

The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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MOVING FORWARD

Saint Michael Parish in Canton, Bradford County, will be one of the first that is gradually able to resume public Masses.

Parishes in four counties may gradually resume public Masses beginning May 18

As four counties within the Diocese of Scranton's territory entered the "yellow phase" of Pennsylvania's reopening plan on Friday, May 8, 2020, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera announced that public Masses would be allowed to gradually resume for parishes in those specific communities.

Public Masses will initially only be allowed to resume in Bradford, Lycoming, Sullivan and Tioga counties, which were the first four counties to enter the "yellow phase."

Bishop Bambera directed that public Masses in Bradford, Lycoming, Sullivan and Tioga counties could not begin until at least Monday, May 18, 2020, ensuring parishes have the proper time to develop plans to protect the safety and well-being of all parishioners.

"A slow, steady, gradual approach will best enable us to regather," Bishop Bambera said, emphasizing "gradual" to ensure the health of all the faithful, clergy and the community.

In addition to opening their doors for public Masses, parish churches in the four designated counties will also be allowed to offer sacramental confessions and the celebration of wedding and funeral liturgies, but only with strict adherence to current social distancing guidelines and the mandate that no more than 25 people gather in one place at one time.

Bishop Bambera also announced that during the "yellow phase," much-anticipated First Holy Communion and Confirmation Mass celebrations will be able to take place, with individual parishes determining when and how these are to occur.

Lauding the faithful of the Diocese for radiating the "Light of Jesus" and expressing his appreciation for their patience and understanding during these "challenging and unprecedented times," Bishop Bambera stressed the call for sacrifice continues.

He stated the preparations and planning underway by pastors and parishes for such a transitioning are immense and timelines for the reopening of churches may vary between parishes.

"Jesus' embrace of our lives and our world powerfully reminds us of why we are charged to take so much care in reopening our churches," the Bishop said, as he looks forward to welcoming faithful back to the pews. "Our careful attention to keeping each other safe as we regather is the greatest affirmation that we can offer in support of human life and, ultimately, our faith as Christians."

Bishop Bambera cautioned the guidelines required to resume public Masses are fluid and changes should be expected. However, he was also emphatic that it is important that the process begins.

The gradual resuming of daily Masses on May 18 in the Bradford County Parish of Saint Michael

in Canton was announced by its pastor, Father Joseph Kutch. In addition to Saint Michael Church, the parish community also encompasses the worship sites of Saint Aloysius Church, Ralston, and Saint John Nepomucene Church in Troy.

Father Kutch stated the schedule for weekend Masses throughout the parish will be scaled back, with a reservation system being implemented for all liturgies in accordance with the limit of 25 congregants in attendance.

"What I am most thrilled about is the opportunity to now baptize and confirm one of our catechumens and confirm our other two candidates in the RCIA program," Father Kutch commented. "Of course, we were unable to do this at this year's Easter Vigil."

Those sacraments are now scheduled to be conferred and celebrated in the parish on the Vigil of Pentecost Sunday on Saturday, May 30.

"This is particularly important to me and our parish," Father continued, "because once our catechumen is baptized and confirmed and his fiancé is also confirmed, they plan on receiving the Sacrament of Matrimony on June 20 here at Saint Michael's Church."

The rural pastor also said he is looking forward to the celebration of the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation for the parish children in the near future.

Father Andrew Hvozdoivic admitted he initially had mixed feelings about moving his parish, Church of the Epiphany in Sayre, Bradford County, from the so-called "red phase" to the "yellow phase."

"One on hand," the Epiphany pastor said, "I thought, 'this is great,' then reality set in and I thought, 'how do we make this happen?'"

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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE
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DIOCESE OF SCRANTON MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Catholic community of the Diocese of Scranton, are called through Baptism to imitate the servant leadership of Jesus Christ. In union with Our Holy Father, the Pope, we proclaim the Gospel faithfully, celebrate the sacraments joyfully, and boldly promote life, justice and peace in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

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Amid pandemic, nurses have given heroic example, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Marking International Nurses Day May 12, Pope Francis offered his early morning Mass for nurses who “carry out this profession which is more than a profession; it is a vocation, a commitment.”

“May the Lord bless them,” he said. “In this time of pandemic, they have given an example of heroism (and) some have given their lives. Let us pray for nurses.”

In his homily, the pope reflected on the day’s Gospel reading from St. John, in which Jesus tells his disciples that he will give them a peace that is different from the peace the world offers.

Jesus’ peace, the pope explained, is not the promise of “peace without war, which we all want there to be always,” but rather the internal peace of the heart and soul.

The peace offered by the world often relies on possessions that “isolate you from others,” he said.

“It’s a bit selfish: peace for me, enclosed within me. This is how the world gives it. It is an expensive peace because you have to constantly change the ‘instruments of peace.’ When one thing excites you, one thing gives you peace, then it ends and you have to find another. It is expensive because it is temporary and sterile,” the pope said.

On the other hand, the peace that Jesus gives doesn’t isolate one but instead



Pope Francis celebrates Mass May 12, 2020, in the chapel of his Vatican residence, the Domus Sanctae Marthae. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)

“sets you in motion” and “makes you go out to others,” he said.

“The peace of the world is expensive, the peace of Jesus is free, it is free; it is a gift from the Lord,” the pope said.

The pope recalled a letter he received from a priest who told him that he speaks too little about heaven.

“He’s right,” the pope said. “That is why today I wanted to stress this: that peace, this peace that Jesus gives us, is a peace for now and for the future. It is the start of living in heaven with the

fruitfulness of heaven. It is not anesthesia.”

Concluding his homily, Pope Francis called on all Christians to ask themselves daily whether their peace comes from possessions or from God.

“The peace of the Lord is fruitful for me because it is full of hope; that is, it looks toward heaven,” he said. “May the Lord give us this peace that is full of hope, that makes us fruitful, that makes us communicate with others, that creates community and that always looks toward the definitive peace of paradise.”

Parishes in four counties allowed to resume public Masses May 18

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Father HvozdoVIC stated that once the guidance measures and materials for reopening the churches were issued by the Diocese and shared with the Parish Pastoral Council, members were “overwhelmed with initial wonder as to how we would safely be able to make this work.”

Not surprisingly, according to Father, reaction from parish faithful was quick and enthusiastic as parishioners devoutly looked forward to rushing back to church. “Well, not so fast,” he responded.

Blessed with a large worship site able to seat 500 people, Epiphany Church will utilize its capacity to abide by social-distancing requirements for the two dozen worshippers allowed in the church at any given time. Separate doors to enter and exit the church are also available.

The reopening process will begin with the parish’s celebration of daily Mass at 12:10 p.m.

“The opportunity to attend will be offered first to the family of the Mass’ intention and the family requesting the intention,” Father HvozdoVIC said. “Then whatever space is available will be on a first-call order system,” to be operated by members of a newly formed Pandemic Coordinating Team.

According to the pastor, the first several weekend Masses to be offered at the reopened parish church will be dedicated to the celebrations of First Holy Communion, Confirmation, and RCIA sacraments.

With regard to First Communion and Confirmation, Father explained, Masses will be limited to just a few of those children receiving the

sacrament and their family members. “This would probably take us into the middle of June,” he said.

The Sunday morning Mass at 9 a.m. will also continue to be livestreamed from Epiphany Church.

Father Bryan Wright, pastor of Holy Child Parish in Mansfield, which includes Saint Mary of Czestochowa Church in Blossburg, announced a preliminary schedule of Masses between the two worship sites has been tentatively set as the Tioga County faith community moves forward in its reopening phase.

Holy Child Church, Mansfield, will host a weekend vigil Mass on Saturday at 4 p.m. and Sunday morning Mass at 11:15 a.m. Daily liturgies at the main worship site will now be celebrated on Thursday at 6 p.m. and Friday at 8:30 a.m.

Saint Mary’s in Blossburg will be open for Sunday liturgy at 9 a.m., with weekday Masses scheduled for Monday and Tuesday at 12:10 p.m.

Attendance for Masses is by invitation only.

The parish churches will be open for private prayer as follows: Holy Child – Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sunday, 2 to 4 p.m. Saint Mary’s – Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

“We are very happy to be part of this moving-forward process,” Father Wright said.

“As far as we’re concerned, the congregations for the Masses will be sizable groups, especially given our staggered schedule of celebrations,” he continued. “Many people are excited, but some will be cautious and may not want to return immediately, and that’s

understandable.”

In Lycoming County, Father Brian Van Fossen, pastor of Saint Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport, is also moving forward with safety in mind.

“We are approaching this time with tender care,” the Williamsport pastor said as his parish prepares to reopen its church doors. “We are planning with the Parish Council and our staff in order to allow people time to spend in prayer as well as continue our ministries to those in need.”

Father Van Fossen indicated the parish church will be open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and offer Holy Hour from 4 to 5 p.m. Plans are also progressing to expand the Holy Mass celebration schedule in order to offer evening times for those wishing to attend – particularly those who serve at the nearby hospital.

