

# The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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## Hundreds of young adults attend #LeaveaMark19 Mass

SCRANTON – As he looked around the Cathedral of Saint Peter and saw hundreds of other young adults, Jonathan Mengoni, 22, was glad he decided to attend his first #LeaveaMark Mass in the Diocese of Scranton.

“It’s very nice seeing all the young people in the Diocese come together and worship together because I feel in the Catholic Church a lot of young people are leaving,” Mengoni said.

Mengoni, a parishioner of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Peckville, is part of a parish that has seen a lot of growth in recent years.

“We’ve had over 300 families join in just the last year and a-half to two years, we have a lot of kids coming to church. We have 210 kids, grades one through eight, in our faith formation classes now so there is an interest!” Mengoni said.

Mengoni said he recognized some of the people at the #LeaveaMark Mass but was excited to meet new friends.

“I’m running into a few friends here and there but there’s a lot of unfamiliar faces too. With these Masses and retreats, I get to know more and more people throughout the Diocese,” he added.

The Diocese of Scranton’s fourth annual #LeaveaMark Mass was held on Sunday, November 3, 2019. The event brings together young adults, including public and Catholic high school students, college students, women and men religious, priests and youth ministers from throughout the 11 counties of the Diocese.

“It’s a fantastic experience getting to see everyone! You really get a sense of how alive the young Church is in our Diocese and it’s just a great experience to see everyone and is a lot of fun,” Tyler Osipower, 17, a parishioner of Saint Therese Parish in Shavertown said.

*Continued on Page 2*

## Also in this edition...



**Bishop Bambera to make pilgrimage to Rome**

*Page 6*



**Williamsport parish celebrates five years of clothing closet**

*Page 8*



**Gala helps raise scholarship money for Catholic schools**

*Page 13*



# The Catholic Light

(ISSN 0164-9418)

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE  
DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

## 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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# #LeaveaMark19 brings together young adults from all



**Bishop Joseph C. Bambera poses with some of the young adults who attended the #LeaveaMark19 Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on Sunday, November 3, 2019. (Photos/Mike Melisky)**

*Continued from Page 1*

Osipower served as one of the lectors at the Mass. He has enjoyed getting involved in his parish and Diocese.

"I'm very involved with retreats throughout the Diocese but I'm also meeting a lot of new people. I'm seeing a lot of people that I've met before here, a lot of my friends, but am getting a chance to meet a lot of new people as well," Osipower said.

The first #LeaveaMark Mass was initially inspired by Pope Francis' words at World Youth Day 2016 in Krakow, Poland. The Holy Father said, "Dear young people, we didn't come into this world to 'vegetate,' to take it easy, to make our lives a comfortable sofa to fall asleep on. No, we came for another reason: to leave a mark. It is very sad to pass through life without leaving a mark!"

The event has now become a popular tradition in the Diocese and some people

travel quite a distance to attend the #LeaveaMark Mass.

Becky Goonan, Assistant Director of Religious Education & Youth Ministry at Saint Ann Parish in Williamsport, helped lead a group of eight students and chaperones nearly two hours to the Mass.

"It's great for them to see and come and be excited for Church!" Goonan said.

This year's #LeaveaMark Mass was the second Goonan has attended. She participated herself by signing in the choir.

"I like that it's a Mass. Especially being a youth minister, that my students can come to and feel like it's for them!" she added.

Goonan, 31, loves seeing so many young adults involved in their faith.

"The one thing that we always heard is they're the Church of the future, but now they're the young Church, they're the Church now and they're being called to leave a mark now. I think that message is really important for them to hear," Goonan added.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera was the principal celebrant of the #LeaveaMark Mass.

During his welcome, the bishop told the young people, "God is indeed here in our midst and God beckons every one of us to leave a mark for goodness in the world, to embrace the invitation given to us at our baptism, to live as his daughters and his sons and to indeed infect the world with the power, the presence, the love and the mercy of God."

Father Ryan Glenn, Assistant Pastor at Saint John Neumann Parish in South Scranton and Assistant Vocation Director for the Diocese, delivered the homily.

"The good news today is that God will always love us as we are, broken and fractured, disjointed, with our gifts and talents, with our failures, God will always love us," Father Glenn said.

Father Glenn was ordained to the Priesthood in June 2018. Since his



**Father Ryan P. Glenn, Assistant Pastor, Saint John Neumann Parish, Scranton, delivers the homily during the #LeaveaMark19 Mass.**



**David A. Baloga, Diocesan Director of Worship, directs the combined choirs/instrumentalists of Marywood University, University of Scranton, religious sisters and young adults from throughout the Diocese during the #LeaveaMark19 Mass.**



# across the Diocese to celebrate faith and fellowship

ordination, he has been very involved in vocation, youth and young adult ministry. He encouraged the young adults in the crowd to have an intimate relationship with Jesus.

“Pray. Pray in the morning. Pray in the evening. Pray when you’re on the commute to school or work. Pray with the scriptures. Journal if you like. Go to Eucharistic adoration or daily Mass but whatever you do, deepen that relationship with Jesus. See yourself as Jesus sees you,” Father Glenn said.

Father Glenn also encouraged the young adults at the #LeaveaMark Mass to look at the examples of young Saints that have gone before us.

“Today, let us be emboldened to go back to our parishes and to our schools and to our universities. Let us jump right in to minister and serve wherever we are today. Let us challenge our professors and pastors, teachers and youth ministers, to listen to us, to get to know us, to know our needs, our struggles and our hopes,” Father Glenn added.

Father Glenn ended his homily by encouraging the young adults to support

each other and to see goodness inside each other.

“My friends, this is our time, today is our day, today is a time for us to make bold choices and heroic decisions, today is our time to respond in love to this invitation that has been given to us through Jesus,” Father Glenn said.

Following Mass, a reception was held in the Diocesan Pastoral Center.

“Tonight is a great celebration of faith and action that affirms the readiness of young people to leave a mark here in our diocese,” Shannon Kowalski, Diocesan Coordinator for Youth/Young Adult Ministry, said.

“The energy and enthusiasm of all who attended was joy-filled and promising for the future of our Diocese,” Father Don Williams, Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians, said. “We wanted to kickoff National Vocation Awareness Week with this event once again this year as we encourage the young church to live as intentional and missionary disciples in our world today.”

During the reception, young adults



**Bishop Bambera poses for a selfie with two young adults following the #LeaveaMark19 Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.**

could enjoy food and fellowship, play games, get information about various Diocesan programs and events and even take photos with Bishop Bambera in the #LeaveaMark photo area.

On one of the walls in the Diocesan Pastoral Center, students could write notes indicating how they plan to #LeaveaMark going forward.

“Volunteering at soup kitchen,” “continuing to be the best person I can and share the light of Christ with others,” and “live in the likeness of God” were just three of the notes taped to the wall.

Three ways, of many, that students can listen to the Lord, act upon His word and #LeaveaMark for good in our world!



**Following the #LeaveaMark19 Mass, everyone was invited to a reception at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in which all the young adults were able to meet one another, play games, get information on Diocesan programs and take photos in the #LeaveaMark photo area.**

## Diocesan youth attending National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis



**Some of the NCYC pilgrims who are currently in Indianapolis received a blessing from Bishop Bambera during the #LeaveaMark19 Mass.**

A total of 131 people from the Diocese of Scranton, including four priests and one seminarian, have traveled to Indianapolis this weekend, Nov. 21-23, to attend the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC). Diocesan pilgrims will be joined by more than 20,000 Catholic teenagers and chaperones from across the country for this inspiring, three-day conference held at Lucas Oil Stadium. This year’s theme is “Blessed, Broken, Given.”

“The National Catholic Youth Conference is a unique opportunity for young people to strengthen their Catholic faith and identity and to meet other young people striving to live out positive values,” Shannon Kowalski, Diocesan Coordinator for Youth/Young Adult Ministry, said.

During the conference, our Diocesan delegation will have the opportunity to participate in Mass, reconciliation and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The conference will also include keynote presentations, musical performances and an interactive village with exhibits, games, service projects and more.

The NCYC pilgrims ask for your prayers for a fruitful experience!



# Audit determines Diocese of Scranton remains in compliance with Child Protection Charter

The Diocese of Scranton has once again been found in compliance with the U.S. Bishops’ “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.”

The Diocese has passed independent audits of its child protection procedures every year since the policy was adopted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2002.

For the audit, the Diocese submitted data to Stonebridge Business Partners, a Rochester, N.Y. firm that is tasked with conducting compliance audits of the nation’s 195 dioceses.

The audit evaluates each diocese’s efforts to ensure the protection of children, including criminal background checks and educational awareness programs on recognizing and preventing abuse.

Among the information the Diocese of Scranton reported to the auditors: 13,120 students currently enrolled in Catholic schools in the Diocese or in parish religious education programs have received Safe Environment training.

A total of 237 priests who are in active ministry, along with 77 permanent deacons and 20 seminarians and candidates for the Diaconate have also received that training.

More than 420 educators and administrators in Diocesan schools, more than 1,750 employees of the Diocese or its parishes across 11 counties and 3,740 volunteers at schools, parishes and Diocesan facilities have also received valuable information to keep children safe.

Between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019, the audit period, a total of 83 in-person training sessions of the *VIRTUS Protecting God’s Children Program* were held across the Diocese of Scranton.

More than 3,300 individuals also completed training on Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse in Pennsylvania.

The Diocese of Scranton’s Safe Environment Office ensures that Charter standards are continually met.

For more information on the Diocese of Scranton’s Safe Environment Program, visit [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org).

## Retirement Fund for Religious Collection to be held Dec. 7-8 in Diocese of Scranton

The annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection will be held Dec. 7-8 in the Diocese of Scranton. The parish-based appeal is coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO), and proceeds help hundreds of U.S. religious communities to care for aging members. Some 30,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests benefit.

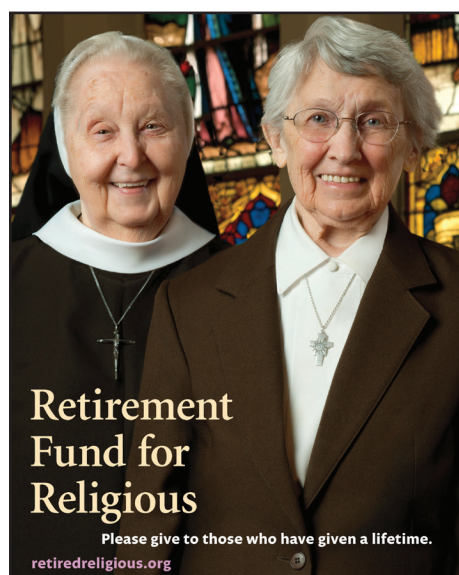
Last year, the Diocese of Scranton donated \$86,516.40 to the collection. In 2019, the Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary received financial support made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious.

The 2018 appeal raised \$27.7 million, and 360 religious congregations across the nation received funding. Distributions are sent to each eligible congregation’s central house. Communities combine this assistance with their own income and savings and apply it toward various retirement expenses, such as medications and nursing care.

“We are humbled and profoundly grateful for the countless Catholics who honor the service and witness of senior religious through their prayers and generosity,” said Presentation Sister Stephanie Still, the NRRO’s executive director.

Catholic bishops of the United States initiated the Retirement Fund for Religious in 1988 to help address the profound lack of retirement savings among U.S. religious communities. Since the collection’s launch, U.S. Catholics have donated \$872 million to the annual appeal.

Despite this generosity, many congregations still struggle to provide for aging members. Most older religious served for low wages that did not include retirement benefits. Today, numerous communities face a critical shortage in retirement savings. Moreover, retired religious now



outnumber wage-earning members, resulting in declining income and a rising cost of care.

Proceeds from the annual collection allow the NRRO to offer assessment tools, educational programming, services and resources that enable communities to evaluate and prepare for long-term retirement needs. The NRRO also coordinates an extensive network of volunteer consultants, including experts in eldercare and financial planning, to help congregations lower costs while enhancing care.

“Donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious enable our office to provide financial assistance for an array of direct needs,” said Sister Still. “They also underwrite education and resources that help religious communities stretch retirement dollars and plan for the future.”

Visit [retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org) to learn more.

# Bishop celebrates Mass for faithful departed on All Souls’ Day



**Bishop Joseph C. Bambera celebrates a Mass for the commemoration of the faithful departed at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on Saturday, November 2, 2019.**

SCRANTON – Bishop Joseph C. Bambera told a personal story as he celebrated Mass for All Souls Day at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Saturday, November 2, 2019.

During his homily, the Bishop spoke of his grandmother who he never got to meet. She passed away at the age of 29, shortly after giving birth, in 1926.

“My grandmother was suffering from tuberculosis and was told by her doctors that unless she considered terminating her pregnancy, she would never survive childbirth. That option was unthinkable for her. She gave birth to my uncle and died a few days later, leaving six young children without a mother,” Bishop Bambera said.

The Bishop told the story to highlight the fact that a Mass has been offered for his grandmother every year since her death 93 years ago.

