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DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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Pope prays for dialogue as tensions mount between U.S., Iran

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis led pilgrims in prayers for peace as tensions between the United States and Iran escalated following the assassination of a top Iranian general.

Several days after Ayatollah Ali Hosseini Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader, warned of "harsh retaliation" for the Jan. 3 U.S. drone attack that killed General Qassem Soleimani, the pope said that "a terrible air of tension is felt in many parts of the world."

"War only brings death and destruction. I call on all parties to keep alive the flame of dialogue and self-control and avoid the shadow of enmity," the pope said after praying the Angelus prayer with pilgrims gathered in Saint Peter's Square Jan. 5.

He then led the pilgrims in a moment of silent prayer so "that the Lord may give us the grace" of peace.

The drone strike, which killed Soleimani and six other people, including an Iraqi militia commander,



Pope Francis carries his crosier as he celebrates Mass marking the feast of the Epiphany in Saint Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Jan. 6, 2020. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

caused a sharp escalation in already tense relations after President Donald Trump pulled out of nuclear deal with Iran last year.

In an interview with CNN, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo defended Trump's decision and said that Soleimani "was actively plotting in the region to take actions, the big

action as he described it, that would have put dozens if not hundreds of American lives at risk. We know it was imminent."

Shortly after the Iranian general's death, the United States deployed an additional 3,000 troops to the Middle East to stave off any retaliatory attacks against forces in the region.

However, the attack was seen by world leaders as an unnecessary provocation that could further destabilize the Middle East.

Speaking to Vatican News Jan. 3, Archbishop Leo Boccardi, apostolic nuncio to Iran, said the assassination "creates apprehension and shows us how difficult it is to build and believe in peace."

"The appeal is to lower tension, to call everyone to negotiation and to believe in dialogue knowing that, has history has always shown us, that war and weapons aren't the solution to the problems afflicting the world today," Archbishop Boccardi said.



Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader, and President Hassan Rouhani pray near the coffins of Iranian Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani and Iraqi militia commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis during their funeral in Tehran, Iran, Jan. 6, 2020. (CNS photo/Khamenei website via Reuters)

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The Catholic Light

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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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Positive energy abound at Project Andrew Dinner

SCRANTON – As the year 2019 came to a close, dozens of young men from across the Diocese of Scranton gathered on Monday, Dec. 30, looking toward the future.

The annual Project Andrew Dinner, sponsored by the Diocesan Vocation Office, gives priests from around the 11 counties of the Diocese the opportunity to invite individuals whom they think might have a priestly vocation – or the qualities needed in a good priest – to pray and have dinner with Bishop Joseph C. Bambera in a relaxed atmosphere.

The evening began in the Cathedral of Saint Peter with Evening Prayer. Bishop Bambera shared his vocation journey with attendees and gave an inspirational Christmas message. He also expressed the crucial need for diocesan priests to serve our local Church of Scranton.

After prayer, attendees had dinner in the Diocesan Pastoral Center. They were able to meet and have informal conversations with priests, deacons and seminarians from throughout the diocese.

In the Eastern Church, Saint Andrew is known as the *Protokletos* (“First Called”) as John the Baptist invited him to follow Jesus. After doing so, Andrew then brought his brother Simon Peter to the Lord. (John 1:38-41). Similarly, it is not enough for priests to be satisfied with their own priestly vocations. Like Andrew, the Lord is asking priests to bring others to Him so that they may discover their vocations as well.

After dinner, presentations were given to the different age demographics about ways to get involved with the Vocation Office in 2020.

For more information, visit vocations.dioceseofscranton.org or call (570) 207-1452.



Please pray for our current seminarians and all those discerning a call to Diocesan Priesthood! Pictured first row, left to right, Marc Phillips, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, David Pirolli. Second row, left to right, Deacon Shawn Simchock, Deacon Kevin Miller, Deacon Jonathan Kuhar, Mark DeCelles, William Asinari, Andrew McCarroll and Michael Boris. Missing from photo, Jan Carlo Perez. (Photos/Mike Melisky)



Students attending the Project Andrew Dinner, sponsored by the Diocesan Vocation Office, take part in Evening Prayer at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.



Seminarian David Pirolli participates in Evening Prayer at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on Monday, Dec. 30, 2019 as part of the Project Andrew Dinner.



Several dozen young men from around the Diocese of Scranton are joined by priests and seminarians for Evening Prayer as part of the Project Andrew Dinner on Monday, Dec. 30, 2019.



Father Gregg Loughney, an assistant vocation director, talks about Quo Vadis Days and other programs for high school students to get involved in 2020 at the Diocesan Pastoral Center.

Celebrating the Christmas season

Christmas is one of the most important days of the Church year, second only to Easter itself. It is the feast of the incarnation, the feast of God becoming flesh. It is a uniquely Christian teaching, the Divine choosing to become one of us. Because of this belief, God is not only Transcendent, but also wholly Immanent, Emmanuel (God-with-us).

The liturgical season of Christmas began with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve but does not conclude until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on Sunday, January 12, 2020. During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts, and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with him...including the fact that he was born to die for us.

During the Christmas season, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera celebrated several Masses at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. Below are excerpts from his homilies. All homilies can be found on the Diocese of Scranton website at www.dioceseofscranton.org.

Vigil Mass of Christmas - Tuesday, December 24

“Out of a passionate love for his creation, God chose to be with us – in our losses and grief, our poverty, our broken relationships, our scandals, our addictions, our misguided choices and in our suffering and death. In all of these experiences and more, God embraced our lives and walks with us, giving us hope, even as his own life, which ended in death, gave way to life and resurrection.

It’s not by accident that the very first words spoken in Saint Luke’s gospel are words of consolation and hope shared with poor shepherds who represent a broken, suffering, searching people. ‘Do not be afraid....A savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord.’ (Luke 2:10, 11).

Christmas will come and go and it may very well seem that everything will continue the same as before. But it doesn’t! For the truth is, in Jesus’ birth into our world and our lives, something miraculous occurred. God has accepted us. God has loved us. And God has filled our depths with his grace. Because God has so loved us then, *every* life has value and worth. And we need to accept that reality.”



Feast of the Holy Family - Sunday, December 29



“Joseph, Mary and Jesus provide us with a powerful example of how best to live our lives, one with another in our family settings. But as we confront the realities of our family experiences, let’s not romanticize the Holy Family but learn from them. For they also remind us, more than we might imagine, of how to find hope in the midst of family challenges and burdens.

Like families of every time and place, they experienced hardship and pain. They faced a difficult and unexpected pregnancy. They were forced from their home because of the tyrant Herod and became refugees in a foreign land. But they did something in their lives that becomes a lesson for all of us. They confronted their fears, disappointments and struggles with a deep faith in God and a selfless, sacrificial love that bound them together as a couple and as a family. It was their relationship with God rooted in their love for each other that enabled them to confront all of the many challenges of life that unfolded around them with hope.

There’s also something else that we ought not overlook in the Holy Family. Mary and Joseph understood that despite the upheaval of their lives, they weren’t given a pass. It was still their responsibility to work to embrace the great commandment of love in their family. So too for us, as Christians, despite the challenges that we face in life, we have the same responsibility to make the virtues which Saint Paul outlines our own...Seek to ‘put on, as God’s chosen ones heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience’ along with forgiveness, gratitude and enduring love. For brothers and sisters, the more we live these virtues – the more that we are able to embrace the spirit of selfless love and service as shown to us by Jesus – the more that loyalty and respect are nurtured within our lives – the more we will create a healthy, grace-filled context for our families.”

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord - Sunday, January 5

“For many, the Magi, Gentiles, like you and me, didn’t belong in Bethlehem. They were different. Many believed only the chosen ones of Israel, the chosen people, should have been recipients of the Messiah’s saving grace and love. But the Magi, outsiders from the East, turned that understanding of God upside down. They were clearly welcomed by Mary and Joseph and they were given a special place among all those who went to Bethlehem to worship the newborn King of the Jews.

They were welcomed primarily, not because of their gifts, for all the symbolism that is found in the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, they were welcomed because they were ‘seekers.’ They were seeking something more in life than the riches of this world. They brought what they had, but for all the riches that their lives represented, they knew they needed more!

We understand that too because for all we can acquire, there is always a longing in every one of our hearts, isn’t there? For some sense of meaning, purpose and peace that we can’t buy with money.”



Pope's 2019: Preaching the Gospel globally, dealing with scandals

VATICAN CITY (CNS)--For Pope Francis, 2019 included his sixth anniversary as pope, his 83rd birthday and his 50th anniversary as a priest, but it also was a year that saw him still confronted with the clerical sexual abuse crisis and with Vatican financial scandals.

He earned more points than ever on his frequent-flyer card, making seven foreign trips in 2019, traveling almost 52,000 miles to visit Panama for World Youth Day, the United Arab Emirates, Morocco, Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Romania, Mozambique, Madagascar, Mauritius, Thailand and Japan.

Continuing to push the idea of a “synodal church,” one in which all the faithful are asked to reflect on specific issues and then the bishops gather to discern practical responses together, Pope Francis hosted a special Synod of Bishops for the Amazon and issued his postsynod document on young people, “Christus Vivit.”

He also declared that the third Sunday of Ordinary Time -- Jan. 26 in 2020 -- would see a global Catholic focus on reading and praying with the Bible with a new celebration of the “Sunday of the Word of God.”

On the first Sunday of Advent, he issued a short apostolic letter on the meaning and value of Nativity scenes as a prompt for prayer and contemplation and a simple but profound means of evangelization.

The creche, he wrote, “teaches us to contemplate Jesus, to experience God’s love for us, to feel and believe that God is with us and that we are with him, his children, brothers and sisters all, thanks to that child who is the Son of God and the son of the Virgin Mary.”

In early November, the “ad limina” visits of the bishops of the United States began; 15 regional groups of bishops are scheduled to make the weeklong visits by the end of February. Bishops in the first five groups reported spending more than two hours in a rather informal session with the pope, telling him about their dioceses and asking for advice.

While continuing to teach about the faith, especially about God’s love and mercy, through his homilies at his intimate morning Masses in the chapel of his residence, at visits to Rome parishes and in his Sunday Angelus addresses, Pope Francis also was forced to deal head on with the ongoing scandal of clerical sexual abuse and attempts by bishops to cover up allegations.

The year began with Pope Francis writing a letter to U.S. bishops who were attending a spiritual retreat he had suggested they hold before trying to work out a specific system for handling allegations against bishops and holding each other accountable.

Writing to the bishops at the Jan. 2-8 retreat, the pope acknowledged that the scandal had created a “crisis of credibility” for the U.S. bishops, led to divisions within their body and, he said, to a temptation to look for administrative solutions to problems that go much deeper.

Without a clear and decisive focus on spiritual conversion and Gospel-inspired ways of responding to victims and exercising ministry, “everything we do risks being tainted by self-referentiality, self-preservation and defensiveness, and thus doomed from the start,” the pope wrote.



Pope Francis reviews papers Feb. 23, 2019, the third day of a meeting on the protection of minors in the church at the Vatican. For Pope Francis, 2019 included his sixth anniversary as pope, his 83rd birthday and his 50th anniversary as a priest, but it also was a year that saw him still confronted with the clerical sexual abuse crisis and with Vatican financial scandals. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)

The retreat took place before Pope Francis’ summit on the abuse crisis, a meeting in February with the heads of every bishops’ conference in the world, the heads of the Eastern Catholic churches and superiors of men’s and women’s religious orders. For four days, they listened to speeches and survivors’ testimonies, held discussions in small groups and celebrated a penitential liturgy and Mass.

At the end of the summit, the pope pledged to continue work on eight priorities: the protection of children; “impeccable seriousness” in dealing with clerical sexual abuse; genuine purification and acknowledgment of past failures; improved training for priests and religious; strengthening and continually reviewing the guidelines of national bishops’ conferences; assisting victims of clerical sexual abuse; working to end online exploitation of children; and working with civil authorities to end sex tourism.

Less than three months after the summit, Pope Francis issued “Vos estis lux mundi” (“You are the light of the world”), a set of revised and clarified norms and procedures for holding bishops and religious superiors accountable in protecting minors as well as in protecting members of religious orders and seminarians from abuse.

The document’s title, from Matthew 5:14, frames the need for true accountability and a serious commitment to ending abuse within the very mission of the Catholic Church. “Our

Lord Jesus Christ calls every believer to be a shining example of virtue, integrity and holiness,” the pope wrote; obviously the opposite occurs when young people and vulnerable adults are abused or when bishops, priests and superiors use their position to harass or abuse seminarians and novices.

Three months after “Vos estis” was released, Pope Francis reached out to priests around the world outraged by what some priests have done and sometimes being attacked publicly because of the crimes of others.