He also stated Saint Joseph the Worker will continue its online presence through YouTube and the virtual presentation of Eucharistic liturgies.

“We are very excited to welcome people back to the Sunday celebration in the church,” Father said, “but we are also approaching with caution, just in case we are reverted back to the ‘red zone.’”

At this time, parishes in the seven other counties that make-up the Diocese of Scranton (Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming counties), which remain in the “red phase” of Pennsylvania’s reopening plan will not be able to resume public Masses at this time. Pastors in those communities have been encouraged to begin planning for their eventual transition to the “yellow phase.”



Diocese of Scranton

COVID-19 Guidance for Yellow Phase

- Parishes in Bradford, Lycoming, Sullivan and Tioga counties only may gradually resume public Masses no earlier than Monday, May 18.
- Parishes can be open for private, individual prayer.
- Guidelines are fluid and are subject to change with little notice depending on health/safety conditions or state recommendations.

Public Masses can Gradually Resume in the Yellow Phase

- The obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended.
- Livestreaming opportunities should continue.
- Masses will be limited to 25 people.
- Parishes determine reservation system.
- Masks will be required.
- Social distancing will be practiced.
- Holy Communion to be distributed at the end of Mass.



Sacraments can Resume in the Yellow Phase

- Funeral Masses with a limit of 25 people can be held.
- Confessions allowed with proper social distancing in place.
- Weddings with a maximum of 25 people attending.
- First Holy communions and Confirmations can take place as determined by parish.

For additional information on all directives, in addition to proper safety and sanitation protocols that will need to be followed, visit www.dioceseofscranton.org.

Bishops reconsecrate U.S. to Mary amid COVID-19 pandemic

SCRANTON – Bishop Joseph C. Bambera joined bishops throughout the United States in reconsecrating the United States to Mary as the nation continues to struggle in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

Bishops in Canada also used May 1 to rededicate their country to the Blessed Mother.

Bishop Bambera led a local prayer service at the Cathedral of Saint Peter. It was broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television and livestreamed on Facebook, YouTube and the Diocese of Scranton website.

“During these days that continue to be painful for many of us, may we find hope in Mary’s example of loving, trustful discipleship and may we embrace Jesus’ invitation to rely upon her watchful and loving care for our Church and for our lives, especially during these days,” Bishop Bambera said.

The bishop noted Mary’s loving heart and her long journey of faith.

“From the moment that she was asked to accept the unbelievable, that she was to give birth to the Savior, through the power of the most high God, her entire life became a journey of trust in the midst of pain, suffering and struggle,” Bishop Bambera added.



Bishop Joseph C. Bambera leads a special liturgy in renewing the consecration of the U.S. to the care of our Blessed Mother on May 1, 2020. (Photo/Eric Deabill)

Those tribulations make her example all the more important to us.

“Mary has stood before us, not as a pristine, porcelain figure who was shielded from this world. Quite the contrary, she is that simple soul who has known life as we experience it. A lonely figure at times who walked every path of life, of joy, but also of pain and suffering, to the point of letting go of her son on a Cross, allowing Him to be crucified, something that was so unfair and so undeserving,” the bishop said.

Bishop Bambera prayed for Mary’s intercession for the needs of our country, that every desire

for good may be blessed and strengthened.

“Mary understands the brokenness of our world, because she experienced it, like you and I do. She understands the pain, the fear, the confusion, the doubt, the struggle, the grief, every one of those dimensions of life were woven into hers. Yet, throughout her entire journey in this world, she stands before us as a model of discipleship and faith, trusting that regardless of how her life unfolded, she believed fundamentally in the midst of everything that came her way, God’s promise to save his people would always come to pass.

It is because of her role as such a trusting disciple and a mother that we turn to her today, at the very invitation of Jesus, as he prepared to lose his own life,” he added.

At exactly the same time as the service in Scranton was taking place, Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, led a similar event at Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral which was livestreamed to the faithful.

Alternating between English and Spanish, Archbishop Gomez said: “In this difficult time we turn to the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of the church. She intercedes with her Son for all are affected in this way by the pandemic... We implore her maternal care for her children.”

Archbishop Gomez noted Mary’s history in the United States.

“The first missionaries came to this country under the mantle of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Later, the bishops consecrated her as patroness of the United States of America,” he said. “The Virgin Mary has accompanied this great nation since our beginnings,” he added. “Now in this difficult hour, we renew our consecration to her.”

The United States has been hit harder than any other nation in deaths connected to COVID-19.

“Mary was the first person to consecrate herself to Jesus, the

first to offer her whole heart to do his will, to set his beautiful plan of redemption,” Archbishop Gomez said. “We ask God to give us that same faith, that same courage ... the strength to follow Jesus, to seek his holiness and his kingdom.”

At its conclusion, Archbishop Gomez said, “Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, is encouraging us to rediscover the beauty of praying the rosary at home in the month of May.” He noted “maybe we can dedicate ourselves to find time to come together as a family to pray the rosary in our homes.”

This reconsecration reaffirms the bishops’ previous consecrations of the United States to Mary. In 1792, the first bishop of the United States, Bishop John Carroll, consecrated the nation to Mary under the title Immaculate Conception, and in 1846, the bishops unanimously chose Mary under that title as the patroness of the nation. In 1959, Cardinal Patrick O’Boyle of Washington again consecrated the United States to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The consecration on May 1 follows a similar action of the bishops’ conference of Latin America and the Caribbean, who consecrated their nations to Our Lady of Guadalupe on Easter Sunday.

Catholic News Service contributed to this report.

Catholic youth group serves up surprises to public servants - with a side of prayers

NANTICOKE – “Thanks so much for the pizza! We greatly appreciated it and it was so good!”

“It’s so wonderful that Sandy and the youth ministry are doing so much good in these scary times. Love you!”

“Thank you Saint Faustina Youth Ministry. This was so appreciated. God bless you all!”

These are just a small sampling of the expressions of gratitude the Mini/Youth Ministry at Saint Faustina Kowalska Parish has received from first responders and essential workers in its hometown during the coronavirus crisis.

Since the global pandemic crept into our lives two months ago, the Catholic parish youth group well known for its many activities in the community has embarked on a project called “Honoring Our Heroes.” The endeavor has trays of pizza or

breakfast treats – depending on the time of day – surprisingly show up at the workplaces of those who valiantly continue to serve the public in the face of the COVID-19 emergency.

“We are so blessed and we wanted to give back to our community,” Saint Faustina Mini/Youth Ministry Director Sandy Repak said. She explained how the youth group came up with the idea of selecting two groups of essential workers each week and treating them with the free meals.

Staff members at Birchwood Nursing Home and Guardian Elder Care were the first to be honored by the youth ministry’s surprise gesture, followed by the Nanticoke Public Works Department and Nanticoke Medic 5 Ambulance crews.

Repak makes all the deliveries personally, strictly adhering to the



Staff members from Birchwood Nursing Home were the first to be honored by the Saint Faustina Kowalska Parish Mini/Youth Ministry program’s “Honoring Our Heroes” initiative.

safety measures and guidelines put in place to combat the pandemic. The large group of young parishioners who comprise the Saint Faustina Youth Ministry

design and create the personalized “thank you” certificates that accompany each delivery of food, which has been provided at a reduced cost by local eateries

including Joe’s Pizza, Marty’s, and Baker Boys.

Included among those who have felt the love and gratitude the effort graciously offers are the Nanticoke police and fire departments and the city’s Code Enforcement Office. Most recently, refuse-removal workers have been recognized and organizers of the project are now setting their eyes on local supermarkets and pharmacies.

According to Repak, youth group members are also preparing posters/cards offering gratitude and inspiration for frontline health care employees at three area hospitals.

“We will continue each week surprising groups of our essential workers,” she said. “As we continue to pray for all of them to stay safe and healthy.”

'Sew' Be It: Mask making ministries cover vital need

MUNCY – Resourceful, caring and charitable individuals from Catholic parishes across the Diocese of Scranton have responded earnestly to a pressing need that only a global pandemic can create – personal safety masks.

As the calendar turned to 2020, it was unthinkable that facial/surgical masks, once only associated with doctors, nurses and healthcare workers, would now be a required commodity for anyone wanting to venture outside their home to guard against an insidious, invisible enemy.

When the coronavirus outbreak became a real concern in March, Lynn Pryor of Church of the Resurrection in Muncy, Lycoming County, began her mission to find some way to help others during the pandemic. Her quest ended when she read an article about a hospital reaching out to the community to help make essential, but extremely scarce, N95 masks for staff members.

