



GoodNewsNotes

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

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Bishop's Youth Awards

As you are all aware, over the past few months we have made every effort to ensure the safety and well-being of the faithful in the Diocese of Scranton. With this in mind, some adjustments have been made in the preparation for and celebration of

the Bishop's Youth Awards. In September, each parish/school will receive an email requesting the nominations for the awards.

Once we have received the nominations, we will process the forms and mail the awards back to the parish/school. Each parish/school will be responsible for presenting the awards to their nominees. Here is a timeline for this year's awards:

Oct. 5	Nomination Emails are sent out. Due back by Oct. 21
Oct. 18	As nominations come in, proof list of nominees will be emailed to all parishes/schools. Once the list is verified by pastor/principle, Congratulation emails will be sent to all parishes/schools to be forwarded to all nominees. Each parish/school should begin to look for a presenter, altar servers, lectors, cantors for the BYA Mass.
Oct. 21	Final date for nominations
Oct. 23	An email with suggestions for the Mass will be sent to each parish/school
Oct. 25	Final list of nominees will be sent to every parish/school for the presenters.
Oct. 28	Awards, certificate and Message from Bishop Bambera will be mailed to parishes/schools
Nov. 8, 15, or 22	Dates for the BYA Mass-Each parish will chose their own date. Schools can hold their mass any day between Nov. 8-22

The email for nominations was sent in late September. Please check your email.

To learn more, please contact Jacki Douglas, Director of Word and Lifelong Faith Formation, at the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213, ext. 1100 or by email at jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org.

Respect Life Mass

October 4 at 10:00AM
Cathedral of Saint Peter

Our Lady of the Rosary Day of Prayer

October 7

World Mission Sunday Mass

October 25 at 12:15PM
Cathedral of Saint Peter



WORD

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

Faith Alive!

Powered by Edmodo

The Office for Parish Life and the Directors of Religious Education have been busy discovering all the benefits available through Faith Alive! Powered by Edmodo.



We are excited to announce, that coming this Advent, we will be adding another feature to our already amazing platform. The Discover Feature of Faith Alive! will provide resources for almost every ministry in your parish community. This will reduce the time it takes your parish ministry leaders to create faith experiences, ministerial development, family formation events, youth ministry ideas and so much more. This will all be found in one place, with the click of a button.

To learn more, please contact Jacki Douglas, Director of Word and Lifelong Faith Formation at jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org (570)207-2213 x-1100

Remote Networking Meetings

Save the Dates! We are excited to continue our Remote Webex Network Meetings for DREs, and Youth Ministers. These meetings will keep with the focus that we began at the onset of the pandemic. We will center on Lifelong Faith Formation through Catechesis, youth ministry and parish life whether virtually or in person. Members of the Office for Parish Life team will be on hand to lead our discussions and to keep all parishes well-informed of upcoming events. We would love to have every parish represented. So we invite each of you to join us every other Wednesday at 11:00AM. Our upcoming meeting dates are October 14 & 28. For more information on how to stay connected, please contact Jacki Douglas, Director of Word and Lifelong Faith Formation, Office for Parish Life. jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org (570)207-2213 x-1100

Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation

Members of the faithful across the Diocese of Scranton are invited to consider taking a course through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation! The final VLCFF Cycle 7 registration closes October 14. Cycle dates are October 18-November 21, 2020. [Click here](#) for more information or to register.

As part of the VLCFF's 20th Anniversary, select 3-week seminars are being offered at an additional discounted rate. More information can be found at <https://vlcff.udayton.edu/>

Leave A Mark 2020 Mass

Join us for the fifth annual gathering of the young Church with Bishop Bambera on **Sunday, November 1, 2020 at 7:00PM** at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton. This Mass kicks off the National Vocation Awareness Week in the Diocese of Scranton.

Young Adults, ages 18-40, are invited to attend. RSVP as soon as possible as space is limited. For more information, please visit the [Vocations page](#) on the diocesan website.



Bold Choices Young Adult Retreat

Finding Your Passion and Living It Full—Virtual Edition

A 'go at your own pace retreat' with 3 retreat sessions lead by Fr. Alex Roche. There are optional small group discussions throughout the week and opportunities for spiritual direction. Opening session: Monday, October 12 at 7:30pm. Closing session: Sunday, October 18

For more information, visit: www.dioceseofscranton.org

*Center for
Ministry Development
Course Day:*

"Service and Justice"

Susan Searle, Instructor

**Friday and Saturday,
November 13-14, 2020
(Virtual Course; 10AM-3PM)**



Service and Justice explores the foundations for fostering a consciousness and spirituality in children, youth, and adults drawn from Scripture, Catholic Social Teaching, adolescent development, and contemporary catechetical principles. This course develops skills for creating integrated, action-learning models for the justice and service components of catechesis and ministry.

For more information or to register, please [click here](#) or visit the diocesan website or contact Kitty Scanlan at kitty-scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org for more information.

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

WORSHIP

Our Lady of the Rosary

The faithful in dioceses across the country are invited to join in a prayerful moment of unity for our country, to seek healing, and to ask Our Lady, the Blessed Virgin Mary, on her feast, October 7, 2020—the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary—to pray for us and help lead us to Jesus.

