

# The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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## Parishioners thankful as many public Masses resume

WILLIAMSPORT – More than two months after in-person Masses were suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most churches in the Diocese of Scranton have started the gradual reopening process.

“It was like Christmas. It was wonderful,” Tammy Youmans, parishioner at Saint Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport, said as she returned to Mass for the first time on Sunday, May 24, 2020. “I missed being here. I missed my parish. I couldn’t wait to get up this morning and be able to actually come and be with everybody.”

The Trout Run mother says during her time away from church her longing for the Eucharist only grew deeper.

“Being without Christ within you has been really hard. Spiritual communion is fine but to receive Him in person, fully, you can’t beat it,” Youmans added.

As of this past Monday, parishes in Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming counties could resume Masses. Parishes in Bradford, Lycoming, Sullivan and Tioga counties were able to resume in-person worship on May 18, 2020.

On Monday, June 8, parishes in Lackawanna County will be able to reopen.

“For the last ten weeks, I know many of our faithful parishioners have been longing to return to church, participate in Mass and receive the Holy Eucharist,” Bishop Joseph C. Bambera said. “The Diocese has been working hard to resume in-person worship in a safe, comfortable and reverent manner.”

The exact timetable for an individual parish to reopen will be the decision of its pastor with regard to preparedness, especially in regards to maintaining proper social distancing and sanitization.

Mass attendance at all parishes will be limited to no more than 25-percent of a church’s seating capacity. Parishioners will be required to wear face coverings and remain a proper social distance of at least six feet away from other individuals and families.

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended at this time. During a video message to lay faithful, Bishop Bambera encouraged anyone feeling ill to stay home and stay safe. He also asked anyone who is part of a vulnerable population, whether by age or because of an underlying medical condition, to continue participating in Mass by livestreaming or CTV: Catholic Television.

“While our reopening process will be gradual, please know we are trying to balance two things: your deep faith and longing for



**Public Masses resumed the week of May 18, 2020, at Saint Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport. While initially limited to 25 people, as parishes open they can now welcome up to 25-percent capacity to ensure social distancing guidelines. (Photo/Eric Deabill)**

the Eucharist and the dangers of this highly contagious coronavirus,” Bishop Bambera said.

At Saint Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport, one of the first to resume daily and weekend Masses, the faithful were both thrilled and thankful to resume in-person

worship.

“It is wonderful to be back,” Virginia Borek of Williamsport said. “It was emotional just being at Mass. It would have been okay if the church was full or I was the only one there.”

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## Bishops ‘sickened’ by Floyd’s death, urge racism to be met ‘head on’



**Protesters in Minneapolis gather at the scene May 27, 2020, where George Floyd, an unarmed black man, was pinned down by a police officer. (CNS photo/Eric Miller, Reuters)**

SCRANTON (CNS) – Bishop Joseph C. Bambera joined numerous other U.S. Catholic bishops saying he is “broken-hearted, sickened and outraged to watch another video of an African American man being killed before our very eyes.”

“What’s more astounding is that this is happening within mere weeks of several other such occurrences. This is the latest wake-up call that needs to be answered by each of us in a spirit of determined conversion,” they said in a statement about the May 25 death of George Floyd while in police custody in Minneapolis.

In recent weeks, Ahmaud Arbery, an unarmed 25-year-old African American man in Georgia, was fatally shot, and three white men were arrested and are facing murder charges in his death. In March, Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old African American woman, died at the hands of white police officers when they entered her apartment in Louisville, Kentucky.

“Racism is not a thing of the past or simply a throwaway political issue to be bandied about when convenient,” the

bishops said. “It is a real and present danger that must be met head-on.”

“As members of the church, we must stand for the more difficult right and just actions instead of the easy wrongs of indifference,” they said. “We cannot turn a blind eye to these atrocities and yet still try to profess to respect every human life. We serve a God of love, mercy and justice.”

“Indifference is not an option,” they emphasized and stated “unequivocally” that “racism is a life issue.”

Bishop Bambera, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, issued the statement along with the chairmen of six other committees. They include:

Bishop Shelton J. Fabre of Houma-Thibodaux, Louisiana, Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism; Archbishop Nelson J. Perez of Philadelphia, Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church; Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of

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# The Catholic Light

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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE  
DIOCESE OF SCRANTON



## DIOCESE OF SCRANTON MISSION STATEMENT

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

## POLICY STATEMENT

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## Parishioners say returning to Mass brings them peace

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Borek described her return to Mass as peaceful. While acknowledging this has been a challenging time, her faith has not wavered at all.

"It makes me appreciate being able to go to Mass every week. I thought that during Mass."

The Bubb family of Montoursville served Saint Joseph the Worker Parish in several ways as in-person Masses resumed.

John Bubb served as lector at the parish's first 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass.

"It's nice to get the community together," Bubb said. "Just to sit in there and find peace and to be in front of the tabernacle, knowing Jesus is right there, present, body, blood, soul and divinity."

Bubb's two eldest daughters, Elizabeth and Victoria, served as greeters and ushers

for parishioners returning to the church for the first time.

"I just wanted them to feel welcome and to feel we were going to be there and help them through the process so they weren't nervous about anything. I just wanted to be a friendly face," Elizabeth Bubb said.

While Elizabeth Bubb appreciated livestream Masses during the pandemic, she said things were not the same during that time.

"We sit on the couch at our house and watch the livestream but it's not the same because you're sitting in your house and you're not dressed as nicely so it's nice for us to be all together, dressed up, ready to receive the Lord into our hearts," she added.

Father Brian Van Fossen, pastor, Saint Joseph the Worker, said livestream Masses also pose challenges for clergy.

"When you're saying the Mass online

or livestreaming it, you don't hear the responses so you have to pause a little bit. Also, when you're giving the homily, you try to give a joke and you hope that it's funny and they're laughing but you don't get that response back."

Now that in-person Masses have resumed, Father Van Fossen says it is the small things, like a baby crying or cell phone going off that brings the reality of community back to the celebration.

While his parish livestreaming will continue at this time, he says people as far away as the Philippines have been tuning in.

"People have been streaming that and have been showing off the church. This itty-bitty parish from Williamsport, PA, has really rocked the world in many ways, in just simple ways, that many parishes across our country are doing," Father Van Fossen explained.

## 'Racism is not a thing of the past,' bishops say

*Continued from Page 1*

Oklahoma City, Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development; Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, Committee on Pro-Life Activities; Auxiliary Bishop David G. O'Connell of Los Angeles, Subcommittee on the Catholic Campaign for Human Development; and Auxiliary Bishop Joseph N. Perry of Chicago, Subcommittee on African American Affairs.

Floyd, 46, was arrested by police on suspicion of forgery. Once he was handcuffed, a white officer pinned him down on the street, putting his knee on Floyd's neck for eight minutes. A now widely circulated video shows Floyd repeatedly saying, "I can't breathe." He appears to lose consciousness or die and was later declared dead at the hospital.

The next day, hundreds of people protested at the intersection where police officers subdued Floyd, demanding justice for him and the arrest of the four officers involved. The officers were fired May 26 and as of midday June 2, local prosecutors filed criminal charges against at least one of the now former officers: The one seen putting his knee on Floyd's neck, identified as Derek Chauvin, was arrested and charged with third-degree murder and manslaughter.

The federal Justice Department promised a "robust" investigation into the circumstances surrounding Floyd's death.

Protests in Minneapolis have turned to violent demonstrations and lasted several days, prompting Gov. Tim Walz to bring in the National Guard May 29. The protests sparked similar rioting in at least a dozen U.S. cities, including Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Denver, New York, Louisville, and Columbus, Ohio.

### Full text of Statement from May 29, 2020

"We are broken-hearted, sickened and outraged to watch another video of an African American man being killed before our very eyes. What's more astounding is that this is happening within mere weeks of several other such occurrences. This is the latest wake-up call that needs to be answered by each of us in a spirit of determined conversion.

Racism is not a thing of the past or simply a throwaway political issue to be bandied about when convenient. It is a real and present danger that must be met head-on. As members of the Church, we must stand for the more difficult right and just actions instead of the easy wrongs of indifference. We cannot turn a blind eye to these atrocities and yet still try to profess to respect every human life. We serve a God of love, mercy, and justice.

While it is expected that we will plead for peaceful nonviolent protests, and we certainly do, we also stand in passionate support of communities that are understandably outraged. Too many communities around this country feel their voices are not being heard, their complaints about racist treatment are unheeded, and we are not doing enough to point out that this deadly treatment is antithetical to the Gospel of Life.

