

The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2020

Rejoice!



Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, center, kneels during the Litany of Supplication at the Ordination Mass for three new priests on June 27, 2020, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. The new priests, Rev. Jonathan P. Kuhar, Rev. Shawn M. Simchock and Rev. Kevin M. Miller, lie prostrate on the floor in a gesture of solemn petition. Through the intercession of all the saints, the assembly asks God's blessing for those being ordained. (Photo/Mike Melisky)

Three local men describe 'overwhelming joy' in being ordained to the Priesthood

SCRANTON – Saying that the entire Church of Scranton rejoices for their selfless gift of service to God, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera ordained three men to the priesthood at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Saturday, June 27, 2020.

The Mass was invitation-only in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, but it was broadcast live at 10 a.m. on CTV: Catholic Television and hundreds of other people watched a livestream on the Diocese of Scranton's website and social media channels.

Called forth to the priesthood were Jonathan P. Kuhar, 36, of Mountain Top; Kevin M. Miller, 55, of Wilkes-Barre; and Shawn M. Simchock, 44, of Hazleton.

"I don't even know how to begin to describe it," Father Kevin M. Miller said immediately following the Ordination Mass. "It is overwhelming joy, joy of the Lord, joy of all the people."

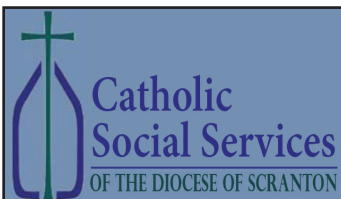
Each new priest has spent years preparing for the priesthood spiritually and academically.

"It has been a long road and I'm so happy to be here," Father Jonathan P. Kuhar said, slightly lifting his vestment in amazement. "I'm still coming to terms with it. It's great."

"It has been a glorious day. It's so exciting and there are so many emotions on my mind but it feels wonderful and I'm just excited to go to work for the people of God," Father Shawn M. Simchock said.

Despite the challenges posed by the coronavirus, family and friends of the new priests were able to socially distance themselves in the Cathedral for the celebration. Everyone in attendance also wore masks to follow diocesan guidelines.

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EMERGENCY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Friday, July 17
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Catholic Social Services Office
34 River Street
Carbondale



****Drive-Thru or Walk-Up****

Federal loan program helps parishes, schools and ministries continue vital services

SCRANTON – As many parishes in the Diocese of Scranton faced declining financial contributions due to public Masses being suspended, several turned to Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration for help.

Some recipients of PPP loans say between the drop in Sunday Mass offertory and Holy Week collections at Easter, in addition to the cancellation of major fundraising events, keeping all of their employees on payroll would not have been possible without the aid of PPP loans. The effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on operations of the Church and the economy and its long-term impact on parish operations remains uncertain for the foreseeable

future. They stress the loans allowed them to protect jobs and continue vital human services across all 11 counties in the diocese.

The federal program was established during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic to provide loans to small businesses to guarantee eight weeks of payroll-related costs and other defined non-payroll costs to help those businesses remain viable and allow their workers to pay their bills. The PPP loan program was developed as part of the \$2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act signed by President Trump in the spring.

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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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Bishop: Ordination Mass taking place during critical time in our Church

Continued from Page 1

“We gather in a very unusual way,” Bishop Bambera said during his homily. “Jonathan, Kevin and Shawn, you are entering priestly ministry at a crucial time in the life of our Church and our world. We’ve been buffeted by the harsh winds of a global pandemic that has taken the lives of hundreds of thousands of people worldwide and here at home. It has stolen our peace and well-being and become a source of fear and anxiety.”

Despite the challenges of the coronavirus and racism, the bishop said the Ordination Mass and celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Orders should bring hope.

“You take your place today among a myriad of faithful servants called forth by God to bring healing and hope to brothers and sisters who are overwhelmed by sin and suffering,” the bishop said. “The Spirit of the Lord God rests this day upon you, just as it rested upon Isaiah, Peter and Paul. As their words have echoed God’s healing touch, so too will yours, if you hold onto the treasure of God’s love.”

The bishop’s words touched each of the new priests deeply.

“I hope God’s grace works in my heart and that I’m receptive to receiving that grace all the days of my life” Father Kuhar said.

During his homily, Bishop Bambera also explained the sacred role priests play in the Church.

“While it is true that God has made his entire people a royal priesthood in Christ, Jesus chooses certain disciples to carry out publicly in His name, a priestly office in the Church. Today, brothers, He calls you to that office. He calls you to shepherd His people in a unique way, patterned on His own life of service and sacrifice,” the bishop said.

Kuhar, Miller and Simchock said they are each ready to follow Jesus’ example as a teacher, priest and shepherd.

“Always remember, when you teach in the name of Christ the Teacher – when you work for justice, truth and freedom – when you gather others into the Church through Baptism – when you forgive sins in the name of Christ and the Church – when you comfort the sick and the dying – when you serve the poor – and when you celebrate the sacraments and particularly the Sacrifice of Christ in the Eucharist – you are both a servant of the Church and a member of the People of God. Remember, then, that while you are appointed to act on behalf of the Christian faithful for those things that pertain to God, you – like all of us – are in need of God’s continued presence, life and mercy,” Bishop Bambera added.

During the Ordination Mass, Father Miller said he felt the goodwill and prayers of people across the Diocese of Scranton.



Ministers at the Ordination Mass included, from left: Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney, V.G., Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia; Reverend Jeffrey J. Walsh, V.E., Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; Reverend Shawn M. Simchock; Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; Reverend Kevin M. Miller; Reverend Donald J. Williams, Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians; Reverend Jonathan P. Kuhar; and Monsignor David Bohr, Diocesan Secretary for Clergy Formation. (Photo/Mike Melisky)

“The well wishes, the prayers that have come, the Masses that have been said, I felt every single one of them with me here today, especially those members of my family and friends that have departed,” Father Miller said.

In between being asked for blessings after Mass, Father Simchock shed a few tears as he discussed the significance of the day.

“They are tears of joy. It’s just such a joyful moment right now. It’s a lot to absorb. It really is,” Father Simchock explained.

Moving forward, Father Simchock will now serve as Assistant Pastor at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Lake Silkworth, and Saint Faustina Kowalska Parish, Nanticoke.

Saying that he already spent two summers at Saint Faustina Kowalska Parish, Father Simchock said, “I know the people. I love the people there.”

Father Kuhar has been assigned to serve as Assistant Pastor at Saint John Neumann Parish in Scranton.

“I was there the last two summers as a seminarian, last summer as a deacon and the summer before that. It’s a great

parish. I know a lot of people over there already so I’m really excited to jump into it. Father Michael Bryant and Sister Suzie Armbruster form a great pastoral team and the parishioners are just so open and wonderful and generous and giving so I’m really looking forward to getting started,” Father Kuhar said.

Father Miller will begin his ministry as Assistant Pastor at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and Saint Rose of Lima Parish, both in Carbondale.

“What a blessing. I had such a great time there last summer. I’m so looking forward to working with Father Walsh. I’m looking forward to being a part of that community that has grown to occupy a place in my heart that I will cherish forever. I’m sure no priest ever forgets his first assignment and the nice thing is I’m going into it able to hit the ground running knowing so many people and being so blessed,” Father Miller explained.

A recording of the Ordination Mass remains available for the public to view on the Diocese of Scranton website at www.dioceseofscranton.org.

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

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

Reverend Jonathan P. Kuhar, to Assistant Pastor, Saint John Neumann Parish, Scranton.

Reverend Kevin M. Miller, to Assistant Pastor, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Carbondale, and Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Carbondale.

Reverend Shawn M. Simchock, to Assistant Pastor, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Lake Silkworth, and Saint Faustina Kowalska Parish, Nanticoke.



