

# The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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## Worship in the Open Air

CARBONDALE – Eucharistic exuberance filled the hearts of the faithful when diocesan parishes opened their doors for a return to the sacraments for their flocks. In the months that followed, priests have celebrated Masses in small indoor gatherings and larger outdoor venues.

As the public continues to be welcome to enter their houses of worship for liturgical celebrations, a trend began in which Holy Masses left the churches – especially in rural parish settings – and the Eucharist came to the people who would gather outdoors to be spiritually nourished.

The open air liturgies and sacramental celebrations that continue to be offered have certainly been blessed by Divine Providence, with very little rain taking place during the weekend celebrations of Mass.

“We were blessed with a beautiful morning and naturally beautiful setting at Takach Grove,” Father Jeff Walsh, pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Saint Rose of Lima in Carbondale, said of the parishes’ first outdoor Mass celebrated on the last Sunday of August at the Greenfield Township social pavilion.

According to the recently appointed pastor of the Carbondale faith communities, approximately 130 faithful gathered for the outside liturgy, abiding by the social distancing and mask regulations set forth by the Diocese of Scranton and Centers

for Disease Control during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

As principal celebrant, Father Walsh remarked that the outdoor celebration was the first in-person Mass for many of his parishioners since March.

He was joined by concelebrant and assistant pastor, newly ordained Father Kevin Miller, Deacon Pat Massino and Diocesan seminarian Michael Boris, who has been assigned to serve his pastoral year at the Carbondale parishes, welcomed the outside congregation to the celebration of Mass.

“Surrounded by green field with wandering wild turkeys, next to a pond with lily pads, the Mass was very well received and appreciated,” Father Walsh said. “Thanks be to God!”

In the Poconos, an outdoor Mass is celebrated every Sunday at noon in the grassy area off the upper parking lot of Our Lady of Victory Church, Tannersville, where Father Richard Czachor is the longtime pastor.

“This came about after a few weeks of celebrating Mass only in our church, following proper distancing and wearing of masks,” Father Czachor explained. “Some people shared that they were afraid to come into church. Others said it’s difficult to wear a mask for so long. But they all still wanted so very much to receive the Eucharist.”

*Continued on Page 2*

## ‘Faithful Citizenship’ reminder: Gospel cannot be parsed in partisan terms

CLEVELAND (CNS) – The U.S. bishops’ quadrennial document on political responsibility is rooted in the Catholic Church’s long-standing moral tradition that upholds human dignity and the common good of all, Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City said.

“The document is meant to give Catholic voters an opportunity to reflect upon how their faith intersects with their political and civic responsibilities,” said the archbishop, who chairs the bishops’ Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development.

Titled “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility From the Catholic Bishops of the United States,” the document has been offered as a guide to Catholic voters every presidential election year since 1976.

It has been updated and revised at four-year intervals to reflect changes in the issues confronting the country since it first appeared.

One thing “Faithful Citizenship” is not is a mandate on which candidate for public office to vote for, Archbishop Coakley said.

Voting, he added, is a responsibility to be taken seriously and that requires prudential judgment in determining who can best serve the common good.

“No candidate will likely reflect all of our values,” he told Catholic News Service. “But I think we need to begin in prayer. We need to know our faith. We need to study our faith. We need to have recourse to the catechism and what it might teach about certain questions.

“This document is intended to be that, an official guide for the formation of consciences that Catholics can utilize as they weigh these questions,” the archbishop said.

Furthermore, he continued, “the Gospel cannot be parsed in political or partisan terms. The Gospel calls us to live by standards and our Catholic faith calls us to embrace standards

that are not divisible into left or right, Republican or Democratic terminology.”

The text of “Faithful Citizenship” can be downloaded as a free PDF from USCCB.org.

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# The Catholic Light

(ISSN 0164-9418)

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE  
DIOCESE OF SCRANTON



## DIOCESE OF SCRANTON MISSION STATEMENT

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

## POLICY STATEMENT

*The Catholic Light* is our official diocesan journal. The publication of notices, regulations and extra-synodical decrees in said paper constitute legal promulgation for all the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton, Clergy and Laity.

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# Worship in the Open Air

*Continued from Page 1*

The pastor noted members of the Knights of Columbus organize the parking details and give instructions to the gathering congregation. Some remain in their cars, he said, while others bring chairs or sit on the lawn near the covered altar.

“The Contemporary Choir provides the music, making for a beautiful celebration,” noted Father, who indicated between 30 or 40 cars arrive for Mass each week with upwards of 70 faithful in attendance. “So many people come forward and express their thanks for the opportunity to attend Mass and receive the Eucharist.”

The outdoor Masses have brought Donna and Fred Talcove of Jackson Township back to the liturgies at Our Lady of Victory, after the 18-year parishioners had been viewing the church celebrations online since mid-March.

“I think it’s great because I have underlying issues,” said Donna, who suffers from COPD and would rather attend Mass outside. “I missed receiving Holy Communion.”

Referring to an imminent change in the weather that will not be as conducive to outdoor liturgies, Fred remarked, “I don’t know how long we can go like this. We will take it week by week.”

Stephen and Laura Brady of Reeders, OLV parishioners for 25 years, have attended the outdoor Mass since it was first offered. “It’s good to get back,” Stephen said. “This is fine. We could do this every Sunday.”

A former Catholic school student who became accustomed to attending informal Masses in the gymnasium, Laura said, “You have options,” noting there is no need to register for the outside liturgies.

“You can stay in your car and have Communion brought to you, if you need to,” she remarked.

Echoing the Bradys’ sentiments was John DeRobertis of Stroud Township, a member of the Tannersville parish since 1986.

“When I was in the Boy Scouts, we had outdoor Masses and I loved it,” he said. “It’s just so nice to be outside, in nature, with beautiful scenery around and enjoying the Mass. It’s so good to receive the Lord. That’s what we are here for, to receive Jesus.”

At Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Brodheadsville, weekday Masses are celebrated in the outdoor pavilion on the church grounds on Monday at 12:10 p.m. and Tuesday through Saturday at 8 a.m., with a Spanish Mass offered outside on Sunday at 5 p.m.

The pavilion area has also provided

confessions at the parish, which is also currently celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism outdoors.

Father Mike Quinnan, pastor, sees the outdoor liturgical celebrations as a blessing in disguise in the midst of the ongoing pandemic.

“We are having a beautiful summer,” Father Quinnan said. “It is so peaceful and pleasant to look out over nature and the beauty of the Poconos while celebrating Mass every morning.”

He continued, “I will miss not having Mass out in the pavilion when the weather turns colder. However, the prayer and faith of the parish is strong and together we will meet the challenges and go where God wants us.”

Queen of Peace parishioner Diane Hicks said of participating in the outdoor liturgies, “It gives me a serenity and a deep connection with God and nature.”

Fellow Mass-goer Joseph Kenas feels the outdoor pavilion at the parish is a “true blessing,” given the mandated social distancing and other health guidelines brought about by the pandemic.

“It’s truly a joy to be able to share this experience with others every day,” he remarked. “Sure, it’s not quite the same as celebrating Mass in the church proper, but it’s a very, very close second!”

Father Christopher Sahd, senior priest at Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Honesdale, has been celebrating the 11:30 a.m. Sunday Mass on a picturesque hill located behind Saint John Church.

Explaining that the outdoor Mass is offered on the site of the original parish church and cemetery, Father Sahd noted, “While there are no grave markers, there is a beautiful golden statue of the Child Jesus being held by the Mother of God, which beckons prayer for the faithful buried there,” adding the statue presides over the spot where the open air Mass is offered.



**Father Rawel Toppo, assistant pastor at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Brodheadsville, celebrates an open air Mass in the outdoor pavilion on the Queen of Peace church grounds.**



**Members of Our Lady of Victory Parish, Tannersville, gather in the parking lot and on the parish grounds for an outdoor Eucharistic liturgy.**

Father estimated that between 50 and 90 parishioners — with children, chairs and blankets in tow — arrive each week and assemble before the outdoor altar for the Sunday celebration.

“Through sacred art and the chanting of the Propers of the Mass, the use of incense and frequent silent contemplation,” he continued, “we have tried to arrange for the Mass to be as solemn as possible, so as to lift our demeanor from the casual to the reverent.”

The Honesdale senior priest said he is always uplifted by the presence of young children at the liturgies.

“To me, there is something beautiful about the outdoor Mass,” Father Sahd concluded. “Passersby catch a glimpse of the Sacred Host and chalice lifted high above the altar. We thank God for giving us this opportunity to keep His Day holy and giving Him worship.”

## Weekday Twilight Masses in Muncy

The current health crisis has also brought about changes in parishes’ overall Mass schedules — most notably, the popular choice of pastors to move their traditional weekday morning liturgies to later in the day to accommodate the faithful.

At Resurrection Parish in Muncy, their pastor Father Glenn McCreary decided to celebrate three daily Masses in the evening hours to provide more opportunity for Mass attendance during the week, especially given the lifting of the Sunday obligation.

As Father McCreary explained, since the parish enjoyed a good experience with their regularly scheduled Wednesday evening Mass, daily liturgies on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday are now offered at 7 p.m. in the Church of the Resurrection. The 9 a.m. Mass on Thursday still continues to allow time for Confessions and adoration later in the evening.

“We’re getting more people at weekday Mass in the evenings than we did in the mornings,” the Muncy pastor said.

“Some of those parishioners had never attended weekday Mass,” he continued. “I believe people appreciated the ability of the parish to adapt to new realities and to shape a schedule that better fit their lives.”



SCRANTON – As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera believes the work being done by priests has been nothing less than heroic.

That is why the bishop set this past Monday, Sept. 14, as a Day of Prayer and Gratitude for Priests in the Diocese of Scranton. Bishop Bambera led all diocesan priests in Evening Prayer from the Cathedral of Saint Peter. While only a limited number of clergy were in attendance, the others watched on CTV: Catholic Television or via social media.

“Thank you for being creative and responsive to your people’s pastoral needs. Thank you for keeping your people safe when the doors of our Churches finally reopened,” Bishop Bambera said. “And thank you most especially for placing your own safety and well-being on the line in bringing the sacraments to those who were most in need of their grace.”

During his homily, the bishop explained that priests have confronted these unusual times with great determination, but also acknowledged the struggles and questions that many continue to face.

“The words of the 13th Psalm seem particularly relevant to this moment in our lives, ‘How long, Lord? Will you utterly forget me? How long will you hide your face from me?’” the bishop said. “Let me assure you that as desperate as this time may appear to be, it is miraculously in the acceptance of



**Bishop Joseph C. Bambera leads Evening Prayer at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Sept. 14, 2020, as part of a Day of Prayer and Gratitude for Priests in the Diocese of Scranton.**

the many crosses that have made their way in our lives that God’s plan for our salvation begins to take shape and our deepest hopes are realized.”

The bishop reminded the priests that hope can always be found in placing our lives in the hands of God.

“May each of you find consolation and peace in the selfless service that you offer to so many,” Bishop Bambera said. “In the face of suffering, may you simply trust in the mercy and love of God. And may you come to believe with all your hearts that such trust and love bind you to Jesus, the only source of our hope and salvation.”

Monday’s Evening Prayer Service, held on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, also featured the Renewal of

Priestly Promises, in which priests renew their dedication to Christ and to the service of His people.

The Renewal of Priestly Promises typically takes place at the Chrism Mass

during Holy Week. The bishop delayed that celebration, hoping that the current health crisis would subside so that everyone could come together but that didn’t happen. Because of social distancing measures, the bishop didn’t want anyone to be excluded.

“As priests, we have the need to acknowledge in prayer the fraternity that we share as disciples of Jesus Christ. And our good people have a need to support and pray for you,” Bishop Bambera said.

During the Evening Prayer service, the bishop also acknowledged the presence of priests who are celebrating significant anniversaries this year. Completing 25 years of ministry are Fathers John Chmil, Vincent Dang and Glenn McCreary. Celebrating 50 years of service are Father Martin Gaiardo and the Most Reverend Joseph F. Martino, D.D., Hist. E.D., and commemorating 60 years of priestly ministry is Father William Culnane.

## Pope to take his post-pandemic pleas to global stage; sign new encyclical on Oct. 3

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – When he addresses, via video message, the U.N. General Assembly Sept. 21, Pope Francis is expected to speak about using the coronavirus crisis as an opportunity to rethink economic, political and environmental policies in a way that will benefit humanity and the earth.

Since COVID-19 was officially recognized as a pandemic in early March, the pope has been urging individuals, organizations and governments to recognize the inequalities the pandemic has highlighted in economics and access to health care and education, as well as the ways current patterns of production and consumption have damaged the environment.