As we said eighteen months ago in our most recent pastoral letter against racism, "Open Wide Our Hearts," for people of color some interactions with police can be fraught with fear and even danger. People of good conscience must never turn a blind eye when citizens are being deprived of their human dignity and even their lives. Indifference is not an option. As bishops, we unequivocally state that racism is a life issue."

We join Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda of St. Paul and Minneapolis in praying for the repose of the soul of Mr. George Floyd and all others who have lost their lives in a similar manner. We plead for an end to the violence in the wake of this tragedy and for the victims of the rioting. We pray for comfort for grieving families and friends. We pray for peace across the United States, particularly in Minnesota, while the legal process moves forward. We also anticipate a full investigation that results in rightful accountability and actual justice.

We join our brother bishops to challenge everyone to come together, particularly with those who are from different cultural backgrounds. In this encounter, let us all seek greater understanding amongst God's people. So many people who historically have been disenfranchised continue to experience sadness and pain, yet they endeavor to persevere and remain people of great faith. We encourage our pastors to encounter and more authentically accompany them, listen to their stories, and learn from them, finding substantive ways to enact systemic change. Such encounters will start to bring about the needed transformation of our understanding of true life, charity, and justice in the United States. Hopefully, then there will be many voices speaking out and seeking healing against the evil of racism in our land.

As we anticipate the Solemnity of Pentecost this weekend, we call upon all Catholics to pray and work toward a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Let us pray for a supernatural desire to rid ourselves of the harm that bias and prejudice cause. We call upon Catholics to pray to the Holy Spirit for the spirit of truth to touch the hearts of all in the United States and to come down upon our criminal justice and law enforcement systems. Finally, let each and every Catholic, regardless of their ethnicity, beg God to heal our deeply broken view of each other, as well as our deeply broken society."



# Guidelines for Safely Returning to Mass

## Safety Measures:

- **If you are feeling ill, stay safe at home.**
- We highly encourage those who are vulnerable (such as the elderly and people with underlying medical conditions) to continue to participate in Mass via parish livestreaming or CTV: Catholic Television.
- Mass from the Cathedral of Saint Peter will continue to be broadcast daily on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton. It is also available on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
- People should wash their hands thoroughly before coming to church.

## Face Masks:

- Face masks must be worn by all lay faithful who attend Mass. The only time a face mask may be removed is for the reception of Holy Communion.
- Clergy are not to wear a face mask during the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy but must wear a face mask for the distribution of Holy Communion which takes place after Mass.

## Social Distancing:

- Mass attendance will be limited to no more than 25-percent of a church's seating capacity.
- While within the church, all people need to maintain a safe social distance of six feet from others in all directions. The only exception is for members of the same household who may sit together.
- Several pews may separate individuals/families to ensure the six foot distancing while within the church.
- Parishioners will need to enter through only one designated door, follow social distancing guidelines during the line for communion, and exit the church through a separate door.

## Holy Communion:

- The distribution of Holy Communion will take place after the conclusion of Mass. After receiving communion, the faithful are to depart and not return to their pews.
- Distribution of the Precious Blood remains suspended at this time.
- Parishioners are strongly advised to receive the Body of Christ in the hand.
- Priests and deacons (or any other minister) will wear a mask for the distribution of Holy Communion and are to use hand sanitizer before, immediately after, and if necessary, during the distribution of communion if contact is made with any person's hand or tongue.

**During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Sunday obligation to attend Mass remains suspended at this time.**

**For additional information on all directives, in addition to proper safety and sanitation protocols that will need to be followed, visit [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org).**



# Three men to be Ordained to Diocesan Priesthood June 27

SCRANTON – Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will serve as ordaining prelate when three men are ordained to the sacred priesthood for service in the Diocese of Scranton on Saturday, June 27, at 10 a.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton will broadcast the ordination ceremony live.

The Sacrament of Holy Orders will be conferred on the three native sons of the Diocese, who were ordained transitional deacons a year ago



**Rev. Mr. Jonathan P. Kuhar**



**Rev. Mr. Shawn M. Simchock**



**Rev. Mr. Kevin M. Miller**

Rev. Mr. Shawn M. Simchock, 44, of Hazleton, son of the late William and Janet Simchock. He is a member of Queen of Heaven Parish in Hazleton.

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.

to take their final step toward priestly ordination.

The ordinandi include:

Rev. Mr. Jonathan P. Kuhar, 36, of Mountain Top,

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

Rev. Mr. Kevin M. Miller,

55, of Wilkes-Barre, son of Maureen Miller, Laurel Lakes, and the late Ronald Miller. He is a member of Saint Nicholas Parish in Wilkes-Barre.

## Leaning on the Lord

*During pandemic, Mark DeCelles ordained to the Diaconate*

SCRANTON – When Mark DeCelles was ordained to the diaconate Saturday, May 23, 2020, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, the event looked different from ordinations in the past but that didn't make it any less special or significant.

"This was certainly not what anyone expected," DeCelles said. "We're forced in this moment to recognize that we're not in control, God is in control, so I'm just really leaning on the Lord."

With only 12 people in attendance at the Mass, all wore face coverings and remained socially distant from one another due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite uncertainty around the virus, DeCelles said he finds consolation in the Lord Jesus.

"I look up at the Cross and I see Jesus saying to me, 'I've got this,'" DeCelles explained. "I don't know what the next week or the next two weeks will look like, but Jesus is here and he's with us."

DeCelles, 38, began the final step of his formation for the priesthood during his diaconate ordination. Ordination as a transitional deacon generally occurs after a seminarian has completed at least three years of study in theology and takes place usually one year prior to priestly ordination.

The deacon's mother, Mildred DeCelles, R.N., attended the Mass. His father watched the event on CTV: Catholic Television. The ordination was also livestreamed on the Diocese of Scranton's YouTube channel, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

"I was so grateful that my mom could be here and that my dad could be here in spirit. My thoughts are certainly with him. They've always been my inspiration. They've given me such a profound foundation in faith. I never grew out of that," DeCelles said. "We,



**Mark J. DeCelles lies prostrate on the floor of the Cathedral of Saint Peter during his ordination Mass. During the Litany of Supplication, the assembly, through the intercession of the saints, asked for God's blessing for DeCelles. (Photos/Mike Melisky)**

as a Church, we're made for each other. We build each other up with our gifts. I really feel built up by my family and I hope that, I too, can build others up in my role as a deacon."

During his ordination to the diaconate, DeCelles promised obedience to the bishop and his successors and took on the vow of celibacy. Once ordained, he was vested with a stole and dalmatic. The vestments are worn by deacons during liturgies.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera then presented DeCelles with the Book of the Gospels so that he may proclaim the Good News and model his life after Christ. As he presented the Book of the Gospels, the bishop said to him, "Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you have become. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach."

During his homily, Bishop Bambera reminded DeCelles that to be an authentic disciple of Jesus means being a servant to others.

"If you want your ministry as a deacon

to be fruitful Mark, you must root yourself in Jesus' life and love. The disciplines of prayer, obedience and celibacy that you are called to embrace this day are meant to enable you to grow in the same spirit of service and mercy that so characterized Jesus' ministry," the bishop said.

As a deacon, DeCelles will proclaim the Gospel, preach homilies, serve at the altar of the Lord, distribute Holy Communion to the faithful, baptize, and preside at weddings and funerals and other prayer services. He is also called to be the living and working expression of charity of the Church.

"As Pope Francis has reminded us, you are to go to the margins of our world where you will find the poor and the broken. Be generous in your service Mark, imitating the Lord who washed the feet of the apostles at the Last Supper," Bishop Bambera added.

When asked if he is ready to accept these duties, DeCelles did not waiver, thanking those who have aided in his formation.



**Bishop Joseph C. Bambera lays his hands upon Mark J. DeCelles' head, saying the Prayer of Ordination, on Saturday, May 23, 2020, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.**

"I've had a number of opportunities and I know that I will have many more opportunities to serve the poor. We're all in the position of being poor. We're all in need of God's grace. The Lord is going to put in front of me those that he wants me to serve. I will also have to search them out a little bit but the Bishop's words ring true that I'm not going to have to search very far. The poor are always among us," DeCelles said.

A member of Immaculate Conception Parish in Scranton's Hill Section, DeCelles has been serving in his pastoral year at Saint Matthew Parish in East Stroudsburg. He also had a 2018 summer assignment at the parish communities of Blessed Sacrament and Holy Cross in the Mid Valley region of Lackawanna County.

"I'm here as a minister but I'm also a son. I'm a son of this Church and I'm a son of these communities so I owe them a lot. I owe them so much," DeCelles said after his ordination Mass.



