

# The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2020

## Belief in God as creator of all has practical consequences, Pope Francis says in new encyclical

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Professing faith in God as the creator of all human beings, or even simply recognizing that all people possess an inherent dignity, has concrete consequences for how people should treat one another and make decisions in politics, economics and social life, Pope Francis wrote.

“Human beings have the same inviolable dignity in every age of history and no one can consider himself or herself authorized by particular situations to deny this conviction or to act against it,” the pope wrote in his encyclical, “Fratelli Tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship.”

Pope Francis signed the encyclical Oct. 3 after celebrating Mass at the tomb of St. Francis of Assisi, and the Vatican released the more than 40,000-word text the next day.

The pope had been rumored to be writing an encyclical on nonviolence; and, once the COVID-19 pandemic struck, many expected a document exploring in depth his repeated pleas for the world to recognize the inequalities and injustices laid bare by the pandemic and adopt corrective economic, political and social policies.

“Fratelli Tutti” combines those two elements but does so in the framework set by the document on human fraternity and interreligious dialogue that he and Sheikh Ahmad el-Tayeb, grand imam of al-Azhar Mosque in Cairo, Egypt, signed in 2019.

In fact, in the new document Pope Francis wrote that he was “encouraged” by his dialogue with the Muslim leader and by their joint statement that “God has created all human beings equal in rights, duties and dignity, and has called them to live together as brothers and sisters.”

The encyclical takes its title from St. Francis of Assisi and is inspired by his “fraternal openness,” which, the pope



**Pope Francis signs his new encyclical, “Fratelli Tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship,” after celebrating Mass at the Basilica of Saint Francis in Assisi, Italy, Oct. 3, 2020. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)**

said, calls on people “to acknowledge, appreciate and love each person, regardless of physical proximity, regardless of where he or she was born or lives.”

The title, which literally means “all brothers and sisters” or “all brothers,” are the words with which St. Francis “addressed his brothers and sisters and proposed to them a way of life marked by the flavor of the Gospel,” the pope wrote.

That flavor, explained throughout the document, involves welcoming the stranger, feeding the hungry, listening to and giving a hand up to the poor, defending the rights of all and ensuring that each person, at every stage of life, is valued and invited to contribute to the community, he said. It also means supporting public policies that do so on a larger scale.

*Continued on Page 4*

## In confirmation hearings, Barrett stresses commitment to ‘rule of law’

WASHINGTON (CNS) – On Oct. 13, the second day of confirmation hearings on her Supreme Court nomination, Judge Amy Coney Barrett made a clear distinction between policy preferences and legal precedents in responding to questions from members of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

“My policy preferences are irrelevant,” she said when asked if she had intended to dismantle the Affordable Care Act, and she reiterated this same view when asked about abortion and same-sex marriage.

On the opening day of the hearings, Republican senators had adamantly emphasized that Barrett’s Catholic faith should not be a factor in questioning, and on the start of the first day of this inquiry,

it clearly wasn’t a topic, although it was mentioned, even in opening remarks by Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-South Carolina, committee chairman.

He asked if Barrett would be able to set aside her religious beliefs to fairly decide legal cases, which she said she could.

“I can. I have done that in my time on the 7th Circuit,” she said. “If I stay on the 7th Circuit, I’ll continue to do that. If I’m confirmed to the Supreme Court, I will do that.”

When asked what she thought about the nomination, Barrett, in a rare moment of candor, said she has “tried to be on a media blackout” for the sake of her mental health but that she and her husband were aware of the “caricatures that are floating around” about her.

“We knew that our faith would be caricatured,” she added, and they would have to determine if those challenges would be worth it.

She said her reason for moving forward with this process is that she is “committed to the rule of law and the role of the Supreme Court and dispensing equal justice for all.”

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-California, the ranking member of the committee, asked Barrett about abortion, specifically if she agreed with Justice Antonin Scalia’s opinion that the Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion was wrongly decided. Barrett declined to answer, saying that as a sitting judge, she wasn’t going to grade precedent with a “thumbs-up or thumbs-down.”

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**Judge Amy Coney Barrett of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit, nominee for the U.S. Supreme Court, speaks during the second day of her confirmation hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington Oct. 13, 2020. (CNS photo/Drew Angerer, Pool via Reuters)**



# The Catholic Light

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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE  
DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

## DIOCESE OF SCRANTON MISSION STATEMENT

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

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*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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# "The Word of God must be living and vibrant"

*Nine men installed in the Ministry of Lector*



**Nine men were installed in the Ministry of Lector at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on Oct. 3, 2020. Shown after the Mass are, front row, from left: Matthew R. Eisley, Saint Joseph the Worker Parish, Williamsport; William D. Flowers, Saint Nicholas Parish, Wilkes-Barre; Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton; John F. Bubb, Saint Joseph the Worker Parish, Williamsport; Nicholas M. Rocco, Saint Eulalia Parish, Roaring Brook Township; Martin J. Castaldi, Sr., Divine Mercy Parish, Scranton. Back row, Monsignor David Bohr, Diocesan Secretary for Clergy Formation and Director of Permanent Diaconate Formation; Steven J. Miller, Our Lady of Victory Parish, Tannersville; John F. Bankus, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Swoyersville; Frank H. Zeranski, Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, Moscow; Thomas A. Kostic, SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish, Hazleton; Deacon Walter Janoski; Rev. Gerald Shantillo, Episcopal Vicar for Clergy. (Photo/Mike Melisky)**

SCRANTON – Having successfully completed their second year of formation for ordination to the permanent diaconate, nine men were installed in the Ministry of Lector at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Oct. 3, 2020.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant and homilist for the 12:10 p.m. Mass.

The men installed are: John F. Bankus, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Swoyersville; John F. Bubb, Saint Joseph the Worker Parish, Williamsport; Martin J. Castaldi, Sr., Divine Mercy Parish, Scranton; Matthew R. Eisley, Saint Joseph the Worker Parish, Williamsport; William D. Flowers, Saint Nicholas Parish, Wilkes-Barre; Thomas A. Kostic, SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish, Hazleton; Steven J. Miller, Our Lady of Victory Parish, Tannersville; Nicholas M. Rocco, Saint Eulalia Parish, Roaring Brook Township; and Frank H. Zeranski, Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, Moscow.

As lectors, the men will proclaim the Word of God in liturgies and will continue their formation toward ordination as permanent deacons.

"I'm just trusting that He will lead the way and keep me on the path. I'm trusting in Him," Steven J. Miller said following the Mass.

When asked to describe his feelings, Miller replied, "energized, happy and a little scared. It is a large responsibility but it is something we will grow into as well. I trust that the spirit will be with us."

Nicholas M. Rocco expressed not only excitement but gratefulness.

"It's such a great honor to be bestowed this ministry and to be able to serve the Church in the Diocese of Scranton," he explained.

During the first two years of their diaconate program, the nine men have grown close.

"We have such a great class. We're very close and very tight. Just like Jesus chose a group of disciples to follow Him, we are a group as well. We are going through this process together, bonding closer and learning from each other as well," Rocco added.

During his homily, Bishop Bambera told the men this moment is not merely a stepping stone in their diaconal formation.

"You are being called to a special recognition of the Word of God in your lives that is essential to the life of the Church," the bishop explained. "You are being given a responsibility in the service of our faith, namely, to proclaim the Word of Life in the liturgical assembly, to instruct children and adults in the ways of the Gospel and to bring the message of salvation to those who have not yet received it."

As he reflected on the bishop's message, William D. Flowers came to appreciate the gravity of the moment.

"It's bringing the Gospel closer to people, getting people closer to the Gospel," Flowers said. "It makes me feel good and I'm hoping that it makes them feel better, receiving the Word and I'm just glad that I'm able to do that."

Flowers said he has felt called to the diaconate for quite some time.

"I feel that it was meant to be," he added.

During the Mass, Bishop Bambera reminded the men that Pope Francis often reflects upon the centrality of the Word of God in Christian Life.

In fact, just three days before the Mass, in a letter commemorating the 1600th anniversary of the death of Saint Jerome, the Holy Father emphasized the need for those who can exercise diaconal functions.

"I pray that this understanding of the vital role of the Word of God in our lives as Christians impresses upon you the urgency of caring for the treasure that is being handed on to you this day," the bishop said.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, attendance at the Mass was limited to family members but it was broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television and shared on the Diocese of Scranton social media platforms.

Rocco expressed the importance of his family and friends who have supported, encouraged and prayed for him along this journey.

"I could not have gone through this process or gotten so far into this process without the support of my wife and my four daughters, my mother and my family as well, to have their support is necessary to complete this task," Rocco explained. "Whenever you feel like you're having a struggle trying to complete things or life gets in the way, they're always there to support you and encourage you."



# Diocese of Scranton celebrates Respect Life Sunday

SCRANTON – Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera celebrated the annual Respect Life Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Sunday, Oct. 4, 2020.

As the principal celebrant and homilist for the Mass on the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, here is his homily as written for presentation:

“As we join in prayer 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 the care and well-being of 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.

Sadly, however, for as noble as all of our efforts related to the presence of the coronavirus may be, even a cursory reflection on our country’s and our world’s current approach to human rights issues reveals that we have yet to embrace and respect human life in its totality as we should.

In his second address to the United Nations General Assembly just over a week ago, Pope Francis offered these challenging words. “The pandemic, indeed, calls us ‘to seize this time of trial as a time of choosing, a time to choose what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not.’” In reflecting upon the prevailing culture of our



**Bishop Joseph C. Bambera delivers the homily during the Respect Life Sunday Mass on Oct. 4, 2020. (Photo/Mike Melisky)**

time that invests far more energy in technological progress than the dignity of the human person, the Holy Father went on to offer a sobering assessment of our world. “It is in fact painful to see the number of fundamental human rights that in our day continue to be violated with impunity. The list of such violations is indeed lengthy, and offers us a frightening picture of a humanity abused, wounded, deprived of dignity, freedom and hope for the future.”

Pope Francis went on to reflect upon this sad reality, particularly as it has emerged in the face of efforts to confront the coronavirus. “Sad to say,” the Holy Father noted, “some countries and international institutions are also promoting abortion as one of the so-called ‘essential services’ provided in the humanitarian response to the pandemic. It is troubling to see how simple and convenient it has become for some to deny the existence of a human life as a solution to problems

that can and must be solved.”

In a similar vein, the Bishops of the United States offered these words, “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.”

It’s rather paradoxical that in reflecting upon the teaching of the Holy Father and the Bishops of our country as well as upon all of the efforts being engaged to confront a virus that has the potential to destroy life, we’re often conflicted in our perspective upon this unique and singular gift of God. So many of us react intensely when innocent life is wounded or extinguished. And so we should! Yet, at the same time – wittingly or unwittingly – many of us fail to recognize that the very

foundational building blocks of a just world for all forms of human life are being undermined at an alarming rate.

Threats to human life increasingly abound in our world today; threats that we often fail – or refuse – to recognize. In addition to the tragic and continued widespread scourge of abortion, we’re also confronted with proposals and policies that favor assisted suicide, euthanasia, infanticide, human cloning and illicit reproductive technologies. These too are dire threats to our belief in the dignity and value of the human person – as are the death penalty, human trafficking, and unjust immigration laws.

Sadly, while many of us as Catholics and people of good will are deeply committed to the protection of life in its earliest moments at conception and in its final hours after decades of existence, we can often be somewhat arbitrary in our assessment of other lives and their value and worth. Unfortunately, brothers and sisters, such arbitrary attitudes towards the sanctity of human life have consequences. We’ve experienced the slippery slope that ensued following the legalization of abortion almost 50 years ago. When we rationalize why the taking of one life should be allowed, every life is in jeopardy.

In our first reading today, the prophet Isaiah speaks of a friend who started to plant a vineyard. The friend, in reality, is God, who creates a world for us, a world that has the potential to embrace God’s love and truth and life. But what happens to this perfect vineyard? It yields nothing but wild grapes

and falls into ruin. Who ruined the vineyard, Isaiah muses? Was it God, its creator, who did not take sufficient care of his precious vineyard? No, he tells us. No. The vineyard was ruined because God’s cherished plants – God’s people – answered justice with bloodshed and love with selfishness.

This same theme of unrighteousness is echoed in today’s gospel parable. It concludes with God, the owner of the vineyard, coming himself to destroy the tenants and handing the vineyard to others who will yield an abundant harvest.

Every one of us has been given a portion of God’s vineyard to cultivate. What will we do with the vineyard that we’ve been given? It’s our responsibility to answer that question – not someone else. Will we give in to a culture of death, which lays waste to the beauty that God has so wondrously created in his people? Or will we heed the Gospel of Life and love and respect God’s people – even those lives that are hardest to love or appreciate?

Every day of our lives, we are given a choice to treasure life or to cast it aside. As Christians, we say that we respect life. We also need to show that we choose life through the votes that we cast and by our actions and efforts on behalf of the most vulnerable in our midst.

Recall the words from the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy (31:19, 20): I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live, by loving the Lord your God, heeding his voice, and holding fast to him.

## Pro-life gatherings take place around the Diocese of Scranton during the month of October



**The Bradford County Pennsylvanians for Human Life held a Life Chain in Wyalusing earlier this month. Participants, including Rev. Peter Tran, stand outside the Divine Mercy Shrine at Saint Mary of the Assumption Church.**



**Above: Nearly 30 people participate in a Life Chain outside the Bradford County Courthouse in Towanda.**

**Below: The faithful gather for the 24th anniversary celebration of the Wyoming Valley Knights of Columbus “Tomb of Unborn” at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Carverton.**



**Gwen Eisley, left, and Bromwyn Keener joined dozens of other people to participate in a Life Chain outside businesses in Williamsport on Oct. 4, 2020.**



# Make the world a better place by recognizing each other as kin, pope says

Continued from Page 1

Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, welcomed the encyclical as “an important contribution to the church’s rich tradition of social doctrine.”

