

# The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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(2019 Ash Wednesday Photo/Mike Melisky)

## Diocese Preparing to Enter Season of Lent

*XLT experiences to help make hearts ready for remembering Jesus' passion and celebrating His resurrection*

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26, will mark the start of the solemn 40-day season of Lent. Parishes throughout the 11-county Diocese of Scranton will distribute ashes as a sign of penance and to remind individuals of Lent's call to a more complete Gospel lifestyle.

During Lent, we are asked to devote ourselves to seeking the Lord in prayer and reading Scripture, to service by giving alms, and to practice self-control through fasting.

Many know of the tradition of abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent, but we are also called to practice self-discipline and fast in other ways throughout the season. Lent is a time of prayer. Lent is essentially an act of prayer spread out over 40 days. As we pray, we go on a journey, one that hopefully brings us closer to Christ and leaves us changed by the encounter with Him.

While many parishes through the Diocese are holding Road to Resurrection series, Stations of the Cross or Lenten Gospel Reflections, the Office for Parish Life and Vocations Office in the Diocese of Scranton are also sponsoring a series of XLT events across the region during Lent.

Beginning on Sunday, March 1, all the faithful are invited to evenings filled with Eucharistic adoration, praise and worship music, reconciliation and socialization with individuals from all over the Diocese of Scranton.

"The season of Lent helps Christians prepare spiritually for the commemoration of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ during Holy Week," Rev. Donald Williams, Diocesan Director of Vocations & Seminarians, said. "Pope Francis has urged us to not allow this season of grace to pass in vain, which is why we invite everyone to join us for these special XLT events!"

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## Archbishop Nelson J. Perez focuses on hope during installation Mass



Archbishop Nelson J. Perez was installed as the 14th Bishop and tenth Archbishop of Philadelphia on Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020, at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia. (Photo Courtesy: Diocese of Cleveland)

PHILADELPHIA – Catholics from across Pennsylvania and the nation welcomed Philadelphia's newest archbishop on Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020. An installation Mass for Archbishop Nelson J. Perez was celebrated at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul.

During his homily, Archbishop Perez spoke on the topic of hope. The theme for the celebration was Jesus: Hope for the World.

"Hope is a gift from God, given to us by God. Hope is grounded in Christ. It is sustained by the gift of the spirit," Archbishop Perez said. "Hope is the confident expectation of what God has promised and its strength is in His faithfulness."

Archbishop Perez said that hope is all around us. He used the words of Saint Paul to explain that it doesn't disappoint.

Archbishop Perez is the first archbishop of Philadelphia of Hispanic heritage; his parents emigrated from Cuba and he was born in Miami in 1961. He also is the first native son to be archbishop of Philadelphia since Archbishop (later Cardinal) Dennis Dougherty in the early 20th century.

At 58, he is the youngest archbishop since Cardinal John

Krol arrived in Philadelphia in 1961 at the age 50. Prior to his appointment in Philadelphia, Archbishop Perez was the bishop of the Diocese of Cleveland.

During his homily, Archbishop Perez briefly touched on the future.

"I have no plan. I hope to listen and visit over time, learn what the church of Philadelphia looks like today. But I do embrace a vision that is not my vision. It is actually the vision of Pope Francis. The church that goes forth is a community of missionary disciples, who take the first step," Archbishop Perez said.

Archbishop Perez succeeds Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, who last September turned 75, the age at which canon law requires that bishops turn in their resignation to the pope.

During his installation Mass, Archbishop Perez thanked Archbishop Chaput for his steadfast leadership.

"He's a man of great faith. He's a man who proclaims the truth of our Gospel with courage. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia owes this man an incredible debt of gratitude for who he was, is, and will continue to be!" Archbishop Perez added.



# 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.

## POLICY STATEMENT

*The Catholic Light* is our official diocesan journal. The publication of notices, regulations and extra-synodical decrees in said paper constitute legal promulgation for all the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton, Clergy and Laity.

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# Regulations for Lent 2020

All faithful of the Diocese of Scranton are reminded of Diocesan Statute No. 41, which addresses the penitential aspect of Lent:

“The season of Lent is penitential in nature and during Lent penance should be not only internal and individual, but also external and social (Sacrosanctum Concilium, No. 5, 109). Pastors are obliged to avoid scheduling activities in the parishes which in any way could possibly detract from the external and social penance required by Lent.”

Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020 marks the beginning of Lent. The following fast and abstinence regulations are observed:

- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, April 10, 2020, are days of fast and abstinence.
- Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence.
- All Catholics who have reached their 14th birthday are to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and on all Fridays during Lent.
- All Catholics over 18 years of age to the beginning of their 60th year are bound to the obligation of fasting. Those bound by this rule may take only one full meal and two smaller meals unless dispensed or excused.

## Lenten Reminders

Lent is a time for sacrifice and for spiritual renewal as we reflect upon our baptism and the call given to each of us to walk as disciples of the Lord.

As faithful followers of Jesus, we are traditionally encouraged to honor the sacred season of Lent by embracing the three pillars of Lenten observance:

- Almsgiving – generously giving to those in need
- Fasting – practicing self-discipline and self-denial
- Prayer – reading, hearing and reflecting on the Word of God

Lent is also a penitential season. It is a time to seek forgiveness, to look inward, and to admit our shortcomings and failures. It is a time to regroup and to prepare. How can you spend your time during Lent?

- By “giving up” things you hunger after, such as sweets or alcohol; or activities you desire, such as vacations, concerts or movies.
- By “doing” things to help others, such as offering an extra donation to the poor or helping those in need by providing food or clothing.
- By “adding” to our normal routine, such as going to daily Mass, praying the Stations of the Cross and going to confession.

One of the greatest opportunities given by the Church to assist us in our response to the Lord’s invitation to conversion is found in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Once again, the Diocese of Scranton is participating in “The Light Is On for You.” Beginning on the first Monday of Lent, March 2, 2020, and continuing through Monday of the last full week of Lent, March 30, 2020, confessions will be heard in every parish from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

For more information, please visit the Diocesan website at: [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org) and go to the Office for Parish Life page.

Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney  
Vicar General of the Diocese

## XLT events during Lent offer opportunity for people to grow their relationship with God

*Continued from Page 1*

“Many Catholics give something up for Lent as a way of doing penance but genuine Lenten spirituality should also focus on doing something extra for God and other people. Lent offers us the chance to grow in our relationship with God by giving extra time to prayer or Scripture reading or spending quiet time in prayer before Jesus in Eucharistic adoration, which is available at these XLT events,” Shannon Kowalski, Coordinator for Youth and Young Adult Ministry in the Diocese of Scranton, said.

The XLT events scheduled will be held:

• **Sunday, March 1, 6:15 p.m. at Saint Joseph the Worker Parish, Williamsport**

• **Sunday, March 8, 6:00 p.m. at Saint Jude Parish, Mountain Top**

• **Thursday, April 2, 6:00 p.m. at Church of Saint Gregory, Clarks Green**

• **Sunday, April 19, 7:00 p.m. at Saint Matthew Parish, East Stroudsburg**

“The spring series of our XLT events, which coincide with the season of Lent, are celebrating their third anniversary this year,” Dominick Costantino, Jr., Vocation Program Coordinator for the Diocese of Scranton, said. “What began as a request by members of the young church who experienced these prayerful events at the National Catholic Youth Conference and World Youth Day, has transformed into a tremendous opportunity to bring everyone in the Diocese together.”

For more information on the XLT events planned during Lent, visit [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org).

# BISHOP BAMBERA'S LENTEN MESSAGE

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In his Lenten message to the Church this year, Pope Francis invokes Saint Paul's words in his second letter to the Church at Corinth, "We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." In quoting Paul, the Holy Father reminds us all to reflect upon the urgency of this great season of grace and its invitation to conversion. "Keep your eyes fixed on the outstretched arms of Christ crucified, let yourself be saved over and over again. And when you go to confess your sins, believe firmly in his mercy which frees you of your guilt. Contemplate his blood poured out with such great love, and let yourself be cleansed by it. In this way, you can be reborn ever anew," (*Christus Vivit*, 123).

Essentially, Pope Francis reminds us all to make as our own the words of the Old Testament prophet Joel, who proclaims each year on Ash Wednesday, "Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the Lord, your God." Joel calls us to change our lives – to set aside all that keeps us from reflecting the life of God within our own lives. But he boldly challenges us to do so, not merely through gestures and religious practices – but by peering intensely into our hearts to insure that our spirit – the core of our being – is honest and pure and open to the transforming power and presence of God.

It's our honesty with ourselves – and ultimately with God – that will enable us to come to terms not only with our own need for conversion but also, through the great mystery of the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus, to understand God's unwavering desire to engage us in his dialogue of salvation.

Indeed, Pope Francis reminds us that "the dialogue God wishes to establish with each of us through the paschal mystery of his Son has nothing to do with empty chatter" and meaningless rituals. No, the dialogue that we are beckoned to engage should find us "feeling compassion towards the wounds of the crucified Christ present in the many innocent victims of wars, in attacks on life, from that of the unborn to the elderly, and various forms of violence. They are likewise present in environmental disasters, the unequal distribution of the earth's goods, human trafficking in all its forms, and the unbridled thirst for profit."

The Holy Father's words are reinforced by those of Saint Matthew, also proclaimed annually on Ash Wednesday, as he calls us to embrace a lifestyle rooted less in exterior show and far more in a true relationship with God. Pray, fast, give alms in support of the poor – not because such behavior will make us righteous but because such acts for the true follower of Jesus are simply the consequence of faithful lives rooted in Jesus, who teaches us how best to live – not only during this sacred season – but throughout our lives.

More than anything else, my brothers and sisters, Lent challenges us to consider the gift and blessing of the Sacrament of Baptism. On the First Sunday of Lent, we will welcome catechumens into the ranks of the elect; those from our midst who have begun the journey of conversion and who will soon experience the saving power of Jesus in the Easter mysteries of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Their "yes" to the Lord's call gives us hope and should encourage us to recommit ourselves to the vows that were made at our own baptisms. Their "yes" reminds us that we too are called to look beyond ourselves to something more in life.

Finally, one of the great gifts given to us by the Church to assist us in our response to the Lord's invitation to renewal is found in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. To provide for the celebration of this Sacrament in a generous manner, once again, all of the parishes of the Diocese of Scranton will participate in *The Light Is On For You*. Every Monday evening during the Lenten season, beginning on the first Monday of Lent, March 2, and continuing through Monday of the last full week of Lent, March 30, confessions will be heard in every parish from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

My friends, Lent calls us to "be reconciled to God." May we not only embrace these words of Saint Paul but do so with a sense of urgency, heeding his reminder to us in that same passage from II Corinthians, "Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation!"

Let us support one another during this wonderful season of renewal and come to discover the true blessing of our reconciliation with God as we journey together to Easter joy.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

+ *Joseph C. Bambera*

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



## Catholics 'unfriend' social media, choose 'digital detox' for Lent

BALTIMORE (CNS) -- No selfies. No cat videos. Not even an artfully composed photo of avocado toast.

Come Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26, Sheila Wheltle's social media accounts will go dark for 40 days. Her last post will read: "Gone for Lent ... See you at Easter."

More Americans are embracing the concept of a "digital detox" as social media becomes more ubiquitous and at times more harmful, however, others are disconnecting with a distinctly Catholic twist.

Wheltle, a parishioner of St. Mark Church in Catonsville, Maryland, uses Facebook to connect with old friends. She grew up in Philadelphia and later moved to California. She loves how Facebook

keeps her in touch with those far-flung friends, but she's also set it aside for the past nine years during Lent.

"As an extrovert, it really is a lot of fun," Wheltle told the Catholic Review, the media outlet of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. But she said, "Facebook is also a major distraction and time waster."

The tradition of giving up small pleasures, like sweets or coffee, for Lent goes back to the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert fasting and praying. While Catholics are encouraged to pick something that's actually a sacrifice, that doesn't mean the sacrifice isn't beneficial.

Father Mark Bialek, pastor of St. John Parish in Westminster, Maryland, said as Lent approaches he is hearing from more of his

parishioners this year about the need to unplug.

"It does seem to be a priority this year," Father Bialek said. "You want to pick something that's going to bring you closer to God, something that helps lessen all the distraction and noise. And certainly social media is a lot of distractions and noise."

Greg Hoplamazian, a professor of emerging media at Loyola University Maryland in Baltimore, said it is not surprising to see people consider digital detoxes amid recent headlines about the negative effects of social media. Hoplamazian said platforms such as Facebook and Instagram want users engaging with their services constantly, but that's not always a positive thing.

"Social media platforms are really

designed to hold our attention. That's been the main focus, keep people on the platform longer," Hoplamazian said. "But we might not get a lot of benefit. We lose free time. We lose the space for our minds to really just think and wander and be creative."

Hoplamazian said studies have shown that notifications from social media can actually trigger a rise in the feel-good chemical dopamine in the brain, giving people further incentive to stay online.

Even though Wheltle admitted she'll be missing some things over Lent -- such as wishing some friends a happy birthday -- she said the time off is worth it. "I'm sure others pick up the slack," she said of those Lent birthdays.

# LENT

— 40 Days Of Renewal —

## Spiritual opportunities and programs offered during Holy Season of Lent

### Ash Wednesday Retreat

The Office for Parish Life will offer a retreat on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26, at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton. The day will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 2:30 p.m. All faithful of the Diocese are welcome.

Catherine Butel, Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life, will lead the retreat with the theme “Radiate Christ.” Lent is a counter-cultural season that is more about how we are meant to bring Christ to the world rather than just a focus on ourselves as individuals.

The retreat day will include Mass celebrated at 12:10 p.m. in the Cathedral with distribution of ashes. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available prior to Mass. Lunch will be served following the noon-time Ash Wednesday liturgy.

The fee for the day is \$30, which includes lunch. To register, call Jacki Douglas at the Office for Parish Life, (570) 207-2213, ext. 1100, or e-mail [jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org). Registration is also available at [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org).



### 2020 Rice Bowl Collection: “For Lent, For Life”

Through the Catholic Relief Services’ Rice Bowl, we share the journey with members of our human family around the world, and commit our Lenten prayers, fasting and almsgiving to deepening our faith and serving those in need. CRS Rice Bowl, now in its 45th year, raises funds for those who need support and services in communities throughout the U.S. and overseas. Participants journey throughout the 40 days of Lent through daily reflections and offering small, suggested sacrificial gifts to fill their Rice Bowls.

Twenty-five percent of all contributions stay in local dioceses to support hunger and poverty prevention programs. The remaining 75% goes to support CRS’ humanitarian programs overseas, providing life-saving assistance and hope to impoverished and vulnerable communities.

Catholic Relief Services offers a variety of resources to assist parishes, groups and individuals to participate. Please visit <https://www.crsricebowl.org>

### ‘Road to Resurrection’ Series in Luzerne County

The Kingston Deanery is hosting a Road to Resurrection series during the season of Lent, centering on the theme: “Faith, Hope & Love: They’re Still Here.”

The weekly series will be held on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m., beginning on March 4 and continuing through March 18.

Serving as guest preacher will be Father Andrew Kurovsky, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Peckville.

The three Lenten spiritual offerings will include celebration of Mass, with guest homily, at various host parishes throughout the Deanery, followed by a fellowship social. A special collection will also be taken at each Mass for a particular charitable cause.

Road to Resurrection series schedule, with host worship sites, is as follows:

- **March 4** — Saint Therese (Parish) Church, 64 Davis Street, Shavertown
- **March 11** — Saint Ignatius Loyola (Parish) Church, 339 North Maple Street, Kingston.
- **March 18** — Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish at Holy Trinity Church, 116 Hughes Street, Swoyersville.

All faithful are welcome to participate. For more information, contact Father Joseph Pisaneschi, Dean of Kingston, at (570) 287-6624.

### The Light Is On for You

The Church encourages us to make confession a regular part of our spiritual life, especially during the holy season of Lent, as we reflect on our baptism and repentance. Again this year, parishes are participating in a Lenten initiative called *The Light Is On for You*. Every Monday evening during the Lenten season, beginning March 2 and continuing through Monday of the last full week of Lent, March 30, confessions are heard in every parish from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. so that Catholics can come to or return to this incredible source of God’s grace, mercy and healing.



### Devotions at the Cathedral of Saint Peter

During Lent, the Cathedral of Saint Peter is offering several ways in which the faithful can deepen their relationship with Jesus and come to know him in a more intimate way.

On Fridays, the Stations of the Cross are prayed following the 12:10 p.m. Mass and Novena to Saint John Neumann. The Stations will air live on CTV on Feb. 28 after the 12:10 p.m. Mass, and then on succeeding Fridays at 11:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

During the Sundays of Lent, from March 1 through Palm Sunday, April 5, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will continue to be held at the conclusion of the 5 p.m. Sunday Mass at the Cathedral. Evening Prayer and Benediction begin at 6:30 p.m.

A series of Lenten Gospel Reflections will be presented by Monsignor Dale Rupert, pastor of the Cathedral, on Wednesdays during Lent (March 11-April 1) from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Cathedral Church.

In order to gain a deeper understanding of the Gospel passages of Lent, Monsignor Rupert will offer spiritual reflections on the following Scriptural accounts of Jesus’ life and ministry: “The Temptation of Jesus,” “The Transfiguration,” “Jesus and the Samaritan Woman,” “The Healing of the Blind Man,” and “The Raising of Lazarus.”

### ‘Road to Resurrection’ Series in Lackawanna County

Parishes in the Greater Scranton area will present a Road to Resurrection series during the Lenten season, with the six weekly offerings hosted at various parishes.

The series, which opens Feb. 27, will be held on consecutive Thursday evenings, beginning each week at 7 p.m.

All of the faithful are welcome to participate.

Road to Resurrection schedule is as follows:

- **Feb. 27** — Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, 322 Chestnut Street, Dunmore
- **March 5** — SS. Anthony & Rocco Parish, 303 Smith Street, Dunmore
- **March 12** — Saint John Neumann Parish, 633 Orchard Street, South Scranton
- **March 19** — Saint Paul of the Cross Parish, 1217 Prospect Avenue, South Scranton
- **March 26** — Prince of Peace Parish, 123 Grace Street, Old Forge
- **April 2** — Divine Mercy Parish, 312 Davis Street, Minooka section of Scranton.



