



GoodNewsNotes

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

This Issue

Fall Bishop's Youth Awards	p. 2
Meet Jacki Douglas	p. 2
WORD Convocation/ Catechist Convocation	p. 3
Resources for Ongoing Atonement and Healing	p. 3
Resources for Selecting Liturgical Music	p. 3
Living Your Strengths Workshops	p. 4
An Event for Those Who Minister to Marriages	p. 4
World Day of Prayer for Creation	p. 4
#Leaveamark Day of Service	p. 5
Extraordinary Missionary Month	p. 6

Catechetical Sunday
Sunday, September 15

**Mass for Atonement
and Healing**

Monday, September 16
at 12:10PM
Cathedral of Saint Peter

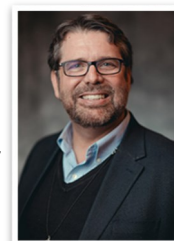
Course Days for Youth Ministry and Lifelong Faith Formation

The Office for Parish Life is partnering with Center for Ministry Development to provide specialized tracks and individual courses in ministry formation. Consider sending members of your parish team to either of the two upcoming in-person course days on **Saturday, September 28, 2019 from 9:00AM to 5:00PM at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton:**

Principles of Youth Ministry

*Presented by Tom East,
Director of the Center for Ministry Development*

This course day presents the foundational understandings and principles for developing an effective ministry with younger and older adolescents. This course presents the vision and principles for comprehensive youth ministry and a model for youth ministry which incorporates developmentally-appropriate youth programming, strengthens family life, involves young people as integral members of the faith community, and collaborates with the wider community in a common effort to promote faith growth. This will include examination of foundational Church documents that shape youth ministry as well as research of best practices in ministry with adolescents.



Principles of Lifelong Faith Formation

*Presented by Joan Weber,
from the Center for Ministry Development*

This course day presents the foundations and principles for developing effective lifelong catechesis with people of all ages in the parish community; a vision for catechesis for children, youth, adults, and families, rooted in Church documents and Tradition; the current context for faith formation in the 21st century, as well as models for effective parish catechesis.



The cost for either course is \$35 for individuals enrolled in the full two-year certificate process (cost for course materials) or \$85 for a guest participant taking a single course or coming from another diocese. To register, [click here](#) or contact Kitty Scanlan at kitty-scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org or at 570-207-2213 for more information.





Fall Bishop's Youth Awards

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

Southern Region (Yellow)

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

Eastern Region (Red)

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

Northern Region (Blue)

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

Western Region (Green)

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

Meet Jacki Douglas

The Office for Parish Life is pleased to welcome Jacki Douglas as the new Director of Word and Lifelong Faith Formation. **Jacki cordially invites all the Directors of Religious Education and Youth Ministers to come to a "meet and greet" on the dates below** (these are the same meeting dates and times to which Kathy Bolinski has already invited safe environment coordinators). At these meetings, Jacki will go over some practical ways to make your ministry a little easier and more enjoyable for you, your catechists, and your youth. We want to hear what we can do to help your ministry.



Thursday, September 5—2:00PM to 3:00PM
Saints Peter & Paul Parish, Towanda

Thursday, September 26—6:00PM to 7:00PM
Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton

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

Word Convocation—Save the Date

Registration will be open soon for the WORD Convocation, also known as the Catechist Convocation. The Office for Parish Life invites DRES, catechists, RCIA teams, youth ministers, Catholic school teachers, those on parish WORD Commissions and anyone engaged in ministry of the Word to share in the WORD Convocation on **Saturday, October 19, 2019 from 9:00AM to 3:00PM at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, located at 300 Wyoming Ave., 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, etc. 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. Stay tuned for more information to come. 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

Catechetical Sunday

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

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



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

WORSHIP

Resources for Ongoing Atonement and Healing

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

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



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
SPEAKER
PRAISE & WORSHIP MUSIC
RECONCILIATION
SOCIAL

FALL SCHEDULE

Sunday, October 20 at 6PM—Church of Saint Gregory
330 N. Abington Rd., Clarks Summit

Sunday, November 17 at 7PM—Saint Matthew Parish
78 Ridgeway St., East Stroudsburg

Sunday, December 8 at 6PM—Saint Jude Parish
420 S. Mountain Blvd., Mountain Top

*For more information, call 570-780-2996
or visit www.dioceseofscranton.org.*

Extraordinary Minister of Communion Training Session

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

Resources for Selecting Liturgical Music

The Scranton Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians will hold a meeting on Monday, September 16 beginning at 6:00PM St. John Neumann Parish (Holy Family Site), located at 414 East Elm St., Scranton.



The topic for the evening will be "Resources for Selecting Liturgical Music" presented by Danny Marx, Director of Liturgical Music at St. Gregory Parish, Clarks Green.

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

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

LTP Essentials in Liturgy and Initiation

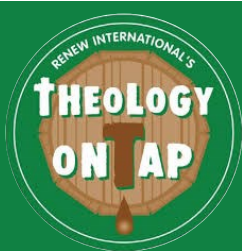
Liturgy Training Publications is offering virtual courses on the **Essentials of Catholic Liturgy** and the **Essentials of Christian Initiation**. These training courses take place over six 90-minute sessions and are designed to provide participants with essential knowledge and skills needed for their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

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Tuesday, September 24th
at 7:00pm

Sabatini's Bottle Shop
1925 Wyoming Ave, Exeter

A speaker series for young adults age 21- 40.
\$7 suggested donation
covers food and soft drinks.



COMMUNITY

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

Living Your Strengths Workshops Happening throughout the Diocese

Members of Saint John Vianney Parish, Resurrection Parish, and all those who attended Catechist Camp have participated in a Living Your Strengths Workshop over the past few months. St. Joseph the Worker Parish and St. Peter and Paul Parish are already signed up for fall offerings.