“What an incredible commitment in faith!” Bishop Bambera said. “Many of you remember your loved ones in just the same way. I share it because it reflects something that is found in the hearts of all people of faith, namely, that there is so much more

to this world and our lives than we can see or touch.”

The Feast of All Souls allows the Church – and its people – to remember all of the holy souls who have been a part of our world and have faithfully departed.

“It is never easy to let go of those whom we love. There is never a right time or reason. And so, because of that reality, it is essential that we see in this day the heart and substance of our faith as Christians – Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again,” Bishop Bambera said.

The Bishop ended his homily with the words of Pope Francis, “All baptized persons here on earth, the souls in Purgatory and all the blessed who are already in Paradise make one great Family. This communion between earth and heaven is realized especially in the prayers that we offer for one another...Let us then go forward on this journey sustained by the help of brothers and sisters who are taking the same path toward heaven; and also by the help of brothers and sisters who are in heaven and are praying to Jesus for us. Go forward on this path with joy!”

## Prayer Requests for Priests

The Daily Prayer Request for Priests schedule for the upcoming weeks follows:

November 21, Passionist Father Sibi Padinjaredath; November 22, Father James Paisley; November 23, Father Francis Pauselli; November 24, Father Jaime Perez Restrepo; November 25, Father Carmen Perry; November 26, Jesuit Thomas Pesci; November 27, Father Thomas Petro; November 28, Father William Petruska; November 29, Father Michael Piccola; November 30, Father William Pickard; December 1, Pope Francis; December 2, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI; December 3, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; December 4, Jesuit Father

Scott Pilarz; December 5, Saint Joseph Oblate Father Jackson Pinhero; December 6, Father Joseph Pisaneschi; December 7, Father John Polednak; December 8, Father Richard Polmounter; December 9, Father John Poplawski; December 10, Monsignor Patrick Pratico; December 11, Passionist Father James Price; December 12, Monsignor Joseph Quinn; December 13, Father Michael Quinlan; December 14, Father Cyril Rable; December 15, Father Michael Rafferty; December 16, Monsignor Joseph Rauscher; December 17, Father Philip Rayappan; December 18, Jesuit Father James Reddington; December 19, Father Gregory Reichlen.



# Monsignor Rauscher Remembered; Served as Prominent Pastor in Wilkes-Barre

WILKES-BARRE — Bishop Joseph C. Bambera served as principal celebrant of a Pontifical Mass of Christian Burial for Monsignor Joseph George Rauscher, pastor emeritus of Saint Nicholas Parish, Wilkes-Barre, on Nov. 21 in Saint Nicholas Church.

A former resident of Villa Saint Joseph, Dunmore, Monsignor Rauscher died on Nov. 15 at Mercy Center in Dallas.

Born in Wilkes-Barre on June 11, 1941, son of the late Frederick Rauscher and Bertha (Kaufmann) Rauscher, Monsignor Rauscher received his early education at Saint Boniface School and graduated from Saint Nicholas High School, Wilkes Barre.

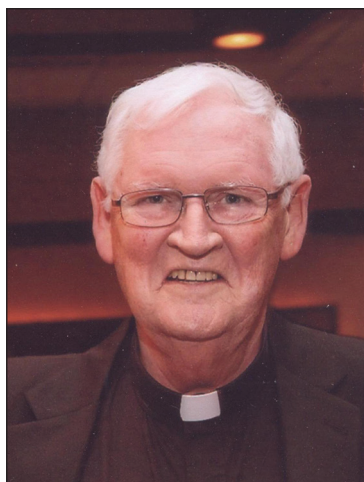
After attending King's College in Wilkes-Barre, he entered Mount Saint Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, Maryland, where he completed his studies for the priesthood and earned a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy. Monsignor was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Scranton on May 27, 1967, by the Most Reverend J. Carroll McCormick, sixth bishop of Scranton.

Following ordination, Monsignor Rauscher received a summer assignment as assistant

pastor *pro tem* at Saint Patrick Parish, Milford, until being appointed in September 1967 to continuing education at Catholic University, Washington, D.C., where he earned a Licentiate of Sacred Theology. Upon his return to the Diocese, he was appointed assistant pastor at Saint Aloysius Parish, Wilkes-Barre, in June 1969 and assistant pastor at Saint Nicholas, Wilkes Barre, in September 1970.

From September to November 1973, Monsignor lived in residence at College Misericordia, Dallas, after which he was appointed to serve as assistant pastor at Saint Cecilia Parish, Exeter. Monsignor would continue his education at Mount Saint Mary's, where he earned a master's degree in Theology in May 1974. He took up residence at Emmanuel Hall at Marywood College, beginning in August 1978.

Monsignor received his first pastorate in February 1984 at Corpus Christi Parish, Montdale, where he served until June of 1988 when he was granted a sabbatical leave to attend The Center for Continuing Formation in Ministry at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.



**Monsignor Joseph G. Rauscher**

In September 1989, Monsignor Rauscher was appointed pastor of Saint Nicholas Parish, Wilkes-Barre, a position he held for 27 years until his retirement and appointment as Pastor Emeritus in July 2016.

Monsignor was appointed a Chaplain to His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, in March 1983 and elevated to the rank of Prelate of Honor in July 1990.

In addition to his parochial duties, Monsignor Rauscher also served as director of campus ministry at Luzerne County Community College; catechist

at Bishop O'Reilly High School, Kingston; chaplain at Saint Joseph's Center; Diocesan Director of the Family Life Bureau; Diocesan Spiritual Director for the Councils of Catholic Men, Women and Youth; Diocesan Spiritual Director of the Cursillo Movement; Dean of Olyphant Deanery; and as a member on the Council of Priests.

In November 2011, Monsignor Rauscher received the Wyoming Valley Interfaith Council's annual "Citation of Distinction" award during a ceremony in which Bishop Bambera gave the invocation.

Monsignor Rauscher was also the 2017 recipient of the "John Cardinal McCloskey Award," presented annually by the National Alumni Association at the Mount Saint Mary's Seminary Alumni Dinner to a Mountaineer priest for outstanding service to the mission of the Church.

Monsignor was one of the founders of the "Living a New Life" support group for the widowed and was instrumental in establishing the Scranton chapter of "Beginning Experience," a weekend program for separated, divorced and widowed individuals,

serving as moderator for several monthly support groups for the separated and divorced in the Diocese. He was also involved with the formation of "Faith Speaking with One Voice," a congregation-centered community organization formed by religious clergy leaders in the Wilkes-Barre region.

A member of the Knights of Columbus, Council 302, Wilkes-Barre, Monsignor Rauscher celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination with a Pontifical Mass celebrated by Bishop Bambera on June 22, 2017.

Surviving are two sisters, Mary Koval and Theresa Gawlas, both of Wilkes-Barre; a sister-in-law, Marilyn Gallagher, Falls Church, Va.; numerous nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

Monsignor was preceded in death by three brothers, John, Frederick and Frank Rauscher; one sister, Bertha Nat; brothers-in-law, Joseph Nat, Robert Gawlas and Thomas Koval; and sisters-in-law, Margaret Rauscher and Virginia Rauscher.

Interment was to be conducted at Saint Mary's Cemetery in Hanover Township.

## Misericordia University dedicates statue of Catherine McAuley

DALLAS TOWNSHIP — More than 125 Sisters of Mercy, alumni, friends and members of the Misericordia University campus community participated in the official dedication and blessing of a statue of Catherine McAuley, the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, on Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2019.

Concerned for the needs of the poor in her country, McAuley used inheritance money to open the First House of Mercy in Dublin, Ireland, in 1827. She then assembled a corps of Catholic social workers to continue her ministry. McAuley established the religious order in 1831 and sent Sisters of Mercy around the world to shelter and educate women and girls of need. They founded Misericordia University in 1924, with the mission of educating the daughters of the miners in the region.

The five-foot, six-inch solid bronze statue weighs 350 pounds and is located on the front lawn of McAuley Hall.

Internationally known artist Sister Marie Henderson, RSM, designed the statue. It was cast at



**Sister Jean Messaros, RSM, Vice President of Mission Integration at Misericordia University, talks during the dedication program for the new bronze statue of Catherine McAuley, the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy. (Photo courtesy of Misericordia University)**

the Pappas Art Foundry, Ypsilanti, Michigan.

The process of creating the statue took about four months and involved creating 30 individual molds that were welded together into a life-size statue of McAuley in a traditional Irish dress of the time.

The idea for bringing a statute to Misericordia University originated with a group of students who attended a Mercy leadership

conference in Ireland, and initiated a fundraising campaign when they returned to campus. A staff leadership development class also supported the project.

A majority of the money raised for the nearly \$40,000 project came from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

A bench and table are expected to be added near the statue in the spring.

## National collection to help break the cycle of poverty to take place Nov. 23-24

WASHINGTON—For nearly 50 years, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) has been the official domestic anti-poverty program of the Catholic bishops in the United States. Raising public awareness about poverty, its causes, and working to break the cycle in the U.S., the annual collection is coordinated nationally by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to be held in parishes the weekend of November 23-24.

More than 38 million people live in poverty in the United States. This collection assists community leaders who work to expand access to affordable housing, health care, and education. The collection also supports the development of

worker-owned businesses, and advocates for changes to structures that keep people in poverty.

In his statement for this year's commemoration of the World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis said, "The situation of the poor obliges us not to keep our distance from the body of the Lord, who suffers in them. Instead, we are called to touch his flesh and to be personally committed in offering a service that is an authentic form of evangelization."

This national collection is the primary source of funding for CCHD's community and economic development grants and education programs aimed at raising awareness of poverty and fostering hope in communities.

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# Bishop Bambara to make pilgrimage to Rome

Bishop Joseph C. Bambara is preparing to make a pilgrimage to Rome next week with his brother bishops from Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The visit “ad limina apostolorum” -- to the threshold of the apostles -- will include a meeting with Pope Francis on Thanksgiving Day.

Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney, V.G., Vicar General of the Diocese of Scranton and Moderator of the Curia, will accompany Bishop Bambara on his trip to the Vatican.

The bishops of every diocese in the United States have prepared detailed reports on the life of the Catholic Church in their dioceses, which have been sent to the Vatican in advance of the “ad limina” visits.

The preparation of the reports and the scheduling of hour-long meetings at various offices of the Roman Curia can give the visit an appearance of being a business meeting.

But, as the “Directory for the ‘Ad Limina’ Visit” makes clear, the bishops’ visits are a pilgrimage with “a very definite purpose: that is, the strengthening of their own responsibility as successors of the Apostles and of their hierarchical communion with the Successor of Peter. The point of reference is a visit to the tombs of Sts. Peter and Paul, pastors and pillars of the Roman church.”

The heart of the bishops’ pilgrimage are Masses at the Rome basilicas of St. Peter, St. Paul Outside the Walls, St. John Lateran and St. Mary Major.

The U.S. bishops’ visits began Nov. 4 with a group from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont.

Bishops from New England shared with Pope Francis some of the joys,

challenges and sufferings of the church in the Northeast and, really, throughout the United States, several of the bishops said.

The bishops spent two hours Nov. 7 sitting in a circle in the papal library conversing with Pope Francis.

Auxiliary Bishop Robert P. Reed of Boston told Catholic News Service later that the conversation included “the role of women in the church” and how to give them “a real seat at the table” when decisions are being made; immigration; priestly formation and the need for men preparing for priesthood in the United States to learn Spanish; the growth of secularism; and the importance of God’s mercy and encouraging Catholics to avail themselves of the sacrament of reconciliation.

The pope allowed the bishops to set the agenda, he said, told them they should all feel free to speak “with no pecking order” and responded to their questions and concerns with reflections based on his own experience as a priest and bishop.

The overriding theme was “vicinanza” or closeness, Bishop Reed said: “You must be close to God in your prayer and your personal life; you must be close to your priests as a father and walk with them; and you must be close to your people.”

The second group of U.S. bishops’ visits, including bishops from New York, began Nov. 11 and concluded Nov. 15.

“To be here at the tomb of the first pope and to be in the presence of his living successor in many ways is the goal or trophy” of the “ad limina” visit, Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York said during a homily in the crypt of St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican Nov. 14.

Especially in a time of “difficulty,” the cardinal said, St. Peter’s life offers encouragement to the bishops because of his unwavering love for Jesus despite not always understanding exactly what Jesus meant and what he was calling his disciples to.

Bishops from New York met with Pope Francis on Nov. 15. Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger says each bishop talked about issues that were close to their hearts.

“What was heartwarming was how you could tell that Pope Francis was listening with his heart, and he expressed his gratitude realizing that we are in difficult situations where there is lots

of pain and expressed great admiration for the work that’s been done,” Bishop Scharfenberger said.

Bishop Scharfenberger said the pope’s pastoral approach, “his fathering, his brothering,” and the way he shows compassion were “just so evident” that even though the discussion touched on painful situations, the pope was able to convey a sense of hope.

The discussion, he said, “was very frank; he expressed that there were things that he didn’t understand, that we all make mistakes, we all have to learn, so don’t be afraid of making a mistake.”

The U.S. bishops’ last ad limina visits were in 2011-12.



