

# The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2021

## Faithful invited to return to the Eucharist

*Diocese of Scranton updates protocols for masks and social distancing*

SCRANTON – On May 14, 2021, the Diocese of Scranton issued revised guidelines concerning the celebration of public Masses in all of its 11 counties.

The changes come after the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention announced on May 13 that fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear a mask or keep physical distancing in most settings. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania adopted these recommendations the same day.

“The health and safety of our communities continues to be of paramount importance. Given the recent positive trends and widespread vaccinations, we are happy to announce numerous changes that can begin immediately in parishes,” Bishop Joseph C. Bambera said in a message to pastors announcing the changes. “As we have all come to realize over the last 14 months, guidelines

can change very quickly. I want to express my gratitude to everyone for their flexibility and hard work in putting the changing directives into effect.”

The Diocese of Scranton invites those who have not yet returned to Mass to rejoin us in person to celebrate the Holy Eucharist, the source and summit of the Christian life. Many pastors are reporting an increase in the number of people who are returning to Mass in person now that they have been vaccinated.

It is essential for the public to be aware that even as restrictions are being eased, the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday and Holy Day Masses remains in place in the Diocese of Scranton.

### UPDATED PROTOCOLS

A full listing of the new guidelines for the celebration of



**A family participates in the celebration of Mass on April 25, 2021, at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Peckville. On May 14, the Diocese of Scranton updated its guidelines for Masses during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

public Masses in the Diocese of Scranton can be found on the Diocese of Scranton’s website. Some of the significant changes include:

- Individuals who are fully vaccinated from COVID-19 are not required to wear masks while

attending Mass or receiving Holy Communion. Fully vaccinated individuals are welcome to continue wearing masks at Mass if desired for personal protection and/or comfort.

- Individuals who have not been fully vaccinated must

continue to wear masks while attending Mass. Individuals who are not fully vaccinated must wear a mask while receiving Holy Communion but may briefly remove the mask in order to consume the Sacred Host.

*Continued on Page 2*

## On June 4, support Diocesan schools and ministries on NEPA Gives Day

WILKES-BARRE—As a longtime board member for Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen, Chris Bedwick believes in simple, to-the-point missions, those she calls “the real deal.”

“People who need meals receive meals. Families who can’t quite make ends meet take food home to fill these gaps.”

That’s the message Bedwick, who signed up as a fundraising ambassador for the second annual NEPA Gives nonprofit fundraising marathon on June 4, is sharing with her friends, family and personal contacts as she offers up her time and effort to raise money for a Diocesan cause so close to her heart.

“Being hungry is a tough way to live,” the owner of Bedwick’s Pharmacy & Gifts in Wilkes-Barre wrote on her personal

fundraising page created for the event. “But the Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen eases some of these hardships.”

She and at least 36 other fundraising ambassadors so far have created personal profiles on the Diocese of Scranton’s profile page on nepagives.org and taken up a challenge to raise as much money as possible in 24 hours come June 4.

The regional fundraising challenge event is spearheaded by the Scranton Area Community Foundation and supported by several other charitable foundations and organizations. NEPA Gives debuted last year and raised more than \$500,000 for more than 100 nonprofit organizations, all of which engaged in friendly competition for

significant bonus and match prizes provided by the foundations and organizations.

Last year, thanks to the support of 170 donors who made 187 online gifts in the 24-hour period, the Diocese raised \$36,725 and secured the top two prizes: Most Dollars Raised by a Large Nonprofit Organization and Most Unique Donors to a Large Nonprofit Organization. The Diocese also won several other bonus prizes, and the total raised was divided among Diocesan charitable organizations, Catholic schools, and the Diocesan Vocations office.

This year, more than 200 nonprofits are already registered for the challenge, and the foundations are offering more than \$400,000 in bonus prizes. The Diocese has joined the

effort once again to support Catholic Social Services, Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen in Scranton and Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre, Catholic school scholarships and the Vocations office.

This year’s additional new beneficiaries include several individual Catholic schools that have signed on with projects of their own as well as the Catholic Youth Center in Wilkes-Barre, which is in need of major pool renovations and a new child-transport van. The Diocesan Youth Ministry team, which is raising funds to send young Catholics to the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis in the fall, has also joined the effort.

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# The Catholic Light

(ISSN 0164-9418)

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE  
DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

## DIOCESE OF SCRANTON MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Catholic community of the Diocese of Scranton, are called through Baptism to imitate the servant leadership of Jesus Christ. In union with Our Holy Father, the Pope, we proclaim the Gospel faithfully, celebrate the sacraments joyfully, and boldly promote life, justice and peace in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

## POLICY STATEMENT

*The Catholic Light* is our official diocesan journal. The publication of notices, regulations and extra-synodical decrees in said paper constitute legal promulgation for all the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton, Clergy and Laity.

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# Diocese of Scranton eases COVID-19 restrictions following new CDC guidelines

*Continued from Page 1*

- Priests, Deacons and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are still required to wear a face mask during the Distribution of Holy Communion at this time – even if they have been fully vaccinated. This precautionary measure is due to the wide-ranging vaccination rates currently among the 11 counties that make up the Diocese of Scranton.

- Every parish must post signage in any entrance areas stating that anyone who is not fully vaccinated is expected to wear a mask and anyone with COVID-19 symptoms should not enter.

- Parishes must make an announcement at the beginning of Mass that anyone who is not fully vaccinated is expected to wear a mask.

- Pews no longer need to be marked for physical distancing. Parishes should remind the faithful to continue maximizing the use of space as much as possible.

## REACTION TO CHANGES

Parishes across the Diocese have started to implement many of the updated guidelines over the last two weeks.

At Saint Therese Parish in Shavertown, parishioners expressed happiness about the continued road to normalcy.

“We took a lot for granted. When the church was closed it was very hard but we were never spiritually distant,” parishioner Betsy Balonis said. “The Holy Eucharist, I



**Following the release of updated guidelines for the celebration of Mass, the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton removed social distancing tape from its pews to allow for full seating capacity.**

didn’t realize how much we missed it until we were home!”

Beverly Harostock is the Sacristan at the Luzerne County parish. She is happy to see more people returning to Mass each week.

“It’s a feeling that you really can’t describe. It’s heartwarming. It’s touching to see that people are happy to be back here. It’s joyous,” she explained.

Father James J. Paisley, pastor, echoed those sentiments.

“It is a wonderful feeling to be back to

some sense of normalcy in regards to the celebration of the Mass,” Father Paisley said.

Father Paisley said he is taking the process slowly in both of his parishes. He wants people to be able to see the light at the end of the tunnel but not become overwhelmed or nervous.

“I hope we can remember what we’ve gone through and not forget it too readily because it is in remembering that we will hopefully never have to deal with it again,” Father Paisley added.

## Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ to be celebrated June 6

On the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, we give special honor to Jesus, truly present in the most Blessed Sacrament of the altar.

As Catholics, we worship the presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, both during Mass and outside of Mass. We are encouraged to spend time in prayer before the Lord in the Eucharist. Many parishes offer regular exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during Eucharistic Adoration.

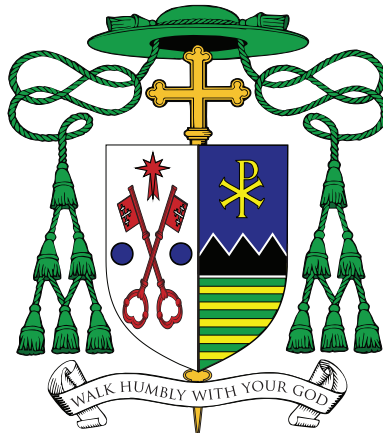
Jesus gives himself to us in the Eucharist as spiritual nourishment because he loves us. God’s whole plan for our salvation is directed to our participation in the life of the Trinity, the communion of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Our sharing in this life begins with our Baptism, when by the power of the Holy Spirit we are joined to Christ, thus becoming adopted sons and daughters of the Father. It is strengthened and increased in Confirmation.

It is nourished and deepened through our participation in the Eucharist. By eating the Body and drinking the Blood of Christ in the Eucharist we become united to the person of Christ through his humanity ... In being united to the humanity of Christ we are at the same time united to his divinity. Our mortal and corruptible natures are transformed by being joined to the source of life.

By being united to Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, we are drawn up into the eternal relationship of love among the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. As Jesus is the eternal Son of God by nature, so we become sons and daughters of God by adoption through the sacrament of Baptism. Through the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation (Chrismation), we are temples of the Holy Spirit, who dwells in us, and by his in dwelling we are made holy by the gift of sanctifying grace. The ultimate promise of the Gospel is that we will share in the life of the Holy Trinity. The Fathers of the Church called this participation in the divine life “divinization” (theosis). In this we see that God does not merely send us good things from on high; instead, we are brought up into the inner life of God, the communion among the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. In the celebration of the Eucharist (which means “thanksgiving”) we give praise and glory to God for this sublime gift.







May 27, 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This past Sunday the Church concluded the Easter season with the observance of the Solemnity of Pentecost that celebrates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the beginning of the Church. Through the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives, the disciples of Jesus changed the course of history through their bold proclamation of the presence and power of the risen Lord in the lives of God's people. To this day, the essence of this great feast of the Holy Spirit empowers us to love unconditionally, to serve and to embrace the mission of the Church.

This Pentecost comes at a time of remarkable hope and opportunity. We are gradually emerging from the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic. Recognizing many positive developments such as increasing vaccination rates, declining hospitalizations and a decreasing percentage of coronavirus cases, the Diocese of Scranton has been able to adjust our health and safety protocols.

I want to take this opportunity to personally welcome you back to Mass and encourage others who are in good health to begin returning to Mass. Only by joining with the community of believers, just as the nascent Church gathered at Pentecost, and through our participation in the celebration of the Eucharist, the source and summit of our faith, are we sustained with the life-giving nourishment of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and our spiritual life renewed. We simply cannot live without the Eucharist! As Jesus himself tells us, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him." (Jn 6:54-56)

Brothers and sisters, God has spoken mightily to us in this past year. He has spoken to us about life and the true and lasting treasures that have been given to us through faith. I pray that we have listened carefully enough to set aside all that divides us and to go forth during these days filled with the power of the Spirit of God. Having been baptized into the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, it is our responsibility as His disciples to proclaim the truth of Jesus, to walk together as brothers and sisters, and to live His message of love, mercy, forgiveness and peace to all.

While the current health situation offers many signs of hope, it is also clear that the pandemic is still a present reality. For that reason, the Bishops of Pennsylvania have jointly agreed that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days should remain suspended at this time in order to not put undue pressure on those who may have pre-existing conditions or health concerns. Nevertheless, for those who have resumed other activities, there is no substitute for gathering together to celebrate the Eucharist and our faith.

Let us continue to pray for one another and especially for all those who have died from COVID-19 and their families and friends who grieve their loss.

Come Holy Spirit! Lead us back to the Eucharist and the fullness of life that we receive through the People of God – the Church of Jesus Christ!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

*+ Joseph C. Bambera*

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera  
Bishop of Scranton



# Vocations Golf Tournament set for Monday, July 12

MOUNTAIN TOP – The John Yourishen Memorial Vocations Golf Classic will be held on Monday, July 12, at Blue Ridge Trail Golf Club. Proceeds from the tournament support seminarians in formation and the Diocesan Vocations Program. Bishop Joseph C. Bambera is the honorary chair of the tournament.

The captain and crew tournament begins with lunch at 11 a.m. and a shotgun start at noon. A reception and awards dinner follows golf. There are a number of opportunities to support the tournament as a golfer, archangel and angel sponsor, flag sponsor or hole sponsor. A full list of giving opportunities is available by texting DOSGOLF to 41444 or by going to [dioceseofscranton.org/vocations-golf](http://dioceseofscranton.org/vocations-golf).

The Diocese has renamed the Vocations Golf Classic in memory of John Yourishen, Jr.

Mr. Yourishen was a loyal supporter of the Vocations Golf Classic each year

since the start of the tournament. He included a significant estate gift to the St. John Vianney Vocations Endowment Fund.

Mr. Yourishen was an avid golfer and was a member and past president of the Wyoming Valley Country Club, and a founding member and board member of Glenmaura National Golf Club. He was an active member of Saint Jude Parish, Mountain Top, and a former basketball coach at Saint Jude School, Mountain Top.

“Participation in the golf tournament as a sponsor or golfer provides much needed financial support for our seminarians as they answer God’s call to serve our Diocese in priestly ministry,” said Father Alex J. Roche, Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians. “We are grateful to our donors for providing this life-changing opportunity for our seminarians to share their gifts in service to God and one another.”