In the letter, published in August in conjunction with the 160th anniversary of the death of St. John Vianney, patron of priests, the pope said the crisis must lead to a time of “ecclesial purification” that “makes us realize that without (God) we are simply dust.”

With the revelations of abuse and cover-up, he said, God “is

rescuing us from hypocrisy, from the spirituality of appearances. He is breathing forth his spirit in order to restore the beauty of his bride, caught in adultery.”

The abuse crisis is not the only scandal Pope Francis has been forced to confront in an ongoing manner since his election in 2013. Vatican financial scandals continue to hit the news, but Pope Francis said the latest scandal shows corrective measures put in place by Pope Benedict XVI and strengthened over the past six years are working.

At the beginning of October, Vatican police conducted a raid on offices in the Secretariat of State and in the Vatican financial oversight office following complaints of financial mismanagement. Five employees were suspended and, as the year ended, an official investigation was ongoing. The case, flagged by the Vatican bank, involves a loan requested by the Secretariat of State to finance a property development in London.

Pope Francis told reporters in the November that the entire incident shows that the controls now in place to flag suspicious financial activity and possible corruption are working.

At the beginning of the year, dealing with another case of questionable financial practices, Pope Francis has placed the Sistine Chapel Choir under the direct supervision of the office of papal liturgical ceremonies and appointed an archbishop as financial officer.

But December heralded happier notes with the publication of the short apostolic letter on Nativity scenes, the pope’s 50th anniversary of priesthood Dec. 13 and his 83rd birthday Dec. 17.



Pope Francis arrives to lead the World Youth Day prayer vigil at Saint John Paul II Field in Panama City Jan. 26, 2019. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)



Pope Francis walks with Romanian Orthodox Patriarch Daniel during a meeting with members of the Orthodox synod at the patriarchal palace in Bucharest, Romania, May 31, 2019. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

March for Life theme borrows page from suffragist centennial



Pro-life supporters rally outside the U.S. Supreme Court during the 46th annual March for Life in Washington Jan. 18, 2019. The theme for the 2020 March for Life is "Life Empowers: Pro-Life is Pro-Woman." (CNS photo/Joshua Roberts, Reuters)

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The March for Life, the annual march in Washington to protest legalized abortion in the United States, is tying itself in 2020 to the women's suffrage movement for the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote.

The theme of the march is "Life Empowers: Pro-Life Is Pro-Woman." Jeanne Mancini, head of the March for Life, remarked how two noted suffragists of their day, Alice Paul and Susan B. Anthony, were themselves staunchly against abortion. A video made to support the upcoming march, to be held Jan. 24, said the women called abortion "the ultimate exploitation of women."

An unnamed woman speaking in the video said 30 million female babies had been aborted since the twin 1973 Supreme Court rulings in *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* that legalized abortion virtually on demand.

Mancini said speakers lined up for the pre-march gathering include Louisiana State Sen. Katrina Jackson, a pro-life Democrat who authored a bill in 2014 to require abortion doctors to have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals. It was ruled unconstitutional in 2017, but that ruling in *June Medical Services v. Gee* was reversed

by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The U.S. Supreme Court said in October it would take up the case, its first abortion-related case since the death of Antonin Scalia and the retirement of Anthony Kennedy.

Also on the speakers' list is U.S. Rep. Christopher Smith, R-New Jersey, long a pro-life advocate, who has sponsored the Born-Alive Survivors Protection Act, which would bar the killing of any baby who survives an abortion. Two such survivors will speak as well, according to Mancini.

The 2020 march will be the 47th such march. "We march regardless," Mancini said during a news briefing in Washington about the march. In 2016, "we had 'Blizzard-geddon,'" she added. An even stronger blizzard in 1982 that crippled the Washington region and its transportation network did not deter those hardy but few marchers who had already made it to the nation's capital.

The March for Life now bills itself as "the world's largest human rights demonstration" and "the world's largest pro-life event." Mancini, during the news briefing, called it "the single unifying pro-life event" bringing together people from all points on the pro-life spectrum.

How to Get to the March for Life

Buses Scheduled for 47th Anniversary Event in Washington, D.C.

Pro-life advocates throughout the Diocese of Scranton will join tens of thousands of their counterparts from across the nation for the 47th annual March for Life on Friday, Jan. 24, in Washington, D.C.

Regional chapters of the Pennsylvanians for Human Life (PHL) will offer round-trip bus transportation. Bus reservations are requested as soon as possible.

In Washington, D.C., participants will come together with other activists for a peaceful march to protest the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, which legalized abortion-on-demand in America.

Considered the world's largest pro-life event, the annual March for Life convenes with the traditional noontime rally on the National Mall, followed at approximately 1 p.m. by the march that proceeds on Constitution Avenue toward the U.S. Capitol, ending outside the Supreme Court of the United States.

"Life Empowers: Pro-Life Is Pro-Woman" is the theme for next month's march, as the 2020 event is tying itself to the women's suffrage movement for the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote.

Following the March, which has been held every January since 1974, participants may visit their local congressional delegations.

The PHL will sponsor buses leaving from communities throughout the Scranton Diocese. Departure times and costs vary. Details on bus schedules and costs throughout the region can be

obtained from the following contacts:

HONESDALE

Contact Angie at Saint John the Evangelist Parish, (570) 253-4561.

SCRANTON

Bus departs Scranton from the Keyser Oak Shopping Center at 6:30 a.m. and returns at approximately 11:30 p.m. Cost: \$35 for adults; \$20 for college students. Younger students may attend free of charge if accompanied by parent/guardian. Reservations may be made by contacting the Scranton PHL Pro-Life Center office, located at 400 Wyoming Ave., at (570) 343-5099.

BRADFORD COUNTY

Contact Rob Howard at (570) 395-3417 or rshoward1@frontiernet.net. Bus departs from Athens at 5 a.m., with pick-up stops in Wysox, Wyalusing and Tunkhannock.

WILLIAMSPORT

Contact Evelyn Rall, (570) 398-0722. Cost is \$20 per person.

WYOMING VALLEY

Contact Chris Calore, (570) 824-5621. Bus departs at 6:15 a.m. (following the 5:50 a.m. Mass) from Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, 116 Hughes St., Swoyersville; approximate return time is 10:30 p.m. Cost: \$65 per person, includes bus transportation and buffet dinner; reservations requested by Jan. 11. Forward check made payable to PHL to Chris Calore, 37 Elder St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702.

Pennsylvania Catholic Conference looks at troubling numbers in latest PA Abortion Report

HARRISBURG — The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference said on Jan. 6 it was alarmed by many of the numbers contained in the latest comprehensive abortion report released by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Pennsylvania's Abortion Control Act requires that the state Department of Health prepare and distribute a report on abortion each year. The report for 2018 was released in late December.

The report showed that there were 30,364 abortions in 2018, an

increase of 353 from the prior year. The encouraging news for pro-life advocates is that the latest total is less than half of the all-time high of 65,777 abortions in 1980.

Of particular concern is that 41% of all the current abortions were chemical abortions (listed as Medical-non-surgical). That is up from 38% the previous year. This is especially alarming since many abortionists have stated plans to increase this type of procedure.

"These numbers show that

abortion remains a serious problem in Pennsylvania, as well as across the entire United States," Eric Failing, Executive Director of the PA Catholic Conference, said. "We're grateful that the number of abortions has decreased significantly in recent decades, but there are still way too many. Even one is too many."

In more numbers from the report... the largest age group having abortions during 2018 was 25-29 year olds. There were 810 abortions committed on minors, those under the age of 18.

Two abortions were performed on girls 12 and under!

Philadelphia was the county with the highest number of abortions at 11,494. That was 40% of the state's total. Statistics show that 39 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties showed a decrease in abortions from the previous year. Every Pennsylvania county had at least one resident who had an abortion in 2018.

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference is based in Harrisburg and is the public affairs arm of Pennsylvania's Catholic bishops.

“Everyone has that giving side to their personality”

Bishop Bambara joins Holy Redeemer students for Day of Service at Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen

WILKES-BARRE – As they peeled potatoes and diced up peppers, two dozen students from Holy Redeemer High School got a lesson that can’t be found in a textbook.

“It’s really humbling because a lot of time we take for granted the food we have and how easy and accessible it is to us,” senior Rebecca Revitt said.

The Holy Redeemer Student Leadership Council volunteered to prepare, serve and clean-up the daily meal at Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre on Saturday, Jan. 4.

“Holy Redeemer always talks about servant leadership so being able to come here and experience it and live out our faith, it is really cool to know we’re making a difference,” senior Marissa Jason said.

The students were joined by Bishop Joseph C. Bambara. After celebrating Mass at the school in September, the Student Leadership Council gifted the bishop a “Day of Service” in his name and the bishop made it a priority to join them for the entire morning.

“He’s such a down to earth guy. He’s really intrigued and interested in our lives,” Revitt said. “It makes us feel like we’re all just one because the bishop is cutting potatoes with us. It’s not a big deal for him.”

“It really demystifies the position of bishop having him here. He’s just a regular man who is serious about his faith,” junior Peter Khoudary said.

Khoudary admitted giving up a Saturday morning to volunteer may not have been an easy decision but he knows his efforts made a difference.

“We have a lot of people that are struggling, especially in Wilkes-Barre, so anything we can do to help is a blessing,” Khoudary said. “Everyone has that giving side to their personality, even teenagers, and

doing stuff like this, the more you do it, the more you realize how nice it is!”

The students certainly took notice that the line of people needing a meal at Saint Vincent de Paul started forming more than an hour before the doors opened.

“You don’t really see this side of the community of Wilkes-Barre when you’re at school!” senior class president Carl Yastremski said.

The “Day of Service” is just one of many things that Holy Redeemer students do to help the kitchen.

“Over Thanksgiving, we do a Thanksgiving food drive and this year we helped bring all the stuff over here, we helped unload it out of the truck and there was a lot of it!” Yastremski said.

While volunteering, the students wore maroon t-shirts that displayed a quote from Pope Francis, “To change the world, we must be good to those who cannot repay us.”

The teens say those words have special meaning to them.

“It really inspires us all to keep going and keep doing more community work,” Revitt said.

“It’s honestly such a rewarding experience, especially coming here to see those who are less fortunate and to brighten their day,” senior Lauren Kozicki said.

Most of the students have volunteered at Saint Vincent de Paul before but they say each experience teaches them something.

“It’s so awesome knowing that we’re able to help the community,” Jason added. “When you see the amount of people in need and the children, it really just opens your eyes to the need in the world.”

“It really, truly is a great feeling to help others. Anyone that has ever helped someone out can attest to how well it makes them feel,” Khoudary said.



Members of the Holy Redeemer Student Leadership Council pose with Bishop Joseph C. Bambara, center, and principal Doreen Dougherty and teacher Michael Booth, far right, during a “Day of Service” at Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre on Saturday, Jan. 4, 2020. (Photo/Eric Deabill)



Bishop Joseph C. Bambara, left, joins Holy Redeemer High School students in peeling potatoes as they prepare a meal at Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre on Saturday, Jan. 4, 2020. (Photo/Eric Deabill)



BISHOP BAMBARA’S SCHEDULE

January 6-11 - Pennsylvania Bishops Retreat

January 13 - Luzerne County Prison Mass
Wilkes-Barre, 4:30 p.m.

January 14 - Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School Visit
Dunmore, 10:00 a.m.

January 15-16 - Christian Churches Together
Chicago

January 18 - Mass at Mary, Mother of God Parish,
Holy Rosary Church, Scranton
4:00 p.m.

January 19 - Feast of Our Lady of Alta Gracia
Annunciation Parish, Hazleton, 12:00 noon

January 22 - Christian Unity Prayer Service
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.

January 23-24 - March for Life
Washington, D.C.

Ecumenical Prayer Service to Celebrate Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



*By Monsignor Vincent
J. Grimalia*

**Diocesan Coordinator
for Ecumenical
and Interfaith Relations**

Members of the Diocese of Scranton, together with members of various Christian congregations and members of the Christian Communities Gathering of Northeastern Pennsylvania, will come together for an Ecumenical Celebration of the Word of God on Wednesday, January 22, at 12:10 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, started in 1908, is celebrated each year throughout the world.

The Decree on Ecumenism of Vatican II begins: “The restoration of unity among all Christians is one of the principal concerns of the Second Vatican Council.”

First published in 1998, the Directory for the Application of Principles and Norms on Ecumenism begins with a declaration of the commitment of the Catholic Church to ecumenism, followed by an account of the steps taken by the Catholic Church to put this commitment into practice. The Directory is addressed to the Pastors of the Catholic Church, but concerns all the faithful who are called to pray and work for the unity of all Christians.

The directory reminds everyone of the importance of unity and collaboration beginning in the parish itself, then with other Catholic parishes, and ecumenical collaboration with other Christian Churches and communities.

