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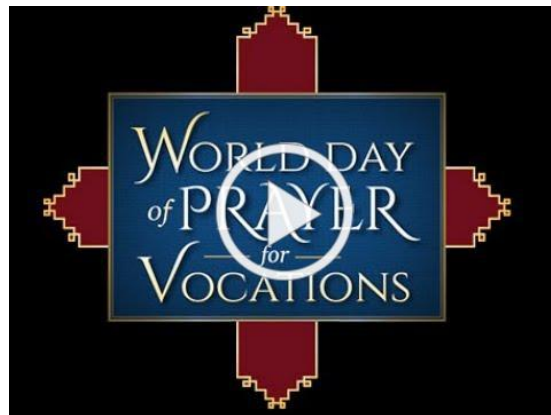


The Catholic Light
DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

April 22, 2021

Celebrate World Day of Prayer for Vocations this Sunday



Everyone is welcome to join us this Sunday, April 25, as the Diocese of Scranton celebrates the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will celebrate Mass at 5:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Peckville. Vocation directors and members of religious communities serving in the Diocese of Scranton will be in attendance. Father Andy Kurvosky, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, will serve as homilist at the Mass.

In the video above, Father Alex Roche, Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians, discusses the importance of praying for vocations.

Anyone who would like to attend the Mass on Sunday can make a reservation by texting/calling (570) 780-2996 or emailing vocations@dioceseofscranton.org.

[For More Information on the World Day of Prayer for Vocations](#)

Pope calls for monthlong global prayer marathon for end of pandemic



Pope Francis has called for a global prayer marathon for the entire month of May, praying for the end to the pandemic.

“It is the heartfelt desire of the Holy Father that the month of May be dedicated to a prayer marathon dedicated to the theme, ‘from the entire church an unceasing prayer rises to God,’” the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization said in a press release April 21.

Each day in May, there will be a livestream from one of 30 chosen Marian shrines or sanctuaries to guide the prayer at 6 p.m. Rome time (noon EDT) on all Vatican media platforms.

The pope will open the monthlong prayer May 1 and conclude it May 31, the council said.

[Read the Full Story](#)

Prayers said aloud lead the way to God, Pope Francis says at audience



Because prayer is a dialogue with God, people should not dismiss or be embarrassed by saying their prayers out loud or in a whisper, Pope Francis said.

“Vocal prayer is an essential element of the Christian life,” and when Jesus taught the disciples how to pray, it was with a vocal prayer, the “Our Father,” the pope said April 21 during his weekly general audience.

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

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera issues statement on verdict in the trial of Derek Chauvin



On Tuesday, April 20, 2021, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera issued a statement after three guilty verdicts were returned in the trial of Derek Chauvin in Minnesota. The statement is:

“Today, jurors in a Minnesota courtroom rendered a verdict in the trial of Derek Chauvin for the murder of George Floyd in May 2020. This evening, I offer prayers to the Floyd family and for all who have suffered because of the sin of racism and oppression.

“This moment reminds us that the scourge of racism must continue to be addressed. The Catholic Church boldly proclaims that all human life is sacred and every human person is created in God’s image and likeness. In order to confront racism in our land and change hearts and minds, each one of us must take a deep look at ourselves. Racism comes in many forms. Sometimes it is deliberate – often it is subconscious – and at times it occurs when one fails to act when injustices occur.

“The words of Pope Francis from June 2020 challenge us to reflect upon core values of our Catholic faith, “We cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life.”

[MORE COVERAGE: Catholic Leaders See Chauvin Trial Verdict as a Call for More Action](#)

Catholic Home Missions Appeal to be taken in parishes this weekend



The Diocese of Scranton will take up the Catholic Home Missions Appeal this coming weekend, April 24-25, 2021.

Today, more than 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are unable to fund the essential pastoral work their communities need.

This appeal helps our brothers and sisters here in the United States who do not have access to basic pastoral services like Mass, the sacraments, and religious education.