Father Roche is serving as chair of the Vocations Golf Classic, and Sandy Snyder, Diocesan Grants Writer in the Development Office, is serving as co-chair of the tournament.

Vocations Golf Tournament Committee members are Jim Bebla, Monsignor David Bohr, Renee Boland, Michael Brown, Father David Cappelloni, Karen Clifford, Dominick Costantino, Christopher DiMattio, Father Joseph Evanko, William Genello, Deacon Frank Hine, Monsignor John Jordan, Michele Long, Scott Lynett, Thomas Medico, Atty. Joseph O’Brien, Frank Orlando, Kathy Oven, Maggie and David Roche, Christopher Sheperis, John Smith and Paul Woelkers.

For more information or to receive a golf tournament brochure, please call the Diocesan Development Office at (570) 207-2250, or e-mail [Development@DioceseofScranton.org](mailto:Development@DioceseofScranton.org).



For more information or to register, you can also visit: [dioceseofscranton.org/vocations-golf](http://dioceseofscranton.org/vocations-golf)

## Diocese of Scranton VOCATIONS John Yourishen Memorial Tournament GOLF CLASSIC

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to invite you to join us for the 11th Annual Diocese of Scranton Vocations Golf Classic in support of our seminarians. In my new role as Diocesan Director of Vocations, I appreciate the opportunity to serve as chairman of this important effort and I look forward to gathering together with you in July at Blue Ridge Trail Golf Course.



The Diocese has recently renamed the golf tournament in memory of John Yourishen, a wonderful supporter of the golf tournament and our Vocations program since the tournament began in 2010. We are grateful to John for his friendship, commitment and generosity.

Your participation in our golf tournament as a sponsor or golfer provides much needed financial support for our seminarians as they answer God’s call to serve our Diocese in priestly ministry.

Thank you for providing this life-changing opportunity for our seminarians to share their gifts in service to God and one another.

Peace,

Reverend Alex J. Roche  
Director of Vocations

**Make a Donation  
or Register to Golf Online at:**

<http://www.dioceseofscranton.org/vocations-golf/>

CALL: 570-207-2250

Deadline is June 25, 2021

### SPONSORSHIPS\*

Please Select ( ✓ ) from these options of support:

- ☐ **ARCHANGEL SPONSOR \$2,500**
- Cart & Green Fees for Four Golfers
  - Lunch, Dinner, Cocktail Reception
  - Hole Signage & Program Recognition
  - Listing in *The Catholic Light*
  - Option to distribute give-away at Registration
  - Complimentary Additional Dinner Guest
- ☐ **ANGEL SPONSOR \$1,250**
- Cart & Green Fees for Four Golfers
  - Lunch, Dinner, Cocktail Reception
  - Hole Signage
  - Recognition in Program and *The Catholic Light*

**Archangel & Angel Sponsors Please complete:**

- ☐ I WILL be golfing. Please see the names of my foursome players at right > > >
- ☐ I will NOT be golfing. I wish to underwrite the cost of seminarians to play in the tournament.

### Other Sponsor Levels:

ALSO LISTED IN THE CATHOLIC LIGHT AND THE DINNER PROGRAM

- ☐ Benefactor \$500
- ☐ Flag Sponsor Sign \$250
- ☐ Hole Sponsor \$100 ☐ Other: \$\_\_\_\_\_.

My/Our donation is made

☐ **In Memory of**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of the Deceased

☐ **In Honor of**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of the Honoree

**All Sponsors & Donors: Please Print Information Below:**

Print Company Name for *Catholic Light* & PROGRAM

\_\_\_\_\_  
Company/Organization

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

*\*New Sponsors, please email your company logo to  
Development @DioceseofScranton.org*

### GOLFER REGISTRATION FORM

☐ **INDIVIDUAL GOLFER \$250**

- Cart & Green Fees for One
- Lunch, Dinner, Cocktail Reception

☐ **FOURSOME \$1,000**

- Cart & Green Fees for Four Golfers
- Lunch, Dinner, Cocktail Reception

#### Foursome Names

1. Team Captain or Individual Golfer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Company

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

2. Golfer Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

3. Golfer Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

4. Golfer Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

☐ # of Additional Dinner Guests \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$75 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Sponsor/Golfer Amount Due \$\_\_\_\_\_**

**Make checks payable to  
Diocese of Scranton “Vocations Endowment”**

☐ **Check Enclosed** ☐ **Credit Card - MC or Visa**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Exp. Date and Sec. Code

**Return form with payment to:**

**Diocese of Scranton Development Office  
300 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA 18503-1279**

**Questions: 570-207-2250**

**Development @DioceseofScranton.org**

**Deadline for Program Sponsorship is June 25, 2021**

Field is limited to the first 176 golfers.



Continued from Page 1

“As of Friday May 21, we have 12 different Diocesan cause areas on our team page and leaderboards,” Sandra Snyder, Diocesan grant writer and director of the Diocesan NEPA Gives effort, explained. “Each of those cause areas is or will be championed by at least one fundraising ambassador, who will work to ‘get out the vote’ in terms of dollars for their chosen cause.”

Additionally, Snyder has signed up as a fundraising ambassador for the Diocese of Scranton as a whole and not only will be asking her own contacts for donations but is inviting others to join her as an ambassador for the Diocese. Funds raised for the Diocese itself will be shared among all the participating Diocesan organizations.

“Signing up as an ambassador is a great way to show your loyalty to our Diocese or to a treasured Diocesan cause,” Snyder said. “As a special thank you this year, we’ve ordered some great Diocese of Scranton beach bags and family beach blankets to reward our fundraisers. Those who register and raise at least \$300 will receive the beach bag, and those who register and raise at least \$600 will receive both the bag and the blanket.”

The Diocese also welcomes match challenges and gifts from businesses and organizations, which are an important component of the NEPA Gives effort, Snyder said. All gifts can essentially be doubled by a match challenge, she said, noting her appreciation for the Moses Taylor Foundation, which has already promised the Diocese of Scranton \$2,000 after it raises \$1,000. That generous offer will support the Diocese’s work to alleviate hunger in the community.

“Last year, NEPA Gives presented a special challenge as we were asking people for financial support during a particularly tough time in everyone’s lives, but we were overwhelmed with gratitude for how many people came through for us and propelled us to the top of that leaderboard,” Snyder said. “What a message they sent about their love for our Church and our Diocese. This year, we hope for an equally strong or better showing as we all together recover

from the Coronavirus pandemic. We’re so grateful to the Scranton Area Community Foundation and the other foundations and organizations who have made this all possible. And of course we can’t thank our donors enough for showing up for us.”

Shannon Kowalski, Diocesan director of youth and young adult ministry, is equally grateful for the opportunity for her office to participate this year and to serve as a fundraising ambassador herself, along with young adults who seek to attend the National Catholic Youth Conference.

“The pandemic has significantly increased our costs to travel and attend this year,” Kowalski explained. The conference is such a worthy endeavor that we cannot turn down the opportunity to attend. We’re hoping the generosity of donors will make this trip possible for our young people.”

Schools, the various Catholic charities and the Vocations Office also are hoping for a big online turnout and encouraging people to check their emails and “tune in” to Facebook and other Diocesan social media channels throughout the day to participate in the excitement of the event. The NEPA Gives team will travel to various parish and Diocesan sites throughout the day to host several fun Facebook Live sessions to promote the event and the various causes.

“It was so much fun to donate last year, to rally others to donate, and to watch the Diocese move up the leaderboards and hang on to a top spot all day,” said Dominic Costantino, vocation program coordinator and member of this year’s NEPA Gives team.

Costantino also contributed his talents for the video posted on the Diocesan NEPA Gives page, singing “One Spirit, One Church,”

chosen as the theme of and rallying cry for this year’s campaign.

“That song really captures what we’re all about as the wider Diocese of Scranton and the unified mission we are all trying to sustain when we pull together

for something like NEPA Gives,” Costantino said. “We hope people will join us in this truly fun effort that shows all of us we can be philanthropists, even by making a \$10 donation.”

## TO PARTICIPATE IN NEPA GIVES DAY

WHEN: Friday, June 4, 2021 - Midnight until 11:59 p.m

HOW: To count toward the challenge to win bonus money, all donations must be made online via a link the Diocese will post on the Diocesan website and social media channels and send out via emails throughout the day. To donate or get more information, you can visit [www.nepagives.org/organizations/diocese-of-scranton](http://www.nepagives.org/organizations/diocese-of-scranton).

Gifts also can be mailed to:

NEPA Gives 2021  
Diocese of Scranton, Attn: Sandra Snyder  
300 Wyoming Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18503

CONTACT: For more information or to learn how to donate via check, contact Sandra Snyder at (570) 591-5004 or email [Sandra-Snyder@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:Sandra-Snyder@dioceseofscranton.org).

## A small sample of the Diocesan causes you can support on NEPA Gives Day!

Several other Catholic schools in the Diocese of Scranton also are raising money for specified causes, including digital billboards, sound-system upgrades, a literacy fund, new risers and more. Donation buttons will also exist to support Catholic Social Services homeless shelters and social justice ministries.

### Diocesan Youth Ministry



Raising funds to send young parishioners to the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis in the fall.

### Wyoming Area Catholic School



Raising money to support the purchase of a new, high-visibility sign for placement on Wyoming Avenue in Exeter.

### Holy Cross High School



Raising money to support the Dunmore school’s scholarship fund for students and families in hardship.

### Catholic Youth Center



Raising money for much-needed pool repairs and to support the replacement of a high-mileage van used for door-to-door dropoff and pickup of children without access to transportation.

### Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen



Raising funds to serve hot and takeout meals to the hungry and homeless in the greater Wilkes-Barre area. Sponsor For A Day opportunity also available for \$125.

### Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen



Raising funds to continue and expand takeout and hot meal services for the hungry and homeless in greater Scranton. Sponsor For A Day opportunity also available at \$100.



# Being a catechist is a vocation, pope says in establishing formal ministry

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Calling for formal recognition of “those lay men and women who feel called by virtue of their baptism to cooperate in the work of catechesis,” Pope Francis has instituted the “ministry of catechist.”

“The Spirit is calling men and women to set out and encounter all those who are waiting to discover the beauty, goodness and truth of the Christian faith,” the pope wrote in “Antiquum Ministerium” (Ancient Ministry), his document released at the Vatican May 11.

In addition to releasing texts of the document in Italian, French, English, German, Spanish, Portuguese and Polish, the Vatican distributed a video of the text translated into Italian sign language.

Pastors must support laypeople in answering the Spirit’s call and “enrich the life of the Christian community through the recognition of lay ministries capable of contributing to the transformation of society through the ‘penetration of Christian values into the social, political and economic sectors,’” the pope said, quoting what he had written about the vocation of laypeople in his 2013 document, “The Joy of the Gospel.”

Bishops’ conferences will need to determine the “process of formation and the normative criteria for admission to this ministry” and devise “the most appropriate forms for the service which these men and women will be called to exercise,” the pope said.

The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, he said, “will soon publish the Rite of Institution of the lay ministry of catechist.” The congregation already is working on revised rites for the ministries of lector and acolyte, which Pope Francis opened to women in January.

While millions of lay men and women around the world already serve as catechists, readers and altar servers, formal institution into the ministries signifies that the service is stable, delegated by the bishop and publicly recognized by the church.

Archbishop Rino Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, noted how St. Paul VI wrote in 1975 about the importance of laypeople using their gifts for the growth of the entire church.



**Pope Francis watches as a family carries offertory gifts to the altar during a Mass for catechists in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican on Sept. 29, 2013. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)**

“It has taken almost 50 years for the church to come to recognize that the service rendered by so many men and women through their catechetical commitment truly constitutes a distinctive ministry for the growth of the Christian community,” the archbishop told reporters at a news conference to present the pope’s document.

In his document, Pope Francis noted how teachers of the faith were present from the earliest days of the Christian community and were recognized as having a special gift of the Holy Spirit for carrying out their role within the community.

“At times,” he wrote, “the charisms that the Spirit constantly pours out on the baptized took on a visible and tangible form of immediate service to the Christian community, one recognized as an indispensable ‘diakonia’ for the community.”

In looking at the history of evangelization, the pope said, Catholics cannot overlook “the countless lay men and women who directly took part in the spread of the Gospel through catechetical instruction. Men and women of deep faith, authentic witnesses of holiness, who in some cases were also founders of churches and eventually died as martyrs.”

Still today, he said, “many competent and dedicated catechists are community leaders in various parts of the world and carry out a mission invaluable for the transmission and growth of the faith. Especially in communities without a resident priest, catechists are the leaders of the local Catholic community, evangelizing, convoking and guiding their fellow Catholics in prayer and works of charity. And, in missionary territories under the guidance of the Congregation for

the Evangelization of Peoples, they already serve with a specific mandate from their bishop.