## Planting seeds for the future Saint Francis Field takes shape in Muncy



Parishioners Nan Rusczyk, left, and Lynn Pryor prune small blueberry plants to help them flourish in the newly dedicated Saint Francis Field on the grounds of the Church of the Resurrection in Muncy.

MUNCY – It was Fall 2015 when the social justice reading group at the Church of the Resurrection decided to take an in-depth look at the recently released papal encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis' treatise on the "care for our common home," in which he implored the world's inhabitants to make safeguarding planet Earth an "urgent priority."

The examination of the Holy Father's historic document inspired a small team of parishioners to put the environmental encyclical into serious action and spread their message of care for creation to the parish at large. Creation-appreciation walks were organized, along with plant giveaways and disseminating educational messages.

However, according to group spokesperson Irmgard Seidl-Adams, it was not until they acted upon a suggestion by their pastor, Father Glenn McCreary, to get their hands dirty and turn a field on the church property into a living, visible sign of their commitment that the project began to resonate with the greater parish community.

"After several planning meetings we decided to start planting a blueberry patch of fifteen bushes," Seidl-Adams said. "We prepared the ground (last) fall and we planted the bushes this spring."

Long-term plans also call for a small grove of native trees, any one of which

parishioners can dedicate to the memory of a loved one, and a separate space for theme gardens. "These can be a meditative garden, a prayer labyrinth or a pollinator garden," she explained.

Thoughtful consideration has also been given to a garden plot, whose harvests will benefit area families in need.

"By now, our small group has grown to ten active members," said Seidl-Adams, who indicated the project has been aided by two successful fundraisers, including the sale of nature greeting cards decorated with original depictions by local artists.

Since 2017, the Muncy parish's ecological endeavor has been supported by the Social Justice Trust Fund Grant Program of the Diocese of Scranton. "(The grants) have provided training for the initial team members, seed money for our fundraisers and, now, the essentials for the blueberry patch," she said.

The fruits of the undertaking literally came to bear during the recent celebration of *Laudato Si'* Week (May 16-24) – in commemoration of the fifth anniversary of the Pope's landmark encyclical – when the blueberry patch and larger field at the Church of the Resurrection were blessed and dedicated by Father McCreary.

Coming up with a name for the hallowed ground was easy: "Saint Francis Field" (of course) in tribute to the patron saint of ecology and the natural environment.

## Penn College has major hand in creation of 'Living Chapel' destined for Italy



The Living Chapel measures 45 feet long by 30 feet wide, with heights ranging between 10 and 15 feet. The structure will remain at the Botanical Garden of Rome until social distancing rules permit a stay at the Vatican. (Photo courtesy Pennsylvania College of Technology)

WILLIAMSPORT – A massive structure which will hopefully educate people around the world in the importance of ecology can trace its roots back to Lycoming County.

Pennsylvania College of Technology, based in Williamsport, recently embarked on a substantial undertaking that may get the attention of Pope Francis since it celebrates a pressing worldwide issue near and dear to his heart.

The Holy Father's 2015 encyclical on the care for our common home, *Laudato Si'*, provided much of the inspiration for the project, which employed the welding expertise and facilities offered at the Penn College.

Referred to as an impressive structure to encourage the "ecological awakening of humanity," the so-called "Living Chapel" is a fabricated structural framework engineered and created by nine of the college's instructors and 15 students over a ten-week period.

Coinciding with the fifth anniversary of the eco-friendly papal document, the Living Chapel was previewed recently at the Botanical Garden of Rome during Global Catholic Climate Movement activities. Its formal unveiling – via a livestreaming video – is scheduled for the United Nations' World Environment Day on June 5.

When social distancing rules permit, the open-air sanctuary – made of aluminum and recyclable/repurposed materials – will visit the Vatican in Rome before moving to its permanent home in Assisi, Italy. The ultimate destination proves quite fitting since it is the birthplace of Saint Francis, patron saint of the environment, whose small church provided the footprint for the Living Chapel.

"I don't think it has sunk in yet, what it's going to mean to everybody," James N. Colton II, assistant professor of welding who led the Penn College fabrication team, said. "It's definitely a big deal."

The Penn College crew worked 3,500-plus hours and used nearly 5,000 feet of aluminum to build the four walls for the chapel, designed to integrate nature, art, music and architecture. Two sections separate to create a space in the shape of a cross. The other walls connect to form a geometric symphony of angles. The structure measures approximately 45 feet long by 30 feet wide, with heights ranging between 10 and 15 feet.

"When you enter into the space, you're enveloped by this holistic experience that is intended to be this instance of serene harmony between humanity and nature," Julian Revie, creative director of the Living Chapel and associate director of music at the Center for Music and Liturgy of Saint Thomas More Chapel at Yale University, said.

Revie's discussions with the Vatican ecology division led to the concept for the Living Chapel in order to create a unique combination of music with architecture influenced by Porziuncola, the chapel in Assisi rebuilt by Saint Francis in the early 13th century.

"The initial (plans) that we saw didn't show the complexity of the project," Colton said. "We were definitely a little bit more overwhelmed once we got into it."

Sara Stafford, a welding and fabrication engineering student from West Chester, commented, "It's just amazing to say, 'I have a couple welds on that.' Penn College creating a huge structure and piece of art for Italy. Who would have thought?"

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# Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

## June 7

### FIRST READING

EX 34:4B-6, 8-9

Early in the morning Moses went up Mount Sinai as the LORD had commanded him, taking along the two stone tablets.  
 Having come down in a cloud, the LORD stood with Moses there and proclaimed his name, “LORD.”  
 Thus the LORD passed before him and cried out,  
 “The LORD, the LORD, a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity.”  
 Moses at once bowed down to the ground in worship.  
 Then he said, “If I find favor with you, O Lord, do come along in our company. This is indeed a stiff-necked people; yet pardon our wickedness and sins, and receive us as your own.”

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

DN 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56

**Response: Glory and praise forever!**

### SECOND READING

2 COR 13:11-13

Brothers and sisters, rejoice.  
 Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.  
 Greet one another with a holy kiss.  
 All the holy ones greet you.  
 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ  
 and the love of God  
 and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

### GOSPEL READING

JN 3:16-18

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.  
 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.  
 Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.



# Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ

## June 14

### FIRST READING

DT 8:2-3, 14B-16A

Moses said to the people:  
 “Remember how for forty years now the LORD, your God, has directed all your journeying in the desert, so as to test you by affliction and find out whether or not it was your intention to keep his commandments.  
 He therefore let you be afflicted with hunger, and then fed you with manna, a food unknown to you and your fathers, in order to show you that not by bread alone does one live, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of the LORD.

“Do not forget the LORD, your God,  
 who brought you out of the land of Egypt,  
 that place of slavery;  
 who guided you through the vast and terrible desert  
 with its saraph serpents and scorpions,  
 its parched and waterless ground;  
 who brought forth water for you from the flinty rock  
 and fed you in the desert with manna,  
 a food unknown to your fathers.”

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20

**Response: Praise the Lord, Jerusalem**

### SECOND READING

1 COR 10:16-17

Brothers and sisters:  
 The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ?  
 The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?  
 Because the loaf of bread is one, we, though many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

### GOSPEL READING

JN 6:51-58

Jesus said to the Jewish crowds:  
 “I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.”  
 The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”  
 Jesus said to them,  
 “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day.  
 For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.  
 Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever.”





# Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## June 21

### FIRST READING

JER 20:10-13

Jeremiah said:

“I hear the whisperings of many:

‘Terror on every side!

Denounce! let us denounce him!’

All those who were my friends are on the watch for any misstep of mine.

‘Perhaps he will be trapped; then we can prevail, and take our vengeance on him.’

But the LORD is with me, like a mighty champion:

my persecutors will stumble, they will not triumph.

In their failure they will be put to utter shame, to lasting, unforgettable confusion.

O LORD of hosts, you who test the just, who probe mind and heart, let me witness

the vengeance you take on them, for to you I have entrusted my cause.

Sing to the LORD, praise the LORD, for he has rescued the life of the poor from the power of the wicked!”

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS 69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35

**Response: Lord, in your great love, answer me.**

### SECOND READING

ROM 5:12-15

Brothers and sisters:

Through one man sin entered the world, and through sin, death, and thus death came to all men, inasmuch as all sinned — for up to the time of the law, sin was in the world, though sin is not accounted when there is no law.

But death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin after the pattern of the trespass of Adam, who is the type of the one who was to come.

But the gift is not like the transgression.

For if by the transgression of the one the many died, how much more did the grace of God and the gracious gift of the one man Jesus Christ overflow for the many.