## BISHOP BAMBARA’S SCHEDULE

- November 22 - December 1 - Ad Limina Visit**  
Rome
- December 4 - Advent Day of Reflection for Priests**  
Saint Maria Goretti Parish, Laflin, Noon
- December 4 - Commissioning of Lay Ministry Certificate Candidates Mass**  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 7:00 p.m.
- December 5 - Holy Family Academy School Visit**  
Hazleton, 10:00 a.m.
- December 7 - Mass at Saint Andrew Parish**  
Wilkes-Barre, 4:00 p.m.
- December 8 - Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass**  
Saint John Neumann Parish, Scranton, 12:30 p.m.
- December 10 - Notre Dame High School & Elementary School Mass**  
East Stroudsburg, 9:30 a.m.
- December 10 - Monsignor McHugh School Visit**  
Cresco, 11:30 a.m.
- December 12 - Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass**  
Saint Nicholas Parish, Wilkes-Barre, 6:00 p.m.
- December 14 - Mass at SCI Waymart**  
Waymart, 9:00 a.m.
- December 15 - Mass at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish**  
Dupont, 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
- December 18 - Wyoming Area Catholic School Visit**  
Exeter, 10:00 a.m.



**Pope Francis meets with U.S. bishops from the New England States at the Vatican Nov. 7, 2019. The bishops were making their “ad limina” visits to the Vatican to report on the status of their dioceses to the pope and Vatican officials. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)**





# Radio City Sings the Praises of Pocono Parish Choir

Saint Maximilian Kolbe choral group selected to warm up crowd for Christmas Spectacular's December 5 show in New York City

For Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish, a funny thing happened on the way to this year's Radio City Christmas Spectacular starring the Rockettes.

What started out as simply booking a trip for the group from Pocono Pines to see the legendary Christmas show in Manhattan, ended up having the parish choir actually performing on the Radio City stage as the opening act for the holiday performance on December 5.

The iconic Rockefeller Christmas Tree was barely down from last year when Marianne Hajduk began planning the parish trip back in early February. In the midst of the arrangements, the trip coordinator and choir member learned of something called the "Sounds of Christmas Experience," in which guest a cappella choral groups are given the opportunity to perform briefly before the start of each show.

Why not the Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish Choir? The wheels were quickly set in motion to arrange an audition tape.

Under the direction of choir director John Marcinkowski, the choral group invited friends from neighboring choirs to join them and an audition recording was

submitted. The musical entry was quickly chosen as a "winner" and an invitation was issued to the Pocono parish to have their choir open for the 11 a.m. Christmas Spectacular show two weeks from now.

"We made our audition recording on May 1 and sent it out the day same," Marcinkowski said. "We knew within a week that we were accepted."

"Upon learning that we could have up to 50 singers on stage at Radio City, we included some family members of the choir and asked fellow singers from the area to join us as well," said Marcinkowski, who originally shared his musical talents at his native church, the former Saint Stanislaus Parish in Nanticoke. "We grew rather quickly," he said, noting that about 20 singers are actual parish choir members, who now have been joined by another 28 voices.

Along with the Saint Maximilian choristers and their pastor, Father Sean Carpenter, the performance ensemble includes representatives from the HATT (Historical Association of Tobyhanna Township) community chorus, B'nai Harim choir, and the musical group from nearby Saint Elizabeth Parish in Bear Creek.



**Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish choir director John Marcinkowski conducts a recent rehearsal with chorus members at Our Lady of the Lake Church in Pocono Pines. The singers include, pictured first row from left, Marianne Rivera, Jeanne Seebacher, Joan Hild and Gail Rullis. Second row, Rosalie Richardson, Ruth Murphy, Carolyn Devereux and June Schott.**

For the oldest performer, Al Schips, a Korean War veteran and member of B'nai Harim, the appearance at Radio City will serve as a very special birthday celebration as he will turn 89 on the day of the show. At the other end of the age spectrum is 13-year-old vocalist Richie Farrell Jr., a member of the Joyful Noise Choir at Saint Maximilian Kolbe.

"It's been great working on this with the community as a whole," Marcinkowski said of directing the eclectic group of singers.

He continued, "Very few of our members actually grew up in our parish. Many moved here permanently from New Jersey and New York after vacationing in the Pocono area, not to mention a few from nearby Pennsylvania towns."

Marcinkowski has served as the coordinator of music for the past 20 years at the Pocono Pines parish, which was previously known as Our Lady of the Lake before being established as the new Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish ten years ago.

"I was thrilled with the opportunity to experience the performance at Radio City Music Hall," said Carolyn Devereux, a parish choir member. "However, I am even more thrilled to hear the excitement and encouraging words from family and friends. They are so proud of our efforts!"

According to Marcinkowski, the special ensemble has ramped up their rehearsals in anticipation of their "once-in-a-lifetime" performance.

The Saint Maximilian Kolbe conductor revealed that the choir will perform the classic Ukrainian Christmas arrangement "Carol of the Bells" by famed composer Mykola Leontovich and translated into English by Peter Wilhousky. "Some of the original Ukrainian text will be sung by choir member Michael Yasenchock," Marcinkowski said.

The Pocono performers are also adding a special rendition of "Blue Christmas," which they will offer in memory of Frances Yuskaitis, who was looking forward to singing with the group before her untimely death in a tragic car accident in October.

The entire joy-filled experience has been a community effort, with several extending generous helping hands.

Joan Hild has served as a liaison between the choir and parish activities committee and coordinated many aspects in planning the trip, including a sweet fundraiser featuring candy made and donated by Maurice and JoAnn Berger to help defray travel costs. Marcinkowski also mentioned the gracious gesture by Robert McAndrews of Springfield, who is sponsoring three choir members who otherwise would not be able to participate.

"It has been a wonderful experience," said Hajduk. "Upon first hearing of the invitation to have our church choir perform at Radio City, I was overwhelmed and couldn't believe my ears."

Come bright and early on December 5, several buses will depart Pocono Pines carrying nearly 200 parishioners, supporters, and family and friends of the choir who will be among the 6,000 patrons packing the fabled New York musical hall for two very special Christmas shows.



**Planning the upcoming performance at Radio City Music Hall in New York City are, from left, Joan Hild, choir-activities committee liaison; John Marcinkowski, choir director; and Marianne Hajduk, trip coordinator.**



# Children's clothing closet marks five year anniversary

## Diocesan Annual Appeal helps parish with social justice efforts

WILLIAMSPORT – Brightly colored shirts and pants for children sit neatly folded atop tables and hang on racks inside two rooms at the Castellano Center for Community Outreach on Park Avenue. The assortment rivals what you might see at your local department store.

For the last five years, parishioners of Saint Joseph the Worker Parish have been sponsoring the Little Ones Clothing Closet, a free clothing boutique, for families in need.

Every Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., the facility opens its doors to members of the community and invites parents to browse through jackets, pants, shirts and other clothing items for children newborn through size six.

“The clothing closet specifically is under the work, effort, energy and volunteers from Saint Joseph the Worker Parish,” Jim Foran, Director of Religious Education, said.

The Little Ones Clothing Closet started in 2014 after founder/manager Betty Cohick visited a parish in Pittston with her pastor and other parishioners. They talked about whether a free clothing closet could be successful in Williamsport.

“The Holy Spirit shoved my hand up in the air and I said, Father, I’ll explore the idea!” Betty Cohick said.

About a month later, Cohick had rounded up volunteers and was well on the way to making it successful.

“We didn’t have any money. We didn’t have any clothing,” Cohick remembered. “We started from nothing and we got donations. The volunteers themselves started the first donations. Now, we get donations from the churches, our church, the Lutheran church and the Methodist church!”

Without even advertising, the Little Ones Clothing Closet has found itself to be very busy.

“We are thriving. We are as busy as ever!” Cohick added. “It’s so heart-warming. I couldn’t do it without my volunteers. The volunteers I have are so faithful.”

The Castellano Center for Community Outreach is located in the former Mater Dolorosa Church which has been transformed to



**Volunteers with the Little Ones Clothing Closet help to sort donations before the facility opens its doors on a recent Tuesday morning.**

meet the needs of people in the Williamsport community.

“It’s fortuitous that we have this spot and that individuals can use it for one-stop-shopping to meet their various needs here,” Foran said.

Saint Joseph the Worker Parish has received a social justice grant from the Diocese of Scranton to help operate the Little Ones Clothing Closet and other projects. Social justice grants are open to all parishes to provide monetary assistance for important community projects.

“The social justice grants from the Diocese, from the Annual Appeal, certainly help in various ways to help us make our social justice ministries happen!” Foran said.

In addition to the Little Ones Clothing Closet, several other social justice ministries take place at/near the Castellano Center.

Founded in 1988 by the United Churches of Lycoming County, the Shepherd of the Streets ministry provides spiritual and material help to those on the streets by supplying personal hygiene kits, medical treatment resources and other assistance. The United Churches of Lycoming County also has a food pantry at the site which supports more than 500 families each month.

Another mission located next door, Family Promise, helps homeless and low-income families achieve independence through a community-based response.

# “It was a tremendous gesture!”

## International priest supports Appeal



**Father Joseph J. Evanko, pastor, Saint Jude Parish and Saint Mary's, Dorrance, poses with Father Philbert Takyi-Nketiah.**

MOUNTAIN TOP – Since arriving in the United States in mid-July, Father Philbert Takyi-Nketiah has found himself being warmly embraced by the people of northeastern Pennsylvania.

“If I have to say anything about the U.S. and its people, they are very welcoming,” Father Philbert said.

Ordained a priest on July 12, 2008 in Africa, Father Philbert Takyi-Nketiah served the Diocese of Sunyani, Ghana, before his Bishop encouraged him to come assist the Diocese of Scranton. Father Philbert is currently serving as Assistant Pastor at Saint Jude Parish in Mountain Top and Saint Mary’s in Dorrance under the direction of Father Joseph J. Evanko, pastor.

“He always smiles,” Father

Evanko said. “It just amazes me that he was able to come in and smile and be open to the people as he has been!”

After hearing about the work of the 2019 Diocesan Annual Appeal, Father Philbert knew he wanted to get involved, helping those in need in northeastern Pennsylvania.

“We preach about being generous and if we preach about it, you must show an example of what you preach about!” Father Philbert said.

Initially surprising some people in his midst, Father Philbert signed over his most recent monthly stipend check as a donation to the Diocesan Annual Appeal.

*Continued on Page 9*

## Regional chairs assist Diocesan Annual Appeal in Lycoming and Tioga Counties



**Nick and Carol Catino, center, and Father Brian Van Fossen, left, accept Bishop Joseph Bambera’s invitation to serve as regional chairs for the 2019 Annual Appeal on behalf of Lycoming and Tioga counties.**

Serving the Annual Appeal on behalf of Lycoming and Tioga counties are Carol and Nick Catino, Montoursville, lay regional chairs, and Father Brian Van Fossen, pastor of Saint Joseph the Worker, Williamsport, clergy chair.

The Catinos are members of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Montoursville, where they serve as Eucharistic ministers and assist with special events and fundraisers. Mr. Catino is also chair of the Finance committee.

The couple are the parents of four children: John, deceased, Nicole Catino Selleck, Justin and Nicolas II, all of Montoursville, and six grandchildren.

“We’ve supported the Annual Appeal since it began,” Mr. Catino said. “We know how important it is to support this cause. Carol and I have been blessed to care for a son, John, who passed away at age 20 of muscular dystrophy. We know the daily challenges faced by people with disabilities. Our goal is to see that their lives are made easier and feel that the Annual Appeal provides much support through Catholic Social Services.”

The Catinos also feel strongly about the Appeal because it “provides our clergy with a retirement that they so deserve after dedicating their lives in service to God’s people, and educates the faithful who will serve our parishes as future clergy and lay leaders,” Mr. Catino added.

“The Appeal directly affects so many people as well as benefitting Catholic education for children in our schools and parishes,” Mrs. Catino said. “We hope anyone who has not yet given to the Appeal would do so now. Any amount is welcome and appreciated.”

Echoing the Catinos’ support for the Appeal, Father Van Fossen said: “I advocate for the Appeal especially because it provides care for our older priests along with educating seminarians. Also, through an Appeal Social Justice grant for our Saint Vincent de Paul parish ministry, we’re able to reach out to the poor and needy in our own community.

“The Appeal also supports our Catholic School system and the leadership development taking place ‘behind the scenes’ in our parishes and schools,” he explains. “I have been in education all my life, as student, administrator or educator. A strong education system can lead students to self-discovery, along with leading our communities in living the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”



# Vigil Project to bring Advent Concert to Muncy

MUNCY – During the month of December many people are focused on the hustle of the holiday season, but the Church of the Resurrection is giving people a special chance to reflect on the meaning of the Advent season this year.

The Church of the Resurrection is welcoming back The Vigil Project on Sunday, December 8, 2019.

The Vigil Project is a community of artists that collaborate to make music for an authentic encounter with God and sincere prayer.

“We all come from different backgrounds,” co-director, vocalist and songwriter Andrea Thomas said. “We make music for the Catholic journey.”

This will be the second time the Vigil Project stops in Lycoming County. The group first played a concert this past Lenten season and it was highly regarded.