“The long line of blessed, saints and martyrs who were

catechists has significantly advanced the church’s mission and deserves to be recognized, for it represents a rich resource not only for catechesis but also for the entire history of Christian spirituality,” Pope Francis wrote.

The formal institution of catechists, he said, should be a sign and encouragement for all lay Catholics to recognize “even more the missionary commitment proper to every baptized person, a commitment that must however be carried out in a fully ‘secular’ manner, avoiding any form of clericalization.”

Archbishop Fisichella said Pope Francis was insisting that lay “men and women are called to express their baptismal

vocation in the best possible way, not as substitutes for priests or consecrated persons, but as authentic laymen and laywomen who, in the distinctive nature of their ministry, are able to experience the full of extent of their baptismal vocation of witness and effective service in the community and the world.”

Laypeople who feel called to the ministry of catechists should be actively involved in the life of their Catholic communities and faithful to the Gospel and the teaching of the church, he said. But they also must receive “suitable biblical, theological, pastoral and pedagogical formation to be competent communicators of the truth of the faith.”

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION LEADERS IN THE DIOCESE OF SCRANTON REACT

“The Holy Father bringing catechesis to the forefront is wonderful! A renewed focus on catechesis is desperately needed in the Church right now, as painfully evidenced by the 2019 Pew Research study showing possibly only one-third of U.S. Catholics believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. With that research in mind, I believe Pope Francis’ timing could not be better to bring more attention to the specific charism of teaching this and other core truths of the Catholic Faith.

“I believe for the Church to be able to call on members of the laity to help teach through the specific ministry of Catechist will be a great help for the long-term. At the same time, I thought it was helpful that the Holy Father reminded us that it remains each Bishop’s mission to be the primary catechist in his Diocese (shared by his priests), and that parents are primarily responsible for the Christian formation of their children.”

**Caleb Cochran**  
**Director of Primary Faith Formation**  
**Saint Joseph the Worker Parish, Williamsport**



“Pope Francis is recognizing the crucial role lay catechists have played in passing on the faith since the days of the early church and our important mission in today’s church. He is calling us to study and prayer so that we are well prepared for our role within the church. The Pope is urging us as catechists to find new and creative ways of interacting with young people and to make use of modern resources to reach families and involve them in the life of the Church. The Pope views our role not only as teachers who impart knowledge, but as ‘companions,’ people who walk alongside others on their faith journey and is challenging us to find ways to do that.

“The Pope’s letter comes during the *Year of Amoris Laetitia Family*, highlighting family life, the first place where children are taught the faith, and also at a time when there are fewer priests in our parishes. I believe that in elevating the role of catechists to a formal lay ministry of the church during this year, the Pope is recognizing the need for lay people to play a larger role in making sure that the faith is passed down to future generations and is taught within the life of the family.

“I think there will be more opportunities created for catechists themselves to study the faith so that they are well prepared to spread the Good News to others. I think we will see more resources being made available to parishes that help catechists not only impart knowledge, but learn how to accompany the students and their parents on their faith journey. I think we will see more utilization of technology to spark student interest in faith formation and to communicate what was learned to parents, so that faith formation can be continued in the home. I think we will be creating even more meaningful encounters for ‘genuine interaction’ with young people and their families such as opportunities for service and participation in liturgy on every grade level.”

**Karen Balestino**  
**Director of Religious Education**  
**Parishes of Saint Boniface (Williamsport)**  
**and Saint Lawrence (South Williamsport)**





# Edmodo virtual learning helps Religious Education programs keep the 'Faith Alive!'



SCRANTON — When the coronavirus pandemic spiraled out of control in early 2020, the Diocese of Scranton needed to suspend in-person services, including faith formation activities and religious education for students and families.

Serving more than 317,000 Catholics, including more than 14,000 students, the Scranton Diocese — one of the largest in the United States — was faced with the daunting task of finding a virtual platform that was flexible and easy for parishes to use.

Religious education programs throughout the Scranton diocese were greatly aided when the Diocesan Office for Parish Life (OPL) decided to partner with Faith Alive! powered by Edmodo, a web-based learning management system, encouraging parishes to consider using it any way they choose.

Jacki Douglas, Diocesan Director of Word and Lifelong Faith Formation in the Parish Life Office, shared, "Like most of us, the Diocese never planned on extended closures of in-person

services. The unprecedented stay-at-home orders was deemed a threat to the attendance and very way of life of parishioners and those dependent upon the Diocese."

Douglas also recognized that while some parishes might have hoped to return to in-person faith formation classes, many wanted more flexible virtual options for continuing classes during closures or to enhance learning when in-person services could resume.

Finding quick success with a small group of parishes, the Parish Life Office quickly made Edmodo available to the whole diocese and is extremely pleased with its first experience.

The learning platform allows parishes to continue religious education online, including the ability to conduct classes virtually, manage lessons and curriculum, and make resources available to students and families. It also allows the flexibility to learn completely virtually or in a hybrid model and both in-person and online activities, while quickly bringing religious education

communities online with easy, user-friendly tools.

As the Confirmation coordinator at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Brodheadsville, Terry Talbott is acutely aware of the many challenges the year 2020 presented to Catholic religious education.

"I was worried about how we could continue to prepare the students for the sacrament when forced to meet remotely," she admitted. "Edmodo not only allowed us to host virtual classes, but also gave us the ability to make important forms and information accessible to students and parents in a secure, transparent way."

Talbott explained how the parish's DRE and she devoted great time and energy to "create classes," focusing on getting families enrolled in the religious ed program. A step-by-step sign-up document was developed, allowing most parish families to "get connected."

"We also had to present the information to our catechists and introduce them to the platform," Talbott continued, commenting that while many parish religious educators were familiar with Zoom video conferencing, quite a few were apprehensive about teaching virtually."

Talbott lauds those catechists who, though at first intimidated by using a virtual platform, were determined to continue in their ministry. "I am so proud of the determination and dedication of all our teachers during this year," she remarked.

As the year progressed, Talbott explained, many catechists incorporated videos and worksheets into their lesson plans and were able to share websites such as the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB.org) during their classes to illustrate a concept.

"I especially liked the connection to my classes that I had between sessions because I would post follow-up information and instruction for parents on our class page," she explained. "I also loved the library function because it was a central repository for all the necessary forms students needed, and I could direct them there easily."

Talbott also extolled Edmodo's "messaging function" and how, when Our Lady Queen of Peace transitioned to in-person learning for sacramental classes, the platform allowed the parish to continue to provide classes for the small percentage of students and families who chose to remain virtual.

"I've been super happy with how I've been able to use the platform," she said. "We intend to continue to use Edmodo next year, even as we return to in-person catechesis. It's a great tool for communication regularly to our families and supplementing the relational ministry with our students."

Currently, more than 3,000 students, parents and religious education staff across nearly 120 Scranton Diocesan parishes utilize Edmodo to communicate and join in faith formation activities online — and to come together in a time when it's needed more than ever.



Due to the global pandemic, students in the First Communion class at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Brodheadsville participated in at-home retreats that also involved their parents and siblings.





# To Receive Like a Child

FOREST CITY — Holy innocence was once again on display this May as First Holy Communion returned to their rightful place in the season of rebirth — fittingly being celebrated throughout the Diocese of Scranton during the glorious month dedicated to Our Lady.

Following a turbulent year marked by a global pandemic that resulted in First Communion ceremonies being held randomly based on health protocols and parish limitations due to strict guidelines, the 2021 “Mass” celebrations of young communicants experiencing the true joy of the Eucharist for the first time has been a most welcomed sight.

“We had to adjust and adapt to this ‘new normal,’ and because of that we had to get creative with how to not only keep our CCD program up and running, but to make the sacramental years interesting and special,” Jennifer Pearson, Director of Religious Education for Ascension Parish in Forest City, shared.

In preparing Ascension’s First Communion class for 2021, Pearson and her staff benefitted greatly from an engaging, user-friendly curriculum and were very thankful to provide some in-person instruction with the students.

“I also had extremely supportive parents who really took the time to be involved in the entire

process,” she noted, “especially when the students need to do their lessons from home.”

The result, as has been the case throughout the Diocese, was the much-anticipated ceremony coming together as splendidly as it should — with wide-eyed, nervously excited boys and girls donning their best Spring finery to approach the altar and begin a lifelong Eucharistic journey of receiving their Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

The First Communion season not only presents beautiful, inspiring images of the Catholic Church at its best, but also provides an invaluable lesson for the children’s older counterparts in the faith.

So-called “Cradle Catholics,” who may make literally thousands of Communion throughout their lifetime, often take for granted the immense awe and wonder of physically receiving the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

This is certainly something that is not lost on Pearson and others who devote themselves to preparing their young students in parish First Holy Communion classes.

“I think it is so important for our students to continue to build their relationship with Jesus after they receive their First Communion,” Pearson explained. “I try to encourage them to find examples of how Jesus taught us and wants us to live, whether it is at home, school, the store or wherever, and to make good choices and model their own behaviors after those things.”

She related the children will soon realize that attending Mass and receiving Holy Communion will not always be accompanied by pressed blue suits, lacy white gowns and veils, beaming parents with cameras in hand, and parties with family and friends. But it



**Ascension Parish in Forest City**

is cause for much celebration, nonetheless.

“We can celebrate all of the wonderful things that Jesus did for us by receiving Him in the Eucharist,” Pearson concluded,

“but we also show Him how grateful we are for His love and sacrifice by doing our best to love one another even when things are hard.”

To receive like a child. If only.



**Catholic Community  
of Saint Elizabeth in Bear Creek  
& Saint Mark in Thornhurst**



**Nativity of Our Lord Parish in Duryea**



**Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Montoursville**



*Come, Holy Spirit!*

*Confirmations held across the Diocese*

## Saint Patrick Parish in Milford



Glorious weather outside divinely befit the heaven-felt joy inside of Saint Patrick Church in Milford on Ascension Thursday, when 15 eighth-grade students and one RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) candidate received the Sacrament of Confirmation presided over by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera.

The newly confirmed include Francesca Antonecchia, Isabella Bixby, Nicholas Carlozzi, Caterina Catizone, Abigail Chudoba, Christopher Fleming, Amir Guillite, Claire Marotta, Ava McAteer, Julia Moskal, James Murphy, Bennett Nielson, John Michael Roberts, Rachel Swinton, Anna Vogel and Christina Beezer.

In conferring the sacrament as the ordinary minister of Confirmation, the Scranton Bishop extended his hand over those to be confirmed, praying that the Holy Spirit would fill their hearts, minds and souls with the grace to become more perfect Christians and witnesses of Christ.

Bishop Bambera is pictured with the Confirmation candidates prior to the celebration of the Eucharistic liturgy and Confirmation ceremony. Also shown, at far right, is Father Joseph Manarchuck, pastor of Saint Patrick's, and parish Deacon Thomas Spataro (far left).

Within the last month, in addition to Milford, Bishop Bambera also celebrated Confirmations in Honesdale, Plains Township, Carbondale, Hazleton, Ashley, Scranton and East Stroudsburg.

## Priest Confirms Great-Nephew



Pentecost Sunday celebrations last weekend included Father Gerard McGlone, pastor of Queen of Angels Parish in Jessup, administering the Sacrament of Confirmation to his great-nephew, Joshua Williams.

Shown above are, from left: Deacon Jerry Carpenter, who served as Joshua's sponsor; Joshua "Joseph" Williams; Father McGlone; and Kathleen and Joseph Williams, Joshua's grandparents.



## APPOINTMENTS

His Excellency, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, announces the following appointment, effective June 1, 2021:

**Reverend Robert J. Antonelli**, to Senior Priest Pro Tem, Saint Joseph the Worker Parish, Williamsport.

**Reverend Brian Van Fossen**, to further studies at Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska, this summer. Father Van Fossen will continue to serve as Pastor, Saint Joseph the Worker Parish, Williamsport.



## BISHOP BAMBERA'S SCHEDULE

**June 2** - Holy Redeemer High School Commencement  
Mohegan Sun Arena, Wilkes-Barre Township, 7:00 p.m.

**June 3** - Saint John Neumann High School Commencement  
Saint Boniface Church, Williamsport, 7:00 p.m.

**June 4** - Notre Dame High School Commencement  
Pocono Raceway, Long Pond, 11:00 a.m.

**June 4** - Holy Cross High School Commencement  
Mohegan Sun Arena, Wilkes-Barre Township, 7:00 p.m.

**June 6** - Wedding Anniversary Mass  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 2:30 p.m.

**June 15** - Holy Cross Provincial Chapter Mass  
King's College Chapel, Wilkes-Barre, 5:00 p.m.

**June 16-18** - United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Regional Meeting, Virtual

**June 19** - Catholic Women's Conference Mass  
Marywood University, 8:30 a.m.



# Diocese to celebrate annual Wedding Anniversary Mass June 6

SCRANTON – Valentine’s Day may have been more than three months ago but love will certainly be in the air at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on June 6.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will serve as principal celebrant and homilist for the Diocese of Scranton’s annual Wedding Anniversary Mass that recognizes married couples who are celebrating their 25th and 50th anniversaries in 2021.