One example of yearlong ecumenical activity is the Christian Communities Gathering of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

First established as a luncheon meeting hosted by the Diocese of Scranton in the rectory of the Cathedral of Saint Peter in November 1999, the gathering was organized in response to the late Pope John Paul II’s call to prepare for the coming of the Great Jubilee Year 2000 and, in particular, to focus on deepening ecumenical relationships on the local level. Invitations were sent to the leadership of a number of Christian traditions which reside within the boundaries of the Diocese.

From that first meeting came the commitment on the part of all gathered to develop a new ecumenical body for parts of Central and Northeastern Pennsylvania where our various groups have contact. Over time, this ecumenical body has become known as the Christian Communities Gathering of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Currently, about ten Christian traditions and ecumenical agencies are regularly represented at the quarterly meetings and other activities.

This group continues to provide representatives of various Christian traditions in our area the opportunity to get to know and understand each other better.

The theme for the 2020 observance is: “They Showed Us Unusual Kindness” (cf. Acts 28:2). The theme and text for each year’s observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity are chosen and prepared by representatives of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and representatives of the World

Council of Churches.

Directing attention to the parish community, the Directory states: “The parish, as an ecclesial unity gathered around the Eucharist, should be, and proclaim itself to be the place of authentic ecumenical witness. Thus a great task for the parish is to educate its members in the ecumenical spirit....It calls too for a pastoral program which involves someone charged with promoting and planning ecumenical activity, working in close harmony with the parish priest; this will help in the various forms of collaboration with the corresponding parishes of other Christians.”

Furthermore, the Ecumenical Directory encourages putting into practice the vision of the Second Vatican Council and the final report of the 1985 World Synod of Bishops: “Basing itself on the ecclesiology of communion, the Catholic Church at the time of (Vatican II) fully assumed her ecumenical responsibility. After these twenty years we can affirm that ecumenism has inscribed itself deeply and indelibly in the consciousness of the Church. We bishops ardently desire that the incomplete communion already existing with the non-Catholic Churches and communities might, with the grace of God, come to the point of full communion.

“The communion between Catholics and other Christians, although incomplete, summons everyone to collaborate in the numerous fields and thus makes possible a certain common witness to the salvific love of God for the world, so in need of salvation.”

These words of Cardinal Walter Kasper, President Emeritus of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, succinctly express the thinking of the Second Vatican

Council and the 1985 Synod: “Christian ecumenism is concerned with the unity of the Church in service to the unity and peace of the world.”

In his homily at Vespers for the beginning of the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity on January 18, 2019, Pope Francis said, “The worship befitting that kingdom, the worship demanded by justice, is a celebration that includes everyone, a feast in which gifts received are available to and shared by all. To take the first steps towards the Promised Land that is our unity, we must first of all recognize with humility that the blessings we have received are not ours by right, but have come to us as a gift; they were given to be shared with others.

“Then, we must acknowledge the value of the grace granted to other Christian communities. As a result, we will want to partake of the gifts of others. A Christian people renewed and enriched by this exchange of gifts will be a people capable of journeying firmly and confidently on the path that leads to unity.”

Additionally, the United Nations, since 2010, has encouraged the annual observance of “World Interfaith Harmony Week” from February 1-7. The UN resolution establishing the event during the first week of February “as a way to promote harmony between all people regardless of faith,” further states, “The General Assembly points out that mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue constitute important dimensions of a culture of peace.”

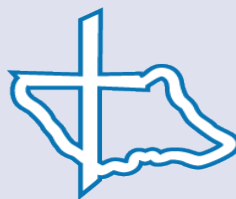
Everyone is welcome to participate in the Ecumenical prayer service for Christian Unity. If you are unable to attend the Cathedral service, please participate in local ecumenical celebrations.



Presenters shown last year at the Ecumenical Celebration of the Word of God marking the 2019 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at the Cathedral of Saint Peter include Monsignor Vincent Grimalia, far left, and Bishop Joseph C. Bambera (sixth from left).

“A Call to Community”

The United Churches of Lycoming County plan outreach event



**Monday, January 20, 2020
6:30 p.m.**

**Castellano Center for Community Outreach
320 Park Avenue, Williamsport**

During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, community service agencies and faith-based institutions are planning to come together for an open house, free to the greater Williamsport community, to provide information on their services to people in need.

The goal of the event, which will be held on Doctor Martin Luther King Jr. Day, is to show as a Christian community we stand together against oppression, bigotry, poverty, hatred and fear and are committed to helping the addicted, abused, forgotten, depressed, lonely and abandoned.

If your organization would like to join this effort or you have any questions, please contact Rev. Brian Van Fossen at Saint Joseph the Worker Parish at (570) 323-9456 or via email at pastor@sjwparish.com by Wednesday, January 15, 2020.

A reflection on history

Parishioner creates pictorial history representing formation of Blessed Sacrament Parish

THROOP – As a television news photographer for decades, Joseph Butash has used pictures to tell countless stories all across northeastern and north central Pennsylvania. For the last two years, the Throop native has also been using his talents to memorialize the Catholic history of his Lackawanna County community.

In November 2019, Butash finished his book, *Faith 1895-2020: A Pictorial History of the Formation of Blessed Sacrament Parish*. He began the process of putting the book together in the spring of 2018.

“I love history,” Butash said. “If you show me a coffee table style book on any subject matter, even one that I’m not particularly interested in, I’ll pick it up. I’m fascinated by it!”

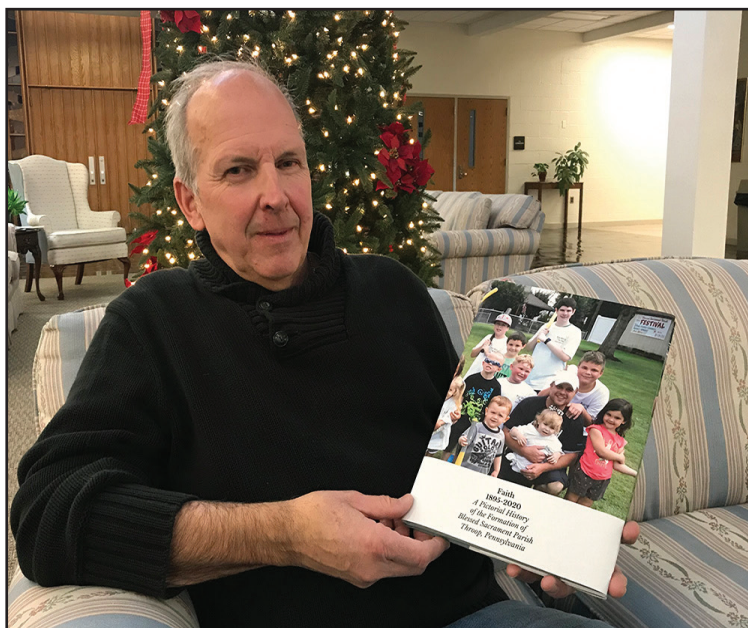
Butash says he was motivated to create the book because April 2020 will mark 125 years of Roman Catholic history in the borough of Throop. The former Saint Mary Hungarian Magyar Parish, located on Dunmore Street, was built for \$742 and completed in 1895.

In addition to Saint Mary Church, Throop has also been home to Saint John the Baptist Slovak Parish, Saint Anthony of Padua Polish Parish and Saint Bridget Parish.

On December 13, 2009, the church communities joined together to create the new Blessed Sacrament Parish.

“Someday we’re all going to be gone and somebody is going to say, tell us about Saint Bridget Parish or Saint Anthony of Padua Parish and you don’t know if people are going to have the knowledge,” Butash said, reflecting on another main reason for creating the book.

Butash enlisted the help of several parishioners from each of the former churches to write a brief history of each building. Each entry includes interesting information. For example, before Saint John the Baptist Slovak Parish opened, the Slovak people in Throop



Joseph Butash, a native of Throop, spent nearly two years creating a pictorial history book celebrating 125 years of Roman Catholic history in the borough of Throop. (Photo/Eric Deabill)

would walk to Olyphant to attend Mass, in addition to meeting in homes to recite the Rosary and the Stations of the Cross.

As you would expect, each parish is represented by dozens of pictures in the book. Butash collected many of the photographs when the churches merged in 2009.

“I was part of the implementation team as we came together,” Butash recalled. “I was part of cleaning out all of the different churches and rectories. I’m a hoarder and a collector and I said we have to save this stuff. I just started saving the different boxes of photos and other people said, ‘I have these pictures do you want them?’”

While determining which photographs best represented all aspects of parish life, Butash also researched companies to print the final book. He settled on Artifact Uprising to print copies of the book for anyone that was interested in pre-ordering it.

The book begins with a reflection by Monsignor Michael J. Delaney, pastor, Blessed Sacrament Parish, which came from a recorded interview with Butash.

“We’re here to continue to plant seeds and to continue to nurture Faith and pass it on and to share it lovingly and as best

we can with our children and our children’s children, so that they can capture it and then make it uniquely their own. And their expression of their Faith in Jesus will be different from ours. The Faith remains the same. The truth of the Gospel remains the same. But their living out of the Faith and their expression of that Faith will be uniquely their own. On our part, our responsibility is to continue to proclaim with hope, with great trust, the Gospel of Joy, the Gospel of Life, the Gospel of God’s Love in Jesus Christ,” Monsignor Delaney said.

The book ends with two photographs of all the parishioners who currently make up Blessed Sacrament Parish. The pictures were taken at the weekend Masses last August.

“This is a good representation of the parish,” Butash said. “There are already some people in those photos who have passed away.”

With the book now complete, Butash has already launched his next project, a documentary about the Catholic history of Throop, which is expected to be complete in April for the 125-year anniversary.

“I’ve probably interviewed at least two people from every parish but there are also young people in it,” Butash said.



The book, *Faith 1895-2020: A Pictorial History of the Formation of Blessed Sacrament Parish*, contains dozens of old photographs including this one of Saint Anthony of Padua Parish, Rebecca Street, from the time frame of 1915-1917.



Our Lady of Grace Statue is unveiled on April 21, 2012, during a dedication of a memorial at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Throop.

Anyone interested in purchasing a copy of *Faith 1895-2020: A Pictorial History of the Formation of Blessed Sacrament Parish*, can call Joseph Butash directly at (570) 489-4515 or the Blessed Sacrament Parish office for more information.

Marking a milestone

Saints Peter and Paul Church in Bradford County celebrates 150 years in its building

TOWANDA – Saints Peter and Paul Church celebrated a milestone anniversary just before the calendar changed to 2020. The parish came together to commemorate the 150th anniversary of its building on Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019.

“What was started as a small seed was handed on and grew through the years,” Rev. Edward Michelini said.

In preparing for the anniversary, Rev. Michelini asked his parishioners to think of all the people who preceded them coming into the building and praying to God together for personal and community needs.

The parish community celebrated a Day of Thanksgiving beginning with a Mass at 11:00 a.m. and a luncheon immediately following. A special Christmas concert began at 2:00 p.m. and a dessert reception rounded out the day in Grotto Hall.

“The people had a great time. They enjoyed the food and also the concert itself!” Rev. Michelini said. “It was a way of us memorializing a history and a presence in the greater Towanda area.”

Prior to the sesquicentennial celebration, Henry G. Farley, president of the Bradford County Historical Society, prepared an article on the history of the parish that was published in *The Daily Review* newspaper.

The article began by describing the difficulty that Father Patrick J. Toner initially had in getting support to create the parish building. Father Toner, a young Irishman, arrived in Towanda in January 1863 and spent 13 years as pastor. At the time of Father Toner’s arrival, his parish territory included all of Bradford County.

According to historical documents, it took several years for Father Toner to try and convince his parishioners to construct a building to replace their outmoded frame church which had been built in 1847 for a much smaller congregation. There was a lot of opposition to the project.

Rev. John P. Gallagher, Ph.D., also wrote about the history of Saints Peter and Paul Church in his book, *A Century of History: The Diocese of Scranton 1868-1968*.

After Father Toner spent years saving enough money to start construction, Rev. Gallagher wrote, “When the



Saints Peter & Paul Church, 106 Third Street, Towanda, celebrated the 150th anniversary of its building with a Day of Thanksgiving on Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019.



Parish youth from Saints Peter & Paul Church recently re-enacted the 1841 Saint Patrick’s Day march down Main Street in Towanda by Irish Catholic immigrant canal workers, signing the hymn of Saint Patrick. The wood frame church of Saints Peter & Paul Church was constructed the same year.

contractor placed the finishing touches upon the roof, added the doors, and positioned the windows in the summer of 1869, every cent was drained from the savings account of the parish and still there remained a debt of \$2,500. Father Toner did his best to raise the needed cash but it was a futile effort.”

