The Catholic Light DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2020

Bishop to ordain three men to the Priesthood on June 27

SCRANTON – After years of spiritual, academic and pastoral formation, three native sons of the Diocese of Scranton will be ordained to the priesthood this weekend.

Reverend Mr. Jonathan P. Kuhar, Reverend Mr. Kevin M. Miller and Reverend Mr. Shawn M. Simchock will be ordained priests by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera on Saturday, June 27, 2020, at 10 a.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

"I'm tremendously excited to begin. We had a little delay in the ordination date due to COVID-19 but I'm ready," Simchock said. "Six years of hard work comes down to this point when we get ordained and I am ready to go to work for the people of the Diocese of Scranton."

While the ordination Mass will be a time of tremendous celebration, due to the coronavirus, seating inside the Cathedral will be limited to invited guests. Due to the ongoing health emergency, social distancing measures will still be in effect. Dozens of family members and clergy are still expected to be present.

"I'm actually very grateful that we've been able to open it up for as many people as we've been able to, that some family members and close friends and people I've known over the years and have been part of this journey are going to be able to be there personally and be there in attendance," Miller said.

For those not able to attend in person, the ordination Mass will be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television and a livestream will also be provided on the Diocese of Scranton website and

ORDINATION TO THE SACRED PRIESTHOOD

Saturday, June 27 · 10:00 a.m.

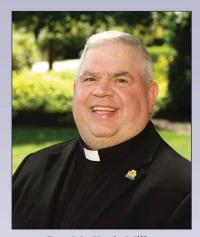
Live on CTV: Catholic Television and livestreamed on Diocese of Scranton website and social media







Rev. Mr. Shawn Simchock



Rev. Mr. Kevin Miller

social media pages, including Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and Instagram.

Deacons Miller and Simchock completed their theological training and priestly formation at Pope Saint John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Mass.

Deacon Kuhar completed his preparatory studies for the priesthood at Saint Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, Md.

While all three men had their final weeks of seminary impacted in varying ways by COVID-19,

each said they were able to gain something from this unprecedented time.

"I've been able to spend more time in prayer, being able to reflect on life, the Church and God's role in our lives," Kuhar said.

In an effort to get to know what led each man to the priesthood, *The Catholic Light* conducted interviews with each of the future priests.

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People hold up banners calling for action against racism during an interfaith prayer vigil in Baltimore earlier this month. The group was praying for justice and peace following the May 25 death of George Floyd. (CNS photo/Tim Swift, Catholic Review)

Racism in any form is intolerable, Vatican official says at U.N. hearing

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Speaking at a special U.N. discussion about racism and police brutality, a Vatican official repeated Pope Francis' recent remarks: "We cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life."

Speaking about demonstrations in the United States following the killing of George Floyd by police, Pope Francis also said, "At the same time, we have to recognize that violence is self-destructive and self-defeating. Nothing is gained by violence and so much is lost."

Archbishop Ivan Jurkovic, the Vatican's permanent observer to U.N. agencies in Geneva, shared the pope's words June 18 as the U.N. Human Rights Council held an "urgent debate on current racially inspired human rights violations, systemic racism, police brutality against people of African

descent and violence against peaceful protests."

"Racial discrimination in all its forms is absolutely intolerable," Archbishop Jurkovic told the meeting. "All members of the human family, made in the image and likeness of God are equal in their inherent dignity, regardless of race, nation, sex, origin, culture or religion. States are called to recognize, defend and promote the fundamental human rights of each person."

Michelle Bachelet, U.N. high commissioner for human rights, introduced the discussion by noting that "since the killing of George Floyd at the hands of police in Minneapolis last month, a wave of massive protests has surged forward – not only across every state in the United States, but also in dozens of countries in Europe and all around the world."

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The Catholic Light

(ISSN 0164-9418)

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF SCRANTON



DIOCESE OF SCRANTON MISSION STATEMENT

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

POLICY STATEMENT

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Sacrament of Holy Orders to be conferred on three local men

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Reverend Mr. Jonathan P. Kuhar

Deacon Kuhar, 36, of Mountain Top, is the son of Joan Kuhar and the late Gerald Kuhar. He is a member of Saint Jude Parish in Mountain Top.

Growing up, Kuhar says faith was very important to his family.

"My father died when I was six years old. He and my grandfather were taking a small recreational fishing boat from Block Island to Long Island for the winter and the boat sank around Thanksgiving in 1989. That was certainly a difficult time for our family," Kuhar said. "Our relationship with God, our relationship with the parish, our relationship with Saint Jude Elementary where we were going to school was hugely important in helping us get through a very traumatic period in our lives."

Kuhar says his mother has been the most influential person on his faith journey. At a young age, she would often elbow him at Mass and tell him that the church needed good priests.

"Early in life, I always thought about it as a possibility," Kuhar said in reference to becoming a priest. He eventually went to college, law school and opened his own law firm in Luzerne County. Along the way, Kuhar said he made a deal with God that if he passed the bar exam and worked for a while, he'd eventually consider the question about becoming a priest again.

It took some time for Kuhar to have an important realization.

"I realized the question that I was asking was the wrong question. I was asking the question, what do I want from my life? What do I want? What do I think will make me happy? I realized the question that really mattered is: What is God calling me to do? Once I started asking that question, that's when I started to really think about the priesthood again," Kuhar explained.

Fast forward to this moment in his life, as he prepares to be ordained a priest, Kuhar says he is looking forward to being a pastoral presence for the faithful in the Diocese of Scranton.

"Being a part of their lives, in both the joys and sufferings, to be present to parishioners and help them walk this path in life," Kuhar said.

Reverend Mr. Kevin M. Miller

Deacon Kevin M. Miller has also had an untraditional route to the priesthood.

The Wilkes-Barre native, son of Maureen Miller and the late Ronald Miller, first felt the call to the priesthood when he was 12 years old.

Now at the age of 55, Miller is humbled to take on this new role.

"I want to thank Bishop Bambera and



Deacons Jonathan P. Kuhar, left, Kevin M. Miller, center, and Shawn M. Simchock, right, will be ordained priests for the Diocese of Scranton on Saturday, June 27, 2020. In this 2019 photo, each man was called forth to the Order of the Diaconate.

all the folks who are involved in formation... They took a chance on me. They saw something in me and prayed over it and encouraged it," Miller admitted.

Miller says growing up in the mid-1970s, he fell in love with the life of the Church.

"I loved the solemnities of the Triduum for Holy Week, the incense, the procession of the kids," Miller said. "I get chills just thinking about it. That experience really deepened within me a sense that this could be a life that God is calling for me and I knew it was something I wanted to look at."

At the age of 18, Miller applied to the University of Scranton with dreams of becoming an Army chaplain. Financial obstacles with the Army got in the way, so Miller ended up getting a degree in chemistry.

Miller was later commissioned as an Army Reserve Second Lieutenant, becoming a field artillery officer. He retired 32 years later.

"That whole time, the idea of being a priest never really left me," Miller admitted. "I always said to myself, 'when the time comes, and God you know when that is, I'm open for you to lead me where you want me to go."

As he now looks forward to the priesthood, Miller said celebrating the Eucharist and sacraments will be especially important to him.

Miller said he is especially looking forward to "being with people at those 'thin moments' when the layer between God and us is not all that thick. Those are the experiences of the sacraments, the birth of a child, the baptism, commending a soul into the hands and mercy of God, celebrating a funeral."

Reverend Mr. Shawn M. Simchock

Deacon Shawn M. Simchock echoed the thoughts of Mr. Miller when it comes to with the faithful.

the importance of celebrating the sacraments The 44-year-old Hazleton man, son of the late William and Janet Simchock, points to the

experience of his mother's illness as a formative

moment in his path to the priesthood.

"I remember sitting there, watching my mother's anointing when she was ill. To see what it does for a person, there are no words that I can use to describe it. It's just a peacefulness that comes over someone and to know that you have a little role in helping a person along in their final journey is truly amazing," Simchock said.

He added that from an early age his family stressed the importance of faith.

"It was very important for me to go to church every week. It was important for me to attend CCD every week. In my household, it was treated as school was treated. If you didn't go, you didn't get to go outside and play that day," he said.

When people would ask Simchock what he wanted to do when he grew up, the futurepriest always indicated that he was going to be ordained one day. Simchock said it just took him a little while to answer the call.

"It's like a cell phone. Somebody can call you and you can hit the ignore button and they can call you back and you can keep hitting the ignore button, but there is only so many times you can keep hitting the ignore button with God because He is always going to come back and in the end. He is always going to get you to do what He wants you to do," Simchock stressed.

In 2013, Simchock entered the permanent diaconate program. After taking several classes and speaking with the wives of the men in the diaconate program, Simchock realized his actual calling was taking him to the priesthood.

During this weekend's ordination Mass, Simchock says several questions will be going through his mind when he is laying in front of the altar, invoking the intercession of the saints. Among them will be, "I can't believe this is happening, God picked me, why did God pick me?"

As he prepares for this next step in his life, Simchock summed up his emotions and feelings in just a few simple words.

"I want to be the best priest that I can possibly be for the people," Simchock said.

open wide our hearts

Resources on combatting racism available

At this time, when our nation is again focused on the reality of racism in response to the death of George Floyd, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is offering several resources for the faithful to promote the end of racism and bring peace to our communities.

The document *Open Wide Our Hearts:* The Enduring Call to Love - A Pastoral Letter Against Racism was developed by the Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church. It was approved by the full body of bishops as a formal statement at its November 2018 General Meeting.

In the pastoral letter it is written, "Racism still profoundly affects our culture, and it has no place in the Christian heart. This evil causes great harm to its victims, and it corrupts the souls of those who harbor

racist or prejudicial thoughts."

On its website, the USCCB also gives resources and practical steps for community leaders and individuals to pray, listen, study and respond. In addition to praying for a conversion of heart, the faithful are encouraged to create large and small group opportunities to listen to their neighbors and hear about their stories and experiences.

By saying racism is evil because it attacks the inherent dignity of the human person, created in the image and likeness of God, the bishops say the persistence of racism demands our attention now.

To read *Open Wide Our Hearts*, and for more information, visit the Diocese of Scranton's website at www. dioceseofscranton.org and click on the "Combatting Racism" page.

Prayer to Overcome Racism

Mary, friend and mother to all, through your Son, God has found a way to unite himself to every human being, called to be one people, sisters and brothers to each other.

We ask for your help in calling on your Son, seeking forgiveness for the times when we have failed to love and respect one another.

We ask for your help in obtaining from your Son the grace we need to overcome the evil of racism and to build a just society.

We ask for your help in following your Son, so that prejudice and animosity will no longer infect our minds or hearts but will be replaced with a love that respects the dignity of each person.

Mother of the Church, the Spirit of your Son Jesus warms our hearts: pray for us.

Amen.