# New Delegate for Religious appointed for Diocese of Scranton

SCRANTON – Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., has appointed Sister Kathryn Kurdziel, I.H.M., as Delegate for Religious for the Diocese of Scranton effective January 28, 2020.

As Delegate for Religious, Sister Kathy will serve as the liaison between the Bishop and the communities of Religious men and women while also serving the Diocese by supporting the vocation to Consecrated Life.

“We are blessed to welcome Sister Kathy to this important leadership role in the Diocese of Scranton,” Bishop Bambera said. “Throughout her many years of religious life, she has embraced the ministries of education and service locally, nationally and even internationally. Sister Kathy brings a vast understanding of the joys and challenges facing our women and men religious which will be a tremendous asset in her new role.”

As Sister Kathy begins her new position, she believes one of her most important responsibilities will be listening.

“Part of my ministry here will be a ministry of listening. Listening to what religious men and women need, listening to what their challenges are, listening to what they have to offer,” Sister Kathy said. “Sometimes, the religious in the diocese, because they’re retired or close to retirement age, might be underused but still have a great yearning to be involved... I think we need to look for more opportunities for both women and men religious to find places where they can offer their services.”

Born in California, Sister Kathy moved to Daleville with her family at a young age. As a member of Saint Catherine of Siena Parish in Moscow, she first encountered religious sisters while at Saint Cecilia



**Sister Kathryn Kurdziel, I.H.M.**

Cathedral Grade School in Scranton. Without a family car to travel, Sister Kathy relied on bus or train transportation to get between home and school. She describes her interactions with the religious sisters as very formative.

“My parents, my father in particular, was very committed to Catholic education and they wanted their children to have a Catholic education,” Sister Kathy Kurdziel said. “I entered the I.H.M. community right out of high school and never looked back!”

Sister Kathy earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Literature from Marywood University in 1968. She also earned a Master of Arts degree in British and American Literature from the University of Scranton, completed CPE Chaplaincy Training at Washington Hospital Center and Columbia Hospital for Women, and obtained a Master of Arts degree in Pastoral Studies and Religious Formation from Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, MO.

In addition to teaching in the Diocese of Scranton’s Catholic high schools, Sister Kathy also previously served as Director

of Vocations for the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary from 1989 to 1999 and as Director of Candidates and Novices from 2006-2017. During that time, she was involved with the young adult population in the church. As Director of Formation, Sister Kathy was responsible for the education, accompaniment, and ministry preparation of new members of the IHM Congregation. Part of this ministry preparation involved a mission immersion experience with the American and native Peruvian I.H.M. sisters who serve the people of Peru. By sharing life in community and working together, they all began to integrate culture, theology, art, as well as prayer and worship styles, and geographic and social justice challenges through the personal relationships that developed during their days together.

“All of these opportunities broadened our horizons tremendously,” Sister Kathy said, believing that her intercultural experiences will help her in her new role in the Diocese of Scranton by providing valuable insight on why men and women across cultures are still attracted to religious life. “They come with their own personalities and their own language. They come much more mature... They’re often in their mid-30s to 50 with life experience, travel and education. They got the calling early, maybe in grade school or high school, but wanted to explore other experiences first. A number of women have come to us with doctorates or other rich professional experiences which are really wonderful gifts to the congregations.”

Sister Kathy’s wide array of experience also includes working for Catholic Social Services in Washington, D.C. for the

Archdiocesan Healthcare Network, where she was involved in reaching out to the poor and uninsured, accessing medical treatment and interacting with medical personnel as a patient advocate. Through Catholic Social Services of the Archdiocese of New York, she served as personnel director of Mary Carrol Lodge, a vacation venue for adults with severe physical disabilities. Returning to Scranton, she designed and for eleven years directed Summer Splash, a two week hands-on experience of the arts for low-income children.

“What has been wonderful for me is that I’ve been invited into ministries that I never, ever thought about when I became a sister,” Sister Kathy said. “I wanted to be a sister. I wanted to be a teacher but it has gone way, way beyond that!”

Sister Kathy has been a member of several professional organizations and ministries. These included the Diocesan Ecumenical Commission which fosters understanding among the faith traditions in the diocese and the Collaborative Ministry Group which finds gaps in the services to people of the diocese and worked to correct them. She is also currently an alumni board member of Marywood University.

Moving forward, Sister Kathy is looking forward to bringing her experience and energy to the position of Delegate for Religious.

“I’m excited to be able to serve the men and women religious because it is pay-back time. They’ve been the people who have encouraged me, invited me and pushed me,” Sister Kathy added. “They gave me every opportunity to learn and now they’ve invited me to serve as their delegate!”

## Diocese to begin holding Vision 2020 dialogue sessions

Chances are you have heard the famous Benjamin Franklin quote, “By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.”

With the year 2020 now upon us, the Diocese of Scranton is embracing that idea of preparation as it proactively looks toward the future. The Diocese is beginning long-term strategic planning to ensure that parishes remain strong and the strength of the Gospel message continues to resonate throughout northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

In the coming weeks, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will begin holding a series of regional dialogue sessions in which he will have the opportunity to interact and hear from parish delegates. The meetings will look at how our

local Church can best address the challenges and opportunities it is facing over the next ten years and beyond.

The regional dialogue sessions follow-up on a video homily delivered by Bishop Bambera in all parishes on the second Sunday of Advent.

“What do we see when we look around us and confront changing realities in our world – in our society and in our Church?” Bishop Bambera asked during the video homily in December. “How are we called to respond in faithfulness to the Gospel values and to the promises of God in which we have placed our hope?”

As the Diocese strives to strengthen all aspects of parish life, it must be cognizant of an

aging population, a shift in the demographic make-up of many communities and the expected diminishment in the number of ordained priests that will be available to serve as full-time pastors, among other factors.

At the regional dialogue sessions, delegates will be asked to think about their own parish community and brainstorm ideas of how parishes can best work together to meet any challenges and still live the Gospel mission faithfully. Following this exercise, the delegates will be invited to return to their individual parishes for a wider discussion.

The Diocesan Office for Parish Life requested that Pastors or Parish Life Coordinators choose their own parish delegates. They

were encouraged to consider individuals who are open-minded and actively engaged in envisioning the future of our parishes and Diocese.

As the regional dialogue sessions begin, the Diocese understands and appreciates that the primary experience of church for most Catholics is in their parish. This new decade requires that the Diocese be thoughtful, prayerful and creative in the ways that it thinks about the future. Delegates will be free to consider and discuss any bold, new ideas, including partnerships, shared pastoral leadership, the number of worship sites for a specific geographic region and Mass schedules as they look towards the future with hope.

In addition to fostering vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life, the Diocese must also work to remind each person of their own Baptismal call and how that call is reflected in the life and ministry of our parishes.

In his 2013 apostolic exhortation, *Evangelii gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel), Pope Francis urged the entire Church to “embark upon a new chapter of evangelization.” In his writing, the Holy Father said, “The parish is not an outdated institution; precisely because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community.” (*Evangelii gaudium* 28).

# World Day of the Sick Mass brings hope and healing

SCRANTON – Hoping for peace and healing, a number of residents of Saint Mary’s Villa in Elmhurst Township joined members of the public in attending the World Day of the Sick Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020.

“It was a nice Mass. It was beautiful. It helped the people who are sick,” resident Eileen Farry said.

The Mass was attended by more than 100 people. The group from Saint Mary’s Villa sat together in the first pew.

“This is the most gorgeous church I have ever been in,” resident Lola Kuehnepfel said. “The Mass was very peaceful. The whole service was beautiful.”

During the Mass there was a celebration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Anyone acutely or chronically ill, anyone suffering a debilitating condition, anyone facing surgery as well as the elderly were invited to receive the sacrament.



**Eileen Farry, a resident of Saint Mary’s Villa in Elmhurst Township, receives the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick from Bishop Joseph C. Bambera on Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. (Photo/Mike Melisky)**

“I was able to pray for all my relatives here and that meant my husband who passed away about three and a-half years ago. It brought tears to my eyes,” resident Dorothy Vlash said. “This is the first time I’ve been to Mass with the Bishop and it was beautiful.”

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera was the principal celebrant and homilist for the Mass.

During his homily, the Bishop preached on the Gospel of Matthew, also sharing words that Pope Francis wrote in his message for the 28th World Day of the Sick, reflecting particularly on the words, “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.” (Mt 11:28)

“The Holy Father reminds us to keep before our minds and

hearts precisely whom Jesus was addressing with these words,” Bishop Bambera said. “‘When Jesus says this,’ Pope Francis notes, ‘he has before him the people he meets every day on the streets of Galilee: very many simple people, the poor, the sick, sinners, those who are marginalized... These people always followed him to hear his word, a word that gave hope!’ And why were these burdened souls so disposed to Jesus’ words? Because ‘they realize that they depend entirely on God and, beneath the burden of their trials, stand in need of his healing.’”

The Bishop continued, “In sharing these words, Jesus is speaking to you, today, here in our cathedral. He’s speaking words of invitation, of hope and of promise. He makes no demands of you. Nor does he measure your worthiness or your past. Pope Francis reminds us that Jesus ‘embraces people in their entirety...discarding no one, but rather inviting everyone to share in his life and to experiences his tender love.’”

The Bishop said Jesus also invites all of us to receive his healing grace.

Elizabeth Pappas, an employee of Saint Mary’s Villa, said Bishop Bambera’s words resonated in both her heart and mind.

“It made you think, it made you really think, if you go to Jesus, he will give you rest and peace. He will heal all your pains,” Pappas said.

Pappas realizes that every person is carrying a cross of their own, especially the residents she helped bring to the Mass.

“We are also praying for each other, that hopefully we will be able to be healed, get stronger and just believe in Jesus,” Pappas added.

Resident Regina Hanlon said the Mass was well done.

“It brought back a lot of memories,” Hanlon said.

As she left the Cathedral of Saint Peter, resident Caroline Thayer said she felt a sense of peace.

“The Mass represented hope,” Thayer said.

## Six African, Asian countries affected by new travel restrictions

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Catholic leaders said a Trump administration plan to limit the issuance of immigrant visas for people from six African and Asian nations “undermines family reunification” and will make it more difficult to support migrants forced from their homeland.

“We note with particular sadness and have witnessed firsthand the trauma of family separation that occurs with travel bans, which will only increase with this new proclamation,” officials with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and three Catholic agencies that work widely with migrant families said in a Feb. 2 statement.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, chairman of the bishops’ Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, joined other leading church voices on migration and immigration: Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the USCCB; Auxiliary Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville of Washington, chairman of the bishops’ Committee on Migration; Bishop Jamie Soto of Sacramento, California, chairman of the board of Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc.; Dominican Sister Donna

Markham, president and CEO of Catholic Charities USA; and Sean Callahan, president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services.

Beginning Feb. 22, immigrant visas that allow people to live and work permanently in the U.S. will be restricted for foreign nationals from Eritrea, Nigeria, Kyrgyzstan and Myanmar, also known as Burma. People from Sudan and Tanzania will no longer be able to enter the U.S. through the diversity visa lottery, which grants green cards to as many as 50,000 people a year.

People seeking immigrant visas in most cases are sponsored by a relative or an employer.

People seeking nonimmigrant visas on a temporary basis for business, tourism, medical treatment and certain types of temporary work are not affected by the policy. Previously issued visas will remain valid under the new plan.

Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad F. Wolf announced Jan. 31 that President Donald Trump had signed a proclamation placing restrictions on the six countries because they failed to meet minimal security and information-sharing standards for travelers and whether individuals posed a national security threat.

### CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

His Excellency, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, announces the following appointments, effective as indicated.

**Reverend Kevin P. Mulhern**, Retired, from Sacramental Minister, Saint Rita Parish, Gouldsboro, effective March 2, 2020.

**Reverend Fredrick J. Riegler**, Retired (Archdiocese of Philadelphia), to Sacramental Minister, Saint Rita Parish, Gouldsboro, effective March 2, 2020.



### BISHOP BAMBERA’S SCHEDULE

- February 20** - Wyoming Area Catholic School Visit  
Exeter, 12:30 p.m.
- February 23** - Developmental Disabilities Mass  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.
- February 25** - Mass at Wesley Village  
Pittston, 10:00 a.m.
- February 26** - Ash Wednesday Mass  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.
- February 29** - Lenten Day of Reflection for Deacons  
Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton, 8:00 a.m.
- March 1** - Rite of Election  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 2:30 p.m.
- March 5** - Lenten Day of Reflection for Priests  
Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton, 12:00 p.m.
- March 7** - PA for Human Life Respect for Life Breakfast  
Genetti Manor, Dickson City, 9:00 a.m.
- March 7** - Come and See Vocation Retreat  
Villa of Our Lady, Mount Pocono, 3:00 p.m.
- March 10-11** - USCCB Administrative Committee Meeting  
Washington, D.C.
- March 12** - USCCB Committee on International Justice & Peace  
Washington, D.C.



# Diocese & University of Scranton sign admissions agreement

SCRANTON – Graduates of the Diocese of Scranton's four Catholic high schools have another reason to consider The University of Scranton if they are planning to attend college.

The University of Scranton and the Diocese of Scranton signed a memorandum of understanding on Thursday, Feb. 6, 2020, that will guarantee admission to the University and minimum scholarships of \$15,000 or more for graduates who meet eligibility requirements.

"We're grateful for the University's commitment to the Diocese and our students," Jason W.S. Morrison, Diocesan Secretary of Catholic Education and Chief Executive Officer, said during a signing ceremony held on the University of Scranton campus.

The memorandum will grant admission to most majors at the University to graduates of Holy Cross High School in Dunmore, Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre, Notre Dame Junior/Senior High School in East Stroudsburg, and Saint John Neumann Junior/Senior High School in Williamsport. Graduates must have a minimum GPA (Grade Point Average) of 3.0 and either a 1080 SAT or a 21 ACT composite score or higher, and meet other criteria.

"For us, this is a chance to recognize something that we've always known, that the Diocesan System of schools in the Diocese of Scranton is outstanding and the families who make that investment to have their children go through that, we really wanted to reward that," Gerry Zaboski, Vice President for Enrollment Management and External Affairs at the University of Scranton, said. "While we've always enrolled students from the Diocesan schools, we were looking for a way to expand that, to be able to help them understand the opportunities that we have here."



**The Diocese of Scranton and The University of Scranton have signed a memorandum of understanding that guarantees admission and minimum scholarships to the University for graduates of the four Diocesan high schools who meet eligibility requirements. Gathered for the signing ceremony are, front row, from left: Jason W.S. Morrison, Diocesan Secretary of Catholic Education and Chief Executive Officer, Diocese of Scranton; Rebekah Bernard, Information and Technology Specialist for Admissions and Enrollment, University of Scranton; Gerry Zaboski, Vice President for Enrollment Management and External Affairs, University of Scranton. Second row: Joseph Roback, Associate Vice Provost for Admissions and Enrollment, University of Scranton; Benjamin Tolerico, Principal, Holy Cross High School; Jeffrey Lyons, Principal, Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School; Alisia McNamee, Principal, Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School; Kristen Donohue, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Diocese of Scranton; Doreen Dougherty, Principal, Holy Redeemer High School; Mary Kay Aston, Assistant Vice Provost for Admissions and Enrollment, University of Scranton.**

Students who meet eligibility requirements will receive, at minimum, an annual \$15,000 scholarship to the University with a total value of \$60,000. The agreement will take effect for most majors beginning with the 2020-21 academic year.

Graduates of Diocese of Scranton high schools wishing to enroll in the University's entry-level programs for occupational therapy (five-year master's program), nursing (bachelor's degree) and Doctor of Physical Therapy (guaranteed seat for seven-year program) must have a minimum GPA of 3.50 and either a 1270 SAT or a

27 ACT composite score, and meet other criteria. Students who meet the eligibility requirements will receive, at minimum, an annual \$18,000 scholarship to the University with a total value of \$72,000. The agreement for these majors will take effect beginning with the 2021-22 academic year.

The principals of all four Diocesan high schools attended the signing ceremony.

"Many of our kids look at the University of Scranton. It's one of the first places and one of the more popular places they come to," Jeff Lyons, principal of Notre Dame Junior/Senior High School, said.

"I'm ecstatic. I've been talking about it non-stop since I heard about it myself. What a wonderful opportunity to create that interest for the students, after giving you that four years of a Catholic education, we're going to help you raise that level just a little bit more and here's what you're already guaranteed for continuing your education," Alisia McNamee, principal of Saint John Neumann Junior/Senior High School, said. "I'm ecstatic to share the news. I really can't wait. I think the families and the students will also be as excited and energized as I am about this new venture."

Last fall's incoming class at The University of Scranton included 29 graduates from the four Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Scranton.

"As a lot of our students are already beginning or are well into the process of looking at colleges and universities, we think this will be a game changer for them," Morrison said. "It allows them the opportunity to think about the programs that the university is offering to them in a different way and it allows them to think about staying here in our local community which is really important."

While The University of Scranton is proud to enroll students from all over the world, the largest number of its students are natives of northeastern Pennsylvania.

"This is serving the students that we really want to serve and were founded to serve," Zaboski added.

For more information about the memorandum of understanding, contact Diocese of Scranton Catholic Schools Office at (570) 207-2251, or Rebekah Bernard, Information and Technology Specialist for Admissions and Enrollment at The University of Scranton, at [Rebekah.bernard@scranton.edu](mailto:Rebekah.bernard@scranton.edu) or (570) 941-5918.