“We had them here during Lent and they led us in music, reflecting on a Lenten theme, on the Stations of the Cross, mixed in with talks and also reflections for prayer,” Jesse Martin, pastoral associate with Church of the



**The Vigil Project is returning to the Church of the Resurrection in Muncy on Dec. 8, after making a previous stop for a Lenten concert.**

Resurrection said. “They are the best at what they do.”

The Vigil Project has tour dates all across the United States during the Advent season. The stop in Muncy follows visits to Pittsburgh and Sewickley, PA. One of the group’s members, John Finch, was also recently in Italy.

“The project began, now approaching four years ago, when we thought we were just going to be Catholic musician friends collaborating on a one-time project and the fruit that came from that project was so above-and-beyond

what we expected!” Thomas said.

After the Vigil Project’s first series, the group began receiving requests from all over the country and that is what led to their first tour and multiple albums.

Everyone is invited to attend the Vigil Project’s Advent Tour stop in Muncy.

“You can expect to come and hear heavy Classical influence. We travel with String Player and we also do great contemporary instruments so we bring guitars and some percussion. I’m a classically trained vocalist but I

studied contemporary music so you’ll hear both of those in my vocals,” Thomas said.

With Advent being a season of preparing, hoping, longing and waiting, members of the Vigil Project hope their concert will give people the chance to prepare their hearts for the Savior.

“I speak for our entire team that we’re so excited to be coming back and there’s something really exciting and special about building on an experience that you’ve had with a community,” Thomas added.

The concert in Muncy is free and open to all ages. A free-will offering will be taken during the event.

“We’re inviting anyone. It starts at 4:00 p.m. Doors will open at 3:30 pm. It’s a Sunday so we’re trying to have it work for families to attend,” Martin said.

Martin expects the concert to last roughly two hours and says the Church will have food and hot chocolate available.

“This is how we’re enriching the lives of those around us,” Martin said. “We invite everyone to be a part of this unique experience. It is just a beautiful, prayerful mission concert experience. It’s not just a youth event. It is for

everyone!”

During the Vigil Project’s Lenten concert in Muncy, Martin says hundreds of people attended, including Bucknell University students and people who saw the event on social media and realized what they were missing.

“There were people who saw the live stream on Facebook and all of a sudden realized it was a good thing and they live in town and rushed in to get a seat!” Martin added.

Thomas encourages everyone in the Diocese of Scranton to attend the concert.

“All of our music, if you want to get a preview or a taste of what we bring to the table, all of our stuff is on our website ([www.vigilproject.com](http://www.vigilproject.com)) for free,” Thomas said. “We would love to have everyone come and pray with us, not to come to a concert to observe, but enter in and pray with us!”

Following the Vigil Project concert, Martin says the parish will invite young adults to a county-wide youth event with another Catholic non-profit for a discussion on human dignity and living a life of virtue at Orlando’s restaurant down the street at 6:30 p.m.

## Priest donates stipend check to Appeal

*Continued from Page 8*

“I noticed that when he got it he went back into the Business Managers Office and I thought maybe we made a mistake with the numbers so I walked in and the Business Manager said everything is fine, he (Father Philbert) signed it over and gave it over to the Diocesan Annual Appeal because he wanted it to be his gift!” Father Evanko said.

Father Philbert says his reasoning is simple.

“If I have something to eat, somewhere to put my head, something to wear, then I can also give something small to those who are less privileged. I decided to join, be part of the Appeal!” Father Philbert said. “It will help the Bishop fulfill the mission of the Church.”

As news of Father Philbert’s donation spread, many felt it was a great example and witness.

“It was a tremendous gesture and knowing who Father Philbert is, it did not surprise me the more I

thought about it, from his kindness and generosity!” Father Evanko said. “Father Philbert talked about how people have been very generous to him on the mountain with things he has needed and because of that generosity, he wanted to pay it forward and give to the Diocesan Appeal because that enabled him to do that because he didn’t have to spend money on some of the other things that he may have needed!”

As he discussed his time in northeastern Pennsylvania, Father Philbert pointed to the mission statement of his parish hanging on a wall – which he says his parishioners have achieved – simply by the way they’ve treated him since arriving.

“One of the missions is to cultivate a welcoming faith community and that is what they live up to,” Father Philbert said. “Everybody is ready to teach you something, ready to correct you, ready to share anything with you.”

## Our Lady of Guadalupe

The Virgin Mary appeared to an Indian peasant – Saint Juan Diego – in December 1531 in Tepeyac, near present-day Mexico City. The appearance is said to have resulted in millions of conversions to Catholicism. Our Lady of Guadalupe is honored as Patroness of the Americas and her Feast Day is December 12. The schedule of celebrations in the Diocese of Scranton is below.

### Luzerne County

**Annunciation Parish at Saint Gabriel’s Church**  
122 South Wyoming Street  
Hazleton, PA  
(570) 454-0212

**Sunday, December 8**  
Noon – Mass

**Thursday, December 12**  
5 a.m. – “Mañanitas” and Mass

**Saint Nicholas Church**  
226 South Washington Street  
Wilkes-Barre, PA  
(570) 823-7736

**Wednesday, December 11**  
6-9 p.m. – “Velación” Vigil,

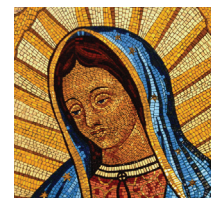
Evening Prayer, traditional Mexican dances, mariachi band

**Thursday, December 12**  
5 a.m. – “Mañanitas” & breakfast  
4:30 p.m. – Procession, 91 Parish St.  
6 p.m. – Mass  
with Bishop Bambera  
7 p.m. – reception  
in school cafeteria

### Monroe County

**Saint Matthew Parish**  
200 Brodhead Avenue  
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301  
(570) 421-2342

**Sunday, December 1**  
1 p.m. – Procession with Torch  
(Rite-Aid)  
2 p.m. – Mass; light refreshments



**Wednesday, December 11**  
7 p.m.-12 a.m. – Vigil,  
Mañanitas” at midnight

**Thursday, December 12**  
7 p.m. – Mass (Español); light  
refreshments to follow

### Lackawanna County

**Saint John Neumann Parish  
at Nativity of Our Lord  
Church**  
633 Orchard Street  
Scranton, PA 18505  
(570) 344-6159

**December 3-11**  
Novena at 7 p.m.

**Sunday, December 8**  
12:30 p.m. Mass  
with Bishop Bambera

**Thursday, December 12**  
Mañanitas at 4:30 a.m.  
with mariachi singers,  
Mass at 6:30 a.m.



# Bishops hear that third-party reporting system may start in February

BALTIMORE (CNS) -- A third-party reporting system to field sexual misconduct allegations against bishops could be in place by the end of February, an official of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops told the bishops during their fall general assembly in Baltimore.

The company awarded the contract for the system is working quickly to implement it so that it is in place well before the May 31, 2020, deadline set by Pope Francis, said Anthony Picarello, USCCB associate general secretary, in a Nov. 13 presentation to the bishops on the final day of their three-day meeting.

The precise date a toll-free hotline will be activated and links on diocesan and eparchial websites and the USCCB website will go live is going to depend on how quickly each diocese or eparchy can implement the program, Picarello said.

The USCCB official explained that the exact date the system will be ready will be communicated with each province, diocese and eparchy.

Bishop R. Daniel Conlon of Joliet, Illinois, asked how the system will filter complaints against clergy who, for example, may not exactly follow something



**Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, listens to a speaker at the fall general assembly of the USCCB in Baltimore Nov. 12, 2019. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)**

as simple as genuflecting after the consecration of the bread and wine at Mass.

Picarello responded that complaints will be filtered so that only those concerns raised in Pope Francis' "motu proprio" "Vos Estis Lux Mundi" ("You are the light of the world") will be addressed through the new mechanism.

"The idea is we want to make sure this system is reserved for this specific, this high priority purpose," Picarello told the bishops.

Issued in May, the pope's document specifically addresses allegations of sexual misconduct and other accusations of actions or omissions intended to interfere

with or avoid civil or church investigations of such misconduct by clergy.

Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, outgoing USCCB president, called on the metropolitan bishops -- through whom reports from the reporting system will funnel -- "to do our work very well. ... So we can move ahead and have this ready sooner rather than later."

"Our people are looking forward to having this and we will have to work hard to do it," he told the assembly.

Picarello said the USCCB awarded a two-year contract to Denver-based Convercent to

implement the reporting system.

The bishops approved the establishment of the reporting system in June. Under it, people would be allowed to make reports of "certain complaints" through a toll-free telephone number as well as online.

Picarello reiterated the system would fall in line with the requirements of Pope Francis' "motu proprio," issued in May.

The "motu proprio" also requires dioceses and eparchies worldwide to establish "one or more public, stable and easily accessible systems for submission of reports."

The USCCB plan calls

for all reports to be funneled through a central receiving hub, which would then be responsible for sending allegations to the appropriate metropolitan, or archbishop, responsible for each diocese in a province and to the papal nunciature in Washington. The U.S. has 32 metropolitans.

The metropolitan will be responsible for reporting any allegation to local law enforcement authorities as the first step toward investigating a claim.

The reporting system will be subject to review to determine its effectiveness in three years, as called for under "Vos Estis Lux Mundi."



**Bishops listen to a speaker during the fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore Nov. 12, 2019. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)**

## Immigration reform among priorities for new USCCB president

BALTIMORE (CNS) -- It will come as no surprise to anyone who has followed Los Angeles Archbishop Jose H. Gomez that immigration reform is at the top of his priority list as the newly elected president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"That's something I've been working on for almost 25 to 30 years," Archbishop Gomez told Catholic News Service during the U.S. bishops' fall general assembly Nov. 11-13 in Baltimore.

On Nov. 12, the body of bishops elected him to lead them for a three-year term, and he is the first Latino to hold the USCCB presidency. Archbishop Gomez has served as the conference's vice president since 2016. As president, he succeeds Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston. His term began at the end of assembly.

For the 67-year-old shepherd of the largest archdiocese in the U.S., Catholic teaching drives his advocacy for migrant rights, based on biblical principles of welcoming the stranger and upholding the dignity of immigrants and refugees as children of God.



**Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles acknowledges the applause after being named the new president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops during the fall general assembly in Baltimore. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)**

In fact, the U.S. bishops have listed immigration reform and migration rights as a top priority for many years. The bishops have sparred with the Trump administration over its policies for asylum-seekers at the border.

Pope Francis also has made migrant rights a top priority during his papacy.

## Bishops discuss plague of gun violence

BALTIMORE (CNS) -- Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida, said Catholic clergy and lay leaders can play a role in bringing together people along the rural-urban divide to build understanding of the need for sensible policies that can end the scourge of gun violence.

His call came during a 20-minute presentation Nov. 11, the first day of the fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Bishop Dewane, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, outlined the USCCB's long-held stance of the need for "common sense" legislation that governs the availability of guns. But he also said it was time for people to come together so that there is greater understanding of how gun violence affects urban communities in particular.

He pointed to the need to address gun violence, which has ravaged many urban centers, while acknowledging the legitimate concerns among responsible gun owners of losing access to firearms for hunting or, in some cases, protection.

"Human life is sacred ... and we need to approach this with the full strength of our teaching," he told the assembly.



**Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Fla., speaks during the fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore Nov. 11, 2019. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)**

Bishop Dewane also said the USCCB is not seeking a total limit to handguns, but would welcome broader background checks and some limits on gun ownership.

Bishop Dewane noted that some bipartisan support has emerged for a so-called "red flag" law, which would keep guns out of the hands of potentially dangerous people. He also said that there has been some support for mandatory background checks of new gun purchases.





**Deacon  
Herbert  
Cruikshank**

**Saint Faustina  
Kowalska Parish,  
Nanticoke**

**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?**

My role as a Deacon is to assist my pastor, Father James Nash, wherever I am needed. This includes serving at Masses, preaching, assisting with funeral services, vigils and committals, and spending time in prayer with bereaved family members. I also preside at Baptisms and Eucharistic Adoration, conduct Communion and daily prayer services at the parish as needed, and attend Ecumenical services and Pastoral Council meetings. I am also volunteer at my parish picnic and I assist with visitations at nursing homes.

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

When I preach a homily and afterwards parishioners come to me and say, "I've never heard the Gospel explained that way to me before, now I understand what it means." I try to break down the Gospel in ways and terms so people can relate to it. Also I have a great rapport with the seasoned parishioners of the parish, always being able to take time to listen to them on what they have to say. Sometimes just asking them how they are doing brings a smile to their faces. As a Deacon, you also develop new relationships and friendships with your fellow Deacons and their wives, priests and instructors that will last a lifetime.

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

Sometimes my challenges are just being able to balance time between my parish ministry and duties/assignments, my family and keeping up with ongoing studies and prayer life.

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

Spend time in prayer. Look for the Holy Spirit who will intercede and point you in the direction of where your ministry should be. Discuss the Diaconate program with other Deacons and their wives as well as your parish priest. You may think that five years is too long, but once you enroll in the program and start the process it seems to go by so fast.