Pope Francis began a series of general audience talks Aug. 5 about the principles of Catholic social teaching that can help the world recover from the pandemic and move forward in a way that is better for human beings and for the environment.

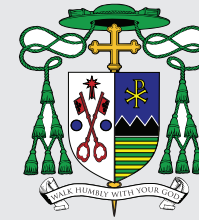
He spoke about transforming “the roots of our physical, spiritual and social infirmities and the destructive practices that separate us from each other, threatening the human family and our planet.”

Pope Francis will also travel to Assisi Oct. 3 to sign an encyclical on the social, political and economic obligations that flow from a belief that all people are children of God and therefore brothers and sisters to one another.

The Vatican press office, confirming the pope’s trip, said the document will be titled “Fratelli Tutti” in Italian. In English, the phrase could be translated as “Brothers and Sisters All,” but apparently it is inspired by what is known as St. Francis of Assisi’s “sixth admonition” to the friars, all of whom were men.

Conventual Franciscan Father Mauro Gambetti, custodian of the Assisi convent, said the document “will indicate to the world a style for the future and will give the church and people of goodwill the responsibility for building it together.”

Pope Francis is scheduled to arrive at the Assisi convent at 3 p.m. to celebrate Mass at the tomb of St. Francis and sign the document. Because of ongoing concerns and restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mass and the rest of the pope’s visit will be private, the Vatican press office said.



### BISHOP BAMBERA’S SCHEDULE

**September 17** - Mass of the Holy Spirit for Chancery Staff  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.

**September 20** - Mass at Saint Paul of the Cross Parish  
Scranton, 11:00 a.m.

**September 23** - Pennsylvania Catholic Conference Board of  
Governors Meeting

**September 24** - Pennsylvania Provincial Meeting of Bishops

**September 27** - Mass at Good Shepherd Parish  
Drums, 9:30 a.m.

**September 27** - Mass at Saint Ann’s Parish  
Freeland, 11:00 a.m.

**October 3** - Ministry of Lector Mass  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.

**October 4** - Respect Life Sunday Mass  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.

**October 6** - Committee on International Justice & Peace Meeting

**October 6** - Town Hall Meeting for Clergy with Professor Mario Enzler  
2:00 p.m.

**October 7 & 8** - Christian Churches Together Annual Convocation

**October 15** - Bishops Committee on Ecumenism and Interfaith Affairs  
Meeting



# A Vote for Life

A message from the  
Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera



Dear Friends,

As we prepare for our annual celebration of Respect Life Sunday on October 4, 2020, we do so at a moment that is unprecedented in its focus on care for the human person.

For over eight months, our world has waged war with a virus that has currently attacked more than 29 million people and has left close to a million deaths in its wake. In the process, we have engaged behavior that has isolated us one from another and prompted actions from wearing masks to shuttering churches, schools, stores and factories, all in an effort to protect and preserve human life. In the midst of such upheaval and pain, as a nation, we have also been forced to confront the ongoing reality of racism, which continues to raise its ugly head and tragically disregards the same lives that we are trying to protect from the global pandemic.

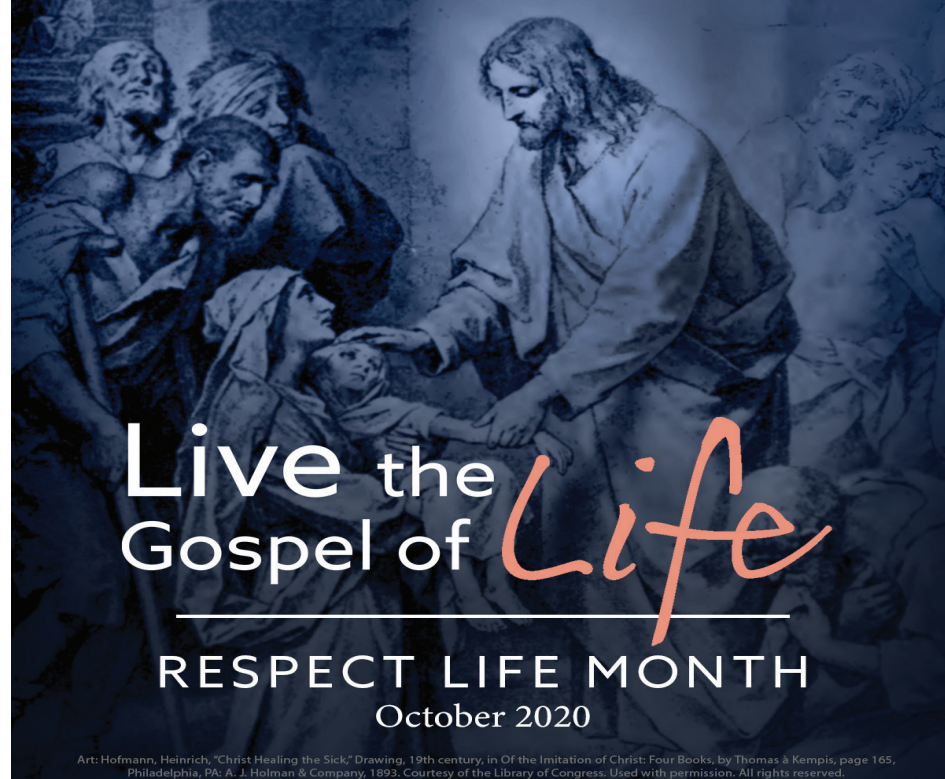
Ironically, these challenging realities that prompt us to focus on efforts to preserve and respect life continue to unfold in our own land amid a climate of polarization that has bitterly set lives against one another. And all of this division is fueled by an election cycle that

only seems to complicate our search for truth and justice for all.

The theme for this year's Respect Life commemoration is *Live the Gospel of Life!* Sadly, a reflection on the current reality of life in our land reveals that as a nation and people, we have yet to embrace and respect human life in its totality as we should. In an introductory letter to the U.S. Bishops' teaching document on the political responsibility of Catholics, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, the Bishops quote Pope Francis' words taken from his exhortation, *Gaudete et exultate*, as he addresses our role as disciples of Jesus in confronting the struggles of our time:

*Your identification with Christ and his will involves a commitment to build with him that kingdom of love, justice and universal peace... You cannot grow in holiness without committing yourself, body and soul, to giving your best to this endeavor.*

The call to holiness that the Holy Father references requires that we, as Catholics, stand firm in our respect and reverence for the human person as the very foundation of a moral vision for



society. As such, in that same letter, the U.S. Bishops affirm that “the threat of abortion remains our preeminent priority because it directly attacks life itself, because it takes place within the sanctuary of the family, and because of the number of lives destroyed. At the same time, we cannot dismiss or ignore other serious threats to human life and dignity such as racism, the environmental crisis, poverty and the death penalty.”

The Bishops stress that “our efforts to protect the unborn remain as important as ever, for just as the Supreme Court may allow greater latitude for state laws restricting abortion, state legislators have passed statutes not only keeping abortion legal through all nine months of pregnancy but opening the door to infanticide. Additionally, abortion contaminates many other important issues by being inserted into legislation regarding immigration, care for the poor, and health care reform.”

The upcoming election provides us with a vital platform through which we, as Catholics, can give voice to core Gospel values rooted in the dignity and worth of every human person, having been created in the image and likeness of God.

While Church leaders have often been accused of siding with one party or another, the fact remains that no one candidate perfectly reflects the broad and encompassing social and moral teachings of our Catholic Church. As such, it is incumbent upon us as Christians that, regardless of party affiliation, we thoughtfully and prayerfully vote for those candidates for office who not only personally reflect but clearly support legislation upholding our obligation to

live the Gospel of Life.

In examining our consciences and in seeking to inform them in a responsible manner according to the tenants of our Catholic faith, may we be encouraged in our efforts by the words of Saint John Paul II in his encyclical, *Christifideles Laici*:

*The right to health, to home, to work, to culture is false and illusory if the right to life, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition for all other personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination.*

Brothers and sisters, our responsibility as disciples of Jesus is clear. We are called to *Live the Gospel of Life!* We do so, however, not solely by speaking of our resolve to respect human life or by self-righteously criticizing those whose beliefs may appear to be different than our own. We do so by treating one another with reverence, respect and dignity as children of God. We do so by serving the broken lives and hearts that God has placed in our midst, whomever they may be. And this year, in particular, we *Live the Gospel of Life* by exercising our right to vote for those candidates who best respect the dignity and worth of all those lives that will be entrusted to their care.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

+ Joseph C. Bambera

Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.  
Bishop of Scranton

Live the  
Gospel of *Life*

RESPECT  
LIFE  
MONTH

## A Prayer for Life

Father and maker of all,  
you adorn all creation  
with splendor and beauty,  
and fashion human lives  
in your image and likeness.

Awaken in every heart  
reverence for the work of your hands,  
and renew among your people  
a readiness to nurture and sustain  
your precious gift of life.

Grant this through our Lord  
Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in  
the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God forever and ever.  
Amen.




# PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE COMPARISON // NOV 3, 2020

In keeping with its mission, the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference aims to educate and inform Catholics about a wide range of issues. The information compiled here has been gathered from policies, public statements, official and campaign websites, and other resources, as of September 1, 2020, to help voters form their consciences before voting in November. The issues that appear here do not represent a complete list of issues that may be of importance to Catholics. The PCC neither supports nor opposes any candidate for public office.

“The right to life implies and is linked to other human rights - to the basic goods that every human person needs to live and thrive. All the life issues are connected, for erosion of respect for the life of any individual or group in society necessarily diminishes respect for all life. The moral imperative to respond to the needs of our neighbors - basic needs such as food, shelter, health care, education, and meaningful work - is universally binding on our consciences and may be legitimately fulfilled by a variety of means. Catholics must seek the best ways to respond to these needs.... Above all, the common outcry, which is justly made on behalf of human rights - for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture - is false and illusory if *the right to life*, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition for all other personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination.” (*Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, Nos. 25, 26, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2019)

President  
**DONALD TRUMP**



Former Vice-President  
**JOE BIDEN**



## ABORTION

In 2016, [Trump said](#) that the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* “will happen automatically...because I am putting pro-life justices on the [U.S. Supreme] Court.”

In 2017, [Trump signed into law](#) a resolution to allow states to restrict Title X funding for Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers.

According to his website, “As president, [Biden will work](#) to codify *Roe v. Wade*, and his Justice Department will do everything in its power to stop the rash of state laws that so blatantly violate the constitutional right to an abortion...”

“As president, [Biden will...reverse](#) the Trump Administration’s rule preventing Planned Parenthood and certain other family planning programs from obtaining Title X funds.”

## DEATH PENALTY

In 2020, [the Trump Administration presided](#) over five executions (three in July and two in August), the first to be carried out by the federal government in 17 years. Two additional executions are scheduled in September 2020.

According to his website, “[Biden will work](#) to pass legislation to eliminate the death penalty at the federal level, and incentivize states to follow the federal government’s example. These individuals should instead serve life sentences without probation or parole.”

## EDUCATIONAL CHOICE

In February 2020, [Trump said](#), “Yet, for too long, countless American children have been trapped in failing government schools. To rescue these students, 18 states have created school choice in the form of Opportunity Scholarships... no parent should be forced to send their child to a failing government school.”

In January 2020, [Biden tweeted](#), “When we divert public funds to private schools, we undermine the entire public education system. We’ve got to prioritize investing in our public schools, so every kid in America gets a fair shot. That’s why I oppose vouchers.”

## ENVIRONMENT

[Trump has begun](#) the process of withdrawing the U.S. from the Paris Agreement on climate change, an international agreement to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions.

According to his website, [a Biden administration will re-enter](#) the Paris Agreement on day one.

## ETHICS IN RESEARCH

In 2019, [the Trump Administration announced](#) its decision to discontinue research conducted within the National Institutes of Health “involving the use of human fetal tissue from elective abortion”.

While serving in the U.S. Senate: In 2007, [Biden voted](#) in favor of the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007 (S.5), which provides for human embryonic stem cell research. In 1998, [Biden voted](#) against the Human Cloning Prohibition Act (S.1601).

## GENDER ISSUES

In 2019, [the White House confirmed](#) Trump’s opposition to the [Equality Act](#), which would add the new terms “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” to the definition of “sex” in federal civil rights laws, and would exempt itself from the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993: “The Trump Administration absolutely opposes discrimination of any kind and supports the equal treatment of all. However, this bill in its current form is filled with poison pills that threaten to undermine parental and conscience rights.”

According to his website, [Biden believes](#) the [Equality Act](#) is the “best vehicle for ensuring equal rights under the law for LGBTQ+ Americans, and will guarantee that LGBTQ+ individuals are protected under existing civil rights laws.” Biden lists enacting the Equality Act as a top legislative priority.





# PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE COMPARISON

DONALD TRUMP	JOE BIDEN
HEALTH CARE ACCESS	
<p>According to his website, <a href="#">Trump</a> “repealed the Obamacare individual mandate, expanded plan choices and increased competition to bring down costs for consumers.” In June 2020, <a href="#">the Trump administration argued</a> in a legal brief that the entire Affordable Care Act (ACA) should be invalidated. Signed into law in 2010, ACA expanded access to health care coverage for the uninsured.</p> <p>According to a White House fact sheet, <a href="#">Trump</a> “is using all available means to ensure safe vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics are developed, manufactured, and distributed in unprecedented time and scale in response to COVID-19.”</p>	<p>According to his website, <a href="#">Biden will protect</a> the Affordable Care Act and build on it by “giving Americans a new choice, a public health insurance option like Medicare; increasing the value of tax credits to lower premiums and extend coverage to more working Americans; [and] expanding coverage to low-income Americans.”</p> <p>According to his website, <a href="#">Biden’s COVID-19 plan</a> “ensures the wide availability of free testing; the elimination of all cost barriers to preventive care and treatment for COVID-19; the development of a vaccine; and the full deployment and operation of necessary supplies, personnel, and facilities.”</p>
IMMIGRATION/REFUGEES	
<p>According to his website, “Upon entering office, <a href="#">President Trump called on</a> Congress to fully fund a wall along the Southern border, to close legal loopholes that enable illegal immigration, to end chain migration, and to eliminate the visa lottery program.”</p> <p>In July 2020, <a href="#">the Trump Administration announced</a> it would reject applications for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program stating, “...the fact remains that Congress should act on this matter.”</p> <p><a href="#">The Trump Administration proposes</a> resettling 18,000 refugees under a new refugee ceiling. The number admitted in 2016 was nearly 85,000.</p>	<p>According to Biden’s website, “As president, <a href="#">Joe will prioritize</a> a comprehensive immigration reform to finally give 11 million undocumented immigrants a roadmap to citizenship.”</p> <p>In June 2020, <a href="#">Biden stated</a>, “As President, I will immediately work to make [DACA] permanent by sending a bill to Congress on day one of my Administration.”</p> <p><a href="#">Biden will set</a> the annual global refugee admissions cap to 125,000.</p>
POVERTY	
<p>In 2019, <a href="#">the Trump Administration opposed</a> a House-passed bill that would raise the federal minimum wage to \$15, stating, “efforts to reduce taxes, eliminate regulations, and implement fairer trade deals are driving economic growth and increasing workers’ take-home pay far more effectively and efficiently than legislation like H.R. 582.” The current federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour; a number of states and localities have adopted higher rates.</p>	<p>According to Biden’s website, “<a href="#">He firmly believes</a> all Americans are owed a raise, and it’s well past time we increase the federal minimum wage to \$15 across the country. This increase would include workers who aren’t currently earning the minimum wage, like the farmworkers who grow our food and domestic workers who care for our aging and sick and for those with disabilities.”</p>
RACIAL EQUITY	
<p>In June 2020, <a href="#">Trump announced</a> four steps to address racial inequity and police reform: 1) aggressively pursuing economic development in minority communities; 2) confronting healthcare disparities, including addressing chronic conditions and investing in minority-serving medical institutions; 3) an <a href="#">executive order</a> that will encourage police departments nationwide to meet the most current professional standards for the use of force, including tactics for de-escalation; and 4) renewing a call on Congress to enact school choice.</p>	<p>In a June 2020 op-ed, <a href="#">Biden said</a>, “We should also be directing our resources to actively undo the negative effect systemic racism has had on opportunities for black Americans,” citing inequities for African-American entrepreneurs, the gap in home ownership and discriminatory lending practices. <a href="#">Biden also said</a>, “...I’m proposing an additional \$300 million to reinvigorate community policing in our country. Every single police department should have the money it needs to institute real reforms...”</p>
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM	
<p>In 2017, <a href="#">Trump signed</a> an executive order, which states, “Federal law protects the freedom of Americans and their organizations to exercise religion and participate fully in civic life without undue interference by the Federal Government. The executive branch will honor and enforce those protections.”</p> <p>In response to a July 2020 U.S. Supreme Court ruling preserving the religious liberty of the Little Sisters of the Poor, <a href="#">a White House statement said</a>, “As the Supreme Court has previously stated, protecting the ability of people to worship and live according to the dictates of their conscience is part of ‘the best of our traditions.’”</p>	<p>According to Biden’s website, “The Trump-Pence Administration has deliberately and systematically attempted to gut protections for the LGBTQ+ community by carving out broad religious exemptions to existing nondiscrimination laws and policies across federal agencies. <a href="#">Biden will reverse</a> Trump’s policies misusing these broad exemptions...”</p> <p>Regarding the July 2020 ruling, <a href="#">Biden said</a> the decision, “will make it easier for the Trump-Pence Administration to continue to strip health care from women--attempting to carve out broad exemptions to the Affordable Care Act’s commitment to giving all women free access to recommended contraception.”</p>





# 2020 Voter Guide - State Legislative Races



The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference is the public affairs arm of the Catholic bishops across the state. We monitor hundreds of pieces of legislation throughout the year and determine whether to take a position for or against what we feel are the ones most important to our faith.

This Voter Guide includes a cross-section of seven bills spanning seven categories to show how incumbent legislators have voted. We have also invited their challengers in the general election to indicate how they would vote on these same bills. This guide is meant to be an educational piece, which we hope will provide you with information so that you can make your own decisions.

A listing of the bills used for this comparison and their descriptions are below. The overall scores given to each candidate indicate the percentage of times they vote in support of PCC’s position and the percentage of times they voted in opposition to PCC’s position. Please understand we continue to work with legislators from all parties on various pieces of legislation. Unlike these, not all of that legislation has been sent to the Governor.

The Conference neither supports nor opposes any candidate or political party. The Catholic Conference aims to educate and inform Catholics about a wide range of issues. Below is a detailed voting breakdown of legislators voting with or against PCC’s position.

## List of issues included for comparison:

### Pro Life:

**House Bill 321** was a prolife measure which would prohibit the aborting of a fetus solely on the basis of a possible diagnosis of Down syndrome. *The PCC strongly supported* this bill and worked with prolife lawmakers to gain its passage. The bill passed both the House and the Senate but was vetoed by Governor Wolf.

### Criminal Justice Reform:

**Senate Bill 637** is a bill that will remove procedural boundaries that have prevented many ex-offenders from getting professional licenses in a number of professions. *The PCC supported* this measure, which got bi-partisan support. It’s a bill that many law enforcement professionals say will result in a reduction of crime. The bill passed both chambers and was recently signed by the Governor.

### Disability Rights:

**Senate Bill 906** was a measure that would delay the closing of two state long-term centers. The Wolf Administration had called for the closing of both facilities, but the PCC had concerns about what would happen to the residents. *We supported the bill*, which passed both the House and Senate but was vetoed by the Governor.

### Health Care:

**House Bill 427** required that health insurers stay out of decisions between doctors and patients suffering from Stage IV metastatic cancer. *The PCC supported* this measure.

### Human Trafficking:

**Senate Bill 60** increased penalties for those connected with crimes of human trafficking. *The PCC actively supported* this measure in continuing with our efforts to work against human trafficking. This bill was one such bill that was passed and signed into law by the Governor this session.

### Poverty:

**House Bill 33** was a move to eliminate public assistance due to a purported lack of accountability of recipients. Voting ‘yes’ on the bill would advocate the ending of that \$200 per month payment. *The PCC opposed* this bill. The bill ultimately was signed into law.

### School Choice:

**House Bill 800** was a bill that would have provided tax credits toward children who were attending a failing public school and wanted to attend another school of their choice. *The PCC supported* this measure as we do with all bills designed to further school choice. Both the House and Senate approved the measure but it was vetoed by the Governor.

## Senate

District	Candidate	HB 321	SB 637	SB 906	HB 427	SB 60	HB 33	HB 800
23	Gene Yaw (R)*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
23	Jaclyn E. Baker (D)							
25	Margaret Satterwhite							
25	Cris Dush (R)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
27	John R. Gordner (R)*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
27	Michelle Lynn Siegel							

\*incumbent

## House:

District	Candidate	HB 321	SB 637	SB 906	HB 427	SB 60	HB 33	HB 800
68	Clint Owlett (R)*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
83	Jeff Wheeland (R)*	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
83	Airneezer J. Page (D)							
84	Joseph D. Hamm (R)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
84	Amanda R. Waldman (D)							
110	Tina Pickett (R)*	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
111	Jonathan Fritz (R)*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
112	Kyle Mullins (D)*	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
113	Marty Flynn (D)*	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
113	William John Kresge (R)							
114	Bridget Kosierowski (D)*	Yes	Yes	NV	Yes	NV	Yes	No
114	James E. May (R)							
115	Maureen Madden (D)*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
115	Dulce Maria Ridder (R)							
116	Todd Eachus (D)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	----
116	Tarah Toohil (R)*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
117	Karen Boback (R)*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
118	Michael B. Carroll (D)*	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
118	Andrew Michael Holter (R)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
119	Gerald J. Mullery (D)*	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
119	John W. Chura (R)							
120	Aaron D. Kaufer (R)*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
120	Joanna Bryn Smith (D)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
121	Eddie Day Pashinski (D)*	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
139	Michael T. Peifer (R)*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
139	Marian S. Keegan (D)	No	Yes	----	Yes	Yes	No	No
176	Jack Rader (R)*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
176	Claudette Williams (D)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
189	Rosemary Brown (R)*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
189	Adam A. Rodriguez (D)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No



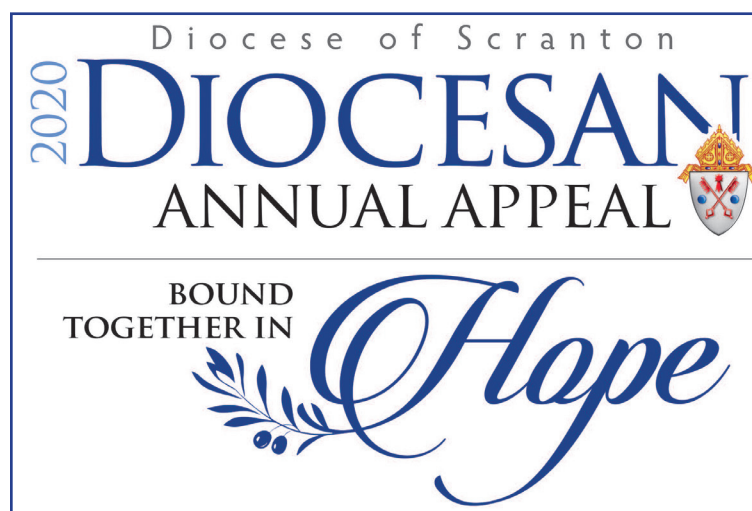
# 2020 Diocesan Annual Appeal to begin Sept. 26 & 27

SCRANTON – The “2020 Diocesan Annual Appeal: Bound Together in Hope” will begin in all parishes in the Diocese of Scranton on Sept. 26 and 27. This year’s goal is \$4.5 million.

An Appeal video will be shown at Masses and on parish websites and Facebook pages. Six regional Appeal videos have been produced to feature ministries funded by the Appeal in each area of the diocese. The videos will also be available on the diocesan website.

“This year’s Appeal theme “bound together in hope” speaks to the strength of our faith especially during the coronavirus pandemic as we reach out to help each other as one body in Christ,” Bishop Joseph C. Bambera said.

“The generosity of the faithful to the Diocesan Annual Appeal brings hope to thousands of people in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania. This is particularly true this year as we are serving an increasing number of people



seeking help,” Bishop Bambera added. “While I know this is a challenging time for many of our parishioners and some may not be able to support the Appeal this year, I ask those who are able to help to consider making a contribution.”

Because of the pandemic, the traditional In-Pew Commitment Weekend for the Appeal will be replaced with an Online Giving Weekend on Nov. 21 and 22, where parishioners and friends will

be invited to support the Appeal through this special online event.

Gifts to the Appeal will have a significant impact this year to help diocesan ministries serve an increasing number of people in need and provide opportunities to offer programs and services in different ways in response to the pandemic.

More than 10,000 households have received food from one of our Catholic Social Services food

pantries in Carbondale, Scranton, Hazleton and Wilkes-Barre from March to July 2020. This is a 50% increase over the same period last year. Parishes are also serving more people in their parish outreach programs, some of which are supported by the Appeal through social justice grants.

Appeal gifts support Diocesan Catholic School teachers and staff as they make the significant changes that are needed to continue to provide a quality education to our students in the safest way possible.