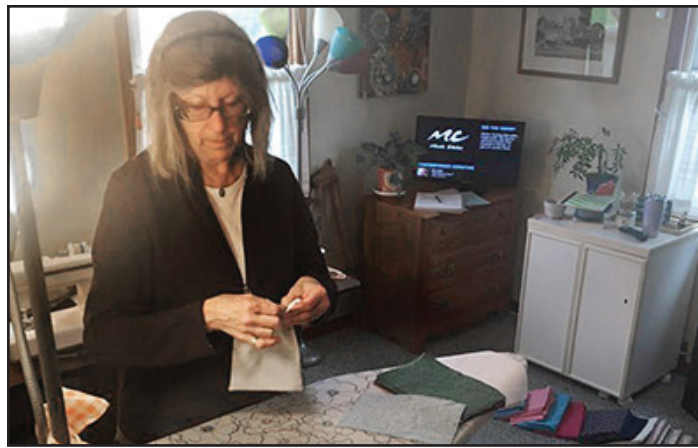
"I explored websites and found patterns that met the CDC guidelines and starting making masks," Pryor said. "I wrote to one woman to offer help with masks for nursing homes she was sewing for in Williamsport."

After creating about 15 masks to help the cause, Pryor said the woman urged her to continue her efforts and donate them to as many people in the area as possible. She immediately sought out a parish friend, Pat Merrifield, who is a nurse at the nearby Geisinger Infusion Clinic.

"(Pat) told me that the staff had masks, but many of the patients didn't," explained Pryor, "so I started to make them for the patients." Thus her mask ministry was born.

By early April, the Muncy mask maker contacted the Women's Organization at Church of the Resurrection Parish looking for some much needed help. Several women responded, including experienced quilters Joann Ort and Teri Snyder. Others like Nan Ruscak and the parish pastor, Father Glenn McCreary, donated materials.

"At that point," Pryor recalled, "we really got going and have made several



Ann Mullen, a parishioner of Saint Matthew Church in East Stroudsburg, has helped make hundreds of masks for essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

hundred masks so far."

In addition to the Infusion Clinic, mask recipients have included family members, neighbors and friends, particularly older members of the Resurrection community.

"While making these masks I often think of the patients and the staff who will use them and of their love and courage," Ort commented. "They are certainly in our hearts."

Merrifield is very thankful for all of the masks that were provided for home-infusion patients who would normally be receiving their vital medications in the hospital. "These patients accept the masks with so much gratitude," she said. "Some get quite emotional. Thanks to those at the Church of the Resurrection for these wonderful gifts of mercy!"

The Muncy mask ministry is now preparing for the opening of Diocesan churches and the public celebration of Masses, when masks will be required for all faithful in attendance.

"During this pandemic, I know many people wish to do something and would love to help from the safety of their own homes," Pryor said. "One of the most needed pieces of equipment is the face mask."

She has graciously offered to assist anyone in joining the effort, including, if

possible, picking up finished masks and getting them to where they are most needed.

Those interested may contact Lynn Pryor via email at: pry0rla@gmail.com.

'The MassQueens'

As the spring season ushered in the harsh reality of COVID-19, the "MassQueens Community Assistance Mask Sewing Project" also began coming to life on the other side of the Diocese in its eastern-most region.

Ann Mullen and Linda Ross learned valuable sewing skills around the same young age – Mullen from her mother, and Ross from taking sewing classes at North Scranton Junior High School.

The longtime friends met years ago as parishioners of Saint Matthew Church in East Stroudsburg, where Ross is a choir member and cantor and Mullen serves as music director and organist/pianist, along with being a member of the music faculty at nearby Notre Dame High School.

But it has been their love of sewing that launched their mask making apostolate. According to Mullen, it all began with a somewhat prophetic suggestion by another friend, who upon learning of a new virus on the horizon, sensed an urgent need for safety masks.

"I really didn't take her seriously until about a week after she said this," Mullen recalled. "Then it became apparent that wearing masks would become a way of life, essential to health and safety."

Well known for her sewing abilities, Mullen received her first request from a friend whose daughter is on staff at a hospital in Allentown. Her department was suddenly in need of 50 masks due to the pandemic.

"No sooner had that request been fulfilled, then mask requests for essential workers and service personnel started pouring in," Mullen said. "When I got a request for 300 masks from another friend at Lehigh Valley Hospital in East Stroudsburg, I knew I would need help."



Linda Ross, a parishioner of Saint Matthew Church in East Stroudsburg, puts her sewing skills to work to create masks for healthcare providers and other emergency responders.

Enter Linda Ross, who responded to her friend's desperate plea with a resounding "Yes!"

"We both wanted to do whatever we could to help the community during a time of crisis," said Ross, "and since we both sew, the mask making was the perfect fit for us."

Early on in the project, the duo began referring to their charitable enterprise as "The MassQueens" – giving a nod to their Catholic Church affiliation while describing their mask making commitment.

While working from their homes, Mullen and Ross comprise the sewing portion of the operation; however, they have received much behind-the-scenes support from numerous friends from the Saint Matthew's community as well as local Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters.

With the creation and donation of more than 1,600 masks – and the number continually rising – the list of beneficiaries from the project is quite lengthy. Grateful recipients of the MassQueens' handiwork include healthcare providers, emergency responders, police departments, cafeteria workers, homes for the elderly, local businesses and clergy.

"This is and has been such a fulfilling adventure for both of us," Mullen offered. "We feel that we have been called to make use of our God-given talents to do something positive that will make a difference to those around us."

Despite having worked tirelessly for more than fifty straight days to fill mask requests, the MassQueens are prepared to continue their commitment to the community for as long as it is needed.

Is your parish doing something to help its community during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Let *The Catholic Light* know:
Email editor Eric Deabill at
EDeabill@dioceseofscranton.org



Lynn Pryor, a parishioner at Church of the Resurrection in Muncy, uses her sewing machine to create masks that were donated to patients at the Geisinger Infusion Clinic.



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 17

FIRST READING
 ACTS 8: 5-8, 14-17

Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Christ to them. With one accord, the crowds paid attention to what was said by Philip when they heard it and saw the signs he was doing.

For unclean spirits, crying out in a loud voice, came out of many possessed people, and many paralyzed or crippled people were cured.

There was great joy in that city.

Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who went down and prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for it had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM
 PS 66: 1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20

Response: Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

SECOND READING
 1 PT 3: 15-18

Beloved: Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who defame your good conduct in Christ may themselves be put to shame.

For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that be the will of God, than for doing evil.

For Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God. Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit.

GOSPEL READING
 JN 14: 15-21

Jesus said to his disciples: “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows him.

But you know him, because he remains with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live.

On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him.”



THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Thursday, May 21

FIRST READING
 ACTS 1: 1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught until the day he was taken up, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.

He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While meeting with the them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for “the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

When they had gathered together they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

He answered them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them.

They said, “Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven.”

RESPONSORIAL PSALM
 PS 47: 2-3, 6-7, 8-9

Response: God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

SECOND READING
 EPH 1: 17-23

Brothers and sisters: May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him.

May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones, and what is the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe, in accord with the exercise of his great might, which he worked in Christ, raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens, far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion, and every name that is named not only in this age but also in the one to come.

And he put all things beneath his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.

GOSPEL READING
 MT 28: 16-20

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted.

Then Jesus approached and said to them,

“All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”



SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 24

FIRST READING ACTS 1: 12-14

After Jesus had been taken up to heaven the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away.

When they entered the city they went to the upper room where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PS 27: 1, 4, 7-8

Response: I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living.

SECOND READING 1 PT 4: 13-16

Beloved: Rejoice to the extent that you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that when his glory is revealed you may also rejoice exultantly.

If you are insulted for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let no one among you be made to suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as an intriguer. But whoever is made to suffer as a Christian should not be ashamed but glorify God because of the name.

GOSPEL READING JN 17: 1-11A

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you, just as you gave him authority over all people, so that your son may give eternal life to all you gave him. Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ. I glorified you on earth by accomplishing the work that you gave me to do. Now glorify me, Father, with you, with the glory that I had with you before the world began.

"I revealed your name to those whom you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you gave me is from you, because the words you gave to me I have given to them, and they accepted them and truly understood that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for the ones you have given me, because they are yours, and everything of mine is yours and everything of yours is mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you."



PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 31

FIRST READING ACTS 2: 1-11

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were.

Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language.

They were astounded, and in amazement they asked, "Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his native language? We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene, as well as travelers from Rome, both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs, yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PS 104: 1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34

Response: Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

SECOND READING 1 COR 12: 3B-7, 12-13

Brothers and sisters: No one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.

As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ.

For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

GOSPEL READING JN 20: 19-23

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

Diocesan seminarian to be ordained Transitional Deacon May 23

SCRANTON – Mark DeCelles, 38, will begin the final step of his formation for the priesthood when he is ordained to the transitional diaconate by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera at a Mass on Saturday, May 23, at 10 a.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Mass will be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton.

Ordination as a transitional deacon generally occurs after a seminarian has completed at least three years of study in theology and takes place usually one year prior to priestly ordination. A deacon may serve as an ordinary minister of Baptism and is able to preside at weddings, assist the priest at Mass, proclaim the Gospel and preach, as well as preside at wakes and funeral services.