Bishop Bambera will lead the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton in the recitation of the Rosary on that day, and can be viewed on Catholic Television (CTV) and on the diocesan website and social media platforms. Please join us in prayer that day.

RCIA during the Pandemic

The current health crisis certainly poses great challenges to parish life, including sustaining the process of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. TeamRCIA, led by Nick Wagner and Diana Macalintal have offered several resources addressing COVID-19 and the RCIA process with topics such as:

- **50 Ideas for RCIA Teams during the Pandemic**
- **How the RCIA Will Renew Our Parishes after the Pandemic**
- **RCIA Blessings in Time of Coronavirus**
- **RCIA Will Never Be the Same Again**

To check out these resources and to see all that TeamRCIA has to offer, visit www.teamrcia.com.



Confirmations with Bishop Bambera

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

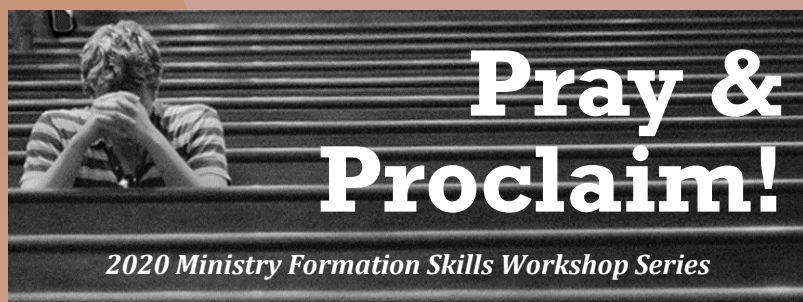
LTP Virtual Workshops

Liturgy Training Publications is offering several different series of online workshops for cantors, lectors, extraordinary ministers of Communion, liturgists, teachers and catechists throughout the year. These virtual workshops are different than other webinars in that they invite participants to engage with the presenter and one another in providing feedback, reflections on the topic at hand, and discuss best practices and strategies for enhancing engagement in their ministries. Some of the upcoming workshops include:



- Sing to the Lord! Training for Liturgical Ministers
- Skills Training for Initiation Catechists
- Cantemos al Señor! Una serie de cuatro talleres virtuales para ministros de Música Litúrgica
- Living the Sunday Word: Reflecting as a Virtual Community

Visit www.ltp.org to register or to learn more!



**Wednesday, October 14
and
Wednesday, October 21
from 6:30PM to 8:00PM**

**Eric Deabill and Kitty Scanlan
presenters**

Proclaim!: (October 14) An introduction to basic public speaking techniques—for ministry within gathered and virtual settings!— and provide opportunity for participants to try out these methods.

Pray: (October 21) *Why do we pray? How do we pray? What are some ideas and resources for planning prayer with parish groups, or in Faith Formation?* The ways that ministers cultivate spirituality outside of the Mass not only enriches Sunday worship but can bring the reality of God into our everyday lived experience.

**The workshops are open to all parish ministers.
For more information contact Kitty Scanlan at 570-207-2213.
To register, visit dioceseofscranton.org.**

Live the Gospel of *Life* | RESPECT LIFE MONTH

October Is Respect Life Month

The Respect Life Program is a year-round effort designed to help Catholics understand, value, and work to encourage a culture that cherishes every human life. Our church teaches that every human life, from that of an unborn baby to that of a prisoner on death row, retains the dignity of a person.

In the 2020-2021 Respect Life theme, "Live the Gospel of Life." Reflection we read:

Twenty-five years ago, Pope St. John Paul II wrote that the Gospel of life is at the heart of Jesus' saving message to the world (Evangelium vitae 1). In taking on human flesh, dwelling among us, and sacrificing his very life for our redemption, Christ reveals the profound dignity of every human person. This God-given dignity does not change with our stage of life, abilities, level of independence, or any other varying circumstance.

Bishop Bambera will celebrate Respect Life Sunday on October 4th at 10:00 AM in the Cathedral of Saint Peter. This Mass will also be live-streamed.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops offers a wealth of resources to assist your parish or you in celebrating this event. To access these resources please visit <https://www.respectlife.org/respect-life-month>.

Free Webinar: Promoting Peaceful Relationships at Home

October 14, 2020 from 2:00 to 3:30PM

This webinar is designed for family life ministers, clergy, catechists, teachers, marriage preparation leaders, and parents. It will be hosted and presented by representatives from Catholics for Family Peace and the USCCB. To learn more or to register, [click here](https://www.catholicsforfamilypeace.org) or go to www.catholicsforfamilypeace.org.

October Is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

"Around the globe, governments have implored residents to stay home to protect themselves and others from the new coronavirus disease, COVID-19. But for domestic violence victims—the vast majority of whom are women and children—home is a dangerous place. Even before the added stress and isolation of COVID-19, 1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men experienced severe intimate partner physical

violence, as reported by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence." —www.catholicsforfamilypeace.org/
Our diocesan community is called to offer hope, help, and healing to anyone harmed by domestic abuse. It is important that we learn to recognize domestic abuse, to respond with compassion, and to refer people to the services that are available to help them.

