 23 - Diocesan Teachers’ Institute Mass
Our Lady of Fatima Parish, St. Mary’s Church
Wilkes-Barre, 8:30 a.m.

September 23 - Bishop’s Youth Awards Mass
Saint Nicholas Church, Wilkes-Barre, 7:00 p.m.

September 24-25 - Pennsylvania Catholic Conference Meeting
Harrisburg

September 26 - Pennsylvania Bishops’ Provincial Meeting
Harrisburg

September 28 - Mass of Candidacy, Rite of Institute of Acolyte Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.

September 29 - Tenth Anniversary Mass
Divine Mercy Parish, Scranton, 11:00 a.m.

September 30 - Bishop’s Youth Awards Mass
Our Lady of Victory Church, Tannersville
7:00 p.m.

October 1 - Bishop’s Youth Awards Mass
Saint Paul’s Church, Scranton, 7:00 p.m.

October 2-4 - Convocation for Christian Churches Together
Montgomery, Alabama

October 6 - Mass at Saint Eulalia’s Church
Roaring Brook Township, 11:30 a.m.

October 7 - Bishop’s Youth Awards Mass
Saint Boniface Church, Williamsport, 7:00 p.m.

October 9 - 10 - USCCB Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs Meeting
Chicago

October 11 - Red Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.

October 13 - Respect Life Sunday Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.

Stay Connected to Diocesan News:

www.dioceseofscranton.org

Welcoming & Belonging

Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration Begins September 15 - October 15

The Diocese of Scranton has embraced its Latino brothers and sisters in the annual observance of Hispanic Heritage Month — the national celebration of Hispanic roots and contributions to America — that began earlier this week and continues until October 15.

At the same time, our local Church embraces the challenges of spiritually ministering to an ever-growing Hispanic population, as a Diocesan-wide celebration of the Heritage Month is planned for 2020.

Luis Rivera, a native of Puerto Rico and candidate for the Permanent Diaconate who resides in the Poconos, recently completed his first year as Diocesan Coordinator for Parish Cultural Integration in the Office for Parish Life.

He explains the faith expressions of Latinos are an inheritance of the Spanish and Portuguese colonization mixed with their native, more pristine traditions that make a very unique real Catholic identity.

“These are ethnically diverse Spanish-speaking peoples who trace their roots to Argentina, Perú, Venezuela, Chile, Ecua-

dor, Guatemala, Cuba, Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Paraguay, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panamá, Uruguay and Puerto Rico,” says Rivera, who conservatively estimates that 2,500 Hispanic Catholic families call the Scranton Diocese home.

Indicating that more than half of the city of Hazleton in Luzerne County is Hispanic, he also states nearly all of the 20-plus Spanish-speaking countries in the world are represented in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

Life Celebrated Through Faith

According to Rivera, the primary commonalities among the communities are faith, culture and language.

“As Latinos,” he explains, “they celebrate life through faith. Religious traditions are home-centered, festive and filled with devotional practices passed on from generation to generation.

They are described as young communities who celebrate life with a sense of “fiesta” and gratitude to God.

“To welcome and build the real meaning of belonging implies openness to the Hispanic Identity in its multiple expressions,” says Rivera. “It’s not about which material things they need, but the immense richness they have to give. For that it is crucial to go to their homes, to their reality and be a companion in their path — a real shepherd that walks with their sheep and takes them home.”

He continues, that “welcoming and belonging” is expressed with the priest being *father*.

“You always go to your father and the parish will always be a home where you belong and are welcome,” he says.

“The Church in Latin America is very colorful,” Rivera explains. “There is a multitude of movements and spiritualities. There is no uniformity in the way of worship and the same happens with the devotions and spiritualities,” including Catholic Charismatic Renewal and other movements such as Cursillo, Neo Catechumens and Opus Dei.

“It’s a big mixing pot. The pastoral attention of the diversity of spiritualities is very important



and the proposal of spaces to live and know those different expressions are vital to keep the knowledge of Christ and the full celebration of faith in each way possible,” he says further.

V Encuentro

One of the fruits of Scranton Diocesan-wide pastoral planning is the strengthening of ministry with Hispanic Catholics through the Fifth (V) National Encuentro process, which has introduced the U.S. Bishops’ term “ecclesial integration” to describe how Hispanic people “are to be welcomed in our church institutions at all levels.”

Three hundred leaders came together in Scranton in 2017 to attend a Diocesan V Encuentro Day, as participants shared insights regarding their Christian identity and commitment to missionary discipleship.

Delegates compiled a working document for Hispanic Ministry in the Diocese that contributed to a comprehensive report for the regional phase of the V Encuentro National Celebration in September 2018.

With hearts full of excitement and joy, about 3,000 Hispanic ministry leaders from across the U.S., including a delegation from the Diocese of Scranton, participated in that National Fifth Encuentro one year ago in Grapevine, Texas.

The gathering, also known as V Encuentro, was the culmination of a multi-year process of discernment and consultation that began at their parishes. During the four-day event, they planned to continue the discernment process to develop a national pastoral plan for Hispanic ministry.

Representing the Scranton Church at the National Encuentro, Rivera was joined by Catherine Butel, Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life; V Encuentro team members Alejandra Marroquin and Gladys Guardia; and Father Jaime Perez Restrepo, parochial vicar at Saint Matthew Parish in East Stroudsburg.

“The response from the Diocese of Scranton has been aggressive to support and encourage lay faithful, especially in the Hispanic or Latino areas,” says Rivera.

Ten parish worship sites in the Diocese currently host Spanish Mass celebrations:

Monroe County — Saint Matthew and Saint John, both in East Stroudsburg; Most Holy Trinity in Cresco; and Our Lady Queen of Peace in Brodheadsville.

Luzerne County — Saint Nicholas in Wilkes-Barre; Queen of Heaven and Annunciation, both in Hazleton; Holy Name of Jesus at Transfiguration Church in West Hazleton.

Lackawanna County — Saint John Neumann and Saint Patrick, both in Scranton.



Nuestra Señora de la Altagracia

An overflow crowd of worshippers is shown at a recent celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Alta Gracia at Annunciation Parish in Hazleton.

Our Lady of Altagracia is also known as Our Lady of High Grace and revered as Protector and Queen of the hearts of the Dominicans, as well as the patron saint of the Dominican Republic.

World Day of Migrants & Refugees: ‘Welcome, Protect, Promote and Integrate’



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

In 1914, Pope Saint Pius X began the practice of issuing a message of concern for migrants and refugees. That means this year — specifically on September 29 — the Church marks the 105th anniversary of annual papal proclamations celebrating “World Day of Migrants and Refugees.”

To commemorate the milestone, Pope Francis’ message reads, in part: “For this reason, the presence of migrants and refugees — and of vulnerable people in general — is an invitation to recover some of those essential dimensions of our Christian existence and our humanity that risk being overlooked in a prosperous society. That is why *it is not just about migrants*. When we show concern for them, we also show concern for ourselves, for everyone; in taking care of them, we all grow; in listening to them, we also give voice to a part of ourselves that we may keep hidden because it is not well regarded nowadays.”

In citing Jesus’ words from Matthew’s Gospel (14:27) — “Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid!” — the Pontiff has stated, “It is not just about migrants: it is also about our fears. But the problem is not that we have doubts and fears. The problem is when they condition our way of thinking and acting to the point of making us intolerant, closed and perhaps even — without realizing it — racist. In this way, fear deprives us of the desire and the ability to encounter the other, the person different from myself; it deprives me of an opportunity to encounter the Lord.”

In 2002, Saint John Paul II proposed the theme, “Migration and Inter-religious Dialogue,” for his World Day of Migrants and Refugees message: “I pray the Lord that this annual celebration may offer all Christians the opportunity to go deeper into these all so actual aspects of the new evangelization... The parish represents the space in which a true pedagogy of meeting with people of various religious convictions and cultures can be realized. In its various expressions, the parish community can become a training ground of hospitality, a place where an exchange of experiences and gifts takes place. This cannot but foster a tranquil life together, preventing the risk of tension with

immigrants who bring other religious beliefs with themselves.”

Eleven years later, Pope Benedict shared these words in his World Day message, challenging the attitude and action of many: “Certainly every state has the right to regulate migration and to enact policies dictated by the general requirements of the common good, albeit always in safeguarding respect for the dignity of each human person. The right of persons to migrate — as the Council’s Constitution *Gaudium et Spes* recalled — is numbered among the fundamental human rights, allowing persons to settle wherever they consider best for the realization of their abilities, aspirations and plan.