A member of Immaculate Conception Parish in Scranton's Hill section, DeCelles is the son of Charles, Ph.D., and Mildred DeCelles, R.N., of Dunmore. The Scranton Diocesan seminarian is completing his theological studies and priestly formation at Saint Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, Md.



Mark DeCelles

He is currently serving in his pastoral year at Saint Matthew Parish in East Stroudsburg. A pastoral year provides a year of practical ministry in a parish setting, allowing a seminarian experiences near the end of his priestly training in addition to his formal preparatory education.

"I am very grateful for all of the pastoral assignments I have received during the course of my formation," DeCelles said, including his 2018 summer assignment at the parish

communities of Blessed Sacrament and Holy Cross in the Mid Valley region of Lackawanna County.

As for his pastoral year experience, the transitional deacon candidate referred to Saint Matthew Parish as "an amazingly complex and lively community, teeming with opportunities for evangelization, catechesis and community outreach."

"It has been a profound privilege to witness the growth of young adult ministries, high school and college men discernment groups, the Hispanic community and this year's catechumens and candidates for the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)," he said.

Additionally, DeCelles was given the opportunity to teach an eighth grade theology class at nearby Notre Dame Junior/Senior High School in East Stroudsburg.

The seminarian also reflected on his upcoming diaconate ordination during such challenging and unprecedented times.

"The world of COVID-19 is a world full of pain and uncertainty and despair, a world that needs Christ more than ever," DeCelles said. "It is because of this that I am eager and excited for the day of my ordination. My desire to carry the light

of Christ to the frontlines of our hungry, suffering world has only grown over the course of my almost three years of formation, and the pandemic has made this desire still more acute."

In light of the current health crisis, the seminarian expressed his gratitude for those putting their lives on the line for the health, safety and well-being of others.

"I am also most grateful today for the gift of the priesthood – for priests whose lives give testimony, in and out of season, to the love of God who loved us first, before we were ever able to muster some shred of love for others," he said. "I am grateful for the priests who continue to say, 'This is my body. This is my blood,' to an empty church."

He concluded by saying this is the kind of priest he hopes to be when – by the Lord's will and grace – he is ordained to the priesthood next year.

"I want everyone to know the God who continues to take the lead in loving me, so that when I just don't feel like giving any more, I can turn to Him for the grace and strength to love those who might not be able, or willing, to love me back."

"God is calling, even in the midst of a global pandemic"

World Day of Prayer for Vocations celebrated at Cathedral of Saint Peter

SCRANTON – On the Fourth Sunday of Easter, May 3, 2020, the Diocese of Scranton celebrated World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

Following the call of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, Catholics were encouraged to intercede for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

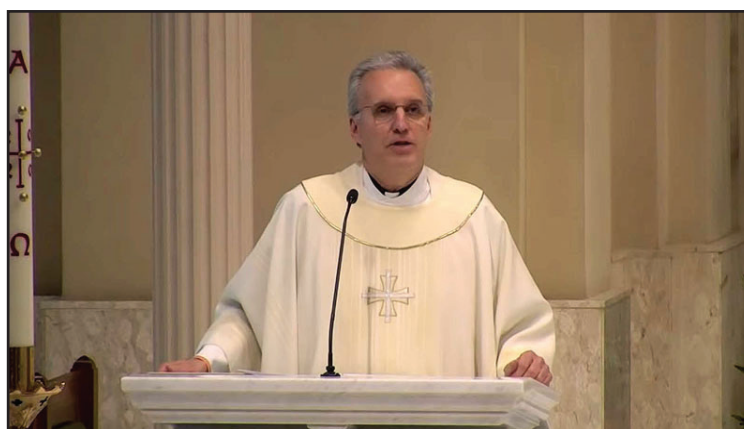
Father Don Williams, Diocesan Director of Vocations & Seminarians, celebrated the weekend Mass with Bishop Joseph C. Bambera at the Cathedral of Saint Peter. The annual celebration usually brings together hundreds of faithful, including many young people. This year, due to the coronavirus, the Mass was celebrated virtually and broadcast on CTV: Catholic Television.

During his homily, Father Williams first spoke about the hope that he sees, even during all the pain and difficulty associated with social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"If we reflect on a deeper level, I'm sure we could also acknowledge that something very wonderful is happening in the midst of this hardship and difficulty. Many of the young people that I have been connecting with over the past several weeks have come to say our families are spending more time together now than ever. We enjoy family meals, we're playing board games, we're watching movies, older siblings are helping their younger brothers and sisters with homework and they're just hanging out," Father Williams said.

At this time, Father Williams said he has also seen many young people taking more time to reflect and be quiet.

"How many of you have had a deep hunger for the Eucharist, coming to appreciate this gift that perhaps at times we may have taken for granted? I've noticed many young adults thinking critically these days. They're asking the bigger questions.



Father Don Williams, Diocesan Director of Vocations & Seminarians, delivers the homily during Mass on the Fourth Sunday of Easter, which was also celebrated as World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

They're making time to truly discern. We have many wonderful young people who connect each week through video conferencing groups, asking questions, praying, understanding the tools for spiritual discernment," he added.

Explaining that the Diocese of Scranton is blessed with many good men and women in

formation with various religious communities, Father Williams said more are always needed to join in mission and ministry.

"God is calling, even in the midst of a global pandemic," he said.

Father Williams asked the people of the Diocese of Scranton to do four things: pray, affirm, encourage and invite.

"If you have come across a young person, who you believe has the gifts to serve, affirm what you have seen. Call them by name," Father Williams said, pointing to a recent study that shows 89-percent of individuals being ordained this year were personally invited by someone. "Give God permission. Keep God at the center of your life. Give God permission to speak to your heart and enlighten your mind."

Other tenants of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations include praying for the priests who minister and praying a rosary for more young men and women to respond to God's call.

"If this pandemic has taught us anything, it is simply this: how fragile life is, how important we are to each other, and how important it is to think beyond ourselves and to live generously, faithfully, selflessly so that we might make a difference for good in our Church and in our world," Father Williams added.

Saint Francis Commons goes 'extra mile' to ensure safety during COVID-19

Transitional housing facility, operated by Catholic Social Services, is currently home to 28 veterans

By Alan K. Stout
Special to *The Catholic Light*

SCRANTON – Throughout this spring, the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way Americans live.

Shelter in place, stay-at-home and social distancing are all phrases that have served as a way of life for people during this time. People now wear masks and gloves to the supermarket, they disinfect, they sanitize, and they do their best to help stop the spread of the coronavirus.

At Saint Francis Commons in Scranton, where 28 United States veterans currently reside, several precautionary steps have been taken to help ensure the safety of its residents.

“We’re deep-cleaning the facility twice a day,” Ryan Pollock, program supervisor at Saint Francis Commons, said. “We’re cleaning all hard surfaces with industrial antibacterial cleaners, which have been provided to us by our property management company. We do it morning and night on all hard surfaces, on all of the staff desks, and on any common traffic areas. That includes the kitchens, the door

handles, elevators, handrails, tables, chairs, everything.”

Saint Francis Commons is a transitional housing facility for veterans which is operated by Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton. The facility opened in 2015 and has 30 beds.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, all residents have also been provided with face masks, which they are asked to wear whenever they are in commonly shared areas of the facility. Each resident also has their temperature taken, using a forehead thermometer, by a staff member on every first and second shift. The results are then properly logged to help ensure that the health of all residents is properly monitored.

“Knock on wood, but we haven’t had anyone running a temperature in the last month,” Pollock said. “We had a veteran running a temperature about five weeks ago, and we did quarantine him, but it ended up being the result of another ailment. He got an antibiotic and it cleared up. Thankfully, it wasn’t COVID-19.”

Pollock said that Saint Francis Commons has also modified the way it accepts new residents. Though it will still allow new



Daniel Grogan, AmeriCorps peer support specialist at Saint Francis Commons, left, and Ryan Pollock, program supervisor, Saint Francis Commons, right, have taken extra sanitary precautions to protect veterans during the COVID-19 pandemic. (Photo/Alan K. Stout)

residents to come to the facility, they must first be tested for COVID-19 or be coming from another facility at which medical professionals have determined that they are non-symptomatic of COVID-19.

“It’s a case-by-case basis,” Pollock added. “We’re not taking people off the street right now

unless they agree to be quarantined for 14 days. We do have residents that have compromised immune systems and respiratory systems and are on oxygen. We’re doing everything we can to protect them.”

Pollock said that once it became clear that the COVID-19 pandemic was something that

would require heightened precautions, Saint Francis Commons acted quickly.

“It was March 13,” he explained. “We immediately said there were no more visitors. We stopped everyone from coming into the facility. Even the mailman and FedEx driver have not been inside. We meet them at the door. Normally, our residents can have visitors in the common areas, anytime from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., but those privileges were suspended on March 13. Generally, all of our residents are also eligible for up to three overnight passes per month, where they can go and stay with their children or family. Those services were also suspended on March 13, so nobody has been staying outside of the facility.”

