



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

March 4, 2021

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera issues statement on COVID-19 vaccines



On Thursday, March 4, 2021, Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, issued the following statement regarding COVID-19 vaccines:

“The COVID-19 pandemic has caused tremendous grief and fear in our country and world over the last year, leaving more than 500,000 dead in the United States alone.

“I want to be clear and concise in my pastoral guidance regarding COVID-19 vaccines. Given the grave danger this virus poses, it is morally acceptable to receive any of the current COVID-19 vaccines that have been

determined to be clinically safe and effective. This position is supported by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

“People should not delay getting a vaccine. Receiving a vaccine not only protects an individual’s health but also serves the common good by protecting the community – including the weak and vulnerable.

“While fully recognizing the complex moral and ethical issues involved in vaccine development, at this time, people are not being given a true choice of which vaccine they receive, and likely won’t be without a lengthy delay.

“Given that risk to public health, the faithful can in good conscience receive any of the current vaccines.”

[Click Here To Read the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith's 2020 Note on the Morality of Using Some Anti-COVID Vaccines](#)

PROMISE TO PROTECT



Independent audit finds Diocese of Scranton in full compliance with child protection guidelines

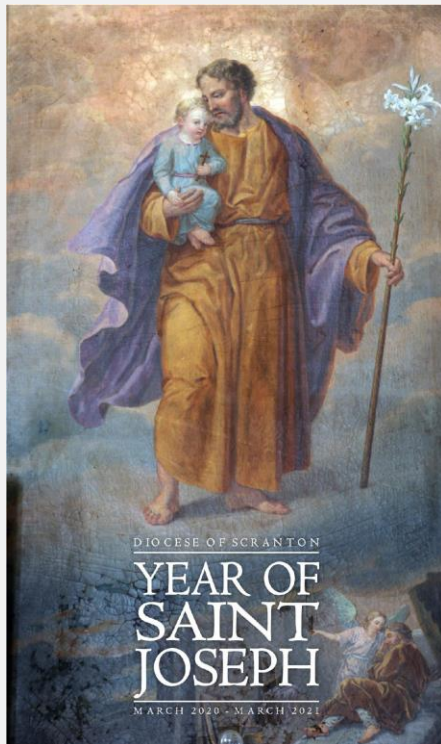
The Diocese of Scranton has once again been found to be in full compliance with U.S. bishops' policies to prevent sexual abuse of children by clergy and other church personnel.

The Diocese has passed independent audits of its child protection procedures every year since the policy was adopted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in 2002.

The USCCB spells out the policies that dioceses must follow in its "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People." The Charter is a comprehensive action plan for addressing allegations of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy. It also includes guidelines for reconciliation, healing, accountability and prevention of future acts of abuse.

The audit was conducted by StoneBridge Business Partners, a private auditing firm based in New York, which has been contracted to conduct compliance audits of the nation's 195 dioceses.

[Read the Full Story](#)