Donations to the Appeal also support the Office for Parish Life in its efforts to develop new ways to connect to parishes such as the recent virtual Catechist Camp for parish directors of religious education, the Together Project for young adults and a new online Faith Formation program to assist parishes.

Thousands of the faithful who are not able to attend Mass in person are watching the broadcast and livestreaming of Masses from the Cathedral of Saint

Peter. Catholic Television, *The Catholic Light* and information provided on the Diocesan website are funded by donations to the Appeal.

Gifts to the Appeal also provide assistance to our seminarians in priestly formation and care and support for Diocesan retired and ill priests who have dedicated their lives in faithful service to parishioners throughout the diocese.

Donors to the Appeal may designate their gift to any of the ministries listed above.

For more information on the Diocesan ministries supported by gifts to the Annual Appeal, to view one of the regional Annual Appeal videos or to make a donation online, visit [www.annualappeal.org](http://www.annualappeal.org). Gifts may also be made by calling the Diocesan Development Office at 570-207-2250 or by sending a donation to: Diocesan Annual Appeal, 300 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA, 18503.

## Diocesan Annual Appeal assists parishes in community outreach efforts

SCRANTON – The COVID-19 pandemic has forced the cancellation of many events but it wasn’t enough to stop what has become an annual back-to-school tradition in North Scranton.

For the last several years, Mary, Mother of God Parish has hosted a picnic for students and families from the Bangor Heights Housing Development in late August. Due to the coronavirus, this year’s event on Aug. 27 looked different but was still able to accomplish its mission.

“It’s very important to come, just to see the children here,” parishioner Mary Lou Lozinger said. “They appreciate it and whatever we can do to help them further their schooling, we’ll do it.”

Instead of hamburgers and hot dogs served off the grill, those who turned out received pre-wrapped sandwiches. They were also provided with free school supplies and clothing.

“They don’t get a lot of what other children do, so we try our best to help out,” parishioner Nina Condella said.

The back-to-school picnic serves as evangelization tool for the parish. Parents are able



**Volunteers from Mary, Mother of God Parish distribute food and school supplies to students during a Back-to-School Picnic on Aug. 27 at the Bangor Heights Housing Development in Scranton.**

to enroll or learn more about religious education classes.

“Every year that we come, we always get a few children to join the CCD classes and receive Communion and Confirmation. Some even get baptized so it’s nice, it really is,” Condella added.

Geraldine Francisco, who lives in the Bangor Heights development, learned about the parish through the event several years ago after moving to Scranton. She attended the event with her son after seeing a promotional flyer.

“I wanted to baptize my son since he was a baby and because of other things going on at the time, it felt impossible, but now I feel stable here at the parish. I’m glad that I was able to baptize him and he’s doing his First Communion so I’m really happy about that,” Francisco said.

“I did not know Geraldine before but now we do, because of this particular project and there are a lot more Geri’s. We just have to surface them and connect with them,” Mary, Mother of God pastor, Father Cyril Edwards, said.



**Sister Therese Mary Dougherty, I.H.M., right, prepares to distribute free clothing to students during a Back-to-School Picnic on Aug. 27 in North Scranton. (Photos/Eric Deabill)**

The event is funded by a social justice grant, provided to the parish by generous donations from the Diocesan Annual Appeal.

“This is an opportunity, through the Appeal, to show that there is plenty of hope,” Father Edwards explained.

“The interaction it provides with people is priceless,” Sister Therese Mary Dougherty, I.H.M., said. “Hope never dies. We want to nurture people’s hope through the church and through their neighborhood.”

While Father Edwards used a microphone and speaker to invite

families to the picnic, volunteers from the Mary, Mother of God Marian Society waited for hungry guests under two large pop-up tents.

“It is a way to reach people. You have to...We have to go to them,” Father Edwards said.

Without attending the picnic, Geraldine Francisco said she may not have become involved with the parish.

“I feel like everything happens for a reason and if it wasn’t for that, then I wouldn’t be where I am today and I’m so happy that I’m in the parish family,” she said.



# Prayer vigil provides HOPE outside Williamsport hospital

WILLIAMSPORT – During the COVID-19 pandemic, many people have been looking for signs of hope. On Sunday, Aug. 16, they didn't need to look any further than the front lawn of UPMC Susquehanna.

More than 100 people came together for a "Prayer Vigil of Light and Hope" at the hospital organized by Saint Joseph the Worker parish.

"The one thing that we wanted to do was pray for our doctors, our nurses, our firefighters, police and first responders, all those people who have been battling COVID on the front lines ever since the beginning," Father Brian Van Fossen, pastor, said.

Attendees prayed a rosary on the hospital's front lawn, lighting candles that ultimately spelled out the word "HOPE" in large letters.

"It was really, really nice. We even had people in the windows of the hospital looking down and being with us, even though they were in the hospital working," Father Van Fossen said. "There was even a couple people who came out of the emergency room, who were able to stand and pray at a distance."

The parish worked with the hospital to make the event a success. People who attended wore face masks and were easily able to maintain proper social distancing.

The event was planned for the weekend that the Church celebrates the Assumption of Mary. The rosary focused on the Glorious Mysteries: Resurrection, Ascension, Pentecost, Assumption and Coronation of Mary.

"All you have to do is look at the Glorious Mysteries of the Church and you see how the Cross is overcome by the triumph of faithfulness and hope and love and people proclaiming the Gospel," Father Van Fossen added.



The Williamsport pastor says even after the prayers were over, many people wanted to stick around, caught up in the awe-inspiring moment. In the days following the event, he added that the parish has received numerous notes of appreciation from doctors and nurses who witnessed the prayer vigil.

"It really formulated a sense of community with those who are on the front lines," he added.

The prayer vigil at UPMC Susquehanna was the final event in a weekend of activities for members of Saint Joseph the Worker Parish.

On Saturday, Aug. 15, volunteers took to the street to clean up litter as a community service project. Normally in mid-August, the parish would be immersed in festivities for the Little League World Series, but since the games were canceled this year,



**Above: Using candles to spell out the word "HOPE" in large letters, parishioners from Saint Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport held a Prayer Vigil of Light and Hope outside UPMC Susquehanna hospital in Williamsport on Aug. 27, 2020.**

**Left: Parishioners pray a rosary on the front lawn of the hospital in Lycoming County. (Photos courtesy: UPMC Williamsport)**

parishioners decided to give back in other ways.

"We knew with a few hours and a few hands we could clean it up," Makenzie Conner, director of youth ministry, said. "It was a great morning after Mass, walking the streets and cleaning up trash, taking the young out and learning about our city."

On Sunday, before the prayer vigil at UPMC Susquehanna, the parish held Mass and a meal at a local park right behind a baseball field that would have normally been a welcoming site for thousands during the Little League World Series.

"There is something about sharing a meal together with a parish family that we all really missed," Conner added, emphasizing that safety measures remained in place.

The parish is already working on its next big community events.

"One of the things we're looking at doing with the Knights of Columbus is the National Rosary Rally in October. Our Knights of Columbus have taken up the mantle and we've placed five strategic locations throughout the city of Williamsport and we just got approval that we can do this," Father Van Fossen said. "We're going to go to city hall where our police department is located, we're going to go to the food pantry and family promise for the homeless and those who are in need, especially in light of our world today, we're going to go over to the hospital and pray a decade of the rosary there, and then we're going to come to the fire hall and pray a decade of the rosary there and finally finish here at the church with the decade of the rosary as well."

## Parish welcomes Father Fidel home after five months

WILKES-BARRE – When Father Fidel Ticona walked into a downstairs room at Saint Nicholas Church in mid-August, the parishioners burst into sudden applause.

For many, it was the first time they had seen Father Fidel in five months.

In March, when travel restrictions started being put in place, the 50-year-old cleric was on vacation visiting family in his native Peru. He ended up spending five months in the South American country because he could not return home to Luzerne County.

"I usually take my vacation around that time. It's summer time in the south, back home. It was about a two and a-half week vacation that was planned and expected," Father Fidel recounted. "I was ready to come back and look what happened."

Father Fidel said he was on his way to the airport when his niece called him and told him everything was going to be shut down due to COVID-19 concerns.

"I couldn't believe it," Father Fidel explained. "When I got there, it was chaos in the airport. There was nobody to talk with. People didn't know what to do."

After a few hours, Father Fidel was told that he could still take a domestic flight to Lima, the capital city of Peru, for the first part of his journey home to Wilkes-Barre. Realizing that if he took that flight to Lima he still wouldn't be able to return to the United States, he decided to stay put in his native Puno, Peru.

"I didn't know what to do," Father Fidel admitted.

Initially, Father Fidel thought he would need to remain in Peru for only a month, but he quickly realized it would take much longer to return home.

"I tried to get a plane ticket through different countries," he said. "I got one after a month and a-half. I was ready to come back. Three days before, the flight was cancelled."

Father Fidel often thought about all of the items on his work calendar, including baptisms, but it wasn't until he had a phone call with Father Joseph Verespy, pastor of Saint Nicholas Parish, when he learned that many local events also were being changed because of the coronavirus.

"After that, I enjoyed my time," Father Fidel admitted.



**Father Fidel Ticona works in his office at Saint Nicholas Parish in Wilkes-Barre after spending five months in his native Peru due to COVID-19 (Photo/Eric Deabill)**

*Continued on Page 15*



# Catholic ministry addresses pandemic's toll on mental health

SCRANTON – In addition to the seemingly endless interruptions the COVID-19 global pandemic has had on our world – from a direct impact on those it has affected, to fear of contracting the virus, to separation from loved ones, and an overall upheaval it has caused to our social, work and financial lives – the crisis has also taken a serious, sometimes deadly, toll on the mental health of society.

No one is more aware of that fact than Deacon Ed Shoener.

Ordained a Permanent Deacon for service in the Diocese of Scranton in 2004, Deacon Shoener in 2017 launched his Catholic Mental Health Ministry based at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, where he serves as the parish deacon. He began the support ministry following the death of his daughter Katie Shoener, who took her own life after a 12-year battle with severe depression.

Deacon Shoener is currently president and a founding member of the Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers.

Since becoming the face and

point person for such ministry in the Diocese, Deacon Shoener has emphasized that mental health ministry in the Catholic Church is growing because many people see the need for a ministry focused on the spiritual needs of those living with a mental illness, along with family members and others who love and support them.

Within the past six months, the need has become greater than ever.

“The pandemic has clearly led to greater isolation and anxiety for everyone,” Deacon Shoener said. “For people who are living with mental health challenges, the added isolation and stress has made their lives more difficult.”

The deacon noted that during the height of the COVID restrictions in the spring, the mental health ministry support group gatherings in Scranton transitioned to online ZOOM meetings, but have returned to in-person sessions requiring facial masks and social distancing.

Support ministry for those suffering from mental illness

continues to meet on the second and fourth Saturday of the month from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Saint Peter Cathedral Rectory. For family and friends who support those living with mental illness, meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. in the rectory.



Deacon Ed Shoener

In a recent homily Deacon Shoener preached at the Cathedral, following Matthew's Gospel account of the terrified disciples being tossed in a boat during a raging storm only to encounter Jesus walking on the water towards them, he equated the apostles' plight with the feelings of helplessness so many are wrestling with at this time.

“The pandemic is not only causing physical, social and economic strains, it is also heaping pressure on the mental health of many people in ways that are hard to see,” he said. “Like the disciples in today's Gospel, we are shaken by a vast storm that we have no control over.”

Noting that many struggling with the effects of the global health crisis are overwhelmed by its impact on all aspects of life, the deacon remarked, “For others, the pandemic may be manageable, but it may be some other part of life, perhaps a relationship, that is in chaos.”

Following the example of the disciples, who “cried out in fear,”



ASSOCIATION OF  
CATHOLIC MENTAL  
HEALTH MINISTERS

said Deacon Shoener, there is a need to cry out for Jesus.

“You are struggling with the loneliness brought on by the pandemic, you are struggling with the fear brought on by the pandemic — Cry out for Jesus,” he said. “You lost a job and your debt is a burden you don't think you can bear — Cry out for Jesus.”

“We may fall, we may begin to sink beneath the waves, but He will pick us up,” the deacon continued. “Our faith may be weak, yet His mercy is strong.”

“During these uncertain and chaotic times, we all need to cry

out for Jesus,” Deacon Shoener said. “We all need to spend time with Him in prayer. He will speak to us in the quiet moments. We all need to be with Him in His Church. Jesus will pour out countless graces on us to calm the storm.”