## Bishop Bambera visits Nativity Miguel School



**Bishop Joseph C. Bambera visited the Nativity Miguel School of Scranton on Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2020. The Bishop spent time meeting and talking with students. Nativity Miguel School of Scranton is an independent Catholic, co-educational school that empowers its students to reach their full potential as students, leaders and role models in their families and community.**

## Teens take part in winter ISLI program



**More than 65 teenagers from across the Diocese of Scranton took part in the International Student Leadership Institute from Friday, Feb. 14 - Sunday, Feb. 16, 2020 at the Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center in Dalton. Bishop Bambera celebrated the closing Mass, posing with the students afterward. ISLI is open to teens who wish to learn about leadership and improve their already existing decision-making and problem-solving skills through the teachings of the Catholic faith.**

Stay Connected!

@DoSCatholic Schools (Facebook) @DoSCathSchools (Twitter)

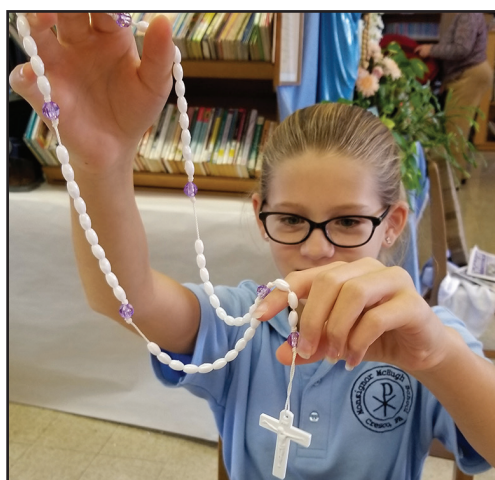


Diocese of Scranton  
**CATHOLIC**  
 SCHOOL SYSTEM  
 FAITH • ACADEMICS • SERVICE

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



All Saints Academy in Scranton



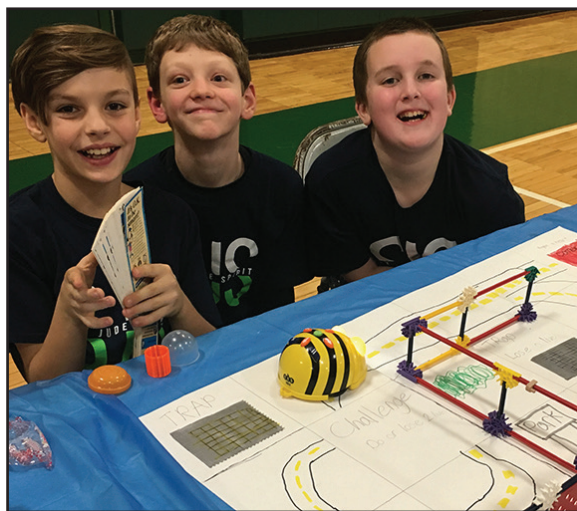
Addison Nat, a sixth grade student at **Monsignor McHugh School in Cresco**, makes her own rosary beads with the help of Pocono Central Catholic High School alumnae Mrs. Patt Fitzhugh.



Saint Agnes School in Towanda



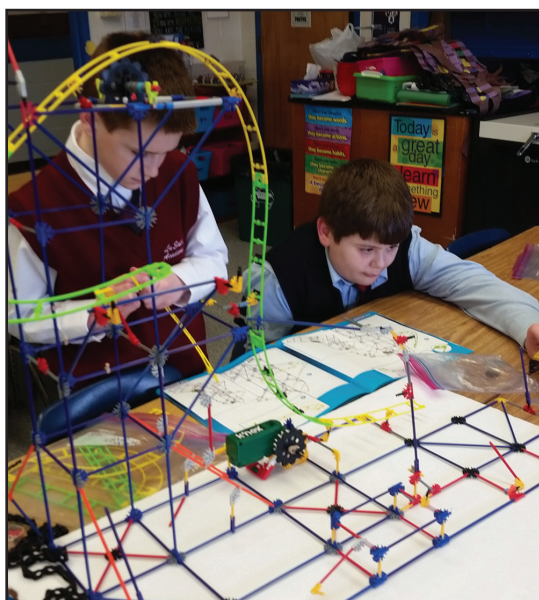
The students and faculty of **Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston** concluded Catholic Schools Week with a liturgy celebrated by Msgr. David L. Tressler, Pastor of Saint Ignatius Church in Kingston, and attended by Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Ms. Kathleen Gilmartin.



Saint Jude School in Mountain Top



Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green



La Salle Academy in Jessup



Students at **Holy Family Academy in Hazleton** show off their certificates after learning they won the "Keep Christ in Christmas" coloring contest sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.



First grade students at **Holy Rosary School in Duryea** are learning about the importance of dental health. They created tooth puppets and received a toothbrush from the Colgate Palmolive Bright Smiles/Bright Future Program.





Fifth and sixth grade students at **Epiphany School in Sayre** studied the human body systems and then put “bodies” together according to their patient’s medical chart and their knowledge of the human anatomy.



Students from **Holy Cross High School in Dunmore** will be spending time in New Jersey participating in the GIFTS Summer Service trip to work with St. Bernard Project, helping rebuild damaged areas impacted by Super Storm Sandy. The St. Bernard Project is a national organization involved with rebuilding houses after natural disasters.



Students from **Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg** proudly display their second-quarter achievement awards.



**Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton**



Student Council President Patrick Carney and Treasurer Emily Ortiz from **Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg** help organize the 822 cans of soup and other food items collected for Saint Matthew’s Food Pantry during their “Soup-er Bowl.”



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



During Catholic Schools Week, students and faculty at **Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore** made “Socks-n-Snack Bags” to donate to Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen in Scranton with hopes of keeping everyone’s stomach full and feet warm.

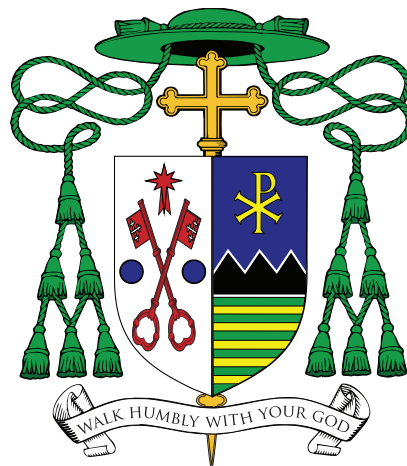


**Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport**



Father Donald Williams, Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians, opened Catholic Schools Week at **Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter** by celebrating a liturgy with the school community.





February 20, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I want to thank you for your continued financial support to your parish and our Diocese. On the following pages you will find the audited financial statements of the Administrative Offices of the Diocese of Scranton for the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

In presenting this information to you, I once again pledge both accountability and transparency. While this has been a challenging year for our local Church, we continue to spread the good news of our Lord, serve and care for thousands of our neighbors in need through the tremendous work of Catholic Social Services, and educate nearly 5,000 students in our 20 Catholic schools and 17,000 children in parish-based programs. Our work cannot continue without your prayers and support.

As many of you are aware, in January 2019, the Diocese of Scranton launched its Independent Survivors Compensation Program to provide support and healing to survivors of sexual abuse. This fund is administered by a third party with an independent oversight committee. As you will see in the accompanying report, through June 30, 2019, a total of \$5.3 million was paid to survivors. In addition, another \$20 million was accrued for expected payments. The legal fees related to the compensation program and the Pennsylvania Grand Jury investigation for this period were \$1.2 million.

While claims continue to be processed at this time, the Diocese has funded and expects to fund most of these costs from the sale of its three long-term care facilities: Little Flower Manor, Saint Luke's Villa and Saint Therese Residence. Since the sale closed in September 2019, the transaction is not reflected in the statement of operations for this fiscal period. While the decision to sell these facilities was not easy, discussions regarding a potential sale began in 2015, long before the Grand Jury investigation. The current and ever-changing state of the healthcare industry was the precipitating factor for those discussions.

I want to re-assure you that no money from the Diocesan Annual Appeal is used to pay for any part of the Independent Survivors Compensation Program. Your appeal gifts only support ministry operations and no appeal funds were, are, or will ever be used for legal expenses or settlements.

Just like other agencies, the Diocese itself has worked to reduce its overall operating budget. As leadership does annually, officials have taken a long, hard look at their individual budgets to make sure all appropriate savings can be made and our finance department continues to look at all revenue enhancing opportunities as appropriate.

I am most grateful for the ministry of our priests, deacons, religious and lay faithful who work each day on behalf of our local Church. Because of your continued support to parishes and the Diocesan Annual Appeal, along with your willingness to give back to God for all that you have been given, we are able to make Christ present every day to the people of northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

May God continue to bless you and your families.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+ Joseph C. Bambera*

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



General

•As in previous years, the financial statements of the Diocesan Administrative Offices of the Diocese of Scranton have been independently audited. The report of the independent auditor, McGrail Merkel Quinn & Associates, P.C., Certified Public Accounts, present fairly the financial position and the related statements of activities and cash flows of the Diocese as of June 30, 2019 and 2018.

•The financial statements include activities related to the Diocesan Administrative Offices, not activities related to Catholic Social Services and the Diocesan School System. These organizations are audited separately. The statements also do not include parish activities.

•For the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the Diocese had a loss from operations in the amount of \$27,644,389. The contributing factor for the loss was the payments made under the Diocese of Scranton Independent Survivors Compensation Program. The Diocese plans to fund the compensation program through the sale of its three long-term care facilities.

Income

•Diocesan Annual Appeal revenues were down approximately \$1,000,000. The decrease meant ministries supported by the Appeal received less funding for 2019-2020. The 2018 Diocesan Annual Appeal launched on the heels of the Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report.

•There were fewer bequests during this fiscal year. That, coupled with gifts received in 2018 primarily for the renovations at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, resulted in a reduction of approximately \$2.2 million over the prior financial period.

•Net realized gain on the sale of investments increased \$1,500,000. This represents gains realized due to a continued strong financial market.

Expenses

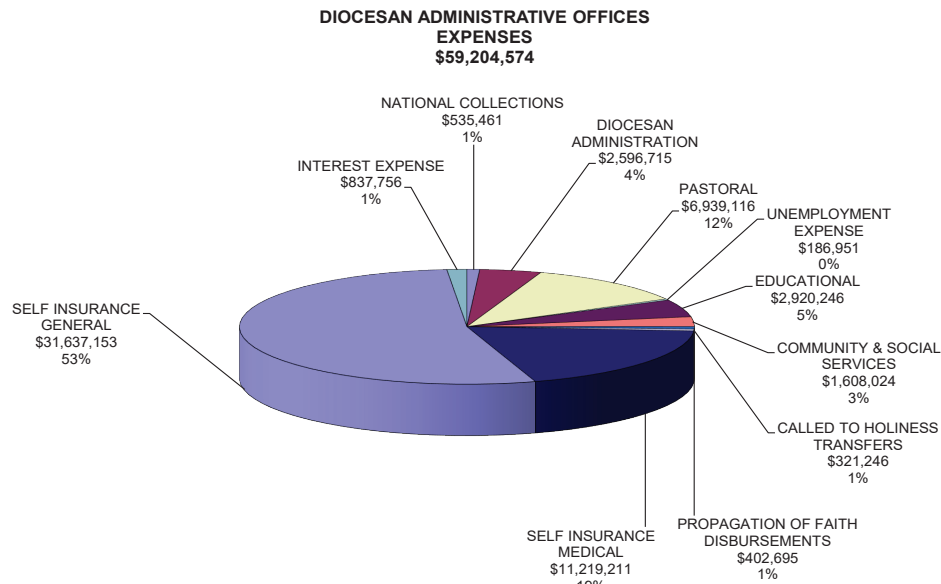
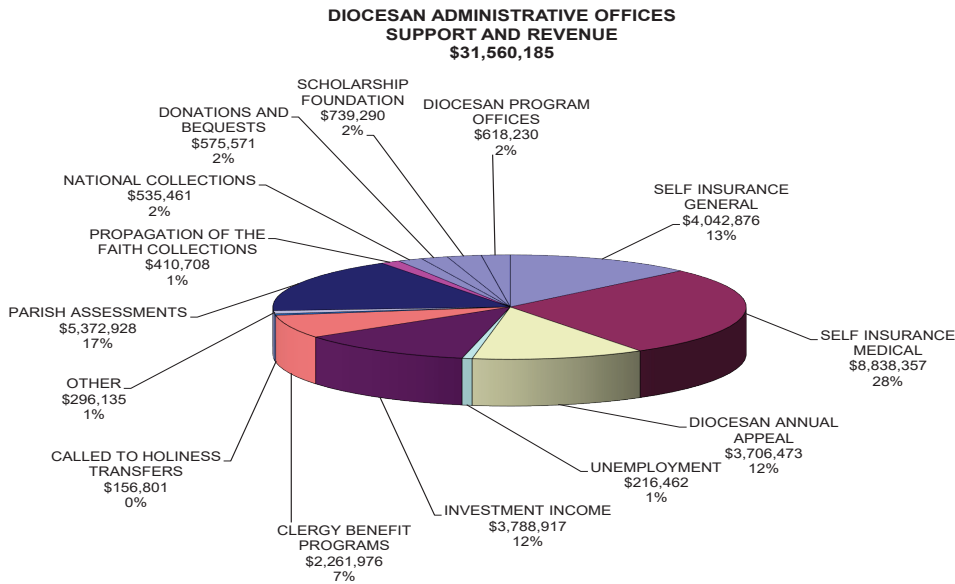
•Pastoral care expenses were down \$700,000. This was due to a large decrease in rehab fees for members of the clergy, a significant decrease in the amount accrued for clergy post-retirement costs and a significant decrease in clergy medical assistance and maintenance costs.

•Community and Social Service costs decreased \$2,373,000. This was due funds advanced for the Cathedral renovations in the 2018 fiscal period.

•Administrative costs increased \$30,424,000. This, as noted in Bishop Bambera’s letter, is due to payments made to survivors of sexual abuse and legal fees related to the Independent Survivors Compensation Program. The Diocese plans to fund the compensation program through the sale of its three long-term care facilities.

-Robert J. Miller, Chief Financial Officer

Operating Funds



Independent Auditor’s Report

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Diocesan Administrative Offices of the Diocese of Scranton which comprise the statements of financial position as of June 30, 2019 and 2018, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity’s preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity’s internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Diocesan Administrative Offices of the Diocese of Scranton as of June 30, 2019 and 2018, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

As discussed in Note 1 to the financial statements, as of July 1, 2018, the Diocesan Administrative Offices of the Diocese of Scranton adopted new accounting guidance in Accounting Standards Update (ASU) No. 2016-14, Not-for-Profit Entities (Topic 958): Presentation of Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Entities. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The accompanying supplementary information in Schedules 1 to 5 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

McGrail Merkel Quinn & Associates, P.C.  
December 23, 2019

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FEBRUARY 20, 2020 • THE CATHOLIC LIGHT

Statement of Activities - Years Ended June 30, 2019 and 2018

	2019			2018		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Revenues, gains and other support						
Parish assessments						
Diocesan	\$ 4,416,560	\$ -	\$ 4,416,560	\$ 4,506,163	\$ -	\$ 4,506,163
Clergy Care and Wellness	956,368	-	956,368	952,575	-	952,575
Intra-Diocesan billings						
Self-insurance premiums - General	4,042,876	-	4,042,876	3,907,331	-	3,907,331
Self-insurance premiums - Medical	8,838,357	-	8,838,357	9,247,045	-	9,247,045
Clergy benefit programs	2,261,976	-	2,261,976	2,433,088	-	2,433,088
Diocesan Program Revenues - Schedule 1	618,230	-	618,230	693,222	-	693,222
Diocesan Annual Appeal	-	3,706,473	3,706,473	-	4,750,437	4,750,437
Special collections	-	36,007	36,007	-	26,173	26,173
Donations and bequests	465,925	109,646	575,571	2,623,359	152,698	2,776,057
Scholarship Foundation contributions	-	739,290	739,290	-	770,914	770,914
Custodial receipts						
National collections	-	535,461	535,461	-	1,444,752	1,444,752
Unemployment	216,462	-	216,462	379,457	-	379,457
Called to Holiness transfers	156,801	-	156,801	4,644	-	4,644
Propagation collections	410,708	-	410,708	282,439	-	282,439
Other revenue	224,095	-	224,095	118,970	-	118,970
Investment income, net	1,102,831	171,864	1,274,695	915,571	116,393	1,031,964
Net realized gain on sale of investments	2,514,222	-	2,514,222	1,285,428	-	1,285,428
Net realized gain on sale of property	36,033	-	36,033	-	-	-
Net assets released from restrictions (Note 6):						
Satisfaction of program restrictions	5,191,295	(5,191,295)	-	7,286,090	(7,286,090)	-
Total revenues, gains and other support	\$ 31,452,739	\$ 107,446	\$ 31,560,185	\$ 34,635,382	\$ (24,723)	\$ 34,610,659
Expenses						
Pastoral - Schedule 2	6,939,116	-	6,939,116	7,638,342	-	7,638,342
Educational - Schedule 3	2,920,246	-	2,920,246	2,846,563	-	2,846,563
Community and Social Service - Schedule 4	2,010,719	-	2,010,719	4,384,026	-	4,384,026
Administrative - Schedule 5	45,453,079	-	45,453,079	15,029,317	-	15,029,317
Called to Holiness transfers	321,246	-	321,246	4,960	-	4,960
Custodial disbursements						
National collections	535,461	-	535,461	1,444,752	-	1,444,752
Unemployment	186,951	-	186,951	149,936	-	149,936
Interest expense	837,756	-	837,756	644,770	-	644,770
Total expenses	59,204,574	-	59,204,574	32,142,666	-	32,142,666
(Deficiency) excess of revenues over expenses	(27,751,835)	107,446	(27,644,389)	2,492,716	(24,723)	2,467,993
Other changes						
Provision for bad debt	(689,621)	-	(689,621)	(526,863)	-	(526,863)
Pension-related changes other than net periodic pension cost	(691,360)	-	(691,360)	2,130,654	-	2,130,654
Transfer to lay pension plan	(622,738)	-	(622,738)	(1,972,948)	-	(1,972,948)
Change in net unrealized gains and losses on investments	578,608	-	578,608	1,487,036	-	1,487,036
(Decrease) increase in net assets	(29,176,946)	107,446	(29,069,500)	3,610,595	(24,723)	3,585,872
Net assets, beginning	1,446,572	7,526,261	8,972,833	(2,164,023)	7,550,984	5,386,961
Net assets, ending	\$ (27,730,374)	\$ 7,633,707	\$ (20,096,667)	\$ 1,446,572	\$ 7,526,261	\$ 8,972,833