“Pope Francis’ teaching here is profound and beautiful: God our father has created every human being with equal sanctity and dignity, equal rights and duties, and our creator calls us to form a single human family in which we live as brothers and sisters,” the archbishop said in a statement. “God’s plan for humanity, the pope reminds us, has implications for every aspect of our lives – from how we treat one another in our personal relationships, to how we organize and operate our societies and economies.”

Building on the social teachings of his predecessors, Pope Francis’ document once again strongly condemns the death penalty and makes an initial approach to declaring that the conditions once used to accept a “just war” no longer exist because of the indiscriminately lethal power of modern weapons.

St. John Paul II in “The Gospel of Life,” published in 1995, cast doubt on whether any nation needed to resort to capital punishment today to protect its people; developing that teaching, Pope Francis in 2018 authorized a change to the Catechism of the Catholic Church to make clear that “the death penalty is inadmissible.”

Signaling the start of a similar effort to respond to the current reality of warfare, Pope Francis in the new encyclical

raised the question of “whether the development of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and the enormous and growing possibilities offered by new technologies, have granted war an uncontrollable destructive power over great numbers of innocent civilians.”

“We can no longer think of war as a solution because its risks will probably always be greater than its supposed benefits,” one of the main criteria of just-war theory, he said. “In view of this, it is very difficult nowadays to invoke the rational criteria elaborated in earlier centuries to speak of the possibility of a ‘just war.’ Never again war!”

At the heart of the new encyclical’s appeal to Catholics is a meditation on Jesus’ parable of the Good Samaritan and particularly on how Jesus takes a legal scholar’s question, “Who is my neighbor,” and turns it into a lesson on being called not to identify one’s neighbors but to become a neighbor to all, especially those most in need of aid.

“The parable eloquently presents the basic decision we need to make in order to rebuild our wounded world. In the face of so much pain and suffering, our only course is to imitate the Good Samaritan,” the pope said. “Any other decision would make us either one of the robbers or one of those who walked by without showing compassion for the sufferings of the man on the roadside.”

“The parable,” he continued, “shows us how a community can be rebuilt by men and women who identify with the vulnerability of others, who reject the creation



**Free copies of *L'Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican newspaper, with the front page about Pope Francis’ new encyclical, “*Fratelli Tutti*, on Fraternity and Social Friendship,” are distributed by volunteers at the end of the Angelus in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican Oct. 4, 2020. (CNS photo/ IPA/Sipa USA, Reuters)**

of a society of exclusion, and act instead as neighbors, lifting up and rehabilitating the fallen for the sake of the common good.”

Pope Francis used the encyclical “to consider certain trends in our world that hinder the development of universal fraternity” and acting as a neighbor to one another, including racism, extremism, “aggressive nationalism,” closing borders to migrants and refugees, polarization, politics as a power grab rather than a service to the common good, mistreatment of women, modern slavery and economic policies that allow the rich to get richer but do not create jobs and do not help the poor.

“The pain, uncertainty and fear, and the realization of our own limitations, brought on by the pandemic have only made it all the more urgent that we rethink our styles of life, our relationships, the organization of our societies and, above all, the meaning of our existence,” he said.

Anna Rowlands, a British theologian invited to help present the document at the Vatican, told Catholic News Service the text’s “golden thread” is about discerning “what gives life” and helps everyone to develop their full potential and flourish.

“The whole theme of the document is about the way in which we’re called to attend to the world as Christ attended to the world,” paying attention to reality rather than “evading it and avoiding it,” and praying for the grace to respond as Jesus would.

When people ask, “Who is my neighbor?” often what they really want to know is “Who is not my neighbor?” or “Who can I legitimately say is not my responsibility,” Rowlands said.

Pope Francis called for catechesis and preaching that “speak more directly and clearly about the social meaning of existence, the fraternal dimension of spirituality, our conviction of

the inalienable dignity of each person and our reasons for loving and accepting all our brothers and sisters.”

He also used the encyclical to strongly reassert a traditional tenet of Catholic social teaching: “the universal destination of goods” or “the common use of created goods,” which asserts, as St. John Paul said, that “God gave the earth to the whole human race for the sustenance of all its members, without excluding or favoring anyone.”

The right to private property, and the benefits to individuals and society of protecting that right, Pope Francis wrote, “can only be considered a secondary natural right.”

“The right of some to free enterprise or market freedom cannot supersede the rights of peoples and the dignity of the poor, or, for that matter, respect for the natural environment,” the pope said. “Business abilities, which are a gift from God, should always be clearly directed to the development of others and to eliminating poverty,” especially through the creation of jobs that pay a living wage.

Pope Francis, Rowlands said, “wants to rehabilitate this idea of social friendship and social peace in the face of an all-pervasive social violence, which he sees running through the economy, running increasingly through politics, running through social media.”

The pope is not despairing, she said, but realistic. “He wants to offer a vision of how you begin from the most local, most every day and most concrete realities to build a culture of peace at every level.”

## PROMOTING THE GOOD MEANS PROMOTING VALUES THAT ADVANCE INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

How can  
that be  
achieved?

- ✓ By thinking and acting in terms of community.
- ✓ By combatting the structural causes of poverty and inequality.
- ✓ By requiring the state to be present and active and to invest in assistance to the vulnerable.
- ✓ By insuring that no one is excluded.
- ✓ By establishing a real and lasting peace based on a global ethic of solidarity and service.



## ONLY WITH THE AWARENESS THAT WE ARE ALL CHILDREN OF GOD CAN WE LIVE IN PEACE WITH ONE ANOTHER:

The different religions contribute significantly to building fraternity.

Seeking God helps us recognize one another as travelling companions, truly brothers and sisters.

The denial of religious freedom and freedom of conscience leaves humanity impoverished.



# *Priests navigate through pandemic to bring spiritual healing to the sick & dying*

SCRANTON – One of the most daunting challenges the coronavirus health crisis has posed is the clergy's vocational call to minister spiritually to the gravely ill and those near death.

Indicating that throughout the ages the Church has dedicated great care to the spiritual needs of the ill and homebound – and that in times of crisis such needs are even more urgent – Father Tom Petro, pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Dupont, said, “The Church’s ministers, sometimes at great personal cost, always strive to bring the sacraments to the sick and the dying. This current pandemic has changed much about the way we conduct ourselves, even the way we care for one another.”

Hospitals have imposed greater restrictions and guidelines for visitors of all patients, even those not afflicted with the coronavirus. Nursing homes that once hosted Masses for their residents have suspended such services, and pastors and deacons have seen a drastic reduction in Holy Communion calls for their homebound parishioners.

“With each of these specific challenges,” Father Petro said, “the priests, deacons and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist in our parishes are adapting to meet the needs of those whom they serve.”

## **Answering the Call**

Indicative of these trials and speaking on behalf of their clerical colleagues in our local Church and around the world,

two young priests of the Diocese of Scranton recently recounted their experiences in encountering COVID-19 head on in an effort to provide hands-on spiritual care in a healthcare combat zone.

Ordained just two years ago, Father Ryan Glenn began his priestly ministry as an assistant pastor at Saint John Neumann Parish in South Scranton, where he served until his recent appointment to Saint Matthew Parish in East Stroudsburg.

Father Glenn recalled a “most beautiful encounter” during the height of the pandemic in early spring when he was summoned to a nursing facility to provide the sacrament of anointing of the sick.

Following a myriad of temperature checks, questionnaires and signatures, he was allowed entry into the facility and was immediately armed with a thick plastic outer garment, a second mask (to be placed over his own), and a pair of surgical gloves.

“I then found my way to the patient’s room,” Father remembered. “The patient was unconscious, but the nurse who called me (for the visit) remained at her side, as did two other staff members. Together, we represented the Church as we surrounded one of our fellow Christians,” who was near death.

After reciting the Prayers of the Anointing ritual, the young priest anointed the patient’s head and hands using a cotton swab dipped in the Sacred Oils and offered the commendation of the dying.

Upon leaving the room with the two hospital staffers, Father Glenn became aware the nurse remained in the room to whisper her last goodbyes to the patient. The scene was palpable.

“In the midst of the many medical demands of that moment, the nurse knew the power of prayer and the importance of faith for her patient,” he remarked. “It was a privileged moment of grace for me, not only to accompany this dying person at the end of life, but also to witness the goodness and humanity of this front line hero.”

## **Being Christ for the Dying**

Prior to receiving his new appointment as Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians, Father Alex Roche served as the pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Lake Silkworth.

While shepherding the small, rural Luzerne County parish in early April, Father Roche received a call from a woman whose older relative was in a nearby nursing home and losing his battle with COVID-19. Not quite certain what was permissible at the time, the priest of eight years contacted the nursing home. After being redirected a number of times, he was told since the man was actively dying, he would be permitted to anoint him in person.

“When I arrived, it honestly felt like a scene out of a movie,” Father Roche said, “with everyone in their rooms, doors locked, nurses and employees in full PPE (personal protective equipment).”

He would be the first non-employee and non-resident inside the facility in a month.

“After being screened, I was suited up with an N95 mask, gown, and gloves,” he recalled. “There wasn’t an exposed place on my body. It was obvious that it had been a very stressful and challenging few weeks,” noting that nursing homes care for residents — not patients — who staff come to know well and with whom they develop a relationship.

Upon entering the room alone, Father noted, the parishioner immediately grabbed his gloved hand, and a brief, labored



**Father Albert Ranallo, coordinator for Pastoral Care for Health Facilities in the Diocese of Providence, R.I., adjusts his face shield at HopeHealth Hultar Hospice. (CNS photo/Rick Snizek, Rhode Island Catholic)**

conversation ensued between priest and resident.

“I was able to administer Last Rites and pray with him,” he explained, “and it struck me how difficult it was for this poor man to spend his dying days alone and struggling to breathe. But I felt thankful for the grace to be able to share Christ’s love with him and administer the sacraments in his moment of need.”

When the man passed away a few days later, Father Roche considered himself privileged to celebrate his funeral Mass.

Noting he has spiritually ministered to many sick and dying before and after the poignant nursing home visit, Father remarked this first experience of anointing someone stricken with the coronavirus is unforgettable and a moment he will return to in prayer for the rest of his life.

“A lot of things can happen to us in this life,” Father Roche shared. “Almost anything can be taken away, but the grace of God is always available for those who ask for it. Even when (it seems) we are alone, God is present. Even when things seem bleak and dim, the light of Christ can be seen illuminating the darkness.”

## **Spiritually Hungry**

Father Glenn also related that on several occasions he was called to anoint patients but was unable to have direct contact with them.

“Nobody but the doctors and nurses were allowed in the rooms,” Father remarked, “but on behalf of the Church I knew it was important to be united with these isolated patients in prayer.”

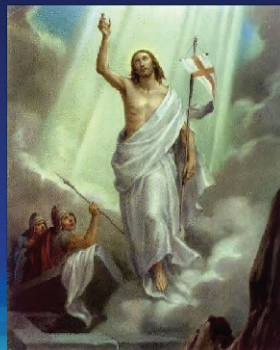
“It was very sad not to be able to enter the room, but I also trust that the power of prayer is not hindered by any barriers,” he offered.

Father Glenn also shared the encounter with a parishioner who himself contacted the priest for the sacraments of reconciliation, anointing of the sick, and Holy Communion while recovering from a severe respiratory illness.

“Although I experienced some hesitancy about venturing outside of the rectory, I knew I needed to be with this parishioner during his time of need and to bring some spiritual comfort in the midst of this struggle. There is such a need and hunger for these grace-filled rites and moments,” he concluded.

## **The sacrament of healing**

- The sacrament of Anointing strengthens our faith and trust in God when we are seriously ill or dying or weakened by old age.
- We received the grace to face our sickness, and fears
- It gives us hope and courage





# Leave a Mark Mass to celebrate fifth anniversary this year

SCRANTON – The month of November will once again begin with a gathering of the young church in the Diocese of Scranton.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate the annual *Leave a Mark Mass* which is celebrating its fifth anniversary in 2020. The idea for the Mass came after Pope Francis spoke to pilgrims at World Youth Day 2016 in Poland.

“Dear young people, we didn’t come into this world to ‘vegetate,’ to take it easy, to make our lives a comfortable sofa to fall asleep on,” the Holy Father said in 2016. “No, we came for another reason: to leave a mark. It is very sad to pass through life without leaving a mark.”

For the past few years, hundreds of young people have gathered in the Cathedral of Saint Peter with Bishop Bambera to kickoff National Vocation Awareness Week in the Diocese of Scranton.

Bishop Bambera is inviting the young church of the Diocese of Scranton to gather once again this year in the Cathedral of

Saint Peter on Sunday, Nov. 1, 2020, for a special Mass at 7:00 p.m. Due to the current pandemic, there will not be a reception following the Mass.

Young adults (age 18-40) will be required to make a reservation in order to attend. Masks and social distancing will be enforced. The Mass will be broadcast live by CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton. It will also be livestreamed on diocesan social media platforms for those who are unable to attend in person.

“This is my first *Leave a Mark* event as vocation director,” Father Alex Roche said. “I look forward to seeing young adults from throughout the diocese gather as we kickoff this special week in the life of vocation ministry. In addition to those who will gather in the Cathedral, I also hope many will join us in prayer through diocesan media.”

For more information about this event and/or to register, please contact the Diocesan Vocation Office at (570) 207-1452 or visit [vocations.dioceseofscranton.org](http://vocations.dioceseofscranton.org).



## BISHOP BAMBERA’S SCHEDULE

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

**October 25** - World Mission Sunday Mass  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:15 p.m.

**October 28** - Closing Mass of Saint Jude Novena  
Pittston, Noon

**November 1** - Leave a Mark Mass  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 7:00 p.m.

**November 2** - All Souls’ Day Mass  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.

**November 8** - Mass at Good Shepherd Parish  
Drums, 9:30 a.m.

**November 8** - Mass at Saint Ann Parish  
Freeland, 11:00 a.m.

**November 9** - USCCB Administrative Committee Meeting

**November 15** - Mass at Queen of Peace Parish  
Brodheads ville, 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

**November 17 & 18** - USCCB General Meeting

# Celebrate National Vocation Awareness Week

*Sunday, November 1 - Saturday, November 7*

National Vocation Awareness Week is an annual week-long celebration of the Catholic Church in the United States dedicated to promote vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life through prayer and education, and to renew prayers and support for those who are considering one of these particular vocations.