If your parishioners will benefit from a renewed focus on and appreciation of their God-given strengths, please consider offering one of these workshops in your parish. The Office for Parish Life can provide facilitators and materials, as well as planning and promotional assistance. To learn more, or to set up a workshop at your parish, please contact Jennifer Housel, Director for Community and Family Development, 570-207-2213 x 1104 or jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org.

Living Your Strengths

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

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

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



Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation

Looking to learn more about your faith, or gain enrichment for your parish ministry? Members of the faithful across the Diocese of Scranton are invited to consider taking a course through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation! Cycle 6 runs September 8 through October 12, 2019. Registration is open now until September 4. [Click here](#) to view the course offerings in English and Spanish or visit <https://vlcff.udayton.edu/> and click 'calendar.'



An Event for Those Who Minister to Marriages

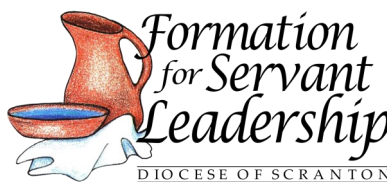
Do you serve in a marriage enrichment or PreCana ministry? Do you teach NFP or facilitate the FOCCUS assessment? If so, this evening is for you! On **Sunday, November 10th, from 3:00 – 7:30 PM at the Diocesan**

Pastoral Center, the Office for Parish Life will host dinner and a workshop for all those who minister to marriages in our Diocese.

A short presentation about marriage ministries in our Diocese will be followed by dinner, and the evening will conclude with a "Living Your Strengths for Married Couples" Workshop. Please contact Jennifer Housel, Director for Community and Family Development (570-207-2213 x 1104 or jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org) to register or to learn more.



Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry Accepting Applications for Fall 2019



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

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

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

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

The Office for Parish Life looks forward to welcoming new candidates into the Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry program! Prospective candidates are encouraged to contact Kitty Scanlan, Coordinator for Lay Ministry Formation, at 570-207-2213, or by email at Kitty-Scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org for application information, materials, and application submissions.

"I CALL us to be servant leaders who engage in SERVICE to our neighbors near and far and who work for justice and stewardship to hasten the Reign of God."

SERVICE

Respect Life Sunday

Respect Life Sunday will be observed on October 13, 2019. Please join us for Mass to celebrate life and advocate for respect for all life, from conception until natural death. Mass will begin at 10 AM at the Cathedral. School groups and families are invited to contact the Office for Parish Life if they would like to participate in this Mass as altar servers, extraordinary ministers of Communion, or ushers. All are welcome!

World Day of the Poor

The **Third World Day of the Poor** will be observed on November 17, 2019. Please join us on Wednesday, November 13 at 6:30 PM for a prayer service, film viewing, and discussion. We will be watching *Summer in the Forest*, a documentary about Jean Vanier, the founder of L'Arche.

L'Arche is a residential program for persons with disabilities, built around Christian spirituality. Vanier founded the program in 1964 in France when he welcomed two men with developmental disabilities into his home to live in solidarity with one another. Today, L'Arche is active in 35 countries. In his letter announcing the 2019 World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis spoke about Jean Vanier, calling him a "great apostle of the poor." This event will celebrate his legacy and allow us to discuss how we can better serve the most vulnerable among us. Please RSVP to Katy Windels (ext. 1101) by November 8.

World Day of Prayer for Creation

September 1 marks the **World Day of Care for Creation**. This month, we ask you to think about ways that we, as Catholics, are called to be stewards of the environment.

If we approach nature and the environment without...openness to awe and wonder, if we no longer speak the language of fraternity and beauty in our relationship with the world, our attitude will be that of masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters, unable to set limits on their immediate needs. By contrast, if we feel intimately united with all that exists, then sobriety and care will well up spontaneously. (*Laudato Si*, 11)

Consider using this month as an opportunity to lead a family service project or park clean-up. Or, you might spread the news by publishing tips on helping the environment in your parish's bulletin, or praying for the Care for Creation in your weekly intercessions.

Finally, in honor of the Day of Care for Creation, our **Diocesan Day of Service on September 21** will be themed around this topic. All youth and young adults are invited to attend to help serve the community while reflecting on *Laudato Si* and the ecology of creation. Registration for the Day of Service is available on the Diocesan Website.

UP&OVER

RETREAT FOR 6TH, 7TH, & 8TH GRADERS

September 27th - 29th
Camp Orchard Hill - Dallas, Pa

Registration Fee: \$140
Cabin Style Lodging

- Learn Teamwork & Problem Solving Skills
- New Friends
- New Prayer Experiences
- Outdoor Obstacle Course

Arrival:
7:00pm Friday

Departure:
12Noon Sunday

Register Online at
www.dioceseofscranton.org



DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

#LEAVEAMARK

DAY OF SERVICE



Saturday, September 21st

Regional Service Sites Service at a Non-Profit
Opening Mass Prayer & Process Time

Lunch will be provided

For more information, visit
dioceseofscranton.org

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

"Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World" is the theme chosen by Pope Francis for the Extraordinary Mission Month. Awakening the awareness of the *missio ad gentes*, and reinvigorating the sense of responsibility for proclaiming the Gospel with new enthusiasm, are themes that combine the pastoral concern of Pope Benedict XV in his Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud*, published 544 years ago, with the missionary vitality expressed by Pope Francis in his recent Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*: "Missionary action is the paradigm of every work of the Church." (EG 15)

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

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

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

- OPL Calendar for 2019-2020
- October Extraordinary Mission Month events through Pontifical Missions
- Monthly suggestions for implementing this theme through 2020

OPL TEAM MEMBERS

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

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

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

Director for WORSHIP: **David Baloga**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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