If your parish or you would like to learn more about how to help stop this suffering, Catholics for Family Peace and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) have created a resource-packed toolkit that can be accessed in [English](#) and in [Spanish](#).

For those suffering abuse, help is available 24/7 at the National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233), 1-800-787-324 (TTY) or at www.ndvh.org. Please consider making this information available to your parish and in your churches.

Informational Session on ECHO Apprentices

The Office for Parish Life is currently in conversations with the **McGrath Institute at The University of Notre Dame** about the possibility of bringing apprentices from their *ECHO* program to the Diocese of Scranton.



WHAT IS ECHO? Echo is the University of Notre Dame's two-year graduate service program dedicated to forming young Catholic leaders in faith formation for *full-time service to parishes* in its partner dioceses around the country. Echo students are recent college graduates of deep faith and ministry leadership experience who are eager to bring their energy and creativity to parish faith formation and evangelization efforts, all while pursuing an MA in Theology at Notre Dame. ECHO is currently recruiting its next class of young Catholics eager to serve the Church and is looking for partner dioceses to join us in mentoring and learning from a new generation of Catholic leaders.

Please consider joining us for our live info session hosted by Colleen Moore, Echo Program Director, on **Wednesday, October 14th from 1-2pm** via Zoom. During this session Colleen will unpack what the Echo program is and how Echo apprentices can serve your parish. A pastor from a former Echo parish will be available to answer any questions you may have as well. If you would like to learn more about the Echo program before the info session, you can check out their website here: <https://mcgrath.nd.edu/service-learning/echo-graduate-service-program/>

To receive the link to the October 14th meeting, please RSVP with Jennifer Andres at (570)207-2213.

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

SERVICE

Scranton Serves

This year, the fourth annual Day of Service of the Diocese of Scranton couldn't happen as planned. However we are closing out our year by giving back to our community, and committing to serve those in need. Scranton Serves is an initiative to connect the faithful to service opportunities throughout our diocese during the months of October, November, and December.

For more information about Scranton Serves and to find out how you can get involved, visit: www.dioceseofscranton.org.



World Mission Sunday

October 25, 2020

In 1926 Pope Pius XI instituted Mission Sunday for the whole Church with the first worldwide Mission Sunday collection taking place in October 1927. The day is celebrated in all the local Churches as the feast of catholicity and universal solidarity so Christians the world over will recognize their common responsibility with regard to the evangelization of the world. [Click here](#) to learn more or for resources to help your parish observe World Mission Sunday.

Bishop Bambera will celebrate Mass for World Mission Sunday on Sunday, October 25, 2020 at 12:15PM at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton.

World Food Day—October 16, 2020

As countries around the world suffer the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, October 16, 2020 has been designated as World Food Day as an effort towards global solidarity to help the most vulnerable people to recover and make food systems more sustainable, stronger and resilient to shocks.

Our actions are our future. But the responsibility doesn't only lie with governments. We all have a role to play, from making food choices that improve both our health and that of our food system, to not letting sustainable habits fall by the wayside.

[Click here](#) for a "Lead the Way on Hunger" resource from Catholic Relief Services to help observe World Food Day in your parish or community.



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

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship is the teaching document of the Catholic Bishops of the United States on the political responsibility of Catholics. It provides guidance for all who seek to exercise their rights and duties as citizens. As Catholics, we bring the richness of our faith to the public square. We draw from both faith and reason as we seek to affirm the dignity of the human person and the common good of all.

Everyone living in this country is called to participate in public life and contribute to the common good. In *Rejoice and Be Glad* [*Gaudete et exsultate*], Pope Francis writes:

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

As Catholics, we are part of a community with profound teachings that help us consider challenges in public life, contribute to greater justice and peace for all people, and evaluate policy positions, party platforms, and candidates' promises and actions in light of the Gospel in order to help build a better world.

A two-part bulletin insert that addresses the challenges of *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* can be found on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops at these links: [Part I](#) and [Part II](#). Additional resources, including videos, a family guide, and prayers, in both English and Spanish can be found on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' website by [clicking here](#).



OPL Month At A Glance

October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Respect Life Mass 10:00AM Cathedral	5	6	7 Our Lady of the Rosary Day of Prayer for Our Nation	8	9	10
11	12 Bold Choices Young Adult Retreat Begins	13	14 DRE/YM Remote Networking Meeting 11:00AM Pray & Proclaim! 6:30-8:00PM	15	16 World Food Day	17
18 VLCFF Cycle 7 Begins	19	20	21 BYA Nominations Due Pray & Proclaim! 6:30-8:00PM	22	23	24
25 World Mission Sunday Mass 12:15PM Cathedral	26	27	28 DRE/YM Remote Networking Meeting 11:00AM	29	30	31

OPL TEAM MEMBERS

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

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

Director for WORSHIP: **David Baloga**

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

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

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

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

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

Coordinator for Hispanic Ministry: **Jose Flores**

Consultant for Pastoral Council Development: **Ann Marie Cawley**

Events Coordinator, Diocesan Pastoral Center: **Bridget Purcell**

Administrative Assistant: **Jennifer Andres**



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