## 13th-century encounter points way to greater Christian-Muslim understanding



**Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, introduces speakers at "The Sultan and the Saint: The Spiritual Journey of Transformative Encounter" conference Nov. 7, at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. (CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn)**

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Eight centuries ago, St. Francis of Assisi took a risk when he crossed the battlefield between Crusader and Muslim forces near Damietta, Egypt, desiring to meet Sultan al-Malik al-Kamil and preach his faith in Jesus Christ.

At the time -- 1219 -- Christian forces were in the midst of the Fifth Crusade, which was eventually repelled by the sultan's superior army near the town that was a center of trade and commerce on the Nile River where it flows into the Mediterranean Sea.

The future saint readily put his life on the line so he could witness his faith to the famed Muslim sultan, and in doing so both men came away with a new respect for the faith of the other, Franciscan Father Michael Calabria told a conference on that encounter with "the other" Nov. 7 at The Catholic University of America in Washington.

Early retellings of the meeting describe al-Kamil as willingly listening to St. Francis as he preached and being a gracious host, said Father Calabria, director of the Center for Arab and Islamic Studies at St. Bonaventure University in New York.

The future saint witnessed peacefully and his subsequent writings reveal the meeting had a profound impact on his life, the priest told participants in the event titled "The Sultan and the Saint: The Spiritual Journey of Transformative Encounter."

Other accounts of the meeting written years later by Franciscans and others describe a more "disputant" St. Francis, attempting to convert al-Kamil to Catholicism, he said, even though there is no evidence of such a strong stance by the saint.

While the sultan did not relinquish his Islamic faith, he asked his Italian visitor to pray for him so that he would follow God more closely, Father Calabria said.

In setting the scene for such an unlikely meeting, Lev Weitz, associate professor of history and director of Islamic world studies at The Catholic University of America, described how St. Francis would not have been much of an anomaly to al-Kamil, an educated man who appreciated cultural exchanges.

Undertaking such an encounter, it's unlikely

St. Francis could have predicted his visit "would have been so inspirational to the people of today," said Imam Mohamed Bashar Arafat, president of the Civilizations Exchange and Cooperation Foundation, in Columbia, Maryland.

"To me St. Francis' mission was a sacred mission for every Muslim, every Christian, every human being, religious or nonreligious. It is a story of reaching out to the other for the sake of peace, reconciliation and harmony," Arafat told the conference.

St. Francis' example is an invitation to people today to leave their "comfort zone and accept the challenges" presented in life, to move beyond hatred and violence to achieve peace, he said.

Pope Francis has repeatedly recalled the meeting himself. The dialogue that emerged between a poor Christian and a Muslim leader can serve as an example of the fraternity of humanity, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, papal nuncio to the United States, told participants.

St. Francis went across the war zone in an attempt to encounter the other, he said, and Pope Francis invites the faithful to encounter others unlike them in the same spirit.

"We know the history, but we have a tendency to forget about that," he said.

"Francis came not as an ideologue, but as a missionary with a message of peace," he added. "He did not try to force the sultan to believe, rather his approach was to propose Jesus. The church must recognize that the faith can only be proposed. It can never be imposed."

Similarly, Archbishop Pierre continued, Pope Francis has emulated the saint in stressing the fraternity of the human family throughout his papacy in the documents he has promulgated and the interreligious outreach he has undertaken.

In particular, Pope Francis' meeting with Sheikh Ahmed el-Tayeb, the grand imam of al-Azhar, in the United Arab Emirates in February was noteworthy for the declaration both men signed to promote human fraternity and respect, he said.

"He sees human fraternity as a path for peace and mutual understanding in our world, a true force for good."



# 12 Notre Dame senior organizes funeral service for local veteran who died alone



Students from Notre Dame High School serve as pallbearers at the funeral service for Edwin Hughes, which was held Nov. 19 at Saint Matthew’s Church. (Photo/Dan Gallagher)

EAST STROUDSBURG – No one should die alone.

That is why dozens of Notre Dame High School students traveled to Saint Matthew’s Church on Tuesday, Nov. 19, to celebrate a funeral Mass for Edwin Carl Hughes, 68, of Stroudsburg.

Hughes passed away from pneumonia at Lehigh Valley Hospital-Pocono on October 17, but his body went unclaimed.

Notre Dame senior Heidi Martens wanted to honor Hughes and organized the funeral service for him.

“I felt that nobody should die alone. I feel like, as a Catholic, we have to mourn. The Corporal Works of Mercy is bury the dead respectfully so nobody should have to die alone,” Martens said.

As her senior service project, Martens created the Saint Joseph Arimathea Ministry at Notre Dame High School. The ministry will provide volunteer pallbearers, readers and altar servers along with choir services to small families, indigent people or those who die alone.

Through her work, Martens learned as much as she could about Edwin Hughes.

“Edwin was in the Air Force for about two years and then he resided in Tennessee and was in the National Guard for about seven years and then he came back to live in Stroudsburg. There wasn’t a lot on him. I only had his papers from the Air Force to make the obituary,” Martens said.

Martens got some help from her classmates

at Notre Dame to put together the funeral service.

“My grandfather was in the service, World War II and my father’s great uncle also died in France during World War II and just imagining this man as my uncle in France and honoring him with this service was just a right cause and the right thing to do,” fellow Notre Dame senior Patrick Carney said.

After hearing about Martens’ effort, the Monroe County Honor Guard attended the service to properly honor Hughes for his service. Fellow students served as readers, altar servers and choir members.

Father Jerry W. Shantillo celebrated the funeral Mass and was touched by the students’ compassion.

“They’re getting what our mission is all about,” Father Shantillo said following the Mass. “I think it reinforces our teaching that we believe that every human being is born and they’re created in the likeness and image of God and they have a great dignity because of that.”

Father Shantillo said he was pleased to see the efforts of Martens and her classmates.

“I saw the future of the Church. I see our young people who are really in love with the Church and their faith. Sometimes, maybe, some of their peers aren’t as interested in the faith but what I think I saw was that when they realize that they’re all together in this and they make up the body of Christ and they’re all on fire about their faith, it just gives us a lot of hope for our future,” Father Shantillo added.

# Pontifical Mass of Thanksgiving held at Cathedral



Bishop Joseph C. Bambera welcomes the faithful to the Pontifical Mass of Thanksgiving which was held at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on Nov. 17, 2019.

SCRANTON -- Bishop Joseph C. Bambera held a Pontifical Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday, November 17, 2019 at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

As we welcomed the faithful, Bishop Bambera thanked all those who support the Church in varying ways.

“During this season, we especially give thanks for all who have so generously supported the work and the mission of our church and we pray during this Eucharist for all of their intentions, for your intentions, that the Lord will look kindly upon us as we seek to build His Church,” Bishop Bambera said.

Reflecting on the readings for the 33rd Sunday of the Church year, the bishop asked several questions of those gathered. He asked, “How are we living out the Gospel message? How do we embrace Jesus’ invitation to walk in his footsteps?”

Bishop Bambera preached about how each one of us has a relationship with the Lord. While many of us may have a deep connection with Him, the bishop pointed out that many others struggle and Bishop Bambera says God doesn’t mind that struggle but wants us to understand His love for us.

The bishop ended his homily by asking the crowd if they are willing to trust in the mercy of God.

“Jesus seems to remind us in the scriptures during these latter days of the Church year that the mission of living the Gospel is our mission, in season and out of season, whenever the opportunity to live the Gospel arises,” Bishop Bambera said. “Jesus doesn’t expect the world from us to be his followers, to be authentic disciples. He expects us to love generously, he expects us to forgive graciously and often and he expects us, if we are really building His kingdom, to work for peace!”



## Bishop Bambera visits Holy Rosary School

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, center, and Father John V. Polednak, not pictured, visited students at Holy Rosary School in Duryea on Monday, November 4, 2019.

Students showcased a number of projects that they are working on and showed Bishop Bambera how they are already using BeeBots as part of the new Diocesan STREAM Initiative.

## Notice for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception

In this calendar year of 2019, December 8 — normally the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary — falls on the Second Sunday of Advent. Because the Sundays of Advent rank higher on the liturgical calendar, the observance of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is transferred to Monday, December 9. The obligation of the faithful to attend Mass remains attached to the day itself (December 8) and does not transfer with the liturgical observance. Therefore, there is no obligation to participate at Mass this year on the Solemnity of Immaculate Conception which will be observed on December 9, 2019.

Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney  
Vicar General of the Diocese



SCRANTON – Roughly 200 parents, community and business leaders, school administrators and alumni came together last weekend to celebrate Catholic education and raise money for scholarship opportunities.

After months of planning, the Diocesan Catholic School System held its inaugural ASPIRE Gala at the Diocesan Pastoral Center on Saturday, Nov. 16, 2019.

“It was a huge success,” Jason Morrison, Diocesan Secretary of Catholic Education/Chief Executive Officer said. “We accomplished everything we set out to do, including exceeding our goal of raising \$75,000 for new scholarship opportunities and financial assistance opportunities.”

The event was also an opportunity for all 20 Catholic schools in the Diocese to show off how they are embracing the new Diocesan STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts & Math) initiative.



Community members participate in a live auction of several STREAM experience baskets at the inaugural ASPIRE Gala on Nov. 16, 2019.

Each school had a table set-up in the gym where educators were able to highlight their STREAM projects and goals for the year. Many of the schools also had a wish list of particular items that attendees could help fund.

“We’ve talked about STREAM and we’ve tried to bring

it to life but this gave people the opportunity to experience it first-hand. All 20 schools came together for the first time to showcase and highlight what they’re doing,” Morrison said.

In September, the Diocese of Scranton announced a \$1 million investment in

STREAM. The Diocese plans to incorporate STREAM into the curriculum of all schools by May 2022. STREAM allows teachers and administrators to engage in creative, cross-curricular lessons that are student-centered and focused on critical thinking.

“We gather tonight to recognize the great progress our schools have made and look forward to the future with a new vision of our Catholic schools, one in which I am confident our efforts will fulfill our promise of excellence and allow each child to achieve his/her God-given potential,” Bishop Joseph C. Bambera said as he welcomed all of the guests during a brief program.

Bishop Bambera discussed his recent visits to several schools where he has gotten to experience STREAM lessons first-hand.

“The skills they are learning in our schools will serve them

well in whatever they pursue in the future, and just as important, will serve our Church and society well with faith being incorporated across the curriculum,” Bishop Bambera added.

The event included a silent auction and a text-to-donate opportunity. WNEP-TV anchor Julie Sidoni and Eric Deabill, Diocesan Secretary for Communication, served as emcees and helped to raffle off six STREAM experience baskets. The baskets included a behind-the-scenes trip to Good Morning America and even a private tour of the Gertrude Hawk manufacturing plant for up to 30 students.

After the ASPIRE Gala concluded, Morrison said the feedback he received was tremendously positive.

“It created a buzz and an excitement around Catholic education that we all know is there,” Morrison said. “This made it very palpable!”



Diocesan school administrators from various Catholic schools showcase their STREAM activities and goals for the year in the gymnasium of the Diocesan Pastoral Center during the inaugural ASPIRE Gala on Saturday, Nov. 16, 2019. (Photos/Eric Deabill)



## Holy Cross High School teacher receives grant from Voya Financial



Mr. Douglas Peters, Regional Vice President, Voya Financial Advisors, Inc., far right, visited Holy Cross High School to present Miss Kimberly Mecir, center, with her award and is shown with Mr. Benjamin Tolerico, principal, Holy Cross High School, far left, and Miss Mecir’s second period students.

DUNMORE -- Miss Kimberly Mecir, an educator at Holy Cross High School, is one of only four teachers in Pennsylvania being recognized with a 2019 Voya Financial Unsung Heroes Grant for Innovative Teaching.

Selected from a group of more than 650 applicants, Mecir will receive \$2,000 to bring one of her educational ideas to life.

Mecir’s innovative teaching idea, “Mission to Planet X,” focuses on increasing student engagement and achievement in biology through a story-driven experience that challenges students to use creativity, problem-solving and biology knowledge to uncover signs of life on an “alien plant.” After learning scientific method,

biochemistry, 3D design and coding through a series of lessons and labs, students will be tasked with the mission of designing and 3D printing fins for a rocket that will launch a rover to the planet. It is the hope that this project helps students connect to biology content by framing it in a real-life research area of astrobiology as well as learn future-ready skills of 3D design, coding and critical thinking.

Since 1996, the Voya Unsung Heroes program has awarded more than \$5 million to help the nation’s educators turn innovative teaching ideas into reality. Grants are available to K-12 educators nationwide to honor innovative teaching methods and creative educational projects that

have the ability to positively influence children.

“The program continues to be a catalyst for innovative learning. It provides educators with an opportunity to make an impact in their community, inspire their students and be recognized for their creative teaching ideas,” Heather Lavalley, president of Tax-Exempt Markets for Voya’s Retirement business said. “We’re honored to help Kimberly Mecir go above and beyond to prepare our leaders of tomorrow for their own successful futures.”

In addition to the grant Mecir has already won, she will now compete with other finalists for one of the top three prizes – an additional \$5,000, \$10,000 or \$25,000 from Voya Financial.