### GOSPEL READING

MT 10:26-33

Jesus said to the Twelve:

“Fear no one.

Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed,

nor secret that will not be known.

What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light;

what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops.

And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul;

rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy

both soul and body in Gehenna.

Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin?

Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father’s knowledge.

Even all the hairs of your head are counted.

So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Everyone who acknowledges me before others

I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father.

But whoever denies me before others,

I will deny before my heavenly Father.”

## Spiritual Communion Prayer

*It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion, which is a source of grace. Spiritual Communion is an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament and lovingly embrace him at a time or in circumstances when one cannot receive Him in sacramental Communion. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Mass. Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily.*

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.**

**I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.**

**Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,**

**Come at least spiritually into my heart.**

**I embrace you as if you were already there**

**And unite myself wholly to you.**

**Never permit me to be separated from you.**

**Amen.**

## Religious Freedom Week 2020: For the Good of All

June 22 - June 29, 2020



Beginning June 22, the Feast of Saints Thomas More and John Fisher, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops will celebrate Religious Freedom Week. Join us in promoting religious freedom *For the Good of All*.

All people desire to know their Creator. All people have a natural impulse to seek the good and to live in accordance with that good. All people can flourish when they pursue the truth about God and respond to the truth.

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 the community of nations.

Learn more at [www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek](http://www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek)

# Wedding Anniversary Mass to be livestreamed June 14

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

The Mass will be livestreamed and anniversary couples will be invited to participate in the Mass from home, using the Wedding Anniversary Mass program which they will have received in the mail. Anniversary packets, with updated information for celebrating couples, have been mailed to all couples whose names were submitted by parish offices.

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

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

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

For additional information about the 2020 Wedding Anniversary Mass, please see the Diocese of Scranton website.

## *Renewal of Commitment* (for use during Wedding Anniversary Mass)

**Bishop Bambera:**

On the anniversary of that celebration at which you joined your lives in an unbreakable bond through the Sacrament of Matrimony, you now intend to renew before the Lord the promises you made to one another. Turn to the Lord in prayer, that these vows may be strengthened by divine grace.

**Husbands: Blessed are you, Lord,  
for by your goodness I took [Name] as my wife.**

**Wives: Blessed are you, Lord,  
for by your goodness I took [Name] as my husband.**

**Husbands and Wives Together:  
Blessed are you, Lord,  
for in the good and the bad times of our life  
you have stood lovingly by our side.  
Help us, we pray,  
to remain faithful in our love for one another,  
so that we may be true witnesses  
to the covenant you have made with humankind.**

**Bishop Bambera:**

May the Lord keep you safe all the days of your life. May he be your comfort in adversity and your support in prosperity. May he fill your home with his blessings.  
Through Christ our Lord.



# Encyclical calls all Catholics to work toward Christian unity

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The 25th anniversary of St. John Paul II's encyclical "*Ut Unum Sint*" should remind Catholics "the way of ecumenism is the way of the church" and they are "called to espouse a strong commitment to building Christian unity," Bishop Joseph C. Bambera said May 25.

"Pope St. John Paul II, who worked tirelessly to build ecumenical relationships, described the impulse of working for unity between Christians as 'a duty of Christian conscience enlightened by faith and guided by love,'" said the bishop, who is chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

In the encyclical, issued May 25, 1995, St. John Paul reaffirmed the Catholic Church's "irrevocable" commitment to working and praying for Christian unity and highlighted how Christians of all denominations already are united in the experience of martyrdom.

He also called for efforts to promote a "healing of historical memories" and mutual forgiveness;



**St. Pope John Paul II and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople embrace in 1995. (CNS photo/Arturo Mari, L'Osservatore Romano)**

asked other Christians to join a dialogue on the ministry of the bishop of Rome -- the pope -- in a united Christianity; and insisted that dialogue is not a negotiation, but a sharing of the gifts God has given each community.

"*Ut Unum Sint*" is Latin for "that they may be one."

Bishop Bambera said: "We rejoice that Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have continued to advance this singular mission between the Catholic Church and other Christian communities. We celebrate numerous theological convergences that have been

discovered in ecumenical dialogues over the course of the past 25 years as we seek to grow closer together."

He noted that St. John Paul concluded his encyclical with "a profound insight from St. Cyprian's commentary on the Lord's Prayer: 'God can be appeased only by prayers that make peace. For God, the better offering is peace, brotherly concord and a people made one by the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.'"

"People seek refuge and unity in their faith community" during a pandemic, like what the world is currently experiencing, Bishop Bambera said.

"May this anniversary of Pope St. John Paul II's call for Christian unity serve as a unique pastoral opportunity to build bridges by continuing to reach out with love to all of our brothers and sisters in Christ," the bishop added. "May He heal our wounds of division and help us grow closer in unity, especially in this moment, by witnessing together to the peace of Christ that our world needs so very much."

## CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

His Excellency, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, announces the following appointments, effective at a time to be determined, given the ongoing health crisis:

**Reverend John J. Chmil**, from Senior Priest, Saint Matthew Parish, East Stroudsburg, to Pastor, Saint Ann Parish, Williamsport.

**Reverend Ryan P. Glenn**, from Assistant Pastor, Saint John Neumann Parish, Scranton, to Assistant Pastor, Saint Matthew Parish, East Stroudsburg. Father Glenn is also appointed as Chaplain, Notre Dame High School, East Stroudsburg.

**Reverend James Price C.P.**, from Pastor, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Carbondale, and Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Carbondale, to ministry within the Passionists Congregation.

**Reverend Alex J. Roche**, from Pastor, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Lake Silkworth, and Chaplain, Holy Redeemer High School, Wilkes-Barre, to Diocesan Vocations Director. Father Roche will remain Chaplain, Misericordia University, Dallas.

**Reverend Phillip J. Sladicka, V.F.**, from Administrator, Pro Tem, Saint Maria Goretti Parish, Laflin. Father Sladicka will continue to serve as Pastor, Queen of the Apostles Parish, Avoca.

**Reverend Seth D. Wasnock**, from Assistant Pastor, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Carbondale, and Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Carbondale, to Pastor, Saint Maria Goretti Parish, Laflin. Father Wasnock is also appointed as Chaplain, Holy Redeemer High School, Wilkes-Barre.

**Reverend Donald J. Williams**, from Diocesan Vocations Director, to Pastor, Saint Matthew Parish, East Stroudsburg.

**Newly Ordained Priests will be assigned to the following Parishes as Assistant Pastors:**

Saint John Neumann Parish, Scranton

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Carbondale

Saint Faustina Parish, Nanticoke



# Catholic Social Services provides help and hope during COVID-19 pandemic

*The mission of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton is to serve individuals and families in poverty and hardship, as we are called by Christ to do, and to respond compassionately to their needs.*

*During the months of April and May 2020, as we all deal with the coronavirus, we have helped thousands of our neighbors through our food pantries, kitchens and shelters. Your generous gifts support vital ministries that serve our brothers and sisters in Christ.*

## 9,676

*meals served at Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre*



## 1,059

*individual nights of emergency shelter provided at Mother Teresa's Haven in Wilkes-Barre*

## 653

*individual nights of emergency shelter provided at Saint Anthony's Haven in Scranton*



## 5,572

*individuals received help through food pantries in Scranton and Carbondale*



## 437

*individual nights of emergency shelter provided at Divine Providence Shelter in Hazleton*





# On your mark, get set, graduate!

## Notre Dame graduates cross finish line at Pocono Raceway

LONG POND – Members of the Notre Dame High School Class of 2020 had their promising futures put on the “fast track” and were given the opportunity for one final “victory lap” – literally – as the Pocono Raceway welcomed the Catholic school community from East Stroudsburg for its commencement on May 30, 2020.

The Notre Dame graduation was the first of several commencement celebrations at the tricky triangle. The racetrack graciously offered to open its doors to any school so that graduation ceremonies could take place with recommended guidelines for social distancing.

Consisting of four parts – Baccalaureate, Senior Awards, Conferring of Diplomas and a Congratulatory (Victory) Lap – the Saturday morning graduation ceremony had the Notre Dame Class of 2020 along with family members and friends take part while remaining in their personal vehicles.

“It was awesome. It was so much fun. I had a total blast. It was really great and even better than I could have ever imagined,” graduate Nicole Siciliano of East Stroudsburg said after taking her victory lap.