Pollock said he is proud of how the Saint Francis Commons community has come together during the crisis. In addition to staff and cleaning professionals, residents have also assisted with keeping the facility safe.

“A lot of people have gone the extra mile,” he added. “The staff and the residents are really trying to keep the place sanitized.”

Catholic Social and Human Services Food Pantry Information

SCRANTON

Saint Francis Food Pantry
500 Penn Avenue
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
(Meals served at Saint Francis of Assisi
Kitchen daily 11:00 am - Noon)

Nativity Place Food Pantry
640 Hemlock Street
Tuesday and Thursday
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

CARBONDALE

Catholic Social Services Office
34 River Street
Monday: 9:00 a.m. – Noon
Tuesday and Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. –
Noon and 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Thursday: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m. – Noon

WILKES-BARRE

Saint Vincent de Paul Food Pantry
39 East Jackson Street
Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
(Meals served at Saint Vincent de Paul
Kitchen daily beginning at 11:00 a.m.)

HAZLETON

Saint Joseph Food Pantry
214 West Walnut Street
Monday: 10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. and
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Thursday: 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFO:
www.dioceseofscranton.org

Saying “Thank You” during the pandemic



This sign has been put up outside the Hazleton office of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton to thank its staff, volunteers and the community at large for helping Catholic Social Services continue to provide its essential services during the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information about programs offered in the greater Hazleton area, call (570) 455-1521.

Coronavirus Emergency Fund helps those in need

SCRANTON – More than 600 parishioners and friends have made gifts to the Coronavirus Emergency Fund established by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera to help support public ministries, parishes and Catholic schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of \$130,000 has been raised so far: \$40,000 for parishes, \$50,000 for kitchens, food pantries, shelters and relief assistance, \$14,000 for Catholic Schools and \$26,000 to be used where it is needed most.

“I am grateful for the generosity of our friends and neighbors,” Bishop Joseph C. Bambera said. “It is wonderful to see so many people embracing the example of Jesus to reach out to others, especially those most in need of our help at this time.”

The Coronavirus Emergency Fund provides an opportunity to financially support a specific parish, a Diocesan Catholic school or one of the kitchens, food pantries, shelters or relief assistance programs provided by Catholic Social and Human Services in Carbondale, Hazleton, Scranton and Wilkes-Barre.

“Thank you to everyone who is responding to the significant need at this time as parishes strive to maintain their weekly offertory collections, Catholic school families struggle to

pay tuition due to lost wages, and Catholic Social Services’ kitchens, food pantries and shelters experience a substantial increase in the number of people in need of help,” Jim Bebla, Diocesan Secretary for Development, said.

Parishes, schools and Catholic Social Services are also seeing additional expenses due to COVID-19 for items including cleaning supplies, masks, hand sanitizer and takeout food containers. For example, Catholic Social Services recently incurred a cost of more than \$30,000 for equipment needed to properly sanitize and provide a safe environment for visitors, clients, guests and staff at all of its kitchens, food pantries and shelter across the Diocese of Scranton.

Interested donors are encouraged to make gifts to the Coronavirus Emergency Fund online at www.dioceseofscranton.org/emergencyfund.

If donors prefer, they can mail gifts to Coronavirus Emergency Fund, Diocese of Scranton, 300 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA 18503. Checks should be made to the Diocese of Scranton and list the gift designation – either the Catholic Human and Social Service program, parish or specific Catholic School they wish to support.

Polls show faith is getting Americans through the coronavirus crisis

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Two separate polls show that Americans are relying more on their faith to help persevere through the coronavirus pandemic.

The Pew Research Center, in a survey released April 30, showed that nearly one-fourth of all Americans say their faith has grown stronger during the pandemic, while only 2% said it had grown weaker.

Catholics, according to Pew, are very much in line with the overall survey results. Among Catholic respondents, 27% said their faith had grown stronger with 2% saying it had gotten weaker. In addition, 63% said their faith had not changed much at all, and another 7% said the question was not applicable because “I am not a religious person and this hasn’t changed.”

A poll by Fordham University released April 28 showed that Americans are being helped by their religious or spiritual faith during the pandemic, and the more often they go to church, the more they feel it has helped.

For those who go to church regularly, 68% said they have been “helped a lot,” and another 22% said they have been “helped somewhat.” For those who say they go to church frequently, 41% said they were helped a lot, with 45% reporting they had been helped somewhat. Even a majority of those who say they rarely go to church said faith has helped – 23% a lot and 32% somewhat.

Among all respondents, 35% said they have been helped a lot and 29% said they had been helped somewhat, while 34% said they had not been helped.

There may be a touch of irony in the polls’ results as significant percentages of Americans are reporting their faith has helped get them through a tough time yet they are unable to attend worship services. The Fordham poll showed 38% of Americans are attending less frequently, while 56% report no change. Just over a quarter are watching services more online or on television now than before the outbreak.

Regular churchgoers reported the largest attendance drop-off, with 67% saying they are attending much less often, 4% attending somewhat less often and 19% reporting no change. To compensate, 55% said they are watching online or televised services more than usual.

In the Fordham poll, 62% of Catholics said they had been helped at least somewhat by their faith. By comparison, 95% of evangelicals reported they had been helped at least somewhat, and just over three-fourths of mainline Protestants reported the same.

Pew’s numbers found that African Americans reported the biggest increase in faith at 41%, compared to 40% for Hispanics

and 20% for whites. Older Americans likewise found their faith increasing, as nearly 30% of all Americans ages 50-up reported increased faith. Women’s numbers were nearly twice as big as men’s, 30% compared to 18%.

Monika McDermott, Fordham professor of political science, told Catholic News Service that her students in a public opinion and survey research certification program had designed an entirely different poll before the coronavirus started shutting down much of U.S. society. “We met over Zoom and worked remotely” to put together the new survey, she said.

One key finding was in asking who has been guiding respondents personally through the crisis. “Public health officials got the highest rating on that, which is not surprising,” McDermott said. “We also found that state governors were fairly important,” but “not the federal government, and we found that enlightening.”

McDermott added: “We found people are social distancing. We asked about their daily habits. They are avoiding large places so they could be avoiding people who come within six feet.” But one key finding, she noted, was that the “emotional and economic burden is really falling on African Americans from this virus.”

She said, we asked them questions such as: Are you still required to go into the workplace, and are you exposed to the virus and do you know people who have died from it? “The numbers are tremendously different if you’re a black American. And those are shocking numbers.”

“There are two completely different communities that are experiencing this in completely different ways,” she said.

Claire Gecewicz, a Pew researcher, said, “It’s a real unique moment in time that we’re in right now. The vast majority of people have not lived in a pandemic” – so unique that “this is a question we’ve never asked before.”

Noting some of the demographic differences, Gecewicz said, “What we know from prior research, women tend to be more religious than men. You could make the connection that women are more likely than men to say that their faith has gotten stronger, but our research would suggest, in terms of the racial breakdown, blacks are more likely than white and Hispanics to say their faith has gotten stronger.”

The Pew poll was conducted online with more than 10,000 respondents, and has a margin of error of plus or minus 1.5 percentage points. The Fordham poll, conducted by phone with 1,003 respondents, has a margin of error of 4.3 percentage points.

To donate to the Coronavirus Emergency Fund:

www.dioceseofscranton.org/emergencyfund

St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen Staff



Still here to help. Still here to serve.

Take-out style hot lunch available everyday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m

It's full 'STREAM' ahead – at home – for Catholic School students

SAYRE – Even though students aren't physically together in their classrooms because of the COVID-19 pandemic, they are still being challenged to use creativity and critical thinking skills.

At the beginning of the 2019-20 academic year, the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System launched its new STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts and Math) learning initiative, and even the coronavirus cannot stop students and teachers from continuing to use it.

"They've embraced it and I think it helps us all stay connected when we're so separate," Sara Kitts, computer teacher and librarian at Epiphany School in Sayre, said.

In her Bradford County elementary school, Kitts has been sending a weekly blog to families with materials and resources for distance learning. Part of the blog contains a daily Facebook challenge which includes STREAM activities focused on connection, creativity, critical thinking skills and communication.

"We have done several different STREAM challenges," Kitts said. "One of them asked students to build a car. That was an engineering challenge with whatever materials they have on hand. We asked the kids to design a car and post a picture of their creation to our Facebook page with their parents help. We got quite a few different options. We had some do Legos, some made it out of cardboard. We had a young lady in second grade do it out of Easter candy and cookies which I thought was quite creative."

Epiphany School keeps its STREAM Facebook challenges broad to make sure all students, Pre-K through sixth grade, can participate.



Arabella Robbins, a second grade student at Epiphany School in Sayre, shows off her creation for the school's 'Build a Car' STREAM challenge.

"In an Easter art challenge, there was quite a lot of watercolors showing Jesus on the Cross that the kids made with their families, which I thought was a nice connection between the art and religion of STREAM and of course the technology piece of sharing their creations through social media," Kitts added.

