



# GoodNewsNotes

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

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## Religious Education Reimagined

### Uncharted Waters of Blended Learning

**T**he Office for Parish Life is happy to announce a new platform with communication and collaboration tools built for religious education and focused on faith formation outcomes. On this platform, your entire religious education community learns together—in person, online or anywhere in-between. The benefits of using hybrid learning as a parish:

- This platform provides a flexible classroom space that lets DREs/teachers/catechists and their families connect—no matter where they are. Classroom features give parishes a versatile space to conduct engaging lessons—complete with rigorous discussions, robust assessment and assignment tools, fun class challenges, and to create family faith formation experiences.
- Your faith formation resources are just a few clicks away in your private resource library. Reduce the time it takes your parish DREs/catechists/teachers to create lessons by providing them access to all of our religious education resources, all in one place.
- Quickly build interactive weekly lessons. Our customizable lesson builder lets your DREs assemble warm-ups, activities, small groups, faith experiences—anything you can think of—into a weekly/daily playlist for students to work through at their pace.
- Use Small Groups to deliver instruction and content, whether your class meets in person, online, or both. We support synchronous and asynchronous learning to fully meet the needs of learning regardless of where it occurs.
- Deliver live instruction online. Gives your DREs/catechists/teachers a powerful video lesson and whiteboard tool that's perfect for remote learning.
- Fuel ministerial development. Power training with Diocese of Scranton for Ministerial Development, where your DREs, teachers, and faith formation resources combine to improve learning outcomes.
- Assessments to make sure we are meeting the Faith Formation needs of our students and families. Use this site to measure progress of all students/families. You will have access to whether the family is engaged. Dashboards allow teachers/DREs to monitor progress in real time, and students can easily ask questions and get feedback.



**Closing Mass of the  
St. Ann Novena  
Sunday, July 26, 2020  
at 7:30PM  
St. Ann Basilica Parish  
Scranton**

**For more information, please contact Jacki Douglas  
at [jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org) or 570-207-2213 x1100.**



# WORD

"I CALL us to be servant leaders who are people of the WORD, preaching, teaching, evangelizing and cherishing the Gospel message throughout our entire lives."

## Bishop's Youth Awards

Since 1996, the Bishop's Youth Award has recognized young people in the eighth and twelfth grades for their exemplary practice of the faith and for their commitment to serve others in their parishes and schools. Nominated by their parish/school, these young people have been of service to their parish and school communities, and are worthy of this recognition.

As you are all aware, over the past few months we have made every effort to ensure the safety and well-being of the faithful in the Diocese of Scranton. With this in mind, some adjustments have been made in the preparation for and celebration of the Bishop's Youth Awards. In September, each parish/school will receive an email requesting the nominations for the awards.

Once we have received the nominations, we will process the forms and mail the awards back to the parish/school. Each parish/school will be responsible for presenting the awards to their nominees. The Office for Parish Life we also recognize the nominees with their names appearing on the Office for Parish Life webpage of the Diocese of Scranton website, the Catholic Light, and our Facebook Page. Please watch your email for the nominations forms in September.

## Compassionate Understanding and Spiritual Support

For compassionate understanding and spiritual support through some of life's most difficult challenges, the Office for Parish Life is happy to offer much-needed resources available instantly, online. These videos range from faith formation to biblical teachings to a full selection of grief and social issues from Paraclete Press.

Parishes can benefit from Instant Access to the Complete Video Streaming Library — a collection of more than 50 full-length videos. Each parish can share access with staff members, small group leaders, pastoral care coordinators, teachers, and church members who serve in a variety of ministries!

Find immediate, trusted support on a wide range of topics including grief and bereavement; social issues; faith formation for adults and children. Paraclete's award-winning line of videos have earned praise from experts in these fields. To access the Paraclete Video Streaming Library, visit [paracletevideostreaming.com](https://paracletevideostreaming.com).



## Catechist Camp 2020

We are happy to announce that the Office for Parish Life has heard your requests and will be having a Remote Catechist Camp with the theme, ***Bloom Where You Are Planted***.

The two-day camp will be held on **August 18 & 19**. Each day camp will run from 10AM to 3PM.