As the name of each of the 51 graduates was announced, the senior’s photo was displayed on the Raceway’s video board. The graduate’s vehicle then proceeded to the track to line up behind the Pocono Pace Car, which led all the vehicles for a “victory lap” around the raceway’s signature triangle loop, and ultimately to the “finish line” to dramatically conclude the ceremony – and the Notre Dame graduates’ high school experience.

Graduate Bailey Reilly’s vehicle stood out in the crowd. The top of her car was decorated with a mortarboard and a large makeshift mask was placed on the front hood.

“I wanted to be as creative as I could be. I wanted to make a lasting impression on my classmates and their family and friends,”



**Graduate cars fill the Pocono Raceway for the Notre Dame High School Class of 2020 graduation ceremony which was held on Saturday, May 30, 2020. (Photos/Eric Deabill)**

the Saylorburg graduate said.

Reilly added that she thinks she enjoyed the Pocono Raceway graduation more than she would have if it was a regular commencement.

“I loved that we were on the Jumbo-Tron. I loved that we could have all of our friends and family park behind us and they’d be able to see us on the Jumbo-Tron. My favorite part was taking the lap around the Pocono Raceway. I loved that,” she added.

The unique commencement ceremony was witnessed by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, who was on hand to offer remarks and benediction, all while Blue Ridge Cable Television provided video coverage of the event.

“As we looked for options for graduation during these uncertain and challenging times, we wanted to ensure our students had an experience to remember as they move onto their next chapter,” Jeffrey Lyons, principal of Notre Dame High School, said. “We found a great partner with Pocono Raceway in order to make this a reality and are grateful that they allowed us to use their facility. We are also thankful to

Blue Ridge Cable for their generous offer to provide technical support to carry out this special graduation ceremony.”

The longtime Catholic school principal recalled the truncated academic year and the final days of normalcy in March, which at least saw the district-champion Notre Dame Mock Trial Team compete in the regional finals.

“But everything stopped two days after that,” he said. “Fortunately the Diocesan Office of Catholic Schools reacted very quickly and distance learning began immediately, with Google Classroom and all its possibilities.”

This year’s Notre Dame graduating class proved exceptional in its academic accomplishments and boasted five valedictorians for scholarly excellence. They include: Kevin Castner Jr. of Easton; Alexander Fouad of Stroudsburg; Colin Kissell of Cresco; Justin Peeney of Stroudsburg; and Bianca Pigon of East Stroudsburg.

Each provided a brief speech for the commencement ceremony.

“I know all of you are capable of

success beyond your wildest dreams. The only variable in that equation for success is you. I hope all of you can find your favorite part of this treat we call life,” Kevin Castner said during his speech.

“A piece of advice to my class: cherish what you have and remember what you had. Remember high school for what it was – a building block for our lives, a place to discover ourselves, and a place to learn from others,” Alexander Fouad said.

“Our time together at Notre Dame ended abruptly, and I know that not one of us feels that was fair. The best thing to do now is to look back at fond memories and impressive accomplishments with a smile and pride,” Colin Kissell added.

“Class of 2020, I encourage you to break out of your comfort zone as you move on from Notre Dame High School. Surround yourself with people who support you, and don’t forget to be that support for everyone else. Try something new, seize opportunities, and create adventures,” Justin Peeney said during his remarks.

“I would like to point out that Notre Dame’s Class of 2020 is the best at adapting to new and uncharted situations. I remember our teachers calling us ‘the guinea pigs’ of Notre Dame because if there was a new schedule set in place, a new teacher or a new class, our class was seemingly the group to experience it first. We never expected to get hit with a curveball during our last months of senior year, and we never thought we would be graduating on Pocono Raceway either,” Bianca Pigon said.

Forty-eight members of the Class of 2020 will attend institutions of higher learning, 11 of whom will do so at Catholic colleges/universities. Two graduates will enter the work force and one plans to pursue military service.

Notre Dame seniors merited a total of 136 scholarship awards worth nearly \$6.8 million.



**Bishop Joseph C. Bambera hands a diploma to a Notre Dame graduate trackside during the Class of 2020 commencement ceremony at Pocono Raceway.**



**Bailey Reilly of Saylorburg drives across the finish line at the Pocono Raceway. Reilly decorated the top of her car with a Notre Dame mortarboard and placed a mask on the front hood.**



# PA Catholic Conference urges Wolf administration to not divert CARES Act funding from private schools

HARRISBURG — The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference is urging Governor Tom Wolf to halt his administration's efforts to divert federal CARES Act money away from private schools.

The governor and the Pennsylvania Department of Education are looking to take away most of the funding for private schools that Congress wants distributed equitably in COVID-19 relief to ALL schools in Pennsylvania and across the country.

Pennsylvania received \$471

million in funding from Washington D.C., but PCC Education Director Sean McAleer says, "The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) created its own set of rules to distribute that money that blatantly ignores federal guidance. The end result significantly lowers the amounts to be given to Catholic and nonpublic school students."

McAleer broke down the disparity this way, saying, "the Wolf Administration is calling for roughly \$19 million to go to Catholic and nonpublic

school students, while Washington is calling for \$66 million. The Wolf administration is misappropriating some \$47 million in federal funds and harming families who have chosen to send their children to Catholic and nonpublic schools."

"Catholic and nonpublic school students matter," McAleer added. "Mr. Wolf, please follow the federal guidelines! In a time when thousands of Pennsylvania's children and families are suffering and struggling to make ends meet, the administration has chosen

to cause further harm by refusing to allocate money as directed by the federal government."

For more information on this issue, including ways to submit an online letter to the Governor's office as well as Pennsylvania Secretary of Education Pedro Rivera, visit [www.pacatholic.org](http://www.pacatholic.org).

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

## "Our classis a family"

### *Saint John Neumann Regional Academy graduates told to serve generously*

WILLIAMSPORT — As pictures of each Saint John Neumann Regional Academy graduate flashed across a projection screen, the theme of the Class of 2020 commencement instantly became clear.

"Our class is literally a family," valedictorian Josiah Reid of Linden said, speaking on behalf of the 13 graduates. "We eat lunch together. We have conversations about life. We share laughs. We learn how to cooperate with each other and utilize our abilities. But most importantly, we create memories that will forever be encrypted in our minds."

The Thursday, May 28, 2020, ceremony, which was held at Saint Boniface Church, was unlike any in the school's history. In addition to mortarboards and tassels, many of the graduates wore a face mask with the school's logo and maintained six foot social distancing due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Because of the coronavirus, the last time the students were physically together in a classroom setting was Friday, March 13, 2020. The school quickly transitioned to distance learning to finish out the academic year virtually.

"We lost nearly half of our last year together, but I think it only brought us closer together," Reid said emphasizing the importance of graduation night. "We wanted to be together because we realized how much we missed each other, how weird it was to not see our closest friends every day, and how



**The Class of 2020 commencement ceremony for Saint John Neumann Regional Academy was held Thursday, May 28, 2020, at Saint Boniface Church in Williamsport. (Photos/David Miller)**

important it is to show one another how much we appreciate them."

Eight of the graduating seniors will attend Penn State University next year. Some of the other schools that students will attend are Lycoming College, East Stroudsburg University and Central Penn College. At least one graduate plans to immediately enter the workforce.

In welcoming her classmates to the commencement ceremony, salutatorian Maria Helminiak of Williamsport noted this year's graduation is unique not just because of the COVID-19 circumstances.

"This is a very important year for Saint John Neumann High School. We are the 50th class to graduate from this school. The unusual circumstances of the past few months have made our journey

as seniors quite memorable in ways we are sure no other Neumann senior class experienced."

Instead of finishing their senior year with get-togethers and sporting events, Helminiak explained how the Class of 2020 has been forced to spend its final weeks away from each other.

"We took seeing our friends and going to school for granted, but this situation has shown us how much we should appreciate those moments," she added.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, Catholic Schools Superintendent Kristen Donohue, Principal Alisia McNamee and Father Bert Kozen also addressed the graduating class.

"Tonight's ceremony might look different but it doesn't diminish your accomplishments," McNamee told graduates. "You



**The graduates from Saint John Neumann Regional Academy participate in a "cap toss" following the conclusion of the commencement ceremony in Williamsport.**

are family, today, tomorrow and always."

Acknowledging the unique circumstances of the commencement, Father Kozen told the graduates, "It will certainly be memorable."

Highlighting the benefits of their Catholic education, Donohue said each graduate from Saint John Neumann Regional Academy is uniquely prepared for the future. She encouraged the Class of 2020 to be creative, think critically and set goals that are meaningful.

"You are all very impressive... We are so immensely proud of you," Donohue noted.