Diocese of Scranton  
**CATHOLIC**  
SCHOOL SYSTEM  
FAITH • ACADEMICS • SERVICE

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



Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport



Epiphany School in Sayre



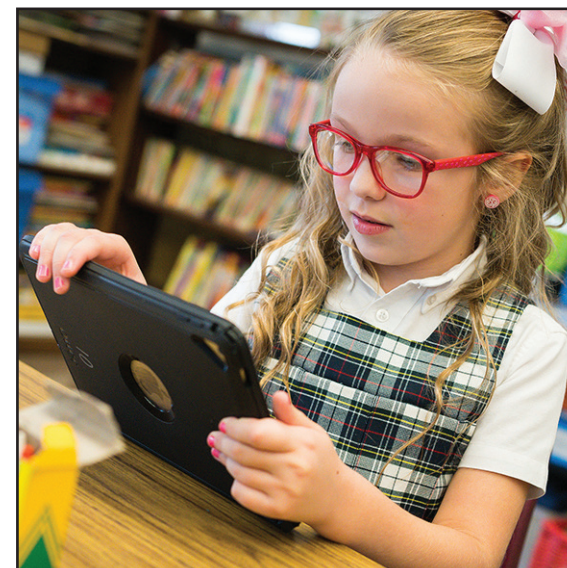
Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton



Holy Rosary School in Duryea



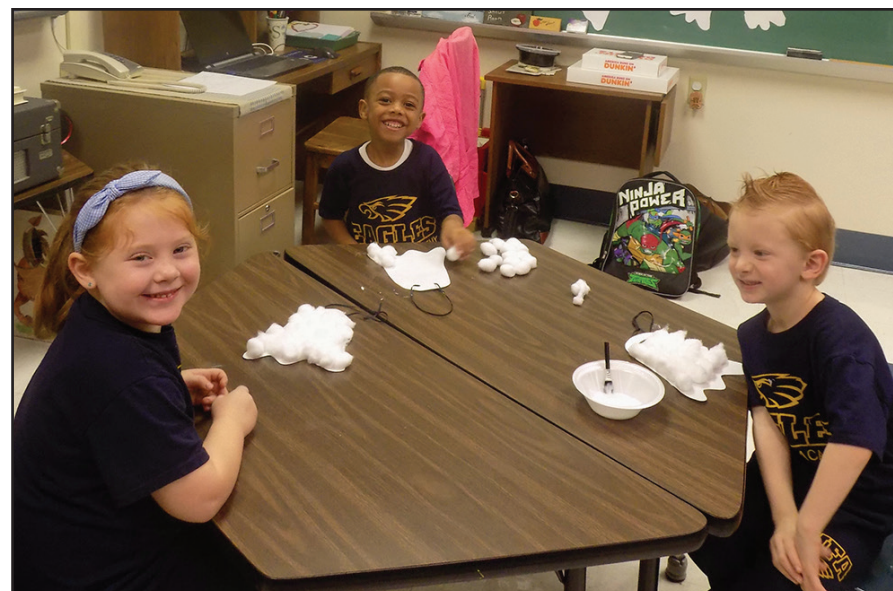
Saint Agnes School in Towanda



Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School in Wilkes-Barre

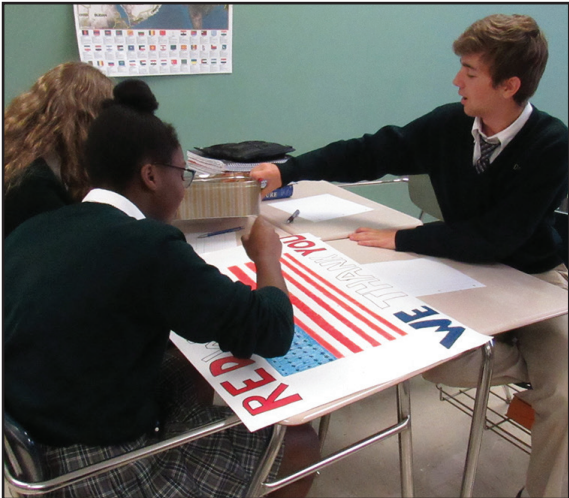


Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg



Holy Family Academy in Hazleton





Sophomore Theology classes at **Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg** create “Thank You” posters for current and former military members just before Veterans Day.



Students at **La Salle Academy in Jessup** collected more than 625 pairs of socks during “Socktober,” which will be donated to the homeless at the Keystone Mission.



Students at **Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston** made “X-Rays” during a STREAM lab experiment. By painting their hand with oil, letting them dry, and hanging them in the sun, students could see their “bones.”



The seventh grade class at **Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School in Williamsport** visited Penn College’s Lumley Aviation Center in Montoursville where they were able to get a close-up glimpse of avionics and the different materials that are used in manufacturing airplane wings.



The Open House at **Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre** welcomed hundreds of students and family members to the school. Call (570) 829-2424 to schedule a “Shadow Day” and discover what it’s like to be ROYAL for a day!



Middle school students from **Saint Mary of Mount Carmel in Dunmore** visited Marywood University to view “Watercolor and Wonder: Shrines” by Mary Billingsley, M.F.A.



**Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green**



Juniors and seniors at **Holy Cross High School in Dunmore** recently had the opportunity to speak with more than 25 Catholic colleges and universities during the PACCAO Catholic College Tour. Special thanks to Maggie Farrell and King’s College for assisting with the hosting duties!



# Catholic Social Services remains committed to serving people in poverty

*Agency helps individuals and families replace despair with hope*

SCRANTON -- The month of November is a very busy time for staff and volunteers with Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton.

This week, a steady stream of parents have been visiting the CSS Office on Fig Street to register for the Christmas Gifts for Kids Program. The Wilkes-Barre office is preparing for its registration program on Nov. 25 and with registration already complete in Hazleton, workers are already busy collecting toys to distribute to the community.

With Thanksgiving now only one week away, the Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen is already preparing to serve hundreds in need and as the temperature continues to drop outside, overnight shelters including Saint Anthony's Haven in Scranton, Mother Teresa Haven in Wilkes-Barre and Divine Providence in Hazleton are already experiencing busy nights with the long winter still ahead.

"The work of Catholic Social Services is an around-the-clock effort," Mary Theresa Malandro, Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Human Services and Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Social Services said. "Rooted in the Gospel, our mission is to serve individuals and families in poverty and hardship and respond to their needs compassionately."

For nearly a century, Catholic Social Services has been a model for how to respond to the community's needs with



compassion, hospitality and respect.

Like many other social service organizations, however, financial resources have become increasingly strained in recent years. The loss of funding at the federal, state and local levels, combine with declining program revenue, has forced Catholic Social Services to re-examine its resources.

"In the spring, at the request of the Catholic Social Services Governing Board, we began an extensive review of revenue and expenses from all programs to make sure they were financially viable to continue and also fit the core mission of our organization," Malandro said.

While the review of that financial information remains ongoing, Malandro

says officials have already made the decision to implement some program changes to help re-position Catholic Social Services to best continue its core functions.

Due to a rising operational deficit and shrinking revenue, Catholic Social Services has made the decision to discontinue Drug and Alcohol Services to the community in Milford and Wilkes-Barre effective December 31, 2019.

"While this was not an easy decision, we feel confident that other providers in the community, to whom we will refer clients, will be able to offer the same level of professional and compassionate services," Malandro said.

Catholic Social Services has also made the decision to not renew contracts in 2020 with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Department of Corrections and the U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Prisons to continue the Community Correction Program in Scranton, which provides residential and pre-release services to inmates preparing to be paroled or discharged into the community.

"We remain committed to working with other community agencies that have interest in providing these services to the community," Malandro added.

Looking towards the future, Catholic Social Services is in the process of hiring a Development Officer to implement new fundraising ideas and develop programs that encourage financial giving for Catholic Social Services in accordance with a strategic plan being developed.

Malandro is confident the future of Catholic Social Services is strong.

"Feeding the hungry and providing clothing and shelter to the poor are the basic functions of Catholic Social Services and that will not change," Malandro said. "For nearly a century, we have been a place for our neighbors in need to turn for assistance and that will continue."

More than 300,000 people are assisted annually by Catholic Social Services.

"There is not a day that goes by that someone does not walk through our doors, call or email us, looking for help," Malandro added. "We are here to assist our community and to give them the tools of self-sufficiency. We replace despair with hope."

## Catholic Social Services to participate in Giving Tuesday

For the first time ever, Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton will participate in Giving Tuesday, the largest charitable giving day of the year.

Giving Tuesday, which will take place on December 3, has become a tradition for many non-profits around the country. It started in 2012 as a response to the over-commercialization of Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

"We are excited to join Giving Tuesday because we know on that day people are inspired to support causes that matter to them," Mary Theresa Malandro, Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Human Services and Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Social Services, said. "We hope that people from across northeastern and north central Pennsylvania will open their hearts to support our mission."

Catholic Social Services is proud to partner this year with AllOne Foundation & Charities and join its leaderboard of worthy causes.

A total of 34 local organizations work to raise donations on Giving Tuesday, and for all of the charities that raise \$1,000, AllOne will

match (up to \$1,000) the donations received. Additional awards will be given to the non-profit organization with the largest number of donations and the largest total amount of donations.

"Catholic Social Services will dedicate all money raised on Giving Tuesday to hunger elimination efforts," Sandra Snyder, Diocese of Scranton grant writer and Giving Tuesday Campaign Coordinator, said. "Donations of any amount will directly help those who depend on Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen or the Catholic Social Services food pantries throughout the region."

The need in northeastern Pennsylvania only continues to increase.

In Carbondale, the food pantry operated by Catholic Social Services started 2019 by helping 203 households in January. By August, that number had increased to 621 households, an increase of more than 200-percent.

"Since 2012, Giving Tuesday has become a familiar movement, and charities have been encouraged to use fun themes and events to bolster their campaigns," Snyder said. "This year, with the hunger cause in mind, we're



doing Taco Giving Tuesday and selling taco t-shirts for the cause. We're also partnering with Purple Pepper Deli in Scranton and encouraging everyone to buy tacos for the cause on Dec. 3. Purple Pepper Deli is donating 100-percent of the proceeds from tacos sold between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to the cause. Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen will also serve tacos on Giving Tuesday."

Everyone is invited to join Catholic Social Services Giving Tuesday effort.

"Thanks to our partnership with AllOne Foundation & Charities this year, donations of any size will be doubled and that just means a bigger impact," Snyder added.

If you would like to support Catholic

Social Services, donations must be made online at <https://allonefoundations.org/all-one-give-day/> between Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 28) and Giving Tuesday (Dec. 3). Links will be provided on the Diocese of Scranton and Catholic Social Services social media accounts during the Giving Tuesday time period. Advance donations via check, made out to AllOne Foundation, can be mailed to Sandra Snyder at the Diocese of Scranton, 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503.

T-shirts can be purchased at <http://shop.getsomespirit.com/csshunger/shop/home>.

Anyone with questions regarding the Giving Tuesday campaign can contact Catholic Social Services at (570) 207-3808.



# "Run Against Hunger" benefits Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen

Annual event, now in its eighth year, has raised more than \$100,000

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

SCRANTON — The temperature was a brisk 19 degrees, but that didn't stop nearly 300 people from approaching the starting line for the eighth annual "Run Against Hunger." The annual 5K and 10K run/walk, which benefits Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen, took place on Nov. 9, raising approximately \$9,000.

"I'd heard nothing but excellent things about this event," Christopher Hughes, 29, of Scranton, said. Hughes was participating in the "Run Against Hunger" for the first time. "I'd always heard it has a great turnout and a way to show support for Saint Francis Kitchen, which means a lot to everyone. I enjoy running and if I can give back to the community as well, that's fantastic."

The "Run Against Hunger" took place at the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail and was hosted by the Scranton Running Company and AllOne Charities. The presenting sponsor was Electric City Dentistry. It was founded eight years ago by Matthew Byrne of The Scranton Running Company, who still serves as event coordinator.

Byrne and his staff were on site this year at 5:00 a.m., four hours prior to the start of the race, making preparations. Even



**Roughly 300 runners participated in the eighth annual "Run Against Hunger" to benefit the Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen in Scranton on November 9. (Photo/Alan Stout)**

though Byrne puts a lot of work into the run each year, he said it's something that he truly enjoys doing. Since it first began, the run has now raised more than \$100,000.

"I have a really good camaraderie with our runners and I know they like to give back to the community in any way that they can," Byrne said. "Sometimes, they just need a vessel to do that, and I'm happy to be part of that, to bring them together."

Byrne said the impetus for starting the "Run Against Hunger" came eight years ago following a conversation he had with Seth Einterz, a Jesuit volunteer who had worked with Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen at that time.

"He came into the store one day looking for people to run with," Byrne said. "We started to become training partners and we'd run together once or twice a week. He mentioned that he'd like to do something for the kitchen and I suggested putting together a run. I not only enjoy running and fitness, but it's nice to tie a local need into it. It's a part of our mission at the Scranton Running Company to give back to the community any way we can. If we can do that and put smiles on peoples' faces at the same time — it's an easy decision. It's important to help those that might not be able to help themselves. The kitchen epitomizes that. It's such a humble environment there. You can't walk

into that building and not feel like you want to be a part of it and give something back."