Pope Francis: "We cannot turn a blind eye to racism"

Continued from Page 1

Floyd's death, an "act of gratuitous brutality," she said, "has come to symbolize the systemic racism that harms millions of people of African descent – causing pervasive, daily, lifelong, generational and too often, lethal harm."

The killing of Floyd, an African American, at the hands of a white officer, Bachelet said, "has become emblematic of the excessive use of disproportionate force by law enforcement against people of African descent, against people of color and against indigenous peoples and racial and ethnic minorities in many countries across the globe."

While denouncing the violence associated with some of the protests and decrying "the excessive use of force against protesters by police" in some instances, she urged governments around the world to use the occasion to enact reforms in police use-of-force policies and to promote efforts to end racism and inequality in their societies.

"We need schools and universities that are free of bias; economies that give truly equal opportunities and fair treatment to all; political institutions that are more responsive and inclusive; justice systems which are truly just," she said.

"Time is of the essence," Bachelet said. "Patience has run out."

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera's Reflection on George Floyd's Death

In the immediate days following the brutal killing of George Floyd, the world reacted with horror to the images of his struggle to breathe and to hold on to life. Countless numbers of individuals from throughout our country and world offered words of condemnation, sorrow and grief. I penned my name to a statement along with six other U.S. bishop chairmen of committees within the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Peaceful protests ensued in cities and towns throughout our land with participants crying out for an end to the injustice of racism and the hatred associated with that sin.

For me, however, the message and power of this time of upheaval and pain were most vividly captured in the visit of Terrence Floyd to the makeshift memorial located at the site of his brother's killing. Floyd knelt for a moment and then, surrounded by signs that simply said "Black Lives Matter," rose and addressed the gathered crowd with these words, "My family is a peaceful family. My family is God-fearing ... Let's do this another way. Do this peacefully, please."

The combination of Terrence's spoken message with those three words, "Black Lives Matter," teach a lesson that we would all do well to sear into our minds and hearts. Floyd challenged the crowds to speak to the injustice of his brother's death "peacefully," echoing the very words of Jesus in the Beatitudes, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." The silent, printed words proclaiming "Black Lives Matter" captured an essential component of the Gospel message. Black lives do matter. For black lives, like every life, are made in the image of our Creator. And as such, peace will only come to pass when every life is treated with respect and dignity as the gift of God that it is.

As I watched George Floyd's brother continue to address that crowd in Minneapolis and challenge them to a peaceful way forward, I couldn't help but wonder what so many of those who listened to his words were thinking. I wondered if many of them feared to walk in their neighborhoods simply because of the color of their skin. Considering our history, particularly in recent years, I cannot imagine what it would be like to grow up as a young black man in America today.

It occurred to me at that moment, more than ever before, that Terrence Floyd's call for peace in the face of the brutality and sin that so mercilessly snuffed out the life of his defenseless brother, far from being political or ideological as some might suggest, was nothing short of a plea for justice in our land. His words were a reminder to all of us that as a people who have proclaimed so boldly the absolute value of human life from the moment of conception until natural death, every life in between is just as deserving of respect and reverence.

We Christians are proud to assert our commitment to life. Sadly, however, we often lose our focus upon this noble cause – by the violence, looting and destructive elements that have infiltrated the peaceful efforts of so many who rightfully seek justice and equality – or by a host of other distractions that many of us do subtly or even unknowingly until we turn inward and examine ourselves. In turn, we can begin to pick and choose what is worthy of respect and what is not, at least in our own minds. Yet, nowhere in our faith tradition is it ever suggested that we are meant to determine who is worthy of redemption and who is not. That is a task left to God alone.

May we be humble enough in the face of division to admit our need for conversion as we seek to confront the evil of racism in our land. May we resolve at this moment in our lives and in our history as a nation to embrace the call of Isaiah the prophet to beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks and so labor for God's gifts of peace, reconciliation and unity. And may we finally begin to live with authenticity the one command of Jesus: "Love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12).



Terrence Floyd, the brother of George Floyd, reacts at a makeshift memorial at the spot where his brother was taken into custody in Minneapolis June 1, 2020. Demonstrations continue after a white police officer was caught on a bystander's video May 25 pressing his knee into the neck of George Floyd, an African American, who later died at a hospital. (CNS photo/Lucas Jackson, Reuters)

Saint Ann's Solemn Novena will be held, with changes

Safety measures to be emphasized during 96th annual spiritual pilgrimage

SCRANTON – Even the Solemn Novena to Saint Ann cannot escape the unprecedented impact the coronavirus pandemic has had on the rest of the world.

This summer's annual Saint Ann Novena – the 96th consecutive in its storied history – will still be offered, but it promises to be a significantly scaled-back version of its original self.

Every mid-July for nearly a century, faithful followers of the venerated Saint are drawn by the thousands to the Catholic Church's only national shrine and basilica church dedicated to the mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary and grandmother of Jesus – located high atop the hill on Saint Ann Street in Scranton's West Side.

Devotees of "Good Saint Ann" will once pilgrimage to their favorite destination next month; however, the annual tenday religious experience will be like no other during the Solemn Novena, beginning on Friday, July 17, and continuing each day until the devotion's faith-filled conclusion on the Feast of Saint Ann on Sunday, July 26.

According to Very Rev. Passionist Father Richard Burke, rector of the Saint Ann Passionist Monastery and director of the Basilica of the National Shrine of Saint Ann, planning for the Solemn Novena has also required a great many conversations, discussions and decisions.

"This year, those consultations were multiplied by a factor of ten," he said, referring to the worldwide COVID-19 health crisis.

Ultimately, the priest commented, the wearisome ride set in motion back in March led to this month's upgrade in reopening allowances and a new set of precautionary guidelines from both the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Diocese of Scranton.

"After all, we decided that we could have an in-person Novena for a good number of people," said Father Burke, who also serves as pastor of Saint Ann Basilica Parish.

The Passionist superior is encouraged by how well the first gatherings of prayer in three months have unfolded at the Basilica parish, indicating the



popular weekly Monday Novena to Saint Ann resumed at the shrine on June 22.

"We have spent a great deal of time creating the changed atmosphere and schedule of services that will enable us all to pray fervently and pray safely during the Solemn Novena," Father Burke said.

The changes that will be put in place to adhere to current restrictions and protocols for public gatherings include the required designation for seating to comply with social distancing guidelines. That translates into the Basilica now allowing a maximum of just 135 faithful at a time, where it normally can accommodate a congregation of nearly 1,000.

Hand-sanitizing stations have been installed throughout, and congregants are requested to enter the Basilica through one front door and leave by way of an "exit only" door.

Other noticeable changes for the 2020 Solemn Novena are as follows:

- All Masses and services will be held indoors, as opposed to the traditional practice of holding three of the five daily services outdoors.
- Due to the need to sanitize the Basilica after each service, the 7:30 p.m. Mass and Novena service have been eliminated,

except for the Solemn Closing of the Novena on the Feast of Saint Ann, when Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will celebrate the concluding liturgy on July 26 at 7:30 p.m.

required.

- Daily afternoon Eucharistic Adoration is cancelled, in order to properly sanitize after the 11:45 a.m. Mass and Novena, and allnight Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is suspended.
- The Novena's annual Healing Mass with the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick and the Mass for children and grandparents will not be held.
- Only a general blessing of the faithful with the relic of Saint Ann will be imparted. No individual blessings with the relic will be offered.
- Traditional tents and chairs in the Basilica's front parking lot will not be set up. Stay-in-your-vehicle parking will be available throughout the front and immediate back parking lots, with all services broadcast over a sound system that can be accessed through FM radio. Communion will be brought to those in their cars.
- Holy Communion will be distributed at the very end of all Masses, and upon receiving, all communicants are required to leave by the exit door immediately.
 - Confessions will be

Left: All Masses at this year's Solemn Novena to Saint Ann will take place indoors. Father Richard Burke, C.P., left, Brother Andre Mathieu, C.P., center, and Father Siby John Padinjaredath, right, discuss how the distribution of Holy Communion will take place.

Above: Visitors to the Basilica of the National Shrine of Saint Ann will notice

a number of changes at this year's pilgrimage, set to take place from July 17-

26. Father Richard Burke, C.P., points to a sign which says face masks will be

available on a limited basis, with the sacrament being offered only every other day of the Novena. All confessions will be held for 45 minutes only in the Lower Basilica before the celebration of Masses and the 3:30 p.m. services. Social-distancing guidelines will be in place.

- Unlike years past, the traditional Saint Ann Novena food stand will not be open on the Basilica grounds.
- Protective facial masks/ coverings are required of all those in attendance at all times, including inside the Basilica, in the confessionals, and within the Shrine Center.

Father Burke added that those attending the Novena will be allowed to sit on the many benches around the Basilica property, since they are spaced sufficiently to provide for safe social distancing.

"Our Saint Ann devotees will definitely notice the changes required for safety from the coronavirus," Father said, emphasizing that although the faithful are gradually returning to church, the pandemic is still very present and must be respected. "We consider it a blessing that we are able to provide a safe environment for us to come together to pray to Saint Ann here at the Basilica. So long as we all maintain our vigilance, we will be able to pray

fervently and safely together."

He also referred to the recommendation of Bishop Bambera that the elderly and those with underlying medical conditions should consider remaining in the safety of their homes and participate in the Novena devotions through broadcasts by Catholic Television (CTV).

"The Solemn Novena in honor of Saint Ann evokes memories of parents, grandparents and cherished family traditions for so many people who participate each year," Bishop Bambera remarked. "Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have all faced many difficult and challenging days, but it our faith that gives us a reason to move forward in the midst of struggle."

For more information on the 96th Solemn Novena to Saint Ann, visit:

stannsmonasterybasilica.org

or

St. Ann Monastery Basilica Parish Facebook Page

SOLEMN NOVENA

IN HONOR OF



JULY 17 to 26, 2020

PREACHERS: FR. DAVID COLHOUR, C.P., BROTHER ANDRE MATHIEU, C.P., & FR. MARK WARD, C.P.

NOVENA DEVOTIONS

After 8 & 11:45 A.M., & 5:30 P.M. Masses and at 3:30 P.M.

DIVINE LITURGY - BYZANTINE RITE

Tuesday, July 21, 5:30 P.M.

DAILY MASSES

8 and 11:45 A.M.: 5:30 P.M.

CONFESSIONS

45 minutes before all Masses on July 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, & 26 in the Lower Basilica

STAY-IN-YOUR-CAR PARKING

is available in front parking lot & upper back parking lot. Services will be broadcast over loud speaker.

SUNDAY JULY 19, 2020

MASSES

8:00 A.M., 11:45 A.M. & 5:30 P.M.