"While it is true that God has made his entire people a royal priesthood in Christ, Jesus chooses certain disciples to carry out publicly in His name, a priestly office in the Church. Today, brothers, He calls you to that office. He calls you to shepherd His people in a unique way, patterned on His own life of service and sacrifice."

-Bishop Joseph C. Bambera



Above: Bishop Joseph C. Bambera lays his hands on each member of the elect. From left to right, Shawn M. Simchock, Kevin M. Miller and Jonathan P. Kuhar kneel before the bishop.

Above Right: All priests who are present greet the newly ordained priests.

Left: Bishop Bambera anoints the hands of Reverend Jonathan P. Kuhar.

Left Middle: Reverend Michael M. Bryant, Reverend Anthony J. Generose, J.V., and Reverend James R. Nash, help to vest the newly ordained priests. (Photos/ Mike Melisky)



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Rev. Shawn Simchock

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Rev. Kevin M. Miller, right, and Rev. Jonathan P. Kuhar, background center, give their first blessings as a priest to family and friends.

Preachers poised to inspire for 'revamped' 96th Solemn Novena to Saint Ann

2020 Novena Theme: 'By His Wounds, We Are Healed'

SCRANTON – The 96th annual Solemn Novena to Saint Ann at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Saint Ann in West Scranton will begin on Friday, July 17, and continue with consecutive days of Eucharistic worship, devotional prayer and preaching, culminating with the celebration of the Solemnity Feast of Saint Ann on Sunday, July 26.

Very Rev. Passionist Father Richard Burke, rector of Saint Ann Passionist Monastery and director of the Saint Ann National Shrine Basilica, announces the guest preachers for this year's Solemn Novena will include Passionist Fathers Mark Ward and David Colhour and Passionist Brother Andre Mathieu. Both Father Mark and Brother Andre currently are members of the Passionist religious community at Saint Ann's.

According to Father Burke, the trio of Novena preachers have chosen "By His Wounds, We are Healed" as the overall theme for the annual ten-day devotion to Saint Ann – mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary and grandmother of Jesus.

"Their theme reflects the place of the Passion of Jesus in our spiritual lives and the continuing power of His Passion penetrating the circumstances of our lives, even today," the Passionist superior said.

Father Burke also shared that the 2020 Saint Ann Novena celebrates the 300th anniversary of the founding of the Passionist religious congregation, whose charism is to foster perpetual remembrance of the Passion of Jesus among the Church's faithful.

"The Passionists do so by teaching others to pray about Jesus' Passion and see (it) as a forming foundation of life leading to new life," he explained.

Father Mark Ward has embraced and shared in the Passionist ministries in the Diocese of Scranton since 2018. A native of Dunkirk, N.Y., Father Mark entered the Passionist seminary of Holy Family in West Hartford, Conn., in 1965. He was ordained



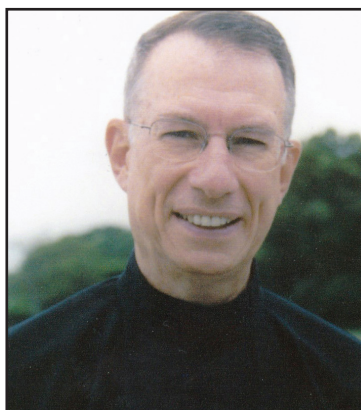
Father Mark Ward, CP

a priest for the Congregation of the Passion in 1975 and prior to arriving in Scranton, served as rector of Saint Paul of the Cross Monastery in Pittsburgh.

A native of Hartford, Conn., Brother Andre Mathieu made his profession of religious vows in the Passionist order in 1962 and has ministered in various pastoral, formation and leadership positions in the Eastern Province of the Passionists throughout his religious life. For the past eight years, Brother Andre has belonged to the Passionist community at Saint Ann Monastery, where he is the current Vicar (assistant superior).



Father David Colhour entered the Passionist congregation in 1988 and celebrated his 25th anniversary of ordination as a Passionist priest last year. The Loveland, Colo., native son has ministered to the faithful at Passionist retreat centers in Detroit, Houston, Citrus Heights, Calif., and Bangalore, India, since 1994. Father David recently completed theological studies to assume his appointment as



Brother Andre Mathieu, CP

local superior of the Passionist community in Chicago, as well as to continue his leadership in the religious congregation.

Father Burke commented that this year's Novena preachers will specifically encourage their congregation of listeners to be mindful of the continuing healing power of Christ's Passion in their lives. He said they will explore the following spiritual themes through their daily homilies:

Discovery: How do we discover who God is and what our relationship with God is called to be • Grieving • Living in hope through the turbulence of life • Challenge: What is my mission in life and where do I go from here? • Pruning, to bring about greater fruitfulness in life • Healing life's hurts • Awesomeness: Seeing life in a new way • Praying: What is it really? • Making Love Work: Discovering the genius of God's love in the Wounds of Christ • We Live All Alone & Together: Community of faith.

In addition, the Divine Liturgy of the Byzantine Catholic Rite celebrated by Bishop Kurt R. Burnette of the Passaic Byzantine Eparchy will be offered on Tuesday, July 21, at 5:30 p.m. in the Basilica of Saint Ann. The Solemn Closing of the Novena will be celebrated at 7:30 p.m. on Saint Ann's feast day, July 26, with Bishop Joseph C. Bambera presiding.

Stating that the guest preachers will take their lead from the founder of the Passionist congregation – Saint Paul of the Cross – Father Burke noted that the general and daily themes for the Solemn Novena will strike a chord of relevance to the current



Father David Colhour, CP

COVID-19 global pandemic. "We have much to pray about these days," he said.

Father reiterated that all recommended precautions for the coronavirus health crisis will be strictly followed, and that

elderly devotees and those with underlying medical conditions are encouraged to remain at home and participate in the Solemn Novena via televised broadcasts.

The implemented changes in order to adhere to current restrictions and protocols for public gatherings include the required designation for seating to comply with social distancing guidelines, which will allow a maximum of 135 faithful in the Basilica church.

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

"Our goal is to pray fervently and pray safely throughout the ten days," Father Richard said.

Worship Changes for This Year's Novena at Saint Ann Basilica

+ 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 has 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.

+ Daily afternoon Eucharistic Adoration is cancelled, in order to properly sanitize after the 11:45 a.m. Mass and Novena, and all-night 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 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.

SOLEMN NOVENA

IN HONOR OF

St. Ann

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 •

WSWB: Mon.-Fri. 6:30AM to 7:30AM; Sat. & Sun. 4:00PM to 5:00PM; Solemn Closing July 27 4:00PM to 5:00PM
On Comcast - Channel #7 & #807 • Service Electric - Channel #11 • Dish - Channel #38
DirectTV - Channel #38 • Over-the-Air - Channel #38.1 & 56.2



BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF ST. ANN PASSIONIST MONASTERY

1239 SAINT ANN STREET

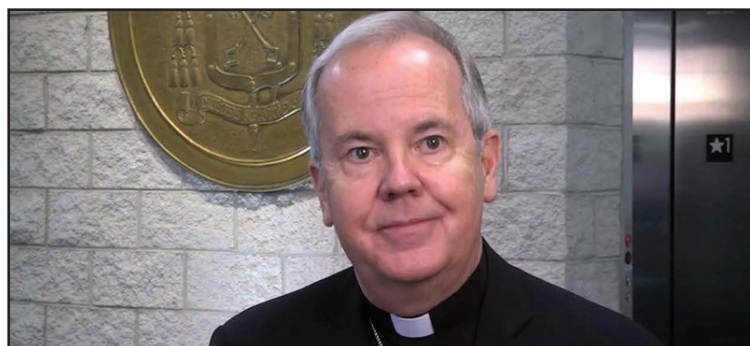
SCRANTON, PA 18504

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

SCRANTON – In both a video message and a letter to the faithful at the beginning of July, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera stressed the importance of continuing safety protocols with the threat of COVID-19 still very present in our communities.