The basic concepts of STREAM learning are that it is student-centered and cross-curricular. It focuses on hands-on projects that connect the six disciplines (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts and Math), encouraging students to work collaboratively and communicate effectively.

"Everybody is being very flexible and open-minded and allowing the students to learn in the ways that they can learn in their own environment," Kitts added.

Ongoing STREAM lessons are taking place at all of the Diocese of

Scranton's Catholic Schools.

In Williamsport, Saint John Neumann Regional Academy Principal, Alisia McNamee, said elementary school students are working on a special project at this time. Families have been asked to submit videos of their students singing God Bless America to be accompanied by patriotic artwork.

"Rich Cummings is then going to string all of it together to create a video (virtual chorus) of all of the students singing together. This project was born out of the plans that were already in place for our spring concert," McNamee said.

They hope to have the virtual chorus project finished by early June.

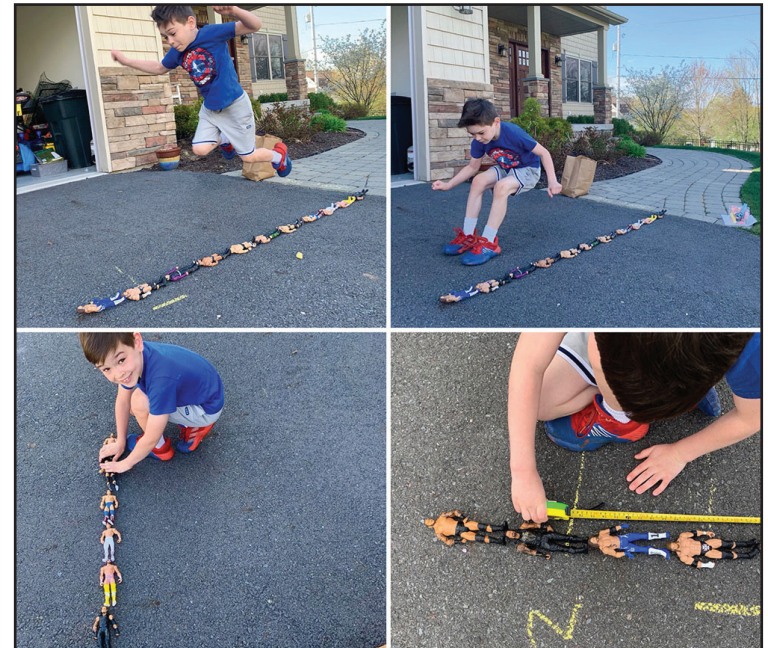
Ann D'Arienzo, principal of Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green, said STREAM learning has also continued for her students because it was a commitment the school made to families at the beginning of the year.

"Our teachers have gotten very creative by researching and using digital apps as well as having the kids think critically about ways that they can meet a challenge," D'Arienzo said.

At Our Lady of Peace School, educators are very deliberate in the assignments they prepare for students while they are out of the classroom.

"What we want to avoid during this remote learning is students just doing written assignments and submitting them for a grade. We want them to be able to do hands-on, project-based learning. We want them to continue that," D'Arienzo said.

For example, Pre-K students, who are just four and five years old, recently completed a STREAM project that helped explain how bean plants grow. With the help of their families, the kids used beans, wet



Christopher Jordan, a first grade student at Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green, used action figures to complete a 'Jumping Into Measurement' STREAM activity regarding non-standard units of measurement.

paper towels and plastic bags to help them observe the growing process.

No matter the grade level, students at Our Lady of Peace School are still taking part in STREAM learning.

First grade students were tasked to create something useful out of recycled plastic grocery bags, second and third grade students took part in an ecosystem scavenger hunt and sixth grade reading students created their own movie trailers as a digital STREAM project in conjunction with a reading lesson.

"I think our kids, especially as they're getting older, are becoming more resourceful and are brainstorming with each other," D'Arienzo said.

D'Arienzo even believes this pandemic has a silver lining.

"I firmly believe this is making us better teachers and better

educators," D'Arienzo said. "We're doing things that we would not be doing otherwise. Teachers are experimenting, researching, figuring out different platforms and ways to deliver instruction that they wouldn't have had to think about in their normal routine."

Because embracing technology is an essential aspect of STREAM, educators expect to keep using many of the things they have learned during this pandemic well after it is over.

"When we go back to physical school, we're going to continue moving forward with these technological platforms even though we'll be in school. This is something that we're going to move forward with and continue to grow," D'Arienzo added.



Charlie Vanaskie, a first grade student at Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport, right, and Jack Vanaskie, a Pre-K student, left, take part in STREAM activity during distance learning.



Amina Hazzouri, a Pre-K student at Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green, watches her beans after completing a class STREAM project.

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.



Timothy Beers, a senior at **Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg**, gets some classroom guidance from the family dog, Buddy.



Chase Wright, a seventh grade student at **Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School in Williamsport**, poses with his distance learning art project. The challenge from art teacher, Mrs. Ali Taylor, was to create a unique sculpture of no less than seven cardboard shapes from which the student could create a free-standing modular sculpture that shows positive and negative space. Students were to use cardboard boxes or food packaging, glue, tape and any other objects they had at home.



Elizabeth Cooper, a senior at **Holy Cross High School in Dunmore**, poses by her Class of 2020 yard sign; each HCHS senior was gifted a yard sign from the school.



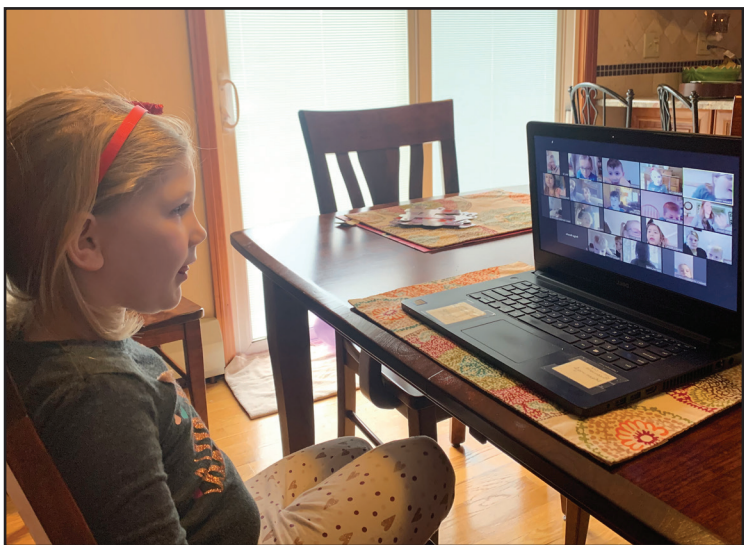
Colette Sedon, pre-kindergarten student at **Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter**, continues the tradition of planting seeds for the school's STREAM garden.



Timmy Polishan, a second grader at **Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore**, proudly shows off his "Five Senses Scavenger Hunt" completed as an Earth Day assignment.

Ben, Emily, and Jacob White, students at **Holy Rosary School in Duryea**, created a chalk art mural for their school friends and teachers.





Saint Agnes School in Towanda



Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton



Epiphany School in Sayre



Sixth grade students at **All Saints Academy in Scranton** were tasked with creating a “hand” as part of their distance learning STREAM class. After learning all the bones in the hand, they constructed a mechanism that allowed for the fingers to move.



Monsignor McHugh School in Cresco recently held their annual Race for Education event, albeit with the students and their families participating from home. The Wickenheiser family looks like they’re ready to get started!



Michael Gilbride, a first grade student at **Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport**, plays his violin outside of his home in support of doctors, nurses and the military.



Brooke Mills, a fourth grade student at **Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green**, serves the local community by making masks to be worn as protective face coverings during the COVID-19 pandemic.



More than 80 students and faculty members at **Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre** shared their gifts during the school’s annual Talent Show before distance learning began. Audience members were ‘wowed’ by the singers, dancers, instrumentalists, comedians, and all who performed.

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Who makes house calls?

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

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

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



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Diocese announces closure of Monsignor

McHugh School

CRESCO – As a result of declining enrollment and other serious challenges, the Diocese of Scranton announced on May 6, 2020, that Monsignor McHugh School will close, effective at the end of the current academic year on June 30, 2020.

Students, families, administrators, educators and pastors from the Monroe County school community have all been notified of the closure.

"This is a very difficult decision to make at an especially difficult time," Bishop Joseph C. Bambera said to families in a video message due to the fact that an in-person gathering with the school community could not be held because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. "The Diocese of Scranton remains committed to the mission of

Catholic education, creating tomorrow's faith-filled leaders, but the declining enrollment at Monsignor McHugh School has left us with no other option."

Over the last five years, Monsignor McHugh School, which currently serves grades Pre-K through eight, has seen its enrollment decrease by 56% despite school administrators' efforts to implement new enrollment and academic initiatives.

During the 2014-15 academic year, Monsignor McHugh School had an enrollment of 218 students. During the current year, only 97 students were enrolled.