NOVENA DEVOTIONS

After 8:00 A.M. & 11:45 A.M. Masses After 5:30 Mass and at 3:30 P.M. (Devotions Only)

SAINT ANN'S FEAST DAY SUNDAY, JULY 26

CONFESSIONS 4:00 AM

MASSES & DEVOTIONS 4:30 AM, 8:00 AM, 11:45 AM, & 5:30 PM,

DEVOTIONS ONLY 3:30PM

General Blessing with Relic of St. Ann After Each Devotion

SOLEMN CLOSING SUNDAY, JULY 26, AT 7:30 P.M.

Pontifical Mass celebrated by Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.

• CTV COVERAGE •

The Annual Solemn Novena to Saint Ann being held from July 17-26 at Saint Ann's Monastery in Scranton, PA, will be broadcast on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton, weekdays at 12:00 p.m., 3:30 p.m., and 7:00 p.m., and on Saturday and Sunday at 6:00 p.m.

The Closing Ceremony being held on Sunday evening, July 26, will air on CTV on Tuesday, July 28 at 8:00 p.m., and Wednesday, July 29, at 10 a.m.

Local TV Coverage to be announced



BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF ST. ANN PASSIONIST MONASTERY

1239 SAINT ANN STREET

SCRANTON. PA 18504

Everyone is required to observe safety precautions: Wear a face mask, maintain social distancing, & sanitize hands.

6

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: June 28, 2020



FIRST READING

2 KGS 4:8-11, 14-16A

Brothers and sisters: Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know

One day Elisha came to Shunem, where there was a woman of influence, who urged him to dine with her. Afterward, whenever he passed by, he used to stop there to dine. So she said to her husband, "I know that Elisha is a holy man of God. Since he visits us often, let us arrange a little room on the roof and furnish it for him with a bed, table, chair, and lamp, so that when he comes to us he can stay there." Sometime later Elisha arrived and stayed in the room overnight.

Later Elisha asked, "Can something be done for her?"

that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him. As to his death, he died to sin once and for all; as to his life, he lives for God. Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.

SECOND READING ROM 6:3-4, 8-11

His servant Gehazi answered, "Yes! She has no son, and her husband is getting on in years."

GOSPEL READING

MT 10:37-42

Elisha said, "Call her."

Jesus said to his apostles: "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

When the woman had been called and stood at the door, Elisha promised, "This time next year you will be fondling a baby son."

> "Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me. Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward. And whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because the little one is a disciple -- amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS 89:2-3, 16-17, 18-19

Response: Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.



Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: July 5, 2020

that dwells in vou.

put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.



FIRST READING

ZEC 9:9-10

Thus says the LORD: Rejoice heartily, O daughter Zion, shout for joy, O daughter Jerusalem! See, your king shall come to you; a just savior is he, meek, and riding on an ass, on a colt, the foal of an ass.

He shall banish the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem; the warrior's bow shall be banished, and he shall proclaim peace to the nations. His dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

GOSPEL READING

If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who

Consequently, brothers and sisters, we are not debtors to the flesh, to live according

raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit

to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you

MT 11:25-30

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14

At that time Jesus exclaimed: "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to little ones. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him."

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

SECOND READING

Response: I will praise your name forever, my king and my God.

ROM 8:9, 11-13

Brothers and sisters: You are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.



Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: July 12, 2020



FIRST READING

IS 55:10-11

Thus says the LORD: Just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14

Response: The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

SECOND READING

ROM 8:18-23

Brothers and sisters: I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us.

For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

MT 13:1-23 or 13:1-9

On that day, Jesus went out of the house and sat down by the sea. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd stood along the shore.

And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep, and when the sun rose it was scorched, and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. Whoever has ears ought to hear."

[The disciples approached him and said, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" He said to them in reply, "Because knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of

He said to them in reply, "Because knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted. To anyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because *they look but do not see* and hear but do not listen or understand.

Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in them, which says: You shall indeed hear but not understand, you shall indeed look but never see. Gross is the heart of this people, they will hardly hear with their ears, they have closed their eyes, lest they see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their hearts and be converted, and I heal them

"But blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear. Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

"Hear then the parable of the sower. The seed sown on the path is the one who hears the word of the kingdom without understanding it, and the evil one comes and steals away what was sown in his heart. The seed sown on rocky ground is the one who hears the word and receives it at once with joy. But he has no root and lasts only for a time. When some tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away. The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit. But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold."]



Couples celebrate wedding anniversaries; share wisdom with others



SCRANTON – On Corpus Christi Sunday, the Diocese of Scranton celebrated not only Jesus' gift of the Eucharist but also the gift and blessing of marital love.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambara served as principal celebrant and homilist for the 2020 Wedding Anniversary Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

Couples celebrating milestone wedding anniversaries of 25, 50, 60 or more years were invited to take part in the Mass from their homes because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

"In so many respects, the link

between what the Church celebrates on Corpus Christi Sunday and what we acknowledge in your lives as husbands and wives speaks profoundly to the power of authentic, Christ-like love as it has grown in your lives through the gift of the sacrament of marriage," Bishop Bambera said. "In fact, in the Church's ritual for marriage, the words of blessing bestowed on a newly married couple acknowledge the fact that the union of man and woman is so holy a mystery that it symbolizes the marriage of Christ and His Church."

Considering the stresses of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Wedding

Anniversary Mass was a valuable opportunity for all married couples to pause and reflect upon the beauty of the vocation of marriage in their lives and in the life of our Church

During his homily, the bishop also highlighted the words that Pope Francis asked married couples some time ago.

"He asked the couples assembled with him a question. 'Are you prepared to seriously accept the responsibility that every marriage is meant to follow the path of love which Christ has with the Church?' That is a pretty powerful question, isn't it? Are you willing to love

each other and the lives that God has entrusted to your care, as generously and completely as Jesus has loved us?" Bishop Bambera asked.

As a special tribute for the 2020 anniversary couples, they were invited to submit photos and share wisdom that they have learned or a blessing they have received through their marriage.

A few of the responses are provided below. The full Wedding Anniversary Mass photo album is currently available to be viewed on the Diocese of Scranton website at www. dioceseofscranton.org.

"Tireless devotion, trust, forgiveness and love that we continue to experience throughout our marriage."

Ann & Richard Mishura
Saint Mary's Visitation BVM,
Dickson City
50th Anniversary



"The secret to a good marriage is building a foundation off of love, communication, and trust."

Donna & Fred Talcove
Our Lady of Victory,
Tannersville
50th Annniversary





"Respect for each other and unconditional love. Keep your faith at the forefront."

Paula & John Keenan Saint Patrick Parish, Scranton 50th Anniversary



"Love and respect each other daily and support each other in good and difficult times."

Maryellen & John Serafin Corpus Christi Parish, West Pittston 25th Anniversary

Diocesan Annual Appeal raises more than \$4.1 million

SCRANTON – More than 23,000 parishioners and friends contributed to the 2019 Diocesan Annual Appeal: Serving in Faith with Hope and Gratitude raising \$4,117,000 in gifts and pledges for the 2019-20 fiscal year. Thirty-seven parishes surpassed their parish goal for the Annual Appeal. A final Appeal report listing all parish results is included on the following page.

"I am grateful to everyone who donated to the Diocesan Annual Appeal and to our pastors, parish staffs and volunteers who join us in assisting the Diocese in this effort each year. This commitment to our local Church makes it possible for our Diocesan ministries to positively impact thousands of lives each year," Bishop Joseph C. Bambera said. "The generosity of our parishioners is especially impactful at this time as our parishes and Diocese respond to the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic."

The 2019 Diocesan Annual Appeal surpassed last year's totals of \$3.74 million and 19,500 donors and reached 82% of the goal of \$5 million.

Gifts to the Diocesan Annual Appeal support the following ministries:

- Catholic Social Services kitchens, food pantries, shelters, relief assistance and social justice efforts in our parishes that compassionately provide to those most in need in our community.
- Catholic education in our parishes and schools that prepare children for fulfilling, responsible and faith-centered lives.
- Support and care for our retired and ill priests and for our seminarians preparing for the priesthood.
- Parish life, ministry and faith formation programs that strengthen our parish communities.
- Catholic communication programs that spread the Gospel and build up the body of Christ.

11th Vocations Classic postponed to 2021

DORRANCE TWP. – The Annual Vocations Golf Classic, held each July to benefit Diocesan seminarians and vocations programs, will not take place this summer. In consideration of health and financial concerns, Bishop Joseph Bambera has accepted the golf committee's recommendation to schedule the 11th Vocations Classic for next year on Monday, July 12, 2021, at Blue Ridge Trail Golf Club.

"Parishioners and friends have expressed their overwhelming support for the priesthood through Vocations Golf Classics for the past 10 years," Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, tournament honorary chair, said. "Donors and golfers from throughout the 11 counties of our Diocese faithfully participate in this event to help foster vocations and provide direct assistance to seminarians on their journey to the priesthood. We are very grateful. We look forward to renewing this wonderful event next year."

The Vocation tournaments average 285 sponsors and 176 golfers each year who have collectively contributed nearly \$1 million to the Saint John Vianney Endowment for Seminarians. The endowment, named for the patron saint of parish priests, supports programs to foster discipleship in youth and young adults and help men discerning vocations to the Diocesan priesthood. Funds are also used to alleviate financial concerns for men responding to God's call who have prior financial obligations.

Contributions to Vocations programs will be welcome from those able to assist in this time of financial challenge. Those who wish to donate may mail checks to the Diocese of Scranton, Vocations Office, 300 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA 18503, made payable to Vocations Golf Classics. Credit card donations may be made by calling (570) 702-2459. The golf classics are a collaboration of the Diocesan Vocations Office and the Development Office.

Court says federal law protects LGBT workers from discrimination

WASHINGTON (CNS) – In a 6-3 vote June 15, the Supreme Court said LGBT people are protected from job discrimination by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

"An employer who fires an individual for being homosexual or transgender fires that person for traits or actions it would not have questioned in members of a different sex," said Justice Neil Gorsuch writing the opinion in the case argued at the start of the court's term last October.

He pointed out that when Congress enacted Title VII, it might not have expected "this particular result." But he also said Congress likely didn't see many interpretations of the federal law coming, including its prohibition against discrimination on the basis of motherhood or its ban on the sexual harassment of male employees.

"Only the written word is the law, and all persons are entitled to its benefit," Gorsuch wrote.

Dissenting votes were from Justices Samuel Alito, Clarence Thomas and Brett Kavanaugh.

The decision was for two consolidated cases about fired gay employees and a separate case concerning a fired transgender worker who had sued for employment discrimination after being fired.

At issue in this case is the wording in the Civil Rights Act, which prevents employment discrimination based on race, religion, national origin and sex. The court had to determine if discrimination that was not allowed based on sex applied to sexual orientation as well as gender identity.



In a 6-3 vote, the U.S. Supreme Court said June 15, 2020, that LGBT people are protected from job discrimination by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. (CNS photo/Will Dunham, Reuters)

Federal appeals courts have been divided on this application of the law for the past three years since the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit became the first to rule that homosexuals should be protected from job discrimination by the civil rights law.