### Who could attend Catechist Camp...?

- A person who loves God- And, desires a deeper knowledge of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- A person who has a childlike spirit-And, understands the wisdom of teaching children by example, and using words, when necessary
- A person who ponders the Gospel-And, finds the joy sharing life stories that echo the Good News of Jesus
- A person who participates in the Eucharist- And, is humbly aware of living the Works of Mercy
- A person who is a practicing Catholic-And, feels an inner nudge to learn more about our faith
- A person who is a parent, grandparent, godparent, single person, college student and is not necessarily a person who has studied theology and Scripture, or an experienced teacher



## Remote Networking Meetings

We are excited to continue our Remote Webex Network Meetings for DREs, catechists and youth ministers. These meetings will keep with the focus that we began at the onset of the pandemic. We will center on Lifelong Faith Formation through Catechesis, youth ministry and parish life whether virtually or in person. Members of the Office for Parish Life team will be on hand leading our discussions and keeping all parishes well-informed of upcoming events.

We would love to have every parish represented. We invite each of you to join us every other Wednesday at 11:00A.M. Our meeting dates are Wednesday, July 29, August 12 and 26, September 9 and 23.

To learn more about any of these opportunities, please contact Jacki Douglas, Director of Word and Lifelong Faith Formation, at [jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org) or 570-207-2213 x1100.

"I CALL us to be servant leaders who WORSHIP our God and celebrate the Sacraments in union with the universal Church."

# WORSHIP

## Confirmations with Bishop Bambara

There have been several inquiries regarding Confirmations next year. Parishes that were originally scheduled to have the Sacrament of Confirmation with Bishop Bambara in the Spring of 2021 are advised to begin preparations with the scheduled date in mind. Should the current health crisis persist into next year, the plan for Confirmations will be reevaluated.

## National Association of Pastoral Musicians 2020 Convention

Did you not attend the NPM 2020 Virtual Convention but now have second thoughts after hearing the experiences of other attendees? NPM is pleased to announce that the Virtual Convention registration is now reopen.

Here's what you'll get:

- Access to the Virtual Convention until September 15
- Hundreds of hours of educational content
- Exclusive freebies and resources from our exhibitors in our Exhibit Hall

Visit [NPM.org](http://NPM.org) or email [npmreg@npm.org](mailto:npmreg@npm.org) for more information.



Louisville Kentucky  
NPM 43rd Annual Convention • July 7-10, 2020

## Pastoral Care of the Sick

As noted in the diocesan guidelines for the COVID-19 pandemic, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion are permitted to take Communion to the sick or homebound if their county is in the "green phase" of reopening.

All ministers of Communion (ordained and lay) should be mindful of restrictions at hospitals, nursing homes, and personal care facilities. If bringing the sacrament to the homebound, great care must be taken to practice meticulous handwashing/hand sanitization prior to and after each visit, and face masks must be worn. If it is possible, it would be wise to invite the homebound person to receive the sacrament outdoors, either on the front porch, at the front door, or another suitable location outdoors that would lessen the chance of spreading the virus. Social distancing must also be maintained at all times during the visit.

## Interactive Forum on Liturgies during the Pandemic

Loyola Marymount University is conducting two ninety-minute interactive forums regarding liturgies during the pandemic. They are scheduled for Wednesday, July 22 with a focus on indoor liturgies, and July 29 with a focus on outdoor liturgies. Both sessions will be held from 1:30 to 3:00PM. The forum will be led by liturgists and public health officials, and will be broadcast via Facebook Live. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

## Center for Ministry Development Course Days (Virtual) "Skills for Christian Leadership"—July 31-August 1, 2020

The Office for Parish Life is excited to be offering an opportunity for parish ministers to take part in a 2-part virtual course "Skills for Christian Leadership" in partnership with the Center for Ministry Development on July 31-August 1, 2020 (Friday/Saturday).

"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."

### Course Registration Fees:

- \$20.00 - Participant committed to the two year Certificate in Ministry Studies/Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies tracks through the Center for Ministry Development
- \$85.00 - one-time participant, or guest attendee from out of area

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





# COMMUNITY

"I CALL us to be servant leaders who build COMMUNITY through hospitality, respect, inclusion and holiness."

Live the truth and beauty of God's plan for married love!



## National NFP Awareness Week

July 19 - 25, 2020

Live the truth and beauty of God's plan for married love!

It's about love. It's about life. It's about freedom. It's about gift. *!Celebrate and reverence God's vision of human sexuality.*"

Natural Family Planning Awareness Week is a national educational campaign conducted by The Natural Family Planning Program of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Its goal is to focus attention on Natural Family Planning methods and Church teachings which support their use in marriage.

The dates of Natural Family Planning Awareness Week highlight the anniversary of the papal encyclical *Humanae Vitae* (July 25) which articulates Catholic beliefs about human sexuality, conjugal love and responsible parenthood. The dates also mark the feast of Saints Joachim and Anne (July 26), the parents of the Blessed Mother.