Bishop Bambera echoed that praise for the graduates. In the midst of upheaval, concern and fear with the coronavirus, he challenged the graduates to leave their mark on society.

"We need you and your gifts in our world and in our lives. We need your hope. We need your enthusiasm. We need your determination and your generous spirits and we need your faith," Bishop Bambera said.

The bishop encouraged members of the graduating class to be men and women who are concerned about others, who serve generously and are accepting of outsiders.

"You have been entrusted at Saint John Neumann with the values of the Gospel of Jesus, values that set you apart and values that make you who you are as Christians," Bishop Bambera added.

Members of the Class of 2020 from Saint John Neumann have been awarded a total of 24 scholarships, with a total value of \$842,893.



# Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Award

The Diocese of Scranton Catholic Schools Office recognizes these Seton Award winners for their achievement on the high school entrance examination and their enrollment in a Diocesan high school for the 2020-2021 school year. Families of these individuals are commended for their commitment to Catholic education, and the students are congratulated for this distinguished honor. For these students and for all young people in our Catholic schools, Catholic education impacts their formation by incorporating a strong emphasis on the spiritual that is evident in all components of the learning process. Our vision for these students is to provide them an educational experience that promotes a lifelong learning in the faith, and one that prepared them to be responsible, competent, and confident persons as citizens of our country and world. In addition, our schools are dedicated to providing a loving, safe and nurturing environment where the young learn respect for themselves and for all persons.



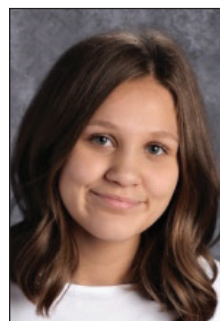
Ryan Georgetti  
All Saints Academy



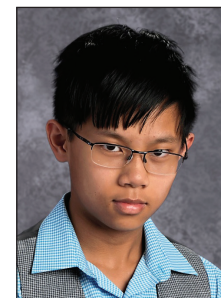
Payton Sutryk  
Epiphany School



Jorden Lech  
Good Shepherd Academy



Nicole Yencha  
Holy Rosary School



Joseph Nguyen  
Monsignor McHugh School



Carlos Vergara  
Notre Dame Elementary  
School



Luke Mozeleski  
All Saints Academy



Julia Desciak  
Good Shepherd Academy



Anna Lombardo  
Holy Family Academy



Gillian Idhaw  
La Salle Academy



Daniel Bordas  
Notre Dame Elementary  
School



Emily Brown  
Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High  
School



Regan McDaniel  
Epiphany School



Alyssa Evans  
Good Shepherd Academy



Sophia Lombardo  
Holy Family Academy



Benjamin Mulvey  
La Salle Academy



Krystie Bordne  
Notre Dame Elementary  
School



Isabella Siciliano  
Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High  
School



Alan R. Seaberg III  
Epiphany School



Hannah Jones  
Good Shepherd Academy



Abigail Miller  
Holy Rosary School



Daton Lorenzo  
Monsignor McHugh School



Matt Jankowski  
Notre Dame Elementary  
School





To the students who have benefited from a Catholic education, and to those  
who continue their educational journey in a Catholic environment,  
we salute you and pray that God, through the intercession of  
Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, guides you in

# Faith, Hope and Love.



Jessica Torres  
Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High  
School



Angelena Montefour  
Our Lady of Peace School



Clark Bower  
St. John Neumann Elementary  
School



Lainey Conway  
St. Jude School



Brady Fallon  
St. Nicholas/St. Mary School



Garrett J. Kone  
St. Agnes School



Natalie Van De Loecht  
Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High  
School



Cullen Moran  
St. Clare/St. Paul School



Dylan Hartz  
St. John Neumann Elementary  
School



Donato Strish  
St. Jude School



Ava Conrad  
St. Nicholas/St. Mary School



Aislyn R. Strange  
St. Agnes School



Isabella Bagnuolo  
Our Lady of Peace School



Brayden Sherry  
St. Clare/St. Paul School



Gabriel Cendoma  
St. John Neumann Jr./Sr.  
High School



Lillie Kochis  
St. Mary of Mount Carmel  
School



Christopher Durko  
St. Nicholas/St. Mary School



Jaden Exter  
Wyoming Area Catholic  
School



Rachel Fay  
Our Lady of Peace School



Abigail Thompson  
St. Clare/St. Paul School



Emma Gallew  
St. John Neumann Jr./Sr.  
High School



Christopher Petrucci  
St. Mary of Mount Carmel  
School



Jacob Ohrin  
St. Nicholas/St. Mary School



Talia Lasota  
Wyoming Area Catholic  
School



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## Mask making ministry continues across the Diocese of Scranton



Valeria Dalessandro, 89, a lifelong seamstress, and member of Saint Barbara's Parish in Exeter, makes one of the many masks she has provided to more than 15 people in addition to the Passionist Priests at Saint Ann Basilica Parish in West Scranton.

## Prayer Requests for Priests

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

June 4, Father Shane Kirby;  
June 5, Father Michael Kirwin;  
June 6, Father Kenneth Kizis;  
June 7, Father Michael Kloton;  
June 8, Holy Cross Father Charles Kocielek;  
June 9, Father Bert Kozen;  
June 10, Father Stephen Krawontka;  
June 11, Holy Cross Father Brent Kruger;  
June 12, Father John Kulavich;  
June 13, Monsignor Alexander Kulik;  
June 14, Father Jose Kuriappilly;  
June 15, Father Andrew Kurovsky;

June 16, Father Joseph Kutch;  
June 17, Father Arun Lakra;  
June 18, Father John Lambert;  
June 19, Father William Langan;  
June 20, Father John Lapera;  
June 21, Saint Joseph Oblate Father Victor Leon;  
June 22, Jesuit Father John Levko;  
June 23, Father Michael Litcheck;  
June 24, Holy Cross Father Thomas Looney;  
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.

## Who makes house calls?

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

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

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



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## Estate Planning

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Church united by Spirit, not personal beliefs, Pope Francis says on Pentecost

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Just as the apostles were united once they received the Holy Spirit, the church is united by that same spirit and not by keeping company just with those who agree on a certain interpretation of Christian teaching, Pope Francis said on Pentecost.

Celebrating Mass May 31 in Saint Peter’s Basilica, the pope said that those who give in to the temptation to fiercely “defend our ideas, believing them to be good for everybody and agreeing only with those who think as we do,” adhere to a faith created in their own image and “not what the Spirit wants.”

“We might think that what unite us are our beliefs and our morality. But there is much more: Our principle of unity is the Holy Spirit. He reminds us that, first of all, we are God’s beloved children. The Spirit comes to us, in our differences and difficulties, to tell us that we have one Lord -- Jesus -- and one Father, and that for this reason we are brothers and sisters,” he said.

In February, the Vatican had announced that the pope would celebrate Pentecost in Malta. However, the trip was canceled due to the coronavirus, and instead he celebrated the Mass with a limited congregation present at the basilica’s Altar of the Chair.

After celebrating Mass, the pope spoke to the socially distanced faithful gathered in St. Peter’s Square before praying the “Regina Coeli.” It was the



Pope Francis leads the “Regina Coeli” from the window of his studio overlooking Saint Peter’s Square at the Vatican May 31, 2020. The pope led the Sunday prayer from his window for the first time in three months after the square was reopened. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)

first time the pope addressed the faithful from the window of the Apostolic Palace since lockdown measures forced an end to all public gatherings.

“Today, now that the square is open, we can return here. It is a pleasure” to see you, the pope said.

Reflecting on the feast of Pentecost, the pope said the coming of the Holy Spirit turned the lives of the apostles “upside down” and made them “courageous witnesses” to Christ’s death and resurrection.

“The feast of Pentecost renews the awareness that the life-giving presence of the Holy Spirit dwells in us,” he said. “He also gives us the courage to go outside the protective walls of our ‘cenacles,’ without resting in the quiet life or locking ourselves up in sterile habits.”