It took another decade for the interior of the church to be finished and dedicated.

The 150th anniversary celebration for Saints Peter and Paul Church last month allowed Rev. Michelini and his parishioners the ability to reflect on the history of their parish and have a greater appreciation for the struggles that it took to finish the initial building.

“We all came from someplace else and in this particular case, generations before had come here to a foreign land and because of their faith bonded together and formed a community and they built a structure,” Rev. Michelini said. “When you consider that the building was completed in 1869 but it wasn’t totally finished on the inside for ten more years! When you think of today, people would say, ‘What? You started last year and you’re not done now?’”

An interesting piece of historical information about Saints Peter and Paul Church is that it has been hit by lightning several times.

On Sept. 5, 1898, during a heavy afternoon thunderstorm, lightning struck the church’s spire twice. The bolts reportedly struck just below the cross, which was about 175 feet above the ground. The cost to repair the damage was \$1,000 at that time.

In 1941, the spire of the church was hit by lightning again, which ultimately led to a reduction in the size of the spire to its current height.

As parishioners now enter the year 2020, Father Michelini says his parish has a “generous spirit.”

Father Michelini says parishioners are involved in providing food to the needy through the Towanda Area Christian Outreach (TACO), have created a very supportive funeral luncheon ministry and make regular visits to nursing homes and hospitals.

“There is a community here. They’re very generous in their time, very generous in their financial resources and they help people a lot!”

Diocesan Annual Appeal supports Catholic education

The benefits of a Catholic education are easy to discover if you take a moment to talk to any student or family involved in the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System. Our 20 schools offer a challenging, high-quality academic experience with emphasis on Catholic values that allow each of our students to achieve his/her God-given potential. Fulfilling this mission depends considerably on gifts made to the Diocesan Annual Appeal, which provides direct funding to our operations as well as financial aid for families in need.

As the Diocese of Scranton prepares to join in celebrating our Catholic Schools during Catholic Schools Week from January 26 to February 1, 2020, we hope you will consider a gift to the Annual Appeal, which also provides assistance to students in our parish religious education programs who learn about what it means to be Catholic and the importance of serving others.

Interested donors may make a gift to the Diocesan Annual Appeal by visiting www.annualappeal.org to give online, by calling the Diocesan Development Office at (570) 207-2250 or by sending a donation to: Diocesan Annual Appeal, 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503.



John Wayne Kravitz
Wyoming Area Catholic School, Exeter

"Faith is definitely a virtue that is close to our family. We like to center ourselves around God."

Claudia O'Donnell
Notre Dame High School, East Stroudsburg

"Faith plays an important role in my life. Both my parents are Catholic, so it's great being in a school that really recognizes that. Having Mass once every month is really good. I like to sing in the choir and help out with reading!"



Rebecca Lippert
Saint John Neumann Regional Academy, Williamsport

"I really enjoyed getting a Catholic education. With small class sizes, you can talk to your teachers, get to know your teachers and have your teachers get to know you!"



Caroline Kranick
Holy Cross High School, Dunmore

"You learn how to treat your fellow human beings with dignity and respect. You learn how to truly be a member of the world community and be someone who possesses faith and uses that to positively shape the world."



Christopher Cummings
Saint John Neumann Regional Academy, Williamsport

"The best part of my education is that I get to learn about my faith...I think it's important to learn about my faith because I want to know the history of it and why I'm here!"

Declan & Liam Barry
Epiphany School, Sayre

"The arts and education program is cool because we get to make movies and do voice-overs and green screens and we also got to make live action movies!"
-Declan Barry



Father Gregory Reichlen, left, and Robert Moses, right, accept Bishop Joseph C. Bambera's invitation to serve as regional chairs for the Diocesan Annual Appeal on behalf of Monroe County.

Regional chairs assist Diocesan Annual Appeal in Monroe County

Regional clergy and lay chairs serving the Diocesan Annual Appeal on behalf of parishes in Monroe County are Father Gregory Reichlen and Robert Moses.

"As a past member of the Monroe County Catholic Social Services Board, I support the Appeal because of the direct work of CSS in meeting the needs of the poor of our communities, and giving witness to the Gospel through that service," Father Reichlen, pastor of Saint John Parish, East Stroudsburg, explained.

"The work of CSS across the 11 counties of our Diocese is authentic to the example of Jesus. All the services funded in part by the Appeal need our support: Catholic education, the retirement funds for priests and religious, and the education of our seminarians. As a priest who had the great opportunity to obtain an advanced degree, I'm grateful to the people of the Diocese for their financial support."

Robert Moses, and his wife of 44 years, the late Kathy Moses, are the parents of sons Jeff and Christopher. Bob is a member of Saint Matthew Parish, East Stroudsburg. As part of his parish's outreach, he volunteers weekly in the campus ministry program at East Stroudsburg University student food pantry.

"I'm not sure people are aware of the tremendous ministries of the Diocese," Moses said. "I support the Appeal for many reasons but also largely because of the social service aspects. It is so important that we all give back in some way or another...I once heard a quote that rings true: 'Service is the rent we pay for the space we occupy on this earth.'"

"There is always something you can contribute - your service or your financial resources. Everyone has a responsibility to give of their time, their talents and treasures if they're able," he concluded. "At this point in my life, I'm grateful I'm able to do more and I encourage others to do so."

PARISH	GOAL	PLEDGES	PERCENTAGE	PARISH	GOAL	PLEDGES	PERCENTAGE
All Saints - Plymouth	\$40,000.00	\$26,111.00	65%	St. Andrew - Wilkes-Barre	\$18,000.00	\$8,851.24	49%
Annunciation - Hazleton	\$35,000.00	\$21,028.00	60%	St. Ann Basilica - Scranton	\$32,000.00	\$27,890.00	87%
Ascension - Forest City	\$27,000.00	\$24,930.00	92%	St. Ann - Shohola	\$22,000.00	\$21,646.00	98%
Blessed Sacrament - Throop	\$17,000.00	\$18,476.00	109%	St. Ann - Williamsport	\$63,000.00	\$47,220.00	75%
BVM Queen of Peace - Hawley	\$81,000.00	\$77,836.01	96%	St. Barbara - Exeter	\$33,000.00	\$31,141.00	94%
Christ the King - Archbald	\$71,000.00	\$52,055.00	73%	St. Benedict - Wilkes-Barre	\$22,000.00	\$7,415.00	34%
Corpus Christi - West Pittston	\$32,000.00	\$33,191.00	104%	St. Boniface - Williamsport	\$68,000.00	\$46,605.00	69%
Divine Mercy - Scranton	\$67,000.00	\$47,985.00	72%	St. Brigid - Friendsville	\$24,000.00	\$29,320.00	122%
Epiphany - Sayre	\$90,000.00	\$68,457.00	76%	St. Catherine of Siena - Moscow	\$67,000.00	\$50,692.99	76%
Exaltation of the Holy Cross - Hanover Twp.	\$16,500.00	\$20,070.00	122%	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton - Swoyersville	\$47,000.00	\$38,458.00	82%
Gate of Heaven - Dallas	\$50,000.00	\$30,572.00	61%	St. Elizabeth - Bear Creek	\$25,500.00	\$27,874.00	109%
Good Shepherd - Drums	\$26,000.00	\$16,967.00	65%	St. Eulalia - Elmhurst	\$42,000.00	\$29,617.50	71%
Holy Child - Mansfield	\$30,000.00	\$21,754.00	73%	St. Faustina Kowalska - Nanticoke	\$50,000.00	\$43,745.87	87%
Holy Cross - Olyphant	\$50,000.00	\$38,610.38	77%	St. Frances X. Cabrini - Carverton	\$14,500.00	\$16,878.80	116%
Holy Family - Luzerne	\$42,500.00	\$34,704.30	82%	St. Gregory - Clarks Green	\$79,000.00	\$73,975.00	94%
Holy Family - Sugar Notch	\$17,000.00	\$18,122.00	107%	St. Ignatius Loyola - Kingston	\$82,000.00	\$67,322.04	82%
Holy Name of Jesus - West Hazleton	\$23,000.00	\$13,599.00	59%	St. John Bosco - Conyngham	\$59,000.00	\$57,810.00	98%
Holy Name of Mary - Montrose	\$21,000.00	\$16,217.50	77%	St. John Neumann - Lords Valley	\$30,000.00	\$24,335.00	81%
Holy Rosary - Hazleton	\$18,000.00	\$18,459.00	103%	St. John Neumann - Scranton	\$55,000.00	\$25,681.00	47%
Holy Spirit - Mocanaqua	\$30,000.00	\$16,722.50	56%	St. John - E. Stroudsburg	\$61,000.00	\$40,181.00	66%
Immaculate Conception - Scranton	\$42,000.00	\$50,203.00	120%	St. John the Baptist - Larksville	\$23,000.00	\$13,777.50	60%
Immaculate Conception - Williamsport	\$28,000.00	\$17,987.00	64%	St. John the Evangelist - Honesdale	\$68,000.00	\$55,911.50	82%
Immaculate Heart of Mary - Dushore	\$41,000.00	\$32,870.00	80%	St. John the Evangelist - Pittston	\$60,000.00	\$41,141.00	69%
Mary, Mother of God - Scranton	\$60,000.00	\$49,621.50	83%	St. John Vianney - Montdale	\$32,000.00	\$24,795.00	77%
Most Holy Trinity - Cresco	\$52,000.00	\$38,068.04	73%	St. Joseph Marello - Pittston	\$29,000.00	\$25,383.29	88%
Most Holy Trinity - Susquehanna	\$32,000.00	\$26,499.00	83%	St. Joseph - Matamoras	\$40,000.00	\$39,237.00	98%
Most Precious Blood - Hazleton	\$38,000.00	\$39,885.00	105%	St. Joseph the Worker - Williamsport	\$80,000.00	\$81,892.38	102%
Nativity of Our Lord - Duryea	\$42,000.00	\$31,155.00	74%	St. Jude - Mountain Top	\$84,000.00	\$74,281.01	88%
Nativity of the BVM - Tunkhannock	\$34,000.00	\$26,074.00	77%	St. Katharine Drexel - Pleasant Mount	\$14,000.00	\$15,100.00	108%
Our Lady Help of Christians - Dorrance	\$19,000.00	\$12,922.00	68%	St. Lawrence - S. Williamsport	\$28,000.00	\$20,126.00	72%
Our Lady of Fatima - Wilkes-Barre	\$47,000.00	\$25,787.00	55%	St. Leo - Ashley	\$35,000.00	\$17,049.00	49%
Our Lady of Hope - Wilkes-Barre	\$40,000.00	\$37,326.00	93%	St. Lucy - Scranton	\$20,000.00	\$8,315.00	42%
Our Lady of Lourdes - Montoursville	\$44,000.00	\$32,836.00	75%	St. Luke - Jersey Shore	\$17,000.00	\$10,135.98	60%
Our Lady of Mount Carmel - Carbondale	\$25,000.00	\$13,135.00	53%	St. Luke - Stroudsburg	\$120,000.00	\$129,117.00	108%
Our Lady of Mount Carmel - Dunmore	\$60,000.00	\$51,168.00	85%	St. Maria Goretti - Laflin	\$45,000.00	\$16,528.00	37%
Our Lady of Mount Carmel - Lake Silkworth	\$20,000.00	\$19,542.23	98%	St. Mary of the Lake - Lake Winola	\$13,000.00	\$15,835.00	122%
Our Lady of Perpetual Help - Wyalusing	\$20,000.00	\$11,945.00	60%	St. Mary - Waymart	\$18,000.00	\$24,531.00	136%
Our Lady of the Abingtons - Dalton	\$17,500.00	\$5,930.00	34%	St. Matthew - E. Stroudsburg	\$70,000.00	\$42,981.00	61%
Our Lady of the Eucharist - Pittston	\$17,000.00	\$11,075.00	65%	St. Maximilian Kolbe - Pocono Pines	\$26,000.00	\$21,983.00	85%
Our Lady Immaculate Conception - Freeland	\$28,000.00	\$17,564.00	63%	St. Michael - Canton	\$13,000.00	\$17,935.00	138%
Our Lady of the Snows - Clarks Summit	\$92,000.00	\$75,415.24	82%	St. Michael - Scranton	\$10,000.00	\$8,729.86	87%
Our Lady of Victory - Harveys Lake	\$39,000.00	\$37,044.00	95%	St. Monica - West Wyoming	\$33,000.00	\$24,430.00	74%
Our Lady of Victory - Tannersville	\$55,000.00	\$46,104.00	84%	St. Nicholas - Wilkes-Barre	\$55,000.00	\$40,624.23	74%
Our Lady Queen of Peace - Brodheadsville	\$62,000.00	\$64,494.38	104%	St. Patrick - Milford	\$35,000.00	\$27,231.00	78%
Prince of Peace - Old Forge	\$30,000.00	\$15,533.00	52%	St. Patrick - Nicholson	\$10,000.00	\$6,640.00	66%
Queen of Angels - Jessup	\$28,000.00	\$14,011.00	50%	St. Patrick - Scranton	\$45,000.00	\$26,868.00	60%
Queen of Heaven - Hazleton	\$31,000.00	\$22,025.00	71%	St. Patrick - White Haven	\$17,000.00	\$11,252.00	66%
Queen of the Apostles - Avoca	\$25,000.00	\$16,609.00	66%	St. Paul of the Cross - Scranton	\$55,000.00	\$28,182.62	51%
Resurrection - Muncy	\$35,000.00	\$34,294.00	98%	St. Paul - Scranton	\$70,000.00	\$40,446.00	58%
Sacred Heart of Jesus - Dupont	\$32,000.00	\$13,445.00	42%	St. Peter - Wellsboro	\$46,500.00	\$42,155.00	91%
Sacred Heart of Jesus - Peckville	\$44,000.00	\$41,350.40	94%	St. Peter's Cathedral - Scranton	\$75,000.00	\$86,385.00	115%
Sacred Heart of Jesus - Weston	\$12,000.00	\$8,761.00	73%	St. Rita - Gouldsboro	\$15,000.00	\$11,477.00	77%
Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary - Jermyn	\$23,000.00	\$11,598.00	50%	St. Robert Bellarmine - Wilkes-Barre	\$36,000.00	\$31,950.00	89%
SS. Anthony & Rocco - Dunmore	\$50,000.00	\$29,379.00	59%	St. Rose - Carbondale	\$66,000.00	\$54,657.38	83%
SS. Cyril & Methodius - Hazleton	\$46,000.00	\$38,528.00	84%	St. Therese - Shavertown	\$75,000.00	\$61,847.00	82%
SS. Peter & Paul - Plains	\$70,000.00	\$37,300.00	53%	St. Thomas More - Lake Ariel	\$52,000.00	\$50,793.00	98%
SS. Peter & Paul - Scranton	\$14,000.00	\$3,165.00	23%	St. Thomas the Apostle - Elkland	\$14,000.00	\$9,244.00	66%
SS. Peter & Paul - Towanda	\$33,000.00	\$42,005.00	127%	St. Vincent de Paul - Milford	\$37,000.00	\$26,449.00	71%
St. Andre' Bessette Parish - Wilkes-Barre	\$30,000.00	\$19,778.50	66%	Visitation, Blessed Virgin Mary - Dickson City	\$59,000.00	\$43,958.00	75%