Los Angeles Archbishop Jose H. Gomez, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said he is deeply concerned that the court's decision "has effectively redefined the legal meaning of 'sex' in our nation's civil rights law." He also said in his June 15 statement the ruling was an "injustice that will have implications in many areas of life."

"By erasing the beautiful differences and complementary relationship between man and woman, we ignore the glory of God's creation and harm the human family, the first building block of society," he added.

"Sex means whether you're male or female, not whether you're gay or straight," argued Solicitor General Noel Francisco for the Trump administration on the side of the employers during oral arguments last October. But Justice Sonia Sotomayor said the issue of people being fired for their sexual identity had to be examined, noting: "We can't deny that homosexuals are being fired merely for being who they are."

Alito, joined by Thomas, wrote more than 100 pages in their dissent and said the court's majority seemed to be writing legislation, not law, in this decision.

The decision, hailed by supporters, was questioned by its opponents who wondered how it would hold up in religious liberty cases. The opinion itself mentions this saying: "How these doctrines protecting religious liberty interact with Title VII are questions for future cases."

A number of religious groups, including the USCCB, weighed in with friend-of-the-court briefs in favor of the employers in this case. The USCCB brief said the added employee protection could impact faith-based schools, health care providers and homeless shelters that operate by "religious and moral convictions."

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

His Excellency, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, announces the following appointments, effective July 1, 2020:

Reverend Chummar Chirayath, O.S.J., from Assistant Pastor, Annunciation Parish, Hazleton, to ministry within the Oblates of Saint Joseph.

Reverend Anthony J. Generose, J.C.L., from Judicial Vicar and Vicar for Matrimonial Processes. Father Generose will remain as Pastor, Most Precious Blood Parish, Hazleton, and Queen of Heaven Parish, Hazleton.

Reverend Walter E. Jenkins, C.S.C., from Administrator, Holy Family Parish, Luzerne, to ministry within the Congregation of the Holy Cross.

Reverend James R. Nash, to Administrator, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Lake Silkworth. Father Nash will remain as Pastor, Saint Faustina Kowalska Parish, Nanticoke.

Reverend Jeffrey D. Tudgay, J.C.L., to Judicial Vicar and Episcopal Vicar for Canonical Affairs. Father Tudgay will remain as Pastor, Saint Eulalia Parish, Roaring Brook Township.

Reverend Jeffrey J. Walsh, V.E., from Episcopal Vicar for Clergy and Sacramental Minister, Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish, Pittston, to Pastor, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Carbondale, and Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Carbondale.

Reverend Jarrod Waugh C.S.C., to Administrator, Holy Family Parish, Luzerne. Father Waugh will reside with the Holy Cross Congregation at Kings College, Wilkes Barre.

FINAL PARISH REPORT





GOAL: \$5 MILLION

Pledges & Gifts Received: \$4.1 Million Campaign Donors: 23,520

PARISH	GOAL	PLEDGES	PERCENTAGE	Parish	GOAL	PLEDGES	PERCENTAGE
All Saints - Plymouth	\$40,000.00	\$26,903.00	67%	St. Andrew - Wilkes-Barre	\$18,000.00	\$9,016.24	50%
Annunciation - Hazleton	\$35,000.00	\$22,113.00	63%	St. Ann Basilica - Scranton	\$32,000.00	\$30,157.50	94%
Ascension - Forest City	\$27,000.00	\$27,075.00	100%	St. Ann - Shohola	\$22,000.00	\$22,815.00	104%
Blessed Sacrament - Throop	\$17,000.00	\$18,641.00	110%	St. Ann - Williamsport	\$63,000.00	\$48,565.00	77%
BVM Queen of Peace - Hawley	\$81,000.00	\$81,513.01	101%	St. Barbara - Exeter	\$33,000.00	\$32,166.00	97%
Christ the King - Archbald	\$71,000.00	\$54,382.50	77%	St. Benedict - Wilkes-Barre	\$22,000.00	\$8,830.00	40%
Corpus Christi - West Pittston	\$32,000.00	\$35,926.00	112%	St. Boniface - Williamsport	\$68,000.00	\$50,925.00	75%
Divine Mercy - Scranton	\$67,000.00	\$50,690.00	76%	St. Brigid - Friendsville	\$24,000.00	\$29,470.00	123%
Epiphany - Sayre	\$90,000.00	\$70,662.00	79%	St. Catherine of Siena - Moscow	\$67,000.00	\$68,059.99	102%
Exaltation of the Holy Cross - Hanover Twp.	\$16,500.00	\$20,920.00	127%	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton - Swoyersville	\$47,000.00	\$52,214.00	111%
Gate of Heaven - Dallas	\$50,000.00	\$32,862.00	66%	St. Elizabeth - Bear Creek	\$25,500.00	\$28,284.00	111%
Good Shepherd - Drums	\$26,000.00	\$18,123.00	70%	St. Eulalia - Elmhurst	\$42,000.00	\$32,722.50	78%
Holy Child - Mansfield	\$30,000.00	\$23,410.00	78%	St. Faustina Kowalska - Nanticoke	\$50,000.00	\$50,895.00	102%
Holy Cross - Olyphant	\$50,000.00	\$41,346.38	83%	St. Frances X. Cabrini - Carverton	\$14,500.00	\$17,443.80	120%
Holy Family - Luzerne	\$42,500.00	\$37,199.30	88%	St. Gregory - Clarks Green	\$79,000.00	\$79,960.00	101%
Holy Family - Sugar Notch	\$17,000.00	\$18,217.00	107%	St. Ignatius Loyola - Kingston	\$82,000.00	\$76,010.04	93%
Holy Name of Jesus - West Hazleton	\$23,000.00	\$14,354.00	62%	St. John Bosco - Conyngham	\$59,000.00	\$61,050.00	103%
Holy Name of Mary - Montrose	\$21,000.00	\$16,958.00	81%	St. John Neumann - Lords Valley	\$30,000.00	\$28,693.00	96%
Holy Rosary - Hazleton	\$18,000.00	\$19,189.00	107%	St. John Neumann - Scranton	\$55,000.00	\$28,346.17	52%
Holy Spirit - Mocanaqua	\$30,000.00	\$18,317.50	61%	St. John - E. Stroudsburg	\$61,000.00	\$43,821.00	72%
Immaculate Conception - Scranton	\$42,000.00	\$52,104.00	124%	St. John the Baptist - Larksville	\$23,000.00	\$15,175.50	66%
Immaculate Conception - Williamsport	\$28,000.00	\$22,052.00	79%	St. John the Evangelist - Honesdale	\$68,000.00	\$60,117.50	88%
Immaculate Heart of Mary - Dushore	\$41,000.00	\$33,430.00	82%	St. John the Evangelist - Pittston	\$60,000.00	\$42,596.00	71%
Mary, Mother of God - Scranton	\$60,000.00	\$52,184.50	87%	St. John Vianney - Montdale	\$32,000.00	\$26,565.00	83%
Most Holy Trinity - Cresco	\$52,000.00	\$40,583.04	78%	St. Joseph Marello - Pittston	\$29,000.00	\$29,516.29	102%
Most Holy Trinity - Susquehanna	\$32,000.00	\$27,644.00	86%	St. Joseph - Matamoras	\$40,000.00	\$41,522.00	104%
Most Precious Blood - Hazleton	\$38,000.00	\$40,455.00	106%	St. Joseph the Worker - Williamsport	\$80,000.00	\$86,817.38	109%
Nativity of Our Lord - Duryea	\$42,000.00	\$34,001.11	81%	St. Jude - Mountain Top	\$84,000.00	\$77,612.69	92%
Nativity of the BVM - Tunkhannock	\$34,000.00	\$29,234.00	86%	St. Katharine Drexel - Pleasant Mount	\$14,000.00	\$17,075.00	122%
Our Lady Help of Christians - Dorrance	\$19,000.00	\$13,607.00	72%	St. Lawrence - S. Williamsport	\$28,000.00	\$20,461.00	73%
Our Lady of Fatima - Wilkes-Barre	\$47,000.00	\$33,102.00	70%	St. Leo - Ashley	\$35,000.00	\$19,097.75	55%
Our Lady of Hope - Wilkes-Barre	\$40,000.00	\$36,523.00	91%	St. Lucy - Scranton	\$20,000.00	\$8,790.00	44%
Our Lady of Lourdes - Montoursville	\$44,000.00	\$36,276.00	82%	St. Luke - Jersey Shore	\$17,000.00	\$13,761.98	81%
Our Lady of Mount Carmel - Carbondale	\$25,000.00	\$13,645.00	55%	St. Luke - Stroudsburg	\$120,000.00	\$130,637.00	109%
Our Lady of Mount Carmel - Dunmore	\$60,000.00	\$53,450.00	89%	St. Maria Goretti - Laflin	\$45,000.00	\$17,113.00	38%
Our Lady of Mount Carmel - Lake Silkworth	\$20,000.00	\$21,782.23	109%	St. Mary of the Lake - Lake Winola	\$13,000.00	\$16,400.00	126%
Our Lady of Perpetual Help - Wyalusing	\$20,000.00	\$12,710.00	64%	St. Mary - Waymart	\$18,000.00	\$25,986.00	144%
Our Lady of the Abingtons - Dalton	\$17,500.00	\$6,530.00	37%	St. Matthew - E. Stroudsburg	\$70,000.00	\$45,091.00	64%
Our Lady of the Eucharist - Pittston	\$17,000.00	\$12,508.00	74%	St. Maximilian Kolbe - Pocono Pines	\$26,000.00	\$26,675.00	103%
Our Lady Immaculate Conception - Freeland	1 \$28,000.00	\$18,549.00	66%	St. Michael - Canton	\$13,000.00	\$18,260.00	140%
Our Lady of the Snows - Clarks Summit	\$92,000.00	\$80,505.24	88%	St. Michael - Scranton	\$10,000.00	\$9,154.86	92%
Our Lady of Victory - Harveys Lake	\$39,000.00	\$40,244.00	103%	St. Monica - West Wyoming	\$33,000.00	\$25,500.00	77%
Our Lady of Victory - Tannersville	\$55,000.00	\$52,569.00	96%	St. Nicholas - Wilkes-Barre	\$55,000.00	\$42,054.23	76%
Our Lady Queen of Peace - Brodheadsville	\$62,000.00	\$66,754.38	108%	St. Patrick - Milford	\$35,000.00	\$27,726.00	79%
Prince of Peace - Old Forge	\$30,000.00	\$16,828.00	56%	St. Patrick - Nicholson	\$10,000.00	\$7,075.00	71%
Queen of Angels - Jessup	\$28,000.00	\$14,436.00	52%	St. Patrick - Scranton	\$45,000.00	\$28,806.00	64%
Queen of Heaven - Hazleton	\$31,000.00	\$23,770.00	77%	St. Patrick - White Haven	\$17,000.00	\$13,957.00	82%
Queen of the Apostles - Avoca	\$25,000.00	\$17,098.00	68%	St. Paul of the Cross - Scranton	\$55,000.00	\$30,343.62	55%
Resurrection - Muncy	\$35,000.00	\$35,774.00	102%	St. Paul - Scranton	\$70,000.00	\$47,759.00	68%
Sacred Heart of Jesus - Dupont	\$32,000.00	\$13,749.00	43%	St. Peter - Wellsboro	\$46,500.00	\$43,380.00	93%
Sacred Heart of Jesus - Peckville	\$44,000.00	\$45,590.40	104%	St. Peter's Cathedral - Scranton	\$75,000.00	\$93,334.00	124%
Sacred Heart of Jesus - Weston	\$12,000.00	\$9,746.00	81%	St. Rita - Gouldsboro	\$15,000.00	\$12,432.00	83%
Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary - Jermyn	\$23,000.00	\$12,588.00	55%	St. Robert Bellarmine - Wilkes-Barre	\$36,000.00	\$36,439.06	101%
SS. Anthony & Rocco - Dunmore	\$50,000.00	\$30,759.00	62%	St. Rose - Carbondale	\$66,000.00	\$57,647.38	87%
SS. Cyril & Methodius - Hazleton	\$46,000.00	\$41,203.00	90%	St. Therese - Shavertown	\$75,000.00	\$65,883.00	88%
SS. Peter & Paul - Plains	\$70,000.00	\$39,962.00	57%	St. Thomas More - Lake Ariel	\$52,000.00	\$52,067.96	100%
SS. Peter & Paul - Scranton	\$14,000.00	\$3,410.00	24%	St. Thomas the Apostle - Elkland	\$14,000.00	\$9,244.00	66%
SS. Peter & Paul - Towanda	\$33,000.00	\$42,955.00	130%	St. Vincent de Paul - Milford	\$37,000.00	\$38,914.00	105%
St. Andre' Bessette Parish - Wilkes-Barre	\$30,000.00	\$20,448.50	68%	Visitation, Blessed Virgin Mary - Dickson City	\$59,000.00	\$44,625.00	76%

