



GoodNewsNotes

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON
OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

MINISTRY SKILLS WORKSHOP

This Issue

Catechist Awards	p. 2
Faith Alive Powered by Edmodo Product Updates	p. 2
RCIA 101: Crash Course in the RCIA Process	p. 3
Confirmation Updates	p. 3
Wedding Anniversary Mass	p. 4
"Amoris Laetitia Family" Year	p. 4
Young Adult Lectio Divina	p. 5
National Catholic Youth Conference	p. 5
Center for Ministry Development Virtual Workshop	p. 5

"Reclaiming the Light"

Zoom Session
Saturday May 1, 2021
10:00AM-12:00PM



As we anticipate the continued easing of pandemic restrictions, we will take an opportunity to acknowledge what we have lost and what we have gained in this past year. We will explore ways in which we can reclaim some of the Light that we may have lost due to the struggles we faced throughout the pandemic.

Reminders of hope will be combined with takeaway options for practicing self-compassion as we heal from our pandemic experiences and prepare to move forward in ministry with enthusiasm and vigor.

We will also examine why self-care is important in building resilience for our life in ministry. Spiritual direction, therapy and other practices can help us take care of ourselves so that we can strengthen our relationships with each other and with God.

We will look at what we can do to build resilience so that we can bounce back from disappointment, adversity and challenges in order to thrive in ministry.

****Open for ALL Parish Ministers;***

Workshop Credit for Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry*

For more information, or to register for the day, contact Kitty Scanlan at

Kitty-Scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org

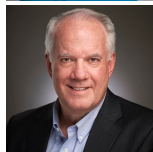
Checks can be made payable to "Diocese of Scranton"; Cost is \$20.00.

Healing Mass for Survivors of Abuse
Thursday, April 8 at 12:10PM
Cathedral of St. Peter

World Day of Prayer for Vocations Mass
Sunday, April 25 at 5:00PM
Sacred Heart Parish, Peckville



Jennifer Hayes Housel serves as Director for Community and Family Development in the Diocese of Scranton Office for Parish Life.



Ed Shoener is Deacon at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Scranton. He is founder of The Katie Foundation and President of the Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers.



Catechist Awards

The Catechist Awards celebrate the dynamic mission of gifted Catechists, Parish Catechetical Leaders, and Directors of Religious Education/Faith Formation. Each of these catechists demonstrate the importance of passing on the faith and their example inspires us into mission!

The Office for Parish Life will accept any completed Catechist Award Form for the 2020-2021 Award Year. We will mail the awards back to the parish, and then provide recognition for all those nominated. The names of those who receive this year's catechist awards will be published on the Office for Parish Life webpage of the Diocese of Scranton website, the *Good News Notes* and our Facebook Page.

The materials you will need for the Diocesan Catechist Awards nomination process for 2020-2021 will be sent to each parish via email by April 30, 2021. Please arrange an opportunity to publicly recognize those who receive the Catechist Awards for their years of service in the parish. While we understand that this may not be done in person, please use your bulletin, Facebook or any other available resource you have to highlight the award recipient. For questions, please contact Jacki Douglas at jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org or 570-207-2213 ext. 1100

Remote Networking Meetings

Save the Dates—We are excited to continue our Remote Network Meetings for DREs and Youth Ministers. We have spent quite a bit of time lately sharing what great things are being accomplished at our parishes. It is impressive to the creative steps being taken to help families and continue the mission of religious education.

We would love to have every parish represented. We invite each of you to join us every other Wednesday at 11AM. Our upcoming meeting dates are April 14 & 28 and May 12 & 26. For more information on how to stay connected, please contact Jacki Douglas at jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org or at (570)207-2213 x-1100.

Early Childhood Educators – Checking In On You!

Looking for ways to work effectively with young children and their families? Join Pam Perrino in exploring some simple self-reflection strategies you can use to check in on your ability to operate effectively while helping children navigate big emotions in little bodies.