“With the virus surging in many parts of our country, we need to be more vigilant than ever in exercising precautionary measures to keep us all safe. While all parishes in the Diocese of Scranton are now able to hold in-person Masses, this is not the time for us to let down our guard. I want to thank you – our faithful people, as well as all of our pastors and parish life coordinators – for your continued patience in following all of the safety protocols in your parishes,” the bishop wrote.

The bishop said wearing



Bishop Joseph C. Bambera stressed the importance of maintaining health and safety protocols during a video released on July 1, 2020. The video remains available on the Diocese of Scranton website.

masks at Mass and maintaining proper social distancing is really an act of charity towards neighbors.

“As a people of God, we always need to think about how our actions impact others. Maintaining proper social distancing and wearing face masks are vital in preventing the spread of this virus. They are also acts of charity,

helping to safeguard our fellow parishioners, our community and ourselves. Right now, we do not have a vaccine for the coronavirus, but we do have something that is just as important: We have the ability to help keep each other safe,” he added.

The bishop also thanked people who have stepped-up and

helped their parishes stay safe. He specifically highlighted those who volunteer to make sure people are properly welcomed and healthy and those who sanitize churches after each Mass.

The bishop also emphasized the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist and while many have been able to participate in livestream Masses, there is no substitute for being in a church.

“While our capacity for attendance might be temporarily limited – the love of God knows no limits. If nothing else, this difficult time has helped to emphasize to us how important the communal celebration of the Eucharist is,” Bishop Bambera explained.

He added, “While the Sunday obligation to attend Mass remains suspended at this time – you and I know very well that nothing can

replace coming together as a faith-filled community for the shared celebration of the Eucharist. These past months have reminded us that for as challenging and difficult as the journey may have been, Jesus alone is our light, our hope and our strength.”

Noting that many have been feeling burdened and stressed these last few months, faithful people always manage to find a hopeful way forward through the grace of God and Jesus’ abiding presence in our lives.

“As we continue to re-gather as a local church week-by-week, may the Good News of Jesus be the message that we spread far and wide. It alone has the power to provide hope and to impart lasting peace to those who open their lives and hearts to Jesus,” Bishop Bambera noted.

PPP loans used to maintain services for vulnerable and at-risk members of the community

Continued from Page 1

Businesses and all religious entities that have 500 or fewer employees were able to apply for loans.

In the Diocese of Scranton, the program helped not only parishes, but schools and social service agencies continue their critical ministries as the region struggled with the coronavirus and various stay-at-home restrictions.

The Diocese of Scranton itself applied for and received a PPP loan of \$1.2 million which was used to fund payroll-related costs for employees. Prior to receiving the loan, the diocese had announced furloughs for more than two dozen administrative staff members in March. The federal money enabled the diocese to rescind those furlough notices, in addition to keeping other employees on the payroll to provide support to parishes and those in-need in our community.

In addition to the Diocese of Scranton itself, to date, 92 other diocesan entities have received loans totaling \$10 million. Those entities include:

- Catholic Social Services
- 72 parishes
- 19 Catholic Schools

Parishes, schools and charitable organizations, such as Catholic Social Services, are separate legal entities from the Diocese of Scranton. They are like any other small business that employs local people, provides healthcare and supports the community. As such, each entity needed to apply for PPP loans individually and many received diocesan support and



Stephanie Miller, Director, Catholic Social Services Scranton & Carbondale, helps prepare for an emergency food distribution event that was held in March 2020. (Photo/Dan Gallagher)

guidance in doing so.

The loans helped Catholic Social Services continue providing meals and shelter to vulnerable and at-risk members of the community, regardless of religious beliefs. For example, during only the months of April and May 2020, when the PPP loan money was available, the Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre served 9,676 meals. During that same time period, the three homeless shelters in the Diocese of Scranton combine to provide 2,149 individual nights of emergency shelter to people in need. The impact of those federal dollars played a tremendous role in maintaining Catholic Social Services’ ability to continue its mission.

The drop in Sunday Mass offertory at parishes also put a strain on parishes’

ability to support Catholic education and the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System. Tuition-alone does not cover the cost of operations.

Immediately upon the closure of Pennsylvania schools, the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System transitioned to distance learning on the next school day. Monies from the PPP loan allowed the Diocese to keep hundreds of teachers employed and students learning during the pandemic.

Each parish made its own decision about whether to pursue federal assistance. While 72 parishes received loans, 46 others did not apply. The amount of loans for parishes that received funding varied widely based on payroll amounts and need. For example, one parish in Wayne County only requested and received a loan for less than \$1,300.

In a May 20, 2020 article with *Catholic News Service*, Patrick Markey, executive director of the Diocesan Fiscal Management Conference, discussed the importance of the PPP loans.

“This was payroll protection, not church protection, not business protection. For small organizations – parishes, churches, synagogues are small organizations – they could apply for funding based on their payroll,” he said.

In short, Markey said, “this money went where it was supposed to go.”

No PPP loan money was used to fund the Independent Survivors Compensation Program for survivors of childhood sexual abuse in the Diocese of Scranton.

Bishop Chairman comments on Paycheck Protection Program

WASHINGTON – Following the publication of a national news story on Catholic churches receiving loans through the Paycheck Protection Program, Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, issued the following statement in response:

“The Catholic Church is the largest non-governmental supplier of social services in the United States. Each year, our parishes, schools and ministries serve millions of people in need, regardless of race, ethnicity or religion. The novel coronavirus only intensified the needs of the people we serve and the demand for our ministries. The loans we applied for enabled our essential ministries to continue to function in a time of national emergency.

“In addition, shutdown orders and economic fallout associated with the virus have affected everyone, including the thousands of Catholic ministries – churches, schools, healthcare and social services – that employ about 1 million people in the United States. These loans have been an essential lifeline to keep hundreds of thousands of employees on payroll, ensure families maintain their health insurance, and enable lay workers to continue serving their brothers and sisters during this crisis.

“The Paycheck Protection Program was designed to protect the jobs of Americans from all walks of life, regardless of whether they work for for-profit or non-profit employers, faith-based or secular.

“Despite all of this, more than 100 Catholic schools have announced that they plan to close, with hundreds more facing an uncertain future. Businesses, hospitals, schools, and churches all across the country are facing many of the exact same problems. We will continue advocating for everyone negatively affected by this terrible pandemic, praying for all the sick, for all who have died and are in mourning, and especially the poor and vulnerable at this time of great need.”

When I was Hungry...

Williamsport parishioners come to aid of ‘stranded’ Lycoming College students

“International students including myself never budgeted for a summer on campus.”

Those few words of Nidhee Seernaum concisely sum up his current plight and that of 27 foreign counterparts who find themselves still on campus at Lycoming College in Williamsport.

Due to circumstances beyond their control, the so-called “stranded students” at Lycoming began to suffer a somewhat lesser-known symptom brought on by the COVID-19 health crisis – hunger.

The global pandemic delivered a “gut punch” to the 28 international students when they realized they could not just simply “go home” like their fellow collegians, as the coronavirus spread with a vengeance forcing the long-term closure of colleges and universities around the country.

International travel restrictions forced the foreign students to remain in the middle of Pennsylvania, including Seernaum, a native of the tiny island nation of Mauritius, situated off the west coast of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean.

Lycoming College responded to housing needs free of charge for their “stranded students,” but when the school’s cafeteria service closed on June 1 a stomach-churning reality set in. Most campus

jobs had not reopened yet and spending money for students became harder to come by. A food pantry was reactivated in the Academic Center’s Student Hub, but could not fully cater to the students’ dietary needs, including strict guidelines followed by those who practice the Muslim faith.