10 Monsignor Donald A. McAndrews remembered as devoted priest, champion of the poor

SCRANTON – A private burial ceremony will be held for Monsignor Donald A. McAndrews, who died on June 18, 2020, at Allied Hospice in Scranton. Monsignor McAndrews was known not only as a devoted priest, but also a community servant.

Monsignor was born on February 21, 1929, in Archbald. He was the third of six children born to John and Helen O'Rourke McAndrews. He attended Saint Thomas Aquinas grade school and graduated from Archbald High School in 1946. He attended The University of Scranton and in September 1948, he was assigned to Saint Peter's Seminary in London, Ontario, Canada. While there, he received a bachelor's degree in Honors Philosophy from the University of Western Ontario. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 5, 1954 at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton by the Most Rev. Henry T. Klonowski, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Scranton.

Monsignor's first assignment was at Saint Ann's Parish in Shohola as Assistant Pastor. In 1958, he was assigned to study social work at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. He received his Master's Degree in 1960.

Upon returning to the Diocese of Scranton, he served as Assistant Pastor of Saint Patrick's Parish in Milford and Immaculate Conception Parish in West Pittston.

In 1961, Monsignor was named Executive Director of Catholic Social Services of Wyoming Valley and in 1972, the Hazleton Office was added. He served in this position for 30 years. In addition, he was named Chaplain of College Misericordia and joined the faculty as Lecturer in the Sociology Department.

In 1968, Monsignor and the Rev. Dr. Jule Ayers, the Pastor of The First Presbyterian Church of Wilkes-Barre, co-founded Ecumenical Enterprises, Inc. (EEI), to provide housing for the elderly and low-income families in the Wilkes-Barre area. Working with the EEI Board of Directors and Catholic Social Services, plans were made to start a food kitchen. With the help of various labor unions, the building was renovated to include a modern kitchen and dining area, a



Msgr. Donald A. McAndrews

storage area, a free health clinic, a food distribution area and clothing room. In 1983, Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen opened its doors and has continued to serve hundreds of guests every day.

In 1972, Monsignor McAndrews received his first Pastoral Appointment to Saint Mark's Parish in Inkerman. In 1982, Monsignor became Pastor of Saint Aloysius Parish in Wilkes-Barre and remained there for twenty-

three years until his retirement in 2004. He then became a resident at Villa Saint Joseph in Dunmore. In 1973, Pope Paul VI appointed him a Papal Chamberlain with the title of Monsignor. He went on to be named a Prelate of Honor by Pope John Paul II in 1983.

In 1992, a retirement dinner was held to recognize his many accomplishments in the Church and community. He developed the Bridge Youth Program, the Wilkes-Barre Chapter of Big Brothers Big Sisters, Court Advocate Program, Gabriel House and Project HEAD for the elderly. He served on the Board of Directors for Mercy Hospital, Valley Crest Nursing Home, President's Council of Misericordia University, Retreat State Hospital, School of Social Work at Marywood University, Flood Recovery Task Force of 1972, Area Agency of Aging, Office of Children and Youth. He also served on the Social Welfare Division of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, Diocesan Finance Council, Priests Council and Moderator of the Diocesan Ladies of Charity.

Monsignor was awarded two honorary degrees: Doctor of Humanities from King's College in 1987, and a Doctor of Divinity from Misericordia in 2004, along with the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award from The University of Scranton in 2000.

In his retirement, Monsignor continued to assist in various parishes including the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, Saint John the Baptist in Larksville and Saint Mary's in Dunmore.

Monsignor was predeceased by siblings Aloysius (Alice), John (Joan), Catherine Thompson (Leonard) and Anne, brother-inlaw Tom Brown and niece Susan McAndrews Falcone. He is survived by one sister, Mary Helen Brown of Dunmore, nine nieces and nephews, sixteen grandnieces and grandnephews and many cousins.

A public memorial Mass will be scheduled at a future date at Saint Aloysius Parish in Wilkes-Barre.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen, 33 Northampton Street, Wilkes-Barre PA, 18701.

Reverend Peter D. Menghini remembered for quiet acts of kindness

HAZLETON – Bishop Joseph C. Bambera served as principal celebrant of a Pontifical Mass of Christian Burial for Reverend Peter D. Menghini on Saturday, June 13, 2020, in Annunciation Parish at the Church of Saint Gabriel.

Father Menghini died on June 8, 2020, at Forest City Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Forest City.

Son of the late Peter D. and Sylvia Rossi Menghini, Father Menghini was born in Hazleton on November 7, 1954. He received his early education at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, Hazleton, and graduated from M.M.I. Preparatory School, Freeland.

Father earned a B.A. from The University of Scranton. He began his studies for the priesthood at Saint Pius X Seminary and earned a M.Th. from Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, Md.

Father Menghini was ordained to the priesthood on August 30, 1980, in the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, by Bishop J. Carroll McCormick, D.D., late Bishop of Scranton.

Father Menghini served as Assistant Pastor of Saint Boniface, Wilkes-Barre; Epiphany Church, Sayre; Saint Mary of the Assumption, Scranton; and Saint Anthony, Dunmore.

Father received his first pastorate at Holy Rosary, Wilkes-Barre, in 1992 where he served for 10 years until his appointment as Pastor of Saint Peter Church, Wellsboro, in 2002.

Father also served as Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus, Harleigh, and the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Harleigh, and served as Chaplain of Saint Mary's Villa Nursing Home, Elmhurst.

"My heart goes out to



Rev. Peter D. Menghini

all of us because we are experiencing such a painful loss with Father Peter's passing," Father Gerald Gurka said during his homily at the funeral Mass for his fellow seminarian and longtime friend. "As he carried the cross of illness over these past few years, we now carry the cross of losing him."

Father Gurka continued, "I chose Luke's Gospel account of the Road to Emmaus for several reasons. Scripture

scholar William Barclay states, 'The Christian is a man who walks not towards the sunset but towards the sunrise.' The last several years were the sunset of Peter's life. I believe that now he is enjoying the sunrise of eternity.

"The Emmaus Gospel account also relates the great courtesy of Jesus, and Peter showed great courtesy to me and so many others. This account also reminds us that Jesus never forced himself on others — nor did Peter. His charitable kindness was done in small quiet, caring ways."

"On the road to Emmaus the men with Jesus share their story and in turn Jesus shares a meal with them – feeding them with His love and care," the homilist noted. "There are so many wonderful stories to share about Peter. He fed others with his brilliance. He had

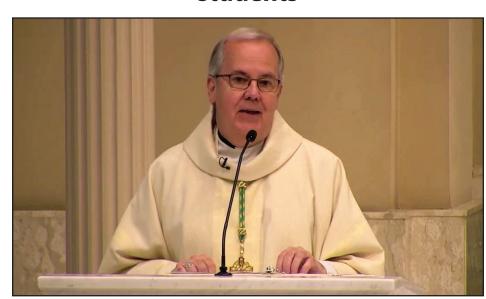
a photographic memory and used his great intelligence to feed others with his incredible knowledge."

"I do believe that when we need it most, God puts the right person into our lives at those times. Father Peter was one of those persons," Father Gurka said in conclusion. "Yes, Peter had carried many crosses, which are now lifted. But we are left with the cross to continue without him. I am most grateful for the wonderful, inspirational brother/friend he has been to me."

Father Menghini is survived by two bothers: Michael and his wife, Joan, and daughter, Rachel, Drums; Daniel and his companion, Twana, Centennial, Colo., and son, Jesse, U.S. Air Force, Okinawa, Japan, and daughter, Justine, New York City, N.Y.

Interment was conducted in Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cemetery.

During troubled times, turn to Jesus, Bishop Bambera tells Catholic school students



Bishop Joseph C. Bambera delivers the homily for a virtual closing Mass for students at various Catholic schools across the Diocese of Scranton. The bishop reminded the students that Jesus remains with them at all times. (Photo courtesy: Catholic Television)

SCRANTON – While the school year ended in a very unusual way, eighth grade students, their families and educators, were able to enjoy a little bit of normalcy as they were invited to gather together in prayer.

Before graduating and moving onto high school, eighth grade students were given a link for a virtual closing Mass celebrated by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera.

The Diocese of Scranton Catholic Schools Office and Diocesan Office of Communications collaborated to produce the Mass, incorporating the bishop celebrating Mass with students from various Diocesan schools conducting individual readings, offering prayers and singing various hymns.

During his homily, Bishop Bambera congratulated the students, parents and teachers for adapting to the challenging circumstances of the coronavirus. He also acknowledged many milestone moments, including concerts, field trips and sporting events had to be cancelled because of the coronavirus.

"What should we do when we find ourselves faced with all of these difficult and confusing things? Should we worry? Should we give up? Should we be afraid? No. Absolutely not," Bishop Bambera said

The bishop encouraged students to look for answers to those questions in the Gospel of Saint Mark.