## What National Vocation Awareness Week Means to Me



*A personal reflection by seminarian Michael Boris*

It is already time to celebrate another National Vocation Week. It is amazing how the time is flying by, especially since the start of the pandemic. Why is it so important that we celebrate National Vocation Week, especially during these turbulent times? Simply put, it is a celebration of mission. It is a celebration of God working among us, in and through His adopted sons and daughters.

I did not start asking myself more serious questions about what God may want from me in this life until my senior year of high school. Believe me, I needed to be challenged in that way. Too often before that, I would simply think about what would make me happy. Now, I was being challenged to see how God wants to make me happy through His Holy Will. One of the many events and prayer opportunities that I subsequently became involved in was the *Leave a Mark Mass*. I was soon being opened up to a whole world of young adults who are seriously interested in discerning what mission God may be calling them to everyday. Young or old, recent convert or longtime believer, many of us came together to say to the Lord in our weakness, “Speak, Lord, your servant is listening” (1 Samuel).

Those many occasions to gather in prayer and fellowship have brought me innumerable graces. From a small retreat

with a handful of people to a wonderful gathering at Mass like *Leave a Mark*, all have given God the opportunity to speak to me even when I was reluctant to listen. I am now a third-year seminarian on pastoral year in Carbondale at Saint Rose of Lima and Our Lady of Mount Carmel parishes. I cannot thank my family, friends, and those around me enough for how much they have meant to me and my discernment. But, most of all, I thank God for guiding me and helping me to continue to discern my mission in life. That is what I hope to celebrate this year during National Vocation Week.

To anyone discerning a mission, whether it be marriage, single life, priesthood, religious life, a career, or even a day-to-day decision as simple as how you can love your neighbor better, I simply would say to trust in God’s love and care for you. Patience is required. God works on His own time. But, in entrusting ourselves to God’s care for us, He will speak. God will be a Father to us and will show His adopted sons and daughters their call, their call to serve and love one another better for His glory. Pray for that gift in a special way this year as we celebrate National Vocation Week. And don’t be too surprised when God answers, whether it be a shout or a whisper.

## Supreme Court confirmation hearings underway

*Continued from Page 1*

Feinstein expressed some frustration saying: “It’s distressing not to get a straight answer,” on a topic that affects millions of women and where Barrett could be “a very important vote.” In response, Barrett said she understood why

the question was raised but reiterated that she “can’t pre-commit” to how she might vote or what her personal views are.

“I have no agenda to try to overrule Casey,” she said about the 1992 court decision, which said states may not enact

abortion regulations that place an “undue burden” on pregnant women seeking an abortion.

Once questioning and outside witnesses are finished, the Judiciary Committee can move for a vote, which is expected Oct. 22.




# 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

According to his website, [Trump](#) “repealed the Obamacare individual mandate, expanded plan choices and increased competition to bring down costs for consumers.” In June 2020, [the Trump administration argued](#) 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.

According to a White House fact sheet, [Trump](#) “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.”

According to his website, [Biden will protect](#) 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.”

According to his website, [Biden’s COVID-19 plan](#) “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.”

## IMMIGRATION/REFUGEES

According to his website, “Upon entering office, [President Trump called on](#) 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.”

In July 2020, [the Trump Administration announced](#) it would reject applications for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program stating, “...the fact remains that Congress should act on this matter.”

[The Trump Administration proposes](#) resettling 18,000 refugees under a new refugee ceiling. The number admitted in 2016 was nearly 85,000.

According to Biden’s website, “As president, [Joe will prioritize](#) a comprehensive immigration reform to finally give 11 million undocumented immigrants a roadmap to citizenship.”

In June 2020, [Biden stated](#), “As President, I will immediately work to make [DACA] permanent by sending a bill to Congress on day one of my Administration.”

[Biden will set](#) the annual global refugee admissions cap to 125,000.

## POVERTY

In 2019, [the Trump Administration opposed](#) 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.

According to Biden’s website, “[He firmly believes](#) 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.”

## RACIAL EQUITY

In June 2020, [Trump announced](#) 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 [executive order](#) 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.

In a June 2020 op-ed, [Biden said](#), “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. [Biden also said](#), “...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...”

## RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

In 2017, [Trump signed](#) 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.”

In response to a July 2020 U.S. Supreme Court ruling preserving the religious liberty of the Little Sisters of the Poor, [a White House statement said](#), “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.’”

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. [Biden will reverse](#) Trump’s policies misusing these broad exemptions...”

Regarding the July 2020 ruling, [Biden said](#) 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.”







# 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. 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.

## 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)	Yes	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





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20

HERE I AM, SEND ME  
AQUÍ ME TIENES, MÁNDAME A MI

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

LA SOCIEDAD PARA LA PROPAGACIÓN DE LA FE



WORLD MISSION  
SUNDAY  
DOMINGO DE LAS  
MISIONES [missio.org](http://missio.org)

*Pray and Give Generously on* **OCTOBER 18, 2020**  
**WORLD MISSION SUNDAY**



A Pontifical Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral of Saint Peter at 12:15 p.m. on Sunday, October 25th. Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will be the principal celebrant, Father Brian J.T. Clarke, Diocesan Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies, will concelebrate. The homilist will be Father Jaime A. Perez, Assistant Pastor of the Church of Saint Matthew, East Stroudsburg, and Holy Trinity Parish, Cresco. CTV: Catholic Television will broadcast the Mass.

**Diocese of Scranton**



# Bishop Bambera's Letter for World Mission Sunday

Dear Friends in Christ,

In my recent letter to you on Respect Life Sunday, I shared with you my hope that we will seek with greater resolve to build a culture of “love, justice and universal peace.” Surely, to live a life and to have the internal disposition of love, justice and peace is part of the recipe for cultivating a culture of life. Respect for life at all its stages does not exist in isolation within the Church’s teaching and practice. It’s at the heart of all we do. Hence, as we approach World Mission Sunday – a day on which we pledge to pray and support the universal mission of the Church to care for and bring the promise of the Gospel to the poor – we do so also in the hope of building a culture of love, justice and universal peace.

Once again, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has taken the lead on seeking such models of life in his most recent encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*. There, Pope Francis enjoins the Church to heed the example of Saint Francis of Assisi who “sowed seeds of peace and walked alongside the poor, the abandoned, the infirm and the outcast, the least of his brothers and sisters.” Notice the carefully chosen words “walked alongside.” Pope Francis, from the earliest days of his pontificate, has challenged us all to accompany one another in the ways of faith and daily life, and especially to walk together with our brothers and sisters who are most in need, to encounter them with love, with mercy, with the eyes of Christ.

Sad to say, we have had an unwelcome and unexpected force accompanying us, walking alongside us these past months. The upheaval we have experienced in terms of our physical, emotional and spiritual health due to the COVID-19 pandemic has been and will continue to be for some time a force of disruption and potential disunity. It has forced us to become more isolated from one another because of the necessary distance we must maintain to stay safe. However, once we are free to move about more freely and without the crippling fear of illness, we pray that our isolation may not then result in, what Pope Francis terms an “every man for himself” mentality.

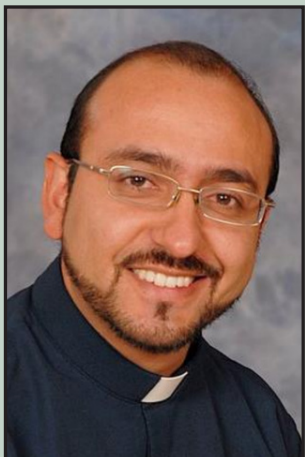
If the mission month of October and our annual celebration of World Mission Sunday reminds us of anything, it is that we are not alone, and that “no one lives for oneself” (Romans 14:7). For now, solidarity and prayer for one another is the key that unlocks our isolation. We may not be able to be physically present to one another, but we can be present to one another in prayer and in sacrifice. To embrace the missionary spirit that is unique to our Church is to accept joyfully the reality that we are not just loosely connected as Christians; we are not merely fellow congregants in our places of worship. We are His. And because He calls us His own, we are so deeply connected; we are one. In the words of Saint Paul, “so we, though many, are one body in Christ” (Romans 12:5).

The gift of the Christian faith is that, indeed, we are one and that we are deeply connected as daughters and sons of God. That is the mission of the Church, to think “no longer in terms of ‘them’ and ‘those,’ but only ‘us,’” as Pope Francis so beautifully challenges us. Perhaps the current isolation of this pandemic can afford us the opportunity to do just that, to recognize as the saying goes that we are all in this together, not just together during a pandemic, but together in this life to serve God and to serve one another in bringing about love, justice and universal peace. Thank you for your gift of faith and for your commitment to the Church’s mission that we are all one.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

† *Joseph C. Bambera*

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



**Reverend Jaime Alberto  
Perez Restrepo**

Bishop Bambera and the Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese are pleased to announce that Rev. Jaime Alberto Pérez Restrepo will serve as the homilist at this year’s annual World Mission Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Sunday, Oct. 25, 2020, at 12:15 p.m. Better known to us in Scranton as Father Jaime, he serves as parochial vicar of Saint Matthew Parish, East Stroudsburg, and Holy Trinity Parish, Cresco. Fr. Jaime hails from Medellín, Columbia, and for most of his 15 years of ministry has served as a missionary, most notably in Cuba and now here in the United States.

Born in Medellín in 1975 to Jesús Elkin Pérez Álvarez and María Fabiola Restrepo, Fr. Jaime began his studies and his early formation in the minor seminary of the Archdiocese of Medellín. Subsequently, Fr. Jaime pursued his formal priestly formation at the Pontifical Bolivarian University in Medellín, completing his studies in 2004. Fr. Jaime was ordained a priest on Nov. 20, 2004, by Archbishop Alberto Jaramillo. Since then, he has accepted an impressive series of pastoral assignments in the Diocese of Pinar del Rio, Cuba. In 2008, Fr. Jaime returned to his home in the Archdiocese of Medellín for pastoral work and then in 2010 began his missionary work in the United States as an Hispanic Vicar in the Diocese of Raleigh, North Carolina.

Now, since 2017, Fr. Jaime has been ministering in our own diocese and has brought his wealth of missionary experience, his love of the Lord and His Church, and his commitment to serving those in need to our beloved 11 counties. Fr. Jerry Shantillo has shared high praise of Fr. Jaime, saying “Fr. Jaime has a unique ability to gather the scattered given his missionary experience in Cuba. His ability to reach out to the immigrant who has been separated from the Church and invite them to return is a gift much needed in our diocese.” Please tune in via CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton to hear Fr. Jaime’s words of wisdom and to join us virtually for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass as our diocese celebrates World Mission Sunday.





# Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for World Mission Sunday 2020

## HERE I AM, SEND ME

Excerpt from the Pope's message released by the Vatican on May 31

"Understanding what God is saying to us at this time of pandemic also represents a challenge for the Church's mission. Illness, suffering, fear and isolation challenge us. The poverty of those who die alone, the abandoned, those who have lost their jobs and income, the homeless and those who lack food, challenge us. Being forced to observe social distancing and to stay at home invites us to rediscover that we need social relationships as well as our communal relationship with God.

"Far from increasing mistrust and indifference, this situation should make us even more attentive to our way of relating to others. And prayer, in which God touches and moves our hearts, should make us ever more open to the need of our brothers and sisters for dignity and freedom, as well as our responsibility to care for all creation.

"The impossibility of gathering as a Church to celebrate the Eucharist has led us to share the experience of the many Christian communities that cannot celebrate Mass every Sunday. In all of this, God's question: "Whom shall I send?" is addressed once more to us and awaits a generous and convincing response: "Here am I, send me!" (Is 6:8). God continues to look for those whom he can send forth into the world and to the nations to bear witness to his love, his deliverance from sin and death, his liberation from evil (cf. Mt 9:35-38; Lk 10:1-12)."



## "YOU HAVE SAVED US" Saint Andrew Parish changes lives in Nigeria

WILKES-BARRE – The generosity of a small parish in Luzerne County is making a difference on the other side of the world.

Through donations, parishioners of Saint Andrew Parish in Wilkes-Barre have helped to feed families in Africa, care for children in an orphanage, start small businesses and even put in a public toilet.

"The people of Saint Andrew Parish have changed the lives of their fellow children of God in Nigeria," Deacon Bill Behm, Parish Life Coordinator, said.

The outreach efforts started when Father Chikadi J. Anyanele, better known as Father John, a missionary from the Congregation of the Missionaries of Mariannhill, came to visit the parish before the COVID-19 pandemic.

While spending nearly two weeks at Saint Andrew Parish, Father John celebrated daily and weekend Masses and interacted with parishioners.

"He anointed those people who were dying, he visited the sick, he went with me to hospitals and nursing homes," Deacon Behm explained.

One particular story also stood out in helping Father John build an instant and memorable rapport with parishioners.

One morning during his visit, Deacon Behm spotted Father John deep in prayer behind the rectory. The spot where he was praying is marked with a clothesline in the shape that resembles a cross.

"He said, 'Isn't this where your first pastor is buried?'" Deacon Behm recalled. "I said, no, it's the last pastor's herb garden...I told the parish that story and the laughter didn't stop for a couple of minutes."

By the time the coronavirus pandemic hit, Father John had returned to his native



**Father Chikadi J. Anyanele, left, provides help to women and children in Nigeria thanks to donations sent from parishioners of Saint Andrew Parish in Wilkes-Barre.**

Nigeria. By chance, Deacon Behm reached out to see how he was doing and that is when the Parish Life Coordinator learned of a severe need for food in the missionary's home village of Umuizi-Umunkwo.

Deacon Behm mentioned the conversation to parishioners during Mass and people instantly wanted to help.

"Suddenly, people were dropping off money at the rectory, they were dropping it in the mail slot, putting it in the Sunday collection marked for Father John," the deacon said.