# Statement of Financial Position

June 30, 2019 and 2018

## Assets

	2019	2018
Cash and equivalents	\$ 8,163,229	\$ 8,072,513
Certificates of deposit	1,922,000	2,183,000
Accounts receivable, less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$3,787,193 in 2019 and \$3,276,964 in 2018	5,166,973	4,378,333
Accrued interest receivable	126,207	83,331
Contributions receivable	863,450	1,171,014
Due from Catholic Cemeteries	396,313	161,444
Prepaid expense	357,705	509,503
Cash subject to program restrictions	5,239,905	5,291,485
Notes and loans receivable	3,352,440	3,518,184
Investments	55,891,370	60,344,777
Land, buildings and equipment, net	6,189,583	6,372,854
Other assets	418,590	366,425
Total assets	\$ 88,087,765	\$ 92,452,863

## Liabilities and Net Assets

	2019	2018
Accounts payable	\$ 481,692	\$ 753,035
Custodial funds payable	609,784	508,684
Accrued interest expense	301,298	205,273
Contributions payable	670,571	2,258,178
Scholarships payable	694,150	844,918
Liability for pension benefits	10,246,332	9,641,262
Accrued claim expense	2,921,941	2,003,342
Accrued Independent Survivors Compensation Program	20,000,000	-
Accrued postretirement benefit obligation	10,247,938	10,131,682
Loans payable	8,352,440	3,518,184
Due to Diocese of Scranton Institute	22,982,170	23,093,504
Funds on deposit		
Catholic Cemeteries Perpetual Care and other funds	18,011,481	17,931,914
Other Diocesan organizations Perpetual Care	12,664,635	12,590,054
Total liabilities	108,184,432	83,480,030
Net assets		
Without donor restrictions	(27,730,374)	1,446,572
With donor restrictions	7,633,707	7,526,261
Total net assets	(20,096,667)	8,972,833
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 88,087,765	\$ 92,452,863

# Statement of Cash Flows

June 30, 2019 and 2018

	2019	2018
Operating activities		
(Decrease) increase in net assets	\$ (29,069,500)	\$ 3,585,872
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash used in operating activities:		
Net realized gain on sale of investments	(2,514,222)	(1,285,428)
Net unrealized gain on investments	(578,608)	(1,487,036)
Net realized gain on sale of property	(36,033)	-
(Accretion) amortization on investments	(50,222)	2,062
Depreciation expense	372,611	372,590
Provision for bad debt	689,621	526,863
Increase in accounts receivable	(1,478,261)	(1,127,663)
(Increase) decrease in accrued interest receivable	(42,876)	20,674
Decrease (increase) in contributions receivable	307,564	(1,101,729)
Increase in due from Catholic Cemeteries	(234,869)	(86,406)
Decrease in prepaid expense	151,798	176,700
(Increase) decrease in other assets	(52,165)	197,550
(Decrease) increase in accounts payable	(271,343)	33,116
Increase (decrease) in custodial funds payable	101,100	(174,578)
Increase in accrued interest expense	96,025	55,589
(Decrease) increase in contributions and scholarships payab	(1,738,375)	52,828
Increase (decrease) in liability for pension benefits	605,070	(1,362,314)
Increase (decrease) in accrued claim expense	918,599	(91,745)
Increase in accrued Independent Survivors Compensation Program	20,000,000	-
Increase (decrease) in accrued postretirement benefit obligation	116,256	(920,765)
(Decrease) increase in due to Diocese of Scranton Institute	(111,334)	689,170
Contributions and interest restricted for long-term investment	(8,258)	(6,997)
Net cash used in operating activities	(12,827,422)	(1,931,647)
Investing activities		
Change in restricted cash	\$ 43,322	\$ 29,102
Purchase of fixed assets	(205,529)	(147,200)
Proceeds from sale of property	52,222	-
Principal collected-loans receivable	165,744	160,784
Purchase of investments	(30,827,448)	(29,575,152)
Proceeds from sale of investments	38,693,165	32,957,052
Net cash provided by investing activities	7,921,476	3,424,586
Financing activities		
Proceeds from interest and contributions restricted for:		
Investment in endowment	8,258	6,997
Proceeds from loan	5,000,000	-
Principal payments on loan	(165,744)	(160,784)
Funds on deposit		
Additions	180,748	578,414
Withdrawals	(26,600)	(20,541)
Net cash provided by financing activities	4,996,662	404,086
Net increase in cash	90,716	1,897,025
Cash and equivalents, beginning	8,072,513	6,175,488
Cash and equivalents, ending	\$ 8,163,229	\$ 8,072,513

*The accompanying Notes are an integral part of these Financial Statements.*

### Note 1 - Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### Nature of Operations

The accompanying financial statements are limited to reporting financial transactions of the Diocesan Administrative Offices of the Diocese of Scranton (the Diocese). Other organizations, which are owned and operated by the Diocese of Scranton and maintained separately from the Administrative Offices, are not reported on in these financial statements, including Little Flower Manor, Catholic Schools, Catholic Youth Center, Catholic Social Services, Diocese of Scranton Institute and other Diocesan service organizations. These statements also exclude the financial transactions of the parishes and the Diocesan and parish cemeteries.

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles; the more significant of which are described below.

#### Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

14 Public Support and Revenue

Contributions received and unconditional promises to give are measured at their fair values and are reported as an increase in net assets. Gifts of cash and other assets are reported as support with donor restrictions if they are received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets, or if they are designated as support for future periods. When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, net assets with donor restrictions are reclassified to net assets without donor restrictions and reported in the Statements of Activities as net assets released from restrictions. Contributions with donor-imposed restrictions that are met in the same year as received or earned are reported as revenues without donor restrictions. An allowance is made for uncollectible contributions based upon management’s judgment and analysis of the creditworthiness of the donors, past collection experience and other relevant factors.

Endowment contributions and investments are restricted by the donor in perpetuity. Investment earnings that are available to be distributed are recorded as support with donor restrictions.

Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable consists of assessments billed to parishes and other Diocesan organizations for insurance, priests’ pension and health insurance and Diocesan programs and operations. Based on management’s evaluation of collectibility, the Diocese has established an allowance for uncollectible accounts.

Investments

Investments in equity securities with readily determinable fair values and all investments in debt securities are measured at fair value in the Statements of Financial Position. Investment income or loss (including realized gains and losses on investments, interest and dividends) is reported in the Statements of Activities as increases or decreases in net assets without donor restrictions unless the income is restricted by donor or law.

Land, Buildings and Equipment

Land, buildings and equipment are recorded at cost less accumulated depreciation. Donations of land, buildings or equipment are recorded at estimated fair value and are included in support unless restricted to a specific purpose. If donors stipulate how long the assets must be used, the contributions are recorded as restricted support. In the absence of such stipulations, contributions of property and equipment are recorded as support without donor restrictions. Depreciation is computed on the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of assets.

Long-Lived Assets

The Diocese reviews the carrying value of long-lived assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that carrying amounts of the assets might not be recoverable.

Contributions Payable

Contributions made and unconditional promises to make future contributions to other organizations are recognized when made or the promise conveyed. Contributions payable over more than one year are recorded at their discounted present value. Changes in discounts are recognized over the period of the promise as adjustments to contributions expense.

Excess of Revenues Over Expenses

The Statements of Activities include excess of revenues over expenses. Changes in net assets without donor restrictions which are excluded from excess of revenues over expenses include provision for bad debt, unrealized gains and losses on investments and transfers of assets to and from affiliates for other than goods and services.

Self-Insurance Programs

Diocesan organizations, including the Diocesan Administrative Offices, parishes and other institutions, are included in a combined plan for property, workers compensation and comprehensive liability insurance. Losses above a specific amount are insured with commercial insurance companies but losses below that amount are self-insured by the Diocese. The Diocese has a standby letter of credit in the amount of \$1,800,000 to provide security for future workers’ compensation claim payments. The Diocese records as a liability amounts determined by its insurance administrator as the estimated liability for claims filed for insured losses under the program. The actual liability paid may be in excess of or less than the amounts provided. Refer to Note 9 for additional information.

Defined Benefit Plans

The Diocese recognizes the overfunded or underfunded status of its defined benefit plans as an asset or liability in its Statements of Financial Position and recognizes changes

in that funded status in the year in which the changes occur through other changes in net assets. Refer to Note 8.

Funds on Deposit

The funds on deposit are Catholic Cemeteries and other Diocesan organizations perpetual care funds. Interest rates range from 1.25% to 3.0%. The funds are invested in separate trust accounts at Merrill Lynch.

Advertising

All advertising costs are expensed as incurred. For the years ended June 30, 2019 and 2018, advertising expense amounted to \$60,506 and \$55,650, respectively.

Cash Flows

For the purpose of the Statements of Cash Flows, the Diocese considers all highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less when purchased to be cash equivalents. Cash is held in interest-bearing demand accounts and trust accounts at banks. Cash and cash equivalents for the purposes of the Statements of Cash Flows exclude restricted cash and cash equivalents.

During the years ended June 30, 2019 and 2018, the Diocese paid interest in the amounts of \$741,731 and \$589,181, respectively.

Income Tax Status

The Diocese is a not-for-profit organization that is exempt from income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

In accordance with the Financial Accounting Standards Board guidance on accounting for uncertainty in income taxes, management evaluated the Diocese’s tax positions and concluded that the Diocese had taken no uncertain tax positions that require adjustment to the financial statements to comply with the provisions of this guidance. With few exceptions, the Diocese is no longer subject to income tax examinations by the U.S. federal, state or local tax authorities for years before 2015.

Cost Allocations

The financial statements report certain expense categories that are attributable to more than one function. Therefore, these expenses require an allocation on a reasonable basis that is consistently applied. Costs not directly attributable to a function, including general insurance and depreciation are allocated to a functional region based on square-footage. Salaries and wages, employee benefits, and other expenses are allocated to a functional region based on estimated time and effort.

Liquidity

The Diocese regularly monitors liquidity required to meet its annual operating needs and other contractual commitments. As of June 30, 2019, the following financial assets are available to meet annual operating needs for the year ended June 30, 2020:

Financial assets at year-end:	
Cash and equivalents	\$ 8,163,229
Certificates of deposit	1,922,000
Accounts receivable	5,166,973
Accrued interest receivable	126,207
Investments	55,891,370
	<hr/> 71,269,779
Less amounts not available to be used within one year:	
Funds on deposit	30,676,116
Investments with donor restrictions	3,087,952
	<hr/>

Financial assets available to meet general expenditures within one year	
	\$ 37,505,711

The Diocese has various sources of liquidity at its disposal including cash, certificates of deposits, various receivables, and investments.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) issued Accounting Standards Update (“ASU”) 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers. This new accounting guidance outlines a single comprehensive model for entities to use in accounting for revenue from contracts with customers. ASU No. 2014-09 is effective for the Diocese for fiscal 2020. Early application is permitted for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2016. The Diocese does not believe the standard will have a material impact on its financial statements.



**Recent Accounting Pronouncements (continued)**

In August 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-14, Not-for-Profit Entities (Topic 958): Presentation of Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Entities, with the intent of reducing diversity in reporting practice, reduce complexity, and enhance understandability of not-for-profit (NFP) financial statements. This ASU contains the following key aspects: (A) reduces the number of net asset classes presented from three to two: with donor restrictions and without donor restrictions; (B) requires all NFPs to present expenses by their functional and their natural classifications in one location in the financial statements; (C) requires NFPs to provide quantitative and qualitative information about management of liquid resources and availability of financial assets to meet cash needs within one year of the balance sheet date; and (D) retains the options to present operating cash flows in the statement of cash flows using either the direct or indirect method. The Diocese implemented ASU 2016-14 as of July 1, 2018. The impact of the adoption resulted in enhanced disclosures about the classification of expenses and management of liquid resources. As a result of adoption, temporarily restricted net assets in the amount of \$4,446,567 and permanently restricted net assets in the amount of \$3,079,694 were combined as net assets with donor restrictions as stated on the Statements of Financial Position as of June 30, 2018.

In March 2017, the FASB issued ASU 2017-07, Compensation - Retirement Benefits (Topic 715): Improving the Presentation of Net Periodic Pension Cost and Net Periodic Postretirement Benefit Cost. ASU 2017-07 requires that an entity report the service cost component of net periodic pension and postretirement cost in the same line item or items as other compensation costs arising from services rendered by the pertinent employees during the period. The remaining components of net benefit costs are required to be presented in the income statement separately from the service component and outside a subtotal of income from operations, if one is presented. The amendment further allows only the service cost component of net periodic pension and postretirement costs to be eligible for capitalization. ASU 2017-07 will be effective for the Diocese beginning on July 1, 2019. ASU 2017-07 must be applied retrospectively for the presentation of the service cost component and the other components of net periodic pension cost and net periodic postretirement benefit cost in the income statement, and prospectively, on and after the effective date, for the capitalization of the service cost component of net periodic pension cost and net periodic postretirement benefit in assets. The Diocese is currently evaluating the impact of the adoption of this guidance on its financial statements.

In June 2018, the FASB issued ASU 2018-08, Not-for-Profit Entities (Topic 958): Clarifying the Scope and the Accounting Guidance for Contributions Received and Contributions Made. ASU 2018-08 clarifies the guidance for evaluating whether a transaction is reciprocal (i.e., an exchange transaction) or nonreciprocal (i.e., a contribution) and for distinguishing between conditional and unconditional contributions. The ASU also clarifies the guidance used by entities other than not-for-profits to identify and account for contributions made. The ASU has different effective dates for resource recipients and resource providers. Where the Organization is the resource recipient, the ASU is applicable to contributions received for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2018, and interim periods within annual periods beginning after December 15, 2019. Where the Organization is a resource provider, the ASU is effective for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2019 and interim periods within annual periods beginning after December 15, 2020. Early adoption is permitted. The Diocese is assessing the impact this standard will have on its financial statements.

In August 2018, the FASB issued ASU 2018-13, Fair Value Measurement (Topic 820): Disclosure Framework—Changes to the Disclosure Requirements for Fair Value Measurement, which modifies the disclosure requirements for fair value measurements by removing, modifying, or adding certain disclosures. ASU 2018-13 is effective for all entities for fiscal years, and interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning after December 15, 2019. An entity is permitted to early adopt any removed or modified disclosures and delay adoption of the additional disclosures until their effective date. The Diocese is currently evaluating the impact of this new standard on its financial statements.

In August 2018, the FASB issued ASU 2018-14, Compensation - Retirement Benefits - Defined Benefit Plans - General (Subtopic 715-20): Disclosure Framework - Changes to the Disclosure Requirements for Defined Benefit Plans, which modifies the disclosure requirements for defined benefit pension plans and other post-retirement plans. This ASU is effective for the Diocese for fiscal years ending after December 15, 2020 and must be applied on a retrospective basis. The amendments in ASU 2018-14 are effective for the Diocese for fiscal years ending after December 15, 2021, with early adoption permitted. The Diocese is currently evaluating the impact of this new standard on its financial statements.

**Reclassifications**

Certain items on the prior year's financial statements have been reclassified to conform to the current year's format.

**Subsequent Events**

The Diocese has evaluated subsequent events through December 23, 2019, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

**Note 2 - Cash and Equivalents**

Cash and equivalents at June 30, 2019, consisted of the following:

FNCB Bank	\$ 2,555,462
Community Bank	440,908
Citibank self-insurance checking	17,802
PNC Bank	6,769,344
Fidelity Deposit and Discount Bank – Self-insurance	381,950
Mid Penn Bank	100,760
KeyBank	22,002
Merrill Lynch	5,497,281
Fidelity Deposit and Discount Bank trust account	8,286
Petty cash	3,141
Less: Restricted cash	(7,633,707)
Total cash and equivalents	<u>\$ 8,163,229</u>

**Note 3 - Contributions Receivable**

Contributions receivable, net, consisted of the following at June 30:

	2019	2018
Contributions receivable in:		
Less than one year	\$ 680,999	\$ 613,163
One year to five years	182,451	557,851
Total contributions receivable, net	<u>\$ 863,450</u>	<u>\$ 1,171,014</u>

Contributions receivable at June 30, 2019 and June 30, 2018 include unconditional promises to give for the St. Peter's Cathedral interior renovations and Diocesan Annual Appeal collections received after year end.

**Note 4 - Investments**

Investments at June 30, 2019 and 2018 are summarized as follows:

		(Value)		(Value)
Without donor restrictions				
U.S. Obligations	\$ 11,218,291	\$ 11,391,206	\$ 9,091,043	\$ 8,939,334
Corporate Bonds	7,156,670	7,481,575	7,473,367	7,304,397
Corporate Equities	22,416,422	28,890,809	29,757,214	36,691,642
Mutual Funds	4,956,428	5,039,828	4,466,460	4,329,710
	<u>45,747,811</u>	<u>52,803,418</u>	<u>50,788,084</u>	<u>57,265,083</u>
With donor restrictions				
Cash	3,087,952	3,087,952	3,079,694	3,079,694
Total investments	<u>\$ 48,835,763</u>	<u>\$ 55,891,370</u>	<u>\$ 53,867,778</u>	<u>\$ 60,344,777</u>

As of June 30, 2019 and 2018, the above investments were deposited with Merrill Lynch and Fidelity Deposit and Discount Bank.