At this time, there are only 70 students registered for the 2020-2021 school year. In addition, the number of school-age children within a 15-mile radius of the school is predicted to decline by almost five-percent by 2024 according to MissionInsite, a demographic analytic firm.

While the current coronavirus health crisis will certainly have a financial impact on the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System, Monsignor McHugh School was already facing severe financial challenges before the pandemic began. The school's projected budget deficit for 2019-20 was a loss of almost \$450,000.

"I truly wish we did not have to make this decision because we recognize how unique and important Monsignor McHugh is to its community," Jason Morrison, Diocesan Secretary of Catholic Education/Chief Executive Officer, said. "Our

most important responsibility remains providing for the educational and spiritual care of our students. We are committed to helping our students and families transition to another Catholic school that best suits their needs."

The Diocese will offer the families of students currently enrolled at Monsignor McHugh School the opportunity to receive a continuation grant toward their tuition at another Catholic school next year. Any one of the Diocesan Schools is prepared to welcome the Monsignor McHugh families. The closest being Notre Dame Elementary School (Pre-K through Grade 6) and Notre Dame Junior/Senior High School (Grades 7-12), located approximately 15 miles away.

"Making the decision to close a school is the most difficult, heart-breaking decision, because we know how it impacts the lives of so many people," Kristen Donohue, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, said. "This announcement is even more gut-wrenching and complicated during the COVID-19 pandemic, while our students and families, who are so committed to Catholic education, have been working so hard to continue distance learning."

The Diocese of Scranton Catholic Schools Office will allow educators and administrators from Monsignor McHugh to apply for any open positions throughout the educational system for the 2020-21 academic year.

Prayer Requests for Priests

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

May 14, Father Robert Hochreiter; May 15, Father Joseph Horanzy; May 16, Father Thomas Hudak; May 17, Father Andrew Hvozdevic; May 18, Holy Cross Father Daniel Issing; May 19, Father George Jeffrey; May 20, Holy Cross Father Walter Jenkins; May 21, Monsignor John Jordan; May 22, Father Joseph Kakareka; May 23, Father Louis Kaminski; May 24, Father William Karle; May 25, Monsignor Arthur

Kaschenbach; May 26, Father Joseph Kearney; May 27, Jesuit Father Herbert Keller; May 28, Father Brian Kelly; May 29, Father E. Francis Kelly; May 30, Monsignor Joseph Kelly; May 31, Father John Kilpatrick; June 1, Pope Francis; June 2, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI; June 3, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; June 4, Father Shane Kirby; June 5, Father Michael Kirwin; June 6, Father Kenneth Kizis; June 7, Father Michael Kloton; June 8, Holy Cross Father Charles Kocielek.

Wedding anniversary Mass to be livestreamed

The annual Wedding Anniversary Mass will take place this year in a different format due to ongoing social distancing guidelines. The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera on Sunday, June 14, 2020, at 2:30 p.m.

The Mass will be livestreamed and anniversary couples will be invited to participate in the Mass from home, using the Wedding Anniversary Mass program which they will receive in the mail. Anniversary packets, with updated information for celebrating couples, will be

mailed to all couples whose names were submitted by parish offices.

Because the Mass will be livestreamed, all married couples in the Diocese are invited to participate in the Mass from home as well.

The Wedding Anniversary Mass program will be made available on the Diocese of Scranton website, so that any married couple can follow along with the liturgy and speak the words of recommitment to one another when invited to do so.

Considering the stresses of the COVID-19 pandemic, this is a valuable opportunity for all married couples to pause and reflect upon the beauty of the vocation of marriage in our lives and in the life of our church. Guidelines will be sent to all parishes which will share ideas to help every community participate in this celebration of sacramental marriage.

For additional marriage enrichment and support resources, please see the Marriage and the Care for Marriages section of the Diocese of Scranton website.



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PreCana Days of Reflection

A number of PreCana Days of Reflection have had to be canceled due to social distancing restrictions. The Diocese of Scranton Office for Parish Life hopes to be able to resume regular classes soon, with appropriate safety measures in place. Until then, PreCana sacramental preparation can continue in other formats.

To review PreCana options, please visit the PreCana page on the Diocese of Scranton website.

During social distancing restrictions, online PreCana can be a good option for sacramental formation, as can the FOCCUS Assessment when it is facilitated virtually (through Skype, FaceTime, etc.).

Grief and bereavement resources available

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many people are suffering through a collective grief. Losses, both minor and intensely tragic, continue to accumulate and many of the ways in which people normally cope with grief are inaccessible due to social distancing restrictions.

Bereavement ministries in the Diocese of Scranton are needed now more than ever. Every person can play a role by safely reaching out to people in our communities through phone calls and letters. At least one of our parish communities, Saint Vincent de Paul Parish, has been continuing to gather their Bereavement Group virtually, using video conference technology. Though face-to-face interactions are ideal, virtual gatherings can be another way to continually meet the

grief and bereavement needs of the faithful during social distancing.

The Diocese of Scranton Office for Parish Life also has another option that has been extended to the community at this time. A video streaming service provided through *Paraclete Press* is now available. Through this subscription, any person can access 40 different videos on topics such as grief and social issues (and faith formation for adults and children).

Additional details and resources are available by visiting the Grief Support section of the Diocese of Scranton's website.

For questions about any of these resources, or to get help in finding other resources, please contact Jennifer Housel at JHousel@dioceseofscranton.org or (570) 207-2213, x1104.



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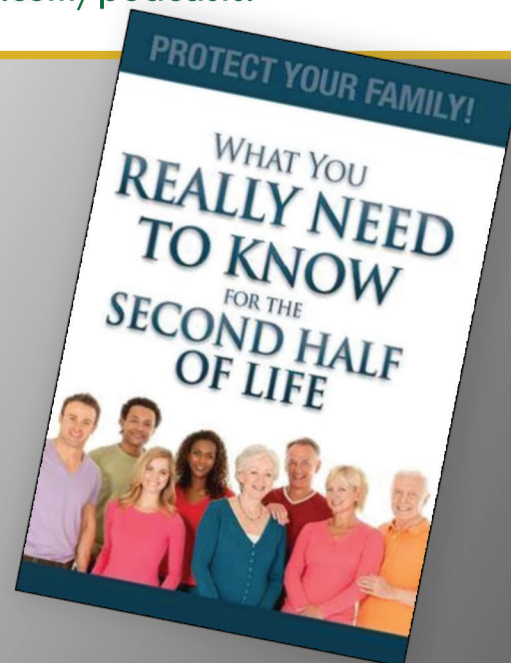
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Mission Message

Go Forth

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



Empty shelves, we've all seen them. Water, gone. Sanitizer and antiseptic wipes, gone. Toilet paper, gone. Items that we have never really thought that much about prior to this time of quarantine, we now see as gold. We turn down an aisle expecting the usual abundance and see nothing. If, by chance, we arrive on a good day when the shelves have been freshly stocked, we're convinced we're experiencing a mirage.

So much has been taken for granted. The sad reality is, for some, the lack of abundance is not unusual at all. Some people throughout the world are never shocked when there's no food or water. It's just another day with nothing to eat, no clean water to drink, no one to provide the help they need.

I recently read an article from BBC News detailing the plight of the Haitian people in the wake of the pandemic and how the already impoverished and struggling country is heavily burdened

with the lack of medicine and medical equipment and a nearly nonexistent infrastructure.

The April 19 article reports that the country has only 60 ventilators. That number is likely closer to 30 since many of these ventilators do not work or work poorly. Statistics show that 59-percent of Haiti's 11 million citizens live on less than \$2 per day, another 25-percent live in extreme poverty with just \$1.25 a day. That means over 80-percent of Haiti's population lives in destitution.

These numbers represent the "normal" life of an average Haitian. Imagine how staggering this situation is now with a pandemic that's challenging countries, like our own, without such issues. If the United States is facing issues on how to cope at this time, then surely the developing world will barely be able to cope. As one man interviewed in the BBC article predicted, if the coronavirus came to his community, "we will all die."

So, what do we do? What can your average Catholic do to help alleviate the significant burdens of our brothers and sisters who live in Haiti and other developing countries who are not at all prepared to confront such devastating illness and who will be crushed in its wake? Surely, we can donate money, but not all of us can do that as so many lives have been turned upside-down here as well.

Solidarity is key. In exhorting the early church on proper Christian conduct, Saint Peter challenged disciples of Jesus to "have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind" (1 Peter 3:8). John Paul II once wrote beautifully of the concept of solidarity: to be in solidarity with another is to acknowledge our coequality before God, "to be made a sharer, on a par with ourselves, in the banquet of life to which all are equally invited by God." Surely, monetary donations are not the only way we can be in solidarity with another.