Since March, the parish has sent approximately \$2,000 to help Father John and the people in Nigeria through the help of the Amen Foundation.



**Due to the generosity of people from Saint Andrew Parish, the village of Umuizi-Umunkwo was able to build a public toilet. Indoor plumbing is considered a luxury for only the very rich.**

Father John has kept in regular communication with the parish.

During a recent voicemail message, Father John told the people of Saint Andrew Parish, "you have saved not just me, but widows who have children who could not feed well any longer, I have shared your gift with them....We are grateful to all of you."

Father John has also provided the parish with pictures and an accounting of how the money has been spent.

The listing includes providing four 50-kg bags of rice to women of the African village at the start of the COVID-19 lockdown, supporting several individuals with money to begin small businesses and caring for sick members of the community.

"He gave some seed money to people to plant food, plant gardens and to be able to feed themselves and sell the produce to become more self-sufficient," Deacon Behm explained. "He also helped someone who started a business making shoes out of discarded tire rubber."

Deacon Behm has been deeply touched by the compassionate response of his parish.

"We are part of the universal Church. It doesn't matter what color we are, it doesn't matter what continent we're from, what matters is that we're all universal children of a God who loves us all," he said. "We cared enough to think beyond ourselves and think of the world and think of a friend who they met that is struggling."





## What is the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States?

### PONTIFICAL SOCIETY OF SAINT PETER THE APOSTLE

The Society of Saint Peter collaborates in the growth of the young churches through financial support for building new seminaries and formation programs for the new local priests, religious and sisters.

### PONTIFICAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

The Propagation of the Faith's commitment is to arouse in the people of God an authentically universal spirit in order to make grow in the local Churches a missionary awareness in accordance with the Church's natural outreach.

### PONTIFICAL SOCIETY OF MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD

The Pontifical Society of Missionary Childhood or of the Holy Childhood leads children to discover the missionary spirit and teaches them to help children of their same age around the world through prayer and small material sacrifices.

### PONTIFICAL MISSIONARY UNION

The Missionary Union, the soul of the other Mission Societies, is an association of the clergy, men and women religious and laypersons which proposes to arouse the passion for the mission in the Church, contribute to missionary formation, and encourage the Christian communities to cooperate and take active part in evangelization.

WORLD  
MISSION  
MONTH

20  
20

## Apostleship of Prayer

Papal Intention for November 2020

### Artificial Intelligence —

We pray that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind.

# Go Forth

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



"Here I am." Three simple words, each one syllable, with no complex meaning or depth. And yet, such a profound sentiment of presenting oneself to another.

The declaration itself presumes one of two things. First, that someone — often God — has been searching for me and, having been discovered, I put myself forward and proclaim, "Here I am." Second, it also seems to imply a deep sense of readiness to accomplish a task or a mission. What a beautiful theme for this year's World Mission Sunday.

In a letter published for this "Mission Feast" of the Church year, Pope Francis laid before us this biblical text to be the objective of this annual celebration. To receive the gift of life demands of us the call to share our life with others in acts of love and service: "Life itself, as a gift freely received, is implicitly an

invitation to this gift of self," Pope Francis shared.

In this brief letter for World Mission Sunday, I want to thank each of you for your selfless service to the Church, especially as you sacrifice financially for the Missions in support of the poorest of the poor throughout our diocese, our nation, and our world.

I thank our pastors for their patience with me and my office as we organize throughout our diocese events and collections designed to deepen our awareness of the needs of the Missions and to support them with our prayers and financial resources. I thank Bishop Bambara and our diocesan leadership and staff for the unyielding support and encouragement as we seek to become even more mission minded.

Finally, please join me in thanking God for the missionaries

throughout the world that sacrifice so much, many of whom sacrifice the familiarity and comfort of their native lands, who often face unsafe and uneasy realities, yet who embrace the call for mission and offer those three words, "Here I am."

Please continue to pray for our mission here and abroad. Consider becoming a member of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith by filling out the information sheet on this page and mailing it to the care of my office: The Society for the Propagation of the Faith, Diocese of Scranton, 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503.

Again, thank you for all that you do and for so generously responding to the Lord, "Here I am." We will be remembering each of you in our prayers every day and in a special way on World Mission Sunday. May God bless us as we go forth in His name.

## The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

### As a member, your gift means financial and spiritual support to:

Missionaries, Seminarians, Religious Novices, Catechists, Schools, Hospitals, Orphanages, Maternity Clinics and Feeding Programs in more than 1150 Mission Dioceses!

### As a member, you receive:

The grateful prayers of missionaries around the world, special remembrance in more than 15,000 Masses a year and a subscription to MISSION Magazine

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☐ Individual.....\$5.00

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☐ Perpetual Membership for a Family.....\$100.00

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Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

If Membership is for another: \_\_\_\_\_ (living/deceased)





# Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time: October 18, 2020



## FIRST READING

IS 45:1, 4-6

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, Cyrus, whose right hand I grasp, subduing nations before him, and making kings run in his service, opening doors before him and leaving the gates unbarred: For the sake of Jacob, my servant, of Israel, my chosen one, I have called you by your name, giving you a title, though you knew me not.

I am the LORD and there is no other, there is no God besides me. It is I who arm you, though you know me not, so that toward the rising and the setting of the sun people may know that there is none besides me. I am the LORD, there is no other.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10

**Response: Give the Lord glory and honor**

## SECOND READING

1 THES 1:1-5B

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: grace to you and peace.

We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers,

unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and labor of love and endurance in hope of our Lord Jesus Christ, before our God and Father, knowing, brothers and sisters loved by God, how you were chosen.

For our gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with much conviction.

## GOSPEL READING

MT 22:15-21

The Pharisees went off and plotted how they might entrap Jesus in speech. They sent their disciples to him, with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. And you are not concerned with anyone’s opinion, for you do not regard a person’s status. Tell us, then, what is your opinion: Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?”

Knowing their malice, Jesus said, “Why are you testing me, you hypocrites? Show me the coin that pays the census tax.”

Then they handed him the Roman coin.

He said to them, “Whose image is this and whose inscription?”

They replied, “Caesar’s.”

At that he said to them, “Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.”



# Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time: October 25, 2020



## FIRST READING

EX 22:20-26

Thus says the LORD: “You shall not molest or oppress an alien, for you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt. You shall not wrong any widow or orphan. If ever you wrong them and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry. My wrath will flare up, and I will kill you with the sword; then your own wives will be widows, and your children orphans.

“If you lend money to one of your poor neighbors among my people, you shall not act like an extortioner toward him by demanding interest from him. If you take your neighbor’s cloak as a pledge, you shall return it to him before sunset; for this cloak of his is the only covering he has for his body. What else has he to sleep in? If he cries out to me, I will hear him; for I am compassionate.”

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51

**Response: I love you, Lord, my strength.**

## SECOND READING

1 THES 1:5C-10

Brothers and sisters: You know what sort of people we were among you for your sake.

And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, receiving the word in great affliction, with joy from the Holy Spirit, so that you became a model for all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth not only in Macedonia and in Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything.

For they themselves openly declare about us what sort of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God and to await his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus, who delivers us from the coming wrath.

## GOSPEL READING

MT 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a scholar of the law tested him by asking, “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?”

He said to him, “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.”



# Solemnity of All Saints: November 1, 2020



## FIRST READING

RV 7:2-4, 9-14

I, John, saw another angel come up from the East, holding the seal of the living God. He cried out in a loud voice to the four angels who were given power to damage the land and the sea, “Do not damage the land or the sea or the trees until we put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.”

I heard the number of those who had been marked with the seal, one hundred and forty-four thousand marked from every tribe of the children of Israel.

After this I had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue. They stood before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation comes from our God, who is seated on the throne, and from the Lamb.”

All the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They prostrated themselves before the throne, worshiped God, and exclaimed: “Amen. Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor, power, and might be to our God forever and ever. Amen.”

Then one of the elders spoke up and said to me, “Who are these wearing white robes,

and where did they come from?” I said to him, “My lord, you are the one who knows.” He said to me, “These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb.”

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS 24: 1BC-2, 3-4AB, 5-6

**Response: Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.**

## SECOND READING

1 JN 3:1-3

Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope based on him makes himself pure, as he is pure.



When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him.

He began to teach them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.  
Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.  
Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.  
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.  
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.”



## Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time: November 8, 2020



### FIRST READING

WIS 6:12-16

Resplendent and unfading is wisdom, and she is readily perceived by those who love her, and found by those who seek her. She hastens to make herself known in anticipation of their desire; Whoever watches for her at dawn shall not be disappointed, for he shall find her sitting by his gate.

For taking thought of wisdom is the perfection of prudence, and whoever for her sake keeps vigil shall quickly be free from care; because she makes her own rounds, seeking those worthy of her, and graciously appears to them in the ways, and meets them with all solicitude.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

**Response: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.**

### SECOND READING

1 THES 4:13-18 or 4:13-14

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

[Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep

For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words.]

### GOSPEL READING

MT 25:1-13

Jesus told his disciples this parable: “The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps. Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

At midnight, there was a cry, ‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’

But the wise ones replied, ‘No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.’ While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked.

Afterwards the other virgins came and said, ‘Lord, Lord, open the door for us!’ But he said in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.’ Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”



## Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time: November 15, 2020



### FIRST READING

PRV 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls. Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize.

She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life.

She obtains wool and flax and works with loving hands.

She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle.

She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy.

Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

Give her a reward for her labors, and let her works praise her at the city gates.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

128:1-2, 3, 4-5

**Response: Blessed are those who fear the Lord.**

### SECOND READING

1 THES 5:1-6

Concerning times and seasons, brothers and sisters, you have no need for anything to be written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief at night.

When people are saying, “Peace and security,” then sudden disaster comes upon them, like labor pains upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to overtake you like a thief.

For all of you are children of the light and children of the day. We are not of the night or of darkness.

Therefore, let us not sleep as the rest do, but let us stay alert and sober.

### GOSPEL READING

MT 25:14-30

Jesus told his disciples this parable: “A man going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one - to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

Immediately the one who received five talents went and traded with them, and made another five.

Likewise, the one who received two made another two. But the man who received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried his master’s money.

“After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them.

The one who had received five talents came forward bringing the additional five.

He said, ‘Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more.’

His master said to him, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master’s joy.’

Then the one who had received two talents also came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two talents. See, I have made two more.’

His master said to him, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master’s joy.’

Then the one who had received the one talent came forward and said, ‘Master, I knew you were a demanding person, harvesting where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter; so out of fear I went off and buried your talent in the ground. Here it is back.’

His master said to him in reply, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I did not plant and gather where I did not scatter? Should you not then have put my money in the bank so that I could have got it back with interest on my return? Now then! Take the talent from him and give it to the one with ten.

For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And throw this useless servant into the darkness outside, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.”



Diocese of Scranton  
**2020 DIOCESAN**  
 ANNUAL APPEAL

BOUND  
TOGETHER IN

*Hope*



*We are living*  
 through extraordinary times

While it may be easy to get discouraged — as Christians, we continue to be hopeful because we know that God always surrounds us with His love and grace.

This year's Appeal theme "bound together in hope" is at the heart of what we believe — that we are one body in Christ connected through the Eucharist to offer hope and love to one another.

Through support of the Diocesan Annual Appeal, our local faith community is turning darkness into light and despair into hope.

Appeal donations support so many life-changing ministries in our Diocese and parishes throughout 11 counties in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

Those who benefit from your generosity are extremely thankful. Here are a few of their stories.

## CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS



Support of the Appeal allowed Catholic TV, the Diocesan website, and *The Catholic Light* to continue bringing the Word of God and important information to parishioners throughout the Diocese. Masses and special programs, including rosaries and prayer vigils, keep us connected to our faith.

### Catholic Television Daily Mass

Thousands of parishioners are relying on Catholic Television during the pandemic to continue to receive the Word of God through the broadcast of daily and Sunday Masses.

**Karen Magnotta** of Dunmore depends on the televised daily Mass to keep her connected to her faith and to hear God's word proclaimed. "The daily Mass from St. Peter's Cathedral on Catholic TV is a real blessing. It brings Our Lord into my home and it keeps me connected to our faith and our faith community." She also regularly reads *The Catholic Light* newspaper that "keeps us up-to-date with how effective our Catholic education is for our young students and the latest news about our Bishop and the Diocese."

## CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

Catholic Social Services has seen a dramatic increase in the number of people seeking assistance as a result of the coronavirus. Appeal gifts help our food pantries, kitchen, and shelters, and relief-assistance programs provide our friends and neighbors with basic life-sustaining needs such as food, clothing, medications and rent assistance.

Catholic Social Services also provides much-needed counseling, support and resources to individuals, Veterans and families to put them on a solid path to a better future.

### St. Joseph's Food Pantry, Hazleton

Catholic Social Services operates St. Joseph's Food Pantry in Hazleton that feeds over 750 families in need each month.



**LeeAnn Lywiski**, the pantry Supervisor related, "There are many new faces who come multiple times a month because they need the food to survive. Children are out of school and people have lost their jobs and are now in great need. We had a child who asked her father, 'What are we having for dinner tonight?' and he answered, 'Whatever this lady gives us.'" She continued, "The need is so great we had to purchase additional food to give to those without."

### Food Pantry, Carbondale

Additional food distributions have taken place in Carbondale to respond to the increased need during the pandemic. Each distribution has provided for 400 to 500 families in the region.



**Raymond Ward**, a Carbondale resident who was able to pick up boxes of food at the drive-by distribution shared, "I'm thankful for what I get here. It's like Christmas opening up the food packages. The food will last me for months. This shows how people really care."



## SOCIAL JUSTICE GRANTS

Social Justice grants funded by the Diocesan Annual Appeal have been especially critical this year in helping parishes respond to the increasing needs for food and assistance in our parish communities.



**Hot Dinner Drive-Through, Epiphany Parish, Sayre**  
Volunteers at Epiphany Parish serve over 120 hot meals to those in need in the community, every second Tuesday of the month. **Laura Houseknecht**, a recipient of the dinners related, "We lost income due to Covid and this project feeds our family of six. We are so thankful!"