When: Thursday April 15, 2021 3:30 PM Eastern
Topic: Early Childhood Educators – Checking In On You!
Register in advance for this [FREE 45 minute webinar](#).

Faith Alive Powered by Edmodo Product Updates

We have some great updates to share from Edmodo, along with some blog articles from our teacher community that might be of interest to our diocese.

Improved Library and Shared Folders

We made major upgrades to your Library and Shared Folders to improve navigation, searchability, and performance. We also increased the individual file size upload limit from 100MB to 500MB, which should cover most Zoom recordings (if needed). [Learn more about Library and Shared Folders here.](#)

New Settings for Quiz Results

Do you want more control over your Quiz scores and answer keys *after your students click submit*? We took feedback from teachers who asked for additional options for showing scores with or without showing the answers and added them to your Quiz settings. [Learn more about Creating and Sending a Quiz here.](#)

Voices from Our Teachers

Our team at Edmodo gets the honor of working with educators all around the world, and many of us are teachers too! We hope to share some of the best ideas that are circulating in our communities to you and your organization, like this blog post about [using the new Agenda feature](#) or [increasing student engagement with posts](#).

Empower Families to Practice Faith at Home

Faith formation can't happen if children and youth are spending just one hour a week at church - or much less these days, so what are the barriers families encounter when trying to establish faith practices at home?

The Rev. Traci Smith, author of *Faithful Families*, joins us on May 5 at 12:00pm to present the fundamentals of developing faithful family practices and outline the role that ministry leaders play in encouraging and supporting families. Discover how to help parents feel confident and well equipped as they nurture their children's faith development, at every age. We'll also spend time in an "Idea Lab" learning and sharing in small groups and we'll wrap up the webinar with Q&A.

Now is the perfect time for families to develop real habits and practices of faith at home. Following the webinar, participants will receive links to several short videos and outlines of spiritual practices that you can share with your congregation.

Register for this webinar at [this link](#).



Faith
ALIVE!

The Sacrament of Confirmation

Those parishes having Confirmation with Bishop Bambera this spring were mailed revised guidelines for the preparation of the celebration during the COVID-19 pandemic. The revised guidelines can also be found on the diocesan website at [this link](#).

Pastors celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation in their own parishes are reminded that they are to use an instrument (cotton ball or cotton swab) when anointing each confirmand.

If you should have questions regarding your Confirmation celebration, please contact David Baloga at 570-207-2213, ext. 1158 or at David-Baloga@dioceseofscranton.org.

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has compiled resources parishes may find useful in educating their communities about the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and the latest work of the U.S. Bishops to prevent future abuse by clergy.

Materials may be printed in whole or in part and distributed for free within your diocese/eparchy or parish. [Click here](#) to access these resources.

Bishop Bambera will celebrate a **Healing Mass for Survivors of Abuse on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 12:10 P.M.** at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton for National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Mass will be live-streamed on CTV and diocesan social media outlets.

RCIA 101: A Crash Course on Christian Initiation

The Office for Parish Life will offer a virtual "crash" course day on the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults on **Saturday, June 12, 2021 from 9:00AM to 3:00PM.**

The goal of this offering for priests, deacons, parish life coordinators, RCIA coordinators, RCIA team members is to provide a overall sense of what the Church asks of parishes in responding to seekers and preparing them for Initiation. This course day would be ideal for anyone new to the RCIA as well as seasoned veterans who are looking to deepen their understanding of the process.

Save the date and look for more information soon!