During the closing Mass, the Gospel message of Jesus and his disciples crossing the Sea of Galilee was proclaimed. During

a huge storm, the disciples, who were fishermen, realized they needed someone far more capable to calm the wind and waves and bring everyone to safety.

"They turned to the only one who could help, Jesus," the bishop told the students.

During his virtual homily, Bishop Bambera explained to the students the same message applies now during COVID-19.

"Boys and girls, we're like those disciples in the midst of that storm right now. We wonder if we'll make it through these difficult times. We wonder if things will ever get back to normal, if school will ever be like it was before, if we'll be safe," he said.

The bishop asked the kids to remember what the disciples did during the storm.

"They turned to Jesus, who was right with them, in the midst of the storm. When they were humble enough to say 'Lord, we can't do this anymore by ourselves,' that is when Jesus calmed the waters and brought them to safety," Bishop Bambera said.

As he sent them off to enjoy the summer months, the bishop reminded the students to never forget that Jesus is with each one of us at all times.

"Ask him, every day, to help you. He will. That's his promise," the bishop said. "He'll be with you in good times and difficult moments. He will watch over us with His great love and concern. He did that for His disciples and he promises to do it for me and for you!"

Financial fallout from pandemic, recession hurting Catholic schools nationwide

CLEVELAND (CNS) – More than 100 Catholic elementary and secondary schools nationwide are expected to close by the fall, largely because of financial challenges resulting from the coronavirus pandemic and the resulting economic recession.

"Nearly every diocese probably is facing a closure. While we don't have it in stone, we think the closures as we speak are 100 to 150 schools," Mary Pat Donoghue, executive director of the Secretariat of Catholic Education at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said June 12.

Sister Dale McDonald, director of public policy and educational research at the National Catholic Educational Association, said information collected by her organization points to the same number of school closures.

Announcements of closings at the end of the 2019-2020 academic year from diocese and archdioceses illustrate the challenge facing Catholic education: 10 in the Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey; five in the Diocese of Camden, New Jersey; three in the Diocese of Pittsburgh while four others will merge into two; two in the Diocese of Sacramento, California; and at least six in the Archdiocese of Boston with more expected.

Margaret Kaplow, public relations manager at NCEA, said June 12 the association had compiled information showing that at least 97 schools are closing. The number is based on official announcements, media reports and conversations NCEA officials have had with diocesan school superintendents, she said.

Education leaders expect more announcements of closures in the coming weeks as parents who have lost jobs under the shutdown of large portions of the economy because of the pandemic decide they can no longer afford Catholic school tuition.

"A lot of people (in education) are holding their breath that families may not be able to swing it or choose not to swing it in a time of uncertainty," Donoghue told Catholic News Service.

"Everything is in such a state of flux," Sister McDonald agreed. "A lot of schools still don't have their (enrollment) information together. The registration period and re-registration is late March to April, when they ask you to commit again. That didn't happen. In addition is the whole tuition piece with people unemployed.

"Parents want to know what they're coming back to. They don't know that yet. And the schools don't know that yet," she added.

The NCEA's annual statistical report of Catholic elementary and secondary schools for 2019-2020 showed there were 6,183 schools with 98 schools consolidated or closed. Enrollment for the academic year stood at more than 1.7 million

Catholic school enrollment peaked in the early 1960s with more than 5.2 million students in nearly 13,000 schools.

The focus of the USCCB Catholic education secretariat and NCEA is on keeping schools open.

"For the parishes, the loss of a school is the loss of vitality. This is a huge concern especially as the nation goes through so much upheaval as it goes through the pandemic and the killing of George Floyd," Donoghue said.

The most difficult questions remain for blue collar and low-income families, which have been the most seriously affected by layoffs.

Donoghue credited federal aid under a pair of emergency relief bills passed early in the federal response to the pandemic-caused economic crash as helping some schools stay open. She said the Paycheck Protection Program in particular, which allowed small businesses and schools to receive forgivable loans to keep employees on staff for up to eight weeks, "probably will keep the number of closures from being worse than it is."

The USCCB and NCEA also have been advocating within the Department of Education to ensure that provisions for school aid in the \$2.2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, or CARES Act, are carried out, Donoghue said.

In addition, educators are urging Senators to include a provision in any future emergency aid legislation that would provide direct assistance to families for tuition expenses or tax incentives that can be used for tuition. Donoghue said either provision would assist parents in keeping their children in nonpublic schools.

"We're certainly doing everything we can to shore up the ability of parents and families to stay connected to the Catholics schools," Donoghue said.

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.



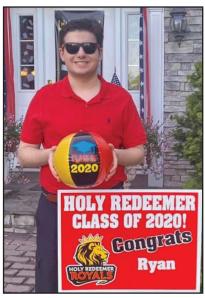
During STREAM week, second graders at Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School in Wilkes-Barre had to use their problem solving and critical thinking skills to "Escape Second Grade." Their teachers designed five worksheets and when completed correctly, the student would be given a mystery item to pack for their escape. Once all items were packed – sunglasses, a beach towel, sunscreen, book, and water bottle – the students were rewarded with their "Escape Second Grade" certificate.



Kindergarten students at **Saint Jude School in Mountain Top** recently celebrated their graduation. In this photo Reagan Seiwell poses with mom Jennifer and brother Livio.



Gillian Idhaw and Benjamin Mulvey, eighth grade students at **La Salle Academy in Jessup**, were recently awarded scholarships from the Carbondale Trinity Club. Students were selected based on their academic excellence and community service. Each \$500 scholarship will be used to further their education at a Diocese of Scranton Catholic High School.



Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre



Rocco Rinaldi, the Class of 2020 Valedictorian at **Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton**, shares his remarks at the school's Graduation Mass.



Mrs. Joan Dowd, a teacher at **Holy Rosary School in Duryea**, celebrates her retirement after 42 years of teaching in our Catholic Schools by receiving a proclamation of "Mrs. Dowd Day" on June 6, 2020, an outdoor parade in front of the school, and a serenade of "Sweet Mrs. Dowd" by her second grade class.



Jillian Brennan, a student at **Holy Cross High School in Dunmore**, has been named the 2020 Noreen Delaney Memorial Scholarship Award recipient. The Noreen Delaney Scholarship has been created to honor Mrs. Noreen Delaney, a member of the faculty and Chair of the English Department at both Bishop O'Hara and Holy Cross High Schools.



Miss Carole Snyder recently retired from Holy Family Academy in Hazleton after teaching for 43 years in the Catholic School System. Miss Snyder is presented with an engraved bell from principal Jason Tribbet.



With more than 1,000 votes for teachers in 60 different school districts, Mrs. Jennifer Jones and Mrs. Janet Lyons, teachers at **Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston**, both earned enough votes to be in the top 10 of the "Quaranteacher Appreciation" contest, hosted by the Mueller Family McDonalds. Each of the top 10 teachers received a gift basket and free McCafe coffee for a year.



Band members at **Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter** recently performed an end of year band concert under the direction of Mr. Mark Stansky, band director. Pictured are Vincent Contardi, Benecio Carpentier, Brandon Renfer, Connor Pribula, Samantha Renfer, Martha Goffredo, Ethan Matechak, Robert Stanchak, and James Bullock.



As part of a distance learning project, Robert Kopetan, a fourth grade student at **Saint Agnes School in Towanda**, studied and presented on the state of Mississippi.



Bailey Reilly, a senior at **Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg**, adds some decorations to her car prior to her graduation ceremony at Pocono Raceway.



Molly Fox, a second grade student at **Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore**, uses her fist to find the size of her heart.



The fifth grade students at **Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green** were challenged to create something that moves using simple machines. The pictures above feature some of their creations.



The eighth grade class at Monsignor McHugh School in Cresco celebrates its graduation with an outdoor ceremony attended by family, friends, community supporters, and alumni.

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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.

Elder Law

- Guardianships
- Asset Protection Planning
- Medicaid Application Assistance

Estate Administration

Probate:

Settle all estate matters and distribute inheritances.

Inheritance Tax:

Utilize all discounts and proper deductions. Meet all requirements and deadlines.

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

Estate Planning

- Powers of Attorney Living Wills
- Wills Trusts Guardianships



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High court rules against Trump administration's plan to end DACA

WASHINGTON (CNS) – In one of the most anticipated cases of the term, the Supreme Court June 18 ruled against efforts by the Trump administration to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, known as DACA.

In a 5-4 decision, the court said the Trump administration's actions in rescinding the program were "arbitrary and capricious."

Last November, the court examined three separate appellate court rulings that blocked President Donald Trump's 2017 executive order to end DACA, a program that started in 2012 by executive order under the Obama administration and which has enabled about 700,000 qualifying young people, described as "Dreamers," to work, go to college, get health insurance, a driver's license and not face deportation. These young adults were brought to the U.S. as children by their parents without legal documentation.

"We welcome the U.S. Supreme Court's decision noting that the Trump administration did not follow proper administrative procedures required to repeal the DACA program," said a statement by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"To DACA youth, through today's decision and beyond, we will continue to accompany you and your families. You are a vital part of our church and our community of faith. We are with you," said the statement by Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and Washington Auxiliary Bishop



DACA demonstrators hold signs outside the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington on Nov. 12, 2019. (CNS photo/Jonathan Ernst, Reuters)

Mario E. Dorsonville, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Migration.

The bishops urged the president to "strongly reconsider terminating DACA," noting that "immigrant communities are really hurting now amidst COVID-19 and moving forward with this action needlessly places many families into further anxiety and chaos."

They also urged U.S. senators to "immediately pass legislation that provides a path to citizenship for 'Dreamers.' Permanent legislative protection that overcomes partisanship and puts the human dignity and future of 'Dreamers' first is long overdue."

The court's majority opinion, written by Chief Justice John Roberts, points out that the court's action does not stop future efforts to end DACA but that the government failed to give acceptable reasons for ending it. It said acting Homeland Security Secretary Elaine Duke, in her efforts to dismantle DACA in 2017, didn't use all options to limit the program and didn't consider just how important it was those to participants.

Prayer Requests for Priests

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

June 25, Father Gregory Loughney; June 26, Holy Cross Father Robert Lozinski: June 27. Father Edward Lyman; June 28, Monsignor Peter Madus; June 29, Jesuit Father Ryan Maher; June 30, Father Thomas Major; July 1, Pope Francis; July 2, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI; July 3, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; July 4, Jesuit Father Richard Malloy; July 5, Father Thomas Maloney; July 6, Father Joseph Manarchuck; July 7, Franciscan Father Pio Mandato; July 8, Father Michael Marchetti; July 9, Monsignor Francis Marini; July 10, Jesuit Father Leonard Martin; July 11, Bishop Emeritus Joseph F. Martino; July 12, Holy Cross Father Brendan McAleer; July 13, Monsignor Donald McAndrews (memorial); July 14, Passionist Father Thomas McCann; July 15, Father Michael McCormick; July 16, Father Glenn McCreary; July 17, Father Patrick McDowell; July 18, Father James McGahagan; July 19, Father Gerard McGlone; July 20, Monsignor Stephen McGough; July 21, Father John McHale.