**Parish Food Pantry, St. Ann's Parish, Williamsport**  
A parish Social Justice grant helped launch and supports a food pantry serving families of all sizes in the area. **Mary Trometter**, the pantry coordinator stated, "About 40 percent of our clients are over 60, and in addition to providing them food, we offer them information about other support services in the area, so they don't feel like they're alone."

## CLERGY SUPPORT

Appeal gifts help to keep our retired priests protected from the coronavirus at Villa St. Joseph, where the staff is committed to providing a safe environment for this community of brothers. Our seminarians are also grateful for the continued generosity of the faithful as they continue their journey to serve as priests in our Diocese.



**Msgr. John A. Esseff** has been in service of God for 68 years. He has served in East Stroudsburg, directed the Diocesan Propagation of the Faith, served in missions overseas, and taught seminarians at St. Pius X Seminary. He shared, "Many of the retired priests still have the servant attitude. Not to be served, but to serve."



**Msgr. John J. Bendik** has been a priest in our Diocese for 53 years. He is thankful for the comradery of the brotherhood of the retired priests he shares at Villa St. Joseph. He explained, "We miss the people we serve and they're faithful to us, too. I was told by a caregiver here, 'you've always been there for us, now we're here for you.'"



Our Diocese is truly blessed to ordain three native sons to the priesthood during the pandemic. **Fr. Jonathan P. Kuhar, Fr. Shawn M. Simchock** and **Fr. Kevin M. Miller** were recently ordained by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera in the Cathedral of St. Peter. "I am prepared to be part of the lives of our parishioners and help them walk this path in life," said Fr. Kuhar.

## PARISH LIFE

The Office of Parish Life is devoted to the needs of our faithful and the parishes that serve them. Parish Life provides guidance, training and support to parishes to enhance religious education and keep parishioners better connected to their faith.



### Diaconate Training

The Office of Parish Life assists the Vocations Office in providing some of the training sessions for the Permanent Diaconate Formation Program.

Candidate **Steven Miller**, a third year Diaconate candidate from Our Lady of Victory Parish in Tannersville related, "God called me to take the path to become a Deacon."



### Virtual Catechist Camp

**Karen Balestino**, Director of Religious Education at St. Boniface and St. Lawrence parishes, participated in virtual Catechist Camp this summer connecting the faithful throughout the Diocese for a two-day on-line retreat. Her parish responsibilities caused her to proudly say, "We bring Jesus to our students and their parents in the sacramental program for reconciliation and First Holy Communion."

## CATHOLIC EDUCATION

The value of Catholic education in our Diocesan schools is witnessed by the current generation of more than 4,000 students who continue to benefit from an education that is spiritually sound and academically excellent. Our school administrators, staff and teachers immediately transitioned from in-person learning to distance learning when schools closed in March, and are committed to providing the best and safest learning environment for our students going forward.



### St. Agnes School, Towanda Lisa & granddaughter, Lylah Bride

**The Bride family** has their third generation of St. Agnes students currently attending the Towanda school. Lylah, a sixth-grade student, said her class is a year ahead of the public-school curriculum. Lisa Bride, her grandmother shared, "Our children receive a great foundation in religion and their school studies."



### Notre Dame Elementary and High School, East Stroudsburg

**Tim & Naomi Naughton** are parents of four boys who have experienced the exceptional education offered by the educators at Notre Dame.

Naomi stated, "I love that our sons value what we want them to be as human beings. They drive each other to excel." Tim added, "It's instilled in them from kindergarten to be the best that they can possibly be. They blossomed at Notre Dame."



# Donors reminded "God loves a cheerful giver"

## Appeal Regional Chairs named for Wayne and Pike counties

Serving the 2020 Diocesan Annual Appeal on behalf of Wayne and Pike counties are Father Ed Casey, pastor of Saint Ann Parish, Shohola, and Saint John Neumann Parish, Lords Valley, and Gerald Najarian, parishioner at Saint Vincent de Paul Parish, Milford.

Ordained to the priesthood two years ago, Father Casey brings a unique perspective to his first pastor's assignment regarding the Annual Appeal. He served as a deacon at Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Carbondale, while he was also a counselor for Catholic Social Services. "Through the Appeal, we were able to obtain monies for CSS programs not available through other sources," Father Casey explained.

Appeal Social Justice Grants help Father Casey's parishes serve local communities through their food pantries. Using an Appeal grant, Saint Ann's also established Lorenzo's Lunch, a weekly summertime meal program. Both parishes used grant monies to extend the program to offer drive-by lunches twice weekly for children and families when area schools closed as a result of the pandemic.

"There are good people in both parishes," Father Casey said. "They support the Appeal because they see the direct impact here in Pike County. The Appeal helps our outreach and that alone is a reason to give. One of the biggest reasons I give is because it helps



Gerald Najarian

continue Catholic education, it supports our seminarians, and our priests in retirement," Father Casey concluded.

"My feelings about the Appeal



Rev. Ed Casey

center around Catholic social teaching," Gerry Najarian explains. "I am drawn to the Appeal for its support of Catholic Social Services and Parish Social Justice Grants

and its aid to our beloved pastors, retired and ill. Saint Paul asks us to 'give what you have decided in your heart...not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.' The Appeal is our opportunity to live these words for people of our diocese who have need of our cheerful generosity."

As cantor at his parish, Gerry Najarian strives to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord." He has also chaired the Evangelization Committee and served on parish council. Retired from finance and manufacturing, Gerry grew up in a suburb of New York City. He has two daughters and four grandchildren. His wife of 54 years is the late Joan Northrop Najarian.

## Appeal Regional Chairs named for Bradford, Sullivan and Susquehanna counties

Diocesan Annual Appeal Regional chairs for Bradford, Sullivan and Susquehanna counties are Karen Garman-Hoey and Larry Hoey, and Father Joseph P. Kutch.

A native of Simpson, Father Kutch attended Carbondale schools and catechism classes at what was

then Saint Michael's Parish, Simpson, before entering the seminary. He also studied in Rome where he had the privilege to encounter Pope John Paul II many times.

Father Kutch has been a pastor at Saint Michael Parish, Canton, for nearly five years. His prior assignment

was senior priest at Epiphany Parish, Sayre.

"The Appeal is a great way to encourage people to see the bigger picture of our Catholic faith," Father Kutch explained. "The Appeal helps the entire diocese while offering direct support to local communities. Regional



Rev. Joseph P. Kutch



Larry Hoey and Karen Garman-Hoey

videos are very helpful. I show the video for our area because it illustrates hands-on-support for food pantries, community meals, etc. It gives people more of a personal stake in the Appeal.

"I, and the priests I know, give generously because we see it as an avenue to share our talents and treasures, to give spiritually and temporally. There are many charitable causes. With the Diocesan Annual Appeal, you know clearly how your money is being used. Our parishioners support the Appeal generously," he concluded.

Karen Garman-Hoey and Larry Hoey are active members of Epiphany Parish, Sayre. "My parents were my first teachers when it came to servant leadership," Karen said. She serves her parish as cantor, member of the choir and Pastoral Council, and as a summertime adult altar

server. Her father, Richard, serves Saint Ignatius Parish, Kingston, as a lector and an Annual Appeal parish representative.

A native of Old Forge, Karen attended Catholic schools from elementary to graduate studies. "A Catholic education is very near and dear to my heart, and I want to see that option made available for anyone who desires it," she explains. She is a fourth grade teacher in Athens, where the couple resides.

An Athens native, Larry is music administrator, organist, and choir director for his home parish of Epiphany. Formerly a Protestant seminarian, Larry was later welcomed into the Catholic Church. While principal organist at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, for 11 years, Larry became friends with many fine diocesan priests. He

identifies with their many needs especially financial support for continuing education in their youth and personal welfare and care as they age.

"Through this year's Annual Appeal, we have yet another nudge from God to be good stewards by spreading the love of Christ through our giving," Larry said. "Please join me and Karen in this effort, and together let's build bridges for the Kingdom of God."

"Everything we are and everything we have is pure gift from God," Karen added. "As expressed in a favorite hymn (Sow the Word), 'We are God's lovers ... We must be love to the hungry at our doors. Lavish the hungry with the plenty we have known in the Word.' Out of love and gratitude, I am compelled to 'be Christ' for others by participating in the Diocesan Annual Appeal."

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# Bishop unites students with televised Catholic Schools Opening Mass

SCRANTON – While the COVID-19 pandemic has led to challenges and difficulties for many people, it has also opened the door to new opportunities.

With the help of technology, all 19 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Scranton joined together to celebrate an opening Mass on Sept. 30, 2020. The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera served as principal celebrant and homilist.

“I would much rather be in each of your schools celebrating this Mass...but we are grateful for this opportunity to join together, to pray and to give thanks to God for watching over us in these challenging times,” Bishop Bambera told the students during his homily.

From East Stroudsburg to Sayre, Williamsport to Hazleton, students remained in their classrooms and viewed the Mass on TV screens and smart boards. The bishop celebrated the Mass from the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.



**Bishop Joseph C. Bambera was the principal celebrant and homilist for the Catholic Schools Opening Mass held on Sept. 30, 2020. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mass was broadcast live in all 19 Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Scranton. (Courtesy: CTV)**

The bishop acknowledged the anxiety that many students are feeling because of the coronavirus. He spoke about how sports, plays and other activities have been impacted by the virus.

In the midst of challenging times, Bishop Bambera reminded the students how blessed they are.

“We were able to get up today and experience another day of life, weren’t we? We’re able to participate in this Mass. We’ve got friends around us. We’ve got

teachers who have done so much for us. We’ve got families who love and care for us. We have all of these things and more because of a God who loves us and watches over us, especially during these difficult days,” he explained.

The Gospel story for the Catholic Schools Opening Mass involved the miracle of Jesus multiplying loaves and fish to feed thousands of hungry people. The bishop said he chose the passage, John 6:15, for several reasons.

“The first reason focuses on God. The miracle story reminds us of just how much we are loved and cared for by God. While a lot of difficult things have been happening around us, God watches over us and provides us with what we need to get through each day and to find peace,” Bishop Bambera said.

The second reason why he chose that passage is because it focused on people.

“The multiplication of loaves and fish did not start with nothing. First, a boy was willing to share what he had – a couple of fish and five barley loaves. Jesus also chose to use his disciples to have the people sit down on the grass, to pass out the food and to collect what was left over,” the bishop continued.

That is the main message the bishop wanted each student to hear.

“We will get through these days and God will take care of us and those we love but we have a responsibility as well,”

Bishop Bambera told the students watching. “We have to allow ourselves to be used by Jesus – to be his hands, heart and voice – in serving our brothers and sisters and in making miracles happen.”

During the last few months, Catholic school students have already been serving their community. They have written cards to nursing home residents, collected food for parish food pantries and offered prayers to those who are sick, alone or afraid.

“In doing all of these things, I hope you noticed something. You’ve thought of others more than yourselves. You’ve lived the great commandment to love God and to love your neighbor,” the bishop said.

Bishop Bambera also gave the students a task.

“Give God room in your lives, continue to love and serve your brothers and sisters in the midst of these difficult days,” he ended his homily by saying.

## Educators receive Saint John Paul II Award for dedicated service

SCRANTON – Five educators in the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System are being honored for their commitment to Catholic education and being faith-filled examples to young people.

During the Catholic Schools Opening Mass, held Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2020, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, each educator received the Saint John Paul II Award for 25 or more years of dedicated service to Catholic education in the Diocese of Scranton.

The recipients include: Ann D’Arienzo, Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green; Yvonne Gordon of Holy Rosary School in Duryea; Shari Hilfiger of All Saints Academy in Scranton; Patricia Hopkins of All Saints Academy in Scranton and Sister Karen Steinberg, I.H.M., of Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton.

“I feel very proud and humbled,” D’Arienzo said after receiving her award from the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton.

During their many years of service, each educator has created an environment to help young people grow and learn.

“I love watching their faces as they connect. It is just amazing,”

Sister Karen Steinberg, I.H.M., explained.

The Catholic Schools Opening Mass, celebrated by Bishop Bambera, was broadcast live to all 19 schools throughout the diocese and made available to students taking part in the Diocesan Virtual Academy. Parents and community members were also invited to join in watching the Mass.

Hilfiger, who teaches third grade at All Saints Academy, credits her students for continuing to make her educational experience enjoyable. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, her students have remained positive.

“It has been absolutely amazing. The children have been so receptive. They come in every day and they’re so eager to follow the rules so that we can be there and engage and learn,” Hilfiger said. “We can tell by the smiles on the children every morning that this is where we’re supposed to be.”

Gordon says leading young people to know, love and serve God has been a privilege.

“It is sharing your faith, helping them along the way. It’s a commitment, a vocation, where



**Five educators from the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System receive the Saint John Paul II Award for 25 or more years of dedicated service to Catholic education in the Diocese of Scranton. The recipients received the awards at the Catholic Schools Opening Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Sept. 30, 2020. Shown after the Mass are, front row, from left: Ann D’Arienzo, Our Lady of Peace School, Clarks Green; Yvonne Gordon, Holy Rosary School, Duryea; Sister Karen Steinberg, I.H.M., Saint Clare/Saint Paul School, Scranton. Back row, Jason Morrison Diocesan Secretary of Catholic Education/Chief Executive Officer; Shari Hilfiger, All Saints Academy, Scranton; Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton; Kristen Donohue, Superintendent of Catholic Schools. Award recipient Patricia Hopkins, All Saints Academy, was unable to attend the Mass. (Photo/Eric Deabill)**

you want to share with the children what you know about God and your own relationship with God,” she explained.

As she announced the recipients of the Saint John

Paul II Award, Catholic Schools Superintendent Kristen Donohue thanked each educator for their service.

“To them, who so diligently teach, lead, inspire, challenge,

mentor, affirm and encourage, we express our sincerest gratitude and our heartfelt prayer for their faithful service to the ministry of Catholic education in the Diocese of Scranton,” Donohue said.