APRIL
Is Child Abuse
Prevention Month



Liturgical Updates

- **Collect Prayers**—As of Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021, priests and deacons are to omit the word "one" when concluding the Collect prayers, so that the prayer ends, "...in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.
- **Obligatory Memorial**—On January 26, 2021, a CDWDS Decree indicated that July 29—the Obligatory Memorial of Saint Martha—will hereafter include her sister and brother, Saints Mary and Lazarus. (They had already been included on this date in the 2004 Roman Martyrology.) Moreover, in some particular calendars, the three are already celebrated together. The Memorial should appear under this title in all calendars and Liturgical Books for the celebration of Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours. New prayers have been issued, but must be translated by the various episcopal conferences worldwide.
- **Optional Memorials**—In addition, a February 2, 2021 Decree by the same Congregation announced that the following are to be inscribed in the General Roman Calendar as Optional Memorials:
 - St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church (27 February)
 - St. John De Avila, Priest and Doctor of the Church (10 May)
 - and St. Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin and Doctor of the Church (17 September).

Even though these additions to the sanctoral calendar take effect immediately, approved translations of the prayers are still forthcoming.

Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF)



A new VLCFF Cycle will begin April 11th! (Registration open until Wednesday, April 7)

Emerge in these first days of Easter by celebrating and studying your faith through a diverse offering of 3-week classes through the University of Dayton. English and Spanish seminars are available at this link: https://vlcff.udayton.edu/calendar/#cycle_3_2021_English

Classes include "Our Hearts Were Burning"; "Ministry Leadership in the Church Today"; "Spirituality of the Missionary Disciple"; "Reflexión Teológica/Theological Reflection"; "Misión: Un Mundo de Encuentros (OneWe)"; "María, Madre de la Iglesia" and more!

COMMUNITY

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

"Amoris Laetitia Family" Year

March 19, 2021- June 26, 2022

As we embark upon this exciting "Amoris Laetitia Family" Year of observance, please consider the ways in which your parish and you can walk with families in earnest and intentional ways. We encourage you to reach out to our Office for Parish Life with any questions or concerns, or for assistance in implementing opportunities at your parish.

Click [here](#) to read the twelve proposals and suggestions for a commitment to family pastoral care in the light of the apostolic exhortation "Amoris Laetitia". (From the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life: "12 ways to walk with families following 'Amoris Laetitia'".)



Wedding Anniversary Mass

June 6, 2021

Celebrating this year's Wedding Anniversary Mass at the diocesan, and especially at the parish level, is one wonderful way we can observe this "Amoris Laetitia Family" Year! Ideas for celebrating at the parish level will be sent directly to pastor's and parish offices. (To learn more, please contact Jen Housel.)

This year's celebration will allow for limited attendance at an in-person Mass at the Cathedral of St. Peter on Wyoming Avenue in Scranton. (Due to ongoing pandemic concerns, there will be no reception afterward.) The Mass will begin at 2:30, and attendance will require advance reservation.

If your 25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary has occurred or will occur in 2021, please register for the celebration via [this link](#). The registration deadline is Sunday, May 16, 2021.

The registration process includes an option whereby you can include one or two photos, as well as a short reflection on wisdom you have gained through your married life together. (Please register for this celebration and recognition, even if you would prefer to not attend an in-person Mass. The form will allow you to note that preference.)

For questions or concerns, or if there are issues registering online, please reach out to Jen Housel, Director for Community and Family Development, at jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org, 570-207-2213 x 1104.



PreCana Days of Reflection Continue to Be Offered

We continue to offer our diocesan PreCana Days of Reflection once each month. Though we postponed a few classes early in 2020 due to the pandemic, we began to offer in-person classes in the summer, following all pandemic guidelines. In fall of 2020 we pivoted to a live, online platform that has been well-received.

A return to in-person classes will begin as of May 2021, and we will continue to offer PreCana Days of Reflection throughout 2021 and for the foreseeable future. If pandemic restrictions require us to return to exclusively online classes, we are able to do so.

Due to the popularity of our diocesan online classes, we will continue to offer some PreCana Days of Reflection via an online platform in 2021 and beyond. To learn more about PreCana options, please visit our webpage: <https://www.dioceseofscranton.org/parish-life/community/marriage/marriage-preparation/>, or reach out to Jen Housel. (jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org, 570-207-2213 x 1104)

Theology of the Body Conference

The Second Annual Theology of the Body Virtual Conference presented by the Theology of the Body Institute.