Answering a Higher Calling

Why Religious Life? Scranton IHM Sister Elizabeth McGill answers the question on national TV

When the Tamron Hall Show began the search for millennial Catholic religious Sisters to interview as to why they would enter the convent in this day and age, the producers for the new daytime television talk program found none better — of some might say, “nun” better — than Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Elizabeth McGill.

Accomplished, successful, driven, well educated and athletic, “Liz” McGill would do quite well for herself in the secular world. But on March 20, 2018, she took the road less traveled and walked into the halls of the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Scranton.

Upon entering the IHM community’s formation program, the Elmira, N.Y., native in her mid-thirties left behind an enviable career and her position as assistant professor and education specialist with the Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine.

With her bachelor’s degree from Marywood University and a master’s from Saint John’s University, New York City, in hand, Liz had returned to Scranton in 2008 and joined Saints Anthony and Rocco Parish in Dunmore. Seven years later, she earned a doctorate in human development/

higher education administration at Marywood.

Yes, life was very good. But something was missing, and Tamron Hall, the former NBC Today Show host, was as inquisitive as anyone as to what that something might be.

Just days after Sister Elizabeth was received into the IHM congregation’s novitiate in September, she would appear as a guest for the “Millennial Nuns” segment on the Tamron Hall Show in New York. Representing the Diocese of Scranton and her religious community, she was joined by three other millennial women in religious life.

The youthful religious Sisters were brought to the attention of Tamron Hall producers by VISION publisher Patrice Tuohy, who worked closely with the show’s executives to provide information on the contemporary religious life.

The idea of featuring young Catholic nuns and their vocation journeys in today’s world had Tuohy reach out to the staffs of the National Religious Vocations Conference and National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations to compile a list of potential guests for the discussion topic. Not surprisingly, Liz McGill stood out.

“Patrice sent me an email asking if I would consider participating,” related Sister Elizabeth, who was recently featured along with 19 others in *The Catholic Light* for being among the select “20 Under 40” group of young adults Catholics in the Diocese who have distinguished themselves for exceptional service to their parishes, schools and communities.

“I accepted the invitation with hopes that my participation might shed a positive light on religious life,” Sister continued. “It would also give me an opportunity to highlight how past and present IHM Sisters have touched the lives of so many people.”

Being “truly humbled” to represent the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the young woman religious said it was personally important that the world knows religious life is still important and that IHM Sisters continue to serve in Mexico, Peru and various parts of the United States, along with their many decades of faithful service in the Scranton Diocese.

“I ended up sharing my life and vocation story with the show’s producer, Katie Berlin,” said the IHM novice. “She wanted to have a panel of four or five Catholic



Scranton Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Elizabeth McGill is seated, upper left, on the set of the Tamron Hall Show. Pictured in the foreground with talk show host Tamron Hall are Felician Sister Anne Marie Findlay, left, and Salesian Sister Boram Lee. Shown, upper right, is Salesian Sister Rachel Lauritsen.

sisters with diverse backgrounds and with various stories. The idea was for Tamron to have a conversation with all of the women about why they chose the path of religious life, their influences and challenges and the joy that this life brings us.”

So why choose religious life in the 21st century? That was the question posed to Sister Elizabeth and her three counterparts during the live broadcast.

The Scranton IHM Sister responded, “Religious life calls me to my finest and most spirit-filled self. With the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary rooted in God, and serving others, is where my heart comes alive.”

In response to Hall’s inquiry about the youthful religious Sisters’ activities outside of their ministry and congregation, Sister Elizabeth explained about the IHM’s core value of “wholeness.”

“In order to serve others, to be effective in the world and to be our best selves in doing so, it is important to take care of the mind, body and spirit — *living vitally* — or ‘vital living,’” she said.

As a former two-sport college athlete and Marywood women’s soccer coach, Sister Elizabeth believes it is necessary to always find time for physical fitness. “I currently CrossFit,” she said. “Keeping a balanced life is very important.”

The show’s host was also interested in how family and friends have reacted to the IHM Sister’s radical change of direction in her life.

“My parents have always been very supportive and they continue to be my biggest cheerleaders,” Sister said. “I also have a pretty special group of friends, most of us CrossFit together, and they too have been a great support.”

THREE KINGS DAY FIESTA



The Magi — the Three Kings of biblical fame — arrived in the Poconos on Epiphany Sunday weekend bearing gifts for children to usher in the year 2020. The Jacques Center at Saint Luke Parish Hall in Stroudsburg again hosted this annual celebration that began on Saturday afternoon, Jan. 4, with activities for youngsters and their families.

This particular fiesta — an important commemoration of the Feast of the Epiphany among Hispanics — reenacts the Gospel narration of the Magi bringing gifts from afar to the Christ Child.

Organized and sponsored by the Federation of Latinos for Education about the Cultures of Hispanic America (FLECHA), the event featured children dressed as angels and shepherds before an audience of about one hundred people. The living Nativity told the Christmas Story, with Lindsey and Lucas Pelaez portraying Mary and Joseph, and Isaac Quintero as the Baby Jesus, before the arrival of the Three Kings, played by Gilbert Flecha, Gene Halterman and Richard Moreland.

This marks the eighth year that FLECHA has sponsored the presentation, which emphasizes the popular tradition in all of Latin America and much of Europe of children receiving gifts on the Epiphany, instead of Christmas Eve from Santa Claus.

Open to people of all faiths and cultures, the effort was enlivened by the talents of the Religious Education classes from Saint Luke Parish, under the direction of Lisa Marie Boesze.

With 50 children in attendance, each child under age 12 was given one of the toys donated by Bright Beginnings Day Care, Key to Health Chiropractors, Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Brodheadsville, and Saint Luke Parish.

Father Richard A. Zavacki

Father Richard Zavacki — Rich, as I always call him — welcomes us all at this moment to this Church of Saint Ignatius that he loved so well. He was a humble man and a soft spoken person.

Father was beyond, and even way beyond, generous to his family — a man who (as a priest) used to babysit his nephew Gary; who more than fifty years ago gave his car to his nephew, who was about seventeen years old, so he could go to a dance.

This is a priest who at Saint Joseph Church in Hudson allowed his nephew to play guitar at Mass — something that was unheard of at that time.

My first encounter and friendship with Father Richard started nineteen years ago with Monsignor Joseph Lasky being sick and we had to go and visit him. I was in Dallas and Richard was at Saint Hedwig's in Kingston. He drove to Nanticoke and we visited Monsignor Lasky. We did this several times and he always invited me to dinner at his rectory.

Two years later, I was assigned in Kingston as Monsignor Van Loon's assistant. When Monsignor was on vacation, Father Zavacki called me and said, "Arbo, what are doing in the rectory alone. In thirty minutes I will pick you up and we will go for supper, my treat."

It was then I was introduced to the "Thursday evening group." We went out every Thursday evening for supper. The group was composed of Father Fabian, Monsignor Super, Father Strish, Monsignor Lasky and Father McGroarty. We had been all over the four corners of the Diocese. Our goal wasn't much about the food we ate, but to keep our friendship and share the stories of our life during the previous week.

Father Richard's rectory at Saint Hedwig's was an IHOP — "International House of Priests." Father Richard welcomed in his rectory a Brooklyn-born Franciscan priest who worked his whole life in Morocco. Father McGroarty lived with him, as did Monsignor Lasky and Father Fabian.

A couple of days before he died, Rich asked that I be called, as he often did, and I went to Wilkes-Barre to meet and talk with him. It was then that he told me it was the end. "Arbo, I want to die," he said. As always, he asked me to bless him.

A week today, we will be celebrating Christmas. My brothers and sisters, it is on purpose that for Father Zavacki's funeral Mass I chose the Gospel of the Good Samaritan. The Good Samaritan is a Gospel of Jesus coming down from his animal, which is symbolic of Jesus Christ coming down from Heaven. Not only does he come down from his animal, but he also lifts up the man who was a victim of robbers, symbolizing Jesus taking us up to Heaven.

Father Richard was a victim to sickness, weakness. Like all of us, he was victim to sin. Ultimately, victim to death. That's why the Good Samaritan comes down.

Finally, Father Richard thanks all of us as he calls on us to say "goodbye," and to tell us that we will meet again — this time in Heaven.

Rich, go in peace.

Excerpted from the homily by Father Arbogaste Satoun at the Mass of Christian Burial celebrated for Father Richard A. Zavacki on December 18 at Saint Ignatius Church in Kingston.

Prayer Requests for Priests

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

January 9, Monsignor Constantine Siconolfi; January 10, Father Robert Simon; January 11, Father Andrew Sinnott; January 12, Father Joseph Sitko; January 13, Father Phillip Sladicka; January 14, Father Casimir Stanis; January 15, Father Stephen Stavoy; January 16, Father Scott Sterowski; January 17, Saint Peter Priestly Fraternity Father Michael Stinson; January 18, Jesuit Father Daniel Sweeney; January 19, Saint Joseph Oblate Father Raymond Tabon;

January 20, Father Philbert Takyi-Nketiah; January 21, Father John Terry; January 22, Holy Cross Father Fidel Ticona; January 23, Bishop Emeritus James C. Timlin; January 24, Father Peter Tomczak; January 25, Father Daniel Toomey; January 26, Father Rawel Toppo; January 27, Father Peter Tran; January 28, Monsignor David Tressler; January 29, Father Jeffrey Tudgay; January 30, Father John Turi; January 31, Father Anthony Urban; February 1, Pope Francis; February 2, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI; February 3, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; February 4, Monsignor Neil Van Loon.



Deacon Michael Imbrogno, M.D.

Saint Maria Goretti Parish, Laflin

Ordination Year: 2015

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

Liturgically: I assist at Mass and conduct Sacramentals, including prayer services, Stations of the Cross, Communion and wake services.

Word: Preaching; catechesis to adults, liturgical ministers, and the youth group. I'm also responsible for the training of all liturgical ministers, including lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, altar servers and sacristans; RCIA program coordinator (combined with Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Pittston).

Charitable: Youth group escort; monitor and "teach" about charitable service during outreach ministries (this year was at Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen). I also facilitate and am a pediatrician for the Care and Concern Free Pediatric Health at Saint John the Evangelist Parish; outreach to hospitals and nursing homes, and conduct Communion services at John Heinz Rehabilitation in Wilkes-Barre.