Fortunately, the crisis came to the attention of Father Bill Corcoran, pastor of nearby Saint Boniface Parish who also serves as the college’s chaplain. The students’ dire situation hit home with Father Corcoran, who knows full well about being a foreigner in a foreign land. For three years during the early 1990s, the priest served in a Vatican appointment as regional director of the Pontifical Mission for Palestine based in Amman, Jordan.

“I heard of the ‘stranded students’ through a professor of biology who is a parishioner (of mine),” Father Corcoran said. “I was shocked to hear that students were still living on campus, unable to go home. The school had nicely given them rooms and stretched the cafeteria closing date, but their conditions were rough.”

As Father explained, the college was supplying basic food stuffs through a pantry; however, the students were still struggling.

That’s when the parishioners of Saint Boniface came to the rescue. After speaking

with Lycoming Dean of Students Dan Miller, Father Corcoran arranged for the church to donate a \$100 Wegmans gift card to each of the 28 students. “The cards seemed ideal,” he said, “because each student then had the dignity of choosing his or her style of food.”

Extolling the compassion of his flock, Father Corcoran continued, “I was thrilled with our parish’s interest, though many were surprised that so many foreign students live in Williamsport. They were very interested in their backgrounds and couldn’t imagine the loneliness and boredom the students were facing.”

Not surprisingly, the students’ grateful reaction has been palpable.

“As a stranded student on campus away from home and family, this gift card didn’t only help me financially, but it also faded the feeling of alienation and loneliness I had,” said Aseel Tork, a political science major from Palestine. “It opened my eyes to a great community we have here in Williamsport.”

The Lycoming co-ed related how the generosity brought the students closer together as they used the gift cards to buy groceries and cook each other cuisines from around the world. “This made our summer nights glorious,” she said.

Seernaum’s fellow countryman from Mauritius, Vishesh Ram, a chemistry major at Lycoming, said, “The Wegmans card came as a blessing, given that work was scarce and we needed groceries. Thank you!”

Father Corcoran and his caring parishioners aren’t quite done yet. This Sunday, July 19, Saint Boniface will host a barbecue outing for the students on the church grounds, complete with a multitude of picnic foods.

“Most of the students’ families are not even of middle-class means, which is why several of the students needed scholarships to attend college,” Father Corcoran added. “Many come from countries severely hit by COVID, and some have had their family bank accounts frozen.”

He also related that these international students lost a great deal of money when they were able to begin their sojourns back to their native lands, only to have to return to America when they encountered further travel bans along the way.

“We will be forever grateful to Saint Boniface Church for this act of kindness,” Seernaum offered. “I felt supported and less lonely during such a chaotic moment away from home. I was able to buy nutritious food to get me through the break, instead of going for cheaper products to make ends meet.”

Pennsylvania Catholic Conference applauds Supreme Court rulings affirming religious liberties

HARRISBURG – The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference applauds the recent Supreme Court decisions in *Little Sisters of the Poor v. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania* and in *Our Lady of Guadalupe School v. Morrissey-Berru and St. James Catholic School v. Biel*. In both cases, the Court reaffirmed the religious liberties guaranteed

in the United States’ Constitution.

The Supreme Court ruled 7-2 in favor of Trump administration rules that give employers like the Little Sisters of the Poor more ability to opt out of providing contraceptive coverage in their health plans.

Also in a 7-2 ruling, the Supreme Court said that lawsuits against California Catholic

schools claiming job discrimination in teacher firings are barred. The court gives an exemption to the schools.

“These are incredibly important rulings for so many groups across the country,” said Eric Failing, the Executive Director of the PCC. “They take a big stand for religious liberty as a First Amendment freedom,

which is continually being threatened. We are happy the Court has clearly recognized the importance of religious liberty to our nation.”

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

SCAM WARNING!

The Diocese of Scranton would like to remind its parishioners to be on alert, and not fall victim, to ongoing scams that are once again popping up at various parishes throughout the region.

Between the months of June and July, individuals have reported getting text messages and/or emails from someone claiming to be their pastor asking for various things, most often gift cards.

The Diocese reminds everyone if you are ever concerned about a message that you receive, whether by text message or email, verify it before you take any action.

In the most recent instances, the bogus messages asked each recipient to purchase a gift card for a cancer victim on behalf of the pastor, but the scam can oftentimes take various forms. These requests are fake and should be considered a scam.

Additional reminders for the public to not fall victims to a scam include:

- Don’t click on any links or open attachments in unsolicited texts or emails
- Be extremely cautious when dealing with anyone you’ve only met by social media or text message if you don’t know who they are
- Don’t be pressured to act immediately

Prayer Requests for Priests

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

July 16, Father Glenn McCreary, V.E.; 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; July 22, Father Connell McHugh; July 23, Jesuit Father Bernard McIlhenny; July 24, Father Leo McKernan; July 25, Jesuit Father Ronald McKinney; July 26, Father Patrick McLaughlin; July 27, Father Edward Michelini; July 28, Jesuit Father J. Patrick Mohr; July 29, Father Joseph Mosley; July 30, Father

Joseph Motsay; July 31, Monsignor Thomas Muldowney, V.G.; August 1, Pope Francis; August 2, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI; August 3, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; August 4, Father Kevin Mulhern; August 5, Father Paul Mullen; August 6, Father Richard Munkelt; August 7, Father James Nash; August 8, Jesuit Father Eugene Nolan; August 9, Father Theodore Obaza; August 10, Holy Cross Father Thomas O’Hara; August 11, Father Peter O’Rourke; August 12, Passionist Father Sibi Padinjaredath; August 13, Father James Paisley; August 14, Father Francis Pauselli; August 15, Holy Cross Father Stephen Pepper; August 16, Father Jaime Perez Restrepo.



Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: July 19, 2020



FIRST READING

WIS 12:13, 16-19

There is no god besides you who have the care of all, that you need show you have not unjustly condemned. For your might is the source of justice; your mastery over all things makes you lenient to all. For you show your might when the perfection of your power is disbelieved; and in those who know you, you rebuke temerity.

But though you are master of might, you judge with clemency, and with much lenience you govern us; for power, whenever you will, attends you. And you taught your people, by these deeds, that those who are just must be kind; and you gave your children good ground for hope that you would permit repentance for their sins.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16

Response: Lord, you are good and forgiving.

SECOND READING

ROM 8:26-27

Brothers and sisters: The Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes with inexpressible groanings.

And the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit, because he intercedes for the holy ones according to God’s will.



Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: July 26, 2020



FIRST READING

1 KGS 3:5, 7-12

The LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night.

God said, “Ask something of me and I will give it to you.” Solomon answered: “O LORD, my God, you have made me, your servant, king to succeed my father David; but I am a mere youth, not knowing at all how to act. I serve you in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a people so vast that it cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong. For who is able to govern this vast people of yours?”

The LORD was pleased that Solomon made this request.

So God said to him: “Because you have asked for this — not for a long life for yourself, nor for riches, nor for the life of your enemies, but for understanding so that you may know what is right — I do as you requested. I give you a heart so wise and understanding that there has never been anyone like you up to now, and after you there will come no one to equal you.”

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130

Response: Lord, I love your commands.



Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: August 2, 2020



FIRST READING

IS 55:1-3

Thus says the LORD: All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; Come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk!

Why spend your money for what is not bread; your wages for what fails to satisfy? Heed me, and you shall eat well, you shall delight in rich fare. Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life.

I will renew with you the everlasting covenant, the benefits assured to David.

GOSPEL READING

MT 13:24-43 or 13:24-30

Jesus proposed another parable to the crowds, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everyone was asleep his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went off. When the crop grew and bore fruit, the weeds appeared as well. The slaves of the householder came to him and said, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where have the weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ His slaves said to him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’ He replied, ‘No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, “First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn.”’”

[He proposed another parable to them. “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants. It becomes a large bush, and the ‘birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches.’”

He spoke to them another parable. “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch was leavened.”

