



# GoodNewsNotes

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

## This Issue

Bishop's Youth Awards	p. 2
Implementing the New <i>Directory for Catechesis</i>	p. 2
Service and Justice Course Days	p. 2
Liturgical Resources for November, Advent & Christmas	p. 3
National Adoption Month	p. 4
PreCana Dates for 2021	p. 4
Lay Ministry Formation Certificate Program Application	p. 4
World Youth Day Information Meeting	p. 5
Scranton Serves	p. 5
OPL Month at a Glance for November	p. 6

**World Day of the Poor**  
November 15, 2020

**Solemnity of  
Our Lord Jesus Christ,  
King of the Universe**  
November 22, 2020

**Permanent Diaconate  
Ordination**  
November 28, 2020  
at 10:00AM  
Cathedral of Saint Peter

**First Sunday of Advent**  
November 29, 2020

## A PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

God of Consolation,  
We remember those who died.

For those who passed away quietly,  
we ask for a joyful passage  
into your spacious heart.

For those who suffered great pain,  
we ask for respite and the comfort  
of your compassionate embrace.

For those who died too soon,  
in sudden and unexpected ways,  
we ask for peace and surrender  
into your loving care.

Grant all of those who have died  
the grace of your eternal light and life.

Amen.

Copyright © 2011 by William H. Sadlier, Inc.



# 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."

## 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 have spent quite a bit of time discussing our online platform, however, since we are up and running we will be adding more new and exciting topics to discuss. 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 November 4 (12PM for this meeting only) and November 18. For more information, please contact Jacki Douglas at [jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org) (570)207-2213 x1100.

## Bishop's Youth Awards

The Bishop's Youth Award nomination are complete. All proof list emails have been sent to each Pastor, Parish Life Coordinator or Principal and most of the notification emails to the nominees have been sent out. All awards will be mailed to each parish or school during the first week of November.

Dates for the BYA Mass will be determined by each parish or school. However, these masses will be held between November 8-22.

If you have questions, please contact Jacki Douglas at [jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org) (570)207-2213 x1100.

## 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](mailto:kitty-scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org) for more information.

## Implementing the New *Directory for Catechesis*

The new *Directory for Catechesis* is here! Are you implementing the new *Directory for Catechesis* in your parish?

Join Deacon Matthew Halbach, PhD, Executive Director of Catechesis for William H. Sadlier, and Andrea D. Chavez-Kopp, Chief Learning Officer for The Proceso Project, on Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 6:00p.m. EST as they explore how to implement what's new in the 2020 *Directory for Catechesis* with in-person, hybrid, and fully online learning.

For questions, more information and the link to the webinar, contact Jacki Douglas, Director of Word and Lifelong Faith Formation, Office for Parish Life [jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org) (570) 207-2213, ext. 1100.

## Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation

Due to increased participation in faith enrichment during 2020, the **VLCFF at University of Dayton is offering an additional learning cycle (Cycle 8)**! Cycle 8 offers a selection of topics for study during the Advent Season—in English and Spanish—include 'Advent: A Holy Waiting', 'Theological Reflection', 'María Madre de la Iglesia (Mary Mother of the Church)' and others!

Course Dates are November 29-December 19, 2020 (registration is now open until November 25). Visit the VLCFF webpage for more information and to register! <https://vlcff.udayton.edu/calendar/>

## 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.



While Zoom integration has definitely posed a problem starting out the year, our directors have really stepped up and found ways to work around this bump in the road. We are excited for Advent, we will be adding more features to our already amazing platform. Each feature added 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](mailto:jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org) (570)207-2213 x1100.