“Today in fact we can see that many migrations are the result of economic instability, the lack of essential goods, natural disasters, wars and social unrest. Instead of a pilgrimage filled with trust, faith and hope, migration then becomes an ordeal undertaken for the sake of survival, where men and women appear more as victims than as agents responsible for the decision to migrate. As a result (many) are living at the margins, frequently exploited and deprived of their fundamental rights, or engaged in forms of behavior harmful to their host society.”

Jim Wallis, in the introduction of his book, *America’s Original Sin*, states similarly, “Untruths that we believe are able to control us, dominate us, and set us on the wrong path. Untruths are burdens to bear and can even be idols that hold us captives — not allowing us to be free people who understand ourselves and the world truthfully.”

The migrants and refugees are from different races, ethnicities, cultures and religions. The fear of unknown others leads to hatred, violence, and disrespect for members of one human family created in the image and likeness of God. How do we welcome the stranger? How can Christians enslave their brothers and sisters in Christ? Why do we ignore the words of Jesus: ‘Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me?’

As this year marks the 400th anniversa-



**Deacon
Ronald Maida**

**Most Holy
Trinity Parish,
Susquehanna**

**Ordination
Year: 2017**

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

- + Assist at Masses
- + Preside at baptisms, wake services and burial interments when needed
- + Preaching the homily once a month at our parish’s three churches

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

- + Parishioners’ appreciation of my service to the community
- + The tremendous help and cooperation from fellow Deacons and Priests and the Diocesan offices

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

The most challenging part about serving as a Permanent Deacon would be my calling to teach and catechize my fellow Catholics.

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

How can I help? If you have any questions, I’ll be glad to answer them. Maybe we can meet and discuss your calling from God and what that would entail. I’m sure you and your wife (if married) have many questions. I would rather explain the five-year process with your family present.

ry of forced African slavery to our shores, and mindful of the horrific conditions imposed on Native Americans imposed by many European colonizers, the annual Christian Unity Gathering of the National Council of Churches will have its theme: “Ending Racism: Confronting Our Past, Revisiting Our Present and Naming God’s Preferred Future.”

Concluding his 2019 Message for World Day of Migrants and Refugees, Pope Francis advises us: “Dear brothers and sisters, our response to the challenges posed by contemporary migration can be summed up in four verbs: welcome, protect, pro-

mote and integrate. Yet these verbs do not apply only to migrants and refugees. They describe the Church’s mission to all those living in the existential peripheries, who need to be welcomed, protected, promoted and integrated. If we put those four verbs into practice, we will help build the city of God and man.”

The words of Popes for 105 years have encouraged members of the Church to practice justice and charity influenced by the parables of the Good Samaritan and the Last Judgment. The scriptures and the teaching of the Church challenge all of us to respect the rights and responsibilities we all have.

Pregnancy & Maternal Health Program helps mothers be their best

Catholic Social Services program provides counseling and material assistance

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

Pregnancy, for any woman, is a challenge. It can be physically and emotionally difficult. For some women, there is doubt about whether they are ready for motherhood or whether they can properly provide for a child. Others simply become overwhelmed with a series of thoughts of what might lie ahead, worrying about everything from medical care to baby formula to car seats.

It can be a daunting time, especially for those facing financial hardships.

Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton, through its Pregnancy & Maternal Health Program, can help such women face such challenges and provide guidance and assistance.

“We offer material, educational and emotional support to pregnant women and to parents of children under the age of one,” Mary Kobrick Schell said.

Schell has worked with Catholic Social Services for 25 years and currently oversees the Pregnancy & Maternal Health Program.

“A lot of the families that we work with are working poor, so they’re not necessarily qualifying for any type of government assistance or maybe they’re on

government health care, but they’re not qualifying for food stamps. We make sure they’re connected to whatever services might be able to help them to make sure that their children are healthy and that they are healthy,” Schell said.

Schell adds that different components of the Pregnancy & Maternal Health Program are offered in Hazleton, Scranton, Carbondale and Wilkes-Barre. Last year, in the Hazleton area, the program worked with more than 500 families. In addition to providing guidance on prenatal health and post-pregnancy health, the program also offers material assistance with items such as diapers, baby wipes and formula. Counseling is also an important part of the program.

“We tell them what to expect during pregnancy and what to expect during the child’s first few months,” Schell said. “We talk about healthy attachment, bonding and safety measures. We also do postpartum depression screenings. If we find that someone is vulnerable to depression, we’ll connect them to somebody in our counseling department at Catholic Social Services or other community resources and we follow up with them to make sure they’re receiving that support. It’s pretty broad and all-encompassing.”

Schell stressed that one of the primary goals of the Pregnancy & Maternal Health Program is to help struggling mothers and families become more self-sufficient. The program is also available, for a full year after the child is born, to help ensure that both mom and baby are physically healthy.

“We make sure that they’re connected to and receiving any type of medical services that they may need,” she said. “Are they attending their OB-GYN appointments? Are they making sure that their children are going for their ‘well-baby’ checkups? We also talk about some of the things they can expect at those checkups, so that it’s a little less daunting. Each family is different, and so we try to support them towards that goal of self-sufficiency and healthy parenthood.”

Nicole Arabaci of Hazleton is a mother of two and is now expecting a third child. As a struggling single parent and as a new client, she says the Pregnancy & Maternal Health Program has been a blessing.

“I have support and someone to talk to,” says Arabaci. “The fear of being alone went away. When I met with Catholic Social Services, I felt a lot safer. I felt I had trust. They know that people go through hard times and they don’t judge anyone. It’s been really great to have their support.”

Schell says that many pregnant women and new mothers feel a sense of isolation. Thus, on October 7, the program is offering a new “Mindful Mamas” monthly support group. It will initiate in the Catholic Social Services office in Hazleton and will later expand to offices throughout the Diocese. There will also be a one-time “Fathers-to-Be” workshop in Hazleton on September 23.

“We’re really there to offer ongoing support,” Schell said. “We are very proud of the program and the work that we do with families.”

Another component of the Pregnancy & Maternal Health Program, which works in cooperation with Real Alternatives, is aimed at helping prevent abortions.



Mary Kobrick Schell of Catholic Social Services oversees its Pregnancy & Maternal Health Program. (Photos/Alan Stout)

“Real Alternatives’ goal is to evaluate what makes someone vulnerable to an abortion and then have us counsel them,” Schell said. “If a woman thinks she might not be able to have the child because of financial issues, relationship issues or any of those types of things, we help them try to overcome those obstacles. We’ll meet with them and do an evaluation as to where they’re at. Is their relationship healthy? Are they happy with their job? Are they interested in furthering their education? We set some goals.”

Xena Breiner of Hazleton, a mother of two and a client with the Pregnancy & Maternal Health Program, credits the program and her counselor, Samantha Benko, with helping her decide to keep her second child.

“When I first found out I was pregnant, I wasn’t 100-percent sure what I wanted to do,” Breiner admitted. “I was thinking about terminating the pregnancy but after talking with Samantha, she helped me sort through it. She pretty much told me to just take it one day at a time, and that there were other options, such as adoption. It changed my mind on everything regarding keeping my daughter. At this point, I would not know what to do if I did not have her.”

Breiner says once the decision was made to keep her child she also received guidance on prenatal care and post-pregnancy care and received much needed baby items.

“Don’t make a harsh decision,”

Breiner said. “Talk to people. Talk to somebody before you do something you’re going to regret.”

Schell says the Pregnancy & Maternal Health Program receives support from local parishes from throughout the Diocese of Scranton, and churches in the Hazleton, Wilkes-Barre and Scranton areas have all made donations of baby items to the program.

“One of the nice and unique things that we’ve found with our program is that the clients themselves are a big source of donations,” Schell said. “We just had somebody whose child turned one, and so she gave us all of her six month-old clothing. It makes them feel good to pay-it-forward.”

Tracey Mulrain, the program manager of the Pregnancy Counseling & Maternal Health Program, says the program is a reflection of the type of work that Catholic Social Services prioritizes and embodies.

“Through our Pregnancy & Maternal Health Program, Catholic Social Services furthers the overall mission of the Diocese of Scranton,” Mulrain said. “We are called to serve our brothers and sisters and respect the dignity of all human life. We are committed to responding to the needs of our communities. Life is a precious gift from God and our goal is to touch as many lives as we can in a positive, comforting and caring manner. This in turn leads to building true peace.”



In addition to counseling, the Pregnancy & Maternal Health Program of Catholic Social Services also offers material items to those in need.