All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables. He spoke to them only in parables, to fulfill what had been said through the prophet: *I will open my mouth in parables, I will announce what has lain hidden from the foundation of the world.*

Then, dismissing the crowds, he went into the house. His disciples approached him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.” He said in reply, “He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. Just as weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all who cause others to sin and all evildoers. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears ought to hear.”]

SECOND READING

ROM 8:28-30

Brothers and sisters: We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

And those he predestined he also called; and those he called he also justified; and those he justified he also glorified.

GOSPEL READING

MT 13:44-52 or 13:44-46

Jesus said to his disciples: “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it.

[Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea, which collects fish of every kind. When it is full they haul it ashore and sit down to put what is good into buckets. What is bad they throw away.

Thus it will be at the end of the age. The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.

“Do you understand all these things?” They answered, “Yes.” And he replied, “Then every scribe who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old.”]

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18

Response: The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

Brothers and sisters: What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

GOSPEL READING
MT 14:13-21

When Jesus heard of the death of John the Baptist, he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. The crowds heard of this and followed him on foot from their towns. When he

disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, and he cured their sick.

When it was evening, the disciples approached him and said, "This is a deserted place and it is already late; dismiss the crowds so that they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves."

Jesus said to them, "There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves." But they said to him, "Five loaves and two fish are all we have here."

Then he said, "Bring them here to me," and he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds.

They all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the fragments left over — twelve wicker baskets full. Those who ate were about five thousand men, not counting women and children.



Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: August 9, 2020



FIRST READING
1 KGS 19:9A, 11-13A

At the mountain of God, Horeb, Elijah came to a cave where he took shelter. Then the LORD said to him, "Go outside and stand on the mountain before the LORD; the LORD will be passing by."

A strong and heavy wind was rending the mountains and crushing rocks before the LORD — but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake — but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake there was fire — but the LORD was not in the fire. After the fire there was a tiny whispering sound. When he heard this, Elijah hid his face in his cloak and went and stood at the entrance of the cave.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM
PS 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14

Response: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

SECOND READING
ROM 9:1-5

Brothers and sisters: I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie; my conscience joins with the Holy Spirit in bearing me witness that I have great sorrow and constant anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh.

They are Israelites; theirs the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; theirs the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

GOSPEL READING
MT 14:22-33

After he had fed the people, Jesus made the disciples get into a boat and precede him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When it was evening he was there alone.

Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore, was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified.

"It is a ghost," they said, and they cried out in fear.

At once Jesus spoke to them, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter said to him in reply, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

He said, "Come."

Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how strong the wind was he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught Peter, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" After they got into the boat, the wind died down. Those who were in the boat did him homage, saying, "Truly, you are the Son of God."



**CENTER for
MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT**

"Skills for Christian Leadership" Center for Ministry Development Virtual Course Days July 31 - August 1

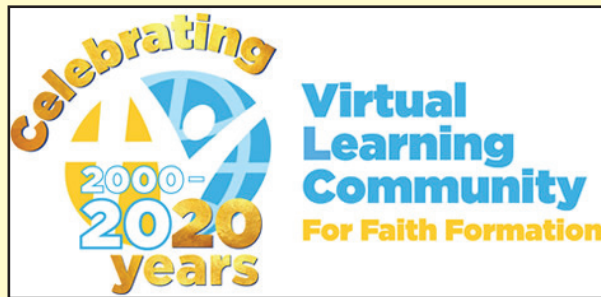
The Diocesan Office for Parish Life is excited to be offering an opportunity for parish ministers to take part in a two-part virtual course "Skills for Christian Leadership" in partnership with the Center for Ministry Development on July 31-August 1, 2020.

"Skills for Christian Leadership" addresses the theories and skills needed for principle-centered leadership in ministry. Participants will develop a practical, working understanding of leadership process and skills and the experiential ability to use the skills; the course stresses the application of leadership skills to various ministry settings, problems, and issues.

There is a \$20 registraton fee for any participant committed to the two-year Certificate in Ministry Studies/Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies tracks through the Center for Ministry Development. An \$85 fee would apply for a guest.

For more information, contact Kitty at Kitty-Scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org or register at <http://www.dioceseofscranton.org>

Calling All Hispanic Parish Ministry Leaders!



Beginning this summer, the Diocese of Scranton is pleased to offer a new opportunity for Hispanic Leaders to continue their formation for parish ministry. The Diocese of Scranton has received a grant which we are applying to scholarship participation in the VLCFF (Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation) Certificate programs through University of Dayton.

There are two tracks of VLCFF Certificate courses available, which Hispanic Leaders can choose from:

- Certificacion en Catequesis
- Certificacion en Fundamentos para el Liderazgo en el Ministerio

More information about each certificate track can be found on the Diocese of Scranton's website.

To enroll or for more information about this scholarship opportunity, please contact Kitty Scanlan, Coordinator for Ministry Formation, at Kitty-Scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org

Diocesan Catholic Schools working on safe reopening plan

SCRANTON – With the end of August quickly approaching, the Diocese of Scranton Catholic Schools Office is diligently working on a plan to reopen its school buildings in a safe and prudent manner.

The Diocese says its goal is to reopen for in-person instruction this fall in a way that, above all else, prioritizes the best interest, safety and health of all students, faculty, staff and school families.

The Diocese has developed a Diocesan Health and Safety planning committee which is comprised of diocesan and local school administration and clergy along with medical professionals with expertise in pediatrics and quality assurance.

“The overarching goal of our Diocesan Health and Safety committee is to minimize the risk of the spread of coronavirus, while also promoting healthy habits for our students and school families,” Jason Morrison, Chief Executive Officer and Diocesan Secretary of Catholic Education, said.

At the same time, the reopening strategy will also include planning for the ever-changing dynamic of the virus. A subcommittee has been developed which is focused on enhancing distance learning should there be a statewide closure again. Additionally, the Diocese is looking into the logistics of a virtual offering if there is a desire or need for families to have this option.

“Understanding the fluid nature of this disease, we are charged with making decisions now based on the most recent scientific evidence available through our local, state and national agencies and associations,” Kristen Donohue, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, said. “Our commitment is to keep students, families and staff informed and assured that each decision will only be made with the best interest, health and safety of all.”

While COVID-19 has taken a lot away from people, and this year students will not be sharing items like normal, the Catholic School System says there is one thing it wants students to share – good health.

As a result, the Diocese will be producing a series of videos entitled, “Sharing Good Health,” which will help lay out the reopening plan.

The first video was released this week and featured five fundamentals that will be commonplace at all 19 Catholic Schools throughout the Diocese. They include daily temperature checks, promoting proper handwashing and good hygiene, physical distancing measures, wearing face masks and additional cleaning and disinfection.

“Classroom spacing is being developed to ensure physical distancing. That will also apply to hallways, cafeterias and even recess for our youngsters,” Donohue said in the video. “Access by visitors and volunteers will be limited and only considered when absolutely necessary.”

In an effort to promote good

hygiene and a healthy environment, students will also be permitted to wear “summer uniforms” throughout the school year. Each school will provide further details of the summer uniform policy. The goal of that change is to make sure clothing items worn by students are properly washed and don’t become a carrier for any type of virus or disease.

During the first “Sharing Good Health” video, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera also thanked families for their commitment to Catholic education.

“This coming year will require the best of each one of us – and I know that by working together – we will be able to conquer any challenge that we face,” Bishop Bambera said.

To view the “Sharing Good Health” video, visit www.dioceseofscranton.org/Catholic-Schools.

