

SCRANTON – What started as a way to recognize Teacher Appreciation Week has snowballed into a large-scale effort to celebrate all those who have helped children and families during this extraordinary year in the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System.

In early May, the Catholic Schools System launched its "Inspiring Excellence" initiative. The goal is simple: to recognize individuals who exemplify excellence in all that they do at one of the Diocese's 19 schools and Virtual Academy.

Over the last several weeks, students and families have nominated nearly 200 principals, teachers, aides, maintenance workers, cafeteria staff, coaches and central office staff. The nominations are being shared on the Diocese of Scranton Catholic Schools' Facebook page.

Joe Bayley, head of maintenance at Saint Jude School in Mountain Top, is one of the individuals who was nominated.

"It is a good feeling," Bayley said of receiving the honor.

Bayley, who has been working for Saint Jude School for approximately five years, said he loves working with the teachers and central administrative staff to create the best educational environment for students.

"If you don't enjoy what you

THANK YOU FOR

Inspiring Excellence



Joseph Bayley

Maintenance

St. Jude School

Joe Bayley is the maintenance man. He not only keeps the school running with all he does but he treats the kids as if they were his own children. He is always willing to participate in any fun school activity, construct things for book fairs, plays, and any other event, and has an overall great attitude and joy for his job, making the children all feel welcome and love him! Joe Bayley makes St. Jude School a better place and we are lucky to have him as part of our school community!

THANK YOU FOR

Inspiring Excellence



Kathleen Marx

Aide

Diocesan Virtual Academy

Mrs. Kathleen Marx works in the second grade DVA classroom. She is an excellent caring teacher. She loves to help the students in any way that she can.

You can view all of the 'Inspiring Excellence' nominations at the Diocese of Scranton Catholic Schools' Facebook page

do then you're in the wrong line of work," he explained.

Bayley was nominated by a parent who said he not only keeps the school running but he "treats the kids as if they were his own children," adding he makes "the children all feel welcome."

During this last year, Bayley has been instrumental in making sure proper sanitization procedures are followed and helping the students get outside more.

"We moved a lot of picnic tables that were sitting in the grove. It is a lot easier to have

class outside and just get fresh air," Bayley said.

Kathy Marx, a second grade instructional aide for the Diocesan Virtual Academy, was also nominated by a parent. Before assisting with the DVA, Marx has been at All Saints Academy in Scranton.

"I was really quite surprised and humbled but very appreciative of someone taking the time to write such nice things. Just like our students, we all enjoy the occasional pat on the back. We are always grateful for our wonderful, caring parents," she said.

Marx has been alongside teacher Angelina Guco this year.

"I know as educators we impact children's lives in a profound way. For me, as an instructional aide, being able to help an individual child or even the whole class with extra help is very rewarding. To see the light in their eyes and the smile on their face when they get it – priceless," she said.

Marx says adapting to educating students in a virtual setting was "new and challenging" but she is proud of the year and all that the students have been able to