For Information on the Pregnancy & Maternal Health Program, or to make a donation, call 1-800-982-4310

Diocesan Day of Service this weekend



Join your friends and neighbors this Saturday as the Diocesan Offices for Parish Life and Vocations once again team up to sponsor a Diocesan Day of Service.

More than 125 people have already signed up to make a difference in their community and it's not too late for you to join!

The Day of Service is open to young adults, age 16 to 35, and adult chaperones. This year's event will take place on Saturday, September 21.

If you would like to participate, but not yet registered, please contact Dominick Costantino at (570) 780-2996.

The day will consist of:

- Registration
- Opening Mass
- Service at a nonprofit organization/site
- Lunch / Prayer and Reflection on the Experience

WILKES-BARRE AREA

9:00am Opening Mass/Registration – Saint Nicholas Church, 226 S. Washington St.
Volunteer at sites including Ruth's Place, Catholic Youth Center, Dorothy Day Farm

SCRANTON AREA

9:00am Opening Mass/Registration – IHM Center (Marywood University)
Volunteer at sites including Nay Aug Park, Saint Joseph's Center, River Clean-up

EAST STROUDSBURG AREA

8:00am Opening Mass/Registration – Saint Matthew Parish, 78 Ridgeway St.
Volunteer at sites including Stony Acres, Shepherd's Maternity House, Habitat for Humanity

WILLIAMSPORT AREA

8:30am Opening Mass/Registration – Saint Joseph the Worker Parish, 702 W. Fourth St.
Volunteer at sites including Family Promise, Expectations, Williamsport Cemetery



Pope to create 13 new cardinals in October

Pope Francis announced he will create 13 new cardinals Oct. 5, choosing prelates from 13 different nations as a sign of "the missionary vocation of the church that continues to proclaim the merciful love of God to all men and women of the Earth."

None of the new cardinals is from the United States. The only Canadian named was 73-year-old Jesuit Father Michael Czerny, undersecretary of the Section for Migrants and Refugees at the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

Pope: Help the poor, protect the environment

In Madagascar, where the destruction of the environment and the suffering of the poor are inextricably bound, Pope Francis urged government officials to promote development projects that protect nature during a visit on Sept. 7.

Although rich in natural resources, Madagascar is consistently ranked as one of the world's 10 poorest countries. According to the World Bank, 75% of the population lives on less than \$1.90 a day.



Catholic organizations helping Dorian victims

In the wake of Hurricane Dorian's brutal blasting of the Bahamas, Catholic organizations in Florida and beyond continue to raise funds to aid victims there.

The best aid from individual Catholics is monetary donations. Money can be used to buy supplies in bulk and get them delivered promptly, and to reboot the local economy, enabling communities to get back on their feet.

For information, visit www.dioceseofscranton.org.



Pope to visit Thailand, Japan in November

Pope Francis will finally fulfill his desire to be a missionary to Japan when he visits the country, as well as Thailand, Nov. 20-26, the Vatican announced.

Pope Francis will leave Rome Nov. 19, arriving in Thailand for a visit Nov. 20-23, said Matteo Bruni, director of the Vatican press office.

He will then fly to Japan and visit Tokyo, Nagasaki and Hiroshima Nov. 23-26, Bruni said Sept. 13.

Further details about the trip will be released later.



Diocese of Rochester, N.Y., files bankruptcy

In the wake of nearly 50 lawsuits filed against it since New York's Child Victims Act took effect Aug. 14, the Diocese of Rochester filed for reorganization Sept. 12, under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code.

"This is a very difficult and painful decision," Bishop Salvatore R. Matano said in a video and letter to parishes that was released on Sept. 12.



FINAL CALL FOR NOMINATIONS!

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 recognition

www.dioceseofscranton.org



Bishop Bambera celebrates Holy Redeemer Opening School Liturgy

WILKES-BARRE – Mother Teresa, now known as Saint Teresa of Calcutta, may have died before students at Holy Redeemer High School were even born, but Bishop Joseph Bambera is hoping her story and example will inspire the next generation of Catholic School students.

Bishop Bambera celebrated Mass with the entire student body at Holy Redeemer High School on Thursday, September 12, helping to kick off the new school year.

“She was an extraordinary person, an extraordinary woman. She got up every day, prayed and then she would walk the streets of Calcutta, reaching out to the poor and sick and would attend to the dying,” Bishop Bambera said.

In reflecting on the day's Gospel message in his homily, the Bishop challenged the students to think about why Mother Teresa would lead such an extraordinary life – literally begging for food for the orphans that she cared for.

The Bishop preached that God helped Mother Teresa lead an extraordinary life and he told the students that with God all things are possible.

“Mother Teresa knew she had to give God, Jesus, room in her life. She knew at some point



Bishop Joseph C. Bambera celebrates Mass at Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre to open the new school year on September 12, 2019. (Photos/Eric Deabill)

she had to hand herself over to a power much, much bigger than herself because she knew on her own she couldn't really make that difference,” Bishop Bambera said. “She gave God space in her life. She allowed God room to work.”

The Bishop said that being a Christian is more than simply avoiding certain things in our lives. In contrast, the Bishop said being Christian demands we engage the life of the Gospel in a positive and proactive way.

“Being a Christian demands that we commit ourselves to a way of life that reaches out

beyond ourselves,” Bishop Bambera said. “We are called by Jesus to open our lives to the presence of God, to recognize the need for all of us to give God space when we can't sort things out.”

The Bishop ended his homily with words of inspiration for the students.

“Every one of us has some particular gift and talent and ability that has the power to make a difference for good in our world. Own those things and share them generously with the world in which we live!” Bishop Bambera said.

The Bishop's words certainly inspired many of the students.

“It was a unique experience. The homily was great,” senior Abigail Lavinski said.

“I thought it was a great message, especially helping the poor,” senior Ryan Williams said. Williams is currently the Student Body President at Holy Redeemer High School.

In appreciation for all the Bishop does for the Catholic School System, the Student Leadership Council donated a Day of Sponsorship in the Bishop's name at Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen. The facility, which is operated by Catholic

Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton, is located just a few blocks away from the school.

Over the last few years, students at Holy Redeemer have donated nearly \$6,000 to the kitchen through its yearly Thanksgiving collection. The school has also donated more than 14,000 food items to the needy.

“The kitchen is very important to us here at Holy Redeemer, perhaps because as Saint Vincent de Paul himself said, ‘the poor have much to teach us and we have much to learn from them for when we go to the poor, we will find God,’” Williams said.



Bishop Bambera blesses Mrs. Doreen Dougherty, as she is installed as the new principal of Holy Redeemer High School.

Diocesan educators begin academic year with professional development

Educators from the Diocesan School System will gather at Holy Redeemer High School, Wilkes-Barre, on Monday, September 23, to focus on educational initiatives that will foster continued academic learning and professionalism among approximately 400 educators in Diocesan schools.

The day will commence with a Liturgy celebrated by the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., at the Church of the Immaculate Conception. The Bishop will also deliver the homily. Concelebrants will include priests of the Diocese.

Students from all of the schools will comprise the Catholic Schools Choir, directed by Thomas Hanlon, music director at Holy Redeemer and Good Shepherd Academy, Kingston. In addition, faculty and students from the schools will serve as

participants at the Liturgy.

At the conclusion of the Liturgy, nine teachers will be honored for their 25 years of service to Catholic education in the Diocese of Scranton. Teachers who will be recognized are:

Rebecca Basse, Saint Agnes School; Maryanne DeMark, La Salle Academy; Mary Finkernagel, Holy Redeemer High School; Marinell Harding, Saint Clare/Saint Paul School; Sister Dorothy Kibler, IHM, Notre Dame Elementary School; Christy Litchfield and John Litchfield, Saint John Neumann Regional Academy; Ann Mullen, Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School; and Dianne Ruch, Good Shepherd Academy. The awards will be presented by Bishop Bambera, assisted by Jason Morrison, Diocesan Secretary of Catholic Education/Chief Executive Officer.

The professional aspect of the day will include a presentation by Susan M. Ferguson, M.A., director of the University of Dayton Center for Catholic Education. Prior to her present position, Mrs. Ferguson served as an elementary teacher and school psychologist, a lecturer at the University's Department of Education, and then began scholarly research and professional development for teachers and Catholic school leaders.

STREAM...Why and How! will serve as the topic of her presentation. STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics), is an educational initiative that, recognized by the National Catholic Educational Association, “encourages problem solving, critical thinking, collaboration and innovation, along with developing essential technology skills.”