This year’s celebration will take on special significance because it falls during the *Amoris Laetitia Family Year*.

Due to updated protocols for the celebration of Mass released by the Diocese of Scranton on May 14, all couples who have pre-registered will be able to attend the Mass in person if they are comfortable. There will still not be a reception after Mass.

The Mass will begin at 2:30 p.m. CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton will broadcast the Mass live and provide a livestream on the Diocese of

Scranton website and all Diocesan social media platforms.

In addition to married couples celebrating their Silver and Golden anniversaries, at least one couple planning to attend the Mass is celebrating their 70th Anniversary. Two additional couples registered are celebrating 60 years together.

As couples registered, they were able to provide “then” and “now” photos as well as words of wisdom that they have gained through their married life together. Below are just a few of the submissions. All of the photos and submissions will be available on the Diocese of Scranton website and a slideshow will be featured before the Mass is broadcast on television.

Anyone with questions regarding the Wedding Anniversary Mass can contact Jen Housel, Director for Community and Family Development, at [JHousel@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:JHousel@dioceseofscranton.org) or call (570) 207-2213, x1104.

## Words of Wisdom from celebrating couples



**"Marriage isn't 50/50, it's 100/100. It's all in, all the time."**

Judy & Tedd Zenier  
Saint John Bosco Parish, Conyngham  
25th Anniversary



**"Honesty, communication, faith and a good sense of humor are key to a long, happy marriage."**

Catherine & Gerard Pinataro  
Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, Moscow  
50th Anniversary

# QUO VADIS DAYS

returns this summer



After holding virtual meetings with past *Quo Vadis* participants for over a year, the Diocesan Vocation Office is excited to be preparing for this year’s in-person experience at Marywood University in Scranton June 20-22.

The camp is designed for Catholic men in high school to deepen their faith, learn more about all vocations, and better discern God’s call in their lives. It will feature dynamic talks, prayer, games, sports, activities and music.

Participants will have the opportunity to meet Bishop Bambera, priests, college students and young adults serving on the leadership team, and seminarians of the Diocese of Scranton.

Jimmy Lavan, a senior at Holy Redeemer High School, is looking forward

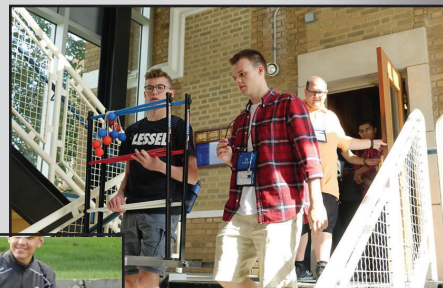
to attending the camp this summer after not being able to last year.

“*Quo Vadis Days* was the best three days of my summer in 2019,” said Lavan. “I remember sitting and praying in the chapel during Eucharistic Adoration. It was in that moment I realized I only have one life, and I have to make the most of my time on this earth. I knew that becoming even more involved with the Church would help me become the person I want to be. I’m glad I am able to attend this camp again before going to college.”

Participants can register online at [dioceseofscranton.org/vocations/quo-vadis-days-2021](http://dioceseofscranton.org/vocations/quo-vadis-days-2021).

For more information, call (570) 207-1452.

Register now for  
**QUO VADIS DAYS!**



June 20-22  
Marywood University





# Sisters of Saint Basil depart Scranton Diocese after century of service

By Sister Kathy Kurdziel, IHM  
Delegate for Religious  
Diocese of Scranton

WILKES-BARRE — On a cold night in March, parishioners of Saint Mary Byzantine Parish in Wilkes-Barre bid a virtual farewell on Facebook to Sister Theodosia Alishoski, OSBM, who had served in the parish for 27 years. She was the last Sister of Saint Basil to serve in the geographical confines of the Diocese of Scranton. Her companion in ministry at Saint Mary's, Sister Regina Adams, OSBM, had died unexpectedly the month before.

The Order of the Sisters of Saint Basil the Great, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Province, Uniontown, had ministered to the faithful of the Scranton Diocese for almost 100 years.

Founded as a new province on Jan. 19, 1921, the Feast of Theophany, three Basilian sisters moved from Philadelphia to serve the pressing needs of the newly arrived Ruthenian-Carpatho Byzantine Catholics who had arrived in the Cleveland area. Because of the pandemic of 1918, there were many orphans, and the sisters set to work caring for them and forming many young women who came to join the community.

Under the leadership of Mother Macrina, a new branch of the Sisters of Saint Basil the Great was formed. In June 1923, all the Sisters were transferred to the Saint Nicholas Orphanage built by the Greek Catholic Union in Elmhurst, Lackawanna County, to care for the parentless



**Saint Basil Sisters Theodosia Alishoski and Regina Adams**

Carpatho-Ruthenian children orphaned by the pandemic and many mining accidents. A portion of the building also housed the new community of sisters.

Later, to accommodate their growing numbers, the sisters moved to a larger facility in Factoryville. Finally they acquired an extensive property and established their Motherhouse at Uniontown. (*Excerpted from the Golden Jubilee Commemorative Book for Holy Ghost, Cleveland, Ohio, 1959*)

The young community of Basilian sisters was prayerful and hardworking, chanting the Divine Office every day of their lives. They oversaw the farm at Saint Nicholas Orphanage and cared for the many orphans entrusted to them. Finances were always a struggle, but they were fearless and focused women who seemed immune to adversity. At one point they lost all of their hard-earned, carefully saved money in a bank foreclosure.

A *Scranton Tribune* article from May 3, 1917, recounted the sisters' focus on their mission at Saint Nicholas. The writer visited them and commiserated with the sisters over the loss of their money, but noted that they seemed unconcerned, believing that Providence would care for them. Their only concern was to obtain a college scholarship for one of their very bright orphans.

Through the years, the sisters did whatever was needed to support the growing Byzantine Catholic population. They became teachers to spread the faith, pastoral ministers to

tend to the spiritual needs of the people, and liturgical musicians at the service of beautiful Byzantine liturgies; they took up ecclesiastical arts, iconography and the sewing of vestments and liturgical items. They became meticulous translators of the Old Slavonic prayers into English, and published many liturgical books. They were the custodians of the spiritual and cultural legacy of the growing Byzantine Church in the United States.

Much of their work and artistry is still in evidence in the Byzantine Catholic churches in the Scranton area. Lastly, the sisters began the Pilgrimage of Thanksgiving to the Shrine of the Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Since 1934, hundreds of Byzantine Catholics gather annually on the grounds of Mount Macrina, their Motherhouse, on Labor Day weekend to pray for their needs and celebrate their heritage. The

Pilgrimage has become a major ministry of the sisters. This yearly event is credited with helping to unify the Byzantine Catholic churches in America.

As the needs presented themselves, the sisters were called forth to newly formed Byzantine Catholic parishes and schools that sprang up in the coal towns of eastern Pennsylvania. Many vocations came to the community from the parishes located in the Scranton Diocese. The sisters often took charge of schools founded by lay parishioners and built up the pastoral and educational ministries. They were industrious, talented and capable women, and their students thrived under their creative and innovative education and kept the faith of their ancestors.

As the population of the schools began to dwindle in the 1960s, a smaller group of sisters would often stay behind in the parishes to help with catechetical, pastoral and youth ministries — as did Sister Theodosia and Sister Regina at Saint Mary's in Wilkes-Barre.

The faith-filled legacy of the Sisters of Saint Basil remains in the hearts of their students, many of whom remained lifelong members of their parishes, as the sisters staffed the small schools established in mining areas like Freeland, Pittston, Hazleton, Wilkes-Barre and Jessup. Some senior citizens may remember their early days at Saint Nicholas Orphanage in Elmhurst; some may even remember the fire



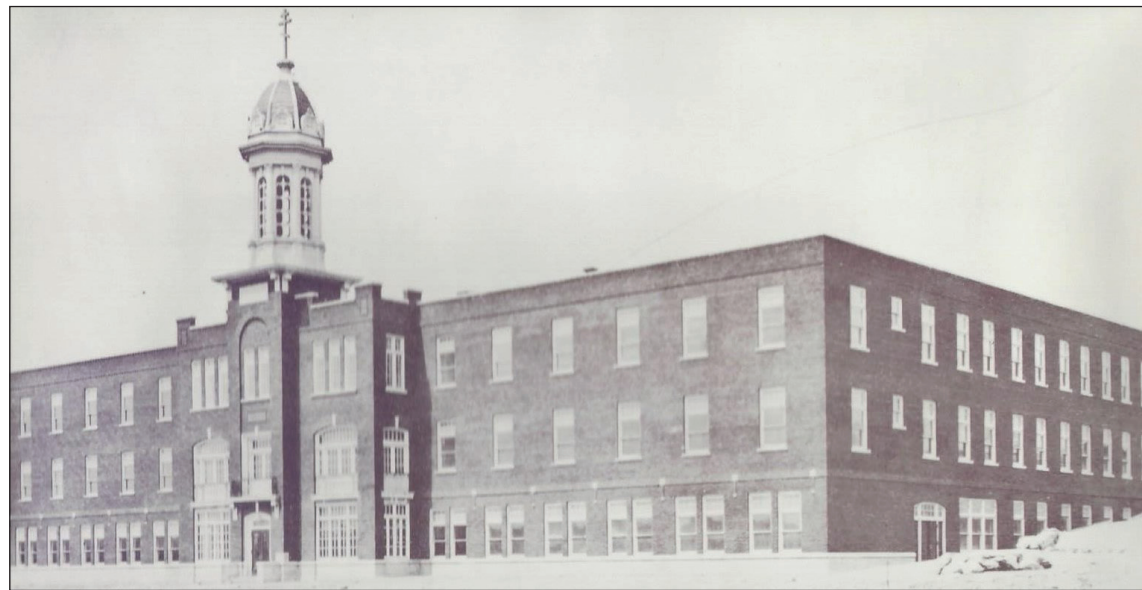
that totally destroyed the barn on the orphanage farm. Many others may be grateful for the wonderful education and skills they received from industrious teachers whose commitment and hard work helped raise them out of poverty.

Today, in the borough of Jessup, stands LaSalle Academy — the result of a merged effort combining ten local parishes to provide Catholic education for their children. One school, Holy Ghost, was originally staffed by the Sisters of Saint Basil and became part of that merger; its building, plus an addition, houses grades three to eight. The process of this merger honors the legacy of the Byzantine Catholic Church and the sisters who formed the previous school and lived in the building. It allows the traditions of the Byzantine Catholic Church to be preserved for the students. Today, LaSalle Academy has the distinction of being the only bi-ritual (both Roman and Byzantine Catholic) in the country.

We extend our prayers of gratitude to the Sisters and honor them by our fidelity to the faith they taught us.



**Mother Superior Macrina**



**Original Saint Nicholas Orphanage in Elmhurst**



# Taste & See: Catholic Youth Center begins meal kit distribution

WILKES-BARRE — Amanda Ammermann and her five-year-old daughter love to cook. They often play Disney music and dance around their kitchen while baking cookies.

Recently, coming up with nutritious dinnertime meals has become challenging for the Luzerne County mother.

“I always tell my daughter that she is going to sprout feathers because all she wants is chicken nuggets all the time,” Ammermann joked.

The mother-daughter duo is hoping their participation in a new pilot program, launched May 20 by the Wyoming Valley Catholic Youth Center, will help.

The Taste & See Meal Kit Program will provide fresh, healthy, locally sourced food to 25 families on a regular basis for one year. Working in collaboration with local chefs and other community agencies, each family will receive a recipe card and all of the needed ingredients to make a meal together at home.

“I’m really hopeful we can find some new favorites,” Ammermann said as she picked up her first meal kit.

Liz Mattern also knows the struggle of having children who do not enjoy a wide range of food. Her family has also decided to take part in the Taste & See Meal Kit Program.

“We stick with what we know so it’ll be nice to have stuff thrown in that maybe we wouldn’t have ordinarily made,” Mattern explained.

Just hours after picking up their meal kit, Mattern and her ten-year-old daughter, Davita, made the first recipe, Ritz Chicken from Jonathan’s Restaurant in Wilkes-Barre.