Your support of this appeal helps them meet these faith formation and sacramental needs. Your generous gifts fund religious education, seminary formation, lay ministry training, and other programs that build vibrant faith communities right here in the United States.

When you participate in the Catholic Home Missions Appeal, you join in the Church's healing mission of mercy to all.

[For More Information](#)

Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen presenting virtual celebration of "Host-for-a-Day" campaign



The Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen in Scranton will mark the conclusion of its 2021 Host-for-a-Day campaign with a Virtual Celebration highlighting the mission of the Kitchen and those who make it possible.

The Kitchen serves a free, hot, nutritious meal to approximately 250 men, women and children each day at lunchtime and three evenings a week. This has continued throughout the pandemic in a safe way via takeout containers.

The Host-for-a-Day campaign is the primary source of financial support for these meals. For a donation of \$100 or more, an individual, family, business, community organization or faith-based group can help to

sponsor the day's meal. In effect, each contributor becomes a "host" for a day.

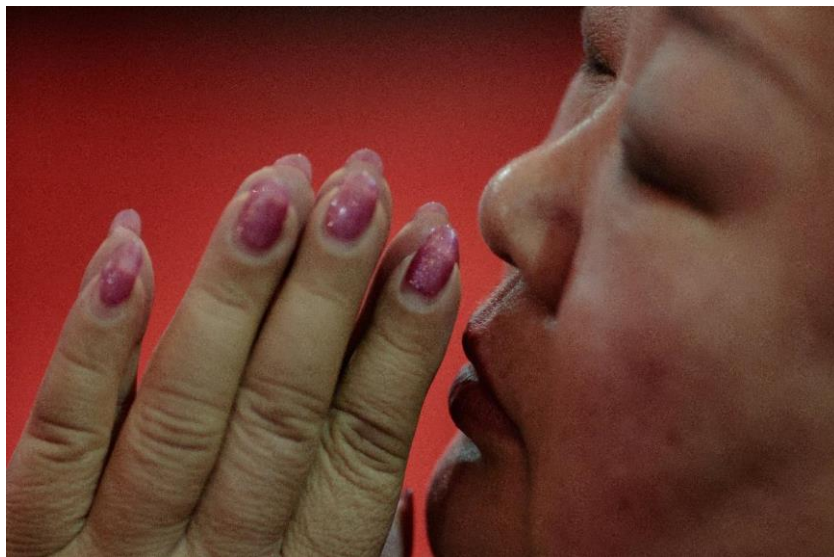
Out of concern for the health and safety of benefactors and board members, the typical Appreciation Reception that concludes the campaign will not be held in a gathered way. Instead, the culmination of the campaign will be marked with a Virtual Celebration consisting of a brief pre-recorded program.

The Virtual Celebration video will be presented on www.stfranciskitchen.org and www.facebook.com/stfranciskitchen. It will debut on Wednesday, April 28, at 6 p.m. and will remain online so it can be viewed any time after that.

Contributions to the Host-for-a-Day campaign can be made by calling the Kitchen at 570-342-5556, or sending a check to Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen, 500 Penn Avenue, Scranton PA 18509. Donations can also be made online at: www.stfranciskitchen.org.

[Make a Donation to the Host-for-a-Day Campaign by Visiting the Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen Website](#)

Shrine prayer hotline spurred by pandemic is so successful, it'll continue



When the world shut down last year because of the pandemic, the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton decided it was time to reach outward.

The question was how — when, for a time, people couldn't even visit the shrine in Emmitsburg? The answer was simple, profound and one that Mother Seton, America's first native-born saint, would have appreciated: Pray.

So, buoyed by dedicated staff members and seminarians from nearby Mount St. Mary's Seminary, the shrine in the Baltimore Archdiocese created a prayer hotline last April that has proven so successful, it plans to continue well after COVID-19 has receded.

To date, over 2,000 calls have been logged, and many of them have turned into relationships that have changed the lives of people on both ends of the line.

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

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