Diocesan Health and Safety Committee

- Cathy Chiumento, M.S.**
Vice Principal of Holy Cross High School
- Eric Deabill, B.A.**
Diocesan Secretary of Communications
- Kristen Donohue, M.Ed.**
Superintendent of Catholic Schools
- Kathleen Gilmartin, M.S.**
Associate Superintendent of Catholic Schools
- James Jones, M.S.**
Principal of Good Shepherd Academy
- Katherine Lincoln, D.O., FFAFP, FACOFP**
Wound Care Specialist, Chair of Clinical Quality Care Committee at Guthrie Hospital and Parent
- Michele Long M.S.**
Associate Superintendent of Catholic Schools
- Jason Morrison, M.B.A.**
CEO/Diocesan Secretary of Education
- Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney**
Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia
- April L. Troy, M.D. M.P.H.**
Board Certified Pediatrician and Pediatric Regional Education Coordinator for Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine and Parent

Sharing Good Health: Five Fundamentals

Our goal is to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19

1) Daily Temperature Checks

Temperature readings will be required daily for every person entering a school building. Any student or staff member who is ill will need to stay home.

2) Promoting Proper Handwashing & Good Hygiene

Proper handwashing and using hand sanitizer will be stressed upon entering a building or classroom, before and after lunch and at the end of the day. Uniform policy will be altered to the summer uniform so that clothes can be laundered daily.

3) Physical Distancing Measures

Classroom spacing is being developed to ensure physical distancing. Emphasis will also be placed on distancing in hallways, cafeterias and at recess (if applicable). Visitors and volunteers will be limited to keep germs from spreading.

4) Masks will be Required

By Order of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, students will be required to wear a mask except when eating or drinking.

5) Cleaning and Disinfection

Every school will increase the cleaning of classrooms, common areas and frequently-touched items including door handles and counter tops.

School policies must be flexible in responding to new information or guidance from federal, state or local officials.

Holy Redeemer Class of 2020 celebrates graduation at PNC Field

MOOSIC – The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may have thrown a curveball into traditional graduation plans for students at Holy Redeemer High School but it didn't result in a strikeout.

On Wednesday, July 8, the Class of 2020 officially graduated at PNC Field, receiving diplomas after traveling down the first-base line and crossing a stage set up near home plate.

"I'm a softball player so I think it's pretty cool that we get to graduate on a baseball field. I'm okay with the way things turned out," graduate Meredythe Baird said. "We did miss out on a lot, that's the nature of the (COVID-19) disease."

A total of 114 students received diplomas during the 75-minute ceremony. In order to follow recommended guidelines for social distancing, graduates sat in several rows between the first-and-third base lines.

Graduate Joseph Delaney, who plans to go onto Mansfield University and study sports communication, was excited when he first learned that he would be graduating at PNC Field.

"I grew up at the baseball field learning things about sports, always wanting to become a commentator, and even doing little league color commentary at times. It's definitely going full circle for me," the 18-year-old student said.

Delaney admits he didn't even know what graduation would look like at first during the height of the coronavirus.

"This year has been crazy. Honestly, it's a little surreal that we're finally able to graduate because it has been a rollercoaster of emotions," he said.

While admitting that he was excited to get to see the Class of 2020 on the big screen at the stadium, Delaney said the most important thing was that his classmates got to come together one last time.

"We had surveys. They kept asking us 'what do you really want,' and the main thing I said is we wanted it to be in



Members of the Holy Redeemer Class of 2020, located between the first-and-third base lines, participate in a Commencement program on July 8, 2020, at PNC Field in Moosic.

person, we wanted to be with everybody," he explained.

Holy Redeemer principal Doreen Dougherty said administrators worked extremely hard to listen to what was important to both students and families.

"We did four separate Zoom conferences with all of our seniors invited to participate. We then had four separate Zoom conferences so all of our parents and guardians had the opportunity to weigh in as well. The input from those conferences helped us develop a survey to our senior class and invited them to finalize their thoughts as far as what they wanted Baccalaureate and Commencement to look like," Dougherty said.

In addition to graduation being a special occasion for students, Dougherty added that it was also special for seven faculty members who retired at the end of the year after decades of combined service.

The valedictorian of the Holy Redeemer Class of 2020 is Brandon Gebenus of Wilkes-Barre. The salutatorian is Marissa Jason of Wilkes-Barre Township. Both

addressed their fellow graduates during the graduation ceremony.

At the beginning of his speech, Gebenus discussed the coronavirus, encouraging his fellow graduates to remain strong, courageous and not be afraid.

"We all will have sad and challenging times to go through. The important thing is for us to stay strong and to keep faith in God's love for us. We must allow God to guide our actions here on earth so we can make the world a better place and so we may somebody share eternal happiness with God in heaven," he said.

As a graduating class born in the aftermath of the 9/11 terror attacks, Gebenus stressed the Class of 2020 is destined for greatness because of the values learned at Holy Redeemer.

"We are a graduating class that knows now more than ever how much the world needs unity. We are a class that knows the importance of involvement in social, church, and community services. We are a class that knows we each have the responsibility as citizens of the United States of America

to exercise our right to vote. We are a class that knows we have the power to help end racial discrimination and lead the efforts to combat disease, poverty and climate change," he added.

During her salutatorian address, Jason looked towards the future but also reflected on her high school experience.

"Holy Redeemer teaches far more than academics. In that building, you learn kindness, faith, altruism, and how to have a little fun in class. Holy Redeemer has provided us with the academic, social and spiritual tools we need to thrive," she said.

At the conclusion of the graduation ceremony students got to participate in the traditional cap toss because administrators ordered each student a second cap that wouldn't need to be retrieved so that no one intentionally broke social distancing guidelines during the pandemic.

"It's not every day you get to have a graduation at a place like this," graduate Jack Daoud of Wilkes-Barre said. "We're just blessed!"

Daoud plans to study architectural engineering at Penn State in the fall. He said he was excited to graduate at PNC Field. While he is a Mets fan, not a Yankees fan, he said that didn't dampen the excitement.

"I remember growing up, playing baseball, how much fun I had. It's awesome it came full circle and I get to graduate here. It's definitely a unique experience," Daoud added.

Following their high school career, a total of 99 graduates will be attending a four-year college or university, including 35 who will be pursuing higher education at a Catholic college or university. Eight students plan to attend a two-year college, four will enter the work force and three will be entering military service.

The Holy Redeemer Class of 2020 received a total of 474 scholarships, earning more than \$26 million.



Graduates walk into PNC Field to begin their Commencement ceremony.



Despite social distancing guidelines, Holy Redeemer graduates were able to participate in the traditional 'cap toss' because the school ordered two caps for each graduate.



Graduate Caitlyn Blaum receives her diploma from Bishop Joseph C. Bambera.

Diocese of Scranton
CATHOLIC
 SCHOOL SYSTEM
 FAITH • ACADEMICS • SERVICE

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



Class of 2020 eighth grade graduates from **All Saints Academy in Scranton.**



Class of 2020 eighth grade graduates from **Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore.**



Class of 2020 eighth grade graduates from **La Salle Academy in Jessup.**



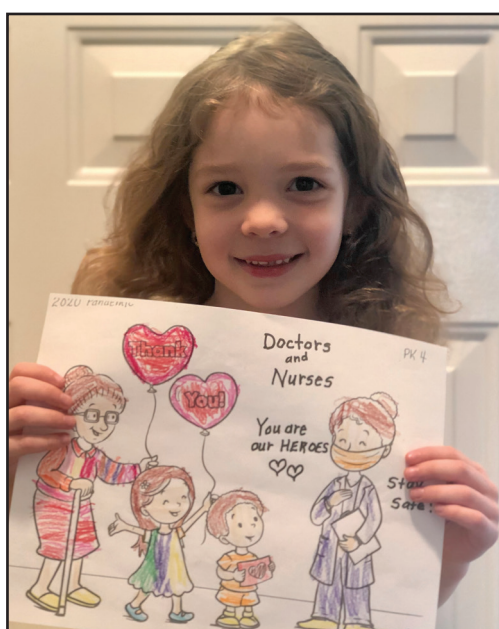
Eighth grade student Stephen Renfer celebrates his graduation with a school parking lot parade after the ceremony at **Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter.**

Seniors at Holy Cross High School in Dunmore are preparing for their graduation activities with their Baccalaureate on July 19th and Commencement on July 20th.