Michele Long, assistant superintendent, and coordinator for the implementation of STREAM within the Diocese notes, “STREAM demonstrates how faith, individual academic disciplines and life itself work together. It not only provides a challenging trans-disciplinary learning environment focused on the integration of the STREAM content areas through the lens of our Catholic faith, but it also builds 21st century competencies needed for success in school and future careers including collaboration, communication, critical thinking and creativity.”

In the afternoon, breakout sessions will be conducted for teachers to further discussion on the presented topic.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL



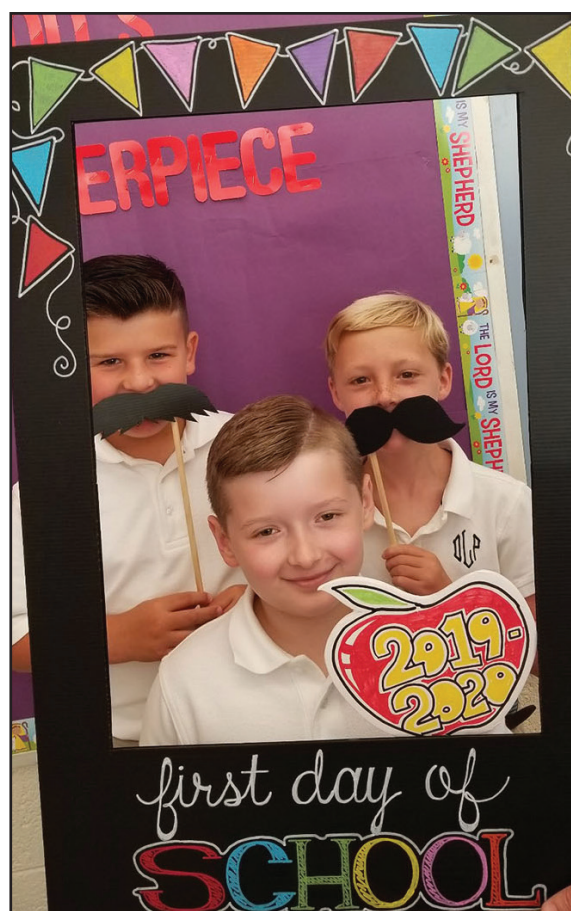
All Saints Academy in Scranton



Holy Cross High School in Dunmore



Epiphany School in Sayre



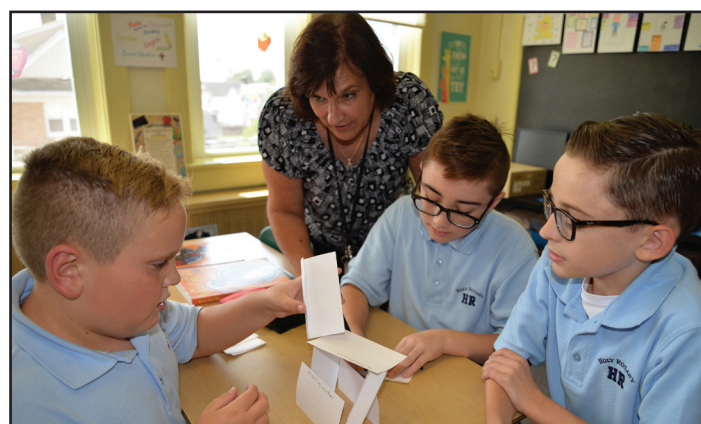
Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green



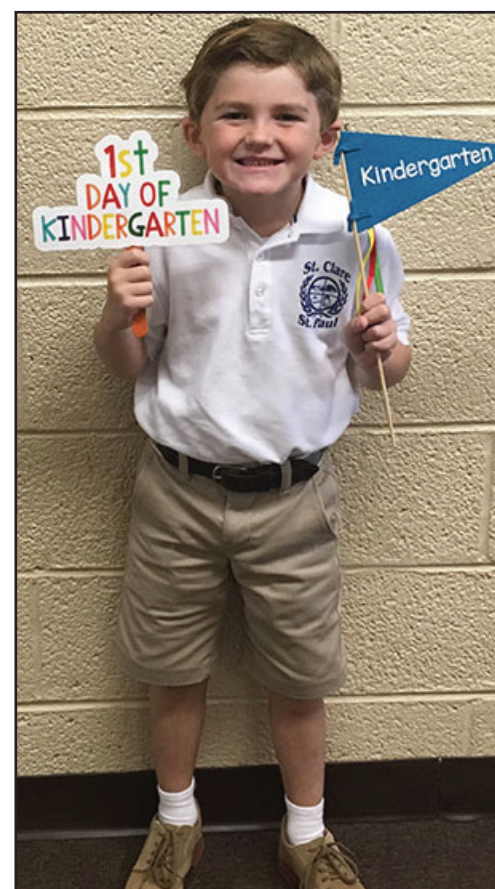
Holy Family Academy in Hazleton



Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School in Wilkes-Barre



Holy Rosary School in Duryea



Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton



Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston



Saint Agnes School in Towanda

2019 - 2020



**Wyoming Area Catholic School
in Exeter**



Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore



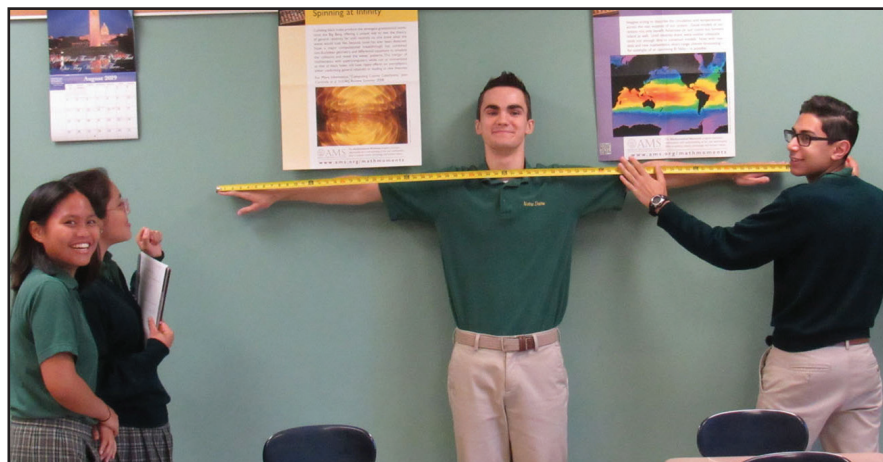
**Saint John Neumann Elementary School
in Williamsport**



**Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr.
High School in Williamsport**



Saint Jude School in Mountain Top



Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg



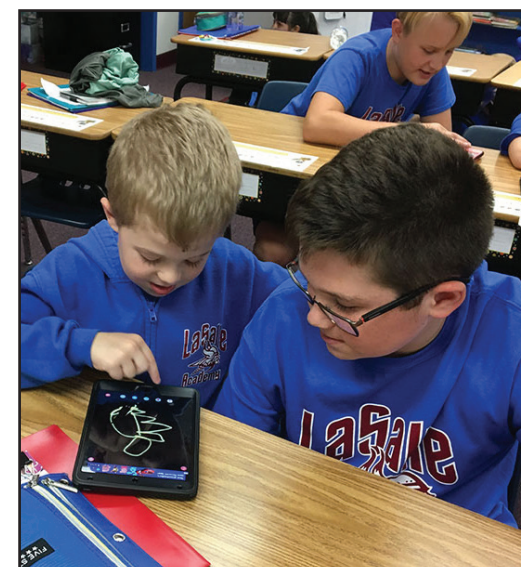
**Holy Redeemer High School
in Wilkes-Barre**



Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg



Monsignor McHugh School in Cresco



La Salle Academy in Jessup



THE CHURCH OF CHRIST ON MISSION IN THE WORLD EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH OCTOBER 2019

Extraordinary Missionary Month Mass Schedule

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2019 • 6 p.m.

Mass at Saint Ignatius Loyola Parish
Kingston

Host Pastor: Msgr. David L. Tressler

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2019 • 6 p.m.

Mass at Christ the King Parish
Archbald

Host Pastor: Fr. Brian J.T. Clarke

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2019 • 6 p.m.

Mass at Resurrection Parish
Muncy

Host Pastor: Fr. Glenn McCreary

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2019 • 6 p.m.