Up & Over retreat going virtual

Calling all students in fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades!

The Up & Over Junior High School Retreat is going virtual this summer because of the COVID-19 pandemic! The retreat team has been working hard to take the best aspects of Up & Over and turn them into a virtual experience at home.

Once a student registers, they will get access to the virtual camp website where they will find a suggested schedule and videos from our team members walking them through each activity.

Resources needed for each activity will be mailed home, so a participant will have everything they need!

The Up & Over Junior High Retreat is open to students in fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth



grade during the 2019-2020 academic year.

The registration fee is \$20 and includes access to the virtual camp website and mailed home resources.

For more information, contact Shannon Kowalski at shannon-kowalski@ dioceseofscranton.org or visit www.dioceseofscranton.org to register your child.

Young adults learn how to make 'Bold Choices' in virtual retreat

young adults from the Diocese of Scranton came together earlier this month for a virtual retreat.

The Diocesan Office for Parish Life and Vocations Office held its popular "Bold Choices: Finding Your Passion and Living It Fully" retreat online from June 8-10, 2020.

The virtual retreat began with an opening session via video conferencing, readings and resources for participants to do at their own pace and a closing session via video conferencing.

As expected, the video conferencing sessions focused on the impact of the coronavirus on participants. Young adults took part in virtual icebreakers and discussed how COVID-19 has affected their lives in addition to the important decisions – or 'bold choices' - they may be facing.

This is the first time the Bold Choices retreat has ever been offered online.

"This is really an exciting adventure," Sister Mindy Welding, I.H.M., Director of Vocations for the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

"This is a new moment

SCRANTON - Dozens of for us. We're only going to be limited by our ability to think outside the box," Father Don Williams, Director of Vocations and Seminarians for the Diocese of Scranton, said as the virtual retreat began.

> Participants were told that whenever you face important choices, no choice is ever a mistake. The young adults were encouraged to ask God for help in determining the right next step.

> Participant Sam Matrisciano, parishioner at Saint Matthew Parish, East Stroudsburg, says the retreat was a great experience.

> "I got to learn a lot about how others have discerned and gone through the troubles of being a young adult. I gained a new perspective on how I will make life decisions going forward," Matrisciano said.

> Alyssa Stencavage, a young adult from Saint Jude Parish, Mountain Top, agreed.

> "I participated for the interaction and some peace and clarity. It's nice to talk through challenges," Stencavage said. "It felt good to have something going on to look forward to and it's always good to share insights and have discussions with others."



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	CTV LOCAL O		JULY SOBOXED IN BOLI			AING IS FROM E	WTN			
	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY			
12:00: AM	DAILY MASS	SUNDAY MASS			DAILY MASS (Encore)					
1:00 AM	AT HOME WITH	(Encore) (1:10AM) LITANY OF								
1:30 AM	JIM & JOY	THE SACRED HEART	THE JOURNEY HOME (Encore)	MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE CLASSICS	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	THE WORLD OVER (Encore)	FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE			
2:00 AM	ICONS SPOTLIGHT CATHOLIC VIEW FOR				N NEWS NIGHTLY (Enco					
2:30 AM	WOMEN FUNDAMENTALS OF	EWTN GALLERY		1						
3:00 AM	CATHOLICISM		EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY			
3.00 AW		AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY		REAL LIFE CATHOLIC	LIFE ON THE ROCK	BATTLE READY	SPECIALS			
3:30AM	EWTN GALLERY	DEFENDING LIFE	SPECIALS	PAPAL AUDIENCE	SAINTS VS SCOUNDRELS	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOG	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY			
4:00 AM		SUDAY VESPERS	HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH		BOB AND PENNY LORD PRESENT	WEB OF FAITH 2.0	SAVORING OUR FAITH			
4:30 AM	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	(4:35)SUNDAY BEST WITH FR GROESCHEL	THE CHURCH:GOD'S PLAN	(4:40)ANGELUS FROM NAZARETH	THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS	LIFE IS WORTH LIVING	EXTRAORDINARY FAITH			
5:00 AM	PROPHESY IN SONG	EWTN BOOKMARK	THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL	LETTER AND SPIRIT	EWTN SPECIALS	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY	CATHOLIC BEGINNINGS			
5:30 AM	DECISION POINT	JOURNEY THROUGH SCRIPTURE	APOSTOLATE FOR FAMILY CONSECRATION	FUNDAMRNTALS OF CATHOLICISM			CATHOLICS COME HOME			
6:00 AM	ANGELUS WITH POPE									
6:30 AM	FRANCIS	O. V. OUFOTEDTON	EWTN ORIGINAL PRODUCTIONS CHURCH AND THE FR. RUTLER: CHRIST LOQUE SPOT JOUR THE CHOICES WE							
7:00 AM	WHERE GOD WEEPS	G.K. CHESTERTON	POOR CHAPLET OF ST. MICHAI	IN THE CITY	ICONS SPOTLIGHT	FACE	SAINTS vs. SCOUNDRALS			
7:30 AM				HOLY LAND ROSARY		STATIONS OF THE CROSS	THE HOLY ROSARY			
7:50 AM	ROSARY FROM LOURDES	LITANY OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	LITANY OF THE HOLY NAME	LITANY OF ST. JOSEPH	LITANY OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD	PAPAL AUDIENCE	FROM LOURDES			
8:00 AM	SUNDAY MASS (Live)	DAILY MASS (Live)								
9:00 AM	(9:20AM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART		HOLY ROSARY W	/ITH THE FRANCISCAN I	MISSIONARIES OF THE E	ETERNAL WORD				
9:30 AM	EWTN ROSARY FRANCISCANS	SUNDAY BEST WITH FR. GROESCHEL	LIVING PIGHT WITH	SCRIPTURE AND	EWTN LIVE (ENCORE)	THE WORLD OVER (Encore)	THE FRIAR			
10:00 AM			LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY	TRADITION (ENCORE)			STORIES FROM THE			
10:30 AM	SUNDAY MASS ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL	HOLY MASS FROM NAZARETH	LIVE WITH PASSION	CTV SPECIAL	SALT & LIGHT TV	WEEKLY NOVENA	BIBLE MY CATHOLIC			
11:00 AM	AT HOME WITH JIM AND THE CHOICES		WEEKLY NOVENA TO	MUSIC AND SPOKEN	SPECIALS FOCUS	TO ST. ANN LIVE WITH PASSION	FAMILY AT HOME WITH			
11:30 AM	JOY	WE FACE	ST. ANN	WORD	FOCUS	LIVE WITH PASSION	JIM AND JOY BOB & PENNY LORD			
	VATICANO			WOMEN OF GRACE			PRESENT			
12:00 PM 12:30PM	SUNDAY MASS (Encore)		Y MASS FROM S' "DIOCESAN I	DATEBOOK" airs before a	and after Mass.	•	EWTN DAILY MASS (Encore)			
1:00 PM	(1:10PM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	PRO LIFE WEEKLY	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	THE DOMESTIC CHUR CH	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE			
1:30 PM		LOVE'S BRAVEST CHOICE	ST.FAUSTINA: DIVINE MERCY	SPECIALS	DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH	OUR FATHER'S PLAN	EWTN BOOKMARK			
2:00 PM	IN CONCERT	CALLED TO	SCRIPTURE AND	FR. SPITZER'S	THE JOURNEY HOME		EWTN ON LOCATION			
2:30 PM		COMMUNION	TRADITION	UNIVERSE	THE GOOTHET HOME	STATIONS OF CROSS	LTT IN ON LOCATION			
3:00 PM 3:20 PM			THE CHAPL	ET OF DIVINE MERCY IN REFLECTIONS	SONG					
3:30 PM	THE HOLY ROSARY IN STAINED GLASS	THE	DAILY MASS FRO		CATHEDRAL, (E	ncore)	ROSARY FOR LIFE			
4:00 PM	LIFE IS WORTH LIVING		SUNDAY VIGIL MASS							
4:30 PM		MASTERPIECE DONUT		DIOCESAN DATEBOOK		BUGTIME	ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL			
5:00 PM	SAVORING OUR FAITH SHOP		WE ARE CATHOLIC	MY TIME WITH JESUS	CAT CHAT	ADVENTURES				
5:30 PM	THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL	EWTN BOOKMARK	THE CHOICES WE FACE	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE	BOB & PENNY LORD PRESENT	GENESIS TO JESUS	CATHOLIC ANSWERS LIVE			
	SUNDAY MASS ST.		LETTER AND SPIRIT							
6:00 PM	6:00 PM PETER'S CATHEDRAL		THE JOURNEY HOME							
6:30 PM 7:00 PM	(6:35)SUNDAY BEST	CATHOLICS COME HOME	SPECIALS							
7:30PM	SUNDAY MASS	THE	DAILY MASS							
7:30PW		THE HOL'	Y ROSARY							
8:00 PM	(8:20) LITANY OF SACRED HEART	THE JOURNEY HOME		DIOCESAN DATEBOOK	THE WORLD OVER					
8:30 PM	CATHOLICS COME HOME	(Live)	CTV SPECIAL PRESENTATION	EWTN LIVE	(Live)	SPECIALS				
9:00 PM	LIFE ON THE ROCK	EWTN NIGHTLY NEWS (Encore)		EW	EWTN NIGHTLY NEWS (Enc		EWTN CINEMA			
9:30 PM	HOLY ROSARY W MOTHER ANGELICA	WEEKLY NOVENA TO ST. ANN	THE CHOICES WE FACE	FOCUS	LIVE WITH PASSION	SALT AND LIGHT TV SISTERHOOD				
10:00PM EWTN SPECIALS	EWITH SPECIALS	THE WORLD OVER	SCRIPTURE AND	FR. SPITZER'S	PRO-LIFE WEEKLY	LIFE ON THE ROCK	LIVING RIGHT WITH			
	LIVE (ENCORE)	TRADITION (ENCORE)	UNIVERSE	DEFENDING LIFE	ICONS SPOTLIGHT	DR. RAY				
11:00PM	CATHOLIC BEGINNINGS	BATTLE READY	ATTLE READY CROSS TRAINING CROSSING THE GOAL LONG RIDE HOME REAL LIFE CATHOLIC							
11:30PM	CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN	WOMEN OF GRACE								

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Forth

Mission Message

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

Are you tired? I certainly am. Not for lack of sleep, though. I felt that heaviness the other day, feeling zapped by something seemingly inexplicable. Despite the fact that I get the appropriate amount of sleep each night, I've felt some days that my energy level needs a major boost. Then it occurred to me, many of us are likely feeling tired and worn down by these months of isolation and our own emotional and bodily reactions to all that's going on around us. As

While we can attribute a lot of this to the rigors of the pandemic, I really believe that the inhumanity that surrounds us is zapping our spirits; we're sick and tired of the inhumanity of our world. Long before we could have anticipated the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a pandemic that swept with great force throughout our world and in our neighborhoods. We've forgotten how to be human; we've forgotten to treat each other like brothers and sisters.

the saying goes, we're sick and tired.