*Deacon Shoener is available to anyone interested in establishing a mental health ministry in a parish or deanery. For more information on the ministry, including training and support, contact him at (570) 814-5133.*

## Christian Mental Health Support Group in Williamsport

Founded in 2019, the Williamsport Area Christian Mental Health Support Group is an ecumenical effort by members of several area churches to lend support to anyone experiencing mental health difficulties and their families, as well as reduce the stigma surrounding mental health issues.

Representing the Williamsport Catholic parish of Saint Joseph the Worker as part of the grass-roots ministry are Molly Eisley and Jerry Kabat, a frequent group facilitator.

“The Christian Spiritual support group is not group therapy,” Eisley said, “but a ministry in which members seek to help support each other during their time of needs and to grow spiritually in their relationship with God.”

The ecumenical support group currently meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of the month at the West End Christian Community Center, Arch and Fourth streets, Williamsport; and at 12:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday each month at Sojourner Truth Ministries, High and Center streets, Williamsport.

Anyone interested in joining the ministry or advancing mental health support in the greater Williamsport area may contact Molly Eisley at Saint Joseph the Worker Parish, (570) 323-9456, for more information.

PENNSYLVANIA  
CATHOLIC  
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Take Action!

**We are asking you to help us support HB 1827, a bill that we feel is becoming increasingly important in helping to save lives. You will be asking your state senator to support voting the bill out of the PA Senate Judiciary Committee and out of the Chamber during this session.**

**The bill is sponsored by Rep. Dawn Keefer and is in response to something that actually occurred in her district. A young lady took her own life after receiving encouragement to do so on social media.**

**HB 1827 increases penalties for individuals who encourage or aid minors – or people with intellectual disabilities – to commit suicide. The importance of this measure has increased in recent months. Reports of suicidal threats and self-harm tendencies among Pennsylvania school children shot up after schools were closed in March, new data from the state Attorney General shows. Our Catholic Charities have also witnessed a spike in the need for mental health counseling.**

**Please help us support the passage of HB 1827 into law to send a clear message that encouraging troubled minors and the intellectually disabled to commit suicide will not be tolerated in our Commonwealth.**

**To send a message or for more information, visit:**  
[pacatholic.org/resources/voter-voice](http://pacatholic.org/resources/voter-voice)



# Citizens' Re-Entry Program helps parolees assimilate back into community

*Program operated by Catholic Social Services helps people turn their lives around*

By ALAN K. STOUT  
Special to *The Catholic Light*

SCRANTON – Throughout the pages of the New Testament, Jesus talks about forgiveness. He talks about how we all receive forgiveness from God and how we must learn to forgive one another. He talks about not judging one another and He talks about compassion.

Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton, which serves 11 counties in northeastern Pennsylvania, demonstrates such compassion through many of its programs, including its Citizens' Re-Entry Program.

The program, which helps individuals that have been paroled from prison assimilate themselves back into the community, is operated in cooperation the Lackawanna-Susquehanna Counties Behavioral Health Intellectual Disabilities Early Intervention (BHIDEI) Program. Started in 2018, it is funded by the County Office of Mental Health and offers parolees a clean, safe and professionally supervised place to stay during their transition.

People that are served by the Citizens' Re-Entry Program come from the Lackawanna County Prison.

"We get referrals for people that have been in prison long enough so that they can be released on a home plan," Shannon Evarts said earlier this summer while explaining the program. "They're still on probation, but they can go home. The issue is that a lot of them can't get home plans approved, or they don't have a home to go to. If our program didn't exist, they would have to sit in prison until they reached their maximum sentence and then they would be released. But at that point they wouldn't be on probation. They'd have no supervision. They'd just be back out in the community. Basically, we take people that otherwise would still be sitting in jail, but really don't need to be, and help them through their transition."

A "home plan," is a proper living arrangement that a paroled prisoner must have before they are released.

"It means that they are permitted to go and live with family or a friend," she said. "But the arrangement has to be approved. Their probation officer has to check it out, and sometimes it's not approved, because you've gone to Mom's house two or three times in the past, and you violated every time, and clearly it's just not a good fit for you. Other times, they just don't have someone that will take them. Our program gets them out of jail."

In addition to being eligible for parole, those that enter the Citizens' Re-Entry Program must have a mental health diagnosis and must also be working towards bettering their mental health through a recovery



**The Citizens' Re-Entry Program, which is run by Catholic Social Services, operates eight modern apartments for parolees as they work to re-enter the community.**

model. The program, as a whole, works collaboratively with the county office, the county prison and mental health professionals.

The Citizens' Re-Entry Program works very closely with the Scranton Counseling Center. Any participant is required to have a case manager through the Scranton Counseling Center.

In order to ensure that participants are taking an active role in their mental health treatment, supervisors work with probation and parole officers. They have a meeting every other week with someone from the county, jail, two case managers, the Director of Forensic Services and a supervisor from Scranton Counseling.

Residents that are accepted by Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton's Citizens' Re-Entry Program stay at Saint James Manor, a newly renovated apartment complex located just a few blocks from downtown Scranton. There are eight apartments designated for the program at the facility.

Some people in the program only stay for one month. The longest that any person has stayed was one year.

Stephanie Schwambach is currently participating in the program.

Schwambach, 45, is originally from Reading, but she ended up in the city and in the Lackawanna County Prison, under bizarre circumstances.

"I lost my mind," said Schwambach, when discussing what led to her incarceration.

"I was going through a lot of stress at the time, and I was driving a U-Haul, because I was moving out of my apartment. I had gotten lost, and I turned my U-Haul around when I found out that I was in the Pocono Mountains. I somehow ended up in Scranton. I don't even remember how. I crashed the truck right by Nay Aug Park (in Scranton) and I wanted to get home. That was what was in my head. 'I just need to get home.' My U-Haul wouldn't work, and so I went and found a vehicle that would. I saw an ambulance at a nearby medical center that had the keys in it, and I honestly don't remember making the decision to take it. I was blanked out," she explained.

Schwambach took the vehicle and led police on a high speed chase, eventually crashing in Dickson City. Authorities originally considered a 302 petition to have her admitted to a psychiatric hospital but chose instead to arrest her.

"I had never been in trouble before in my life," she said. "I had four or five major life events happen with a very short period of time and I just couldn't handle it."

Though she was sentenced to 24 months in prison, she was paroled after only 11 months and entered the Citizens' Re-Entry Program. She's been working with the program for the past eight months.

"It has given me a place to live, so I'm not homeless, which is a huge thing," Schwambach said. "Not being from Scranton, I didn't have a home plan, so this gave me a home plan that would allow me to get out of prison and start to rebuild my life. I was a social worker before all of this happened, so I know where to look for resources. When I was not able to find community resources, Shannon or some of the other staff were able to help me."

Schwambach is now in the process of stabilizing her financial situation and is following all of the protocols required by the Citizens' Re-Entry Program. She hopes to leave within a few months. As she indicated, those participating in the Citizens' Re-Entry Program also receive help and guidance from the Catholic Social Services staff in how to gain better independence.

The Citizens' Re-Entry Program follows all probation guidelines including no drugs or alcohol. Participants can sign out and leave the building but must be back in their room at night by curfew.

Mary Theresa Malandro, Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Human Services and the Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton, said the program affords the agency the opportunity to serve those in need.

"Rooted in the Gospel, the mission of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton is to serve individuals and families in poverty and hardship, as we are called by Christ to do, and to respond compassionately to their needs," she said. "As a Catholic agency, we advocate for individual dignity and self-sufficiency and actively give of ourselves to replace despair with hope."

Maryann Colbert, administrator, Lackawanna-Susquehanna BH/ID/EI Program, said her program also remains committed to helping such clients.

"The Lackawanna-Susquehanna Behavioral Health Program is pleased to support the needs of individuals with mental illness who intersect with the criminal justice system," she said. "It is very rewarding to have the opportunity to support these individuals on a path to recovery and independence. Catholic Social Services has been a long standing partner with the County Behavioral Health Program to meet the needs of individuals with mental illness in our county and we are appreciative of their commitment to the needs of these citizens."

The overall goal of the re-entry program is to help people turn their lives around.

For Schwambach, that's exactly what's happened.

"It's given me the opportunity to restart my life," she said. "Nobody here has judged me. They've been fantastic and very helpful. Without this program, I would not be out of prison."

*"It has given me the opportunity to restart my life...Nobody here has judged me. They've been fantastic and very helpful"*

**Stephanie Schwambach  
Program Participant**





# Back to school for Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Scranton

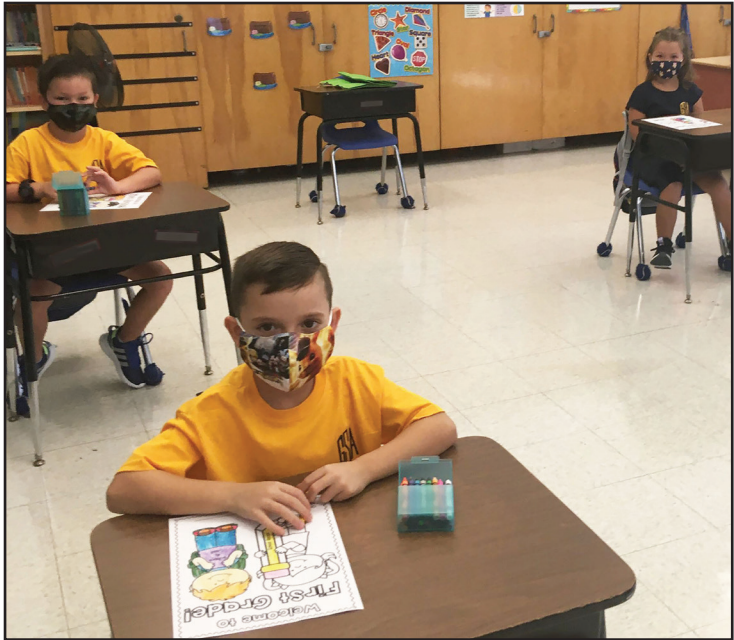
Planning, preparation and prayer have helped Catholic school students, families, faculty, staff and administrators safely begin a brand new school year.

Many students in the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System have returned to class for in-person instruction over the last several weeks, while others are taking part in the Diocesan Virtual Academy.

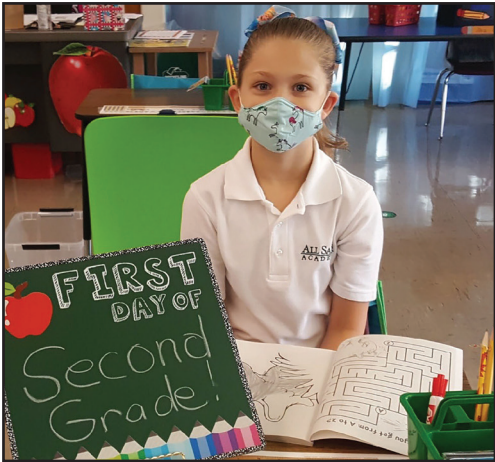
“There is energy and excitement around the first day of school on any year,” Kristen Donohue, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, said. “I’m extremely proud of how our students and teachers have embraced this time, turning challenges into opportunities in many cases.”

Everyone has a role to play in helping mitigate the spread of COVID-19 this fall. Through the diocese’s “Sharing Good Health” initiative, strategies include continuing health screenings at home before going to school, wearing masks, good hygiene practices and keeping a safe physical distance in an effort to prevent the spread of the virus.

“While things may look different this year, our staff has worked extremely hard to create a welcoming environment like always, so that our children can continue to achieve their God-given potential,” Jason Morrison, Chief Executive Officer and Diocesan Secretary of Education, said.