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

# WORSHIP

## Confirmations with Bishop 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.

## Advent and Christmas Liturgical Resource

The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC) has compiled a liturgical resource to assist parishes in preparing liturgies for the Advent and Christmas season. This resource includes:

- Information regarding preparing liturgies during the pandemic
- Handouts which you might provide for families and the homebound (about the Advent Season, the Advent Wreath, and the Jesse Tree)
- A full text for a Rite of Reconciliation of Several Penitents with Individual Confession and Absolution (to be used where permissible)
- Music Suggestions
- The Liturgical Year Calendar Advisory
- Lectionary Readings for Sundays and Solemnities (Year B)
- The Proclamation of the Birth of Christ (to be sung before Mass)
- Proclamation of the Date of Easter (to be sung on the Solemnity of the Epiphany)
- The O Antiphons (December 17-24)
- Information about the FDLC

To download this resource, please [click here](#) or visit [fdlc.org](#) and click on 'resources.'

## 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](#).

## Resource for the Month of November

The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC) has prepared a liturgical resource for the month of November that includes:



- Information about the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed
- Lectionary citations for the Masses for the Dead
- Announcement from the Vatican regarding the Extension of November indulgences for the Dead
- A Reminder about the Mass in a Time of Pandemic
- Praying the psalms
- Select Prayers from the *Order of Christian Funerals*
- Best Practices for Parishes – Remembering the Dead in a time of Covid
- Music Suggestions
- A prayer for those who have died from Covid-19

To download this free resource, please visit [www.fdlc.org](#).

## FRIENDS OF THE POOR, SCRANTON 2020 THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY PROGRAM

FRIDAY, NOV. 20 | 7 PM

INTERFAITH PRAYER SERVICE  
SPONSORED BY SCRANTON AREA MINISTERIUM  
JOIN VIA ZOOM



TUESDAY, NOV. 24  
TAKEOUT THANKSGIVING DINNER  
FOR ADULTS AND ELDERLY

2:30PM - 5:30PM | CORNER OF N. WASHINGTON & VINE  
ENTER THRU LACK. COLLEGE PARKING LOT ON 500 OF N. WASHINGTON.



Food Basket Program

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 25  
FAMILY TO FAMILY DRIVE-THRU  
FOOD BASKET GIVEAWAY

10:00 AM - 5:30PM | ON-SITE REGISTRATION  
SCRANTON HIGH SCHOOL  
63 MIKE MUNCHAK WAY, SCRANTON, PA 18508



# COMMUNITY

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

## November Is National Adoption Month

"November is National Adoption Month — a special time to celebrate families that have grown through adoption and raise awareness of the more than 125,000 children waiting in foster care in the United States." <https://www.davethomasfoundation.org/>

As stated by the USCCB, "Adoption is a loving and generous way for a child to be welcomed as part of a family."

Families are essential to the church, whether or not they share the same DNA. Families are gifts to be treasured, but tragically, many children in foster care lack this basic structure. They lack a forever family.



For prayer resources and to learn of other ways you can help, please visit:

- Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption: <https://www.davethomasfoundation.org/>
- USCCB: <https://www.usccb.org/adoption-resources>
- Novena to St. Joseph: For Those on the Path of Adoption: <https://www.usccb.org/prolife/novena-st-joseph-those-path-adoption>

## Virtual Formats for Worldwide Marriage Encounter

The pandemic has been a challenge for all relationships, and marriages have not been spared the stress of these times. If your marriage could benefit from some loving care, consider a virtual Marriage Encounter experience. For more information, visit <https://wwwme.org/>

## 2021 PreCana Days of Reflection Schedule

- Tentative: Saturday, January 23, Tannersville
- Saturday, February 6, Wilkes-Barre
- Sunday, March 21, Scranton
- Saturday, April 24, Montoursville
- Saturday, May 15, Duryea
- Saturday, June 26, Dickson City
- Sunday, July 25, Scranton
- Saturday, August 21, White Haven
- Saturday, September 25, Montoursville
- Saturday, October 23, Wilkes-Barre
- Saturday, November 6, Dickson City
- Sunday, December 5, Scranton

*Though we sincerely hope that all 2021 PreCana Classes will occur in-person and as scheduled, it will be dependent upon pandemic safety guidelines at the time of each class. Registrants will be notified as quickly as possible if any dates need to be altered due to changing guidelines.*

## Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry Accepting Applications for January 2021

The Office for Parish Life encourages parish leaders to consider application for the **Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry** for January 2021!