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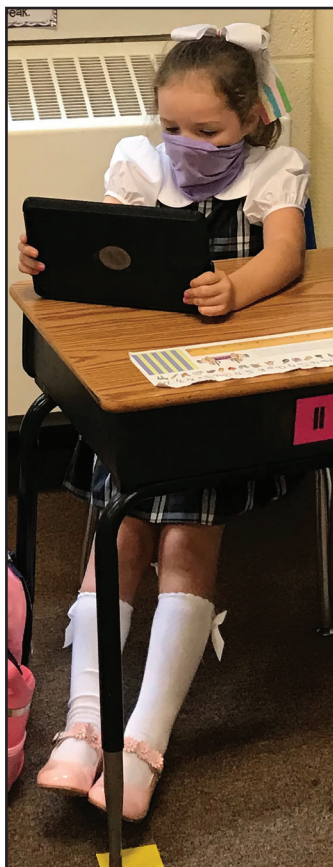
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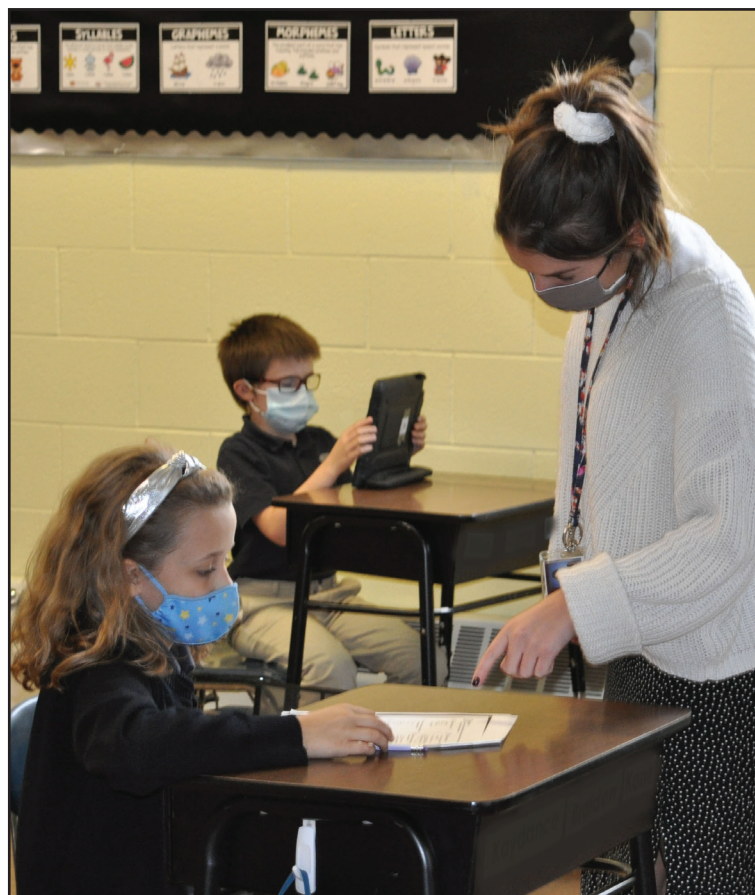
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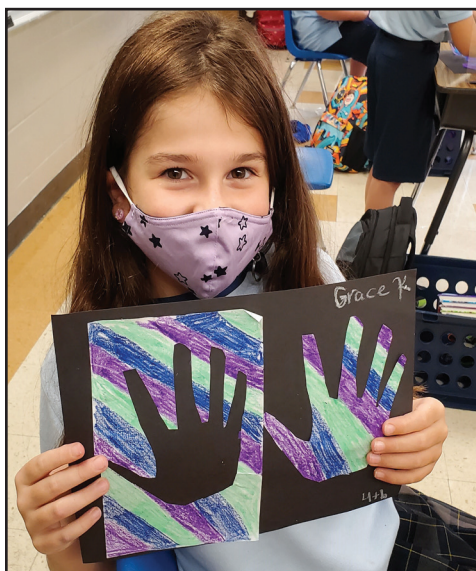


Colt Boyanowski, a Pre-Kindergarten student at Holy Rosary School in Duryea, holds his favorite teddy bear to be blessed on the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi.





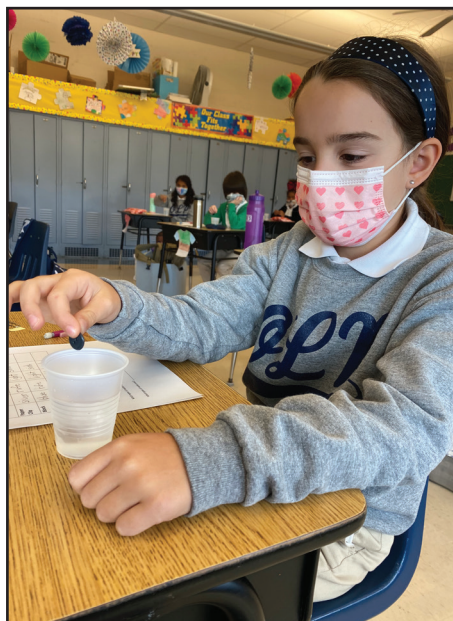
**Saint Agnes School in Towanda**



**Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter**



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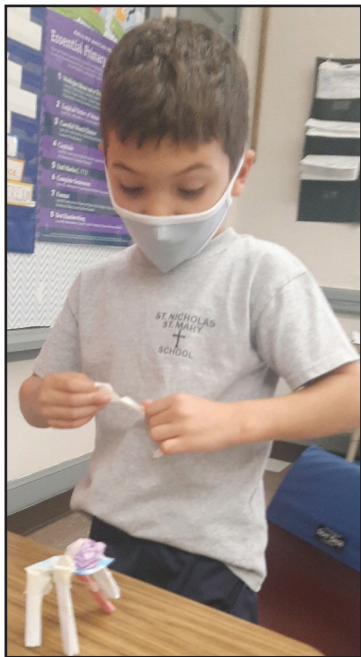
**Students at Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg participate in Bishop Bambera's virtual Mass celebrating the opening of our schools.**



**Holy Family Academy in Hazleton**



**Father Alex Roche, Vocations Director for the Diocese of Scranton, blessed the stuffed animals in the Pre-Kindergarten class at Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston for the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. Father Alex was joined by his dog, Apollo, who also received the blessing.**



**Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School in Wilkes-Barre**



**Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School in Williamsport**



# After 55 years of service, Sister Leonita Duhoski retires from Catholic Schools Office

SCRANTON – After helping to educate countless students over the last 55 years, Sister Leonita Duhoski, RSM, announced her retirement earlier this month.

Most recently serving as program coordinator for the Catholic Schools Office, Sister Leonita has held numerous positions in both the Catholic Schools Office and Office for Parish Life during her extensive career. Sister began her career as an educator – spending 28 years teaching at Bishop Hoban High School in Wilkes-Barre and serving for several other years as director of development.

“My main ambition was always to serve God through His people,” Sister Leonita Duhoski said. “In my years of teaching and working in development in the Office for Parish Life and Catholic Schools, I’ve met so many people and I hope that I have touched them with God’s word.”

As she reflected on her remarkable career, Sister Leonita said her decades of teaching



**After serving the Diocese of Scranton for 55 years, Sister Leonita Duhoski, RSM, announced her retirement from the Catholic Schools Office this month. Shown are, from left: Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia; Kristen Donohue, Superintendent of Catholic Schools; Sister Leonita Duhoski, RSM; Jason Morrison, Diocesan Secretary of Catholic Education/Chief Executive Officer; Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton.**

English will always stand out as the most memorable.

“It was the interaction (with

the students). It’s knowing that you are able to impart something about God, about the world,

about themselves, about how they’re living their lives,” she explained. “You try to be a source of encouragement, of affirmation. That is what I tried to do.”

No matter what position she held after teaching, Sister Leonita described it as a “continuation of what I did in the classroom.”

Sister said she enjoyed every role she took on, including director of development, where she got to meet with alumni and keep them connected to the Catholic School System.

She fondly remembered students who would return long after graduation, including an Air Force officer who once returned to visit her.

“He said, ‘Sister, I did a tour in England and I know you love Shakespeare, so I brought you these two pictures, water colors of England,’” Sister remembered. “I still have them hanging. It is just wonderful the way you keep in touch with people.”

Thousands of people have benefitted from Sister Leonita’s

leadership and passion for learning and teaching during her vast career. Colleagues were always impressed with the way she gave generously of her time and experience.

On Oct. 8, 2020, her final day in the office, Sister Leonita was the one wanting to express gratitude.

“You can’t put into words how you feel. I have been inspired in so many ways here, I have been enriched personally and spiritually. I learned so much here,” she said. “I’m grateful to God for all that He has given me, all the people He has put into my life and the things that I did.”

While she has served as a religious sister for 65 years, don’t expect “retirement” to slow Sister Leonita down.

“I’m not going to stop. I’m going to do some volunteer work with the Catherine McAuley Center. It won’t be a job, it’ll be volunteer work, but I need to keep busy,” she said with a smile.



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# Thanksgiving aid programs to serve area needy despite pandemic

*IHM Friends of the Poor, Family to Family to tweak holiday food giveaways*

SCRANTON – The Friends of the Poor (FOP) has not let something like a global health crisis keep the apostolate from its appointed rounds of serving the underprivileged.

Most definitely, then, the ongoing pandemic will certainly not have a detrimental effect on the FOP's largest mobilization effort of the year to feed the needy – the Thanksgiving season.

Since March when the reality of COVID-19 came crashing down upon us, the Friends of the Poor has served 85,000 individuals via drive-through food giveaways throughout the region.

Meghan Loftus, the Friends' president and CEO, recently kicked off the 44th Annual Thanksgiving Community Program by announcing this year's unique spin on the community-based charitable efforts to help those in need for the November holiday: the Thanksgiving Dinner for Adults & Elderly and the Family to Family Thanksgiving Food Basket Program.

"In light of the current pandemic, each will be carried out in a different style than they have for the past four decades," Loftus said. "Both events have a unique purpose, yet yield the same feelings of gratitude, friendship and community. For many, the Thanksgiving Community Program has become a holiday tradition."

The Thanksgiving dinner traditionally served at the Scranton Cultural Center on the Tuesday

## How You Can Be a Holiday Helper

- The Robeson Family has ordered more than \$140,000 in food items, including 3,000 turkeys and trimmings to fill their Thanksgiving baskets. A donation of \$30 sponsors a family of four. Monetary donations in any amount are most appreciated and may be sent to: Family to Family Program, P.O. Box 13, Scranton, PA 18501. Donations may also be made by texting "thanks" to (570) 525-5956. ([www.ftfthanks.org](http://www.ftfthanks.org))

- Friends of the Poor is seeking donations for their take-out Tuesday night Thanksgiving dinner. Contact the Friends of the Poor office at (570) 340-6086 or email: [friendsofthepoor@fotp-ihm.org](mailto:friendsofthepoor@fotp-ihm.org). Monetary donations can be sent to: Friends of the Poor, Thanksgiving Community Dinner, 2300 Adams Ave., Scranton, PA 18509. ([www.fotp-ihm.org](http://www.fotp-ihm.org))

night before Thanksgiving will go on, but as a take-out event.

On Tuesday, Nov. 24, dinners will be packed and handed out to those in need outside of the Cultural Center – near the corner of North Washington Ave. and Vine St. — as a drive-by event between 3 and 6 p.m.

"We will still gather generous donors and volunteers, only this time to pack a hot Thanksgiving meal into a takeout container," Loftus explained.

She continued by outlining that, at the same time, the Friends of the Poor will partner with Meals on Wheels of Northeastern Pennsylvania and Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging to prepare and deliver hundreds of meals to those individuals who

were previously transported to the holiday feast.

The Family to Family Thanksgiving Food Basket Program, under the direction of the Robeson family, will continue in the same manner as the COVID-19 Emergency Food Distributions carried out for the past seven months.

As opposed to the Scranton Cultural Center, Scranton High School at 63 Mike Munchak Way in the city will be the control and distribution center for the food baskets on Wednesday, Nov. 25.

From 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., volunteers will place the grocery components for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner in cars of those arriving for the food giveaway, which provides a

holiday meal to 3,000 families.

"As we all know, 2020 has been a very unique year, especially for our program," Ryan Robeson remarked. "As unemployment rates skyrocketed and people struggled to navigate through this difficult time, wondering where their next meal would come from, Friends of the Poor and Family to Family changed their plans to offer weekly food giveaways."

He added, "Scranton has always been a very generous community, one that takes care of its neighbors, that cares for the poor, and embraces the Christ-like love that we are called to have for our brothers and sisters. This year...it should be especially emphasized."

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## Impressive Crucifix dedicated at Shohola church



An imposing, life-size Crucifix was blessed and dedicated at Saint Ann Church in Shohola on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on September 14. Saint Ann parishioner James Johanson fashioned the large cross from an original floor beam from Saint Mary Church in Lackawaxen, built in 1864, while the striking figure of Christ was created in Italy. The Knights of Columbus carried the Crucifix in procession to the sanctuary of the Pike County church, assisted by the K of C Columbiettes.



# Looking to help others during the pandemic?

*"Scranton Serves" offers resources to make a difference*

SCRANTON – A global pandemic will not stop volunteers in the Diocese of Scranton from getting their hands dirty and making a difference in the community.

The Diocesan Office for Parish Life and Vocations Office have partnered this month to launch "Scranton Serves," a call to action for individuals, families and groups to carry on the work of Christ in their respective communities.

The three-month initiative will last through the end of 2020. It is being held in place of the annual Diocesan Day of Service which is typically held in September.

"For the last three years, the Diocesan Day of Service was a highlight, not just to individual young people, but parish communities and schools," Shannon Kowalski, Director for Service and Mission, said.

Instead of coordinating large groups of volunteers on the same day, "Scranton Serves" will allow individuals, parish groups and school groups to take part in service projects at varying times that are convenient for them.