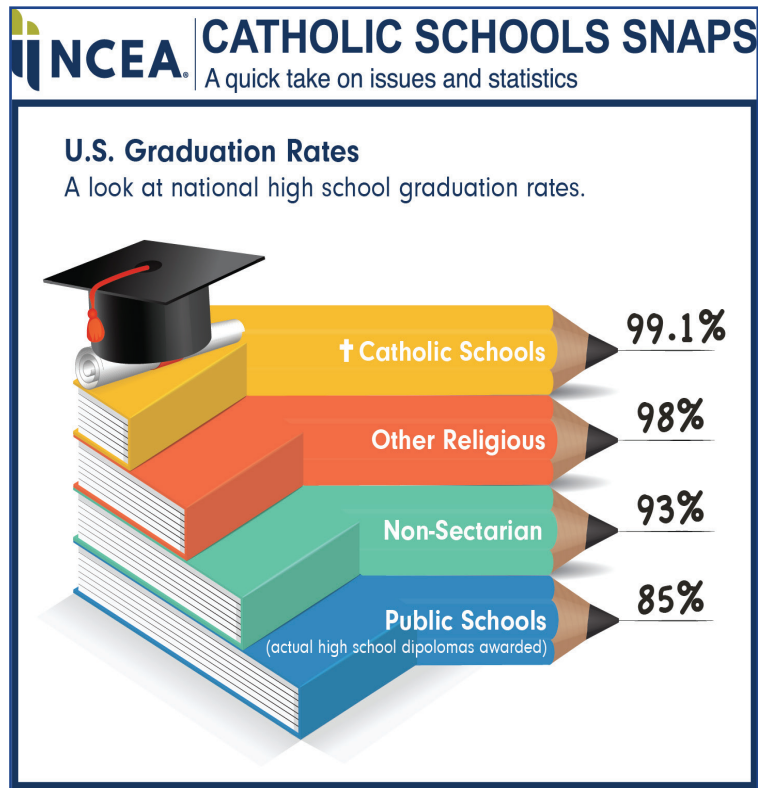
accomplish.

"Having the children comfortable and safe this past year was a priority of the Diocese and every Diocesan school. All Saints Academy and the Diocesan Virtual Academy did an amazing job ... It is our nature to go above and beyond!" Marx added.

Students and families can still nominate someone in their school for the "Inspiring Excellence" recognition. If you would like to nominate someone, please visit the Catholic Schools tab on the Diocese of Scranton website.



Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Church in Jermyn held a Memorial Mass on Wednesday, May 19 for a 25-year-old man who died in a recent crash on the Casey Highway near Archbald. More than 100 motorcycle riders from a local riding club attended the Mass, which featured a moving eulogy and pledges for all to be extra cautious on the road. Father John C. Ruth, pastor, celebrated the Memorial Mass and shared stories from his own motorcycling days.



Source: Broughman, S.P., Swain, N.L. (2013); Stillwell, R., and Sable, J. (2017).

Diocese of Scranton

CATHOLIC

SCHOOL SYSTEM

FAITH • ACADEMICS • SERVICE

The Diocese of Scranton is committed to educating our students in an environment that is academically excellent and facilitates the development of moral judgment and Christian decision-making. We are proud to share the following successes of our students in the classroom and in their service to others. Each day, our schools are fulfilling their mission of preparing today's youth and young adults to become tomorrow's faith-filled leaders.



To celebrate Autism Awareness Month, students and faculty at **Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston** decorated a single feather. When placed together, the feathers created a mural inspiring each person to “embrace your wings and fly.”



Mrs. Wolfe's fifth graders at **Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg** celebrated Pope Francis' *Laudato Si* and had their religion class outside on a beautiful spring day.



Pre-Kindergarten students at **Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore** used “ten frames” to make groups of 10 and proudly were able to count by 10s.



Father Bert Kozen, Chaplain of **Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School in Williamsport**, reads the Gospel during the Feast of the Ascension Mass (which was also the Class of 2021 Senior Mass), in the Saint John Neumann High School Chapel.



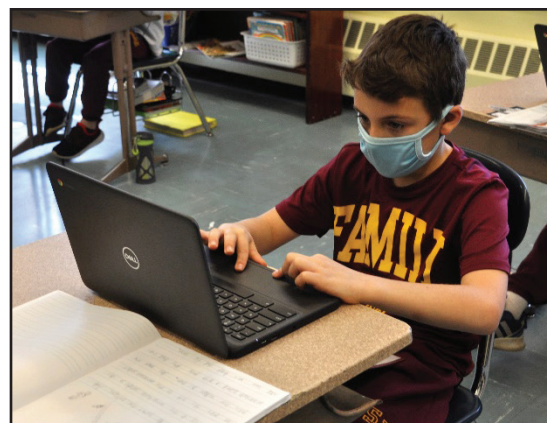
The kindergarten class at **Holy Family Academy in Hazleton** celebrated the sunny weather by creating pictures of sunflowers.