Earlier this year, students at **Saint Agnes School in Towanda** learned how hard it is to be a living statue.



Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston



Students from **Epiphany School in Sayre** share their stained glass chalk drawings as part of the school's weekly Facebook Challenge.



Under the guidance of their teacher, Mr. Dan Banicky, 45 seventh and eighth grade students from **Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green** participated in the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS) competition. Thirty of those students earned 'First Awards' that would have advanced them to the state competition at Penn State University had it not been cancelled this spring.



Addisyn and Zane Wolfe, students at **Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport**, say hello to their principal, Mrs. Alisia McNamee, at a school hosted drive-thru parade. Mrs. McNamee and the teachers greeted families and delivered treats to the students.



After months apart, students at **Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton** are looking forward to being back together again so they can capture moments like this from Catholic Schools Week 2020.



Lester and Eileen Kempinski, recently retired teachers at **Saint Jude School in Mountain Top**, pose with their sons and granddaughter as they were honored at a drive-by "retirement parade." Eileen and Lester taught at Saint Jude's for a combined 89 years. Eileen taught for 45 years, while Lester taught for 44 years.

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Who makes house calls?

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

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

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



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Natural Family Planning Awareness Week slated for July 19-25

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Natural Family Planning Awareness Week is slated for July 19-25 this year and has as its theme: “*Live the truth and beauty of God’s plan for married love!*”


The weeklong observance is a national educational campaign of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops that celebrates “God’s design for married love and the gift of life and to raise awareness of natural family planning methods,” said a USCCB news release.

The week annually highlights the July 25 anniversary of St. Paul VI’s 1968 encyclical, *Humanae Vitae* (“Of Human Life”), which affirmed Catholic teaching against artificial contraception and provides clear teaching “about God’s plan for married love and the transmission of life.” The week also includes the July 26 feast of

Sts. Joachim and Anne, the parents of the Blessed Mother.

Natural family planning, or NFP, involves the monitoring by a married couple of the various biological signs indicating a woman’s time of fertility and infertility. It can be used both to avoid pregnancy or to aid in becoming pregnant.

St. Paul in *Humana Vitae* said the only licit means of regulating birth is natural family planning. In the document he asked scientists to improve natural family planning methods “providing a sufficiently secure basis for a regulation of birth founded on the observance of natural rhythms.” In the 50-plus years since the encyclical there has been an explosion of research into methods of natural family planning.




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Editorial Eulogy: Monsignor Donald A. McAndrews

"Rejoice and be glad!" Such simple and inviting words – words that Jesus imparted to His very first disciples as He told them how they were to live their lives each day if they genuinely desired to embrace the Kingdom of God on earth and know it forever in Heaven.

For more than 91 years, 66 of them as a devoted and faithful priest of the Diocese of Scranton, Monsignor Donald A. McAndrews lived his life with that very spirit. In his own singular fashion, he *did* rejoice and he *was* glad because he understood deeply the Gospel of Saint Matthew just proclaimed wherein the Lord taught us all that to follow Him is to care for the poor, the needy, the meek, the humbled and all those who struggle with life's many challenges, burdens and worries.

Throughout the nine decades of his earthly journey homeward, he was unfailingly grateful to God for the gifts of his faith, his beloved family and his countless friends. He stirred hearts, lifted spirits and, with his hallmark determination to always "get the job done," he *made* a difference in the lives of those whom he served by consistently living out the Beatitudes which we just heard.

As our eloquent shepherd, Bishop Bambera, the former pastor of this parish in which we gather this morning said last week: "Monsignor McAndrews was a selfless priest who devoted his life to bringing God to his people, showing them through word and example just how much God loves them."

As all gathered in this church this morning can attest, Monsignor McAndrews really did all he could to share that love. And he always did so in the spirit of rejoicing and being glad.

Which is why, on behalf of those so kindly gathered today to lovingly remember this good man of God and on behalf of all of those unable to be with us at this time, I extend to you, Mary, Monsignor's ever faithful and supportive sister, and to the entire McAndrews family the love and sympathy of all who mourn his death, remember gratefully his life and pray fervently for his eternal peace.

As these good souls know so well, his family was central to his life from its humble origins in 1929 through his formative

years in this beautiful Church of Saint Thomas Aquinas where he was baptized, received First Communion, was confirmed and would later celebrate his First Mass as a priest. It was in this historic parish where he would attend its parochial school and then later make his way across the street to Archbald High School for the next chapter of his education.

The then-young Donald McAndrews would head on to the University of Scranton in 1946 and later make his way through his seminary years at Saint Peter's in Canada prior to his being ordained a priest in 1954 for the Diocese of Scranton. Just a few years later, the young Father McAndrews would enthusiastically complete his graduate studies in Social Work at Washington's Catholic University prior to his returning home to commence in 1961 his three amazing decades of visionary service as the Executive Director of Catholic Social Services for the Wyoming Valley and Hazleton communities.

Throughout those years and beyond, he continued amazingly to also serve the People of God as the beloved chaplain at College Misericordia and later as an outstanding pastor at Saint Mark's in Inkerman and later at Saint Aloysius in Wilkes-Barre.

Over the course of those many years, he was responsible for developing many new community service programs such The Bridge Youth Program, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, the Court Advocate Program, Gabriel House, and Project HEAD for the elderly. He also served on the boards of directors of more than nine healthcare institutions and agencies.

In 1968, he was the co-founder of Ecumenical Enterprises in a new effort to address the housing needs for the elderly and low-income families in Luzerne County. Fifty-plus years later, the group currently employs some 300 individuals who today serve more than 2,000 residents in multiple facilities.

In 1983, he founded the Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre where more than 400 guests are fed, cared for and served each and every day. Throughout it all, this remarkable servant leader remained joyful in spirit and forever welcoming in his ways.

Monsignor McAndrews understood well the words of Saint Paul as shared in today's reading from his Letter to the Romans where he told all that: "*No one lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord.*"

The patron saint of parish priests, Saint John Vianney, would echo the same sentiment when he once said that "*a priest is a priest not for himself...he is for you.*"

What we celebrate today in the life of Monsignor Donald A. McAndrews is the daily living out of his vocation to the priesthood in such an admirable fashion that for his 66 years as a priest he truly was happy. He did rejoice. He was glad. And we all stand grateful to God for the blessing and gift of his graced life.

So, dear friend, rejoice and be glad. May your reward in heaven be great. May you know God's love forever.

Excerpted from the homily by Monsignor Joseph G. Quinn at the Mass of Christian Burial celebrated for Monsignor Donald A. McAndrews on June 23 at Saint Thomas Aquinas Church in Archbald.

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Bishops renew nuclear disarmament call as 1945 bombing anniversary nears

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Members of a U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' committee renewed a long-standing call for nuclear disarmament as the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombing of two Japanese cities neared.

The Committee on

International Justice and Peace, chaired by Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, Illinois, also urged the world community and parishioners to pray for the goal of disarmament, especially during Masses Aug. 9.

The call came in a statement released July 13. The bombings of Hiroshima, Japan, on Aug. 6, 1945, and Nagasaki, the center of Japan's Catholic community, three days later led to the end of World War II.

The eight committee members and two bishop consultants echoed Pope Francis, who during a visit in November to Nagasaki said, "A world of peace, free from nuclear weapons, is the aspiration of millions of men and women everywhere."

They also cited the pope's words in urging the world to undertake a "joint and concerted" effort to end the threat nuclear weapons pose to life on earth by building mutual trust and "thus surmount the current climate of distrust."

The statement expressed concern for "geopolitical conflicts with state and nonstate actors, increasingly sophisticated weapons and the erosion of international arms control frameworks" as threats to world peace.