"We have reached out to all the agencies and non-profits that we



have partnered with in the past," Dominick Costantino, Vocation Program Coordinator, explained. "Some of them shared with us that they could really use volunteers with the upcoming holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas. So instead of just doing a day, a week or a month, we decided to challenge young people and all those in the 11 counties of the diocese to get out and serve, make a difference for good in the last three months of 2020 and really help our brothers and sisters who are in need."

Costantino says organizers have been approached by many people who are still looking to give back despite the coronavirus pandemic.

"Just because our circumstances have changed and we cannot do what we normally

would, that doesn't mean the need is any less significant for these agencies. In fact, they need us a little bit more, so knowing that we weren't just going to throw in the towel, but we had to re-charter our course," Kowalski added.

Volunteer opportunities that are part of "Scranton Serves" are listed on the Diocese of Scranton website ([www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org)). The non-profits and groups seeking help are listed under one of the four episcopal regions of the diocese.

Some of the first groups that expressed a need for volunteers include Friends of the Poor in

Scranton, Ruth's Place in Wilkes-Barre and the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Dunmore.

"We are doing our best to offer a wide arrangement of service sites and they will be located throughout the diocese," Kowalski said.

"It is going to be an ongoing resource. As agencies let us know their needs, the dates and times they need volunteers, we will have all of that information on the Diocese of Scranton website," Costantino added. "Even if you don't have a group or organization, you can go volunteer on your own."

Organizers say they also understand that some people might not feel comfortable going out to volunteer, so they have also included service projects that can be done at home, including writing cards to homebound parishioners or residents of a local nursing home and sending a surprise meal to a family in need.

Anyone with questions regarding "Scranton Serves" can contact the organizers at either [Shannon-Kowalski@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:Shannon-Kowalski@dioceseofscranton.org) or [Dominick-Costantino@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:Dominick-Costantino@dioceseofscranton.org).

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# Gouldsboro parish chosen for timely grant award

GOULDSBORO — The letter bearing good news from clear across the country couldn't have come at a better time.

In early September, the small Parish of Saint Rita in Gouldsboro received word they were selectively chosen for a prestigious grant award from Oregon Catholic Press (OCP) in Portland.

For the intimate Pocono faith community, the \$1,000 grant came on the heels of a summer season that was wreaked havoc by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

According to Tony Butel, Parish Life Coordinator who splits his time and administrative efforts between Saint Rita's and Saint Elizabeth Parish in Bear Creek, both rural parishes nestled in the northeast foothills of the Scranton Diocese rely heavily on in-pew financial contributions from summer vacationers and visitors. However, with strict social distancing guidelines in place due to COVID-19, Saint Rita's was greatly hampered by the sparse number of the transient churchgoers.

"We are a small parish with a very small church," Butel said, indicating seating capacity under normal circumstances at the Gouldsboro worship site can accommodate just 110 faithful.

"When I received notice that (OCP) was offering grants up to \$1,000, we applied," he continued.

The grant application indicated that grants were to be used to aid parishes with their liturgical services. Butel noted that his appeal to be among the grant recipients included Saint Rita's lack of size and that any assistance would help them, especially with their worship needs.

"Shortly after we had sent in the application," Butel explained, "we experienced the shut down due to the coronavirus."

When allowed to reopen, social distancing restrictions would limit the church's capacity to a maximum of 25 to 27 people. However, as Butel indicated, single worshippers and couples comprise most of Saint Rita's Mass attendance.

"We are more likely to have only 12 to 18 people attending any particular Mass," he said, "and that presents a challenge



*Church of Saint Rita in Gouldsboro*

financially in only that many are (making contributions) on a weekly basis."

Butel concluded that the Pocono church has been able to weather the pandemic fairly well financially, due to a parish fundraiser and the generosity of members of Saint Rita's and summer guests who forwarded contributions otherwise.

"To get the grant from OCP to help us with our liturgical expenses is a huge assist," he commented.

In his letter to Bishop Bambera announcing the approval of the grant to the Scranton Diocesan parish, OCP Publisher Wade Wisler stated Saint Rita's was chosen for the award from hundreds of applications from parishes "large and small" across the United States.

"It is our sincere hope that the grant will help Saint Rita Parish meet the needs they so clearly presented in their grant application," Wisler wrote. "Every application was of remarkable merit and each parish's needs were worthy of assistance. We take great satisfaction in knowing that so many parishes are committed to fulfilling the needs of their communities."

Although some minor

restrictions apply, OCP sponsors the program yearly with varying award amounts. Applications for the OCP Parish Grants Program may be submitted online at [ocp.org/grants](http://ocp.org/grants) in early 2021.

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## OCTOBER 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)	SAINTS VS SCOUNDRELS
1:30 AM							GK CHESTERTON
2:00 AM	ICONS SPOTLIGHT	EWTN GALLERY	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	FINDING GOD IN ALL THINGS
3:30AM		DEFENDING LIFE			PAPAL AUDIENCE	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY CALL-IN	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOG
4:00 AM	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	REFURBISHING THE SOUL	SWEAR TO GOD		BOB AND PENNY LORD	WEB OF FAITH 2.0	SAVORING OUR FAITH
4:30 AM		(4:35)SUNDAY BEST WITH FR GROESCHEL	COMMUNITY TREANSFORMED	(4:40)ANGELUS FROM NAZARETH	FORGOTTEN HERITAGE	LIFE IS WORTH LIVING	MATTHEWS TESTIMONY TO JESUS
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	MATTHEWS TESTIMONY TO JESUS	SAINTS VS SCOUNDRELS	THE CHOICES WE FACE	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE
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
7:50 AM		LITANY OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	LITANY OF THE HOLY NAME	LITANY OF ST. JOSEPH	LITANY OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD	LITANY OF SACRED HEART	
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)	MY TIME WITH JESUS
10:00 AM	SUNDAY MASS ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL	RELIGIOUS CATALOG					HERMIE AND FRIENDS
10:30 AM		SALT AND LIGHT TV	MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE	LIVE WITH PASSION	CATHOLIC CLASSICS WITH MOTHER ANGELICA	FOCUS	WE ARE CATHOLIC
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.					
12:30PM		"DIOCESAN DATEBOOK" airs before and after Mass.					
1:00 PM	(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
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)					HOLY ROSARY FROM LOURDES
4:00 PM	LIFE IS WORTH LIVING	THE HOLY ROSARY					SUNDAY VIGIL MASS ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL
4:30 PM	SAVORING OUR FAITH	DIOCESAN DATEBOOK					
5:00 PM	THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL	THE FRIAR	CAT CHAT	MASTERPIECE DONUT SHOP	MY CATHOLIC FAMILY	THE ROAMIN' CATHOLIC	
5:30 PM	SUNDAY PASSIONIST MASS	EWTN BOOKMARK	THE CHOICES WE FACE	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE	BOB & PENNY LORD PRESENT	GENESIS TO JESUS	BECOMING CATHOLIC
6:00 PM	SUNDAY MASS FROM ST PETERS CATHEDRAL	SPECIALS					SWEAR TO GOD
6:30 PM		EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Live)					THE JOURNEY HOME
7:00 PM	SUNDAY MASS	CATHOLICS COME HOME	REAL LIFE CATHOLICS	CHURCH UNIVERSAL	VATICANO	WHAT IS GOD'S WILL?	DAILY MASS
7:30PM		THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, (Encore)					
8:00 PM		THE HOLY ROSARY					
8:30 PM	(8:20) LITANY OF SACRED HEART	DIOCESAN DATEBOOK					EWTN CINEMA
8:30 PM	CATHOLICS COME HOME	THE JOURNEY HOME (Live)	OFOD OR SPECIALS (CAN BE 90 MINUTES) MUSIC AND SPOKEN WORD	EWTN LIVE	THE WORLD OVER (Live)	SPECIALS	
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	LONG RIDE HOME	CROSSING THE GOAL	REAL LIFE CATHOLIC	WOMEN OF GRACE HOUR LONG	WEB OF FAITH 2.0
11:30PM	CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN	WOMEN OF GRACE					GENESIS TO JESUS

# Spiritual Offerings

**Conclusion of “40 Days for Life” Pro-Life Rosary Gathering — OCT. 15-30**, 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. For more information, visit: [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com).

**Weekly Novena to Saint Anthony of Padua — OCT. 20-DEC. 15**, hosted by Our Lady of Hope Parish, 40 Park Ave., Wilkes-Barre; nine-week Saint Anthony Novena devotion held on consecutive Tuesday evenings, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the parish church. Novena theme: “Saint Joseph: Guardian of the Redeemer.” Includes blessing with the Saint Anthony relic. All faithful are welcome; social distancing and facial coverings required. For more information, call (570) 824-7832.

## Parish offering weekday Adoration and Rosary

**SCRANTON —** Saint Paul Parish in the Green Ridge section of Scranton announces an Adoration and Rosary devotion is now offered on weekdays, Monday through Friday, at the parish worship site of Saint Clare Church, corner of North Washington Ave., and Park St., Scranton.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held each day from 4 to 5 p.m., with recitation of the Holy Rosary beginning at 4:30 p.m.

All faithful are invited. Social distancing and facial coverings as outlined by the Diocese of Scranton and CDC are required.

## Carbondale parish churches focus of ‘Camino’ experience

**CARBONDALE —** The three worship sites of the Carbondale parishes of Saint Rose of Lima and Our Lady of Mount Carmel are the focus of a contemplative walking pilgrimage scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 17.

Dubbed the “Carbondale/Simpson Camino,” the pilgrimage is inspired by the famed Camino de Santiago de Compostela trek in Northern Spain, which leads pilgrims to the tomb of the apostle Saint James.

The so-called dawn to dusk Carbondale Camino will begin at 8 a.m. and conclude at 7 p.m. Area faithful will be led on a leisurely, contemplative experience along the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Trail, where the autumn scenic beauty can be enjoyed while making their way to the parishes’ three churches — Saint Rose of Lima and Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Carbondale, and Saint Michael in Simpson.

Organizers envision the participants sharing in a sense of community, devotional prayer and appreciation of the gift of creation while honoring the legacy of the worship sites.

Groups will depart from the Carbondale YMCA Pavilion every hour to provide constant witness. Pilgrims will follow the trail to Simpson and return to Carbondale for a journey of approximately three miles. Waystations will greet the sojourners to provide refreshment for physical and spiritual nourishment.

Entry cost is \$15 for adults, which includes a t-shirt; \$5 for children, ten to 18 years old (shirt not included); and children under age ten, free of charge. T-shirts may be ordered for children at a cost of \$10.

All proceeds will benefit the Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Saint Rose of Lima parishes. For more information, contact the rectory office at (570) 282-2991.





Joining a national effort to show prayerful support for police forces locally and across the country, members of the Marian Rosary apostolate from Our Lady of Fatima Blessed Grotto on North Street in Wilkes-Barre sponsored a Rosary crusade at the Wilkes-Barre City Police Station on Saturday, Sept. 26. Rosary prayers were also offered for police in Kingston and Dallas in Luzerne County, uniting with Catholic faithful from area churches praying the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary on the same day. Pictured with the Our Lady of Fatima group for the Rosary devotion are Wilkes-Barre Police Chief Joseph Coffay and his fellow officers.

## Father Cizek Day virtual celebration on October 18

**SHENANDOAH** — Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic health crisis, the Father Walter Cizek Prayer League announces this year's Father Cizek Day celebration held each fall has been canceled as an in-person event.

The Prayer League, which is dedicated to promoting the cause for canonization for Father Cizek, will instead present a virtual celebration to commemorate the annual observance.

A Mass will be celebrated on Sunday, Oct. 18, at 2 p.m. and livestreamed on the League's Facebook page and website for private viewing.

Father Eugene Ritz, co-postulator of Father Cizek's sainthood cause, will serve as principal celebrant for the Eucharistic liturgy. The homilist will be Father David Kozak of the Diocese of Allentown.

Concelebrants for the Mass will include Monsignor Ronald Bocian and Father Jeffrey Walsh, pastor of Saint Rose of Lima and Our Lady of Mount Carmel parishes, Carbondale, and former Vicar for Clergy in the Diocese of Scranton.

Prior to the broadcast of the liturgical celebration, a virtual tour of the Father Cizek Center



**Father Walter Cizek**

in Shenandoah will be presented beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Father Cizek served the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) congregation as a teacher and missionary in Eastern Europe during the mid-19th century. It was during his missionary ministry the Catholic priest was arrested by Soviet authorities and held in confinement for 15 years in a Siberian labor camp.

Upon his release, Father Cizek wrote two well-known defining books, *With God in Russia* and *He Leadeth Me*, offered as meditations on his acceptance and forgiveness after surviving the harsh conditions as a prisoner of the Communists.



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— I make house calls —



### *Who makes house calls?*

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

Based on my practice, which consists of estate planning and administration along with elder law, I find that clients are more comfortable discussing such matters in familiar surroundings. While I know this may seem unconventional to some, I believe I will be able to serve clients much better in this fashion. If anyone is uncomfortable with home visits, I have a few locations where I can meet in an office setting. I look forward to meeting with my existing clients and especially meeting new clients that are looking for any assistance in estate or elder law matters.



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# Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese

**Outdoor Flea Market Fundraiser** — **OCT. 17**, benefiting the Friends of the Poor apostolate; held from 9 a.m. to noon in the parking lot of Scranton Sheet Metal, 240 East Elm St., Scranton (behind the Dunkin' restaurant).

Social distancing and facial masks are required.

**Raffle Drawing Fundraiser** — **OCT. 21**, sponsored by the Christian Women of Our Lady of Hope Parish, 40 Park Ave., Wilkes-Barre; proceeds benefit the parish youth. Raffle tickets cost \$2 each; every ticket is eligible for 25 prizes, including handmade afghans and quilt, and various gift certificates. For information and tickets, call Sue Cosgrove (570) 824-0282, or Monica Jendrzewski (570) 704-6404.