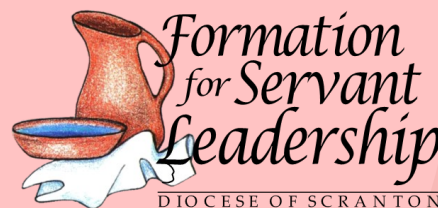
The *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry* is a ministry formation program designed to equip and advance the servant leadership capacities of individuals serving their parish in areas such as:

- Parish Pastoral Councils,
- Directors of Religious Education and Catechists,
- Liturgical Coordinators,
- Parish Staff,
- Volunteer Ministry teams, and others!

Through independent online study with the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF)—in English or Spanish language tracks—as well as ministry skills workshops and opportunities for prayer and reflection, *Diocesan Certificate* candidates enrich their knowledge base, while also learning practical tools for effective parish ministry in their faith communities.

The Office for Parish Life anticipates welcoming new candidates into the *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry* program in the New Year.

**Prospective candidates are encouraged to contact Kitty Scanlan, Coordinator for Lay Ministry Formation, at 570-207-2213, or by email at [Kitty-Scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:Kitty-Scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org) for application information, materials, and application submissions.**



"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 November, and December.

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

[www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org).



## November is National Home Care and Hospice Month

During the month of November, the home care and hospice community honor the millions of nurses, home care aides, therapists, and social workers who make a remarkable difference for the patients and families they serve. These heroic caregivers play a central role in our health care system and in homes across the nation. Ninety percent of Americans want to age in place, and home care is the preferred method of health care delivery among the disabled, elderly, and chronically ill; and home care provides high-quality, compassionate care to more than 5 million Americans annually. Thank you to all those who care so compassionately for the sick and dying.

### A Blessing Prayer for Those Who Are Sick

Excerpts from the English translation of  
*Pastoral Care of the Sick: Rites of Anointing and Viaticum*

*All praise and glory is yours, Lord our God,  
for you have called us to serve you in love.  
Bless N., so that he/she may bear this illness  
in union with your Son's obedient suffering.*

*Restore him/her to health,  
and lead him/her to glory.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*



## National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week

**November 15-22, 2020**

More than 49 million Americans are at risk of suffering from hunger. Each year, 3.5 million people end up sleeping in parks, under bridges, in shelters, or in cars. More than 1 in 5 children lives in poverty. Join together with people across the country for Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. You can help lend a hand to those in immediate need, while also supporting meaningful long-term solutions.



What You Can Do:

- **Volunteer.** Pitch in at your area food bank or shelter.
- **Donate.** Support local programs with food, clothing, and money.
- **Educate.** Raise awareness about hunger and homelessness in your community.

Learn more about how to help at [HHWeek.org](http://HHWeek.org).



## World Youth Day Info Meeting

*Tuesday, December 1st 7:00pm*

Young Adults, join us for a virtual meeting to learn more about the Diocese of Scranton's pilgrimage to World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal.

Email [shannon-kowalski@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:shannon-kowalski@dioceseofscranton.org) for the virtual meeting link

# OPL Month At A Glance

## November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 All Saints	2 All Souls	3 Election Day	4 DRE/YM Remote Networking Meeting 12PM  Implementing the New Directory for Catechesis 6PM	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Veterans Day	12	13 CMD Course Day: "Service and Justice" 10AM-3PM	14 CMD Course Day: "Service and Justice" 10AM-3PM
15 World Day of the Poor	16	17	18 DRE/YM Remote Networking Meeting 11AM	19	20	21
22 Christ the King	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving	27	28 Permanent Diaconate Ordination— Cathedral 10:00AM
29 First Sunday of Advent  VLCFF Cycle 8 Begins	30					

### 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:

Administrative Assistant: **Jennifer Andres**



Office for Parish Life  
330 Wyoming Ave.  
Scranton, PA 18503  
phone: 570-207-2213  
fax: 570-207-2204

oplgeneral@dioceseofscranton.org  
www.dioceseofscranton.org



**SUBSCRIBE**