Rob Williams, Director of Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen, appreciated the support.

"One of the things that strikes me as we stand here in this cold weather, arriving here at 5:00 a.m. and helping Matt and his staff set things up, is the dedication of our supporters," Williams said. "From the people that help coordinate the run, to the people on the committee, to the staff members, to the board members, to the runners themselves ... to come out on such a freezing cold day in support of such a great mission, it's remarkable."

Amelia Leeson, 32, of Dunmore, was one of those runners.

"It's for a good cause," Leeson said, adding that she often sees the homeless while jogging along the river trail. Knowing the proceeds from the "Run Against Hunger" might benefit those people was heartwarming for her. "I love running and anytime I do a 5K or a 10k, I know it's going towards a good cause. This is definitely one of the best."

In addition to monies raised through registration fees and sponsors, the "Run Against Hunger" also supported the Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen by asking participants to bring donations of food for the Saint Francis



**Jacqueline Comerford of Scranton has participated in all eight "Run for Hunger" events.**

Client-Choice Food Pantry and the Saint Francis Free Clothing Store. Runners responded by bringing donations of pasta, cereal, canned goods, sweaters, coats and other winter clothing.

Jacqueline Comerford, 46, of Scranton, has participated in all eight "Run Against Hunger" events. She said she enjoys the sense of community and camaraderie that the event offers and also enjoys the hot soup, courtesy of Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen that is offered to all runners following the race.

"It's a great cause," Comerford said. "Having a place in the community like Saint Francis Kitchen is extremely important, especially in the winter months. The soup afterwards is wonderful. It warms you up. The 'Race Against Hunger' is always a good time."

## More than 150 coats collected during 98.5 KRZ/Entercom Coat Drive!



Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton would like to thank 98.5 KRZ and Entercom for organizing a collection drive of winter coats for children in need. Starting October 7, people throughout the radio station's listening area were invited to bring a new or gently used coat to one of nine Gerrity's locations in northeastern Pennsylvania. The coats were delivered earlier this month to Catholic Social Services and will be distributed to children and families in need throughout the upcoming holiday season!

## Countryside Community Church supports Saint Anthony's Haven



The Countryside Community Church of the Newton section of Clarks Summit recently made donations to Saint Anthony's Haven. Members of the church's Mission Team, through collections made at the church, made a donation of \$1,000. The Mission Team also donated napkins and hygiene items. Shown, from left: Sandy Lacoe, Gerald Hallinan, programs supervisor, Saint Anthony's Haven; Jill Imdorf, Ron Imdorf, Sue Shaffer. Saint Anthony's Haven is a program of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton. For information about the donation needs of St. Anthony's Haven, call (570) 342-1295, ex. 203.





# CTV: CATHOLIC TELEVISION

Diocese of Scranton, 400 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA 18503 (570) 207-2219

Class A, LPTV Broadcast Station: W07BV-CA, Channel 7, Wilkes-Barre/Pittston;  
Adams Cable Service, Carbondale: channel 16 • Comcast Cable TV, Scranton/Dunmore/Dallas: channel 12  
Comcast Cable TV, Williamsport: channel 16 Metrocast Cable TV, Berwick: channel 20  
Service Electric Cable TV, Wilkes-Barre: channel 18 • Service Electric Cablevision, Hazleton: channel 97

## DECEMBER SCHEDULE

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

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

## Lackawanna, Luzerne parishes collaborating for Advent Service

Three regional Catholic parishes in the Diocese of Scranton are continuing their annual tradition of collaboration in presenting two special services during the Advent season.

“He Lifts Up the Lowly,” an Advent service of word and song, will be presented at churches in Lackawanna and Luzerne counties during the Second Week of Advent.

This year marks the tenth year for the collaborative effort among the three parishes in the two neighboring counties.

The first service will be held on the Second Sunday of Advent, Dec. 8, at 6 p.m., hosted by Saints Anthony & Rocco Parish at Saint Anthony of Padua Church, 208 Smith St., Dunmore.

The second program will be presented on Thursday, Dec. 12, at Holy Family Parish Church, 574 Bennett St., Luzerne, beginning at 7 p.m. Both services are open to the public free of charge.

Music for the Advent

programs will feature a combined choir of more than 50 voices from Holy Family Parish, Luzerne (Holy Cross Father Walter Jenkins, pastor); Saints Anthony and Rocco Parish, Dunmore (Father David Cappelloni, pastor); and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Dunmore (Father John Doris, pastor), as well as several soloists and an instrumental ensemble.

The Directors of Music at the participating parishes are Linda Houck, Joseph Moffitt and Geri Seitzinger, respectively.

“He Lifts Up the Lowly” offers an opportunity to embrace the season of Advent and its spirit of preparation for Christmas through Scripture readings and musical selections.

For more information about the upcoming events, contact the parish office at Holy Family, Luzerne (570) 287-6600, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Dunmore (570) 346-7429, or Saints Anthony and Rocco, Dunmore (570) 344-1209.

## West Scranton Parish Advent Devotion Set

The Parish of Saint Lucy in Scranton’s west side will host “A Journey Through Advent” devotion beginning on Dec. 2, Monday of the first week of Advent.

Each weekday during the holy season, Mass will be celebrated at 12 noon in Saint Lucy Church, and every Wednesday of Advent exposition of the Blessed

Sacrament will be held from 11 a.m. to noon, with Novena prayers offered for the souls in purgatory.

On the second Sunday of Advent, Dec. 8, Saint Lucy’s will host an “Hour of Grace” from noon to 1 p.m.

Father Sam Ferretti, pastor, assisted by Deacon Carmine Mendicino, invites all faithful to participate in the Advent devotion.

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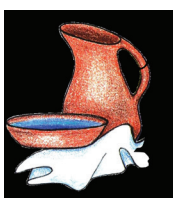
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## Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry Accepting Applications for January 2020

The Office for Parish Life encourages parish leaders to consider **application for the Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry for January 2020.**

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 base, while also learning practical tools for effective parish ministry in their faith communities.

Starting with the New Candidate Orientation Retreat on Saturday, January 25, 2020, the Office for Parish Life anticipates welcoming new candidates into the *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry* program in the new year.

**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](mailto:Kitty-Scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org) for application information, materials, and application submissions.**

## 33rd 'Day of Love' Set for Christ the King Feast

SCRANTON — The 33rd annual celebration of the "Day of Love" will be observed in the Diocese of Scranton on the Solemnity of Christ the King on Sunday, Nov. 24.

It was in 1987 that Secular Franciscan Grace Serio of Scranton conceived the observance, whereby faithful demonstrate their love, devotion and thanksgiving to God.

The devotion has since

become universal, now celebrated annually on the Christ the King feast day worldwide.

The Day of Love will be commemorated with a Holy Hour, starting at 4 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 801 Taylor Ave., in the Hill section of Scranton.

Faithful are welcome to attend the Eucharistic Adoration and Holy Hour, to be followed by

exposition and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

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# Spiritual Offerings Around the Diocese

**Spiritual Support Group:**  
**Scranton Mental Health Ministry**  
— **NOV. 23 & DEC. 14**, 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 approxi-

mately 90 minutes; refreshments provided. Participating Scranton parishes include St. Peter's; Mary, Mother of God; and Immaculate Conception. For more information, contact Deacon Ed Shoener, (570) 344-7231.

**Christ the King Solemnity Eucharistic Adoration** — **NOV. 24**, hosted by Our Lady of Fatima

Parish at St. Mary Church of the Immaculate Conception, 134 South Washington St., Wilkes-Barre; afternoon exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Christ the King Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. All faithful are welcome to visit during adoration hours and spend time in prayer before the Eucharistic Lord.

**Sunday Our Lady of Guadalupe Rosary Devotion** — **NOV. 24**, 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.

**Weekly Novena to St. Anthony of Padua** — **NOV. 26-DEC. 17**, hosted by Our Lady of Hope Parish, 40 Park Ave., Wilkes-Barre; 13-week St. Anthony Novena devotion held on consecutive Tuesday evenings, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the parish church. Novena theme: "St. Peregrine: Patron Saint of Cancer Patients." All faithful are welcome to attend; for more information, call (570) 824-7832.

*Continued on Page 21*

## Advent Taizé Service in Wilkes-Barre

WILKES-BARRE — Saint Nicholas Parish will host an Advent Taizé Prayer service on Sunday, Dec. 1, at 3 p.m. in the upper church of Saint Nicholas, 226 South Washington St., Wilkes-Barre.

Taizé is a meditative style of communal prayer, with sung repetitive refrains to create a gentle rhythm.

Voices united in song offer a way of reflection and meditation for the Advent season, in anticipation and preparation for the celebration of the Birth of Christ.

Music ministry for the prayer service will be provided by Rob Yenkowski, director of music at King's College, Wilkes-Barre, and the King's Cantores Christi Regis performance choir.

During the service, a free-will offering be accepted in support and appreciation of the King's students for sharing their time and prayerful ministry.

For more information, call the Saint Nicholas rectory office at (570) 823-7736.



**Saint Eulalia's Parish**

## Breakfast Buffet

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# Spiritual Offerings Around the Diocese

## Weekly Eucharistic Adoration

— **NOV. 27**, hosted by All Saints Parish in Plymouth; Eucharistic exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament held every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the daily chapel of the parish worship site of Nativity of the BVM Church, 66 Willow St., Plymouth.

## Wednesday Eucharistic Adoration

— **NOV. 27**, hosted by Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Tunkhannock; exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament offered every Wednesday from 3 to 4 p.m. in Nativity BVM Church, 99 East Tioga St., Tunkhannock. All faithful are welcome. For more information, call (570) 881-9916.

## Weekly Divine Mercy Devotion

— **NOV. 27**, 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.

## Catholic Charismatic Advent Prayer Breakfast

— **NOV. 30**, sponsored by Catholic Charismatic prayer groups in the Scranton Diocese; hosted from 9 to 11 a.m. at Queen of the Apostles Parish Hall, 715 Hawthorne St., Avoca (across from St. Mary Church). All are welcome; for reservations,

contact Jim at (570) 267-1614 or jim@echoes.net.

## Healing Mass

— **DEC. 1**, hosted by St. John Parish in East Stroudsburg; celebration begins at 2 p.m. in St. John Church, 5171 Milford Road, East Stroudsburg. Guest celebrant: Father John Campoli, of His Love Ministries, an international ministry of healing and renewal in the Catholic tradition. Light refreshments will follow; all are welcome.

**Advent Evenings of Prayer with the IHM Sisters** — **DEC. 4, 11 & 18**, 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.

**Scranton Mental Health Ministry: Spiritual Support Group for Family & Friends** — **DEC. 5**, hosted by the Cathedral of St. Peter in Scranton; providing a safe, supportive space for parents, family members and friends of individuals who are experiencing mental illness. Group meets at 6 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month in the Bishops Hall at the Cathedral Rectory, 315 Wyoming

Ave. Meetings will be approximately 90 minutes; refreshments provided. Participating Scranton parishes include St. Peter's; Mary, Mother of God; and Immaculate Conception. For more information, contact Deacon Ed Shoener, (570) 344-7231.

**Monthly Meeting of the Lay Fraternity of St. Dominic** — **DEC. 8**, 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.

**Gathering of the Secular Discalced Carmelites** — **DEC. 8**, canonically established community of the Diocese of Scranton; gatherings are usually held on the third Sunday of every month at Holy Annunciation Monastery in Sugarloaf, Luzerne County. All are welcome, especially those who feel called to a deeper consecration in life and wish to experience Carmelite spirituality and community. Call Ann Marie Fierro (570) 454-4493, Nicole Tranguch (570) 751-4729, or Marie Schimmelbusch (570) 822-6561 for more information.

*Continued on Page 23*

## Diocese to Host Advent Reflection Night

An Advent Evening of Reflection will be offered by the Diocese of Scranton on Tuesday, Dec. 3, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave., Scranton.

The theme for the evening is "The People Who Walked in Darkness Have Seen a Great Light: Reflections on Advent 2019," with the reflection program being led by Monsignor Christopher J. Schreck, who recently stepped down as the 16th rector/president of the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio.

Monsignor Schreck's presentation will focus on the pivotal messages from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah that are featured prominently in the liturgy during the Advent season. The program will also lead participants in meditating on the promise of the Gospel, especially with regard to

the world's daily struggle between light and darkness.

A former professor of Sacred Scripture in the School of Theology at the Josephinum, Monsignor Schreck also served as the founding executive director of the pontifical college's Institute for the Formation and Ministry of the Permanent Diaconate. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Savannah, Ga., in 1977.

Since 1978, Monsignor has taught and presented conferences and workshops in pre- and post-ordination formation programs for permanent deacons and continuing education programs for priests in numerous (arch)dioceses, including Scranton.

To register for the Advent Evening of Reflection, e-mail Susan-Ruane@dioceseofscranton.org or call (570) 207-1452. Registration is requested by Nov. 22.