To learn more, please contact Jennifer Housel, 570-207-2213, [jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org) OR to explore a wealth of resources relating to NFP and ways to celebrate NFP Week, please [click here](#).

## PreCana Classes

Many safety guidelines have been put into place for PreCana Classes, and our goal will be to continue live PreCana classes throughout the remainder of 2020. Of course this will depend upon ongoing national, state, and diocesan safety guidelines.

If you have any questions about the current status of PreCana in our diocese, please do not hesitate to call or email Jennifer Housel, 570-207-2213 x 1104, [jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org). You may also visit our PreCana webpage: <https://www.dioceseofscranton.org/parish-life/community/marriage/marriage-preparation/>

## Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, this year's Wedding Anniversary Mass was offered as a virtual event. Bishop Bambera celebrated the livestreamed Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on June 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:30. Jubilarian couples from across our Diocese received congratulatory materials and Mass programs in the mail prior to the event, so that they could follow along and recommit to their marriage vows at home.

As a special feature this year, celebrating couples were

invited to share "then and now" pictures as well as a blessing or a piece of wisdom which they have gained through their years of marriage. These moving pictures and words shared can be viewed on our [Diocesan Website](#). Pictured below, Helen and Joseph Knapp, celebrating 75 years of marriage as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Parish: Saint Ignatius, Kingston

Words of wisdom:

*"Be each other's  
best friend  
in good times  
and bad.  
Live life together.  
Help one another.  
Always remember  
to include God.  
Never stop loving  
one another."*



## Hispanic Leadership Formation

Beginning Summer 2020, 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:

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

More information about each certificate track can be found at the following link: <https://vlcff.udayton.edu/certificates/>

To enroll and/or for more information about this scholarship opportunity, please contact Kitty Scanlan, Coordinator for Ministry Formation, at [Kitty-Scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:Kitty-Scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org).

"I CALL us to be servant leaders who engage in SERVICE to our neighbors near and far and who work for justice and stewardship to hasten the Reign of God."

# SERVICE

## Religious Education Awards

*The Religious Education Awards celebrate the dynamic mission of gifted Catechists, Parish Catechetical Leaders, and Directors of Religious Education/Faith Formation. Each of these individuals demonstrate the importance of passing on the faith and their example inspires us into mission! There is such a great need for these generous men and women who devote themselves to handing on the truths of the Gospel. We wish to congratulate and thank the following Religious Education Award recipients listed by parish:*

### **Ascension, Forest City**

Jill Bailer  
Kimberly Pleska

### **Our Lady of the Eucharist, Pittston**

Erin Bufogle

### **Our Lady of the Snows, Clarks Summit**

William Blaum  
Anne Brokus  
Donna Coleman  
Abigail Fenton  
Tara James  
Christine Klimas  
Jennifer Kwiakowski  
Sarah Mitchell  
Lisa Moher  
Holly Regan  
Marianne Rooney  
Rhonda Schiavone  
Marie Allison  
Thomas Specht  
Lori Hendrickson  
Andrea Rogers  
Mary Carroll Donahue  
Margaret LaCoe  
Marie Sarafinko

### **St. Therese, Shavertown**

Anthony & Catherine Bruno  
John & Anne Butler  
David & Cathy Chesnalavage  
Dorothy Hansen  
Diane Molitoris  
Douglas & Maria Ratchford  
Faythe Roberts  
Mary Dougherty  
Wayne Williams

### **St. Boniface/St. Lawrence, Williamsport/S. Williamsport**

Gregory Deck  
Jennifer Dincher  
Sharon Faust  
Raymond Fischer, Jr.  
Dianne Fisher  
Heather Kriner  
Tina Pulver  
Karen Rider

### **Our Lady Queen of Peace, Brodheadsville**

Paul Carpenito  
Mary Demeo  
Kimberly Kimmick  
Clement Maisano  
Karen Newton  
Cathy Rizzo  
Terry Talbott

### **Queen of the Apostles, Avoca**

Deborah Yuschovitz

### **St. Ann Basilica, Scranton**

Christine Fisne  
Sara Hallock  
Lorine Lemoncelli  
Peter Lemoncelli  
Kim Matthews  
Jennifer Nied  
Tina Profka  
Kathleen Radkiewicz  
Mary Ann Schmitt  
Julianne Zaleski

### **St. Barbara, Exeter**

Denise Adams  
Joyce DeAngelo  
Christina Kratz  
Lori Kratz

### **St. Thomas More, Lake Ariel**

Michelle Farrell  
Doris V. Kesse  
Mary Krisovitch  
Michelle Mattern  
Marie McDonnell  
Michele Palladino