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JUNE SCHEDULE

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

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
12:00 AM	DAILY MASS	SUNDAY MASS (Encore)	DAILY MASS (Encore)						
1:00 AM	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	(1:10AM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	THE JOURNEY HOME (Encore)	MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE CLASSICS	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	THE WORLD OVER (Encore)	FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE		
1:30 AM	ICONS SPOTLIGHT	EWTN GALLERY							
2:00 AM	CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN		EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Encore)						
2:30 AM	FUNDAMENTALS OF CATHOLICISM		EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY		
3:00 AM	EWTN GALLERY	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY	SPECIALS	REAL LIFE CATHOLIC	LIFE ON THE ROCK	BATTLE READY	SPECIALS		
3:30AM		DEFENDING LIFE		PAPAL AUDIENCE	SAINTS VS SCOUNDRELS	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOG	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY		
4:00 AM	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	SUDAY VESPERS	HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH	BOB AND PENNY LORD PRESENT	WEB OF FAITH 2.0	SAVORING OUR FAITH			
4:30 AM		(4:35)SUNDAY BEST WITH FR GROESCHEL	THE CHURCH:GOD'S PLAN				(4:40)REGINA COELI FROM NAZARETH	THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS	LIFE IS WORTH LIVING
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 FRANCIS	EWTN ORIGINAL PRODUCTIONS							
6:30 AM	WHERE GOD WEEPS	G.K. CHESTERTON	CHURCH AND THE POOR	FR. RUTLER: CHRIST IN THE CITY	ICONS SPOTLIGHT	THE CHOICES WE FACE	SAINTS vs. SCOUNDRLS		
7:00 AM	THE CHAPLET OF ST. MICHAEL					STATIONS OF THE CROSS	CHAPLET OF ST. MICHAEL		
7:30 AM	ROSARY FROM LOURDES	HOLY LAND ROSARY				THE HOLY ROSARY FROM LOURDES			
7:50 AM		LITANY OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	LITANY OF THE HOLY NAME	LITANY OF ST. JOSEPH	LITANY OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD		PAPAL AUDIENCE		
8:00 AM	SUNDAY MASS (Live)	DAILY MASS (Live)							
9:00 AM	(9:10AM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	SUNDAY BEST WITH FR. GROESCHEL	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION (ENCORE)	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	THE WORLD OVER (Encore)	THE FRIAR		
9:30 AM	EWTN BOOKMARK	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE					STORIES FROM THE BIBLE		
10:00 AM	SUNDAY MASS ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL	MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE CLASSICS	LIVE WITH PASSION	CTV SPECIAL PRESENTATION	SALT & LIGHT TV SPECIALS	WEEKLY NOVENA TO ST. ANN	MY CATHOLIC FAMILY		
10:30 AM			SALT & LIGHT TV- THE CHURCH ALIVE			FOCUS	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY		
11:00 AM	VATICANO	WOMEN OF GRACE						BOB & PENNY LORD PRESENT	
11:30 AM	HOLY ROSARY FROM LOURDES	THE CHOICES WE FACE	WEEKLY NOVENA TO ST. ANN	MUSIC AND THE SPOKEN WORD	THE ROAMIN' CATHOLIC	LIVE WITH PASSION	HOLY ROSARY FROM LOURDES		
12:00 PM	SUNDAY MASS (Encore)	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, LIVE AT 12:10 p.m. "DIOCESAN DATEBOOK" airs before and after Mass.						EWTN DAILY MASS (Encore)	
12:30PM									
1:00 PM	(1:10PM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	PRO LIFE WEEKLY	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	THE DOMESTIC CHUR CH	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE		
1:30 PM	IN CONCERT	THE SAINTS OF CHINA	ST.FAUSTINA: DIVINE MERCY	SPECIALS	DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH	OUR FATHER'S PLAN	EWTN BOOKMARK		
2:00 PM		CALLED TO COMMUNION	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION	FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	THE JOURNEY HOME		STATIONS OF CROSS	EWTN ON LOCATION	
2:30 PM									
3:00 PM	THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY IN SONG								
3:20 PM	REFLECTIONS								
3:30 PM	THE HOLY ROSARY IN STAINED GLASS	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, (Encore)						ROSARY FOR LIFE	
4:00 PM	LIFE IS WORTH LIVING	THE HOLY ROSARY						SUNDAY VIGIL MASS ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL	
4:30 PM	SAVORING OUR FAITH	DIOCESAN DATEBOOK							
5:00 PM	THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL	MASTERPIECE DONUT SHOP	WE ARE CATHOLIC	MY TIME WITH JESUS	CAT CHAT	BUGTIME ADVENTURES	CATHOLIC ANSWERS LIVE		
5:30 PM	SUNDAY MASS ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL	EWTN BOOKMARK	THE CHOICES WE FACE	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE	BOB & PENNY LORD PRESENT	GENESIS TO JESUS	LETTER AND SPIRIT		
6:00 PM		SPECIALS							
6:30 PM	(6:35)SUNDAY BEST ...	CATHOLICS COME HOME	REAL LIFE CATHOLICS	CHURCH UNIVERSAL	VATICANO	SPECIALS	THE JOURNEY HOME		
7:00 PM	SUNDAY MASS	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, (Encore)						DAILY MASS	
7:30PM		THE HOLY ROSARY			POPE'S AUDIENCE	THE HOLY ROSARY			
8:00 PM		DIOCESAN DATEBOOK							
8:30 PM	(8:20) LITANY OF SACRED HEART	THE JOURNEY HOME (Live)	CTV SPECIAL PRESENTATION	EWTN LIVE	THE WORLD OVER (Live)	SPECIALS	EWTN CINEMA		
8:30 PM	CATHOLICS COME HOME			EWTN NIGHTLY NEWS (Encore)					
9:00 PM	LIFE ON THE ROCK	EWTN NIGHTLY NEWS (Encore)							
9:30 PM	HOLY ROSARY W/ MOTHER ANGELICA	WEEKLY NOVENA TO ST. ANN	THE CHOICES WE FACE	FOCUS	LIVE WITH PASSION	SALT AND LIGHT TV SISTERHOOD			
10:00PM	EWTN SPECIALS	THE WORLD OVER LIVE (ENCORE)	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION (ENCORE)	FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	PRO-LIFE WEEKLY	LIFE ON THE ROCK	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY		
10:30 PM					DEFENDING LIFE	ICONS SPOTLIGHT			
11:00PM	CATHOLIC BEGINNINGS	BATTLE READY	CROSS TRAINING	CROSSING THE GOAL	LONG RIDE HOME	REAL LIFE CATHOLIC	WEB OF FAITH 2.0		
11:30PM	CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN	WOMEN OF GRACE						PARABLE	

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Mission Message

**Go  
Forth**

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



Each year, our Diocese welcomes several missionary societies to visit our parishes and share with us a message of their particular ministry to the poor and vulnerable throughout the world.

This arrangement is part of the Missionary Cooperation Plan Appeal of the Pontifical Mission Societies. The purpose of this exchange is to make us all aware of the missionary work that continues throughout the world and to give us the opportunity to support this mission with our financial support.

This Appeal usually occurs over the summer months. It will come as no surprise that this exchange will happen in a very different way this year.

Sadly, we cannot plan to welcome the many men and women – priests, religious sisters and brothers, lay men and women – to our Diocese due to

the COVID-19 pandemic.

As such, we hope to find a way to continue to support these missionary groups who will undoubtedly be adversely affected by the coronavirus.

The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese will look for ways to support these ministries while also being sensitive to how this pandemic is impacting us on a local level.

More than anything, I think it's important for each of us to adopt a missionary group, even if it's just spiritually. Our prayers and our sensitivity to the plight of the poor and disenfranchised really is powerful and a great act of mercy.

Perhaps you remember the visit of a missionary to your parish and were compelled to support them financially. That may now be a very difficult thing for you to do and that is okay.

Essentially, our sense of awareness and our willingness to hear and listen to the stories of missionaries and the lives they touch is a move in the direction of helping, supporting and making a difference for them. So please pray. Research the work of the missions that the Church is engaged in

throughout the world.

Contact our local Diocesan office to reach out to those in need. Surely, if we find ourselves in a place of great need right now, then our brothers and sisters in poverty are assuredly in an imperiled state.

There is a compelling song by Marisa Massery entitled “*Eyes of a Haitian Child.*”

The song speaks of the promise, hope and glory that rests and so clearly shines in the eyes of a child.

The music is simple, yet stirring, and sends the soul soaring even in its simplicity. It reminds each of us that there is such hope in the eyes of a child despite being surrounded by such desperate want and need.

Lately, we have been communicating a lot with our eyes. Because of masks, no longer can we see a smile on a friend or even a stranger's face. Hopefully that will not last long. Masked faces have turned us to look deeply into another's eyes to see what his or her story is.

Perhaps we can spend some time looking into the eyes of those who are desperately in need and find a way to lift them up and shower them with mercy.