Maybe the next time we are at the market and see an empty shelf and are tempted to harrumph, perhaps we can pause in prayer for just a moment to think of those who are in a desperate struggle for survival. I know when I see that newly stocked shelf with antiseptic wipes and get overly excited, I'm going to need to ask myself "do I really need this?" When I see a notice putting a quota on the amount of pasta I can buy, I'll buy just one instead of the two that I am permitted. Perhaps each of us could make an effort to deny ourselves something in the midst of this, to be in prayerful and soulful solidarity with our brothers and sisters in such dire need.

Apostleship of Prayer

Papal Intention for May 2020

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Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement.

It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the *Code of Canon Law* and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator, Mary Beth Pacuska at (570-862-7551).

Aviso al Respetto de Reportar el Abuso Sexual de Un Menor de Edad

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

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

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

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

CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton broadcasts 24 hours a day and is carried on seven cable systems covering most of the Diocese of Scranton. Despite the suspension of public Masses at this time, a private Mass is still celebrated daily in the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton and made available for broadcast on television, social media platforms and the Diocese of Scranton's YouTube channel.



On weekdays, the Mass is broadcast at 12:10 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

On weekends, the Saturday Vigil Mass is broadcast at 4:00 p.m. and rebroadcast on Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m.

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Local foundations providing critical support to Catholic Social Services

SCRANTON – As Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton works to meet the needs of its community on a daily basis during the COVID-19 pandemic, the agency is thankful for the support of numerous community foundations that have stepped up to provide emergency funding for operations.

In April in Lackawanna County alone, Catholic Social Services assisted 536 families at its food pantry in Scranton, serving 1,398 people. At least 950 families received assistance from the agency's food pantry in Carbondale during its regular operating hours. An emergency food distribution at Saint Rose of Lima Parish on March 23 served an additional 400 families, or another 1,071 people. In addition to Lackawanna County, Catholic Social Services also operates food pantries in Wilkes-Barre and Hazleton.

Catholic Social Services also has seen increased usage and needs at its three homeless shelters and moved a roving shelter in Wilkes-Barre to a single physical location during the pandemic. Requests for help with a variety of other personal needs also are surging.

"During these challenging times, Catholic Social Services is grateful for the generous assistance that many community foundations have provided," Mary Theresa Malandro, Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Human Services and Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Social Services, said. "The funding will allow us to serve our brothers and sisters in need during this crisis."

The local foundations providing much-needed funding include:

• **Scranton Area Community Foundation**, through oversight of the NEPA COVID-19 Response Fund, which is supported by a pool of local grantmakers, organizations and individual donors, granted \$20,000 for COVID-19 relief operations at kitchens, pantries and shelters.

• **Moses Taylor Foundation** has graciously allowed for the conversion of an existing \$50,000 programming grant for COVID-19 relief and provided another \$10,000 specifically for relief efforts, including the purchase of gloves, masks, sanitizer and the industrial cleaning of shelters and kitchens on a daily basis.

• **The United Way of Wyoming Valley** has provided \$15,000 made possible by The William G. McGowan Charitable Fund for use in Luzerne County for COVID-19 relief operations.

• **Luzerne Foundation** has provided Catholic Social Services with an additional \$7,500 for COVID-19 relief and housing assistance for ongoing efforts to assist

people in the city of Hazleton, which has been hard-hit by the pandemic.

"With the support of these community foundations, Catholic Social Services is able to assist vulnerable populations, including seniors, children and low-income families, during this pandemic," Malandro added. "In our community, these groups are particularly in danger. As we have seen, one missed paycheck can often be catastrophic."

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Laudato Si' at five: Faithful encouraged to embrace pope's call for care of the earth

The year 2020 marks the fifth anniversary of *Laudato Si'*, which was signed on May 24, 2015.

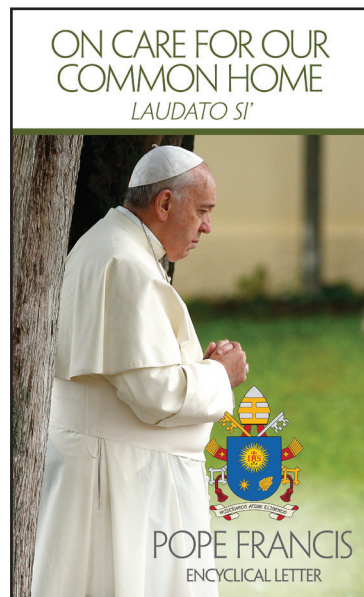
Pope Francis' encyclical on care for our common home, *Laudato Si'*, is viewed by many as an inspiration during moments of difficulty. It encourages the faithful to reflect on the values we share and create a more just and sustainable future.

A weeklong church-wide observance is planned to mark Pope Francis' signing of the encyclical. *Laudato Si'* Week, set for May 16-24, 2020, will include a number of online workshops. The week, sponsored by the Vatican Dicastery for Integral Human Development, ends with a day of prayer May 24, a Sunday, at noon local time.

The theme of *Laudato Si'* Week is "everything is connected."

During *Laudato Si'* Week, the faithful are encouraged to come together as one people around the world to prayerfully discern the lessons of this moment. While the world experiences a history-defining crisis, people can reflect and prepare to build a better world.

Laudato Si' has been welcomed as a document of deep and abiding beauty, and it has prompted people around the world to reflect more deeply on the Creator and creation. Its



vision of integral ecology, which sees connections between how we treat God, nature, and each other, offers simple but profound truths about the bonds that unite us.

In the five years since *Laudato Si'* was released, greenhouse gas emissions have continued to increase, species have disappeared at an astonishing pace, and our brothers and sisters around the world continue to suffer from the effects of a crisis-ridden planet.

At the same time, Catholic communities everywhere have taken concrete steps to reduce their environmental impact, are connected to the Creator in prayer and have promoted

the development of a moral environmental policy.

As we honor the encyclical during *Laudato Si'* Week, our world is deeply affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

Laudato Si' Week helps us reshape the world that will arise after the pandemic has passed. The present crisis is an opportunity to start anew, and to make sure that the world that arises after this crisis has passed is sustainable and just.

Laudato Si' tells us that "everything is connected" and tragically, this health catastrophe has much in common with the ecological catastrophe.

•Both are global emergencies that will affect many people, both directly and indirectly.

•Both are experienced most deeply by the poor and vulnerable, and both expose the deep injustices in our societies.

•Both will be solved only through a united effort that calls on the best of the values we share.

During *Laudato Si'* week, the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton and beyond are invited to reflect together on how the encyclical's lessons can guide us through the current crisis.

A website -- laudatosiweek.org/ -- includes a video message from the pope and other resources for observing the week.

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Prayer to Care for Our Common Home

Father of all, Creator and ruler of the universe,
You entrusted your world to us as a gift.
Help us to care for it and all people,
that we may live in right relationship –
with You, with ourselves, with one another, and with creation.

Christ our Lord, both divine and human,
You lived among us and died for our sins.
Help us to imitate your love for the human family
by recognizing that we are all connected –
to our brothers and sisters around the world, to those in poverty
impacted by environmental devastation, and to future generations.

Holy Spirit, giver of wisdom and love,
You breathe life in us and guide us.
Help us to live according to your vision,
stirring to action the hearts of all –
individuals and families, communities of faith, and civil and
political leaders.

Triune God, help us to hear the cry of those in poverty, and the cry of the
earth, so that we may together care for our common home.

Amen.

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If you prefer, you may mail a check (payable to the Diocese of Scranton) to Coronavirus Emergency Fund, Diocese of Scranton, 300 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA 18503, and list the parish, school, kitchen, food pantry or shelter you wish to support.

Thank you for considering a gift at this time.

For more information, please contact Jim Bebla at 570-207-2250 or jim-bebla@dioceseofscranton.org

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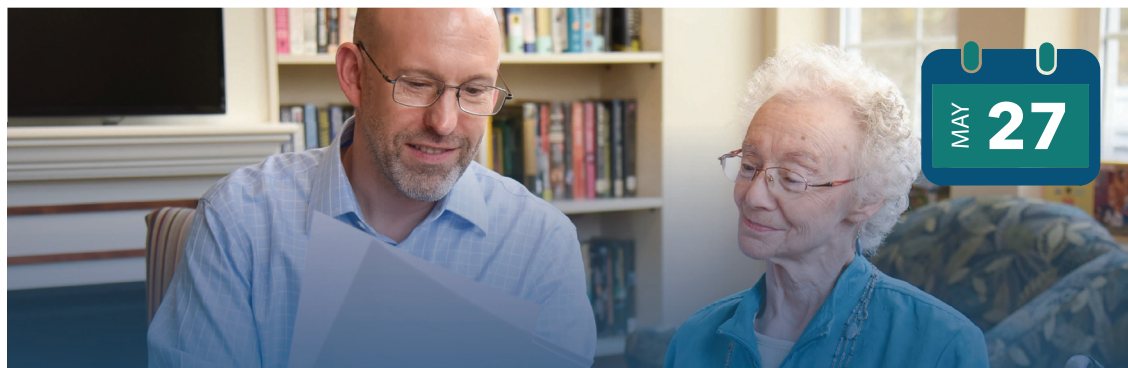
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