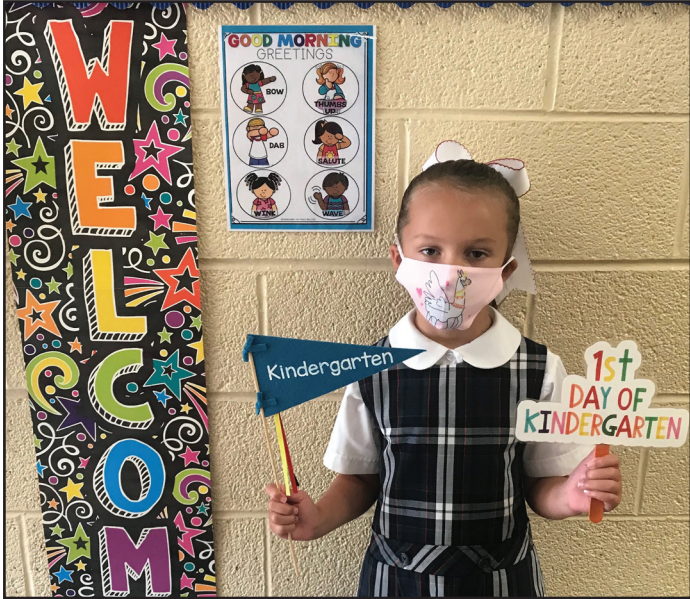
Good Shepherd Academy, Kingston



All Saints Academy, Scranton



Notre Dame Elementary School, East Stroudsburg



Saint Clare/Saint Paul School, Scranton



Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School, Wilkes-Barre



Saint Agnes School, Towanda



Epiphany School, Sayre



Saint Jude School, Mountain Top





Holy Family Academy, Hazleton



Our Lady of Peace School, Clarks Green



Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School, East Stroudsburg



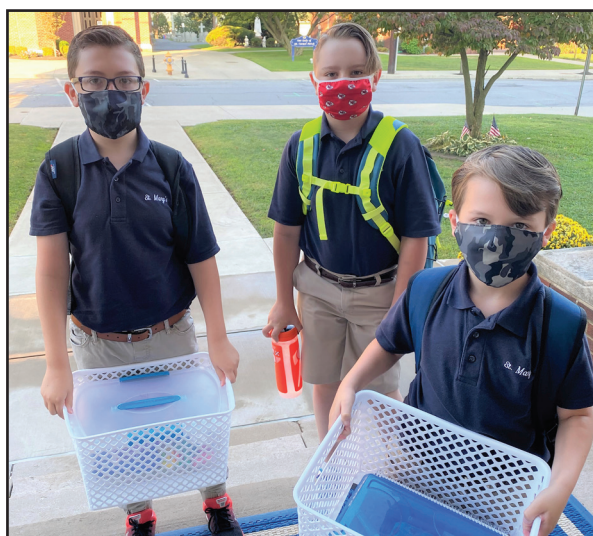
Holy Cross High School, Dunmore



Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School, Williamsport



Holy Rosary School, Duryea



Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School, Dunmore



Wyoming Area Catholic School, Exeter



Saint John Neumann Elementary School, Williamsport



La Salle Academy, Jessup



Holy Redeemer High School, Wilkes-Barre





# Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time: September 20, 2020



**FIRST READING**  
IS 55:6-9

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call him while he is near. Let the scoundrel forsake his way, and the wicked his thoughts; let him turn to the LORD for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**  
PS 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18

**Response: The Lord is near to all who call upon him.**

**SECOND READING**  
PHIL 1:20C-24, 27A

Brothers and sisters: Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me life is Christ, and death is gain. If I go on living in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. And I do not know which I shall choose.

I am caught between the two. I long to depart this life and be with Christ, for that is far better. Yet that I remain in the flesh is more necessary for your benefit.

Only, conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ.

**GOSPEL READING**  
MT 20:1-16A

Jesus told his disciples this parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.

Going out about nine o’clock, the landowner saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, ‘You too go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.’ So they went off.

And he went out again around noon, and around three o’clock, and did likewise. Going out about five o’clock, the landowner found others standing around, and said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’

They answered, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You too go into my vineyard.’ When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.’

When those who had started about five o’clock came, each received the usual daily wage. So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more, but each of them also got the usual wage. And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who bore the day’s burden and the heat.’

He said to one of them in reply, ‘My friend, I am not cheating you. Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what is yours and go. What if I wish to give this last one the same as you? Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?’ Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last.”



# Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time: September 27, 2020



**FIRST READING**  
EZ 18:25-28

Thus says the LORD: You say, “The LORD’s way is not fair!” Hear now, house of Israel: Is it my way that is unfair, or rather, are not your ways unfair?

When someone virtuous turns away from virtue to commit iniquity, and dies, it is because of the iniquity he committed that he must die. But if he turns from the wickedness he has committed, he does what is right and just, he shall preserve his life; since he has turned away from all the sins that he has committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**  
PS 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14

**Response: Remember your mercies, O Lord.**

**SECOND READING**  
PHIL 2:1-11 or 2:1-5

Brothers and sisters: If there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love, any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing.

Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also for those of others.

Have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus, [Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.]

**GOSPEL READING**  
MT 21:28-32

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: “What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He came to the first and said, ‘Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.’

He said in reply, ‘I will not,’ but afterwards changed his mind and went.

The man came to the other son and gave the same order.

He said in reply, ‘Yes, sir,’ but did not go. Which of the two did his father’s will?”

They answered, “The first.”

Jesus said to them, “Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you. When John came to you in the way of righteousness, you did not believe him; but tax collectors and prostitutes did. Yet even when you saw that, you did not later change your minds and believe him.”



# Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time: October 4, 2020



**FIRST READING**  
IS 5:1-7

Let me now sing of my friend, my friend’s song concerning his vineyard. My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside; he spaded it, cleared it of stones, and planted the choicest vines; within it he built a watchtower, and hewed out a wine press. Then he looked for the crop of grapes, but what it yielded was wild grapes.

Now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard: What more was there to do for my vineyard that I had not done? Why, when I looked for the crop of grapes, did it bring forth wild grapes?

Now, I will let you know what I mean to do with my vineyard: take away its hedge,

give it to grazing, break through its wall, let it be trampled!

Yes, I will make it a ruin: it shall not be pruned or hoed, but overgrown with thorns and briars; I will command the clouds not to send rain upon it.

The vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished plant; he looked for judgment, but see, bloodshed! for justice, but hark, the outcry!

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**  
PS 80:9, 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20

**Response: The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.**

Brothers and sisters: Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.

Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you.

GOSPEL READING  
MT 21:33-43

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people: "Hear another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it, dug a wine press in it, and

built a tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went on a journey. When vintage time drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to obtain his produce.

But the tenants seized the servants and one they beat, another they killed, and a third they stoned. Again he sent other servants, more numerous than the first ones, but they treated them in the same way.

Finally, he sent his son to them, thinking, 'They will respect my son.'

But when the tenants saw the son, they said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and acquire his inheritance.'

They seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. What will the owner of the vineyard do to those tenants when he comes?"

They answered him, "He will put those wretched men to a wretched death and lease his vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the proper times."

Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes?"

Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit."



## Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time: October 11, 2020



FIRST READING  
IS 25:6-10A

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will provide for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines.

On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations; he will destroy death forever.

The Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from every face; the reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the LORD has spoken.

On that day it will be said: "Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us! This is the LORD for whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!"

For the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  
PS 23:1-3A, 3B-4, 5, 6

**Response: I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.**

SECOND READING  
PHIL 4:12-14, 19-20

Brothers and sisters: I know how to live in humble circumstances; I know also how to live with abundance. In every circumstance and in all things I have learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry, of living in abundance and of being in need. I can do all things in him who strengthens me. Still, it was kind of you to share in my distress.

My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father, glory forever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL READING  
MT 22:1-14 or 22:1-10

Jesus again in reply spoke to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come.

A second time he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those invited: "Behold, I have prepared my banquet, my calves and fattened cattle are killed, and everything is ready; come to the feast."'"

Some ignored the invitation and went away, one to his farm, another to his business.

The rest laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged and sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.

Then he said to his servants, 'The feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy to come. Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find.'

The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests.

[But when the king came in to meet the guests, he saw a man there not dressed in a wedding garment.

The king said to him, 'My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment?' But he was reduced to silence.

Then the king said to his attendants, 'Bind his hands and feet, and cast him into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.' Many are invited, but few are chosen."]

## After five months, Father Fidel welcomed home in Wilkes-Barre

*Continued from Page 9*

The quarantine in Peru was very strict. Father Fidel said only one person per family was allowed to go out for necessities like groceries and medicine. He said there was a curfew between 5:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.

"We were allowed to go out on designated days by gender. I was allowed to go out Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Women were allowed to go out Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday," he said.

Travelling was also no easy task. In most cases, it took Father Fidel two hours to walk to the store in only one direction.

"We had to walk. There was no way to move from one place to another place,"

he said. "You had to wait in line for hours and hours."

Father Fidel was able to leave Peru on July 23. He arrived back in Wilkes-Barre on July 25 and then spent two weeks in quarantine locally before returning to public ministry duties.

"It's nice to be home," he said. "It has been really rewarding to work with the Hispanic population who are most in need."

While he was able to talk to some parishioners by phone while he was in Peru, Father Fidel said now that he is back in Wilkes-Barre there is a lot of work to do.

"What I have to do goes beyond their spiritual needs," admitting that he helps his parishioners with finding jobs, translating documents and other necessary services.



**Numerous yard signs, which welcome Father Fidel Ticona back to Wilkes-Barre, have been placed all around the property of Saint Nicholas Parish. (Photo/Eric Deabill)**



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## Mission Message

# Go Forth

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



Each year, our diocese happily welcomes dozens of missionaries to participate in the Missionary Cooperation Plan Appeal. As with so much that has been postponed, realigned, or cancelled, the MCP has also encountered potential loss during the global pandemic.

It is not an exaggeration to share that hundreds of thousands of men, women and children benefit from this Appeal each year. The work of missionaries throughout the world depends upon these funds to support their ministries of evangelization, education, advocacy, feeding and clothing the poor and much, much more.

I appeal to each of you and your pastors and parishes to join me in yet another alternative program. Each parish will still adopt and sponsor a missionary group and their apostolate. This year, as with so many other entities within our diocesan parishes and schools, this will be a unique undertaking.

Typically, a missionary priest, religious brother or sister, or layperson would visit your parish to speak to you and give an eyewitness account of the ministries sponsored by his/her organization. This year, this will not be possible (at least in person it won't).

What we intend to do is to welcome our missionary friends to record a video reflection, where possible, and to write a personal reflection for inclusion in parish bulletins to give witness to the ministry they embrace in their corner of the world. A collection will then be taken to support their work of giving voice to the voiceless and lifting those who are most in need throughout the world.

I write to you in this edition of *The Catholic Light* to ask for your generosity and, more than anything, to appeal to you to dig deeply to listen to the words of the missionary assigned to your parish. These individuals live a life of surrender to God and in service to His people, often those who, in the words of Saint Teresa of Calcutta, are the poorest of the poor.

Each parish will be assigned a missionary group whose

apostolic work is to care for those most in need in struggling parts of the globe. Your parish will be asked to introduce the Missionary Cooperation Plan Appeal in your bulletin two weeks before the planned reflection of your missionary.

One week before this reflection, your parish will be asked to publish in the bulletin a brief introduction of the missionary and provide a date for your parish's collection for the Missionary Cooperation Plan Appeal. Then, either in your bulletin or on your parish's social media site, your missionary will offer his/her reflection on the apostolate of his missionary group.

I ask for your generosity for this collection. Especially during this time of upheaval and great need, it is so important for us — even in face of our own needs and struggles — to give what we are able to those who struggle so much more, particularly in these woeful times. Thank you for your unflinching support, the encouragement you give to those entrusted with this missionary work, and for storming heaven with your prayers.

May God bless you for your goodness.

## Apostleship of Prayer

Papal Intention for October 2020

*The Laity's Mission in the Church* —

We pray that by the virtue of baptism, the laity, especially women, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church.



SCRANTON — When discussing an upcoming video series aimed at groups who often feel uncomfortable in church, the Rev. Cyril Edwards typically uses one phrase: "We have a pew for you."

In the coming months, the pastor of Mary, Mother of God parish in North Scranton plans to reach out to divorced and remarried Catholics, the LGBTQ community and women who have had abortions.

"These are populations that experience has shown us don't feel welcome or don't know how to feel welcome again," he said.

Using his parish's Facebook page, Edwards will hold online discussions and solicit questions from people who participate.

"They feel shunned, unwanted, unloved and we have to make them feel loved," he explained.

The live series will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept.

29, focusing on how clergy can continue to support parishioners through times of divorce and remarriage within the Catholic Church. Edwards will be joined by the Rev. Jeffrey D. Tudgay, J.V., V.E., J.C.L., pastor of Saint Eulalia Parish.

"We have to find a way to communicate with them," Edwards added.

While participants will have the opportunity to ask questions during the livestream sessions, the parish is also soliciting questions anonymously beforehand using a link on its Facebook page.

Edwards stresses that the sessions will revolve around the teachings of the Catholic Church.

"I'm hoping to help them to understand it in a way that is life-giving for them," he said.

The live Q&A sessions are open to anyone, not just parishioners. As parishes initially began reopening for public Masses

during the COVID-19 pandemic, Edwards hosted similar online sessions that attracted hundreds of viewers.

In addition to the session planned on Sept. 29, two others are currently scheduled.

On Monday, Oct. 19, at 7:00 p.m., Edwards will discuss LGBTQ issues with the Rev. Daniel J. Issing, C.S.C., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Theology, King's College, and Father John Michael Lee, C.P. of Saint Ann's Monastery and Shrine Basilica.