The first grade class at **Holy Rosary School in Duryea** recently celebrated the Blessed Mother by hosting the school's annual May Crowning Liturgy. In addition to serving as lectors, the entire class also performed a special song in honor of Mary.



Ninth graders at **Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg** are focused as they work on their Algebra NWEA Map assessments.



Gavin Cendoma, a second grade student at **Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport**, uses his laptop to visit a site called “Spelling City” to review his spelling words.



Harris Santiago, a second grade student at **Saint Agnes School in Towanda**, receives his First Holy Communion at Saints Peter and Paul Parish from the church pastor, Rev. Edward Michelini.



Ready, Set, Go! Students at **Epiphany School in Sayre** raised almost \$22,000 during the school’s 18th annual “Race for Education” fundraiser.



As graduation day approaches, the eighth grade class at **All Saints Academy in Scranton** participates in one of their last class events - their annual Rosary Walk, where they visit local churches to pray a decade of the rosary.



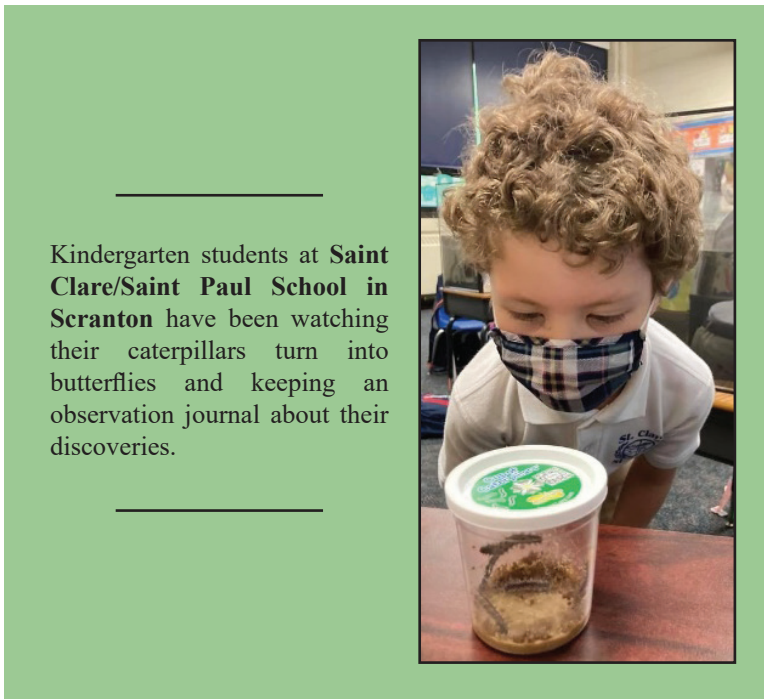
Just before graduation, the 12th graders at **Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre** pose for “Senior Future Path Day.” Students dressed down in apparel featuring the college/university or military branch that awaits them.



Sixth grade students at **Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green** concentrate on their laptops as they work on their Spring NWEA MAP assessments.



Holy Cross High School in Dunmore is a recent recipient of a CPR in Schools Training Kit, presented through the partnership of Allied Services and the American Heart Association. The kit includes 10 “mini-Annie” inflatable manikins, watch-while-training DVDs and a facilitator guide, as well as 10 AED trainers - all items that meet the required CPR curriculum that was signed into PA law in June 2019. Pictured at the kit presentation are, left to right: Amy Skiba, American Heart Association Senior Director of Development; Jim Brogna, Allied Services Vice President; Benjamin Tolerico, HCHS Principal; and Alex Higley, HCHS health teacher who will implement the kit into his curriculum.



Kindergarten students at **Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton** have been watching their caterpillars turn into butterflies and keeping an observation journal about their discoveries.



Eighth grade students at **La Salle Academy in Jessup** posed with their certificates and medals after participating in the National Junior Honor Society ceremony.