Mass at Our Lady of Victory Parish
Tannersville

Host Pastor: Fr. Richard Czachor

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2. Witness of Missionary Saints from around the world.
3. Formation for *missio ad gentes* – human, spiritual, biblical, theological and catechetical.
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Missionary Union of Priests and Religious

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Go Forth

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



The month of October is a month that doesn't have much going for it. Enjoying fall foliage, Oktoberfest, and hopefully-holy celebrations of Halloween are the month's only real claims to fame. October is an underwhelming month in terms of happenings.

However, for the Church, October is a happening time dedicated to Mary and, in a particular way, to the Missions. So, we have a lot to consider and a great deal to be thankful for.

This year, October holds even more holy weight, as Pope Francis has designated these 31 days as Extraordinary Missionary Month.

Prayers for Priests

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

September 19, Monsignor Alexander Kulik; September 20, Father José Joseph Kuriappilly; September 21, Father Andrew Kurovsky; September 22, Father Joseph Kutch; September 23, Father John Lambert; September 24, Father William Langan; September 25, Father John Lapera; September 26, Saint Joseph Oblate Father Victor Leon; September 27, Jesuit Father John Levko; September 28, Father Michael Litcheck; September 29, Holy Cross Father Thomas Looney; September 30, Father Gregory Loughney; October 1, Pope Francis; October 2, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI; October 3, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; October 4, Holy Cross Father Robert Lozinski; October 5, Father Edward Lyman; October 6, Monsignor Peter Madus; October 7, Jesuit Father Ryan Maher; October 8, Father Thomas Major; October 9, Jesuit Father Richard Malloy.

As such, we are being called to focus on the extraordinary mission entrusted to the Church, a mission entrusted to you and me to share the message of the Gospel with joy, fidelity and renewed spirit.

The declaration of this Extraordinary Missionary Month by Pope Francis coincides with the centenary of the publication of an apostolic letter by Pope Benedict XV — that's eight popes ago!

In November 1919, Pope Benedict wrote *Maximum Illud* in order to highlight the evangelical activity of the Church and to embolden and broaden that activity in light of the mandate by Jesus in Mark's Gospel to "Go into the whole world and preach the Gospel to all creation" (Mark 16:15).

To do so is a "momentous and holy charge," Pope Benedict reminded the Church. Clearly, the Holy Father was not urging the Church to engage in something new or inventive; rather, he sought to highlight what is central to our identity as Christians: that our faith is such that it is meant to be shared and lived out in the world we inhabit. This is who we always were and who we will always be.

So it is, that 100 years later we encounter Pope Benedict's words again and are reminded of our place in this world as ambassadors for Christ. The theme for this Extraordinary Missionary Month is "Baptized and Sent." How appropriate!

For many of us, our baptism occurred when we were infants,

decades ago. That life-altering moment for us, one not even in our consciousness — or perhaps fresh for those baptized as adults — is the reason why we go forth. Bearing the indelible mark of Jesus on our soul, we go forth into the world, baptized and sent. Sent to preach the Good News and never to waver in our pursuit of building a culture of life, justice and peace.

To commemorate this unique month of prayer, renewal and learning, the four episcopal regions of our Diocese will host evenings of worship and renewal with the celebration of Mass and a time for reflection afterwards.

I am privileged to serve as principal celebrant and homilist at these Masses and will deliver a talk during a time of fellowship after each of these Masses. Please join us as we celebrate the mission that God has given to us, to be renewed and humbled that we have been baptized and sent.

The dates and locations of each Mass follow. Each Mass will begin at 6 p.m. and be followed by a time for reflection and fellowship in the church hall: Wednesday, October 9, Mass at Saint Ignatius Loyola Parish (Kingston — Southern Region); Wednesday, October 16, Mass at Chris the King Parish (Archbald — Northern Region); Wednesday, October 23, Mass at Resurrection Parish (Muncy — Western Region); Wednesday, October 30, Mass at Our Lady of Victory Parish (Tannersville — Eastern Region).

Apostleship of Prayer

Papal Intention for October 2019

A Missionary "Spring" in the Church —
That the breath of the Holy Spirit engender
a new missionary "spring" in the Church.

King's College dedicates new chapel



WILKES-BARRE -- For more than a decade its doors had been shut, but the former Memorial Presbyterian Church now has new life.

On Sunday, September 15, 2019, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera joined King's College leaders to dedicate the former house of worship as the new Christ the King Chapel.

The new chapel on North Street was completely renovated and restored to its original grandeur.

Bishop Bambera helped lead a procession from the college's former chapel to the new location in Wilkes-Barre.

"What a blessing it is to know that the Gospel will continue to be proclaimed in this sacred space, that the People of God will continue to be nourished by God's Word and sacraments, and that the Church -- by God's grace -- will continue to grow and to provide healing and hope to our world," Bishop Bambera said at a Mass of Dedication to celebrate the event.

Office for Parish Life hosting Young Adult Camping Trip in October



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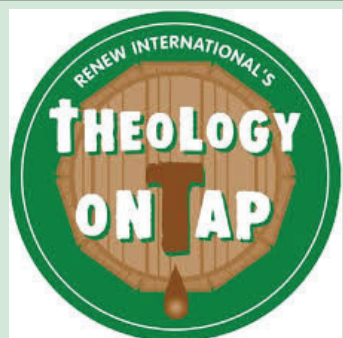


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SCRANTON MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY *at the CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PETER*

The Scranton Mental Health Ministry at the Cathedral of Saint Peter is presenting this four part series on mental illness in order to reduce the stigma of these illnesses through education and factual information about mental health conditions. The series reinforces the core Christian belief that everyone has dignity and value and should be fully welcomed into the Church and the community.

**DO YOU WANT TO LEARN ABOUT MENTAL
ILLNESS AND SUPPORT FROM THE CHURCH?**

**You are Invited to Attend a Four Part Series on
Mental Illness and Mental Health Education for Families**

MONDAY OCTOBER 7

The Impact of Mental Illness on Individuals and Families

A discussion on what it is like to live with a mental illness and how it can impact a family. The discussion will be led by a person living with a mental illness and a family member. How the person's faith helped them will be part of the discussion. The discussion will be led by Deacon Jan Mroz from Mary Mother of God Parish and Owen and Char Dougherty from the Board of Directors of the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

MONDAY OCTOBER 14

Spend an Evening with a Mental Health Professional

An introduction to the types of mental illnesses, medication, treatments and other issues will be presented. The discussion will be led by Leighton Y. Huey, MD, a psychiatrist and Associate Dean for Behavioral Health.

MONDAY OCTOBER 21

Spirituality and Mental Illness

Faith and spirituality brings peace and healing to people living with a mental illness. We can find spiritual support through communion with the Saints and with each other while living with a mental illness. The discussion will be led by Deacon Ed Shoener from the Cathedral of Saint Peter Parish.

MONDAY OCTOBER 28

Mental Health Resources in the Community

What are the agencies, service providers and other sources of help in the Community? The discussion will focus on how to access mental health services and find the help you need. Marie Onukiavage, Executive Director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness will lead the discussion.

ALL SESSIONS WILL BE HELD FROM 6:30 TO 8 PM AT THE DIOCESE OF SCRANTON PASTORAL CENTER, 330 WYOMING AVENUE, SCRANTON
For more information contact Deacon Ed Shoener at 570.344.7231 or DeaconEd@stpeterscathedral.org

Diocese of Scranton Presents 9-Day Oberammergau Passion Play 2020 Pilgrimage Including Austria & Germany

with
Bishop Joseph C. Bambera

August 3 -11, 2020

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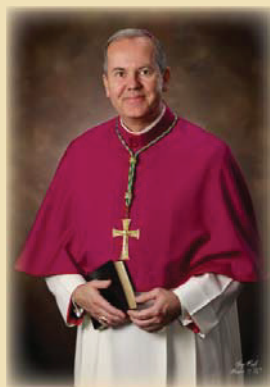


DIOCESE OF SCRANTON: 9-Day Oberammergau Passion Play Pilgrimage 2020 August 3-11, 2020

Rate: \$4,195.00 per person based on double occupancy
\$4,795.00 per person based on single occupancy

The Features of this Pilgrimage Tour include:

- Roundtrip motorcoach transportation to Newark Liberty International Airport
- Roundtrip AIRFARE via LUFTHANSA Gennan Airlines to Munich, Germany
- Masses celebrated by Bishop Bambera at various Cathedrals, Shrines & Churches
- Ticket for the PASSION PLAY in Oberammergau
- The Passion Play Text Book in English
- All touring, admissions & entrance fees as per itinerary
- Private Deluxe Motorcoach throughout
- Buffet Breakfast Daily • 5-Dinners with wine & table water • 2-lunches
- 4-Nights First Class Hotel: Grauer Baer Hotel in Innsbruck, Austria (4-Star Hotel)
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Wells Fargo Foundation Supports Catholic Social Services



Shown from left are Joe Montagna, Wells Fargo branch manager; Kristen Bolin, Wells Fargo banker; Mary Theresa Malandro, Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Human Services and CEO of Catholic Social Services; Sandra Snyder, Diocese of Scranton grant writer; and Oiram Santos, district manager, Wells Fargo.