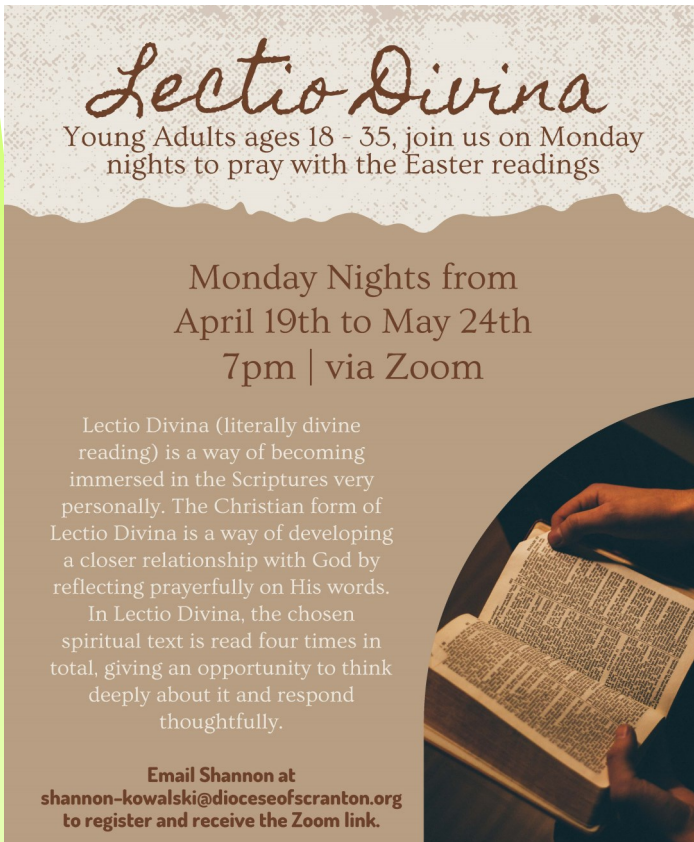
The conference will be available worldwide between Friday, April 30, 2021, at 12PM EDT to Sunday, May 2, 2021, at Midnight. Register Today For the **FREE** Theology of the Body Virtual Conference:

<https://www.tobvirtualconference.com/2021-FreeRegistration>



"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

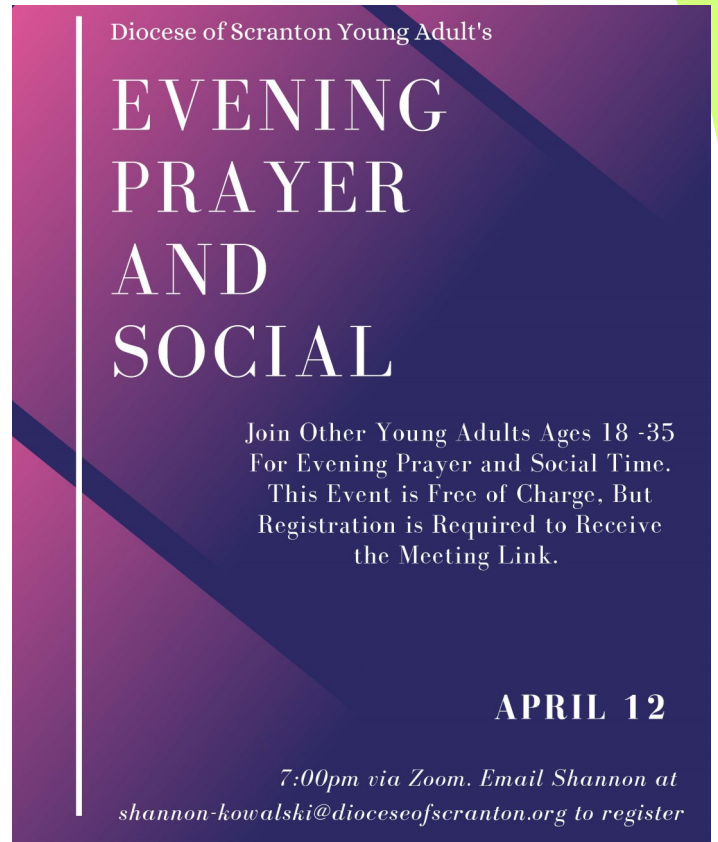


Lectio Divina
Young Adults ages 18 - 35, join us on Monday nights to pray with the Easter readings

Monday Nights from
April 19th to May 24th
7pm | via Zoom

Lectio Divina (literally divine reading) is a way of becoming immersed in the Scriptures very personally. The Christian form of Lectio Divina is a way of developing a closer relationship with God by reflecting prayerfully on His words. In Lectio Divina, the chosen spiritual text is read four times in total, giving an opportunity to think deeply about it and respond thoughtfully.

Email Shannon at
shannon-kowalski@dioceseofscranton.org
to register and receive the Zoom link.



Diocese of Scranton Young Adult's

**EVENING
PRAYER
AND
SOCIAL**

Join Other Young Adults Ages 18 -35
For Evening Prayer and Social Time.
This Event is Free of Charge, But
Registration is Required to Receive
the Meeting Link.

APRIL 12

7:00pm via Zoom. Email Shannon at
shannon-kowalski@dioceseofscranton.org to register

Center for Ministry Development Virtual Workshop

A Center for Ministry Development 'Virtual' Workshop will take place on Friday, April 16 and Saturday, April 17, 2021 from 10:00A.M. to 3:00 P.M. via Zoom.

The workshop will include the following presentations from these instructors:

- **Debbie McDonald** - "Fostering Faith Growth through Pastoral Care" (for Youth Ministry Track)
- **Tom East** - "Planning and Implementing Lifelong Catechesis" (for Lifelong Faith Formation Track)

The cost for CMD Certificate in Ministry Studies participants is \$20.00, and the cost for guest attendees, and/or out-of-Diocese attendees is \$80.00. Please make checks payable to "Diocese of Scranton". Contact Kitty Scanlan at Kitty-Scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org for questions, or to register by Friday, April 9th.



NCYC

Ablaze • Enciende el Fuego

National Catholic Youth Conference November 17 - 21, 2021

Calling all teens...prepare to encounter Christ, experience Church, and be empowered for discipleship at the National Catholic Youth Conference.

In a distinctly Catholic setting, NCYC invites participants to encounter Christ, experience Church, and be empowered for discipleship.

Join for the National Catholic Youth Conference, led by amazing emcees, Sr. Miriam James and Brian Greenfield this November!

The Diocese of Scranton will once again make the pilgrimage to Indianapolis, Indiana for NCYC 2021! For information, contact Shannon Kowalski at Shannon-Kowalski@dioceseofscranton.org or (570)207-2213.

OPL Month At A Glance

April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Holy Thursday	2 Good Friday	3 Holy Saturday
4 Easter Sunday	5	6	7 Last Day to Register for VLCFF Cycle 3	8 Mass for Healing for Survivors of Abuse 12:10PM Cathedral	9	10
11 Divine Mercy Sunday	12 Young Adult Evening Prayer and Social 7:00PM	13	14 DRE/YM Remote Networking Meeting 11AM	15	16 Center for Ministry Development Virtual Workshop 10AM–3PM	17 Center for Ministry Development Virtual Workshop 10AM–3PM
18	19 Young Adult Lectio Divina 7:00PM	20	21	22	23	24
25 World Day of Prayer for Vocations	26 Young Adult Lectio Divina 7:00PM	27	28 DRE/YM Remote Networking Meeting 11AM	29	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: **José 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