Parish Community: Actively involved in all church functions, fundraisers, committees, etc.

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

The opportunity for a closer interaction with others — parishioners, clients and members of the local community — and the camaraderie among other deacons.

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

My frustration is the challenge of engaging the youth more fully in their parish. This also involves engaging the parents more fully and impressing upon them the need to facilitate this "engagement."

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

I would invite him to spend time with me outside of my "tasks" in the parish. Obviously, he sees what I do, but shadowing me from time to time, hopefully, helps him discern the difference between "doing deacon things" and being a deacon. The diaconate transforms one in all phases of life — family, friends, job, hobbies, church, etc. — and this transformation cannot be accomplished fully without the sanctifying grace received in the sacraments. He would have already recognized this if he is answering the call.





Renovations to create a fully-accessible entrance to the Saint Joseph Pantry in Hazleton are underway. The project is expected to be completed by the end of the month.

Mother Teresa's Haven participates in memorial service and vigil for homeless



WILKES-BARRE – Saint Stephen's Episcopal Pro-Cathedral recently hosted its annual Homeless Persons' Memorial Service, which is done each year on the evening of the winter solstice.

The service is put together in memory of those in the Wyoming Valley that have died due to homelessness.

A candlelight vigil was held following the service in the courtyard of the church. Afterwards, a meal was provided to all attendees by Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen.

Representing Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton was Harry Lyons, program supervisor with Mother Teresa's Haven.

Mother Teresa's Haven is a homeless shelter program that is operated by Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton.

For 25 weeks per year, it is located at Saint Stephen's Episcopal Pro-Cathedral.

For more information about Mother Teresa's Haven, call (570) 825-9948.



Participating in the service, from left: Harry Lyons, Debra Kellerman, Mother Teresa's Haven coordinator at Saint Stephen's Episcopal Pro-Cathedral; Tony Brooks, councilman, City of Wilkes-Barre; Rev. Timothy L. Allerman, priest-in-charge, Saint Stephen's Episcopal Pro-Cathedral; George Brown, previously mayor-elect, City of Wilkes-Barre; Bill Jones, president and CEO, United Way of Wyoming Valley.

Renovations to Hazleton food pantry underway

HAZLETON – The new year will bring a newly renovated entrance to the Saint Joseph Pantry.

Located in the lower level of the former Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, the renovation process to create a fully-accessible entrance and restroom facilities is already underway.

The renovation project is also expected to establish more shelf space for food products which members of the community rely on. Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton operates the Saint Joseph Pantry, which serves more than 1,200 families every year.

The changes currently taking place are being funded primarily

from a grant through the Weinberg Foundation. The projected date for the pantry to reopen should be by the end of the month.

In the spring, additional work, including the replacement of sidewalks, steps and paving is expected to take place.

The renovation project is the second phase of an overall re-construction of the Catholic Social Services facilities in the Hazleton-area.

The first phase of construction included the development of a shelter/residential center resulting in Divine Providence Shelter and the Bridge to Independence Program.

Catholic Social Services' Counseling and Maternal Health Programs are based out of the former Kennedy/Lucadamo Law Office, which was the Our Lady of Mount Carmel convent. This building is now known as the Miorelli Family Counseling Center.

Catholic Social Services began serving the community on December 1, 1939. This ongoing commitment to the community in a campus setting allows the agency to more effectively assist those who seek service.

Catholic Social Services is a member Agency of the Greater Hazleton United Way.

Veterans discuss challenges and opportunities

SCRANTON – Veterans who are getting a helping hand at Saint Francis Commons got a chance to participate in a roundtable discussion with U.S. Senator Bob Casey just before Christmas.

For nearly an hour on Friday, Dec. 20, 2019, Sen. Casey discussed topics that are important to the veterans, including healthcare, job training programs and transportation issues.

Many of the veterans praised Saint Francis Commons, a transitional housing facility for homeless veterans, which is operated by Catholic Social Services.

"This program does what it is supposed to do to get us on our feet," veteran Joseph Florencio said.

Senator Casey was happy to hear that many of the veterans are doing well, but noted that not every community has a facility like Saint Francis Commons.

Florencio expressed an interest in trying to find more career mentorship or internship program opportunities for veterans.

"A lot of veterans, they're hungry to learn skills and everything like that," Florencio said. "I've been helping people do computers, fill out forms and get familiar with computers and I see once they start down that road, I say, what is that you want to do?"

In response to that issue, Senator Casey and his staff discussed the recent creation of the Veterans Resource Coalition in Lackawanna County that brings together colleges, universities, non-profit and social service organizations like Catholic Social



Senator Bob Casey, seated at right, holds a roundtable discussion with veterans from Saint Francis Commons in Scranton on Friday, Dec. 20, 2019. (Photo/Eric Deabill)

Services, to assist veterans and avoid duplication of services. Job skills is one area the Veterans Resource Coalition is already working to address.

The issue of healthcare for veterans was also something discussed.

While Sen. Casey said that many veterans are getting better care than in previous years, he acknowledged that "we still have some work to do."

Senator Casey specifically pointed to a problem with disability claims.

"A couple of years ago, we had a big problem with the disability claims process. It was taking more than 300 days, for example in most counties in Pennsylvania, to have a disability claim determined. That was holding up the medical care folks that veterans needed," Sen. Casey said.

While Pennsylvania's senior senator says that number is now down to a 90 or 100 day wait in

most instances, he added "that is still too long."

Veteran Toyya Durham wanted to discuss the lack of public transportation. She said it can sometimes take her between four to six hours to go to a medical appointment.

"I hate going to the doctor because of that," Durham said.

Durham added that a lack of transportation has cost some people job opportunities because they just couldn't get to the places they needed to go.

As the discussion came to a close, Sen. Casey thanked the veterans for their service and the opportunity to speak with them, adding, "Veterans have innate leadership skills that you demonstrate everyday!"

For more information about Saint Francis Commons, a program of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton, call (570) 209-9200.

Come Experience Academic Excellence

Join us for our Open Houses on Sunday, January 26, 2020



All Saints Academy

Grades PK – 8 and Individualized Instruction
1425 Jackson Street in Scranton • (570) 343-8114
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.



Epiphany School

Grades PK – 6
627 Stevenson Street in Sayre • (570) 888-5802
12 p.m. – 2 p.m.



Saint John Neumann Elementary School

Grades PK – 5
710 Franklin Street in Williamsport • (570) 326-3738
12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.



Holy Rosary School

Grades PK – 8
125 Stephenson Street in Duryea • (570) 457-2553
12 p.m. – 2 p.m.



Notre Dame Elementary School

Grades PK – 6 • (570) 421-3651
60 Spangenburg Avenue in East Stroudsburg
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

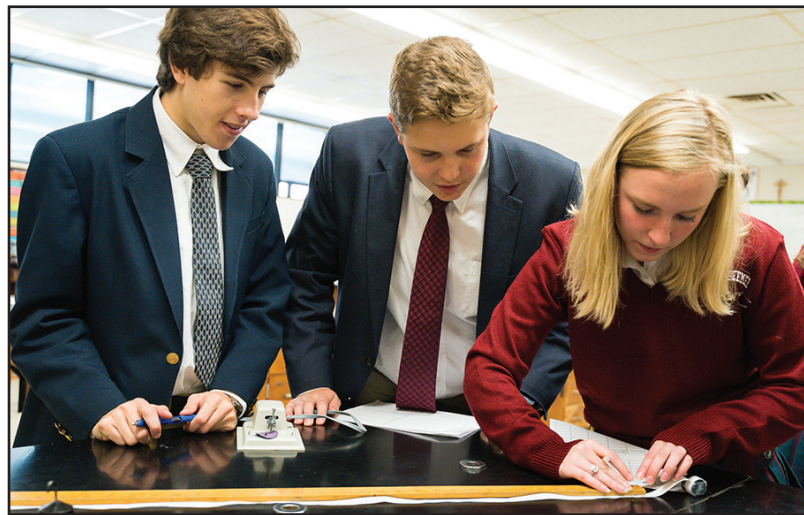


Saint Clare/Saint Paul School

Grades PK – 2 2215 North Washington Avenue in Scranton • (570) 343-2790
Grades 3 – 8 1527 Penn Avenue in Scranton
(570) 343-7880 — 12 p.m. – 2 p.m.



Good Shepherd Academy
 Grades PK – 8 and Individualized Instruction
 316 North Maple Street in Kingston • (570) 718-4724
 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.



Holy Redeemer High School
 Grades 9 – 12 and Individualized Instruction
 159 South Pennsylvania Boulevard in Wilkes-Barre • (570) 829-2424
 Call to schedule a tour



Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School
 Grades 6 – 12
 901 Penn Street in Williamsport • (570) 323-9953
 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.



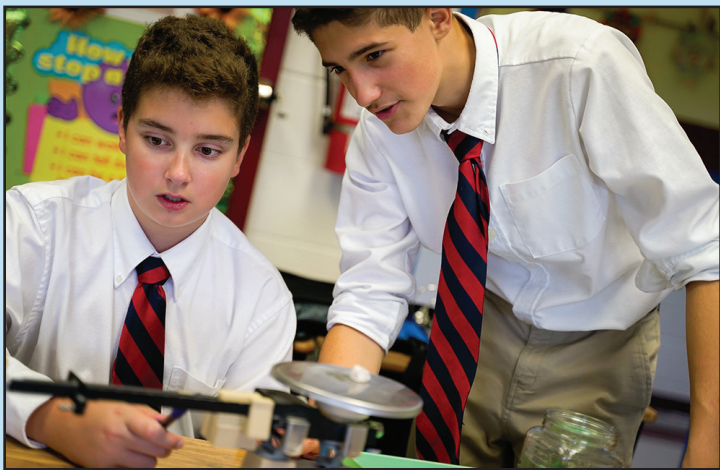
Saint Jude School
 Grades PK – 8
 422 South Mountain Boulevard in Mountain Top • (570) 474-5803
 12 p.m. – 2 p.m.



Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School
 Grades PK – 8
 325 Chestnut Street in Dunmore • (570) 346-4429
 12 p.m. – 3 p.m.



Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School
 Grades PK – 8
 242 South Washington Street in Wilkes-Barre • (570) 823-8089
 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.



La Salle Academy
 Grades PK – 8
 309 First Avenue in Jessup
 (570) 489-2010
 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.



Our Lady of Peace School
 Grades PK – 8
 410 North Abington Road in Clarks Green • (570) 587-4152
 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.



Holy Cross High School
 Grades 9 – 12 and Individualized Instruction
 501 East Drinker Street in Dunmore • (570) 346-7541
 Call to schedule a tour

Holy Family Academy
 Grades PK – 8
 601 North Laurel Street
 in Hazleton
 (570) 455-9431
 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.



Saint Agnes School
 Grades PK – 6
 102 Third Avenue in Towanda
 (570) 265-6803
 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.



Monsignor McHugh School
 Grades PK – 8
 212 Route 390 in Cresco • (570) 595-7463
 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.



Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School
 Grades 7 - 12
 60 Spangenburg Avenue in East Stroudsburg • (570) 421-0466
 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Wyoming Area Catholic School
 Grades PK – 8
 1690 Wyoming Avenue in Exeter
 (570) 654-7982
 12 p.m. – 2 p.m.





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;
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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

JANUARY 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					G.K. CHESTERTON	
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 SCOUNDRELS VS BOB AND PENNY LORD PRESENT	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOG	YOU'RE AMAZING	
4:00 AM	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	HOLY HOUR FOR HEALING AND JUSTICE	HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH		(4:40) ANGELUS FROM NAZARETH	A FORCE FOR GOOD	WEB OF FAITH 2.0	SAVORING OUR FAITH
4:30 AM			THE CHURCH:GOD'S PLAN	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 BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	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	GRAB YOUR CATECHISM WITH FR. CONNOR	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	SUNDAY VESPERS	EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Live)					FUNDAMENTALS OF CATHOLICISM	
6:30 PM	THE EUCHARIST	CATHOLICS COME HOME	REAL LIFE CATHOLICS	CHURCH UNIVERSAL	VATICANO	SAVORING OUR FAITH	CHURCH AND POOR	
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		
10:00PM	EWTN SPECIALS	THE WORLD OVER LIVE (ENCORE)	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION (ENCORE)	FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	PRO-LIFE WEEKLY	LIFE ON THE ROCK		LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY
10:30 PM					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	

Community Bank Contributes to Diocesan Scholarship Foundation



Shown, from left, are Barbara Maculloch, PA President of Community Bank N.A.; Jason Morrison, Diocesan Secretary of Catholic Education/Chief Executive Officer; Kristen Donohue, Superintendent of Schools; and Richard Kazmerick, VP Commercial Banking Team Leader.