The Wells Fargo Foundation supported Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton with a \$2,000 grant to offset expenses related to its financial literacy case management services in Lackawanna County.

Through two offices, in Scranton and Carbondale, Catholic Social Services, as part of its Relief Assistance Program, helps nearly 2,000 clients per year re-examine their financial resources and create individualized financial recovery plans. CSS case managers work with financially struggling clients who often find themselves threatened with homelessness or are living in substandard housing.

The Relief Assistance program began in 1929 and has continued to grow each year.

"Case-management services that focus on financial literacy are important in positioning our clients to move toward permanent housing and long-term

self-sufficiency," Mary Theresa Malandro, Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Human Services, said. "Case management is among Catholic Social Services' core services, especially in an era of hidden homelessness, and we are grateful to the Wells Fargo Foundation for recognizing its importance in our community."

CSS case managers help clients create and stick to workable household budgets, open and manage bank accounts, manage rent or mortgage payments, identify and eliminate unnecessary expenses and make proper use of surpluses by using savings accounts.

Financial literacy case management is offered at 516 Fig St. in Scranton and 34 River St. in Carbondale. Walk-in or by-appointment services are available.

For more information about the program, contact Stephanie Miller, program manager, community services, at 570-207-2283 or smiller@cssscranton.org.

Oblates Hosting Healing Mass September 29

The Enthronement Guild of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary in the Diocese of Scranton will sponsor a Celebration of Healing Mass on Sunday, Sept. 29, at 4 p.m. at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Seminary chapel in Laflin.

The Eucharistic celebration

will include a healing anointing for those participating in the liturgy. All are welcome.

Saint Joseph Oblate Father Joseph Sibilano will serve as Mass celebrant. The Sacred Heart Singers will present a musical prelude beginning at 2:30 p.m.

Wyoming Valley Knights' Rosary Rally October 6



The combined Knights of Columbus Councils of Wyoming Valley will host their 43rd annual Rosary Rally on Sunday, Oct. 6, at Our Lady of Hope Parish, 40 Park Ave., Wilkes-Barre, where Father John Terry is pastor. The Knights of Columbus will lead a Rosary Procession from the parish church at 2 p.m. with the Our Lady of Fatima Pilgrim Virgin Statue, followed by the participating faithful. The Rosary Rally is dedicated to prayer and sacrifice in reparation for sin and for the salvation of souls, as Our Lady requested at Fatima more than 100 years ago. Those unable to process are invited to go directly to the church at 3 p.m., at which time the Knights will lead the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary. Sunday's Eucharistic Liturgy will be celebrated following the Rosary; refreshments will conclude the devotion in the school building. Knights of Columbus representing Wyoming Valley Councils pictured are, first row from left, Ed Weihbrecht, trustee, Plymouth Council 984; Rick Korpusik, faithful navigator, Pittston Council 372; Father Terry; Christopher Calore, Plymouth Council and Rosary Rally chair; Deacon Joseph DiVizia; Past Grand Knight James Mazeitis, Assumpta Council 3987; and Sir Joseph Pikaitis, Assumpta Council. Second row, Grand Knight Mike Radzwill, Plymouth Council; Past Grand Knight George Grantkuskas, Plymouth Council; Matt Owazany, district deputy, Plymouth Council; Charles Jankoviak, lector, Swoyersville Council 12976; David Miller, recorder, Swoyersville Council; Grand Knight Tom Havrilak, Assumpta Council; and John Bankus Sr., trustee, Swoyersville Council.

Divine Liturgy Program at Ukrainian Church

A presentation on the Divine Liturgy by Very Rev. Dr. Mark Morozowich, Dean of the Catholic University School of Theology and Religious Studies in Washington, is scheduled for this weekend at Saint Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Scranton.



Father Mark Morozowich

"The Divine Liturgy and You: Deepening Our Understanding of Community and the Individual Prayer" is the topic for the afternoon program to be presented by Father Morozowich on Sunday, Sept. 22, at 3 p.m. at Saint Vladimir's, 430 North Seventh Ave.

Co-sponsored by the nine

Ukrainian Catholic parishes of Northeastern Pennsylvania's Anthracite Deanery and the North Anthracite Council of the League of Ukrainian Catholics, the presentation is being offered as an informative event for faithful from both the Roman Catholic and Orthodox traditions.

A western Pennsylvania native raised in the Ukrainian Catholic faith, Father Morozowich pursued a vocation to the priesthood in the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saint Josaphat in Parma, Ohio. He earned a doctorate from the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome and his research focus on liturgical history.

At Catholic University, the prolific author and speaker also serves as associate professor of liturgy and associate dean for seminary and ministerial programs.

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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

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- Asset Protection Planning
- Medicaid Application Assistance

Estate Administration

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Estate Planning

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Spiritual Offerings Around the Diocese

Mass & Anointing Service — **SEPT. 21**, hosted by Mary, Mother of God Parish at Holy Rosary Church, 316 William St., North Scranton; Eucharistic celebration with Anointing of the Sick blessing begins at 11 a.m. Luncheon will follow in the school auditorium; free health screenings also will be available. All are welcome.

Meeting of Lay Carmelites — **SEPT. 21**, 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 St. Joseph's Oblate Seminary, 1880 Route 315, Laflin (Pittston). For more information, contact Rose at (570) 507-2373 or Chris at (570) 239-8094.

Secular Discalced Carmelites Annual Retreat — **SEPT. 21 & 22**, canonically established community of the Diocese of Scranton; annual two-day retreat will be hosted 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.

Sunday Our Lady of Guadalupe Rosary Devotion — **SEPT. 22**, 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.

Grief Support Ministry: "Be Not Afraid, I Go Before You" — **SEPT. 23-OCT. 14**, sponsored by Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Lake Silkworth (Hunlock Creek); remaining four weekly sessions, led by the parish grief support ministers, on Monday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Guardian Angel Room at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Lake Silkworth. All suffering the loss of a loved one are welcome. For more information, call Marianna Oplinger at (570) 956-6983.

Weekly Bible Study — **SEPT. 25**, 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.

Weekly Divine Mercy Devotion — **SEPT. 25**, 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. All faithful are welcome.

Weekly Bereavement Support Group Sessions — **SEPT. 25-OCT. 16**, series of weekly meetings, addressing topics dealing with the grief process in order for participants to find healing; Bereavement Support Group meets on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave., Scranton (across from St. Peter's Cathedral). Anyone interested in attending is asked to contact the Cathedral Parish office at (570) 344-7231.

"40 Days for Life" Pro-Life Rosary Gathering — **SEPT. 25-NOV. 1**, offered for the special intentions of ending abortion and closure of the new Planned Parenthood location in Wilkes-Barre; Rosary is prayed each weekday, Monday thru Friday, at 10 a.m. in front of the offices of Planned Parenthood, 101 N. Main St., Wilkes-Barre. The pro-life campaign draws attention to the evil of abortion through prayer & fasting, constant vigil, and community outreach. For more information, visit: www.40daysforlife.com.

Continued on
Page 21

Group Plans Outdoor Rosary Rallies

A group of Diocesan faithful dedicated to an increase in devotion to the Blessed Mother will host consecutive public Rosary rallies on Saturday, Oct. 12, in Lackawanna and Luzerne counties.

Commemorating the 102nd anniversary of the final Marian apparition at Fatima, Portugal, on Oct. 13, 1917, the outdoor Rosary devotions will coincide with the 23,000 rallies being sponsored that day throughout the country by "America Needs Fatima" for greater spiritual conversion and reparation for sins.

The Rosary Crusade in Scranton begins at 12 noon with a public prayer rally at Lackawanna County's Courthouse Square on

North Washington Ave., with prayers and Rosary recitation led by Josie Roman.

Three hours later, at 3 p.m., an outdoor Rosary rally will be hosted at the Fatima shrine of the grounds of Saint Joseph's Oblate Seminary, Route 315, Laflin (Pittston). Saint Joseph Oblate Father Joseph Sibilano, director of the seminary, will lead the devotion and public recitation of Rosary prayers.