Investment income and gains and losses without donor restrictions consisted of the following:

	2019	2018
<b>Income</b>		
Interest and dividends, net of fees of \$358,067 in 2019 and \$372,083 in 2018	<u>\$ 1,102,831</u>	<u>\$ 915,571</u>
Net realized gains on investment transactions	<u>\$ 2,514,222</u>	<u>\$ 1,285,428</u>
<b>Other Changes in Net Assets</b>		
Net unrealized gains on investments	<u>\$ 578,608</u>	<u>\$ 1,487,036</u>

**Note 5 - Land, Buildings and Equipment**

Land, buildings and equipment consisted of the following at June 30, 2019 and 2018:

	2019	2018	Depreciable Lives
Land, buildings and improvements	\$ 10,074,905	\$ 9,977,878	20-40 Years
Equipment	3,669,052	3,590,904	3-10 Years
	<u>13,743,957</u>	<u>13,568,782</u>	
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>7,554,374</u>	<u>7,195,928</u>	
Total	<u>\$ 6,189,583</u>	<u>\$ 6,372,854</u>	

Depreciation expense amounted to \$372,611 and \$372,590 for the years ended June 30, 2019 and 2018.

16 Note 6 - Net Assets With Donor Restrictions

Net assets with donor restrictions subject to expenditure for specified purposes or time restraints as of June 30, 2019 and 2018 are as follows:

	Net Assets	
	2019	2018
Saint Pius X Seminary/St. John Vianney	\$ 1,569,216	\$ 1,464,744
Villa St. Joseph	189,545	236,907
Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Foundation	98,451	88,119
Msgr. Paul F. Terracciano Tuition Trust Fund	6,689	5,763
Reverend Niebrzydowski Tuition Fund	13,037	12,803
Msgr. Jordan Tuition Fund	20,139	19,778
Christie D. Shull Fund	2,459,527	2,453,993
Campaign for Human Development Program	19,568	6,192
Restricted for program and educational expenditures	169,583	158,268
Total	\$ 4,545,755	\$ 4,446,567

Net assets were released from donor restrictions by incurring expenses satisfying the restricted purposes specified by donors as follows:

	Net Assets	
	2019	2018
Diocesan Annual Appeal Program costs	\$ 3,721,434	\$ 4,742,005
Campaign for Human Development Program costs	6,192	19,178
National Collections - collections remitted	535,461	1,444,752
Beatrice M. Eck Endowment Fund Scholarship	43,000	41,000
Villa St. Joseph Capital improvements	51,961	47,636
Seminary/St. John Vianney Fund improvements	33,720	18,303
Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Foundation Scholarships and program costs	783,087	973,216
Total restrictions released	\$ 5,191,295	\$ 7,286,090

Net assets with donor restrictions not subject to appropriation or expenditure as of June 30, 2019 and 2018 are as follows:

	Net Assets	
	2019	2018
<u>Endowment Funds</u>		
<u>Reverend Charles J. O'Donnell Scholarship Fund</u>		
The income derived from invested funds is to be distributed for Mass stipends and seminarian training. Any remaining income is to be reinvested and become part of the principal.	\$ 106,365	\$ 106,365
<u>Msgr. Paul F. Terracciano Tuition Trust Fund</u>		
The income derived from invested funds is to be distributed for tuition to students attending Diocesan schools.	45,000	45,000
<u>Beatrice M. Eck Endowment Fund</u>		
85% of the income derived from invested funds is to be distributed for Catholic education in Lycoming County.	2,723,770	2,715,512
<u>Fanucci Trust Fund</u>		
The income derived from invested funds is to be distributed for Priest educational or career development including continuing education or Priestly formation.	212,817	212,817
Total	\$ 3,087,952	\$ 3,079,694

Note 7 - Contributions Payable

Contributions payable amounted to \$670,571 and \$2,258,178 at June 30, 2019 and 2018, respectively. The balance of the payable at June 30, 2019 will be paid out within the next fiscal year.

Note 8 - Retirement Plans

Priests' Pension Plan

There is a defined benefit pension plan in effect for all incardinated priests in good standing or priests in good standing permanently assigned to the Diocese. The entire cost of the Plan is paid by the parish or institution to which each eligible priest is assigned. The Plan is administered by the Bishop with advisory and consulting services available to him from a Retirement Board.

The Diocesan funding policy is to contribute annually amounts determined by actuarial estimates. Contributions are intended to provide not only for benefits attributed to service to date but also for those expected to be earned in the future.

Lay Employee Pension Plan

There is a defined benefit pension plan for the lay employees of the Diocesan Administrative Offices. Prior to June 30, 2009, the cost of the Plan was paid jointly by the Diocesan offices and the employees. The employee contribution was 3% of base salary each year and the employer contribution rate was 7%. In May, 2008, the decision was made to freeze the pension plan as of June 30, 2009. After that date, no further benefits will accrue in the plan.

Postretirement Medical Benefits

The Diocese provides certain health care benefits for all retired priests. The Diocese's share of the estimated costs of benefits that will be paid after retirement is generally being accrued by charges to expense over the priests' service periods to the dates they are fully eligible for benefits.

	Pension Benefits		Postretirement Medical Benefits	
	2019	2018	2019	2018
Obligations and funded status at June 30:				
Fair value of plan assets	\$ 13,651,628	\$ 13,883,744	\$ -	\$ -
Projected benefit obligations	23,897,960	23,525,006	10,247,938	10,131,682
Funded status at end of years	<u>\$(10,246,332)</u>	<u>\$ (9,641,262)</u>	<u>\$(10,247,938)</u>	<u>\$(10,131,682)</u>
Amounts recognized in the Statements of Financial Position consist of:				
Liability for benefits	<u>\$(10,246,332)</u>	<u>\$ (9,641,262)</u>	<u>\$(10,247,938)</u>	<u>\$(10,131,682)</u>
Net amount recognized	<u>\$(10,246,332)</u>	<u>\$ (9,641,262)</u>	<u>\$(10,247,938)</u>	<u>\$(10,131,682)</u>

The accumulated benefit obligation for both defined benefit pension plans was \$23,897,960 and \$23,525,006 at June 30, 2019 and 2018, respectively. Both plans had accumulated benefit obligations in excess of plan assets at June 30, 2019 and 2018.

Other Changes and Plan Assets and Benefit Obligations Recognized in Pension-related Changes Other Than Net Periodic Pension Cost:

	Pension Benefits		Postretirement Medical Benefits	
	2019	2018	2019	2018
Net (gain) loss	\$ (1,012,354)	\$ (595,977)	\$ 211,295	\$ 128,241
Prior service cost	(97,004)	(97,004)	-	-
Change in assumptions	<u>1,560,503</u>	<u>(533,096)</u>	<u>28,919</u>	<u>(1,032,818)</u>
	451,145	(1,226,077)	240,214	(904,577)
Net periodic benefit cost	<u>967,377</u>	<u>1,087,347</u>	<u>(123,958)</u>	<u>(16,188)</u>
Total	<u>\$ 1,418,522</u>	<u>\$ (138,730)</u>	<u>\$ 116,256</u>	<u>\$ (920,765)</u>

The estimated net loss and prior service cost for the defined benefit pension plans that will be amortized from net assets into net periodic benefit cost over the next fiscal year are \$574,597 and \$97,004, respectively. The estimated net gain and prior service cost for the other defined benefit postretirement plan that will be amortized from net assets into net periodic benefit cost over the next fiscal year are \$207,609 and \$0, respectively.

	Pension Benefits		Postretirement Medical Benefits	
	2019	2018	2019	2018
<u>Assumptions</u>				
Weighted-average assumptions used in computing ending obligations:				
Discount rate	3.75%	4.50%	3.75%	4.50%
Rate of compensation increase	N/A	N/A	-	-
Weighted-average assumptions used in computing net cost:				
Discount rate	3.75%	4.50%	3.75%	4.50%
Expected long-term return on plan assets	7.50%	7.50%	-	-
Rate of compensation increase	N/A	N/A	-	-

The expected long-term return on plan assets was determined using average historical returns of the Diocese's plan assets.



Assumed health care cost trend rates at June 30:

	2019	2018
Health care cost trend rate assumed for next year	5.50%	5.50%
Rate to which the cost trend rate is assumed to decline (the ultimate trend rate)	5.50%	5.50%
Year that the rate reaches the ultimate trend rate	2021	2021

The assets of the Plans are deposited in separate Merrill Lynch trust accounts for the Diocese of Scranton’s lay and priest pension plans.

In determining fair value for pension plan assets, the Diocese uses various methods including market, income and cost approaches. The Diocese utilizes valuation techniques that maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. The fair value hierarchy ranks the quality and reliability of the information used to determine fair values. Financial assets carried at fair value will be classified and disclosed in one of the following three categories:

Level I – Valuations for assets and liabilities traded in active exchange markets, such as the New York Stock Exchange.

Level II – Valuations for assets and liabilities traded in less active dealer or broker markets. Valuations are obtained from third party pricing services for identical or similar assets or liabilities.

Level III – Valuations for assets and liabilities that are derived from other valuation methodologies, including option pricing models, discounted cash flow models and similar techniques, and not based on market exchange, dealer, or broker traded transactions. Level III valuations incorporate certain assumptions and projections in determining the fair value assigned to such assets or liabilities.

The asset’s or liability’s fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value:

*Common Stocks, Corporate bonds, U.S. Government and Agencies obligations, and Money Markets:* Valued at the closing price reported on the active market on which the individual securities are traded.

The following tables set forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the assets at fair value as of June 30, 2019 and 2018.

Assets:	June 30, 2019			
	Level I	Level II	Level III	Total
U.S. Obligations	\$ 1,341,177	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,341,177
Corporate bonds	973,046	-	-	973,046
Common stocks	8,638,491	-	-	8,638,491
Money markets	2,698,914	-	-	2,698,914
	<u>\$ 13,651,628</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 13,651,628</u>

Assets:	June 30, 2018			
	Level I	Level II	Level III	Total
U.S. Obligations	\$ 1,350,099	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,350,099
Corporate bonds	1,045,611	-	-	1,045,611
Common stocks	10,120,883	-	-	10,120,883
Money markets	1,367,151	-	-	1,367,151
	<u>\$ 13,883,744</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 13,883,744</u>

The Diocese’s pension plan weighted-average asset allocations at June 30, 2019 and 2018, by asset category, are as follows:

	Pension Benefits	
	2019	2018
Equity securities	63.00%	73.00%
Debt securities	17.00%	17.00%
Other	20.00%	10.00%
Total	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>100.00%</u>

- 1) The Diocese, in keeping with Canon Law and Catholic philosophy, excludes investments in companies whose products or performances are inconsistent with Catholic teaching.
- 2) Bonds must be rated “A” or better and maturities are limited to a maximum of ten years. Purchases of preferred stock are not permitted.
- 3) The asset allocation policy is 60% for equities and 40% for cash and fixed income.

Cash Flows

Contributions

Diocesan contributions:	Pension Benefits	Other Benefits
2018 (actual)	\$1,223,584	\$ -
2019 (actual)	813,453	-
2020 (estimated)	1,000,000	-

There are no participant contributions after June 30, 2009.

Benefit Payments

Benefit payments:	Pension Benefits	Other Benefits
2018	\$1,911,300	\$475,296
2019	1,909,511	467,334

The following benefit payments, which reflect expected future service, as appropriate, are expected to be paid:

	Pension Benefits	Other Benefits
2020	\$1,931,845	\$427,276
2021	1,880,667	441,196
2022	1,870,431	473,063
2023	1,834,500	492,692
2024	1,798,045	513,449
Years 2025-2029	8,399,399	2,781,992

403(b) Plan

On July 1, 2009, the Diocese established a 403(b) Plan for employees. The Diocese contributes 2% of gross earnings to all employees and also matches employee deferral contributions up to 4%. For the years ended June 30, 2019 and 2018, the Diocese contributed \$166,221 and \$161,282 respectively, to the 403(b) Plan for the employees of the Administrative Offices.

Note 9 - Self-Insurance Program

General

Under the terms of the general insurance plan, individual claims above a specific amount (\$500,000 for property claims, \$250,000 for liability claims, and \$500,000 for workers compensation claims in 2019 and 2018) are insured with commercial insurance companies. Prior to July 1, 1993, an aggregate loss fund (\$1,250,000 for 1993) was also in place to limit claim expenses for the Diocese to that amount for the claim year. For the years ended June 30, 1994 and thereafter, the loss fund protection was eliminated to reduce excess commercial insurance premium expense.

Medical

As of July 1, 2005, the Diocese instituted a self-insurance medical plan. Under the terms of the plan, there is insurance coverage for individual claims exceeding \$200,000 with an unlimited maximum annual reimbursement.

Note 10 - Loan Payable

In December, 2004, the Diocese entered into a loan agreement with the Monroe County Industrial Development Authority (the Authority) to provide funding for a construction project at Notre Dame Junior Senior High School (the School). The

18 Note 10 - Loan Payable (continued)

Authority issued a revenue note in the amount of \$7,500,000 and subsequently sold the note to PNC Bank, NA. The proceeds were then loaned to the Diocese, and the Diocese agreed to pay all amounts due by the Authority under the note to the Bank. The note called for monthly payments of \$35,531, including principal and interest of 3.88%, until December, 2014, at which time the note was refinanced. The note was refinanced with the Authority in the amount of \$4,048,000 and was subsequently sold to FNCB Bank. The note calls for payments of \$22,539, including principal and interest of 3.00%, until January 2025. The Bank has a security interest in the property, and the Diocese is subject to various covenants; refer to the agreements for details. As disclosed in Note 1 to the financial statements, the School is an organization not reported on in these financial statements. Therefore, a loan receivable from the School has been recorded in the Statement of Financial Position in the same amount as the Loan Payable. The balance at June 30, 2019 and 2018 amounted to \$3,352,440 and \$3,518,184, respectively.

Note 11 - Diocesan Annual Appeal

The Diocesan Annual Appeal is a Diocesan program started as a means of supporting the charitable, educational and pastoral services of the Diocese. Campaigns for the years ended June 30, 2019 and 2018 had budget goals of \$5,000,000, respectively, which would be used to finance various Diocesan programs.

Based on the terms of the Appeal, each parish was assigned a “Parish Goal,” which represented its portion of the overall Diocesan goal. Parishes shared in the success of the campaign to the extent that they received seventy-five percent of the funds which were raised in excess of their goal.

Funds raised by the 2018 Diocesan Annual Appeal totaled \$3,719,899. The Diocese returned to parishes \$13,426 representing seventy-five percent of the funds raised in excess of the individual parish goals for the 2018 campaign. Also, contributions receivable of \$44,748 were recorded at their net realizable value in connection with the 2018 campaign; these contributions were collected within one year.

Funds raised by the 2017 Diocesan Annual Appeal totaled \$4,994,718. The Diocese returned to parishes \$244,281 representing seventy-five percent of the funds raised in excess of the individual parish goals for the 2017 campaign. Also, contributions receivable of \$79,223 were recorded at their net realizable value in connection with the 2017 campaign; these contributions were collected within one year.

Appeal contributions were committed to the following Diocesan programs and expenditures were made accordingly:

	2019		2018	
	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	Actual
Direct aid to schools and Religious Education Grants	\$ 850,000	\$ 632,644	\$ 850,000	\$ 806,141
Communication and Evangelization	850,000	632,644	850,000	806,141
Social services	600,000	446,572	600,000	569,041
Clergy formation, education and Retirement	1,200,000	893,144	1,200,000	1,138,081
Parish Ministries	1,100,000	818,715	1,100,000	1,043,241
Campaign Cost	400,000	297,715	400,000	379,360
	<u>\$ 5,000,000</u>	<u>\$3,721,434</u>	<u>\$ 5,000,000</u>	<u>\$4,742,005</u>

Interest income earned on Appeal funds amounted to \$32,249 and \$12,783 for the years ended June 30, 2019 and 2018.

Note 12 - Called to Holiness

Parish Restructuring

Called to Holiness is the consolidation of parishes within the Diocese. Through this consolidation, whenever an ethnic parish closes and has net assets, part of the net assets will be given to the territorial parish which has assumed care of the former members of the closed parish. The part of the net assets not passed on, approximately 42%, will be retained by the Diocese to cover the net liabilities of closed ethnic parishes which become the responsibility of the Diocese. During the years ended June 30, 2019 and 2018, the Diocese received assets in the amount of \$156,801 and \$4,644, respectively, and made transfers and debt reductions in the amount of \$321,246 and \$4,960, respectively.

Note 13 - Cash Subject to Program Restrictions

Cash subject to program restrictions consists of the cash held to meet the requirements of net assets with donor restrictions.

Note 14 - Contingencies

Related Party Loans

The Diocese has agreed to guarantee repayment of principal and interest on the following bank loans of Diocesan organizations:

	Balance at <u>June 30, 2019</u>
Little Flower Manor	\$ 1,113,666

The Diocese had guaranteed the bank loans of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton, Inc. In June, 2018, the loan agreements were amended to include the Diocese as a borrower. There is a \$1,000,000 line of credit with interest at the Daily LIBOR rate plus 3.13%, and borrowings amounted to \$600,866 at June 30, 2019. There was also a term loan payable in monthly installments of \$24,866 including principal and interest at the Daily LIBOR rate plus 1.50%. The balance outstanding at June 30, 2018 amounted to \$4,097,391. The loans are secured by real estate and are subject to financial performance covenants. Catholic Social Services is paying all amounts due. In February 2019, the term loan was paid in full with the proceeds of a \$4,000,000 promissory note from the Diocese of Scranton Institute to Catholic Social Services.

Litigation

The Diocese has several claims and pending legal proceedings that generally involve personal liability and employment issues. In the opinion of management and outside legal counsel, such proceedings are substantially covered by insurance, and the ultimate disposition of such proceedings are not expected to have a material adverse effect on the Diocese’s financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

In August, 2016, the Diocese was one of six Roman Catholic Dioceses in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be served with a subpoena from the Pennsylvania Attorney General’s Office requiring production of documents related to allegations of childhood sexual abuse. The Diocese has provided documentation in response to the subpoena. Findings were reported in August 2018 to support abuse victims. The Diocese is evaluating the impact of the grand jury report outcomes at this time and has announced an Independent Survivors Compensation Program. The Fund is administered by a third party with an independent oversight committee. The last date for submitting a claim was September 30, 2019. The total claims payable is estimated to be approximately \$25,000,000. Approximately \$20,000,000 of claims was estimated to be paid after June 30, 2019 and this amount was accrued on the Statement of Financial Position. To provide funds for these claims, in March 2019, the Diocese entered into a promissory note agreement with the Diocese of Scranton Institute in the amount of \$5,000,000. Also, Little Flower Manor and St. Luke’s Villa were sold in September 2019 for approximately \$17,750,000. In connection with the sale and subsequent transfer of assets, the Diocese received approximately \$26,000,000. The proceeds from this sale were also used to pay off the note with the Institute.