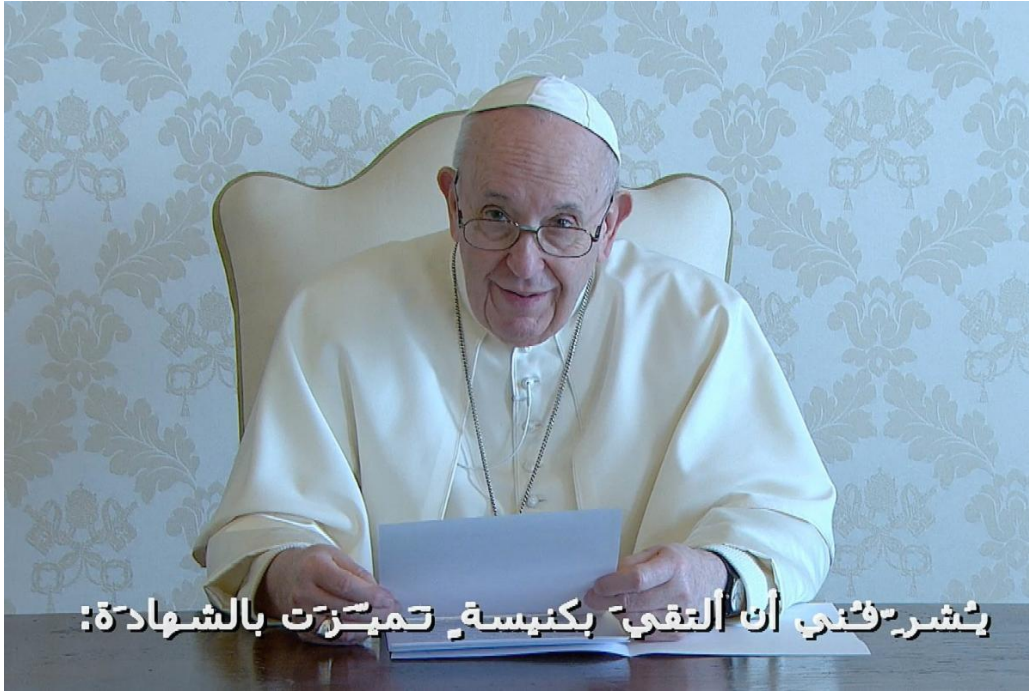


Bishop Bambera to celebrate Pontifical Mass on Solemnity of Saint Joseph

Bishop Bambera will celebrate a Pontifical Mass on the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, March 19, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Mass, which will take place at 12:10 p.m., is in observance of the Year of Saint Joseph that the Diocese of Scranton has been celebrating.

The Mass is open to the public and will be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television.



يُشَرِّفُنِي أَنْ أَلْتَقِيَ بِكَنِيسَةٍ تَمَيَّزَتْ بِالشَّهَادَةِ:

'Finally,' Pope says he will be able to make pilgrimage to Iraq

Pope Francis told the people of Iraq he was going to their country as a “penitential pilgrim,” asking God’s forgiveness for years of war, persecution and destruction, and as a “pilgrim of peace,” hoping to remind people that they are all brothers and sisters no matter their ethnic or religious identity.

“I will finally be among you,” he said in a video message, released by the Vatican March 4, the day before the trip was to begin.

“I come as a pilgrim, as a penitential pilgrim to implore forgiveness and reconciliation from the Lord after years of war and terrorism, to ask God for consolation for hearts and healing for wounds,” the pope said. “And I come among you as a pilgrim of peace, to repeat: ‘You are all brothers and sisters.’”

His March 5-8 pilgrimage of peace, he said, would aim to strengthen a sense of fraternity, “animated by the desire to pray together and to walk together, including with brothers and sisters of other religious traditions,”

under the gaze of Abraham, who was born in Iraq and is recognized as patriarch by Jews, Christians and Muslims.

[Read the Full Story from Catholic News Service](#)



Sister Lenore Thomas IHM, Pastoral Care Coordinator at St. Joseph's Center, praying with a resident named Jimmy.

Catholic Sisters Week to be celebrated March 8-14

Every day of the year, women religious stand with the poor and immigrants, teach children, fight injustice, heal the sick, share spirituality, empower women, defend the planet and promote peace.

Catholic Sisters Week, which will be celebrated March 8-14, shines a light on their mission and the community building of women religious.

Look for more coverage of Catholic Sisters Week in the March 11 edition of *The Catholic Light*.

For More Information on Catholic Sisters Week



We invite all young adults to join in a Virtual Retreat!

All young adults in the Diocese of Scranton are invited to join together for a Young Adult Virtual Retreat that will take place between March 21-28, 2021. The retreat experience is free.

The theme for this retreat is: "Diving Deeper Into Scripture."

The 'go at your own pace retreat' is for young adults, ages 18-40, and will be led by Father Alex Roche, Father Brian J.T. Clarke and Father Ryan Glenn.

There will be opportunities for small group discussion, prayer and spiritual direction throughout the week.

For More Information or to Register



The Way of the Cross led by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera

Parishes across the Diocese of Scranton are invited to use "The Way of the Cross" led by Bishop Bambera to help their faithful this Lenten season. The video is available for download on the Diocese of Scranton's YouTube channel.



Lent

Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving.

For additional resources and information on the season of Lent, including a "Daily Inspirational Calendar," information on the Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl 2021 and additional tools from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, visit the Diocese of Scranton website.

[Visit the Diocese of Scranton website](#)

Follow Us



Diocese of Scranton
300 Wyoming Avenue,
Scranton, PA 18503-1279
(570) 207-2238

www.dioceseofscranton.org

Diocese of Scranton | 300 Wyoming Ave, Scranton, PA 18501

[Unsubscribe dan-gallagher@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:dan-gallagher@dioceseofscranton.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Customer Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by e-newsletter@dioceseofscranton.org powered by