“This is a lifelong skill she is going to need,” Mattern said. “This is a good way to spend time together and get some real education!”



**Participants in the Taste & See Meal Kit Program receive a reusable tote bag which can be refilled with new ingredients for each meal preparation.**

In all, 94 individuals (32 adults and 62 children) will participate in the program’s first year.

“We saw a need for our families and children to have more nutritious meals at home. Our children love to be hands on and get involved in making things so we partnered with a lot of restaurants in the area and their chefs,” Mary Stec, Office Manager at the Wyoming Valley Catholic Youth Center, said. Former restaurant owner Ruth Corcoran oversaw the recipe collection and selection process.

“We teamed with Hillside Farms for our meat and dairy, and we teamed with Rowlands Pennsylvania Produce in Falls for all of our fresh vegetables and produce. They do a remarkable job so the families are really going to get a treat,” Stec said. Hillside Farms is also an educational partner for the program and will offer hands-on programs for CYC families focusing on where their food comes from and the importance of local farms.

Joanne Padilla has five people in her family. She appreciates that all of the food is



**As part of the Taste & See Meal Kit Program, participants receive a binder to store the laminated recipes they receive as they pick up their ingredients. (Photo/Eric Deabill)**

being provided so she will not have to run to the grocery store. She also is looking forward to a wide selection of recipes.

“I am excited because it might be something new that I’ve never had, so I am excited to try it,” Padilla said.

The Wyoming Valley Catholic Youth Center received a \$15,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture’s Farm to School Program to support the launch of the Taste & See Meal Kit Program. Additional funding from the Luzerne Foundation, whose Youth Advisory Committee chose the project as a winner in a grants competition, and the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation will ensure the program’s success.

“As a provider of more than 10,000 meals a month to children in poverty, the Catholic Youth Center is keenly aware of the challenges families face in terms of putting a balanced and nutritious meal on the table,” Ryan Smith, CYC Program Executive, said. “This innovative program will help each family become more aware of basic nutritional principles and habits.”

As they make the meals together, participating families will be encouraged to take and share photos, provide feedback on the recipes and complete educational family challenges while they learn more about nutrition.

“My hope is that it will bring families closer together as far as making meals and spending time together while also realizing the nutritional value of eating healthier as a family. It all starts by example,”

Stec said.

“This program will really be a win-win, not only for the families participating but also the local farmers who are partnering with us and the CYC itself,” Smith added. “If our families are able to prepare healthier meals at home on a consistent basis, our entire community benefits. We’re excited to get this program started.”

As part of the program, the CYC also plans to expand its on-site garden so that the agency can engage all of its students in the acts of growing and cultivating their own food.



**Mary Stec, Office Manager at the Wyoming Valley Catholic Youth Center, distributes the first meal kit to Liz Mattern and her daughter, Davita, on Thursday, May 20, 2021.**



**Just hours after receiving their first meal kit, Davita Mattern, 10, helped her mother prepare and enjoy the program’s first recipe, Ritz Chicken.**



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 was 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

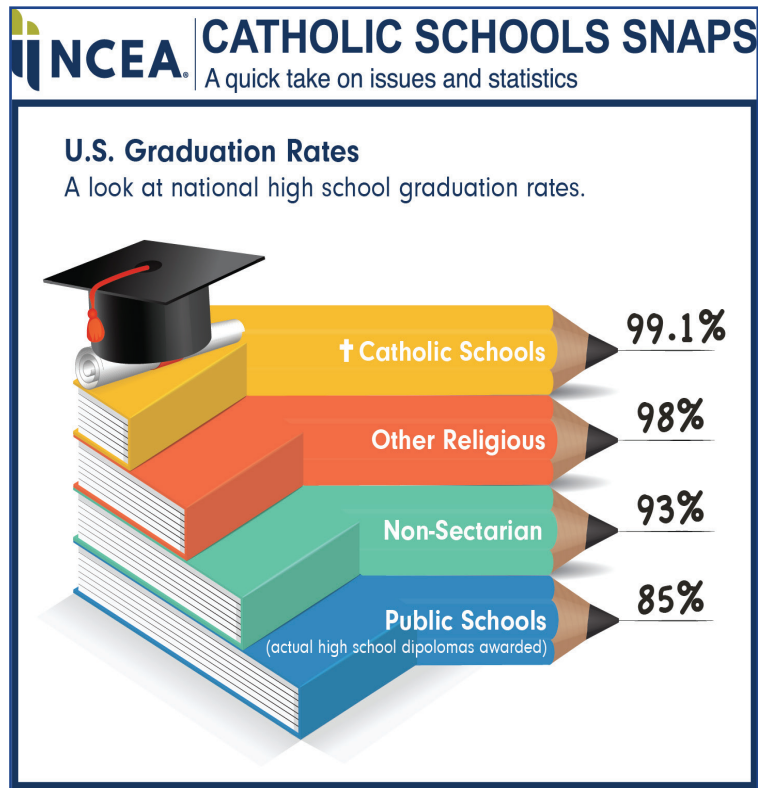
accomplish.

"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.



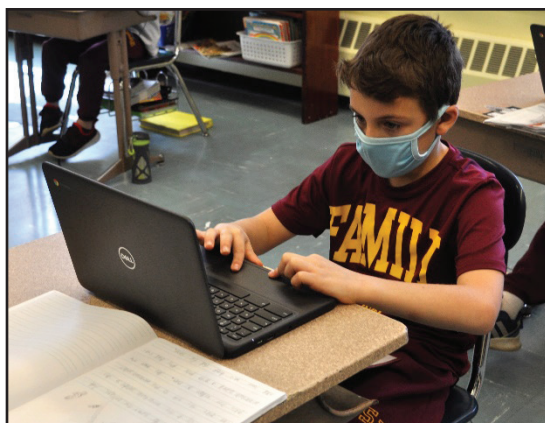
The kindergarten class at **Holy Family Academy in Hazleton** celebrated the sunny weather by creating pictures of sunflowers.



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.



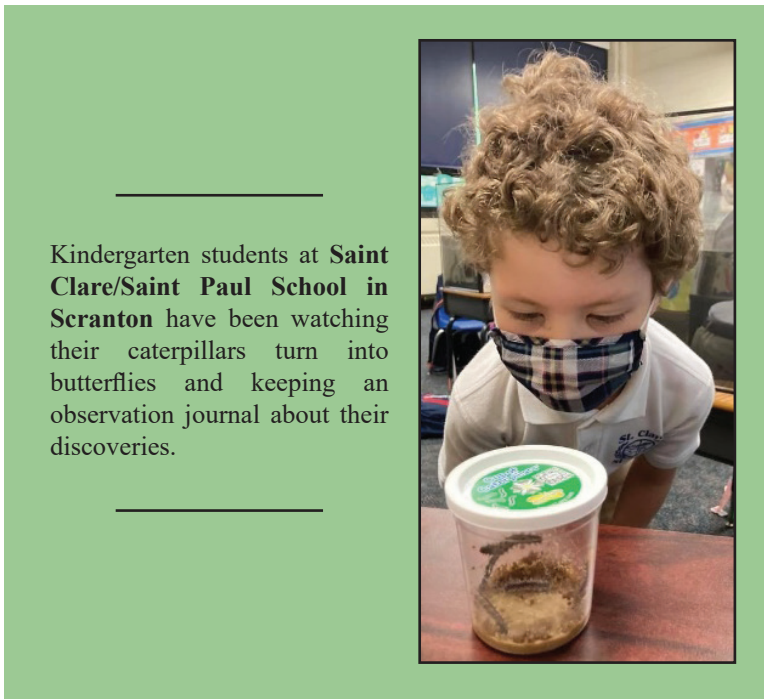
Just before graduation, the 12th graders at **Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre** pose for “Senior Future Path Day.” Students dressed down in apparel featuring the college/university or military branch that awaits them.



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.



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



# Court's decision to take up abortion case brings issue front and center

WASHINGTON (CNS) – When the Supreme Court decided May 17 to take up a challenge to a Mississippi abortion law, it brought abortion back to the front burner months before the court will hear oral arguments about it this fall.

The court's announcement was not unexpected. For months, people on both sides of the issue have been wondering when the court would take up the Mississippi appeal and speculating about why there was a delay.

The case initially came to the court in 2020. The justices repeatedly rescheduled, reviewing it until this past January, and then they still considered it 12 more times before announcing they would take it up next term.

Their agreement to hear the appeal means at least four of the nine justices found it had merit.

The case, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, is an appeal from Mississippi to keep its ban on abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy, which was struck down by a federal district court in Mississippi in 2018 and upheld a year later by the New Orleans-based U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit.

In announcing they would take this case, the Supreme Court justices said they would only review one of the three questions presented to them: "Whether all previability prohibitions on elective abortions are unconstitutional."

The viability aspect, when a fetus is said to be able to survive on its own, is key here because the Supreme Court has consistently ruled that states cannot restrict abortion before the 24-week mark. The ban on abortions after 15 weeks is more restrictive than current law.

Although the Mississippi case is not asking the court to overrule *Roe v. Wade* -- the 1973 court case which legalized abortion -- people on both sides of the issue are expressing either alarm or elation that this could happen.

If the court sides with Mississippi,



**Pro-life demonstrators argue with supporters of legal abortion outside of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington March 4, 2020. (CNS photo/Tom Brenner, Reuters)**

it would be the first time the court would allow an abortion ban before the point of viability and could lay the groundwork for other abortion restrictions which other states could follow or it could push states to enact more abortion restrictions.

Besides Mississippi, 15 other states have tried to ban abortions before viability, but they have been blocked in court, according to the Guttmacher Institute, which conducts research on abortion and reproductive health.

In a May 19 opinion piece in *The Wall Street Journal*, Clarke Forsythe, senior counsel at Americans United for Life, said: "Many Americans might be surprised to know that since *Roe* in 1973, the Supreme Court hasn't addressed an actual abortion prohibition that applied before fetal viability." He also said many scholars "on both sides of the abortion issue agree that the high court has never given an adequate rationale for its viability rule."

Kat Talalas, assistant director for pro-life communications at the U.S. Conference

of Catholic Bishops, said this is the biggest abortion case to come before the court in almost 30 years. She was referring to the court's 1992 decision in *Casey v. Planned Parenthood*, which affirmed *Roe* and also stressed that a state regulation on abortion could not impose an "undue burden" for a woman "seeking an abortion before the fetus attains viability."

Talas said the justices in the Mississippi case could establish criteria other than viability, such as fetal pain, to restrict abortions or they could "overturn *Roe* and *Casey* (decisions) completely."

A brief submitted to the court from the Mississippi Catholic dioceses of Jackson and Biloxi urging the justices to take this case similarly stressed the need to consider fetal pain. It said the court should "find that the state's interest in protecting unborn

children who have the capacity to feel pain is sufficiently compelling to support a limited prohibition on abortion."

The brief also urged that a "sense of morality, and indeed, logic, must prevail in the courts on this issue. How is it that Mississippi law recognizes that an unborn baby can be a victim of a crime, and can have property rights, and yet the label of personhood at 15 weeks gestation is denied them?"

What the court will do, of course, remains a mystery. Many legal experts and advocates on both sides of the issue expect the court will chip away the *Roe* decision.

In anticipating this could eventually happen, 10 states have what are called "trigger laws," which in effect that would automatically ban abortions in the first and second trimesters if the *Roe* decision is overturned.

Plenty have pointed out this is the first abortion case before the court since the appointment of Justice Amy Coney Barrett, and many see her as sympathetic to anti-abortion legislation.

With the timing of an opinion in this case, before the end of June next year, politics also could play a role with the country heading into midterm elections.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki told reporters May 17 after the court said it was taking up this case that the administration was "committed to codifying" *Roe* but did not say how legislation supporting that would get through a divided Congress.

Commentators have said it is unlikely that Congress will be able to pass a law keeping the precedent set by the *Roe* decision because it would require the votes of at least 10 Republican senators and so far, only Republican Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska have said they would support it.

## Pennsylvania Catholic Conference calls for end to experiments with aborted babies

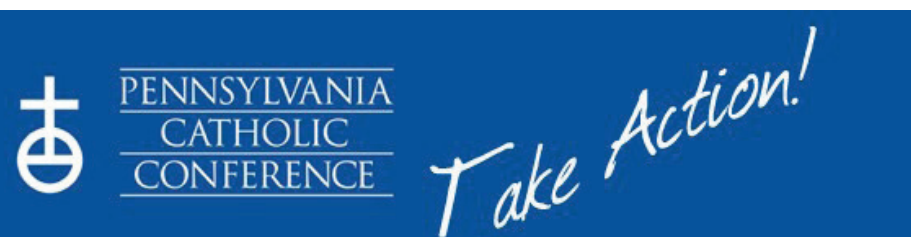
HARRISBURG — The PA Catholic Conference (PCC) on May 7, 2021, called on the University of Pittsburgh to stop all experiments with aborted babies and for Pennsylvania lawmakers to open a full investigation into the extent of this practice.