On Tuesday, Nov. 10, at 7:00 p.m., Edwards will work to make women who have had abortions feel comfortable in church with the Rev. Andrew Kurovsky, pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, and Maryann Lawhon from the Pennsylvanians for Human Life.

To view any of the online sessions, visit facebook.com/mmogparish.

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— I make house calls —



## Bishop blesses new baptismal font



Bishop Joseph C. Bambera celebrated Mass and blessed the new baptismal font at Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Pittston on Sept. 13, 2020. The church recently completed renovations, including a complete repainting of the interior and installation of new flooring, among many other enhancements.

## Who makes house calls?

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

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

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



### Elder Law

- Guardianships
- Asset Protection Planning
- Medicaid Application Assistance

### Estate Administration

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

### Estate Planning

- Powers of Attorney • Living Wills
- Wills • Trusts Guardianships



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## SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

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

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY			
12:00 AM	DAILY MASS	SUNDAY MASS (Encore)	DAILY MASS (Encore)							
1:00 AM	FR SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	(1:10AM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	THE JOURNEY HOME (Encore)	MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE CLASSICS	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	THE WORLD OVER (Encore)	FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE			
1:30 AM		EWTN GALLERY								
2:00 AM	EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Encore)									
2:30 AM	GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR A HAPPY LIFE		EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY			
3:00 AM	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE	SPECIALS	REAL LIFE CATHOLIC	LIFE ON THE ROCK	BATTLE READY	WHAT IS GOD'S WILL?			
3:30AM		DEFENDING LIFE		PAPAL AUDIENCE	SAINTS VS SCOUNDRELS	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOG	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY			
4:00 AM	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	REFURBISHING THE SOUL	HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH	(4:40)ANGELUS FROM NAZARETH	BOB AND PENNY LORD PRESENT	WEB OF FAITH 2.0	SAVORING OUR FAITH			
4:30 AM		(4:35)SUNDAY BEST WITH FR GROESCHEL	THE CHURCH:GOD'S PLAN		THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS	LIFE IS WORTH LIVING	EXTRAORDINARY FAITH			
5:00 AM	EXTRAORDINARY FAITH	EWTN BOOKMARK	THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL	LETTER AND SPIRIT	EWTN SPECIALS	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY	CATHOLIC BEGINNINGS			
5:30 AM	FUNDAMENTALS OF CATHOLICISM	CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN	APOSTOLATE FOR FAMILY CONSECRATION	FUNDAMRNTALS OF CATHOLICISM		CATHOLICS COME HOME				
6:00 AM	ANGELUS WITH POPE FRANCIS	EWTN ORIGINAL PRODUCTIONS								
6:30 AM	WHERE GOD WEEPS	G.K. CHESTERTON	CHURCH AND THE POOR	FR. RUTLER: CHRIST IN THE CITY	ICONS SPOTLIGHT	THE CHOICES WE FACE	SAINTS vs. SCOUNDRLS			
7:00 AM	THE CHAPLET OF ST. MICHAEL					STATIONS OF THE CROSS	CHAPLET OF ST. MICHAEL			
7:30 AM	THE ROSARY FROM LOURDES	HOLY LAND ROSARY					THE HOLY ROSARY FROM LOURDES			
7:50 AM		LITANY OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	LITANY OF THE HOLY NAME	LITANY OF ST. JOSEPH	LITANY OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD	PAPAL AUDIENCE				
8:00 AM	SUNDAY MASS (Live)	DAILY MASS (Live)								
9:00 AM	(9:20AM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	HOLY ROSARY WITH THE FRANCISCAN MISSIONARIES OF THE ETERNAL WORD								
9:30 AM	EWTN ROSARY FRANCISCANS	SUNDAY BEST WITH FR. GROESCHEL	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION (ENCORE)	EWTN LIVE (ENCORE)	THE WORLD OVER (Encore)	THE FRIAR			
10:00 AM	SUNDAY MASS ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL	RELIGIOUS CATALOG					STORIES FROM THE BIBLE			
10:30 AM		SALT AND LIGHT TV	MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE	LIVE WITH PASSION	CATHOLIC CLASSICS WITH MOTHER ANGELICA	FOCUS	MY CATHOLIC FAMILY			
11:00 AM	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY	OFOD OR SPECIALS		ST ANN'S WEEKLY NOVENA		CHOICES WE FACE	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY			
11:30 AM	VATICANO	SPEAKING OF SAINTS	ST PIO	ST JOSEMARIA ESCRIVA AND OPUS DEI	EUCCHARISTIC JOURNEY	JP II : THE MAN THE POPE THE MESSAGE	BOB & PENNY LORD PRESENT			
12:00 PM	SUNDAY MASS (Encore)	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, LIVE AT 12:10 p.m. "DIOCESAN DATEBOOK" airs before and after Mass.					EWTN DAILY MASS (Encore)			
12:30PM	(1:10PM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	WOMEN OF GRACE					EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE			
1:30 PM	IN CONCERT	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	PRO LIFE WEEKLY	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	OFOD	WOMEN OF GRACE HOUR LONG	EWTN BOOKMARK			
2:00 PM		CALLED TO COMMUNION	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION	FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	THE JOURNEY HOME		STATIONS OF CROSS	EWTN ON LOCATION		
2:30 PM										
3:00 PM	THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY IN SONG									
3:20 PM	LIVE ADORATION FROM EWTN CHAPEL									
3:30 PM	THE ROSARY FROM LOURDES	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, (Encore)					ROSARY FOR LIFE			
4:00 PM	LIFE IS WORTH LIVING	THE HOLY ROSARY					SUNDAY VIGIL MASS ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL			
4:30 PM	SAVORING OUR FAITH	DIOCESAN DATEBOOK								
4:30 PM	SAVORING OUR FAITH	MASTERPIECE DONUT SHOP	WE ARE CATHOLIC	MY TIME WITH JESUS	CAT CHAT	BUGTIME ADVENTURES				
5:00 PM	THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL	EWTN BOOKMARK	THE CHOICES WE FACE	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE	BOB & PENNY LORD PRESENT	GENESIS TO JESUS	DECISION POINT			
5:30 PM	SUNDAY PASSIONIST MASS	SPECIALS					LETTER AND SPIRIT			
6:00 PM	SUNDAY MASS FROM ST PETERS CATHEDRAL	EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Live)					THE JOURNEY HOME			
6:30 PM	SUNDAY MASS	CATHOLICS COME HOME	REAL LIFE CATHOLICS	CHURCH UNIVERSAL	VATICANO	WHAT IS GOD'S WILL?	DAILY MASS			
7:00 PM		THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, (Encore)								
7:30PM	SUNDAY MASS	THE HOLY ROSARY		POPE'S AUDIENCE	THE HOLY ROSARY		DAILY MASS			
8:00 PM		DIOCESAN DATEBOOK								
8:00 PM	(8:20) LITANY OF SACRED HEART	THE JOURNEY HOME (Live)	OFOD OR SPECIALS (CAN BE 90 MINUTES)	EWTN LIVE	THE WORLD OVER (Live)	SPECIALS	EWTN CINEMA			
8:30 PM	CATHOLICS COME HOME		MUSIC AND SPOKEN WORD							
9:00 PM	LIFE ON THE ROCK	EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Encore)								
9:30 PM	HOLY ROSARY W MOTHER ANGELICA	WEEKLY NOVENA TO ST. ANN	THE CHOICES WE FACE	FOCUS	LIVE WITH PASSION	SALT AND LIGHT TV SISTERHOOD	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY			
10:00PM	EWTN SPECIALS	THE WORLD OVER LIVE (ENCORE)	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION (ENCORE)	FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	PRO-LIFE WEEKLY	LIFE ON THE ROCK				
10:30 PM					DEFENDING LIFE	ICONS SPOTLIGHT				
11:00PM	CATHOLIC BEGINNINGS	BATTLE READY	CROSS TRAINING	CROSSING THE GOAL	LONG RIDE HOME	REAL LIFE CATHOLIC	WEB OF FAITH 2.0			
11:30PM	CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN	WOMEN OF GRACE					PARABLE			

## New year of formation begins for Scranton seminarians



**Diocese of Scranton seminarians after the Opening Mass at Saint Mary's Seminary and University. Pictured are William Asinari, Deacon Mark DeCelles, Andrew McCarroll and Thomas Dzwonczyk.**

**William Asinari**  
Theology I at Saint Mary's Seminary and University

**Andrew McCarroll**  
Theology I at Saint Mary's Seminary and University

**Michael Boris**  
Pastoral Year at Saint Rose of Lima Parish and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Carbondale

**Jan Carlo Perez**  
Pastoral Year at Christ the King Parish, Archbald

**Deacon Mark DeCelles**  
Theology IV at Saint Mary's Seminary and University

**Marc Phillips**  
College IV at Cathedral Seminary House of Formation, Douglaston, New York

**Thomas Dzwonczyk**  
Theology I at Saint Mary's Seminary and University

**David Pirolli**  
College II at Cathedral Seminary House of Formation, Douglaston, New York

## Sept. 27 marks the World Day of Migrants and Refugees

Catholics will mark the World Day of Migrants and Refugees during the ecumenical celebration of the Season of Creation, highlighting the obligation, as Pope Francis says, to listen to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor, said Canadian Cardinal Michael Czerny.

"With Pope Francis, we hope to come out of the COVID crisis better than before: more welcoming, more cooperative, more sharing, more attentive to the needs of our common

home and everyone in it, and closer to our loving God and creator," said the cardinal, who is undersecretary at the Migrants and Refugees Section of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

The World Day of Migrants and Refugees is Sept. 27. Among those often forced to flee are those driven from their homes by the climate crisis, which takes many different forms around the world: fires, flooding, drought and storms.





## Rosary Rallies to Mark Fatima Anniversary

Marian Devotion Ministries will host two public Rosary rallies on Saturday, Oct. 10, in conjunction with the annual "America Needs Fatima" national Rosary crusade that unifies Catholic faithful each October by offering prayers to the Blessed Mother for an increase in faith, reparation for sins, and ongoing religious conversion of the United States, especially with respect to the evil of abortion.

The "America Needs Fatima" Rosary rally devotions in public arenas commemorate the anniversary of Our Lady's final apparition to the shepherd children at Fatima, Portugal, on Oct. 13, 1917, which was accompanied by the "Miracle of the Sun" revelation witnessed by some 70,000 onlookers.

On Oct. 10, Marian Devotion Ministries will host their first Rosary rally at noon at the Lackawanna County Courthouse on North Washington Avenue in downtown Scranton, led by Josie Roman.

Later in the day at 3 p.m., a public Rosary devotion will take place at the "Fatima Cova" Marian grotto on the grounds of Saint Joseph's Oblate Seminary, Route 315, Laffin (Pittston). Saint Joseph Oblate Father Joseph Sibilano, will preside.

Ernie Pappa will provide the music ministry for both events. All faithful are invited to attend and offer their prayers of reparation and conversion through meditation on the Rosary mysteries.

For more information, contact Mr. Pappa, of Marian Devotion Ministries, at (570) 241-8171.

### In Wilkes-Barre & Mountain Top

Two additional public Rosary gatherings in Luzerne County will join the more than 20,000 "America Needs Fatima" penitential Rosary rallies to be staged across the country next month seeking the intercession of the Blessed Mother.

Our Lady of Fatima Grotto, located at 15 West North St. in North Wilkes-Barre (near King's College), will serve as the devotional site for a noontime public square Rosary recitation on Saturday, Oct. 10. All area faithful are welcome to participate.

A Rosary Rally open to the public will also be held on Oct. 10 at noon in the parking lot of the Weis Market in Mountain Top, located at 237 South Mountain Blvd. For more information, call Marie at (570) 574-0849 or Carmen at (570) 262-7373.

## Peter's Pence collection to take place Oct. 4

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Pope Francis delayed the annual Peter's Pence Collection from June 29, 2020, to Oct. 4.

The purpose of the Peter's Pence Collection is to provide the Holy Father with the financial means to respond to those who are suffering as a result of war, oppression, natural disaster and disease.

It likewise provides the faithful with a tangible opportunity to not only empower the weak, defenseless and voiceless, but also sustain those who suffer.

"In view of the current health crisis, the Holy Father has decided that, for this year 2020, the Peter's Pence Collection, which traditionally takes place around the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, on June 29, will be transferred throughout the world to the Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Oct. 4, the day dedicated to Saint Francis of Assisi," Matteo Bruni, Director of the Holy See Press Office, said in making the announcement this summer.