Community Bank N.A. recently made a contribution to the Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Foundation in support of need-based tuition assistance for students attending a Diocesan Catholic school.

This donation is part of the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program operated by the State's Department of Community and Economic Development.

Community Bank presented the Diocesan Scholarship Foundation with a \$50,000 gift through the EITC program and a \$15,000 gift through the

Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) program.

Since the tax credit program began, Community Bank (the former First Liberty Bank & Trust) has donated more than \$1 million to Catholic education in the Diocese of Scranton.

"This generous contribution directly impacts students and families in our region by ensuring an excellent education rooted in faith and values remains accessible. We are grateful to Community Bank for their ongoing support," Jason Morrison, Diocesan Secretary of Catholic Education/Chief Executive Officer, said.

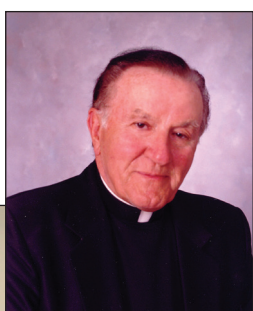
Knights' Respect Life Mass January 12 in Swoyersville

Knights of Columbus Councils of Wyoming Valley are once again sponsoring their annual Respect Life Mass to mark the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion in America.

The Respect Life Mass will be offered this Sunday, Jan. 12, at the 11 a.m. liturgy celebrated at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, 116 Hughes St., Swoyersville.

During the Eucharistic celebration, area Knights and pro-life representatives will offer prayer intentions for a greater respect for all human life and an end to abortion.

Father Joseph Pisaneschi, host pastor, welcomes all faithful to attend and join in prayerful support of all life, from conception to natural death — most especially the unborn, those with disabilities, and the ill, aged and infirm.



Monsignor Marra Documentary Debut Raises Funds for Friends of the Poor



Pictured from left are John and Rae D. Baldino, Baldino Digital; Meghan Loftus, president and CEO of Friends of the Poor; Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Maryalice Jacquinot; Toni Ann Divizio; Angeline Mancini; and Michael Colangelo, director of dining services, Chartwells, at Our Lady of Peace Residence and IHM Center in Scranton.

More than 120 family and friends gathered recently at the IHM Center in Scranton for the debut of the video documentary "Marra: Priest & Prophet," honoring the life of the late Diocesan priest Monsignor Anthony Marra.

The premiere event for the film produced by Baldino Digital of Scranton accepted donations to benefit the Monsignor Anthony C. Marra Memorial Fund at Friends of the Poor in Scranton. Nearly \$4,000 was raised in support of the fund that provides activities for underprivileged children in the area.

"Marra: Priest & Prophet" examines the life of the late Monsignor from his earliest days at Our Lady of Grace Parish, Hazleton, through his retirement as pastor emeritus of Saint Anthony of Padua Parish in Dunmore. As pastor of Saint Anthony's, Monsignor Marra commissioned the paintings on the church's ceiling of

modern-day saints well before their canonizations, including recently created Saints Mother Teresa of Calcutta and Oscar Romero.

The documentary features Marra family members Angeline Mancini, sister of the Monsignor, and his niece, Toni Ann DiVizio; and close family friend, Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Maryalice Jacquinot, former head of Friends of the Poor and current president of Saint Joseph's Center.

Friends of the Poor was founded in 1986 by the late Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Adrian Barrett to ease the burden of those living in poverty and to enhance the quality of life for all who live in low to moderate income communities.

Copies of the documentary are available on DVD, and orders are being accepted online at BaldinoDigital.com/Marra. Cost is \$12 each.

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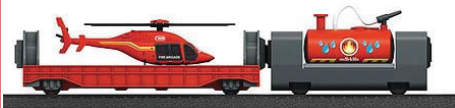


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Alhambra announces annual scholarship program for those pursuing careers in special education

In recognition of the increasing importance of education for those with special needs, the International Order of Alhambra announces its scholarship program providing financial aid to students pursuing careers in education for persons with disabilities.

The Alhambra Scholarship awards assist college students

studying to teach intellectually and developmentally disabled persons. The scholarships are granted on the basis that applicants are dedicated to the field of special education.

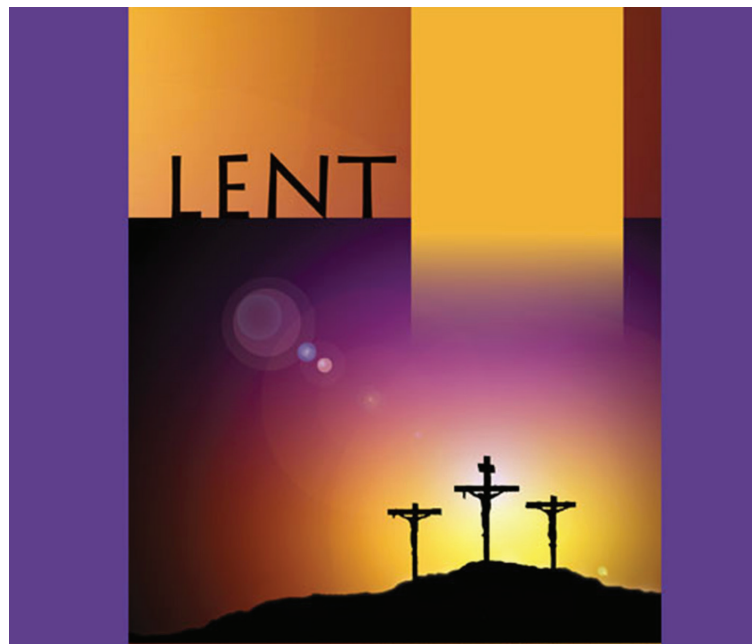
The number of scholarships and amounts awarded vary from year to year, based on scholarship program fund levels. The program is open to all eligible U.S. residents.

Eligibility guidelines include undergraduate juniors and seniors enrolled in qualifying programs; and master's degree and community college students specializing in special education studies who have accrued half of the required graduation credits.

For information on further requirements and to obtain an application, contact Patrick Umbra, Alhambra Supreme Director for Region II, at (570) 822-3597 or email: Patrick_Umbra@yahoo.com.

Application deadline is Feb. 23.

"Preparing Our Hearts for Lent: Journey Together in Ministry" Retreat Feb. 7-8



The Office for Parish Life in the Diocese of Scranton will sponsor a pre-Lenten retreat, "Preparing Our Hearts for Lent: A Journey Together in Ministry," on Feb. 7 & 8.

Serving as retreat facilitator will be Father Michael Bryant.

The retreat is designed for Pastoral Associates, participants in Lay Ministry Formation, Directors of Religious Education, Youth Ministers and other catechetical leaders to gather for prayer, reflection and fellowship.

Hosted at the Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center, 1000 Seminary Road, Dalton, the retreat

begins on Friday evening, Feb. 7, from 5 to 6 p.m., and will conclude on Saturday, Feb. 8, by 3 p.m. The cost is \$100 per person and includes the retreat program, meals and lodging.

Building on the relationships created among parish leaders, DREs and Youth Ministers will better equip those who nurture the young people and families entrusted to them.

For more information, contact Jacki Douglas, Director of Word and Lifelong Faith Formation, Office for Parish Life, at (570) 207-2213 ext. 1100, or ordj Douglas@dioceseofscranton.org.

DIOCESAN DATEBOOK

Retrouvaille Weekend, May 29-31, 2020 —

Sponsored by the Diocese of Scranton, Retrouvaille is a weekend program for married couples who may be experiencing tension, stress and loneliness in the marriage relationship. The program helps couples — even those separated and divorced — to communicate better and resolve conflicts in their relationships. Retrouvaille is facilitated through a peer ministry of volunteer couples who focus on the tools of healthy communication, building intimacy and healing, just as they have done in their own marriages. To learn more about the May weekend or assisting as a volunteer couple, contact Phil & Sue Milazzo at philmilazzo@outlook.com or (631) 338-5413; or Jen Housel at jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org or (570) 207-2213 ext. 1104.



An Evening with Dan Schutte

Friday,
February 28, 2020

St. Joseph Mareello and St. John the Evangelist Parishes are excited to announce a performance by renowned composer Dan Schutte at St. Joseph Mareello Parish as part of our "2020: Bringing Our Faith into Focus" year of events. We are delighted to host this concert, which promises to be an amazing and inspiring evening of music and prayer.

Dan is the renowned composer of such beloved and cherished hymns as "Here I Am, Lord," "City of God," "Sing a New Song," and the popular Mass Setting "Mass of Christ the Savior." His decades-long career has brought music and joy to liturgical celebrations worldwide.

Tickets for the concert can be purchased through the Parish Office of St. Joseph Mareello either in person, by calling 570-654-6902, or through e-mail at office@sjmparish.org.

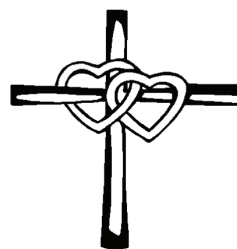
*Ticket orders of 8 or more **MUST** be placed by February 7 so tickets can be mailed. Ticket orders of 7 or less can be picked up at the Parish Office prior to the event or at the door on the day of the event.*

St. Joseph Mareello Parish
237 William Street
Pittston, PA
Time 7:00pm
Tickets- \$10

Dan will also present a workshop retreat on Saturday, February 29, 2020 from 9am to Noon at St. Joseph Mareello Church. Check-in will begin at 8am for registered guests.

Tickets for this retreat will also cost \$10.
To register, please contact the Parish Office at 570-654-6902 or office@sjmparish.org with the number and names of all attendees.

Registration closes on February 14.



Couples Invited to Participate in Wedding Anniversary Celebration

On June 14, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will celebrate the Wedding Anniversary Mass at 2:30 p.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, for couples celebrating their 25th or 50th year of marriage in 2020. This is an occasion to recognize the role married couples play in the Church's mission to bring God's faithful love into the world. Couples will have the opportunity to renew their commitment to marriage and to receive a blessing on their marriage from the Bishop. A reception will follow in the Diocesan Pastoral Center, where anniversary couples will be able to have their picture taken with the Bishop. Eligible couples should give their names and an April mailing address to their parish office before April 2. Parish lists are due to the Office for Parish Life by April 9.

The Reason for the Season

In what has become a yearly tradition, Knights of Columbus Council 7622 in Jermyn once again served as the sponsor for a billboard celebrating the true meaning of Christmas. The large placard depicting the Nativity of Our Lord was made possible this year through the generous contributions from the following: Christ the King Parish in Archbald; Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Peckville; Community Bank, N.A.; Harrison Funeral Home; Battenburg Furniture Store; Wilson Insurance, Inc.; T & R Service Station; Highway Auto Parts; Louis J. Rapoch Funeral Home; Fixit Shoppe; Joseph W. Arcadipane, DMD; Sterling Pharmacy; Margotta Funeral Home, Inc.; Wayne's Family Diner; Calabro Floor Coverings, Inc.; The PC Repair Shop; Bednash Petroleum, Inc.; Vladika Insurance Agency; and Convenient Food Mart. Pictured, from left, are K of C Deputy Grand Knight Mario Fitzgerald; John Harrison, Harrison Funeral Home; Lynn Ryczak, T & R Service Station; Karen Riffe; Knight Del Riffe; and Grand Knight Tom Murphy.



Sounds of Christmas in Luzerne County



Shown above, members of the "Keeping Christ in Christmas Group," organized by Nancy Restaino, met during the Advent season for the 11th Annual Carol Singalong and Christmas Reading near the Nativity scene outside the Luzerne County Courthouse in Wilkes-Barre. Following the program, participants proceeded to the Courthouse rotunda for the lighting of the official county Christmas Tree. Below, the youth ministry at Saint Faustina Kowalska Parish in Nanticoke performed Christmas carols at the nearby Guardian Nursing Home, partnering with the Greater Nanticoke Area High School Marching Band to entertain the residents during the Christmas season.



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Who makes house calls?

As of October 2015, I will now meet clients either at their home, or at a location they choose and no longer require clients to meet at my office. I have decided that I would change the way I meet with people so it will be as easy and as convenient as possible for the client.

Based on my practice, which consists of estate planning and administration along with elder law, I find that clients are more comfortable discussing such matters in familiar surroundings. While I know this may seem unconventional to some, I believe I will be able to serve clients much better in this fashion.

If anyone is uncomfortable with home visits, I have a few locations where I can meet in an office setting. I look forward to meeting with my existing clients and especially meeting new clients that are looking for any assistance in estate or elder law matters.