"We are horrified by reports that researchers at the school used scalps from aborted babies to create so-called 'humanized mice' for research," said PCC Executive Director Eric Failing. "This information was disclosed in a study

published by the school and in testimony this week before the PA House Health Committee. And this is all done with the backing of Pennsylvania taxpayers."

"We are heartbroken that this has been happening and will do all we can to shed light on this practice that flies in the faith of what we and many other pro-life Christians believe," said Failing.

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference is based in Harrisburg and is the public affairs arm of PA's Catholic bishops.



The Pennsylvania House Health Committee was scheduled to consider a package of pro-life bills on Tuesday of this week. If approved, the bills could make their way to the full House of Representatives for consideration.

Here are the three bills and what they call for:

- HB 118, the Final Disposition of Fetal Remains Act, which would give parents the option of burial or cremation after the death of their unborn baby
- HB 1500, the Down Syndrome Protection Act, which would protect a child from being killed if he or she has been diagnosed with Down syndrome.
- HB 904, the Fetal Heartbeat Bill, which would prohibit an abortion once a heartbeat is detected in the unborn baby.

Please help remind legislators that life is a very precious gift that is of fundamental importance for us all to protect.



SCRANTON – Rob Williams is not someone who seeks the spotlight or recognition. When it comes his way, he always tries to redirect the attention to the organization he leads.

A perfect example of that came in April when Williams, Executive Director of the Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen & Food and Clothing Pantry, was named ‘Community Servant of the Year’ by the Lackawanna Bar Association.

“I was very surprised and happy,” Williams told *The Catholic Light* in a recent interview. “I do what I do not for acknowledgment or to be noticed. I just keep trying to follow God’s will and do what He is asking me to do.”

Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen serves the poor and vulnerable in the Scranton area by providing a free, hot, nutritious meal to guests everyday of the year. Staff strive to be of assistance to others and serve with a spirit of compassion, respect and dignity.

Williams became the kitchen’s first ‘lay leader’ in 2019. Prior to arriving in Scranton, he spent 20 years in Youth and Young Adult Ministry in the Diocese of Harrisburg.

“I love doing what I do and I feel called by God. I really do believe I’m here right



**Rob Williams, left, receives the ‘Community Servant of the Year’ award from Thomas P. Cummings, Esq., President of the Lackawanna Bar Association Board of Directors outside of Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen in Scranton.**

now in this place, right now in this moment by God’s invitation,” he explained.

Williams often cites the vision Monsignor Constantine Siconolfi had in 1978 when the kitchen first opened its doors.

“Monsignor Siconolfi put it well when he said: ‘Keep it simple, the message is that we feed the poor and the hungry. That is what we’re about,’” Williams reflected.

The last 14 months have been anything but simple.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced the kitchen to change its method of operating but the organization easily adapted to the challenges. That makes the recognition of Williams by the Lackawanna Bar Association even more special.

“We stayed open every single day during the pandemic. We didn’t miss a beat in the last year in terms of serving the poor and the vulnerable,” Williams said.

In March 2020, at the beginning of the coronavirus, Saint Francis Kitchen transitioned its “sit down” meals to “take out” meals. The dining room reopened this Easter for people to eat inside and enjoy fellowship.

“It doesn’t matter how we deliver the food, as long as we keep delivering the food,” Williams explained.

Williams says the kitchen would not have been able to continue its mission without its volunteers. Because of the pandemic, a small core group of volunteers helped everything stay afloat.

“We had volunteers that were spending three or four hours a day, for five or six days a week for ten or eleven months,” Williams

explained. “It is extraordinary. It blows me away to witness their generosity. It is not just God working through me. It’s me witnessing God working through all those folks.”

Williams says God’s desire is what is most important.

“It is not just good people doing good things. We are working on behalf of God and the Church. This is a real, tangible expression of God’s love, of the Gospel message incarnated,” Williams expressed.

Saint Francis Kitchen just completed its 2021 “Host for a Day” fundraising campaign. Williams describes the effort as “wildly successful.”

Receiving more than 1,000 individual donations, the event is the kitchen’s biggest fundraiser of the year.

“People’s generosity in the last year or two has been phenomenal,” he said.

As he looks toward the future, post coronavirus, the father of four only sees bright days ahead for Saint Francis Kitchen.

“We are going to come out of the pandemic stronger,” he said. When asked about his role in making the kitchen stay successful, Williams replied, “the main part of my role is to be the keeper of the vision and the animator of the mission!”

## Pope asks all Catholics to step up commitment to saving creation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – To help lead the world’s Catholics along a journey of intensified action in caring for creation, Pope Francis asked everyone to join a new global grassroots movement to create a more inclusive, fraternal, peaceful and sustainable world.

The new initiative, the Laudato Si’ Action Platform, is “a seven-year journey that will see our communities committed in different ways to becoming totally sustainable, in the spirit of integral ecology,” the pope said in a video message released May 25.

“We need a new ecological approach that can transform our way of dwelling in the world, our lifestyles, our relationship with the resources of the Earth and, in general, our way of looking at humanity and of living life,” he said.

This can only come about by everyone working together in a coordinated effort, he said. “Only in this way will we be able to create the future we want: a more inclusive, fraternal, peaceful and sustainable world.”

The pope’s message was released on the last day of Laudato Si’ Week - the “crowning event” of a special Laudato Si’ Anniversary Year, which closed May 24.

But the end of anniversary celebrations of Pope Francis’ 2015 encyclical, “Laudato Si’, on Care for Our Common Home,” ushered in a new wave of initiatives including a new website in nine languages at [laudatosi.va](http://laudatosi.va) and an action platform at [laudatosiplatform.com](http://laudatosiplatform.com).



**Puerto Rico’s El Yunque National Forest is seen in this 2012 file photo. The encyclical, “Laudato Si’, on Care for our Common Home,” encourages “a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet.” (CNS photo/Octavio Duran)**

org as part of a “road map” of action for the next decade.

The platform is meant to help those who want to increase their commitment to bringing “Laudato Si’” to life by promising a set of actions over a period of seven years.

Integral ecology requires every member of the wider church to contribute their skills and work together on common goals, which is why the platform specifically invites: families; parishes and dioceses; schools and universities; hospitals and health care centers; workers, businesses and farms; organizations, groups and movements; and religious orders. People can register May 25-Oct. 4 to assess what they are doing now and to see how they can further contribute to the seven Laudato Si’ goals.

Those goals are: responding to the cry of the Earth and environmental degradation; responding to the cry of the poor and vulnerable; creating an ecological-

sustainable economy; adopting simple lifestyles; supporting ecological education; promoting ecological spirituality; and building community awareness, participation and action.

Choosing the biblical time frame of seven years “enables us to work slowly but surely without being obsessed with immediate results,” said Salesian Father Joshtrom Kureethadam, coordinator of the “ecology and creation” desk at the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

“We envisage the first year to be dedicated to the three fundamental tasks of community building, resource sharing and drawing up concrete action plans for each of the Laudato Si’ goals,” followed by five years of solid concrete action and a final year as a sabbatical year “to praise and thank God,” he said May 25 at a Vatican news conference, unveiling the new projects.

The strategy, he said, is to create a

snowball effect by enrolling increasingly larger numbers of groups each year “to create the critical mass needed” for achieving real change in the world.

“The good news is that the critical mass is not a very big number. Sociologists tell us that if you reach 3.5% of a group” or community, “we have the critical mass. That’s what Mahatma Gandhi did, that’s what Nelson Mandela did,” Father Kureethadam said.

Cardinal Peter Turkson, the dicastery’s prefect, said at the news conference that “we must look at the world we are leaving to our children, to future generations.”

“We no longer have time to wait or postpone action,” he said, underlining the need to listen to and partner with science, young people and the poor.

“Pope Francis has invited all of us to join forces, to dream and prepare the future” by creating economic models for a world built on social equity and ecological sustainability, the cardinal wrote in his prepared remarks.

“It is time to embrace new opportunities. There is no sustainability without fairness, without justice and without involving everyone,” he wrote.

“There is hope,” the pope said in his video message.

“We can all collaborate, each one with his own culture and experience, each one with her own initiatives and capacities, so that our mother Earth may be restored to her original beauty and creation may once again shine according to God’s plan,” the pope said.



# Vatican revises synod process, beginning with local consultation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Approving the revision of the entire process of the Synod of Bishops, Pope Francis has asked that it begin with serious, widespread consultations with laypeople on the diocesan level.

“In reality, without this consultation there would be no synodal process, because the discernment of pastors, which constitutes the second phase, emerges from listening to the people of God,” Cardinal Mario Grech, secretary-general of the Synod of Bishops, told Vatican News May 21.

The cardinal’s office issued a statement that day explaining how the next general assembly of the Synod of Bishops would work, noting that the broader consultation on the diocesan, national and regional levels would mean that the gathering of representative bishops from around the world would take place at the Vatican in October 2023 rather than in 2022, as previously scheduled.

The theme chosen by Pope Francis for the gathering is: “For a synodal church: communion, participation and mission.”

The pope will formally open the synod process at the Vatican Oct. 9-10 this year, the synod office said. And the bishop of every diocese will open the process in his diocese Oct. 17.

The diocesan phase will go through April 2022, featuring a consultation with local Catholics discussing a preparatory document and questionnaire that the synod office will send out along with guidelines for how the consultation should work.

“For a long time, there was talk of communion as a constitutive element of the church,” Cardinal Grech told Vatican News. “Today it is clear that this communion is either synodal or it is not communion at all.”



**Cardinal Christoph Schonborn of Vienna, center, and bishops from around the world walk in procession from St. Peter's Basilica at the start of the Synod of Bishops for the Amazon at the Vatican in this Oct. 7, 2019, file photo. Pope Francis has approved a revision of the process for the celebrations of the Synod of Bishops, emphasizing the need to expand reflections and consultations on a diocesan level. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)**

However, he said, for there to be true communion within the church everyone must participate, “each according to his or her own function: people of God, College of Bishops, bishop of Rome.”

“Perhaps in the past there has been so much insistence on the ‘communio hierarchica’ (communion of the hierarchy) that there arose the idea that unity in the church could only be achieved by strengthening the authority of pastors,” Cardinal Grech said. While that may be an important emphasis when faced with dissent, “that cannot be the ordinary way of living ecclesial communion, which requires circularity, reciprocity, journeying together

with respect to the various functions of the people of God.”

“The Second Vatican Council teaches that the people of God participate in the prophetic office of Christ,” he said. “Therefore, we must listen to the people of God, and this means going out to the local churches.”

“The governing principle of this consultation of the people of God is contained in the ancient principle ‘that which touches upon all must be approved by all’ -- ‘Quod omnes tangit ab omnibus approbari debet,’” the cardinal said. “This is not about democracy, or populism or anything like that. Rather, it is the church

that as the people of God, a people who by virtue of baptism, is an active subject in the life and mission of the church.”

Listening to every Catholic is “the true ‘pastoral conversion’ of the church,” Cardinal Grech said. “God willing, one of the fruits of the synod is that we might all understand that a decision-making process in the church always begins with listening, because only in this way can we understand how and where the Spirit wants to lead the church.”

Once the diocesan consultations have concluded, members of national bishops’ conferences should have “a period of discernment” so they can “listen to what the Spirit has inspired in the churches entrusted to them.” A synthesis of that reflection should be sent to the Vatican’s synod secretariat by April 2022.

The new indications also envision “continental” reflections between April 2022 and March 2023.

All the listening sessions and discernment are meant to assist participants, mainly bishops, who will meet at the general assembly of the synod in October 2023.

“We must not forget that the moment of discernment is entrusted above all to those bishops who are gathered in the assembly,” the cardinal said.

“Some may say that this is clericalism,” the cardinal said, but it is not, because in the church, bishops have “a function of discernment, which belongs to them because of the ministry they carry out for the good of the church.”

“The strength” of the new process, he said, is found “in the reciprocity between consultation and discernment. There lies the fruitful principle that can lead to furthering development of synodality, of the synodal church and of the Synod of Bishops.”

## Say ‘yes’ to the Holy Spirit, ‘no’ to divisive ideologies, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The Holy Spirit’s gift of comfort and solace is meant to unite all men and women and not take sides with any ideology, Pope Francis said on Pentecost.

Celebrating Mass May 23 at the main altar in St. Peter’s Basilica, the pope said those who listen to the Holy Spirit are not “concerned with conservatives and progressives, traditionalists and innovators, right and left.”