Note 15 - Fair Value Measurements

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. In determining fair value, the Diocese uses various methods including market, income and cost approaches. Based on these approaches, the Diocese often utilizes certain assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability, including assumptions about risk and or the risks inherent in the inputs to the valuation technique. These inputs can be readily observable, market corroborated, or generally unobservable inputs. The Diocese utilizes valuation techniques that maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. Based on the observability of the inputs used in the valuation techniques, the Diocese is required to provide the following information according to the fair value hierarchy. The fair value hierarchy ranks the quality and reliability of the information used to determine fair values. Financial assets and liabilities carried at fair value will be classified and disclosed in one of the following three categories:

Level I – Valuations for assets and liabilities traded in active exchange markets, such as the New York Stock Exchange.

Level II – Valuations for assets and liabilities traded in less active dealer or broker markets. Valuations are obtained from third party pricing services for identical or similar assets or liabilities.



Level III – Valuations for assets and liabilities that are derived from other valuation methodologies, including option pricing models, discounted cash flow models and similar techniques, and not based on market exchange, dealer, or broker traded transactions. Level III valuations incorporate certain assumptions and projections in determining the fair value assigned to such assets or liabilities.

The asset’s or liability’s fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value: *Common Stocks, Corporate bonds, U.S. Government and Agencies obligations and Mutual Funds*: Valued at the closing price reported on the active market on which the individual securities are traded.

The preceding methods may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, while the Diocese believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

The following tables set forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the assets at fair value as of June 30, 2019 and 2018.

	June 30, 2019			
	Level I	Level II	Level III	Total
Assets:				
U.S. Obligations	\$ 11,391,206	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,391,206
Corporate Bonds				
Aaa credit rating	-	293,611	-	293,611
Aa1 credit rating	-	809,829	-	809,829
Aa2 credit rating	-	587,090	-	587,090
Aa3 credit rating	-	298,728	-	298,728
A1 credit rating	-	636,345	-	636,345
A2 credit rating	-	767,465	-	767,465
A3 credit rating	-	1,555,135	-	1,555,135
Baa1 credit rating	-	1,571,153	-	1,571,153
Baa2 credit rating	-	962,219	-	962,219
Total Corporate Bonds	-	7,481,575	-	7,481,575
Corporate Equities				
Industrials	2,456,098	-	-	2,456,098
Consumer Discretionary	3,166,191	-	-	3,166,191
Consumer Staples	2,041,264	-	-	2,041,264
Energy	1,979,717	-	-	1,979,717
Financial	4,503,255	-	-	4,503,255
Materials	905,712	-	-	905,712
Information Technology	5,985,145	-	-	5,985,145
Utilities	1,148,582	-	-	1,148,582
Health Care	2,940,084	-	-	2,940,084
Telecommunication Services	2,739,079	-	-	2,739,079
Real Estate	1,025,682	-	-	1,025,682
Total Corporate Equities	28,890,809	-	-	28,890,809
Mutual Funds	5,039,828	-	-	5,039,828
Restricted cash	3,087,952	-	-	3,087,952
	<u>\$ 48,409,795</u>	<u>\$ 7,481,575</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 55,891,370</u>

	June 30, 2018			
	Level I	Level II	Level III	Total
Assets:				
U.S. Obligations	\$ 8,939,334	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,939,334
Corporate Bonds				
Aaa credit rating	-	296,802	-	296,802
Aa1 credit rating	-	436,733	-	436,733
Aa2 credit rating	-	1,148,344	-	1,148,344
Aa3 credit rating	-	49,546	-	49,546
A1 credit rating	-	997,696	-	997,696
A2 credit rating	-	991,814	-	991,814
A3 credit rating	-	1,671,610	-	1,671,610
Baa1 credit rating	-	1,042,523	-	1,042,523
Baa2 credit rating	-	669,329	-	669,329
Total Corporate Bonds	-	7,304,397	-	7,304,397
Corporate Equities				
Industrials	3,824,197	-	-	3,824,197
Consumer Discretionary	4,288,601	-	-	4,288,601
Consumer Staples	2,487,702	-	-	2,487,702
Energy	3,085,636	-	-	3,085,636
Financial	5,522,495	-	-	5,522,495
Materials	1,201,793	-	-	1,201,793
Information Technology	8,477,764	-	-	8,477,764
Utilities	1,388,573	-	-	1,388,573
Health Care	3,751,432	-	-	3,751,432
Telecommunication Services	1,510,041	-	-	1,510,041
Real Estate	1,153,408	-	-	1,153,408
Total Corporate Equities	36,691,642	-	-	36,691,642
Mutual Funds	4,329,710	-	-	4,329,710
Restricted cash	3,079,694	-	-	3,079,694
	<u>\$ 53,040,380</u>	<u>\$ 7,304,397</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 60,344,777</u>

Note 16 - Endowments

The Diocese’s endowment funds consist of approximately 8 individual funds established primarily for student scholarships that are donor-restricted funds. As required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, net assets associated with endowment funds are classified and reported based on existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions.

Endowment Net Asset Composition by type of fund as of June 30, 2019 and 2018 is as follows:

	2019		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Donor-restricted endowment Funds	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 5,736,148</u>	<u>\$ 5,736,148</u>

	2018		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Donor-restricted endowment Funds	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 5,702,863</u>	<u>\$ 5,702,863</u>

Changes in Endowment Net Assets for the years ended June 30, 2019 and 2018, are as follows:

	2019		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Endowment net assets, beginning of year	\$ -	\$ 5,702,863	\$ 5,702,863
Investment return:			
Investment income	-	120,052	120,052
Total investment return	-	120,052	120,052
Contributions	-	739,321	739,321
Appropriation of endowment assets for expenditure	-	(826,088)	(826,088)
Endowment net assets, end of year	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 5,736,148</u>	<u>\$ 5,736,148</u>

	2018		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Endowment net assets, beginning of year	\$ -	\$ 5,803,492	\$ 5,803,492
Investment return:			
Investment income	-	98,984	98,984
Total investment return	-	98,984	98,984
Contributions	-	770,914	770,914
Appropriation of endowment assets for expenditure	-	(970,527)	(970,527)
Endowment net assets, end of year	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 5,702,863</u>	<u>\$ 5,702,863</u>

The Diocese has adopted investment and spending policies for endowment assets that attempt to provide a predictable stream of funding to programs supported by its endowment while seeking to maintain the purchasing power of the endowment assets.

The donor-restricted endowment assets earn a fixed rate of return in the Diocesan Deposit Fund.



Expenses by functional classification for the years ended June 30, 2019 and 2018, respectively, consist of the following:

2019						
	Pastoral Expenses	Community and Educational Expenses	Self-Insurance Program Expenses	Total Program	General & Administrative	Total
Salaries and benefits	\$3,088,818	\$ 866,182	\$ -	\$ 3,955,000	\$ 1,868,767	\$ 5,823,767
Clergy support	1,767,480	-	-	1,767,480	-	1,767,480
Grants and contributions	-	3,187,422	-	3,187,422	856,707	4,044,129
Supplies and program	1,274,963	621,311	1,588	1,897,862	1,325,143	3,223,005
Occupancy	282,149	179,807	-	461,956	141,466	603,422
Legal and professional fees	270,451	1,230	1,396,379	1,668,060	243,703	1,911,763
Insurance premiums & claims	-	-	41,458,397	41,458,397	-	41,458,397
Depreciation	255,255	75,013	-	330,268	42,343	372,611
Total	\$6,939,116	\$ 4,930,965	\$ 42,856,364	\$54,726,445	\$ 4,478,129	\$59,204,574
2018						
	Pastoral Expenses	Community and Educational Expenses	Self-Insurance Program Expenses	Total Program	General & Administrative	Total
Salaries and benefits	\$3,005,999	\$ 821,740	\$ -	\$ 3,827,739	\$ 1,762,865	\$ 5,590,604
Clergy support	2,192,898	-	-	2,192,898	-	2,192,898
Grants and contributions	-	5,617,719	-	5,617,719	1,449,712	7,067,431
Supplies and program	1,559,576	549,969	687	2,110,232	1,048,050	3,158,282
Occupancy	256,735	156,096	-	412,831	137,195	550,026
Legal and professional fees	369,111	6,200	529,815	905,126	392,520	1,297,646
Insurance premiums & claims	-	-	11,913,189	11,913,189	-	11,913,189
Depreciation	254,023	78,865	-	332,888	39,702	372,590
Total	\$7,638,342	\$ 7,230,589	\$ 12,443,691	\$27,312,622	\$ 4,830,044	\$32,142,666

To view the full financial report of the Diocesan Administrative Offices of the Diocese of Scranton, please visit:  
[www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org)

## Prayer Requests for Priests

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

February 20, Holy Cross Father Michael Wurtz; February 21, Father Daniel Yenkevich; February 23, Father Michael Zipay; February 24, Father Joseph Adonizio; February 25, Saint Peter Priestly Fraternity Father Zachary Akers; February 26, Father Patrick Albert; February 27, Father John Albosta; February 28, Father James Alco; February 29, Father Stephen Amponsah Asomah; March 1, Pope Francis; March 2, Pope Emeritus

Benedict XVI; March 3, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; March 4, Monsignor Thomas Banick; March 5, Father David Bechtel; March 6, Father Richard Beck; March 7, Saint Joseph Oblate Father Mariusz Beczek; March 8, Jesuit Father John Begley; March 9, Monsignor John Bendik; March 10, Saint Joseph Oblate Father Samuel Bentivegna; March 11, Monsignor John Bergamo; March 12, Father Eric Bergman; March 13, Father Jacek Bialkowski; March 14, Monsignor David Bohr; March 15, Passionist Father Vincent Boney; March 16, Father John Boyle; March 17, Father Michael Bryant.

# Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen launches “Host For A Day” campaign

Annual fundraising effort will culminate with reception on April 22

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

SCRANTON – Every year, shortly after the conclusion of holiday season, Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen begins its most important fundraising effort, the annual “Host For A Day” campaign. It is a crucial component to helping the kitchen meet its operating costs and it allows the entire community to support its mission in an affordable way. For a donation of \$100 an individual, family, business, community organization or church group can sponsor the daily meals at the kitchen. The daily meals may also be sponsored in memory of a loved one. The name of the sponsor will be prominently displayed at the kitchen throughout the day.

“This campaign provides a wonderful opportunity for individuals and businesses to collaborate with Saint Francis Kitchen in expressing compassion, love and respect that is so desperately needed in our world today,” Rob Williams, executive director of Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen, said. “A successful ‘Host For A Day’ campaign is critically important in helping to animate the mission of the kitchen. Each and every day of the year, board members, staff and volunteers welcome and



The Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen “Host For A Day” annual campaign is now underway. Shown, from left, Rob Williams, executive director, Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen; Debra Walton, president of the Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen Advisory Board; David Hollander, campaign chairperson, “Host For A Day.”

serve hundreds of men, women and children from the Scranton and Mid Valley region. Most impressive to me is the fact that each guest is treated with dignity and respect and made to feel like they are visiting a family home.”

Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen serves approximately 250 meals per day to men, women and children in need. That translates to more than

90,000 meals per year. This includes meals served at the kitchen as well as outreach programs in Carbondale, Archbald and Olyphant. Dinner is also served three nights per week. The kitchen also operates Saint Francis Client-Choice Food Pantry and Saint Francis Free Clothing Store.

David Hollander, a member of the Saint Francis Kitchen Advisory Board, has also served as a volunteer

at the kitchen and is serving as chairman of this year’s “Host For A Day” campaign. Hollander has seen firsthand how important the kitchen is to the Lackawanna County region.

“Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen seeks to fill the gap of a critical need in our Scranton community: whether it be for the homeless in need of a hot meal, or a veteran in need of the same, or young couple trying to provide a meal for their children. With the assistance of our dedicated volunteers, each and every meal is structured, balanced, and planned for accordingly. So many individuals from all walks of life, all professions and all income levels give of their time and talents to come to serve and assist with the kitchen’s endeavors. It is that human interaction which makes the kitchen relatable for those that we serve - the numbers of which are countless,” he said.

Hollander, who has spent many Saturday mornings volunteering at the kitchen, adds that a strong sense of camaraderie is often developed amongst volunteers and that many friendships are formed. He feels that volunteerism, and campaigns such as “Host For A Day,” are just some of the things make Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen a special place.

“It is an understatement to say that the kitchen is of vital importance to the city of Scranton

and Lackawanna County and not only from the perspective of hunger. So many of the kitchen’s clients and patrons see and experience only brokenness in their world, whether it be brokenness in their family, or their mental health, or in any other capacity. It is a brokenness that most of us, hopefully, will never have to withstand. One of my personal goals is to ensure that through our interactions, we provide the kitchen’s clients and patrons with a sense of welcome and love. Yes, on some days, that is evidenced with a hot meal, but, on most days, it is more so with a smile, or a, ‘Hello, how is it going?’, or a simple conversation.

“This community has much to offer, and it is my opinion that those of us who are ready, willing, and able to offer it should, without a doubt, do so,” Hollander said.

Those who become a “Host For A Day” will receive two tickets to the 42nd annual “Host For A Day” reception at Genetti Manor in Dickson City on Wednesday, April 22, 2020.

For more information about the campaign and reception, including how to donate, ticket info for the event and sponsorship opportunities, call (570) 342-5556 or visit [www.stfranciskitchen.org](http://www.stfranciskitchen.org). Gifts can be mailed to: Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen, 500 Penn Avenue, Scranton, PA 18509





**Deacon  
Raymond Pieretti**

**Saint Mary of the Lake Parish,  
Lake Winola; Nativity of the Blessed  
Virgin Mary Parish, Tunkhannock**

**Ordination  
Year: 1993**

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WHAT KIND OF SERVICE MINISTRY ARE YOU INVOLVED IN?**

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

Being able to serve in so many different ministries and in so many different ways.

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

Finding the right balance between ministry and family responsibility.

**WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO A MAN WHO FEELS CALLED TO THE PERMANENT  
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# The Diocese of Scranton

## Learning Lessons, Strengthening Safeguards & Empowering Survivors

### PRESENTERS

Rev. Msgr. Thomas M. Muldowney, *Vicar General of the Diocese of Scranton*  
Mary Beth Pacuska MSN, *Victim Assistance Coordinator*  
Kathleen Bolinski LSW, *Safe Environment Coordinator*

**Thursday, March 5, 2020 • 5:00-6:30 p.m.**

Leahy Hall, Room 235 • Kane Forum  
*At the corner of Jefferson Avenue & Linden Street*

*Open to the public*

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Mission Message

**Go Forth**

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

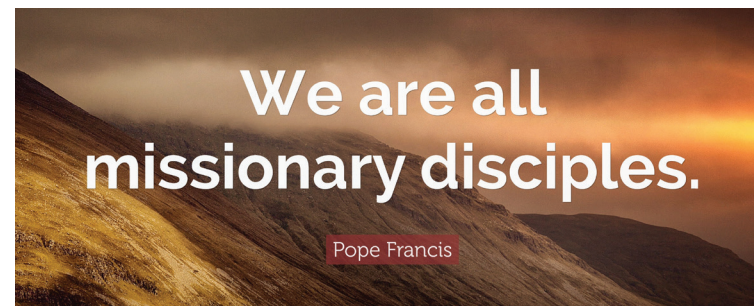


Did you know that the Church has diplomats who represent the important missionary work of the Vatican and the Holy Father throughout the world?

Many are surprised to learn that we have ambassadors and embassies in many world capitals. In fact, the Vatican has diplomatic relations with 183 countries across the globe.

Our very own Monsignor Christopher Washington, who is assigned in Lithuania, is one of hundreds of priests who serve in diplomatic positions to support the work of the Church. Their ministry — like that of any diplomat or ambassador — involves typical diplomatic concerns; however, the Church has an additional responsibility of protecting and broadening the missionary activity of the Church.

Pope Francis has recently made this ever more clear in his redesign of the formation program of the Pontifical Ecclesiastical



Academy, the institution which trains future diplomats of the Church. The Holy Father has reformed the program to include a mandatory year of missionary work for each priest enrolled in the Academy.

Pope Francis sees this as a deeply formational experience hoping that each priest — and future diplomat — will “journey together with their community, participating in their daily evangelizing activity.”

I have had the privilege of traveling outside our country for missionary experiences and have found myself awed by the unique manner in which our brothers and sisters in Christ live their faith and express it in their daily lives. It’s difficult to resist — certainly for me — the temptation to engage in missionary work without wanting so much to control the situation, the narrative, the way in which the conversation unfolds about God and His work in the world.

While God never changes

(nor His truths), people change and are different and ought to be encountered in a way that respects that. I believe that’s the goal of the Holy Father for future diplomats of the Church; I’m certain that’s what he would expect of each of us.

For those of us who are missionary disciples here at home, we will not have the luxury of spending a year engaged in missionary work. That being said, we live among the very people to whom God is calling us to reach out to and encounter.

While we engage in the mission of the Church to spread the kingdom of God, I pray we will first give ourselves the room to recognize how people are indeed different and approach them with love, patience and mercy, and seek to know who and what they are — their experiences, hopes, wounds and joys.

Then, we will be the merciful and impactful missionaries God has called us to be.

***Apostleship of Prayer***

Papal Intention for March 2020

***Catholics in China —***

We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.



# Diocesan cemetery hosts service for WWII airman 75 years after his death

SCRANTON – Exactly 75 years after Staff Sgt. Joseph E. Prokop was killed, the World War II airman was honored and remembered during a graveside service at Cathedral Cemetery in his hometown.