Look around! From the stomachchurning video showing George Floyd's breath literally stolen from his body, to the daily scenes that play out on television on the news and on primetime TV depicting crimes against God's gift of life, our society

continues to spiral deeper and deeper into the abyss of a culture of death. So many have become immune and desensitized to the horrors of abortion. Still others continue to turn a blind eye to those who are desperately in need. And all-too-commonplace are the political divisions in our country that drive us further and further apart from one another. So often, this results in callous and inflammatory speech and actions meant to demonize and dehumanize political figures, opponents, and even family members who camp on either side of the political spectrum.

If someone despises our President, then we must demonize and dehumanize him; if someone despises the Speaker of the House, we must demonize and dehumanize her; if someone despises the Governor and local leaders, we must demonize and dehumanize them; if someone despises the Pope, your bishop, your pastor, your boss, your teacher, the end-game is to demonize and dehumanize them. If someone despises his neighbor, you got it, dehumanize, demonize. Surely, we can find things wrong in each other and so many are in need of correction and conversion, but the more we treat them less human, the less human we become and the more we will say and do inhumane things to one another.

In an address to the General Assembly of the United Nations in the early part of his pontificate in 1979, Pope John Paul II offered these sage words: "Every human being is endowed with a dignity that must never be lessened, impaired or destroyed but must instead be respected and safeguarded, if peace is really to be built up." Pope John



Paul knew well what horrors could unfold in society when individuals begin to treat each other in any way that compromises their humanity and dignity. He witnessed countless of his friends, family, and fellow countrymen belittled, degraded, dehumanized, and many murdered because they didn't fit someone's vision of what it meant to be human. From Nazi occupation to the socialistic regimes that followed, Karol Józef Wojtyła stared evil in the face, yet chose to react in the most human of ways, praying for conversion, sacrificing so much to make a difference in the world for good. He chose to build a culture of life.

Is the call any more clarion than that for missionary disciples? Build a culture of life. Yes, as an individual, choose life over death, choose reconciliation over revenge, choose changing and praying for a wayward brother or sister rather than tearing down and making him or her less human.

What we do and how we do it matters; what we think and what we say, matters. Choose life as the saying goes. Those words are so apt because they come from the book of Deuteronomy where we hear the call from God cry out: "Choose life that you and your children may live" (Deut. 30:15). As missionary disciples, we have been given the privilege and the responsibility to protect life, to honor it and to safeguard its sanctity. If we want to live and want our children and others to live fully and in peace, it starts at home. I hope that never sounds trite, because it does start with you and me, it starts in our heart. Choose life that you may live.

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Four new members named to National Review Board

WASHINGTON (CNS) -The National Review Board, the all-lay group that monitors dioceses' performance in dealing with sexually abusive clergy and creating a safe environment for children throughout the church, has four new members.

Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, announced the appointments June 10.

The new members are:

Vivian M. Akel, a retired clinical social worker; she volunteers as safe environment coordinator for the Maronite Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn, New York.

James Bogner, retired senior executive special agent for the FBI; he also serves on the Archdiocesan Advisory Review Board and Ministerial Conducts Board for the Archdiocese of Omaha, Nebraska.

Steven Jubera, assistant

district attorney for Mississippi's 17th Judicial District; he also serves on the Review Board for the Diocese of Jackson, Mississippi.

Thomas M. Mengler, president of St. Mary's University in San Antonio; he previously served on the board of directors of Catholic Charities of San Antonio and was co-chairman of the Lay Commission on Clergy Sexual Abuse of Minors in the Archdiocese of San Antonio.

Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Watch the Daily Mass on CTV: Catholic Television at 12:10 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m on weekdays.

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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18 Big Brothers Big Sisters becomes independent

Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton announced that the Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bridge program became an independent non-profit agency as of June 15, 2020.

The new agency will be known as Big Brothers Big Sisters

of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Inc. Many of the current Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bridge advisory board members have agreed to be part of a governing board for the new agency, which has already been approved to operate by Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.

Since 1974, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bridge helped to create, foster and support oneto-one mentoring relationships between adult volunteers and children across northeastern and north central Pennsylvania. The transition will allow those meaningful matches to continue uninterrupted, providing a direct and lasting effect on the lives of local young people.

In late 2019, advisory board members of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bridge approached Catholic Social Services leadership inquiring about transitioning into an independent agency so that they can focus exclusively on opportunities to grow the community-based mentoring program. For the last several months, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bridge and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Inc., have been working collaboratively to make a seamless transition for families and mentors already involved in the program.

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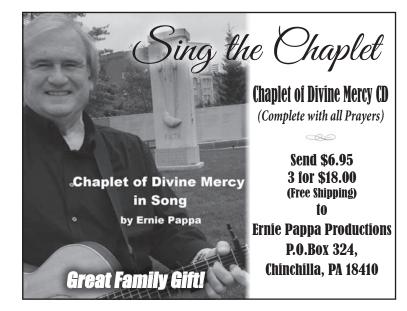
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Catholic Youth Center reopens

The Wyoming Valley Catholic Youth Center daycare program reopened on Wednesday, June 3, 2020, after being closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the days leading up to the reopening, staff members made phone calls to families to determine which students would be returning and the hours of care needed.

While the facility was closed, staff members used the time to make renovations to the Wilkes-Barre campus and properly clean and sanitize the property.

For information on services or programs, please call (570) 823-6121.

Religious Freedom Week Pope adds 'Comfort of Underway

Parish regathering process continues

All parishes in the Diocese of Scranton now have the ability to

resume in-person Masses. The Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton

Sunday Mass obligation remains suspended at this time. Across the

capacity, emphasizing social distancing efforts. Masks need to be

worn by parishioners who attend services and Holy Communion is

now being distributed at the end of Mass. (Photo/Eric Deabill)

Diocese of Scranton, parishes may hold Masses with up to 25-percent

welcomed parishioners back on Wednesday, June 10, 2020. The

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is currently celebrating Religious Freedom Week through June 29, 2020.

The theme of this year's celebration is For the Good of All.

Religious Freedom means that all people have the space to flourish. Religious freedom is both an American value and an important part of Catholic teaching on human dignity. When we promote religious freedom, we promote the common good and thus strengthen the life of our nation and community.

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Migrants,' other Marian titles to litany

Among the many titles under which Catholics invoke Mary, Pope Francis has asked them to add "Mother of Mercy," "Mother of Hope" and "Comfort of Migrants."

Cardinal Robert Sarah, prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, sent a letter to the presidents of bishops' conferences around the world asking that the titles be inserted into the "Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary," more commonly known as the "Litany of Loreto."

The litany, which begins by invoking God's mercy, then turns to Mary, asking for her prayers.

The Litany of Loreto traces its origins back to the 16th century and already had close to 50 titles for Mary with verses like "Holy Mother of God, pray for us" and "Queen of All Saints, pray for us."

The titles for referring to and seeking assistance from Mary are "innumerable," the cardinal said, but the pope wanted formally to recognize more of them.

"Mother of Mercy," he said, should follow "Mother of the Church" in the litany, then comes "Mother of Divine Grace" and the insertion of "Mother of Hope."

Further down, after invoking Mary as "Health of the Sick" and as "Refuge of Sinners," he said, Catholics should add "Comfort of Migrants."



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National Reporting System to be used to hold bishops accountable

The Diocese of Scranton has joined dioceses across the nation in implementing the new Catholic Abuse Reporting Service, another important step in addressing the clergy abuse crisis and the accountability of bishops.

The system will enable anyone to report an allegation of abuse against a bishop. Reports will be taken by an independent company, and investigated by both Church officials and lay people.

In May 2019, Pope Francis released his apostolic letter "Vos estis lux mundi" ("You are the light of the world") to address the issue of sexual abuse and holding bishops accountable in the global Catholic Church.

In June 2019, one month after Pope Francis issued his order, the bishops of the United States convened for their general assembly in Baltimore and approved the implementation plan for carrying out the directives of the Holy Father here in the United States.

It was because of the ongoing commitment of American bishops to be held

accountable that the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service was established. It is operated by Convercent, Inc., an independent, third-party entity that provides intake service to private institutions through a secure and confidential process.

When a report is received by the third-party system, it will be forwarded to the supervising archbishop of the region. In the case of Pennsylvania, that is Philadelphia Archbishop Nelson Perez. The report is at the same time forwarded to a layperson (someone who is not a priest or bishop) who has been designated to assist in receiving reports.

If the report involves abuse of a minor, it also will be forwarded to law enforcement.

After review and an initial assessment, the allegation then will be sent to the Apostolic Nuncio, the Pope's ambassador in the United States, who will forward it to the appropriate authority at the Vatican. Within 30 days, the Vatican will assess the report and, if warranted, authorize a formal investigation.

Luzerne County church to hold MEGA Raffle

DALLAS – Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, parishioners at Gate of Heaven Church are planning to hold a Social Distancing Mega Raffle in July.

The raffle will feature a chance to win more than 50 different prizes. More than \$1,000 in cash prizes and gift certificates to more than 20 local businesses are available.

The raffle drawing will take place on July 26 and will be livestreamed by the parish.

Tickets are \$10 and are available by calling Carol Carroll at (570) 675-1394 or Patty Price at (570) 407-1734.

Blood drive to honor memory of Navy Midshipman

MOSCOW – The North Pocono Blood Council of the American Red Cross, in conjunction with Saint Catherine of Siena Parish in Moscow, will sponsor a blood drive on Thursday, July 16, 2020, from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Saint Catherine Church, 220 Church St.

The 17th annual Red Cross Blood Drive is being held to honor the memory of John Paul Ruggiero, a young parishioner of Saint Catherine's who passed away while attending the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., in 2002.

Donors for the blood drive will receive complimentary refreshments.

To schedule an appointment to donate, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit: redcrossblood.org and enter the word "Moscow."

Anyone who needs to report an allegation of sexual abuse or related misconduct against any bishop should go to www.ReportBishopAbuse. org or call, toll-free, 800-276-1562.

The service is intended to be used only for reporting allegations of abuse concerning bishops. It is not intended to be used for the reporting of other local concerns about bishops, such as priests' parish assignments, closure of schools or parishes, or liturgical concerns.

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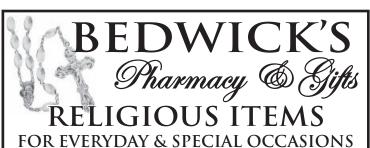
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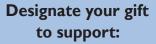
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For more information, please contact Jim Bebla at 570-207-2250 or

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