**Pulled Pork & Potato Pancake Sale** — **NOV. 1**, drive-by fundraiser for the Saint John Neumann Parish Ministry in South Scranton; pick-up of advance sale food items held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the parking lot of Nativity of Our Lord Church, 633 Orchard St., Scranton. Tickets available until Oct. 28. Menu includes pulled pork sandwich & cole slaw, \$5; three potato pancakes, \$5; and pulled pork sandwich, cole slaw & four potato pancakes, \$10. Advance sales only; tickets

available after weekend Masses or at the parish office. For more information, call (570) 344-6159.

**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.

**Tripe and Sausage & Pepper Sandwich Take-out** — **NOV. 5**, 4:30 to 7 p.m. at Saint Rocco Church grounds, 122 Kurtz St., Dunmore. Pre-order deadline: Nov. 4. Call parish office (570) 344-1209.

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

**Take-out Roast Beef Dinner** — **NOV. 8**, hosted by Mary, Mother of God Parish, Providence

section, Scranton; dinner available for pick up from noon to 4 p.m. at nearby Stirna's Restaurant, 120 West Market St., Scranton. Dinner tickets cost \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. For advance tickets, contact the parish office at 316 William St., or by calling (570) 342-4881.

**Fall Take-out Pasta Supper & Basket Raffle** — **NOV. 8**, sponsored by Saint Maria Goretti Parish, 42 Laflin Road, Laflin; held from noon to 4 p.m. in the parish hall. Homemade pasta & sausage dinner available for take-outs only (containers provided); includes salad, dinner roll and dessert. Cost: \$12 per dinner; facial masks required. For more information, contact the parish office (570) 655-8956.

**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. Deadline is Nov. 2.

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## Williamsport Parish Plans Autumn Events

**WILLIAMSPORT** — Saint the Joseph Worker Parish announces the following events being sponsored by the parish during the fall season:

**Harvest Fest** — Sunday, October 18, from 1 to 4 p.m.; at the Parish Center parking lot, 720 West Fourth St., Williamsport. Includes chili cook-off, food trucks, basket

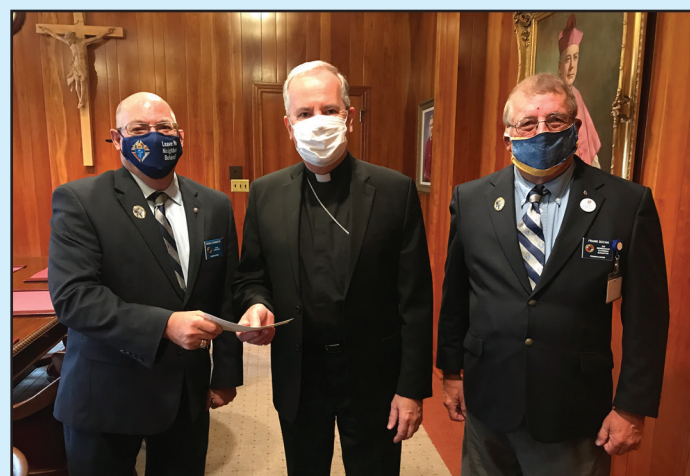
raffle and children's activities.

**Trunk or Treat** — Friday, October 30, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.; at the Parish Center parking lot. All are welcome.

**Take-out Turkey Dinner** — Tuesday, Nov. 3; at the Parish

Center, 720 West Fourth St. Dinner costs \$10 and includes turkey with filling, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans and cole slaw. Pre-orders suggested; tickets available at the parish office or by calling (570) 323-9456.

## Knights of Columbus present donations



Members of the Knights of Columbus presented Bishop Joseph C. Bambera with two donations during a Sept. 17 meeting at the Diocesan Chancery in Scranton. A check for \$4,688.60 will be used for promoting vocations and educating and supporting seminarians. A check for \$3,581 came from the Knights of Columbus Christopher Fund and will be directed towards helping retired religious. Pictured are, from left: George Schneider, Jr., State Advocate Elect; Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; Frank E. Socha, Membership Chairman/Liaison to the Diocese of Scranton. (Photo/Eric Deabill)



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# Pittston parish hosting 63rd Saint Jude Novena

PITTSTON — Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish will host its 63rd Annual Novena to Saint Jude, patron saint of hopeless cases and things despaired of, at Saint Mary, Help of Christians Church, 535 N. Main St., Pittston, beginning Monday, Oct. 19, and concluding on the Feast of Saint Jude, Wednesday, Oct. 28.

Mass, homily, Novena prayers and veneration of the relic of Saint Jude will be held Monday through Friday at noon and 7 p.m. Saturday devotions are offered at noon and 4 p.m.; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. The noon-time Masses will be livestreamed.

Guest homilists for this year's Saint Jude Novena include Father Gerald Shantillo, V.E., Episcopal Vicar for Clergy and Sacramental

Minister at Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish; Father Thomas Maloney, pastor emeritus; Father Ryan Glenn, Father Jonathan Kuhar, Saint Joseph Oblate Father Paul McDonnell, Father Kevin Miller, Father Shawn Simchock, Father Jeffrey Walsh, former parish Sacramental Minister; and Father Seth Wasnock.

On the Feast of Saint Jude, Wednesday, Oct. 28, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will celebrate the Novena's closing Mass at noon.

Social distancing and mask regulations set forth by the Diocese of Scranton and Centers for Disease Control will be followed.

For more information, call the parish office at (570) 654-0263.



**Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, center, and Father August Ricciardi, left, participate in blessing a processional platform honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary on Oct. 11 at Prince of Peace Parish in Old Forge. Knights of Columbus Council 5940 spearheaded the project.**

## Marian Devotion Ministry prayer services listed

Marian Devotion Ministries in the Diocese of Scranton is dedicated to promoting prayerful devotion to Jesus and Mary through recitation of the Rosary.

Prayer rallies and Rosary Evenings are hosted throughout the diocese and include the Rosary with chanted scriptural mysteries, Fatima prayers and hymns.

Upcoming Marian Devotion events are scheduled as follows:

Monday, October 19, at 6 p.m. — Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, 1880 Highway 315, Laffin (Pittston). This regularly scheduled devotion on the third Monday of

the month includes the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

Sunday, October 25, at 3 p.m. — Healing Mass celebrated at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Laffin. Celebrant: Saint Joseph Oblate Father Joseph Sibilano, spiritual director of the OSJ Laity Association.

Friday, November 6, at 6:30 p.m. — First Friday Rosary and Mass hosted at Saint Lucy Church, 949 Scranton St., West Scranton.

For more information, contact Ernie Pappa at (570) 241-8171 or email: singtomary@aol.com.

# HazletonPHL announces release of pro-life video

HAZLETON — As Pennsylvanians for Human Life recharge their efforts during the celebration of October as Respect Life Month, Maryann Lawhon, president of the Hazleton PHL Chapter, announces the release of a short pro-life video titled "A Little Child Shall Lead Them," which she produced.

Executive producer of "The Voice of John" documentary revealing the hard truths behind the abortion industry, Lawhon explained the onset of the

coronavirus pandemic has greatly hampered the usual appearance of guest pro-life speakers and presentations at parishes during this time of year.

"This video speaks to the dignity and personhood of the unborn and is our way of presenting a simple but powerful pro-life message," Lawhon said.

The PHL's Hazleton Chapter held a Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation Townhall event in nearby Drums in Luzerne County, where pro-life proponents gathered in prayer and song and heard messages from Federation

Executive Director Michael Ciccocioppo and Education Director Bonnie Finnerty.

Father Peter O'Rourke, pastor emeritus of Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Hazleton, led the prayers for the gathering, during which John Frank was introduced as PHL spokesperson for Down syndrome. Topics discussed included life issues during the pandemic and at the state capitol, and the threat to human life in American culture.

The new pro-life video and a recap of the townhall event can be viewed on The Voice of John website (thevoiceofjohn2.org).

## 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, Nov. 11.

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 concerning IHM history.

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 Nov. 11 Evening of Prayer is: "Founders' Day."

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

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**"FOR GOD & NATION"**

## Priest with ties to Scranton is focus of new documentary

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Father Patrick Peyton may have been a child of God, but he also was a force of nature.

His relentless quest to encourage family prayer, which became the hallmark of his priestly ministry and led to the formation of Family Theater Productions, is highlighted in a new documentary of his life titled, simply, "Pray."

"I'm for prayer, for peace, for mercy, for justice, for faith, for truth, for love. I'm for racial harmony," the Irish-born Father Peyton — who popularized the adage "The family that prays together stays together" — told one interviewer. "The things I'm for crowd out the things I'm against. But first of all I'm for prayer," he added. "The world hasn't got a prayer without yours."

"We're really excited about it finally getting out to the world," said Holy Cross Father David Guffey, the current executive director of Family Theater Productions.

"Pray," subtitled "The Story of Patrick Peyton," made its debut on a limited number of movie screens Oct. 9; for those who can't catch it at their local multiplex, it will be available for streaming in January.

Father Guffey, in a phone interview with Catholic News Service, said he started digitizing material from old Family Theater footage 10 years ago, and that work on "Pray" began in earnest in 2017.

The story of Father Peyton, who was declared venerable by Pope Francis in 2017, is itself remarkable. He was the sixth of nine children — four girls and five boys. A working-class Irish family, the Peytons

engaged in family prayer every night. Young Patrick Peyton felt he had a vocation to the priesthood, but at a time when Ireland had a surplus of vocations, his poor grades kept him from being accepted as a seminarian.

Patrick convinced his brother Tom to head for the United States, where three of their sisters preceded them. Getting a job as the janitor at the cathedral in Scranton, Patrick felt the call to a vocation grow — and both he and his brother were accepted into the Holy Cross order's seminary on the campus of the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.

While still a seminarian, Father Peyton was hospitalized with tuberculosis. His favorite seminary professor told him to pray for Mary's intercession: "If you're a 50 percenter, she'll be a 50 percenter. If you're a 100 percenter, she'll be a 100 percenter."

After continuous prayer, he felt a change within his body, and had to convince the doctors he had been cured. After they conducted further tests, according to Holy Cross Father Willy Raymond, Father Guffey's predecessor at Family Theater Productions, and found their young patient's claims to be true, they told him: "Nobody should be living after what you've been through."

After being ordained, along with his brother Tom, in 1941, Father Peyton kept looking for

ways to repay Mary. At his first assignment in Albany, New York, he started the Crusade for Family Prayer and started a letter-writing campaign that resulted in 20,000 "circular letters" being written.

He also secured an hour on an Albany radio station to pray the rosary, which received a favorable response among listeners. This led to interviews with executives at the nation's second-largest radio network at the time, the Mutual Broadcasting System, in New York City. But to get network radio time, he had to think big. So on Good Friday 1945, he cold-called one of the entertainment world's biggest stars, Bing Crosby, asking him to lead a family prayer broadcast.

Crosby agreed, and the resultant program on Mother's Day that year "was celebrated for the emotional impact on the whole country," Father Raymond says in "Pray."

But to get more top-caliber stars, Father Peyton had to go to Hollywood, where most of them lived. His success rate was tremendous, and the number of "Family Theater" radio, TV and film episodes in the ensuing years totaled more than 1,000.

When entertainment wasn't enough, Father Peyton himself led family-rosary crusades that drew hundreds of thousands. Father Peyton did more than 500 crusades himself during his life.

## Prayer Requests for Priests

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

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; October 21, Father Anthony Urban; October 22, Monsignor Neil Van Loon; October 23, Father Brian Van Fossen; October 24, Father Joseph Verespy; October 25, Father John Victoria; October 26, Father James Walsh; October 27, Father Jeffrey Walsh; October 28, Passionist Father Mark Ward; October 29, Monsignor William Ward; October 30, Monsignor Christopher Washington; October 31, Father Marek Wasilewski; November 1, Pope Francis; November 2, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI; November 3, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; November 4, Father Seth Wasnock; November 5, Holy Cross Father Jarrod Waugh; November 6, Father Joseph Weber; November 7, Father Donald Williams; November 8, Father Bryan Wright; November 9, Holy Cross Father Michael Wurtz; November 10, Father Clement Yeboah; November 11, Father Daniel Yenkevich; November 12, Father Michael Zipay; November 13, Father Joseph Adonizio; November 14, Saint Peter Priestly Fraternity Father Zachary Akers; November 15, Father Patrick Albert; November 16, Father John Albosta; November 17, Father James Alco; November 18, Father Stephen Asomah; November 19, Monsignor Thomas Banick; November 20, Father David Bechtel; November 21, Father Richard Beck; November 22, Saint Joseph Oblate Father Mariusz Beczek; November 23, Jesuit Father John Begley.



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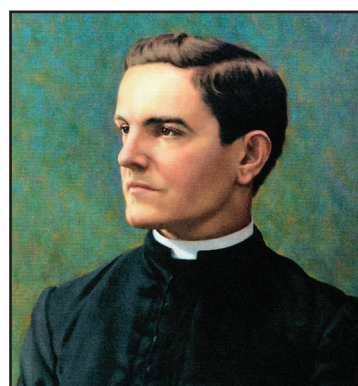
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Beatification of Father Michael McGivney to take place Oct. 31 in Hartford, Conn. 31

Father Michael McGivney, the founder of the Knights of Columbus, will be beatified during a special Mass Oct. 31 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford, Conn.

Father McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus in 1882 with the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism and now, with two million members, the agency serves parishes and communities around the world.

On May 27, the Vatican announced that Pope Francis, who met with the board of directors of the Knights of Columbus in February, had signed the decree recognizing a miracle through the intercession of Father



McGivney, clearing the way for his beatification. Once he is beatified, he will be given the title "Blessed."

The miracle recognized by the Vatican occurred in 2015 and involved a U.S. baby, still in utero, with a life-threatening condition

that, under most circumstances, could have led to an abortion.

That baby, Mikey Schachle, is now five. His parents, Dan and Michelle Schachle, of Dickson, Tennessee, prayed to Father McGivney to intercede with God to save their son, still in his mother's womb, who was given no hope of surviving a life-threatening case of fetal hydrops.

Father McGivney was ordained a priest in 1877 for what is now the Archdiocese of Hartford. He originally started the Knights as a service organization to help widows and orphans.

For more information on Father Michael McGivney, visit [www.KofC.org](http://www.KofC.org).

### 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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