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Mission Message

**Go Forth**

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



***“The poor lead us straight to God...”***

Imagine for a moment where the seemingly powerless, the least connected, the destitute, the ignored, the forgotten lead us to God. What a striking reality. And yet, God raises up the poor as the most powerful in our midst. The poor hold such a special place within the life of God and His Church that Jesus Himself speaks of them as blessed: “Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of heaven” (Luke 6:21).

Thanksgiving is a time of giving. Churches, schools, organizations and communities collect food and clothing, provide warm meals, and visit with the poor during this special time. Our sacrifices and our donations are a blessing to the

poor and we know that they are grateful that we assist them in their hour of need. Even as our charity is a blessing to the poor, we are reminded that the poor are the ones who bless us, even as they cannot give anything of material wealth to us.

Pope Francis offered these insights on the World Day of the Poor this past Sunday as he and others dined with over 1,000 poor and homeless. Befriending the poor “facilitates our access to heaven.” What a stunning statement!

The poor are indeed powerful, because they occupy a special place in the heart of God and in the heart of the Church. The poor, themselves, are the ones who stir our hearts to love and to sacrifice; yet, so often, when we encounter the poor — or better still when they seek us out — we might easily become unsettled or annoyed.

“How beautiful it would be if the poor occupied the same place in our hearts that they have in God’s heart,” Pope Francis said. Poverty exhibits itself in many ways.

Certainly poverty is most clearly seen in the homeless, the underprivileged, the under- and unemployed. There exists other forms of poverty that do not discriminate. Any of us could be poor in spirit, can suffer the poverty of mental illness, addiction, isolation, discrimination — the very realities I pointed out in my last column. I suppose in many ways we are all poor and in need of another’s love and their guiding hand and heart.

Let us not forget that the materially poor ought to hold a special place in our hearts, our consciousness, and hold a place in our daily action. You remember our Lord’s prophetic words in saying “the poor will be with you always” (cf. Mt. 26:11).

I hope that those words inspire us to befriend the poor — those who lead us to heaven — and that we will perhaps add to the words of Jesus as a personal act of love: “The poor will be with you always” and I will always be there for the poor.

***Apostleship of Prayer***

Papal Intention for December 2019

***The Future of the Very Young —***

That every country takes the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.



**Thanksgiving Holiday Money Raffle** — **NOV. 23**, sponsored by SS. Peter & Paul Parish, 1309 West Locust St., West Scranton; drawings held in the church hall following the 4 p.m. Saturday Mass. Event also includes theme basket raffle. Cash raffle tickets cost \$1 each; cash prizes of \$1,000, \$500 & \$100. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres, desserts and beverages will be served. Tickets available before and after Mass.

**Christmas Craft Show** — **NOV. 23**, hosted by St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport; held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the parish's Fleming Center, 720 West Fourth St., Williamsport. Food items and baked goods available for purchase throughout the day.

**Parish Concert: "With Praise & Thanksgiving"** — **NOV. 24**, hosted by St. Paul of the Cross Parish in Scranton; begins at 4 p.m. in the parish worship site of Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary

Church, 1217 Prospect Ave., South Scranton. Concert features musical works for organ and brass, flute and choir, led by parish organist Corey Bartell; other performers include the St. Paul of the Cross Parish Choir. Light refreshments follow in the church hall; free admission.

**Turkey Bingo** — **NOV. 24**, sponsored by the Holy Name Society of St. Leo Parish in Ashley; doors open at 12 noon and games start at 1 p.m. in the St. Leo/Holy Rosary Parish Hall, 33 Manhattan St. Event features 15 turkey games, specials and door prizes; menu items from the kitchen available for purchase include baked ziti, turkey noodle soup, haluski, hot dogs.

**Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner** — **NOV. 28**, hosted by St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 101 St. Vincent Drive, Route 739, Dingman Township; holiday dinner served from 2 to 4 p.m. in the parish hall. Dinner includes

*Continued on Page 25*

## Spiritual Offerings

*Continued from Page 21*

**Meeting of the St. Joseph Secular Franciscan Fraternity** — **DEC. 15**, hosted at St. Joseph's Oblate Seminary, Route 315, Laflin. Liturgy of the Hours recited at 2 p.m. in the seminary chapel. Fraternity meets regularly on the third Sunday of every month; all professed members of the Secular Franciscans and interested men and women are welcome. Anyone

**Meeting of Lay Carmelites** — **DEC. 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.

## Misericordia Holiday Concert December 4

DALLAS — The Community Choir at Misericordia University will present its annual holiday concert on Wednesday, Dec. 4, at 7:30 p.m. in Lemmond Theater in Walsh Hall.

Entitled "A Tradition of Carols," the concert is sponsored by Misericordia's Department of Fine Arts and Center for Adult and Continuing Education.

Under the direction of seasoned conductor Matthew Rupcich, the 35-member vocal ensemble is comprised of community members as well as Misericordia students, faculty, staff and alumni, who have formed a mixed chorus of soprano, alto,

tenor and bass singers.

Cost to attend is \$5 for general admission; \$3 for Misericordia employees/alumni and senior citizens; and free to Misericordia students and military veterans.

Tickets are available by calling the Center for Adult and Continuing Education at (570) 674-6161 or at the Misericordia Box Office the evening of the concert.

For more information about the Misericordia University Community Choir, contact Johnna Evans in the Center for Adult and Continuing Education at (570) 674-3021 or jevans@misericordia.edu.

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## Who makes house calls?

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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.



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— Dec. 7 — Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" on stage in Wellsboro, and dinner at the Penn Wells.

#### • CHRISTKINDL MARKET IN MIFFLINBURG — Dec. 13 — Kohl's

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#### • PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW — Daily Trips Feb. 29 thru March 8

— Daily Trips Feb. 29 thru March 8

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# Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese

Continued from Page 23

turkey with stuffing & gravy, mashed and sweet potatoes, green bean casserole, carrots, macaroni & cheese, cranberries, rolls and assorted desserts. For reservations, contact the parish office at (570) 686-4545 or stvoff@ptd.net.

**Christmas Bazaar — DEC. 7**, hosted by Holy Name of Mary Church, 278 South Main St., Montrose; held from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the church hall. Featuring white elephant table displays, hand-crafted items, baked goods, fresh holiday wreaths, Christmas and religious items/decorations, and children's craft & gift booth; also includes theme basket and merchandise raffle drawings. Breakfast and lunch menu items available, including homemade soups and ethnic foods.

**21st Annual Brunch with Santa — DEC. 7**, sponsored by the Center for Adult and Continuing Education (CACE) at Misericordia University in Dallas; held from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Sandy and Marlene Insalaco Hall on the Misericordia campus. Event includes festive holiday brunch for children and families, with visit from Santa; individual photos and photo packages will be available for purchase. Cost: adults, \$15; children (ages 5 to 12), \$8. Seating is limited and reservations are required. Ticket reservations may be obtained online at: [www.misericordia.edu/santabrunch](http://www.misericordia.edu/santabrunch). For more information, call the Misericordia CACE at (570) 674-1225.

**University of Scranton Performance Music Series: 52nd Annual Noel Night — DEC. 7**, featuring the University of Scranton

Singers & Chamber Ensembles; 8 p.m. in the University's Houlihan-McLean Center on campus, corner of Mulberry St. & Jefferson Ave. Prelude begins at 7 p.m. Open to the public free of charge.

**Eighth Annual "Christmas Cookie Walk" Fundraiser — DEC. 14**, to benefit the youth ministry program at Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, Buttonwood section of Hanover Township; held from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the church hall, 420 Main Road. Cookie containers may be purchased for \$9 each and filled with the Christmas cookies of one's choice; more than 30 varieties of homemade cookies will be available. Pre-assorted containers are also available for \$35 each. Complimentary coffee, tea and cocoa for all patrons. For reservations or more information, call (570) 814-6444.

**Christmas Bazaar — DEC. 14**, sponsored by St. Michael Parish in Canton; held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in St. Michael Church Hall, 107 North Washington St., Canton. Event features various merchandise displays by 24 vendors, including two wineries; lunch menu items, including sandwiches, beverages and various homemade soups and breads; raffle drawings, Chinese auction and visit by Santa from 12 noon to 2 p.m.

**12th Annual Christmas Cookie Sale — DEC. 14**, sponsored by Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish, 624 Madison Ave., Jermyn; begins at 9 a.m. in the parish center. Home-baked holiday treats available in one-pound packages for \$8; two-pound packages for \$15. No pre-orders accepted.

**Advent Choral Event: "Prepare Your Hearts for Christmas" — DEC. 22**, hosted by St. John Parish, 5171 Milford Road, East Stroudsburg; held from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in St. John Church. Advent season celebration incorporates readings, reflection and song performed by the St. John's Choir.

<b>KOZIARS CHRISTMAS VILLAGE &amp; SHADY MAPLE</b> Dec. 4 • Cost \$67 • Includes admission to Koziars & Shady Maple
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## Catholic Choral Society Advent Concert December 8

The Catholic Choral Society will present an Advent Concert on Sunday, December 8, at 3 p.m. in Immaculate Conception Church at Corpus Christi Parish, 605 Luzerne Ave., West Pittston.

The chorus will perform sacred Advent and Christmas music and other holiday selections. Snow date for the performance is Thursday, December 12, at 7 p.m.

Open to the public free of charge, the Advent Concert will also feature the Holy Redeemer Bell Choir, under the direction of Ann Manganiello, who also serves as director for the Catholic Choral Society.

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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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Throughout 2019, the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters, whose motherhouse is in Reading, Northampton County, have been celebrating the 125th anniversary of their founding in America. For years, the Bernardine Franciscans have operated the well-known Villa of Our Lady Retreat House in Mount Pocono, where a local celebration was recently held. Shown are members of the women religious congregation serving at Villa of Our Lady who attended the Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving offered in the Villa's chapel by Father Joseph Horanzy, retired priest of the Diocese of Scranton. Pictured with Father Horanzy are, from left, Bernardine Franciscan Sisters M. Helen Marie, M. Josandra, M. Jean Anthony and M. Anna Mae.

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*Formerly St. Luke's Villa*

80 E Northampton St, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701  
Phone: (570) 826-1031

Announcing two new senior living communities—providing the highest level of care, comfort, and convenience right in your own back yard.

*"It's great—the people are wonderful here!"*

Lucille Parri,  
formerly of Bear Creek, PA



*"We were told that this surely is the best place for care—and it surely was!"*

Norberta Kosin, daughter of  
Norbert Kosin, Mountaintop PA



## MEADE STREET SENIOR COMMUNITY

*Formerly Little Flower Manor & St. Therese Residence*

200 S Meade St, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702  
Phone: (570) 823-6131





Eucharistic Adoration  
Praise & Worship Music  
Reconciliation  
Social

Sunday, December 8, at 6:00 p.m.  
Saint Jude Parish  
420 South Mountain Blvd., Mountain Top

For more information, call 570-780-2996  
or visit [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org)

## CATCH OUR SPIRIT... BECOME AN ACADEMIC ANGEL

Diocese of Scranton  
**CATHOLIC**  
SCHOOL SYSTEM  
FAITH • ACADEMICS • SERVICE



Contributions for the Scholarship Foundation are an investment in a child's future. Your gift will allow families to choose a Catholic Education that challenges the mind while strengthening the spirit.

ALL GIFTS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

Thank you on behalf of our children!

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Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Please use my gift for \_\_\_\_\_  
Indicate School or County

\_\_\_\_ Use my gift where most needed

\_\_\_\_ My gift is (in honor) or (in memory) of \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form with your check payable to:  
**DIocese OF SCRANTON SCHOLARSHIP  
FOUNDATION**  
300 WYOMING AVENUE  
SCRANTON, PA 18503  
570-207-2250  
[WWW.DIOCESEOFSCRANTON.ORG](http://WWW.DIOCESEOFSCRANTON.ORG)

## The Catholic Light

MAILING LABEL - Please be sure to enclose this label with any address changes  
and mail to The Catholic Light, 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503

## Appeal Gifts at Work

*The Office for Parish Life in Your Community*



### In Williamsport - Faith Formation

At St. Joseph the Worker, OPL staff dialogue with catechetical leaders and youth ministers to bring family lifelong faith formation into religious education programs.



### In Brodheadsville - Social Justice

At Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish ill parishioners are visited by a nurse who checks on their well-being while bringing the Eucharist and companionship. The Parish Nursing Outreach Program is supported by an Annual Appeal Social Justice Grant.



### In Scranton - Bishop's Youth Awards

At St. Paul Parish and at three regional locations throughout the Diocese, Bishop Joseph Bambera celebrated Mass and presented lapel pins to 800 students for outstanding commitment to their faith and service to parishes and schools, a tradition begun in 1996.

### Direct Support to Parishes

3% of the money raised in the Annual Appeal is used for social justice grants available to every parish. New this year, 3% of the Appeal will also be offered to parishes through grants for faith formation programs.

*...Funded in full or part by the Diocesan Annual Appeal*

2019 Diocese of Scranton  
**DIOCESAN**  
ANNUAL APPEAL

SERVING *faith*  
IN  
WITH HOPE  
AND GRATITUDE

*Share your blessings. Give to the Appeal.*