Local musician and vocalist Ernie Pappa will provide the music ministry at both events. All faithful are welcome to participate.

For more information, contact Josie Roman at (570) 342-5614 or the Oblates of Saint Joseph seminary at (570) 654-7542.

Spiritual Offerings

Spiritual Support Group: Scranton Mental Health Ministry — **SEPT. 28 & OCT. 12**, 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. For more information, contact Deacon Ed Shoener at the Cathedral, (570) 344-7231.

Padre Pio Prayer Ministry — **OCT. 2**, 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. All faithful are welcome.

Scranton Mental Health Ministry: Spiritual Support Group for Family & Friends — **OCT. 3**, 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. For more information, contact Deacon Ed Shoener at the Cathedral, (570) 344-7231.

First Friday Silent Eucharistic Adoration — **OCT. 4**, hosted by Our Lady of Hope Parish, 40 Park Ave., Wilkes-Barre, and their pastor, Father John Terry; adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held in the Marian Chapel, immediately following the 7 a.m. First Friday Mass. Eucharistic devotion concludes with prayers offered at 5:30 p.m. to implore healing for the Church and victims of abuse. Free spiritual materials will be available.

First Friday Marian Devotion & Healing Mass — **OCT. 4**, hosted by St. Lucy Parish at St. Lucy Church, 949 Scranton St., West Scranton; begins at 6:30 p.m. with recitation of the Rosary and devotional prayers led by Adele Garofalo. Healing Mass celebrated at 7 p.m., including prayers for healing and anointing blessing. Music ministry provided by Ernie Pappa. All faithful are welcome.

Continued on Page 23

Slovenian Choir Performing in Pittston



"Megaron," an internationally acclaimed 40-voice chamber choir from Slovenia, will perform at Saint John the Evangelist Church, 35 William Street, Pittston, on Sunday, Sept. 29, at 7:30 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public. Founded in 2003 by composer and conductor Damijan Mocnik, Megaron is comprised of former music students from the Saint Stanislaw Institution in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The award-winning vocal ensemble is noted for its rich sound and exciting interpretations of musical styles from various periods. In addition to their homeland, the world-renowned choir performs throughout Europe, Canada and the United States. For more information, contact the Saint John Parish office at (570) 654-0053 or email: rdmicca@aol.com.

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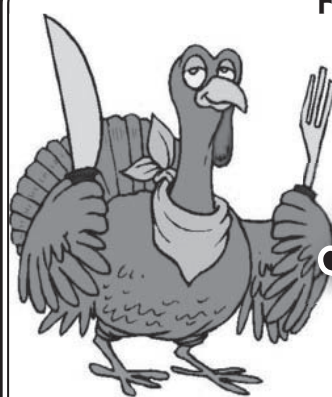
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Retreat renews, redeems those broken by abortion

Arguably one of the most unique and transformative retreats offered annually in the Diocese of Scranton is “Rachel’s Vineyard,” a post-abortion healing retreat experience steeped in spirituality

and sensitivity.

Denise Mengak, who serves on staff in the Wilkes-Barre office of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese, is the longtime coordinator of the “Rachel’s Vineyard” weekend that continues to be a life-changing experience for anyone suffering from the wounds that an abortion imparts on individuals and families.

As Mengak explains, the retreat process is geared toward reconciliation, focusing on the feelings of regret, remorse, pain and guilt which bring the retreatants to “Rachel’s Vineyard.”

“The retreat is an opportunity to get away from the pressures and pain” of those wracked by abortion’s lingering effects, says Mengak. “It is a time to really listen to what God is telling your heart.”

Retreat providers guide the process, she continues, through spiritual exercises like “Living Scripture,” whereby participants place themselves within certain Scripture story.

“At that point, the Holy Spirit takes over and begins to work within the wound,” she states.

Mengak emphasizes this particular retreat experience is essential because time does not heal the nagging wounds gnawing at those haunted by the abortion decision. Most people, she says, reach out for help after “suffering in silence” for many years.



“Actually, the pain, the silent suffering, intensifies and becomes very personal, very private, which is something that is common with a traumatic loss,” explains Mengak. “For a number of years they’re trying to put something behind them, but it does catch up. The goal is then reconciliation with God and with their child.”

According to the retreat coordinator, the transformation from beginning to end is palpable, as mothers and fathers often arrive laden with unbearable guilt.

“When they’re leaving the weekend to see the contrast,” she says. “They arrive feeling like ‘I killed my child. My child is dead.’ They leave knowing their child is alive with Christ and they leave feeling the forgiveness of their child, which is something only God can do.”

Though the common belief may be “Rachel’s Vineyard” is offered only to women who opted to terminate their pregnancy, Mengak stresses the retreat is open to fathers, grandparents, siblings, anyone who has been impacted by an abortion — even those who have played a role in procuring abortions as part of the industry.

Along with the confidentiality and discretion the retreat offers, group support is paramount, according to Mengak. “When they come together with others who have gone through the same experience, they can freely share.

It’s not a secret any more. Their secret is gently laid out with a compassionate crowd, who can relate to the pain, the shame, the guilt and the grief.”

“I always greet the people,” she continues, “and acknowledge the courage it took for them to walk in. That’s probably the hardest thing — to get out of the car and walk into the retreat center.”

Describing the retreat as an “unforced encounter,” Mengak sees it rather as an open invitation from Christ, who says, “I know you’re suffering and I understand this wound. Put your hand in mine and let’s walk slowly through this process. Let’s examine the wound and then let’s have compassion for who you were at that time.”

She also believes in the Holy Spirit’s revelation of who the aborted child was, which enables parents to name their child and encounter that child through one of the retreat exercises. The innocent life is honored and the grief is formalized through a memorial service, and a Mass of Entrustment is offered, which Mengak likens to a resurrection celebration.

“I can honestly say that based on the testimonies I hear,” she says, “those who go through the weekend do feel reconciled with God again.”

For those who may question how God can ever forgive them, Mengak responds, “God’s love is far beyond our imperfections.”

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“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 Entrustment. 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.

Spiritual Offerings Around the Diocese

40th Annual Candlelight Rosary Novena — OCT. 5-13, hosted at St. Lucy Church in West Scranton; nine-day Novena begins each evening at 7 p.m. with recitation of the Rosary by candlelight. Nightly devotions also include crowning of the Blessed Mother statue, Novena prayers for the suffering souls in purgatory, and closing Solemn Benediction.

Evening of Prayer with the Sisters of IHM — OCT. 9, sponsored by the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary; monthly prayer service held on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel at the IHM Center, 2300 Adams Ave., Scranton (top of University Ave., beyond Marywood University). All are welcome. For more information, call (570) 346-5404.

“America Needs Fatima” Public Rosary Rally — OCT. 12, held in conjunction with more than 20,000 Rosary rallies across America, offered as a penitential prayer gathering for blessings on the United States through the intercession of the Blessed Mother and in reparation for offenses against the Immaculate Heart of Mary; public Rosary Rally begins at 12 noon at the outdoor Our Lady of Fatima Grotto, located at West North Street in Wilkes-Barre.

“America Needs Fatima” Public Rosary Rally — OCT. 12, held in conjunction with more than 20,000 Rosary rallies across America, offered as a penitential

prayer gathering for blessings on the United States through the intercession of the Blessed Mother and in reparation for offenses against the Immaculate Heart of Mary; public Rosary Rally begins at 12 noon at the Weis store parking lot in Mountain Top. For more information, call Marie at (570) 574-0849, or Carmen at (570) 262-7373.

Monthly Meeting of the Lay Fraternity of St. Dominic — OCT. 13, 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.

Bereavement Support Group Sessions — OCT. 14-18, hosted by St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Milford; group will meet each 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.

“Season of Hope” Bereavement Support Group — OCT. 16-NOV. 20, sponsored by Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace Parish in Hawley; six consecutive weekly gatherings on Wednesday mornings in the parish hall at BVM Queen of Peace, 314 Chestnut Ave., following the 9 a.m. Mass in the church. Christ-centered group provides bereavement support by journeying through the grief process with prayer, Scripture, faith-sharing and fellowship. For more information, call Rosemarie Mazzotta (570) 390-4196 or the rectory office (570) 226-3183.

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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Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese

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.