The Holy Cross High School Choir sang songs during the program, including the National Anthem and God Bless America, which was attended by veterans, politicians and Prokop’s younger Sister, Ann Spearmint, who is now in her 90s.

“We are all here to pay tribute,” James Kuchwara, Commander of VFW Post 25, Scranton, said during the service.

For decades, family members believed that Prokop was killed when his plane was shot down in Hanau, Germany. It wasn’t until just recently that the true story emerged.

“Only recently, by surprise, German historians in the city of Hanau discovered, while preparing an exhibition to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, that Joseph Eugene Prokop, was one of the three soldiers executed by the Gestapo, after they discovered that his crew member, Charles Goldstein, was Jewish,” Christian Resing, representing the German Consulate in New York, said.



**James Kuchwara, Commander, VFW Post 25, Scranton, center, presents a wreath at the gravesite of Staff Sgt. Joseph E. Prokop at Cathedral Cemetery in Scranton on Monday, Feb. 17, 2020. (Photo/Eric Deabill)**

Resing spoke for about ten minutes, serving as guest speaker for the service.

“On that dark day, on Feb. 17, 1945, hatred and inhumanity showed their ugliest faces, as they did for too many horrific years,” Resing said.

At the same exact time as the ceremony in Scranton, another service was being held in Hanau which included the unveiling of a plaque honoring the three U.S. airmen who were killed. In addition to Prokop and Goldstein, Warren George Hammond, also died.

“The suffering is not something that happened in the past. It continues to affect the families and descendants of the victims to this day,” Resing said. “That is why it is so important for us to remember and engage in joint acts of remembrance.”

As he ended his remarks, Resing acknowledged the painful legacy that World War II has left behind.

“Those who want to remember the past and honor the memories of the victims must protect democracy, tolerance and the rule of law. Anytime they are called into question, especially in these very days when we assert that anti-Semitism, Xenophobia and racism are on the rise again in Germany and Europe as well as in the United States and other countries around the world,” he added.

The service was able to provide some closure to Prokop’s lone surviving sister.

“We are here for one goal. We will not forget our fallen comrades. They gave their lives so we can live and our life is to make sure they are never forgotten,” Kuchwara said.

## Pope shares his ‘dreams’ for Amazon region

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis said he dreams of an Amazon region where the rights of the poor and indigenous are respected, local cultures are preserved, nature is protected, and the Catholic Church is present and active with “Amazonian features.”

In his apostolic exhortation “Querida Amazonia” (Beloved Amazonia), Pope Francis made no mention of the idea of ordaining married men to the priesthood so that far-flung Catholic communities would have regular access to the Eucharist.

Instead, he said “every effort should be made to ensure that the Amazonian people do not lack this food of new life and the sacrament of forgiveness.”

“A specific and courageous response is required of the church” to meet the needs of Catholics, he said, without dictating what that response would be.

However, Pope Francis opened the document saying he wanted “to officially present the final document” of October’s Synod of Bishops for the Amazon. The final document asked for criteria to be drawn up “to ordain as priests suitable and respected men of the community with a legitimately constituted and stable family, who have had a fruitful permanent diaconate and receive an adequate formation for the priesthood, in order to sustain the life of the Christian community through the preaching of the word and the celebration of the sacraments in the most remote areas of the Amazon region.”

Speaking about the final document, Pope Francis wrote that the synod “profited from the



**Pope Francis accepts offertory gifts from indigenous people as he celebrates the concluding Mass of the Synod of Bishops for the Amazon at the Vatican on Oct. 27, 2019. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)**

participation of many people who know better than myself or the Roman Curia the problems and issues of the Amazon region.”

Having a church with “Amazonian features,” he said, also will require greater efforts to evangelize, official recognition of the role women have and continue to play in the region’s Catholic communities, a respect for popular forms of piety and greater efforts to inculturate the Catholic faith in Amazonian cultures.

While the idea of ordaining women deacons was mentioned at the synod, it was not included in the bishops’ final document.

Peppered with poetry praising the region’s beauty or lamenting its destruction, much of the document looks at the exploitation of the Amazon region’s indigenous communities and poor inhabitants and the destruction of its natural resources.

Diocese of Scranton

## MASS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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**February 23, 2020 - 10AM**  
St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton

Please contact Katy Windels at  
[kwindels@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:kwindels@dioceseofscranton.org)  
if you would like to participate in the liturgy

The Diocese of Scranton is celebrating Developmental & Intellectual Disabilities Awareness Sunday with a Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on Sunday, February 23, at 10:00 a.m.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will be the principal celebrant and homilist. The Mass will be sign-language interpreted for the hearing impaired.

This liturgy prayerfully celebrates the many gifts those with developmental or intellectual disabilities bring to the Church and the community.

Partners in this celebration include Saint Joseph's Center in Scranton, the Diocesan SPRED community (Special Religious Education), The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Order of the Alhambra and the Catholic Deaf Community of the Diocese of Scranton.

All are welcome to attend.  
CTV: Catholic Television will also broadcast the Mass.





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**Mackinac Island, MI • June 13-19**  
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**Cape Cod • June 28-30**  
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**New York City Sightseeing Tour & Little Italy • July 11**

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**Baseball Hall of Fame, Cooperstown & Cider Mill visit • Aug. 8**

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# Spiritual Offerings Around the Diocese of Scranton

**Spiritual Support Group: Scranton Mental Health Ministry** — **FEB. 22, MARCH 14 & 17**, 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 and at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday 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 at the Cathedral, (570) 344-7231.

**Annual Mass of Mourning for the Unborn** — **FEB. 23**, hosted at St. Joseph's Oblate Seminary, Route 315, Laflin (Pittston); begins at 2:30 p.m. with recitation of the Rosary, with sung Scriptural mysteries, in the seminary chapel. Mass celebrated at 3 p.m.; music ministry provided by Ernie Pappa and the Sacred Heart Singers. All faithful welcome.

**Weekly "Flame of Love" Prayer Group Meeting** — **FEB. 24**, hosted by St. Barbara Parish

## Lent Scripture Series Being Offered

Father Connell McHugh will begin his pre-Lenten and Lenten Scripture series presentations on Thursday, Feb. 20, at 10 a.m. in the lower level of Saint Gabriel Church at Annunciation Parish in Hazleton.

The Scripture sessions will continue for five consecutive Thursdays, through March 19, with March 26 scheduled as a make-up date.

The first presentation in the series will focus on the Gospel events known as the Temptation Narratives. Father McHugh will explore the narratives' sources, their similarities and differences, the Gospel writers' insight into the temptations of Jesus, and scholars' opinions on the sacred writings.

During the following four weeks, Father will discuss the Passion Narratives according to Saints Mark, Matthew, Luke and John. All presentations are open to the public free of charge.

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.

**"Forty Days for Life" Pro-Life Rosary Gathering** — **FEB. 26-APRIL 3**, offered for the special intentions of ending abortion and closure of the new Planned Parenthood location in Wilkes-Barre; Rosary is prayed each weekday, Monday thru Friday, at 10 a.m. in front of the offices of Planned Parenthood, 101 N. Main St., Wilkes-Barre. Pro-life campaign

draws attention to the evil of abortion through prayer & fasting, constant vigil, and community outreach. For more information, visit: [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com).

**Scranton Mental Health Ministry: Spiritual Support Group for Family & Friends** — **MARCH 3**, hosted by the Cathedral of St. Peter in Scranton; providing a safe, supportive space for parents, family members and friends of individuals who are experiencing mental illness. Group meets at 6 p.m. on the first Tuesday 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 at the Cathedral, (570) 344-7231.

**Padre Pio Prayer Ministry** — **MARCH 4**, hosted by St. Faustina Kowalska Parish in Nanticoke;

begins with celebration of Mass at 6 p.m. at the parish worship site of Holy Trinity Church, 520 South Hanover St., Nanticoke, followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, intercessory prayers to St. Padre Pio, recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and benediction. All faithful are welcome.

*Continued on Page 27*

## Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast March 7

The Scranton Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life will host its annual Respect for Life Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, March 7, at 9 a.m. at Genetti Manor, 1505 Main St., Dickson City.

Principal speaker for this year's event will be Ashley Garecht, who, along with her two teenage daughters and their friend, endured harassment by Pennsylvania State Representative Brian Sims for praying outside a Planned Parenthood facility in downtown Philadelphia.

Tickets for the prayer breakfast are \$35 for adults, \$25 for seniors, and \$10 for children ages six to 12. Reservations for tables of ten people are available.

Advance payment is required, and the deadline for reservations is Feb. 27.

Mail-in reservations are available by forwarding a check, payable to Pennsylvanians for Human Life, to: Joseph Alinoski, 9B Rachel Drive, Archbald, PA 18403. Reservations may also be made by calling Mr. Alinoski at (570) 885-3335.

Program patron and sponsorship advertising is required by Feb. 24.

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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 Respecto de Reportar el Abuso Sexual de Un Menor de Edad

Es la norma de la Diócesis de Scranton reportar cualquier alegación de abuso sexual de un menor de edad a las autoridades. Si usted es una víctima de abuso sexual cometido por un sacerdote, diácono, religioso o empleado laico, o voluntario de la Diócesis de Scranton, usted está obligado a reportar el asunto inmediatamente a las autoridades de la ley.

Si algún sacerdote, diácono, religioso, empleado laico o voluntario de la Diócesis de Scranton tiene sospecha de que un menor de edad ha sido sujeto a cualquier forma de abuso, incluyendo abuso sexual de menor de edad, el asunto será reportado a las autoridades de la ley.

Es la norma de la Diócesis defender todas las regulaciones civiles y del estado. Al fin de que la Diócesis esté comprometida igualmente a defender las normas del Código de Derecho Canónico y defender los principios de la Carta Para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes (Conferencia de los Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos), lo cual incluye apoyar a las víctimas de abuso sexual en pos del bienestar emocional y espiritual.

Por eso, información respecto a una alegación del asunto sexual de un menor de edad, debe ser reportada a la Coordinadora Diocesana de Asistencia para Las Víctimas, Mary Beth Pacuska, a (570-862-7551).



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## AOH 'Parading' for Donations for the Hungry



Members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians pictured planning for this year's food drive during the annual Saint Patrick's Parade on March 14 in Scranton are, seated from left: Matthew Lyons, Bruce Cunningham, Gerry Sealey and Frank Spager. Standing: George Wheeler, Ed Ingoldsby and Brian Kennedy.

SCRANTON — For the seventh consecutive year, the Scranton Division 6 of the Ancient Order of Hibernians will conduct a food drive in conjunction with the annual Saint Patrick's Parade in downtown Scranton, which will be held this year on Saturday, March 14.

AOH volunteers will walk the parade line to collect any monetary and food donations to benefit the area's hungry.

Once again, all food donations and money collected during the drive will be contributed to the nearby Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen and Food Pantry.

The second collection taken during the Saint Patrick's Parade Day Mass celebrated prior to the parade at 10 a.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter will benefit the Saint Francis apostolates.

Anyone attending the Mass and parade is asked to bring a non-perishable food item.

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## Spiritual Offerings

**Weekly Bereavement Support Group Sessions — MARCH 4-25**, series of weekly meetings, addressing topics dealing with the grief process in order for participants to find healing; Bereavement Support Group meets on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave., Scranton (across from St. Peter's Cathedral). Anyone interested in attending is asked to contact the Cathedral Parish office at (570) 344-7231.

**First Friday Pro-Life Prayer Vigil — MARCH 6**, monthly pro-life gathering to offer prayerful witness at the new Planned Parenthood location in Wilkes-Barre at 101 North Main St. (across from King's College); recitation of the Rosary begins at 10 a.m. for the special intentions of an end to abortion and closure of the Planned Parenthood facility. All faithful are welcome.

**First Friday Marian Devotion & Healing Mass — MARCH 6**, hosted by St. Lucy Parish at St.

Lucy Church, 949 Scranton St., West Scranton; begins at 6:30 p.m. with recitation of the Rosary and devotional prayers led by Adele Garofalo. Healing Mass celebrated at 7 p.m., including prayers for healing and anointing blessing. Music ministry provided by Ernie Pappa.

**Monthly Meeting of the Lay Fraternity of St. Dominic — MARCH 8**, hosted by St. Thomas Aquinas Chapter 413; afternoon gathering held on the second Sunday of every month at St. John the Evangelist Church, Honesdale. All professed members, those in the process of formation or anyone interested in deepening their faith by following the Dominican spirituality and its four "pillars" (prayer, study, community and apostolate) are welcome. For more information, call Lay Dominican MaryAnn Cavanaugh, formation director, at (570) 228-8624 or catholichomeschoolmom@hotmail.com.

*Continued on Page 28*

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# Spiritual Offerings Around the Diocese

**Evening of Prayer with the Sisters of IHM — MARCH 11**, sponsored by the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary; monthly prayer service held on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel at the IHM Center, 2300 Adams Ave., Scranton (top of University Ave., beyond Marywood University). All are welcome. For more information, call (570) 346-5404.

**Catholic Charismatic Prayer Breakfast — MARCH 14**, sponsored by Catholic Charismatic prayer groups in the Scranton Di-

ocese; hosted from 9 to 11 a.m. at Queen of the Apostles Parish Hall, 715 Hawthorne St., Avoca (across from St. Mary Church). Breakfast program will feature a teaching offered by Father Phillip Sladicka, host pastor. All are welcome; for reservations, contact Jim at (570) 267-1614 or [jim@echoes.net](mailto:jim@echoes.net).

**Lenten Evening of Marian Devotion — MARCH 16**, hosted by the Oblates of St. Joseph; 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, Litany of the Precious Blood, Lenten hymns and music for the Scriptural mysteries. All are invited to attend and offer devotional prayers to the Blessed Mother for world peace.

**Meeting of Lay Carmelites — MARCH 21**, hosted by Our Lady of the Mountains Lay Carmelite Chapter; meetings held on the third Saturday of each month, from 9 to 11 a.m., at St. Joseph's Oblate Seminary, 1880 Route 315, Laffin (Pittston). For more information, contact Rose at (570) 507-2373 or Chris at (570) 239-8094.

## FOCCUS Pre-Marriage Program Facilitator Training Listed

The Office for Parish Life in the Diocese of Scranton will offer a FOCCUS Pre-marriage Inventory Facilitator Training and refresher option on Saturday, Feb. 29.

The training will be held at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with a light lunch provided.

The FOCCUS Pre-marriage Inventory is a comprehensive, user-friendly tool for use by lay individuals, couples or professionals who are helping couples prepare for marriage and

who become trained as facilitators.

The FOCCUS Inventory is designed to help engaged couples appreciate their unique relationship, learn more about themselves, and discuss topics important to their lifelong marriage.

REFOCCUS is an inventory tool very similar to FOCCUS, but is utilized by couples already married. REFOCCUS is an easy and effective means of marriage enrichment and helpful at any stage of marriage.

The fee for the Feb. 29 training

is \$100 for an individual or \$150 for a couple. For those who completed the five-hour training and have a "FOCCUS Facilitator Manual" and a Certification number, a refresher option is offered for a fee of \$50 per person.

Any parish staff member or couples interested in the FOCCUS training or refresher may contact Jennifer Housel, Director for Community and Family Development in the Diocesan Parish Life Office, at (570) 207-2213 ext. 1104, or at [jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org).

## Diocesan Office for Parish Life News

### NPM Evening of Reflection on Lent

The Scranton Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians will hold an Evening of Reflection on Tuesday, March 3, beginning at 6 p.m. at Saint Eulalia Parish, 214 Blue Shutters Road, Roaring Brook Township.

Father Jeffrey Tudgay, pastor of Saint Eulalia's, will lead the Evening of Reflection.

Meeting opens with dinner at 6 p.m., followed by the presentation at 7 p.m. and concluding with Night Prayer. For more information and registration, contact David Baloga at (570) 207-2213 ext. 1158 by Feb. 28.

### DRE & Youth Minister Network Workshops

We are excited to announce the upcoming spring Network Workshops for DREs and Youth Ministers. These meetings will focus on breathing new life into our parish ministries.

Members of the Office for Parish Life team will be on hand to discuss several various topics.

All DREs and Youth Ministers or other parish catechetical leaders are invited to one of the following meetings (all held from 6 to 8 p.m.):

Thursday, March 5 — Eastern Region: Saint Jude Parish, Mountain Top

Thursday, March 12 — Northern Region: Saint Gregory Parish, Clarks Green

Tuesday, March 17 — Southern Region: Saints Peter & Paul Parish, Plains

Thursday, March 26 — Western Region: Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Dushore

### Ministry Formation Skills Workshop Series

"Becoming Faithful Curators: Discovering and Evaluating Resources for Serving a 21st Century Church," a workshop for parish leaders, will be held on Saturday, April 18, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Saint Gregory Parish in Clarks Green.

The program will be presented by Bernadette Rudolph, an instructor in the Theology/Religious Studies Department at Villanova University and publisher of a weekly podcast: [www.GoodNews4You.net](http://www.GoodNews4You.net).

For more information, contact the Diocesan Office for Parish Life at (570) 207-2213. To register, visit [dioceseofscranton.org](http://dioceseofscranton.org)

# Catholic Happenings in the Diocese

**Night at the Races — FEB. 22**, sponsored by the Men's Club of Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish in Hanover Township; held in the parish hall, 420 Main Road, Hanover Twp. Doors open at 6 p.m. and races start at 7 p.m.; horses cost \$10 each and include admission to the event. Admission fee includes beverages and large food buffet. For tickets and more information, contact Frank (570) 905-6485, or Tom (570) 829-6531.

**Mardi Gras Celebration — FEB. 22**, sponsored by St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport; held from 7:30 p.m. to midnight in the parish's Fleming Center, 720 West Fourth St. (doors open at 7 p.m.). Event includes dinner and dancing. Cost: \$20 per person (in advance) or \$25 (at door); \$150 for table of eight (in advance). For more information & reservations, call (570) 323-9456.