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Papal Intention for June 2020

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### Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

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

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

### Aviso al 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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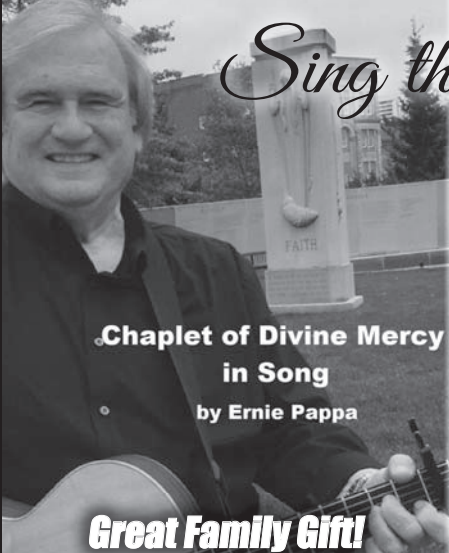
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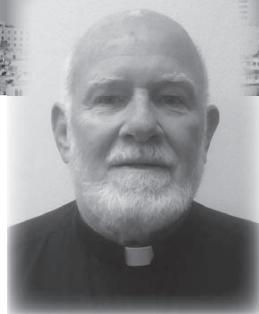
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**Father Alfred Vito Remembered; Served Diocese for nearly 36 years**

The Diocese of Scranton and its parishioners are mourning the loss of Reverend Alfred J. Vito, who passed away on Wednesday, May 20, 2020.

Reverend Vito, son of the late James A. and E. Irene Freese Vito, was born in Hazleton on February 6, 1955. He received his early education at Most Precious Blood School, Hazleton, and graduated from Bishop Hafey High School, Hazleton.

Father Vito received a B.A. from King's College, Wilkes Barre, and his MBA from Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ.

He began his studies for the priesthood at Saint Pius X Seminary and earned a M.Th. from Christ the King Seminary, New York.

Father Vito was ordained to the priesthood on September 1, 1984, in the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, by the Most Reverend James C. Timlin, D.D., Bishop Emeritus of Scranton.

Father Vito served various assignments in his nearly 36 years as a priest in the Diocese of Scranton.

He served as Assistant Pastor of Our Lady of Grace, Hazleton, and Saint Thomas Aquinas, Archbald.

Father served as Catechist at Bishop Hafey High School, Hazleton, while in residence at Most Precious Blood.

He served as Director of Religious Formation at Bishop Neumann High School, Williamsport, while in residence at Annunciation Rectory,



Williamsport, and Director of Religious Formation at Notre Dame High School, East Stroudsburg, and Chaplain at East Stroudsburg University while in residence at Saint Matthew, East Stroudsburg.

He was appointed Administrator of Saint Bernadette, Canadensis, and then their Pastor.

Father also served as Pastor of Saint Rocco and Saint Anthony of Padua, Dunmore; Saint

Lawrence, Great Bend; Saint John, East Stroudsburg; Saint Rita's, Gouldsboro and Saint Joseph, Matamoras and Saint Patrick, Milford.

He served as Senior Priest of Saint Nicholas, Wilkes Barre, and Most Precious Blood, Hazleton.

Father Vito also served as Chaplain at Mercy Center, Dallas.

Father Vito is survived by his brother and sisters: James Vito, Jr. and wife Susan, Scottsdale, AZ; Carole Dacostino and husband John, Mountaintop; Annetta Williams and husband Fillmore, Drums and Elaine Vito Boggs and husband Ron, Largo, FL. Many nieces, nephews, grand nieces and nephews also survive.

Due to the current health care crisis, a public Mass will be scheduled and announced at a future date.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Fierro Funeral Service, Hazleton.

**BOLD CHOICES: VIRTUAL EDITION**

*Finding Your Passion and Living It Fully*

All young adults (18-35) are welcome to join the Office for Parish Life and the Vocations Office for a virtual edition of ***Bold Choices: Finding Your Passion and Living It Fully*** on June 8-10, 2020.

The ***Bold Choices Retreat*** focuses on finding your life's passion and living it fully, prayer, the art of discernment, small group discussion and more!

We know that being a young adult is demanding and your schedules can be up in the air... Take advantage of this free and flexible retreat! Come get refreshed and recharged right from your home!

- Monday Night (6/8/20) Opening Session via video conference at 7:30 p.m.
- Morning email with sessions for your to watch at your leisure, handouts, additional resources
- Tuesday Night (6/9/20) optional Zoom hangout with Shannon Kowalski and Dominick Costantino at 8:00 p.m.
- Wednesday Night (6/10/20) Closing Session via video conference at 7:30 p.m.

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



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## Knights 'praying for years' for beatification of founder

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Father Michael McGivney, the founder of the Knights of Columbus, may be an ideal prospective saint for the current age, said Carl A. Anderson, supreme knight of the international fraternal order.

"We've been praying for years for this to occur, and finally this day has arrived," he told Catholic News Service May 27.

First, he's a pro-life hero. The miracle recognized by the Vatican paving the way for his beatification occurred in 2015 and involved an U.S. baby, still in utero, with a life-threatening condition that, under most circumstances, could have led to an abortion.

He was found to be healed after his family prayed to Father McGivney. "The Vatican likes to be the one to discuss more details than that," Anderson said.

The Vatican announced early May 27 that Pope Francis, who met with the board of directors of the Knights of Columbus in February, had signed the decree recognizing the miracle through the intercession of Father McGivney. Once he is beatified, he will be given the title "Blessed."

Father McGivney (1852-1890), ordained a priest for what is now the Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut, founded the Knights of Columbus at St. Mary's Church in

New Haven, Connecticut, in 1882. The fraternal order for Catholic men has become the largest lay Catholic organization in the world with 2 million members and sponsors a wide range of educational, charitable and religious activities.

The initial work on his sainthood cause began in 1982 on the Knights' centenary. His cause was formally opened in Hartford in 1997, and he was given the title "servant of God." In March 2008, the Catholic Church recognized the priest heroically lived the Christian virtues, so he was given the title "venerable."

His beatification ceremony will be held in Connecticut sometime this fall but like all other events, scheduling is uncertain because of the COVID-19 pandemic "and sometime after that, we'll be looking for another miracle," Anderson said.

Generally, two miracles attributed to the candidate's intercession are required for sainthood: one for beatification and the second for canonization.

Father McGivney, who will be the first American parish priest to be beatified and has long been a hero of working-class Catholics, can be viewed as a martyr of a pandemic. When he died from pneumonia complications at age 38 in 1890, it was during an outbreak of influenza known as the Russian flu in Thomaston, Connecticut.

### Pick-up Spaghetti Supper Sunday at Scranton Parish

Saint Lucy Parish in West Scranton announces it will sponsor a Spaghetti Bowl Giveaway on Sunday, June 7, from 1 p.m. until the dinners are no longer available.

The pick-up spaghetti supper

will feature the parish's popular homemade tomato sauce.

Service is drive-thru only. Patrons are requested to access the parking lot at Saint Lucy's off of 10th Avenue and proceed to the back of the church for delivery.



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## Knights of Columbus leave no neighbor behind

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the need has never been greater with a record number of people filing for unemployment and many people struggling to put food on the table. The Knights of Columbus Council # 12571 Lords Valley are focusing on service activities to support Brother Knights, local parishes and the community. In addition, everyone is being encouraged to feed the hungry and participate in blood drives. It is also important that all charitable initiatives be performed with the goal of keeping all members safe.

As an expression of our concern on a local level, Council 12571's Helping Hand Committee has contacted members by letter and via phone to check with them to see if they need any assistance.

A list of local contacts and phone numbers has also been provided to all for prayer, spiritual and emotional assistance as well as to alert them to the availability of food at Saint Ann Parish and the Saint John Neumann food pantries.

At Saint Ann's parish in Shohola, Knight Frank Fanelli has been providing brown bag lunches for children and senior citizens every Tuesday and Thursday since April. Frank hands the lunches out from the back of his SUV and his efforts have been appreciated by all!

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## Help our Friends and Neighbors with a gift to the Diocese Coronavirus Emergency Fund



The COVID-19 pandemic has posed many challenges for all of us. Our parishes and Diocesan ministries are facing increased risks of financial shortfalls and are struggling to pay bills and provide services due to the Coronavirus health crisis.

If you are in a position to help out, we kindly ask you to consider supporting the vital ministries provided by our parishes and our Diocese.

Go to [dioceseofscranton.org/emergencyfund](https://dioceseofscranton.org/emergencyfund) and make a gift to support:

- One of our 118 parishes
- A specific kitchen, food pantry, shelter or relief assistance program
- Any of our 20 Diocesan Catholic schools

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

**Thank you for considering a gift at this time.**

For more information, please contact Jim Bebla at 570-207-2250 or [jim-bebla@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:jim-bebla@dioceseofscranton.org)

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