If adherence to an ideology becomes “our criteria, then the church has forgotten the Spirit,” he added.

The Holy Spirit “impels us to unity, to harmony, to the harmony of diversity. He makes us see ourselves as parts of the same body, brothers and sisters of one another,” the pope said. “Let us look to the whole! The

enemy wants diversity to become opposition and so he makes them become ideologies. Say no to ideologies, yes to the whole.”

With pandemic restrictions slowly easing in Rome and across Italy, the Sunday Mass was celebrated in St. Peter’s Basilica with an estimated 1,000 people.

Reflecting on the feast of Pentecost, the pope said the use of the word “Paraclete” is not only meant to describe the Holy Spirit as an “advocate” but also as a “comforter,” especially in “times of difficulty like those we are presently experiencing due to the pandemic.”

The comforts of the world, he explained, are like a pain reliever that offers only temporary relief but does not “cure the illness we carry deep within.”

“Only someone who makes us feel

loved for who we are can give peace to our hearts. The Holy Spirit, the love of God, does precisely that,” the pope said. “He is the very love of God, who does not abandon us, for being present to those who are alone is itself a source of comfort.”

In turn, Christians are called to “embody the comfort he brings” and to be near to others “not with trite words, but with prayer and closeness,” he said.

The Holy Spirit, he added, is telling the church that today is a “time for comforting” and more joyfully proclaiming the Gospel rather than “combatting paganism” or “lamenting the drama of secularization.”

“It is the time for pouring out love upon the world, yet not embracing worldliness,” the pope said. “It is more the time for testifying to mercy, than for inculcating

rules and regulations. It is the time of the Paraclete. It is the time of freedom of heart, in the Paraclete.”

Continuing his homily, Pope Francis said that while the spirit of the Evil One deceives all to “yield to the allure and promptings of vice,” the Holy Spirit is “the spirit of truth” that brings “thoughts and feelings” without forcing or imposing.

The Holy Spirit affirms to Christians “the primacy of today,” which means living “in the present” and not being “paralyzed by rancor or memories of the past” nor fearful of the future, the pope said.

In affirming the “primacy of the whole,” he continued, the Holy Spirit does not “mold isolated individuals” but rather “shapes us into a church in the wide variety of our charisms, into a unity that is never uniformity.”



# Women called to this year's Catholic Women's Conference "With Merciful Love"

*For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You (Ps 86:5)*

SCRANTON — The organizers of the 2021 Catholic Women's Conference are calling out to all women to join them for this year's conference, "With Merciful Love."

After being cancelled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference returns with a powerful message about God's merciful love and how women of all ages — and from all walks of life — can experience divine mercy and rediscover God's infinite love for them.

The event will take place Saturday, June 19, 2021, with limited in-person seating under a tent on the grounds of Marywood University. An unlimited number of women can also participate in the conference virtually so invite friends near and far!

The day will begin with opening remarks at 8 a.m. followed

by Mass with Bishop Joseph C. Bambera at 8:30 a.m. After a short break, featured speaker Father Chris Alar will explain the "merciful love" that comes from the Divine Mercy feast, image, novena, chaplet and hour of mercy. Father Alar will also provide inspiration on how to incorporate them into your spiritual life.

Following the Rosary and lunch, keynote speaker Theresa Bonopartis will take the stage to share her deeply personal story of guilt, shame, healing and ultimate redemption through Divine Mercy. Anyone who feels estranged from God and their faith will take heart in Theresa's journey and find the faith and strength to begin their own healing journey.

The afternoon will continue with Sister Virginia Joy of the Sisters of Life religious order. She will share with attendees the

special mission of the Sisters of Life: to help reveal to each person their own innate goodness, the particular love God has for them, and invite them to something greater — a life of truth, joy, and hope.

The day will begin to wind down by celebrating Eucharistic Adoration with Father Alar and music performed by Christian

music artist Taylor Tripodi. The conference concludes at 4 p.m. with the announcement of raffle winners and a musical finale with Taylor Tripodi.

In-person participants will enjoy a continental breakfast, lunch and shopping at the Catholic Vendor Marketplace. Virtual attendees can enjoy the conference remotely from the location of their choice.

The cost to attend the conference is \$40 for in-person and \$20 for virtual. Student tickets are \$20, and women religious are welcome free of charge. Volunteers are always needed and those who sign up for four hours at the conference will receive a free ticket. For more information and to register, visit [cwcnepa.com](http://cwcnepa.com).



Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish held its second annual Potato Pancake Festival on the weekend of May 22-23. In order to make sure everyone remained safe, the event was held in a drive-thru fashion. Hundreds of hungry customers were served by the parish.

## Prayer Requests for Priests

The Daily Prayer Request for Priests schedule for the upcoming weeks is as follows:

May 27, Monsignor Dale Rupert; May 28, Father John Ruth; May 29, Passionist Father Paul Ruttle; May 30, Holy Cross Father John Ryan; May 31, Father Christopher Sahd; June 1, Pope Francis; June 2, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI; June 3, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; June 4, Father Thomas Sarnecki; June 5, Father Arbogaste Satoun; June 6, Father Kenneth Seegar; June 7, Monsignor John Sempa; June 8, Father Gerald Shantillo, V.E.; June 9, Saint Joseph Oblate Father Joseph Sibilano; June 10, Monsignor Constantine Siconolfi; June 11, Father Shawn Simchock; June 12, Father Robert Simon; June 13, Father Andrew Sinnott; June 14, Father Joseph Sitko; June 15, Father Phillip Sladicka; June 16, Father Casimir Stanis; June 17, Father Stephen Stavoy; June 18, Father Scott Sterowski; June 19, Saint Peter Priestly Fraternity Father Michael Stinson; June 20, Jesuit Father Daniel Sweeney; June 21, Saint Joseph Oblate Father Raymond Tabon.



Catholic Women's Conference  
Saturday, June 19, 2021  
Marywood University\*  
\$40 In person/\$20 Virtual



Theresa  
Bonopartis



Father  
Chris Alar



Sister  
Virginia Joy



Music  
Taylor Tripodi



Hostess  
Jeannine Lesante

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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# Tickets x \$40 Live or \$20 Virtual = \_\_\_\_\_

Make the check out to the Diocese of Scranton. Mail to:  
Stephanie Westington, Treasurer  
Refresh Your Faith Conference  
P.O. Box 202, Dunmore, PA 18512

\*Outdoor tented seating with social distancing protocols in place



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## Mission Message

# Go Forth

By Father Brian J.T. Clarke  
Diocesan Director,  
Pontifical Mission Societies



The piccolo matters, and so do you.

Sir Michael Costa, a well-known Italian-born conductor of the 19th century, was known for his prolific composition of musical scores and his keen conducting style. That said, he is perhaps best known for a simple rebuke of his orchestra that has led its way into the storied history of musicians. His rebuke of his team of musicians has turned into a launching point in rhetoric to remind people that each person has a part to play in the symphony that is life.

While leading an orchestra with a choir adding to the throng, a blaring organ added to the thunderous music and filled the music hall. As he conducted, Sir Michael halted the rehearsal abruptly and shouted, "where is the piccolo?"

Apparently, with the swell of impressive music, blaring trumpets and the crescendo of the organ, the piccolo player thought to himself,

"what's the use...I can't contribute to this overwhelming sound." It did matter that he played his part. It mattered to the conductor and it certainly mattered to the musical composition that very deliberately called for the piccolo to play.

I never want to sound trite or kitschy, but what about you? Do you play your part in life, whether it's the blaring organ or trumpet, or the seemingly insignificant piccolo? Someone listens and is waiting for each of us to play our part in the "symphony of life" which God has composed and which the Holy Spirit inspires.

As we have brought to a close the Easter Season with the celebration of the Solemnity of Pentecost, we are reminded that God has very purposefully and willfully brought us into being. Not all of us can play the big parts that are most "noteworthy" and noticeable.

However, when it all comes together, each part is not only significant, but also necessary. The liturgical readings of Mass at Pentecost bring this issue home: "To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit" (1 Cor 12:5). I hope we hear that and take it to heart.

Yes, the mission of the Church demands that everyone plays a part in solidifying the message of salvation and the joy of the

Gospel into everyday life. The manifestation of the Holy Spirit is given to each of us "for some benefit." This benefit is certainly for us as God's beloved children, but it's given to benefit the world around us.

Each of us must take up the mantle that God has given to us for some benefit. Our voice may be quiet, we may feel insignificant and lack charisma; nevertheless, God has chosen us, whether bold or meek, to share the joyful message of the Gospel.

The good news...the great news...is that we never do so alone and we are not left to our own devices in this most holy and awesome pursuit. The Holy Spirit is our inspiration, and drawing from Him our strength and our sole source of inspiration, we can play our part, whether it's the blaring trumpet or the seemingly humble chirps of the piccolo.

God chooses to "need" us in His continued plan for winning souls for Him. As tongues of fire opened the mouths of the apostles to speak foreign tongues to reach each corner of the world, so God touches us with His divine Grace to do likewise.

Whether we are bold or meek, we play a part in this pursuit; so, play your part. Never put God in a place to ask, "Where is the piccolo?"

## Apostleship of Prayer

Papal Intention for June 2021

### The Beauty of Marriage —

Let us pray for young people who are preparing for marriage with the support of a Christian community: may they grow in love, with generosity, faithfulness and patience.



# Pope appeals for peace in Holy Land, says death of children 'unacceptable'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The injury and death of so many innocent people, especially children, caused by escalating violence between Israel and the Gaza Strip is “terrible and unacceptable,” putting the area at risk of sinking into “a spiral of death and destruction,” Pope Francis said.

The pope launched an appeal for calm and asked leaders of both sides “to put a stop to the roar of weapons and to follow the paths of peace, even with the help of the international community,” he said May 16 after reciting the “Regina Coeli” prayer with hundreds of people in St. Peter’s Square.

“Many people have been injured and many innocent people have died. Among them are even children, and this is terrible and unacceptable. Their death is a sign that one does not want to build the future, but wants to destroy it,” he said.

On May 21, a cease-fire brokered by Egypt between Israel and Hamas went into effect and brought a halt to the violence. But the Palestinian ambassador to the Holy See told *Catholic News Service* in an interview true peace can only be achieved if both sides if both sides are recognized as equals.

The growing hatred and violence in different cities in Israel “is a serious wound to fraternity and to peaceful coexistence among citizens, which will be difficult to heal if we do not open immediately to dialogue,” the pope said, asking, “Where will hatred and vengeance lead? Do we really think we can build peace by destroying the other?”

The pope appealed for calm, and constant prayers so that “Israelis and Palestinians may find the path of dialogue and forgiveness, to be patient builders of peace and justice, opening up, step by step, to a common hope, to a coexistence among brothers and sisters.”

He then led those gathered in the square in praying the Hail Mary for the victims, the children and for peace.

Meanwhile, the head of the Vatican’s press office, Matteo Bruni, confirmed that Pope Francis spoke over the telephone May 17



**Rescuers carry Suzy Eshkuntana, 6, as they pull her from the rubble of a building at the site of Israeli airstrikes in Gaza City May 16, 2021. (CNS photo/Mohammed Salem, Reuters)**



**Smoke rises during an Israeli airstrike in Gaza City May 20, 2021. (CNS photo/Ahmed Jadallah, Reuters)**

with Turkey’s President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

While the Vatican did not comment on the content of the conversation, the Turkish communications department said the two leaders discussed the

ongoing attacks.

According to a written statement reported by Andalou Agency, Erdogan said Israel’s attacks were an atrocity and that the latest violations were putting regional security in danger.

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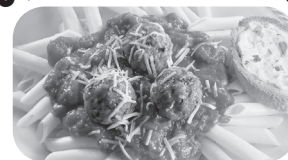
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# Cardinal Ladaria cautions U.S. bishops on politicians and Communion

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has urged the U.S. bishops to proceed with caution in their discussions about formulating a national policy “to address the situation of Catholics in public office who support legislation allowing abortion, euthanasia or other moral evils.”

Cardinal Luis Ladaria, congregation prefect, reiterated what he said he had told several groups of U.S. bishops during their 2019-2020 “ad limina” visits, namely that “the effective development of a policy in this area requires that dialogue occurs in two stages: first among the bishops themselves, and then between bishops and Catholic pro-choice politicians within their jurisdictions.”

In the letter to Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Cardinal Ladaria also insisted: such a policy cannot usurp the authority of an individual bishop in his diocese on the matter; the policy would require near unanimity; and it would be “misleading” to present abortion and euthanasia as “the only grave matters of Catholic moral and social teaching that demand the fullest level of accountability on the part of Catholics.”