"The bishops of the United States steadfastly renew the urgent call to make progress on the disarmament of nuclear weapons. The church in the U.S. proclaims her clarion call and humble prayer



The Atomic Bomb Dome is seen in Hiroshima, Japan, Aug. 6, 2019. (CNS photo/Kyodo via Reuters)

for peace in our world which is God's gift through the salvific sacrifice of Jesus Christ," the statement said.

The bishops concluded the statement by saying, "Fear, distrust and conflict must be supplanted by our joint commitment, by faith and in prayer, that peace and justice

reign now and forever."

The statement was accompanied by a set of resources, including prayers, study guides and action steps that are available online at www.usccb.org/nuclear.

The members of the USCCB Committee for International Justice and Peace are: Bishops Joseph C. Bambera of Scranton, Pennsylvania; Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida; and Michael Mulvey of Corpus Christi; retired Bishop William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, New York; Coadjutor Bishop Alberto Rojas of San Bernardino, California; and Bishop Abdallah Elias Zaidan of the Maronite Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon.

The committee's bishop-consultants are Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City and Bishop Frank J. Caggiano of Bridgeport, Connecticut.

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COVID-19 has contributed to the permanent closure of 130 Catholic schools across 23 states. Additionally, internal surveys show ten percent of Catholic schools are now uncertain if they can open their doors this fall. That means as many as 500 or more Catholic schools could be in jeopardy.

Please join the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference and the USCCB in asking Congress to include additional relief for Catholic schools in the next emergency relief package.

Public schools are asking for \$300 billion and it is important to make sure that hard-hit Catholic school families also receive emergency relief. Please take a moment to contact your members of Congress to ask for emergency aid to Catholic schools and hard-hit families in the next COVID-19 relief package. We are asking Congress for direct funding to families for education expenses, including Catholic school tuition.

We encourage you to add your own personal story about your Catholic school experience in the message as well.

Catholic schools urgently need help in this time of uncertainty. Please contact your members of Congress today!

For a link to send a message directly to your members of Congress, visit www.dioceseofscranton.org or www.pacatholic.org.

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**Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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IHM Sister Farfour Dies at Residence

SCRANTON – Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Maryla Farfour died on June 20 at Our Lady of Peace Residence, where she was residing and serving in the prayer ministry since 2015.

A native of Goldsboro, N.C., Sister Maryla entered the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary on Sept. 8, 1952, and professed her final vows Aug. 3, 1958.

During her religious ministry in the Diocese of Scranton, Sister Maryla was the longtime moderator of the Marywood Seminary Alumnae Association from 1992 to 2017.

As a Catholic school educator, Sister Maryla taught music at Saint Clare Elementary School, Scranton; Marywood Seminary High School; and Saint John Elementary and High Schools in Pittston.

Sister Maryla's final teaching assignment was as a 20-year faculty member at Bishop Hannan High School in Scranton, where she served from 1988 to 2008.



Saint Joseph's Center Plans Summer Fest Event

Saint Joseph's Center Summer Fest Chicken Dinner Drive-thru will be held Sunday, July 26. Curbside pickup is available from noon to 5 p.m. at Marywood University. Tickets are \$15 per dinner or two dinners for \$25 and are required in advance at stjosephscenter.org. The menu will feature several side dishes that will be prepared indoors and packaged following all safety guidelines. "Goodie Boxes" including homemade cookies and desserts may also be ordered for \$10 each. Availability is limited; immediate orders are encouraged. Pictured, first row from left: Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Maryalice Jacquinot, President/CEO, Saint Joseph's Center; Jean Corcoran; and Tom "Bocker" Hunt. Second row: Suzanne Fletcher, Auxiliary co-president; Jan Needham, chairperson; and Theresa Gilhooley, Auxiliary co-president. Third row: Katie Weinschenk, Auxiliary Liaison; Kelli Mera; and Terry Pidgeon.

Catholic Light Schedule Change for August

The Catholic Light announces that in place of its two original publication dates on August 6 & 27, the Diocesan newspaper will be printed once during the month on August 13.



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Blue Army Reparation Vigil



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

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

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



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Rosary Rally for Peace in America — **JULY 18**, held at Lackawanna County Courthouse Square in downtown Scranton (North Washington Avenue side); begins at 12 noon, led by Josie Roman and Ernie Pappa. Devotional prayers offered to the Blessed Mother for peace in turbulent times. All are welcome.

Monday Evening of Marian Devotion — **JULY 20**, hosted by the Oblates of St. Joseph; Marian devotion begins at 6 p.m. in the chapel of St. Joseph's Oblate Seminary, Route 315, Laflin (Pittston). Prayer service includes recitation of the Rosary, Chaplet of Divine Mercy in song, Fatima prayers, hymns and music for the Scriptural mysteries.

Saint Mary's Villa Plans Golf Tourney August 17

Saint Mary's Villa will host its 14th annual Golf Tournament on Monday, August 17, at Glen Oak Country Club in Clarks Summit.

The event begins with registration and luncheon at 11 a.m., followed by a shotgun start for tournament players at 12 noon.

Following tournament play, a social reception and awards dinner will be held beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Registration fee is \$150 per golfer. Cost to attend the dinner only is \$60 per person. For more information, including registration, contact David Leonori at (570) 795-2810 or dleonori@stmmarysvilla.com

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Calling All High School Students! Join 'The Together Project'



The Together Project

A CLICKABLE COMMUNITY FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Connect virtually
each week with
peers

Free of Charge!

'The Together Project'
was designed by
young adults

The Together Project is an opportunity for high school students from across the Diocese of Scranton to come together for a virtual community building experience. The project was started and designed by young people who were not ready to give up the new and old friendships they would have fortified at summer camps, retreats, and parish events.

The Together Project is not a retreat, but rather an opportunity for students to connect with one another during these unusual times. We know that so many participants in our retreat programs look forward to returning because of the friendships they've made. We want to encourage those friendships to continue and provide a place where they can be formed in faith.

The goal is to simply keep us all together virtually until we can meet in person again! Peer-facilitated, virtual small groups will be held based on common interests. Your small group will meet once a week for one hour and each week will have a different topic.

The small group sessions will run from July 27 - August 17.

For more information or to register, visit www.dioceseofscranton.org or email Shannon at Shannon-Kowalski@dioceseofscranton.org.

Kantons Chosen for Spirit of IHM Award

MaryCarol and Peter Kanton of Moosic will be honored with the 2020 Spirit of IHM Award when the annual Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters Celebration will be held as a virtual event on Saturday, August 1. The ceremonies will air live on Electric City Television (ECTV), beginning at 6 p.m.

Established in 2013, the Sisters of IHM Foundation sponsors the annual fundraiser to raise awareness and generate vital financial support for their congregation — the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The Kantons share a great love for the IHM Sisters and the local community, along with a desire to give back with a focus to Scranton-area nonprofits and IHM-sponsored ministries.

Over the years, the couple has voluntarily given of themselves to St. Joseph's Center and Auxiliary, ARC of NEPA, Erin Jessica Moreken Drug & Alcohol Treatment Fund, and Marywood Alumni Association.



MaryCarol & Peter Kanton

MaryCarol first met the IHM Sisters as a child when her family relocated to Scranton. She credits the women religious for having a profound influence on her decision to become a teacher. After receiving bachelor's and master's degrees from Marywood College, MaryCarol taught elementary school for 39 years.

Peter is the owner of Kanton Realty, a real estate brokerage and appraisal firm.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Mary Alice Jacquinot, president/CEO of St. Joseph's Center and former student of Mrs. Kanton, will serve as mistress of ceremonies.

The Catholic Light

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*On behalf of our brothers and sisters in
Christ: peace and all blessings to you!*

*Those who support the
Annual Appeal are part of the
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work done in our Diocese.*

Diocese of Scranton
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