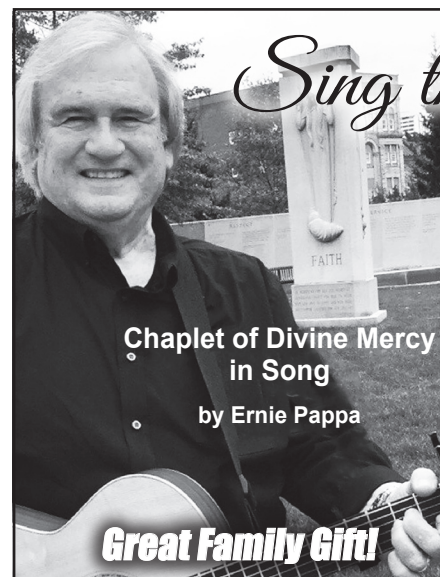
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## Pro-Life Gatherings

**"40 Days for Life" Pro-Life Rosary Gathering — SEPT. 23-OCT. 30**, offered for the special intentions of ending abortion and closure of the Planned Parenthood location in Wilkes-Barre; Rosary is prayed each weekday, Monday thru Friday, at 10 a.m. in front of the offices of Planned Parenthood, 101 North Main St., Wilkes-Barre. The pro-life campaign draws attention to the evil of abortion through prayer & fasting, constant vigil, and community outreach.

**24th Anniversary Celebration of the Wyoming Valley Knights of Columbus "Tomb of Unborn" — OCT. 11**, prayerful commemoration begins at 2 p.m. at the Knights' Tomb of the Unborn, located at the top of Mount Olivet Cemetery in Carverton; Rosary prayers will be recited. All Knights of Columbus of the Wyoming Valley and area faithful are invited to attend. For more information, contact Patrick Umbra at (570) 822-3597.

## Catholic Light Schedule Change for October

*The Catholic Light* announces that in place of its two original publication dates on October 8 & 29, the Diocesan newspaper will be printed once during the month on October 15.



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## Parish to mark Hispanic Heritage Month with Spanish food sale

SCRANTON — Between Sept. 15 and Oct. 15, our country observes National Hispanic Heritage Month. We celebrate the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose family ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America. Many of these countries celebrate the anniversary of their independence during this month.

The Spanish community at Saint John Neumann Parish in South Scranton has brought their heritage and cultural customs to

this Catholic community for close to 40 years. The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe brings hundreds of people from throughout the Diocese of Scranton to the church in December. Another big event at the parish, among many, is the Spanish food booth at the summer festival. This year, the COVID pandemic put the fun and delicious event on hold.

To assist the parish and keep our Spanish taste buds alive, Saint John Neumann is offering on Saturday, Sept. 26, a Spanish food drive-thru from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

at the Nativity Church parking lot site. Tickets are on sale now and these homemade Spanish foods are available: two Empanadas for \$5; two Elote (Mexican corn-on-the-cob) for \$5; and three Tacos Dorados for \$5. Tickets can be reserved at the Parish Office, 633 Orchard St., or by calling (570) 344-6159.

Advanced ticket sales only and no tickets sold after Sept. 23. Join the parish and NEPA in celebrating our Spanish brothers and sisters who share their gifts and histories during this special time.

## IHM Sisters continue series of virtual prayer evenings

SCRANTON — The Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters will continue their monthly “Evenings of Prayer with the Sisters of IHM” on Wednesday, Oct. 14.

The ongoing series of prayer devotions celebrates the 175th anniversary of the founding of the Congregation of Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

in 1845, with each month’s service focusing on a specific theme reflecting IHM history and spirituality.

Due to the current coronavirus pandemic, the Evenings of Prayer are offered on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. through Zoom videoconferencing. Participants may access the devotions at:

<http://www.sistersofihm.org/eveningsofprayer>.

The theme for the Oct. 14 Evening of Prayer is: “Our IHM history of being in the midst of the pain in our world and seeing/being light.”

For more information, contact the IHM Sisters in Scranton at (570) 346-5404 or [communications@sistersofihm.org](mailto:communications@sistersofihm.org).

## Consecration to Mary celebration October 11 in Old Forge

OLD FORGE — Knights of Columbus Council 5940 announces a special Celebration of Consecration to the Blessed Mother and blessing of a processional platform honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary will be held on Sunday, Oct. 11, following the 10 a.m. Mass at Prince of Peace Parish in Old Forge.

For more information, contact Father August Ricciardi, Prince of

Peace pastor, at (570) 457-5900.

In conjunction with the celebration, the Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a patron advertising book for businesses and individuals. The book of patrons will also include memorial ads honoring deceased loved ones for a donation of \$10.

The event is being held as part of the Knights’ “Leave No Neighbor Behind” program, initiated in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, contact Grand Knight Robert Pagnotti at (570) 604-4961, or Paul Chromey at (570) 235-1738.

## Prayer Requests for Priests

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

September 17, Father Christopher Sahd; September 18, Father Thomas Sarnecki; September 19, Father Arbogaste Satoun; September 20, Holy Cross Father Eric Schimmel; September 21, Father Kenneth Seegar; September 22, Monsignor John Sempa; September 23, Father Gerald Shantillo, V.E.; September 24, Saint Joseph Oblate Father Joseph Sibilano; September 25, Monsignor Constantine Siconolfi; September 26, Father Shawn Simchock; September 27, Father Robert Simon; September 28, Father Andrew Sinnott; September 29, Father Joseph Sitko; September 30, Father Phillip Sladicka; October 1, Pope Francis; October 2, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI; October 3, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; October 4, Father Casimir Stanis; October 5, Father Stephen Stavoy; October 6, Father Scott Sterowski; October 7, Saint Peter Priestly Fraternity Father Michael Stinson; October 8, Jesuit Father Daniel Sweeney; October 9, Saint Joseph Oblate Father Raymond Tabon; October 10, Father Philbert Takyi-Nketiah; October 11, Father John Terry; October 12, Holy Cross Father Fidel Ticona; October 13, Bishop Emeritus James C. Timlin; October 14, Father Peter Tomczak; October 15, Father Daniel Toomey; October 16, Father Rawel Toppo; October 17, Father Peter Tran; October 18, Monsignor David Tressler; October 19, Father Jeffrey Tudgay; October 20, Father John Turi.

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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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*Pastor, Our Lady of the Snows Parish*



to be presented during the President's Business Council *Celebration* 19th Annual Award ~~Dinner~~  
Thursday, October 8, at [Scranton.edu/PBCcelebration](https://scranton.edu/PBCcelebration)



While the COVID-19 pandemic necessitates a virtual experience this year, the President's Business Council (PBC) will continue with our fundraising initiative. In addition to supporting the **PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND**, proceeds this year will also be allocated to the **JAMES P. SWEENEY, S.J., FAMILY OUTREACH FUND** for students facing unexpected financial hardship, and, as a way to recognize Father Pilarz's leadership during this past year, to the **SCOTT R. PILARZ, S.J., SCHOLARSHIP**, a need-based scholarship established in 2011 by the Sorbera Family. Please contact Timothy J. Pryle '89, *Executive Director of the PBC*, at **570.941.5837** or [PBC@scranton.edu](mailto:PBC@scranton.edu) for more information.



# Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese

**Potato Pancake Fest** — **SEPT. 19 & 20**, sponsored by Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, 420 Main Road, Hanover Township; potato pancakes sold on Saturday from 1 to 7 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 6 p.m., in the parish hall. Take-out only. Cost: \$10 for eight (minimum). Orders limited to 40.

**Pick-up Sunday Breakfast Special** — **SEPT. 20**, hosted by Saint Eulalia Parish, Roaring Brook Township; drive-thru take-out breakfast available behind the parish's Conlan Hall, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Menu includes three pancakes, two sausage links, and roll for \$8.

## Take-Out Holupki Dinner, Sale Planned

**WILKES-BARRE** — A take-out Holupki & Kielbasi Dinner and Holupki Sale will be held on Saturday, Sept. 26, at Saint Mary Byzantine Catholic Church Social Hall, 522 Madison St., Wilkes-Barre.

Pick-up of advance orders for the dinner and sale will be available that day from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the hall.

The holupki & kielbasi dinner includes one stuffed cabbage roll, a quarter-pound of kielbasa, seasoned sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, vegetable, rye bread, and dessert. Cost for the dinner is \$12.

Separate orders of holupki (stuffed cabbage) will be available in pre-packaged quantities: three for \$7.50, or six for \$15.

All dinners/holupki must pre-ordered. To place an order, call (570) 822-6028 or (570) 931-1894.

**Take-Out Food Festival** — **SEPT. 25 & 26**, hosted by SS. Anthony & Rocco Parish, Dunmore; take-out festival foods sold both days from 5 to 8 p.m. on the grounds of Saint Rocco Church, 122 Kurtz St., Dunmore. Menu items: pizza frita, four/\$5; sausage & peppers sandwich, \$6; pasta & meatballs, \$6; homemade dessert box, \$10. Advance orders preferred by Sept. 22. Call parish (570) 344-1209 for more information.

**Family Tailgate** — **SEPT. 27**, sponsored by Saint Eulalia Parish, Roaring Brook Township; held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parish parking lot. Socially distant event features live DJ music, 50/50 raffle, food truck menu items for purchase, yard games and tricky trays.

**Ministry Formation Skills Workshop: "Pray & Proclaim!"** — **OCT. 14 & 21**, both sessions will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Guest presenters: Eric Deabill and Kitty Scanlan. **Proclaim!** (Oct. 14) is an introduction to basic public speaking techniques for ministry within gathered and virtual settings; **Pray** (Oct. 21) will present ideas and resources for planning prayer with parish groups or in Faith Formation. Open to all parish ministers; registration fee: \$20. Contact Kitty Scanlan at (570) 207-2213 or Kitty-Scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org

**Election Day Pasta & Meatball Dinner** — **NOV. 3**, drive-thru pick-up from 3 to 7 p.m. at Saint John Bosco Parish, Conyngham. Includes ziti pasta, homemade meatballs, salad,

homemade cake & Italian bread. Adults, \$10; children (under age 10), \$5. Tickets at the door; more information, call (570) 788-1997.

**Take-Out Roast Pork Dinner** — **NOV. 7**, sponsored by Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary Parish, 624 Madison Ave., Jermyn; curbside pick-up behind the church from 1 to 5 p.m. Cost: \$12. For tickets, call the rectory office (570) 876-1061.

**Homemade Welsh Cookie Sale** — **NOV. 21**, pick-up of advanced orders in the parking lot of Prince of Peace Parish, Old Forge, from noon to 2 p.m. Pre-orders only; cost: \$5 per dozen. For orders, call Bob Gillette (570) 430-1521. Order deadline is Nov. 2.

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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 **October 2** 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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## St. Thérèse Annual 9-Day Novena



**St. Anthony + St. George Parish**  
will be celebrating 93 years of  
devotion to St. Thérèse of the  
Little Flower of the Infant Jesus.

The Novena will take place at  
**St. Anthony Church**, located at  
311 Park Ave., Wilkes-Barre, 18702  
(Corner of Park Ave. & Dana Street.  
Handicap accessible + Parking)

The Novena will conclude with the  
blessing with the 1st class  
Relic of St. Thérèse.

**Allowed safe Attendance: 65 people**

**Novena streamed online:**

[www.facebook.com/stanthony.stgeorge.9](https://www.facebook.com/stanthony.stgeorge.9)

### NOVENA SCHEDULE

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 23<sup>RD</sup> • 1ST DAY OF NOVENA**  
4:00p.m. - Inauguration mass followed by Novena

**THURSDAY, SEPT. 24<sup>TH</sup> TO WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 30<sup>TH</sup>**  
3:00p.m. - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions  
3:30p.m. - Rosary • 4:00p.m. - Novena

**THURSDAY, OCT. 1<sup>ST</sup> - 6:00p.m. • Divine Mass, followed by Novena**



# ABORTION KILLS BABIES

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Diocese of Scranton  
2020 **DIOCESAN**  
ANNUAL APPEAL

BOUND TOGETHER IN *Hope*

*As we respond to the challenges of the pandemic in our families, our parishes and our Diocese, let us continue to turn our hearts to our one true hope – Jesus Christ. His love is unending, unfading, unshakable. We are bound together in the Eucharist...bound together in hope.*



*Thank you for all that you are doing to keep our parishes strong. And thank you for considering a gift to this year's Diocesan Annual Appeal. With your support, we will continue to bring hope and love to one another.*

*Please know that I'm praying for you and your family...*

MOST REVEREND JOSEPH C. BAMBERA, D.D., J.C.L.  
BISHOP OF SCRANTON

***Thank you for your support***

***The Annual Appeal begins September 26 & 27***

***To see how your Appeal gifts change lives visit [AnnualAppeal.org](http://AnnualAppeal.org). There you'll find parishioners and clergy in unique videos reflecting Diocesan ministries in the six regions of our Diocese.***

## The Catholic Light

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