**Night at the Races — FEB. 22**, sponsored by St. André Bessette 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.

**55th Annual "German Nite" Celebration — FEB. 22**, hosted by St. Nicholas Parish in Wilkes-Barre; begins at 6 p.m. in the school auditorium, 240 South Washington St., Wilkes-Barre. Featuring German-style buffet dinner served from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.; beverages served throughout the evening. Musical entertainment provided from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. by GTO — George Tarasek Orchestra. Cost: \$30 per person. Advance reservations only; no tickets sold at the door. Tickets available at the rectory office or by calling (570) 823-7736.

**Spaghetti Dinner — FEB. 23**, hosted by the Altar & Rosary Society of St. Robert Bellarmine Parish at St. Aloysius Church, 143 West Division St., Wilkes-Barre; held from 12 noon to 4 p.m. in the parish's Padden Hall (cafeteria). Cost: adults, \$8; children (ages six to 12), \$4. Tickets available at the door. For more information, call (570) 823-3791.

**Ash Wednesday/Lenten Friday Food Sale — FEB. 26/FEB. 28-APRIL 10**, sponsored by St. Barbara Parish in Exeter; take-out sales of meatless foods on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26, and

the Fridays of Lent, from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the parish center at St. Anthony of Padua Church, Erie St., Exeter. No pre-orders; all sales at the door and cash only. Meatless items include: potato pancakes (\$6/half dozen, \$12/dozen); pierogi (\$5/half dozen); and halushki (\$6/quart). For more information, call the rectory office (570) 654-2103.

**Ash Wednesday/Lenten Weekend Food Sale — FEB. 26/FEB. 29-APRIL 5**, sponsored by SS. Peter & Paul Parish, 1309 West Locust St., West Scranton; pierogi and clam chowder sold throughout Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26, and before and after all weekend Masses (Saturday, 4 p.m. & Sunday, 11 a.m.). Cost: pierogi, \$7 per dozen; clam chowder, \$7 per quart. To place orders, call the rectory office at (570) 343-7015.

**Ash Wednesday Fish Dinner — FEB. 26**, sponsored by St. André Bessette Parish in Wilkes-Barre; served from 4 to 6 p.m. in the parish's Father Zolcinski Hall, 668 North Main St., Wilkes-Barre (take-out orders available). Cost: \$10 per dinner. Advance sales only; to obtain tickets, call Mary at (570) 823-4988. All proceeds benefit the St. André Bessette Parish Social Justice Ministry.

**An Evening & Workshop Retreat with Dan Schutte — FEB. 28 & 29**, featuring renowned liturgical music composer Dan Schutte as special guest; sponsored by the Pittston parishes of St. Joseph Marelllo and St. John the Evangelist

*Continued on Page 30*

## Ministry Studies Course on March 14

"Planning for Effective Ministry," the next Certificate in Ministry Studies program course offered by the Diocesan Office for Parish Life, will be held on Saturday, March 14, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Parish, 801 Taylor Ave., Hill section of Scranton.

Serving as guest instructor for the day will be Tom East, director of the Center for Ministry Development.

The Certificate in Ministry Studies program allows participants to network with others working in youth ministry and faith formation and learn the latest techniques and strategies needed for successful ministry.

The Planning for Effective Ministry course specifically addresses:

- Developing a foundational understanding that will assist leaders in setting and implementing a vision for dynamic ministry and catechesis

- Growing skills for advocacy, planning and organizing ministry efforts

- Methods for collaborative leadership among ministries and within ministry teams.

Course registration cost (for course materials) is \$35 for individuals enrolled in the full two-year certificate process. Guest participation fee is \$85 for anyone interested in a particular course or visiting from another diocese.

Registration can be completed online at [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org) and is required by Feb. 28.

For more information, contact Kitty Scanlan, coordinator for Lay Ministry Formation in the Parish Life Office, at (570) 207-2213, ext. 1157, or by email at: [Kitty-Scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:Kitty-Scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org).



Tom East

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# Catholic Happenings in the Diocese

*Continued from Page 29*

as part of the “2020: Bringing Our Faith into Focus” series. Evening concert of music and prayer on Friday, Feb. 28, at 7 p.m. at the St. Joseph Mareello Parish worship site of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 237 William St., Pittston. Admission fee: \$10; contact the parish office at (570) 654-6902, or office@sjmparish.org for ticket information. Mr. Schutte will present a workshop retreat on Saturday, Feb. 29, from 9 a.m. to noon at the St. Joseph Mareello Parish church. Check-in for registered guests begins at 8 a.m.; admission fee is \$10. For registration information, contact the parish office.

**Lenten Friday Food Sale — FEB. 28-APRIL 3**, sponsored by the Holy Name Society of St. Leo/Holy Rosary Parish, 33 Manhattan St., Ashley; sale of meatless food items held during the Fridays of Lent from noon to 5 p.m. in the church hall (both eat-in and take-out service available). Menu includes potato pancakes, Manhattan clam chowder, mushroom soup, pierogi, haluski, tuna hoagies/sandwiches, fudge brownies, coffee, soda and bottled water; special Lenten food item featured each week.

**Most Holy Trinity Annual Chili & Salsa Fest — FEB. 29**, hosted by Most Holy Trinity Parish in Cresco; held from noon to 4 p.m. at Monsignor McHugh Elementary School, Route 390, Cresco. Event includes taste-tasting contest for local entries of chili and salsa dishes; live musical entertainment by Who Knows band and children’s activities, including face-painting and show. Admission cost: \$5; other foods and drinks available for purchase. Children ten years of age and younger admitted free. Anyone interested in more information or entering the cook-off competition for prizes, call (570) 242-2431.

**Lenten Friday Food Sale — MARCH 6**, sponsored by Nativity of Our Lord Parish in Duryea; hosted from noon to 5:30 p.m. in Sacred Heart of Jesus Hall, 529 Stephenson St., Duryea. Featured food items: homemade red clam chowder and seafood bisque, homemade pierogi (prepared or frozen), haluski, pizza and bake sale. Both eat-in and take-out service provided. For more information, call the rectory office (570) 457-3502.

**Fish Dinner — MARCH 13**, sponsored by the Men’s Club of Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, 420 Main Road, Buttonwood, Hanover Twp.; served from 3 to 7

p.m. in the church hall (take-outs available). Menu includes fish, mac & cheese (sold separately for children), apple sauce, cole slaw, stewed tomatoes, and dessert cake. Cost: \$11 (soft drinks are \$1 each). Tickets available after all Masses or at the door.

**St. Patrick’s Extravaganza — MARCH 14**, hosted by St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport; held from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. in the parish’s Fleming Center, 720 West Fourth St. Cost: \$20 per person (in advance) or \$25 (at door). Includes all-you-can-eat Irish buffet, Irish entertainment, and dancing. For more information & reservations, call (570) 323-9456.

**Ham & Cabbage Dinner — MARCH 14**, sponsored by Holy Family Parish, 828 Main St., Sugar Notch; dinner served from 4 to 7 p.m. in the church hall (take-out orders available from 3 p.m.). Dinner cost: \$10; tickets available after weekend Masses, at the door, or by contacting the rectory office (570) 822-8983.

**Annual Basket Raffle Fundraiser — MARCH 15**, sponsored by St. Faustina Kowalska Parish in Nanticoke to benefit the St. Faustina Mini/Youth Ministry; begins at 10:30 a.m. in the parish center, 520 South Hanover St., Nanticoke. Basket raffle tickets sold in advance only; cost: \$20 for five tickets. Sales deadline is March 8. Event includes food and beverage items available for purchase. For more information and to obtain tickets, call (570) 760-3912.

## King’s Reginas Hosting Fundraiser

The Reginas of King’s College in Wilkes-Barre will host their annual Penny Auction fundraiser on Sunday, March 29, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Sheehy Farmer Campus Center at King’s.

Doors open at 1:30 p.m. for the event featuring games, prizes and light refreshments. Admission fee is \$2 per person.

All proceeds from the Penny Auction are donated by the Reginas support organization to benefit the Rev. Clement J. Podskoch Scholarship Fund, which provides financial assistance to area students attending King’s College.

For more information, call Maureen Finnerty at (570) 288-8706.

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**Lenten Friday Food Sale** — **MARCH 20**, sponsored by Nativity of Our Lord Parish in Duryea; hosted from noon to 5:30 p.m. in Sacred Heart of Jesus Hall, 529 Stephenson St., Duryea. Featured food items: potato pancakes, homemade frozen pierogi, haluski, pizza (baked or unbaked), and bake sale. For more information, call the rectory office (570) 457-3502.

**“Pysanky” Easter Egg Workshop** — **MARCH 21 & 22**, sponsored by the Ladies of Mary Society of Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish in Hanover Township; held in the parish hall, 420 Main Road, Hanover Twp. Workshop begins at noon on Saturday, March 21, and 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 22. Cost: \$30 per person, includes all supplies, step-

by-step instructions, food and soft drink refreshments. Baked goods will be available for purchase. Advance tickets must be purchased by March 15. For reservations and more information, contact Nichole Scalia (570) 574-4453.

**Natural Family Planning (NFP) Presentation** — **MARCH 28**, led by John and Hayley Michelin, longtime NFP trainers in the Scranton Diocese; hosted by St. John Parish in East Stroudsburg. Presentation begins at 9:30 a.m. and includes light refreshments. For more information, contact Jen Housel in the Diocesan Office for Parish Life at (570) 207-2213 ext. 1104, or [jjhousel@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:jjhousel@dioceseofscranton.org).

**Night at the Races** — **MARCH 28**, sponsored by Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton, serving the Greater

Hazleton area; doors open at 6 p.m. at the Catholic Social Services Family Center, 106 South Church St., Hazleton (post time: 7:15 p.m.). Cost: \$10 (in advance) or \$15 (at door), includes food buffet

and soft beverages; patrons may provide their own refreshments. Horse sponsorships: \$10 each. Adults only event. For tickets and more information, call (570) 455-1521.

## Catholic Men's Conference April 25; Women's Conference Set for June 20

The sixth annual *Be a Man Catholic Men's Conference*, featuring the theme “Called to Fatherhood,” will be held on Saturday, April 25, at Holy Redeemer High School, 159 South Pennsylvania Ave., Wilkes-Barre.

The 2020 conference will begin at 8 a.m. with an opening ceremony followed by presentations from the day's guest speakers. Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will celebrate the closing Mass of the conference at 1:45 p.m.

To register, visit [www.beamanconference.com](http://www.beamanconference.com). Early bird reservations are \$30 until April 1; \$40 after April 1. Students pay only \$15; Priests and Deacons are welcome free of charge. Lunch is also included with each ticket registration.

The 2020 *Refresh Your Faith Catholic Women's Conference* is scheduled for Saturday, June 20, on the University of Scranton campus at the Byron Recreation Complex, 800 Linden St., Scranton. The theme for this year's gathering is: “Full of Grace.”

For more information, including registration details, visit: [www.dioceseofscranton.org/parish-life/catholic-womens-conference-2020](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org/parish-life/catholic-womens-conference-2020).

## Enthronement Mass March 10 in Nicholson

All faithful are invited to participate in a Mass of Enthronement to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to be hosted at Saint Patrick Parish in Nicholson on Tuesday, March 10, at 7 p.m.

Father Dan Toomey, spiritual moderator of the Diocesan Enthronement Guild, will serve as principal celebrant. The Sacred Heart Singers, directed by Ernie Pappa, will provide the music ministry, beginning with a prelude of contemporary music at 6:30 p.m.

During the weekend Masses on Feb. 29-March 1 at Saint

Patrick Parish and Our Lady of the Abingtons Parish in Dalton, Enthronement Board President Patrick Williams and Mr. Pappa will speak about home Enthronements to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary. Individuals and families may reserve Enthronement packets after each Mass.

To register to receive an Enthronement packet, contact Maria Pappa, coordinator of the Enthronement Guild, at (570) 587-0805. Renewal enthronements are also available.

## Wellsboro programs featuring dynamic speaker

Saint Peter Parish in Wellsboro announces it will host three spiritual programs featuring renowned faith witness and retreat presenter Judy Hehr during the weekend of March 14-15.

A workshop for women — entitled “Pursue the Best You!” — will be led by Hehr on Saturday, March 14, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Steak House in Wellsboro. Lunch will be provided.

The program will feature the guest speaker's inspirational and challenging message, as she tells of overcoming tremendous life struggles through her faith.

Both men and women will have the opportunity to witness Hehr's powerful testimony when the Wellsboro parish offers a “Refresh Your Spirit” retreat on Sunday, March 15, at 1 p.m. in

Saint Peter Church.

A catered dinner will be served at 4:30 p.m. Seating is limited and early registration is encouraged.



**Judy Hehr**

Scheduled between the two programs, the parish will host a “Faith, Food and Friendship” youth retreat for area teens and young adults on Saturday evening, when Hehr will discuss how a well-informed conscience allows the Holy Spirit to move within us.

For further information and registration details, contact Laurie Coffee at (703) 470-2975, or email: [laurie.coffee@gmail.com](mailto:laurie.coffee@gmail.com).

## Who makes house calls?

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

Based on my practice, which consists of estate planning and administration along with elder law, I find that clients are more comfortable discussing such matters in familiar surroundings. While I know this may seem unconventional to some, I believe I will be able to serve clients much better in this fashion. If anyone is uncomfortable with home visits, I have a few locations where I can meet in an office setting. I look forward to meeting with my existing clients and especially meeting new clients that are looking for any assistance in estate or elder law matters.



## Elder Law

- Guardianships
- Asset Protection Planning
- Medicaid Application Assistance

## Estate Administration

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### Inheritance Tax :

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Meet all requirements and deadlines.

- Powers of Attorney • Living Wills • Wills
- Trusts Guardianships • Asset Protection Planning
- Medicaid Application Assistance

## Estate Planning

- Powers of Attorney • Living Wills
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## Your Gifts Are Changing Lives... You can make a difference today!

After falling short of its \$5 million goal in 2018-2019, organizers of the 2019-2020 Diocesan Annual Appeal are asking the generous people of northeastern and north central Pennsylvania to prayerfully consider a gift in order to maintain resources for all of our critical Diocesan ministries.

Currently, this year's Appeal has raised nearly \$4 million in gifts and pledges so far from 21,700 donors but everyone's help is needed to achieve the goal.

"I am grateful to so many faithful parishioners who contribute to the Appeal every year and to some new donors and a number of parishioners who did not give last year and returned as Appeal donors this year," Bishop Joseph C. Bambera said. "Our ability to maintain all of our Diocesan ministries and serve those in need depends on the generous support of our parishioners."

As indicated in the Diocesan Financial Report, the shortfall from the Appeal last year meant less money for all of the areas that Appeal supports. The shortfall had a significant impact on the Diocese's ability to serve the ever-increasing number of people who rely on our local Catholic Church community for help – especially the more than 300,000 people who annually visit our kitchens, food pantries, shelters and seek much-needed counseling services.

The Diocese is hopeful that parishioners can see the ongoing efforts being made to restore trust in our local Church. Please be assured that Appeal gifts are **ONLY** used for the ministries that they are intended: Catholic Schools, Catholic Social Services, Catholic Media & Communications, Clergy Formation, Education & Support, Parish Life & Ministry Formation, Parish Social Justice Grants and Parish Faith Formation Grants. No money from the Appeal is used to fund the Independent Survivors Compensation Program, which is being paid for by the sale of the Diocese's long-term care facilities.

"We have some ground to make up in the next few months so that we may continue to fully serve all those who rely on the life-giving ministries provided by our Diocese and our parishes," added Bishop Bambera. "If you haven't given yet to the Appeal, I would be most grateful if you would consider making a gift at this time."

Please know that your donations are changing lives on a daily basis. On the right hand side of this page you will find two examples of how your gifts are helping people in our local community...

**Parishioners and friends who have not yet made an Appeal gift are asked to consider a donation at this time. Gifts of any amount are welcome. Interested donors may make a gift to the Diocesan Annual Appeal by visiting [AnnualAppeal.org](http://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.**

## The Catholic Light

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

### Richard Ward

***"Being homeless is a major shock to the system. Thankfully, with the help of Catholic Social Services, I was able to overcome all of that and get where I am today."***



While living paycheck to paycheck, Richard Ward shattered his foot in a work accident. At the age of 30, he lost his job and couldn't pay his rent. He became homeless.

Richard often slept on a bus bench at night or sat in a booth at an all-night doughnut shop to keep warm. He often sought assistance at Saint Anthony's Haven, a homeless shelter in Scranton which is operated by Catholic Social Services. While there, Richard was able to get rest, shower and then go to work at his new job as a retail clerk in a local mall.

Because he has severe diabetes, Richard was invited to enter a program in Carbondale, the Permanent Supportive Housing Program (PSHP), which offers intensive case management for the chronically homeless with disabilities.

Because of the helping hand Richard received, he now has a full-time job, an apartment, stable health and he enjoys a happy relationship with his 18-year-old daughter. He gives back by volunteering weekly in the food pantry and Catholic Social Service offices.

"My case manager has been through a lot with me including seven foot surgeries. I would never have this life if they didn't give me a fresh start...I am very grateful!" Richard said.

### Dan Grogan



***"I believe Saint Francis Commons saved my life in many different ways...and has made a difference not only in my life but in the lives of everyone here."***

Dan Grogan entered military service at the age of 18 and became a paratrooper and demolitions specialist. Years later, he found himself homeless and facing addiction.

Dan struggled for five years before being referred to the Catholic Social Services' permanent supportive housing program which addressed all of his needs. He was able to live two years at Saint James Place while working with residents at Saint Joseph's Center who have mental and physical disabilities.

Through the AmeriCorps program, Dan is able to serve residents of Saint Francis Commons in Scranton, a transitional housing facility for veterans which is operated by Catholic Social Services. He is now able to help other veterans with housing needs, counseling and support to help them in becoming independent.

After being able to reconcile with his son and stepchildren, Dan is now the proud, new grandfather of a three-week-old baby girl.

"Life took me down a rough path," Dan explained. "I prayed a lot. I never quit. Saint Francis Commons has in many great ways given me more hope in my life that I can do better on a daily basis to help the veterans that are here! That is my calling, to help people. If I can do it, you can do it!"