University of Scranton Performance Music Series: Family Weekend Concert — **SEPT. 21**, featuring The Aaron Diehl Trio with an appearance by the University of Scranton Concert Choir; 7:30 p.m. in the University's Houlihan-McLean Center on campus, corner of Mulberry St. & Jefferson Ave. Performance is open to the public free of charge.

Weekly Bingo — **SEPT. 23**, 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.

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

19th Annual Craft Fair — **SEPT. 28**, sponsored by the Women's Guild of Divine Mercy Parish, Davis Street, Minooka section of Scranton; held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the parish center. Featuring displays by more than 40 local crafters, including handmade jewelry and seasonal decorations &

gifts; door prizes awarded throughout the day. Refreshments available for purchase. Admission fee: \$2.

Misericordia Open House — **SEPT. 28**, open house event sponsored by Misericordia University in Dallas (Back Mountain section of Luzerne County); 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 and registration, contact the Misericordia Admissions Office at (570) 675-4449 or 1-866-262-6363, or by email: admiss@misericordia.edu.

Annual Turkey Bingo & Raffle — **SEPT. 29**, sponsored by the Christian Women of Our Lady of Hope Parish in Wilkes-Barre; hosted at the Marymount Parish Center, 154 South Hancock St., Wilkes-Barre. Doors open at 12 noon; early bird games start at 1 p.m. Admission fee: \$3. Raffle drawing prizes include handmade quilt and three handmade afghans. Raffle tickets and refreshments

available for purchase. All proceeds benefit the Christian Women's charitable works supporting parish children, including the CCD program, Christmas Breakfast, and awards to graduating students in the spring.

Harvest Festival — **SEPT. 29**, hosted at St. Patrick Church, 205 Main St., Nicholson; held from 12 noon to 4 p.m. Festival features pork tenderloin or pulled chicken dinner; also includes bake sale, theme baskets, soup sale, picnic foods and refreshments, and children's games.

Roast Chicken Dinner — **SEPT. 29**, hosted by St. Barbara Parish in Exeter; held at the parish's St. Anthony Center, 156 Erie Ave., Exeter. Sit-down dinners

Continued on Page 27

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Ladies of Charity Fundraiser Party

WILKES-BARRE — The Ladies of Charity of the Diocese of Scranton will host their annual Bingo/Card Party on Sunday, Sept. 29, at 2 p.m. in the cafeteria of Saint Aloysius Church at Saint Robert Bellarmine Parish in Wilkes-Barre.

The event, which is the sole fundraiser of the year that enables the Ladies of Charity to continue their apostolate of providing charitable works, offers card and bingo games with monetary and door prizes.

Raffle tickets will also be sold during the event. Admission fee is \$2; refreshments are provided. All are invited and new members are always welcome.

For more information, contact Barb at (570) 474-5531.

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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 Respetto 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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Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese

Continued from Page 25

served from 12 noon to 3 p.m.; take-outs available from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dinner features Italian roasted chicken prepared by Arcaro & Genell's in Old Forge; includes half chicken, potato, vegetable, salad, roll and dessert. Cost: \$10 per dinner. Advance sales only. For more information and ticket reservations, contact St. Barbara Parish Rectory, 224 Memorial St., Exeter; phone: (570) 654-2103.

Knights of Columbus Fall Barbecue Dinner — SEPT. 29, hosted by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, 116 Hughes St., Swoyersville; held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the school cafeteria (eat-in and take-out service available). Dinner includes barbecued half chicken, baked potato, cole slaw and dessert; event also includes cash raffle. Cost: \$9 per dinner. Limited tickets at the door. For more information, call (570) 262-2896.

Fall Bingo — OCT. 6, hosted by the Confraternity of Christian Women of Holy Family Parish in Sugar Notch; held in the church hall, 828 Main St. Doors open at 12 noon; games begin at 1 p.m. Prizes include theme baskets, gift cards, small appliances, cash and door prizes. Homemade foods and refreshments available for purchase. Admission fee: \$5. Tickets available at the door, following all weekend Masses or by calling

the rectory office (570) 822-8983.

Fall Harvest Artisan Craft Fair — OCT. 12, hosted by Our Lady of Victory Parish, 327 Cherry Lane Road, Tannersville; held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the parish center. Craft show features all hand-crafted items and homemade food and baked goods; also includes handmade quilt and basket raffle drawings. Free admission. For more information, call Judy (570) 242-1041, or Donna (570) 688-1334.

Annual Handmade Quilt Bingo — OCT. 13, sponsored by SS. Peter and Paul Parish, 13 Hudson Road, Plains; held in the parish's Bernardine Hall (former school auditorium). Doors open at 12 noon and games start at 1 p.m.; winners will choose from a wide variety of handmade quilts. Admission fee: \$20 (in advance) or \$25 (at door), includes six-card game piece for each regular game; other specials and raffle tickets sold separately. For more information, contact the parish office at (570) 825-6663.

Barbecue Chicken Dinner — OCT. 13, hosted by Holy Family Parish, 828 Main St., Sugar Notch; held from 12 noon to 3 p.m. on the parish grounds. Take-out event provides drive-thru service and areas for sit-down eating. Dinner cost: \$10, includes barbecued half chicken (sauce optional), baked potato, baked beans, cole slaw, rolls & dessert. Tickets available after weekend Masses or at the event.

Divine Mercy Shrine Pilgrimage Oct. 5

PITTSTON—The Eucharistic Apostle of Divine Mercy Cenacle will host their annual pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Mass., 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, Laffin. Estimated arrival time at the shrine is 11 a.m.

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.

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.

Designer Purse Bingo —

OCT. 13, sponsored by the Women's Guild and Prayer Shawl Ministry at Divine Mercy Parish in Scranton; hosted at Eagle McClure Hose Co., Old Forge. Doors open at 11 a.m.; games start at 1 p.m. Admission fee: \$25; winners chose from a variety of designer purses. Event includes refreshments and theme basket/cash raffle drawings. For tickets, contact Sue Otten (570) 604-2343, or Kathy Bauer (570) 961-2663.

Annual Craft Fair & Home Showcase — OCT. 20, sponsored by the Holy Cross High School Parent Club; opens at 10 a.m. at Holy Cross High School, 501 E. Drinker St., Dunmore. Featuring more than 95 vendors displaying jewelry, festive candles & soaps, candies, ceramics, pottery, home-décor items, handbags and more; also includes basket raffle, door prizes and homemade food for sale. Admission fee: \$3. For more information and vendor applications, contact Renee Hanna at (570) 614-3727. All proceeds benefit Holy Cross school programs.

Harvest Moon Dance — OCT. 26, sponsored by the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton; hosted at La Buona Vita, Dunmore, from 6 to 10 p.m. Cost: \$75 per person, includes appetizers, complete buffet dinner and soft beverages. Dance music proved by Rich the DJ from EJ the DJ. For more details and registration information, contact the Cathedral office at (570) 344-7231.

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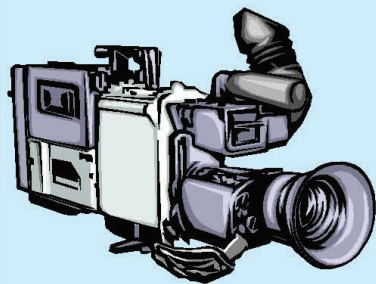
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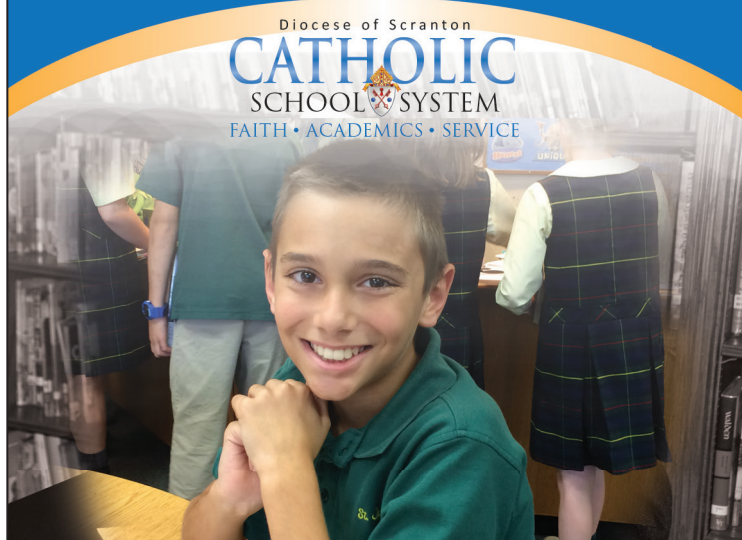
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