### **St. John Bosco, Conyngham**

Dorothy "DeDe" Maylath

### **St. John Vianney, Scott Township**

Ray Totten

### **St. Patrick, Scranton**

Erin Kologe  
Erica Krysko  
Mary Ellen Richards

### **St. Ignatius Loyola, Kingston**

Danielle Ambrose  
Daniel Berry  
Elaine M. Blessing  
Nicolette DeMarco-Burton  
Melinda Ann Heffron  
Julianna Scappaticci  
Mary Sims  
Shelby Smith  
Thomas Tomsak

### **St. John the Evangelist, Pittston**

Erin Bufogle  
Linda Dessoye  
Judy LaPorte Durling  
Mary Giardina  
Kathleen Ostrowski  
Ann Yench

### **St. John the Baptist, Larksville**

Jill Antall  
Michelle Bedosky  
Jennifer Borino  
Jim Borino  
Marty Gabel  
Mary Gabel  
Debra Kester  
Jessica Lee  
Mary Ellen Novick  
Tom Shrawder  
Lucy Stinger  
Charity Udzella  
Karen Washicosky

### **St. Joseph the Worker, Williamsport**

Jim Foran

### **St. Luke, Jersey Shore**

Denise Folmar

### **St. Maria Goretti, Laflin**

Christine Abbey  
Michele Christ  
Sandy Fumanti  
Katharine Getz  
John Gibbons  
Christine Kane  
Emily Kane  
Michelle Pinto  
Theresa Snyder  
Marian Verdine

### **St. Vincent de Paul, Milford**

Cristina Galeano  
Nora Goetz  
Anna Masker

# Safe Environment Tips for Conducting Remote Ministry Activities

*Due to the health crisis, our typical means of interacting with youth has been suspended. In order to maintain communication, the Diocese of Scranton lists the following directives on creating safe contacts with those under the age of 18.*

1. Prior to initiating communication thru remote transmission, the parish representative must obtain approval from the Pastor, Parish Life Coordinator or their designate. The individuals must have appropriate background checks and training as per Safe Environment protocols. The mandates of the *Code of Pastoral Conduct* of the Diocese of Scranton should always be observed.
2. The Parent/Guardians of youth under age 18 should be made aware of and consent to virtual contact between the parish representatives and the youth. Any meeting times, dates and agendas should be shared with the responsible adult. The parent/guardian has the right to refuse participation.
3. Parents/Guardians will serve as the primary contact for the information needed to join the conference. Information should be sent thru the formal contact list and not via social media where those who are not invited are able to access. Meetings should not be conducted on a public platform. Parents are encouraged to attend.
4. Do not make meetings or classrooms public. Use a meeting password or a "waiting room" feature to control the admission of guests.
5. Do not share a link to a teleconference or classroom on an unrestricted publicly available social media post. Provide the link directly to specific people.
6. Manage screensharing options so that they are set to "Host Only".
7. Religious education activities target the age group 6 (first grade) and older. Youth ministry activities focus on young people ages 11 (middle school) and older.
8. Parent must be informed that the video portion of the broadcast is optional. They can choose to receive only audio transmission.
9. Video conferences should be recorded. If possible, two adults should conduct the meeting. If that is not feasible, recording is mandatory, and parents must be notified.
10. Contact with youth will occur only between the hours of 9 am and 9 pm. Direct, private contacts with youth are not allowed.
11. The individuals hosting the conference are reminded that this is a professional activity thus they are expected to dress appropriately. When possible, the setting of the meeting should be in an office or classroom. If that is not feasible, the physical location, including the background, should be void of any objects that the viewer might find objectionable or inappropriate.
12. In addition, before beginning the conference, youth should be advised of the rules for participation. Appropriate clothing, setting and language should be enforced. The device should be in a public area of the home.
13. Mandated reporting procedures apply. If the adult facilitator knows or suspects that a youth is being abused, they are required to report to ChildLine. The 24/7 number is 1-800-932-0313.

**WE VALUE YOUR COMMITMENT TO THE YOUTH OF OUR DIOCESE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.**

## OPL TEAM MEMBERS

Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life: **Catherine Jantsch Butel**

Director for WORD and Lifelong Faith Formation: **Jacki Douglas**

Director for WORSHIP: **David Baloga**

Director for SERVICE and Mission: **Shannon Kowalski**

Coordinator for Pilgrimages: **Fr. Andrew Hvozdivic**

Director for COMMUNITY and Family Development: **Jen Housel**

Coordinator for Ecumenical/Interfaith Relations: **Msr. Vincent Grimalia**

Coordinator for Lay Ministry Formation: **Kitty Scanlan**

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