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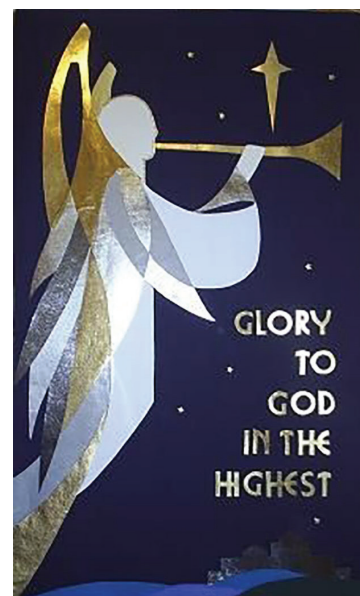
By Father Brian J.T. Clarke
Diocesan Director,
Pontifical Mission Societies



Well, I hope your Christmas decorations are still up. We are approaching the end of the Christmas season with the conclusion of our celebration of The Baptism of the Lord this Sunday. In hoping that you're still in the Christmas spirit is to offer a challenge for the rest of the year and even into your celebration next year.

We so quickly decorate for Christmas and then too quickly take down the decorations. I remember as a child playing Christmas music on the record player — yes, a record player — at odd times throughout the year. Now, for an odd child, this wasn't so odd but I remember my parents and family members wondering about my stability.

Nevertheless, as I reminisced about that moment it made me think how important it is for us as missionary disciples not to lose sight of the Christmas message throughout the year. I suppose the good thing about moving out of



the secular season of Christmas is that we are not bombarded by the commercialization of this sacred time. The time beyond Christmas can be spent in regular moments of reflection on the birth of Christ and how that reality changed the course of human history.

As we celebrated Epiphany this past week, we heard of the Magi coming from the East to pay homage to Jesus. Much is said of the Magi and it is clear that they did not practice Judaism; yet, they were moved to come to Jesus. Christian tradition does mention that once they returned to their homes that the Magi were baptized by Saint Thomas the Apostle and are regarded as Christian saints.

This is precisely why our celebration of Christmas extends throughout the year. Men and women of different faith traditions and experiences regularly feel drawn to Jesus. Like the Magi, there is a deep desire for all to experience meaning and to find truth.

As they approached the manger where Jesus was with Mary and Joseph, the Magi beheld truth in the flesh and paid homage as they prostrated themselves. It seems in a moment that the Christ-child changed their lives forever.

This is the reason why the Christmas story needs to be told throughout the year. So many people are longing for meaning and it is through Jesus that they will find such meaning and purpose. As we put away all of the decorations of Christmas, perhaps we can leave something out: the baby Jesus from your personal manger scene, a depiction of the Three Kings (maybe cut out from a Christmas card and framed), or maybe something as simple as the straw from the Creche at Christmas.

These holy images will remind us of the power of Christmas and the missionary promise and challenge to bring the message of the Gospel to a topsy-turvy world: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will."



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Papal Intention for January 2020

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We pray that Christians, followers of other religions, and all people of goodwill may promote peace and justice

First Friday Devotions Throughout the Diocese

Masses & Devotions

— Hosted by Holy Name of Jesus Parish in West Hazleton; held at the parish’s Church of the Transfiguration, 213 W. Green St., West Hazleton. Holy Hour and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament held from 5 to 5:45 p.m., followed by celebration of Mass at 6 p.m.

— Sponsored by the Men of the Sacred Heart; hosted at Saint Andre Bessette Parish in Wilkes-Barre at the parish worship site, 672 North Main St., Wilkes-Barre. Confessions are heard beginning at 6 p.m., followed by recitation of the Rosary and Litany of the Sacred Heart at 6:30 p.m. Mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is celebrated at 7 p.m.

Pro-Life Rosary Vigil

— Held outside the offices of Planned Parenthood, 101 North Main St., Wilkes-Barre; group gathers at 9 a.m. Rosary prayers are offered for an end to abortion and closure of the Planned Parenthood facility.

Eucharistic Adorations

— Hosted by Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, 1101 Willow St., Peckville; exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins following the celebration of the 7 a.m. Mass and continues until 12 noon in the chapel.

— Sponsored by the Men of the Sacred Heart; hosted each month by Queen of Heaven Parish at Our Lady of Grace Church, Hazleton. Begins with Mass at 12:05 p.m. and concludes at 4 p.m. with the Rosary, Litany of the Sacred Heart, Communion service and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

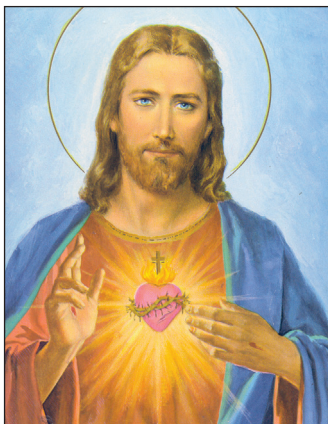
— Offered for the special intention of vocations to the priesthood; hosted by Saint Ann Basilica Parish, Saint Ann’s St., West Scranton. Adoration begins with 8:30 a.m. Mass and concludes with benediction at 3:30 p.m.

Healing Masses

— Hosted by Saint Lucy Church, 949 Scranton St., West Scranton, beginning at 6:30 p.m. with a prelude of contemporary music and Marian hymns. Celebration of Healing Mass follows at 7 p.m. and includes anointing blessing and prayers for healing; recitation of the Rosary will also be offered, led by Adele Garofalo. Music ministry for the evening provided by Ernie Pappa.

— Hosted by Queen of the Apostles Parish, Avoca; celebrated at 7 p.m. in Saint Mary Church, 715 Hawthorne St. For more information, call the parish rectory (570) 457-3412.

Blue Army Reparation Vigil



The next monthly First Friday Reparation Vigil, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary and sponsored by the Blue Army, will be held **February 7** at Saint Joseph’s Oblate Seminary, 1880 Highway 315, Laflin (Pittston).

Devotions begin Friday evening at 8 p.m. with recitation of the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary, during which time confessions are heard. Mass of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is celebrated at 8:55 p.m., followed by benediction, litany and consecration to the Sacred Heart.

The vigil continues with the crowning of the Blue Army Pilgrim Virgin Statue, the Blue Army Pledge, Fatima prayers and Marian hymns, followed by litany and consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The vigil concludes with scapular enrollment at 10:15 p.m.



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The Ladies of Charity of the Diocese of Scranton invite all women to join in their apostolate of praying for unborn babies who are in danger of abortion.

The “Spiritual Adoption” program enables faithful to make a personal commitment to pray each day for one unborn child.

A brief pro-life prayer is offered daily that the endangered baby in the womb will be carried to term and experience the fullness of life, as intended by God.

For more information, contact Rita Ferrance, 573 Orchard St., Askam, PA 18706. Phone: (570) 706-6867.

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— It’s Strawberry Festival time!

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Spiritual Offerings

Spiritual Support Group:

Scranton Mental Health Ministry — JAN. 11 & 25, hosted by the Cathedral of St. Peter in Scranton; providing a safe, supportive space for individuals who are experiencing mental illness. Group meets at 10 a.m. on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month in the Bishops Hall at the Cathedral Rectory, 315 Wyoming Ave. Meetings will be approximately 90 minutes; refreshments provided. Participating Scranton parishes include St. Peter's; Mary, Mother of God; and Immaculate Conception. For more information, contact Deacon Ed Shoener (Cathedral), (570) 344-7231; Deacon Jan Mroz (Mary, Mother of God), (570) 342-4881; or Deacon Pat McDonald (Immaculate Conception), (570) 961-5211.

Monthly Meeting of the Lay Fraternity of St. Dominic — JAN. 12, hosted by St. Thomas Aquinas Chapter 413; afternoon gathering held on the second Sunday of every month at St. John the Evangelist Church, Honesdale. All professed members, those in the process of formation or anyone interested in deepening their faith by following the Dominican spirituality and its four "pillars" (prayer, study, community and apostolate) are welcome. For more information, call Lay Dominican MaryAnn Cavanaugh, formation director, at (570) 228-8624 or catholichomeschoolmom@hotmail.com.

Weekly "Flame of Love" Prayer Group Meeting — JAN. 13, hosted by St. Barbara Parish at St. Anthony of Padua Church, Memorial St., Exeter; prayer group meets every Monday at 11:15 a.m. Mass is celebrated at 12:10 p.m. following recitation of the "Flame of Love" Rosary. All faithful are welcome.

Weekly Eucharistic Adoration — JAN. 15, 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 — JAN. 15, hosted at St. Joseph's Oblate Seminary, Route 315, Laffin; Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held every Wednesday evening from 6 to 7 p.m. in the seminary chapel. Includes recitation of the Rosary and opportunity for confessions. Mass celebrated at 7 p.m., followed by Novena prayers to St. Joseph and St. Joseph Marelo, founder of the Oblates of St. Joseph religious congregation. For more information, contact the OSJ seminary at (570) 654-7542.

Weekly Bible Study — JAN. 15, hosted by Prince of Peace Parish in Old Forge; weekly sessions offered on Wednesdays from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room at St. Lawrence Church, Main St., Old Forge. Guest facilitator: JoAnn Wilbur. All faithful are welcome; refreshments will be provided.

Wednesday Eucharistic Adoration — JAN. 15, 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 — JAN. 15, 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.

Meeting of Lay Carmelites — JAN. 18, 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, Laffin (Pittston). For more information, contact Rose at (570) 507-2373 or Chris at (570) 239-8094.

Continued on
Page 27

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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).

FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

Happy **NEW YEAR**

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PSALM 65:11

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Spiritual Offerings Around the Diocese

Gathering of the Secular Discalced Carmelites — JAN. 19, 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.

Meeting of the St. Joseph Secular Franciscan Fraternity — JAN. 19, hosted at St. Joseph's Oblate Seminary, Route 315, Laffin. Liturgy of the Hours recited at 2 p.m. in the seminary chapel. Fraternity meets regularly on the third Sunday of every month; all professed members of the Secular Franciscans and interested men and women are welcome. Anyone interested in attending may contact Jim Gaffney at (570) 575-1703.

"A Call to Community" Prayer Service — JAN. 20, hosted in Williamsport at the Castellano

Center for Community Outreach, 320 Park Ave.; held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Open house event features a gathering of local support services to pray as one faith community during the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. All are welcome.

Monday Evening Marian Devotion — JAN. 20, hosted by the Oblates of St. Joseph; evening of Marian devotion begins at 6 p.m. in the chapel of St. Joseph's Oblate Seminary, Route 315, Laffin (Pittston). Prayer service includes recitation of the Rosary, Chaplet of Divine Mercy in song, Fatima prayers, hymns and music for the Scriptural mysteries. All are invited to attend and offer devotional prayers to the Blessed Mother for world peace.

Catholic Happenings

Pyrohy/Pierogi Sale — JAN. 25, sponsored by St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Scranton; order pick-ups for handmade potato and cheese pierogi from 2 to 6 p.m. in the parish center, 428 North Seventh Ave. Cost: \$7 per dozen. Advance orders only; deadline is Jan. 21. To place orders, call (570) 342-3749.

Chili Cook-Off Competition — JAN. 26, featuring the men and women of St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport; held in the parish's Fleming Center, 720 West Fourth St., Williamsport, following the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Featuring chili samplings and refreshments available for purchase.

Mardi Gras Celebration — FEB. 8, hosted by Prince of Peace Parish in Old Forge; held in the Arcaro & Genell Banquet Room, Main St., Old Forge, beginning at 6 p.m. Includes hors d'oeuvres and full-course dinner with choice of four entrees: roast beef, veal marsala, baked haddock Italian-style, or chicken française; beverages include beer, wine and soft drinks. Cost: \$35 per person (adults only). Entertainment provided by Frankie Gervasi of The Poets. Seating limited to 125; reservations close Jan. 25. For more information and reservations, call Francis at (570) 451-0112.

Night at the Races — FEB. 22, sponsored by St. André Besette Parish in Wilkes-Barre; hosted at St. Mary's Byzantine Social Hall, 522 Madison St., Wilkes-Barre. Doors open at 6 p.m.; races start at 7 p.m. Includes food and beverages. Admission fee: \$5 (must be at least 21 years of age to attend). For more information, including horse sponsorships and tickets, call (570) 823-4988.

Spreading Christmas Joy



A group of Christmas carolers from the Pittston parishes of Saint John the Evangelist, Saint Joseph Marello and Our Lady of the Eucharist are pictured entertaining the residents of Wesley Village in Jenkins Township on the Saturday following Christmas.

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‘40 Days for Life’ in Wilkes-Barre



The Planned Parenthood offices at 101 North Main St. in Wilkes-Barre were the focus of a recent Forty Days for Life campaign, during which pro-life faithful in the Diocese publicly recited the Rosary outside the Planned Parenthood site each weekday morning. On the last day of the prayer vigil, the Grand Knight from the Knights of Columbus in Great Bend joined the faith-filled gathering, pictured above, and provided them with an icon of the Blessed Mother.



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