The letter, dated May 7 and obtained by Catholic News Service in Rome, said it was in response to a letter from Archbishop Gomez informing the doctrinal congregation that the bishops were preparing to address the situation of Catholic politicians and “the worthiness to receive holy Communion.”

Cardinal Ladaria warned that without the unanimity of the bishops, a national policy, “given its possibly contentious nature,” could “become a source of discord rather than unity within the episcopate and the larger church in the United States.”

The cardinal also suggested the discussion “would best be framed within the broad context of worthiness for the reception of holy Communion on the part of all the faithful, rather than only one category of Catholics, reflecting their obligation to conform their lives to the entire Gospel of Jesus Christ as they prepare to receive the sacrament.”

Given the importance of the issue, which goes beyond the boundaries of the United States, Cardinal Ladaria also said, “Every effort should be made to dialogue

with other episcopal conferences as this policy is formulated in order both to learn from one another and to preserve unity in the universal church.”

The cardinal’s letter also mentioned a reference by Archbishop Gomez to a letter then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger sent in 2004 to then-Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington about Catholic politicians and Communion. The letter, Cardinal Ladaria said, was in “the form of a private communication” to the bishops and should be read only in the context of the formal 2002, “Doctrinal note on some questions regarding the participation of Catholics in political life.”

When the U.S. bishops made their “ad limina” visits to the Vatican in 2004, Cardinal Ladaria said, “it was clear that there was a lack of agreement regarding the issue of Communion among the bishops.”

“At that time, the development of a national policy was not under consideration, and Cardinal Ratzinger offered general principles on the worthy reception of holy Communion in order to assist local ordinaries in the United States in their dealings with Catholic pro-choice politicians within their jurisdictions,” he said.

“Cardinal Ratzinger’s communication,” he said, “should thus be discussed only within the context of the authoritative doctrinal note which provides the teaching of the magisterium on the theological foundation for any initiative regarding the question of worthy reception of holy Communion.”

The 2002 note said, “Those who are directly involved in lawmaking bodies have a ‘grave and clear obligation to oppose’ any law that attacks human life. For them, as for every Catholic, it is impossible to promote such laws or to vote for them.”

The 2002 note did not, however, mention reception of the Eucharist.

Cardinal Ratzinger’s 2004 letter, which was never published by the Vatican, said, “Regarding the grave sin of abortion or euthanasia, when a person’s formal cooperation becomes manifest -- understood in the case of a Catholic politician as his consistently campaigning and voting for permissive abortion and euthanasia laws -- his pastor should meet with him, instructing him about the church’s teaching, informing him that he is not to present himself for

holy Communion until he brings to an end the objective situation of sin and warning him that he will otherwise be denied the Eucharist.”

“When ‘these precautionary measures have not had their effect or in which they were not possible,’ and the person in question, with obstinate persistence, still presents himself to receive the holy Eucharist, ‘the minister of holy Communion must refuse to distribute it,’” Cardinal Ratzinger wrote, quoting from a declaration of the Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts on the issue of Communion for divorced and civilly remarried Catholics.

Writing to Archbishop Gomez, Cardinal Ladaria said the U.S. bishops need an “extensive and serene dialogue” among themselves and between individual bishops and Catholic politicians in their dioceses who do not support the fullness of the church’s teaching to understand “the nature of their positions and their comprehension of Catholic teaching.”

Only after both dialogues, the cardinal said, the bishops’ conference “would face the difficult task of discerning the best way forward for the church in the United States to witness to the grave moral responsibility of Catholic public officials to protect human life at all stages.”

“If it is then decided to formulate a national policy on worthiness for Communion, such a statement would need to express a true consensus of the bishops on the matter, while observing the prerequisite that any provisions of the conference in this area would respect the rights of individual ordinaries in their dioceses and the prerogatives of the Holy See,” the cardinal said, citing St. John Paul II’s 1998 document on bishops’ conferences.

Cardinal Ladaria specifically pointed to paragraphs 22 of the document, “Apostolos Suos,” which says bishops’ conferences may publish doctrinal declarations when they are “approved unanimously,” but “a majority alone” is not enough for publication without the approval of the Vatican.

He also cited paragraph 24, which says the bishops’ conference cannot hinder an individual bishop’s authority in his diocese “by substituting themselves inappropriately for him, where the canonical legislation does not provide for a limitation of his episcopal power in favor of the episcopal conference.”



Church must help counter resistance to vaccines, health care experts says



A nurse prepares a dose of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine in Fasano, Italy, April 13, 2021. (CNS photo/Alessandro Garofalo, Reuters)

ROME (CNS) – Members of the Catholic Church, especially religious working in health care and schools, have an important opportunity and duty to educate people about COVID-19 and to counter resistance to vaccinations, said an expert on the Vatican’s COVID-19 commission.

Women religious and Catholic organizations who serve others every day and have people’s trust are “our best hope for safe and fair distribution of vaccines as well as the best tool for convincing people of the safety and importance of taking the vaccines,” said Sister Carol Keehan, a nurse and Daughter of Charity.

The church also has clear teachings about the need for more ethical ways to produce and test vaccines, but it has said that receiving vaccines is not participating or cooperating with the evil of abortion, she said during an online meeting sponsored by the Rome-based International Union of Superiors General.

The event, dedicated to how women religious can be leaders in bringing Gospel values to new models of the economy and health care, was part of a series of meetings looking at ways sisters can empower other women and accompany and support those most affected and marginalized by the pandemic.

Sister Keehan is the chair of the Vatican COVID-19 Commission’s health task force. She gave the more than 300 participants online an overview of the two main goals of the taskforce: an equitable distribution of vaccines and treatments, and reducing the resistance to taking

the vaccine.

People have been showing resistance to the vaccine for a number of reasons, she said, and so the taskforce created a “resource kit” for church leaders and families, available in multiple languages on the commission’s website.

The first part of the kit is dedicated to explaining the church’s teaching on vaccines, Sister Keehan said.

“For years we have known that most vaccines are made and/ or tested using stem cells grown in a laboratory that originated from a fetus aborted over 40 years ago. Almost all of us have had a vaccine made in this way,” she said.

“The church has decades of theology and ethical teachings, asking that better ways of testing and producing vaccines should be a goal but that taking these vaccines, or administering them to children, is not participating or cooperating with the evil of abortion,” she said.

“In spite of this, a number of voices immediately started refusing to take the vaccines that had been made and or tested this way. Some of them were bishops in various dioceses, as well as priests and other teachers of the faith,” she said.

Several Vatican dicasteries stepped in again to clarify the church’s position on the acceptability of the vaccines when no others are available, and, she added, “Pope Francis has been very clear that it is a moral responsibility to take the vaccines to protect oneself, one’s family and one’s community from this deadly disease.”



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JUNE SCHEDULE

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	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY			
12:00 AM	DAILY MASS	SUNDAY MASS (Encore)	DAILY MASS (Encore)							
1:00 AM	FR SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	(1:10AM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	THE JOURNEY HOME (Encore)	MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE CLASSICS	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	THE WORLD OVER (Encore)	EWTN NEWS IN DEPTH			
1:30 AM										
2:00 AM	ICONS SPOTLIGHT	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Encore)							
2:30 AM	THEY MIGHT BE SAINTS		EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY			
3:00 AM	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE	SPECIALS	ANGELUS FROM NAZARETH	LIFE ON THE ROCK	BATTLE READY	THE WILL OF GOD			
3:30AM		DEFENDING LIFE		(3:15) PAPAL AUDIENCE	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY (Call in thurs)		AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY			
4:00 AM	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	REFURBISHING THE SOUL	REASONS TO BELIEVE	(4:15) REFLECTIONS	BOB AND PENNY LORD	WEB OF FAITH 2.0	SAVORING OUR FAITH			
4:30 AM		(4:35)SUNDAY BEST WITH FR GROESCHEL	GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR A HAPPY LIFE	REAL LIFE CATHOLIC	FORGOTTEN HERITAGE	LIFE IS WORTH LIVING	GK CHESTERTON			
5:00 AM	BOB AND PENNY LORD PRESENT	EWTN BOOKMARK	THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL	SUFFERING AND WHAT TO DO WITH IT	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY	EWTN SPECIALS	CATHOLIC BEGINNINGS			
5:30 AM	THE REFORMATION						CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN	REAL LIFE CATHOLIC	CATHOLIC SPHERE	
6:00 AM	ANGELUS WITH POPE FRANCIS	EWTN ORIGINAL PRODUCTIONS								
6:30 AM	WHERE GOD WEEPS	G.K. CHESTERTON	CHURCH AND THE POOR	MATTHEWS TESTIMONY TO JESUS	SAINTS VS SCOUNDRELS	THE CHOICES WE FACE	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE			
7:00 AM	THE CHAPLET OF ST. MICHAEL					STATIONS OF THE CROSS	CHAPLET OF ST. MICHAEL			
7:30 AM	THE HOLY ROSARY	HOLY LAND ROSARY					THE HOLY ROSARY			
7:50 AM		LITANY OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	LITANY OF THE HOLY NAME	LITANY OF ST. JOSEPH	LITANY OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD	LITANY OF SACRED HEART				
8:00 AM	SUNDAY MASS (Live)	DAILY MASS (Live)								
9:00 AM	(9:20AM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	HOLY ROSARY WITH THE FRANCISCAN MISSIONARIES OF THE ETERNAL WORD								
9:30 AM	EWTN ROSARY FRANCISCANS	SUNDAY BEST WITH FR. GROESCHEL	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION (ENCORE)	EWTN LIVE (ENCORE)	THE WORLD OVER (Encore)	CAT CHAT			
10:00 AM	SUNDAY MASS ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL	RELIGIOUS CATALOG					ROAMIN' CATHOLIC			
10:30 AM		CHOICES WE FACE	MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE	LIVE WITH PASSION	FOCUS	MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE CLASSICS	ANIMATED STORIES FROM THE BIBLE			
11:00 AM	EWTN NEWS IN-DEPTH	OFOD OR SPECIALS		ST ANN'S WEEKLY NOVENA	CHOICES WE FACE	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY CALL IN	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY			
11:30 AM		THEY MIGHT BE SAINTS	TERESA OF AVILA	SAINTS FOR TODAY	EUCCHARISTIC JOURNEY	SAINTS	BOB & PENNY LORD PRESENT			
12:00 PM	SUNDAY MASS (Encore)	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, LIVE AT 12:10 p.m. "DIOCESAN DATEBOOK" airs before and after Mass.						EWTN DAILY MASS (Encore)		
12:30PM										
1:00 PM	(1:10PM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	WOMEN OF GRACE						EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE		
1:30 PM	IN CONCERT	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	PRO LIFE WEEKLY	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	CTV SPECIALS / OFOD	WOMEN OF GRACE HOUR LONG	EWTN BOOKMARK			
2:00 PM		CALLED TO COMMUNION	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION	FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	THE JOURNEY HOME		STATIONS OF CROSS	EWTN ON LOCATION		
2:30 PM										
3:00 PM										
3:00 PM	THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY IN SONG									
3:20 PM	LIVE ADORATION FROM EWTN CHAPEL									
3:30 PM	THE ROSARY FROM LOURDES	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, (Encore)						ROSARY FROM LOURDES		
4:00 PM	VATICANO	THE HOLY ROSARY DIOCESAN DATEBOOK						SUNDAY VIGIL MASS ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL		
4:30 PM	SAVORING OUR FAITH	LUCY AND FRIENDS	BUG TIME ADVENTURES	TRUTH IN THE HEART	MY CATHOLIC FAMILY	THE FRIAR				
5:00 PM	THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL	EWTN BOOKMARK	THE CHOICES WE FACE	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE	GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR A HAPPY LIFE	THEY MIGHT BE SAINTS	THE REFORMATION			
5:30 PM	SUNDAY PASSIONIST MASS	SPECIALS						REASONS TO BELIEVE		
6:00 PM	SUNDAY MASS FROM ST. PETERS CATHEDRAL	EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Live)						THE JUORNEY HOME		
6:30 PM		CATHOLICS COME HOME	REAL LIFE CATHOLICS	CHURCH UNIVERSAL	VATICANO	WHAT IS GOD'S WILL?				
7:00 PM	SUNDAY MASS	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, (Encore)						DAILY MASS		
7:30PM		THE HOLY ROSARY								
		DIOCESAN DATEBOOK								
8:00 PM	(8:20) LITANY OF SACRED HEART	THE JOURNEY HOME (Live)	OFOD OR SPECIALS (CAN BE 90 MINUTES)	EWTN LIVE	THE WORLD OVER (Live)	EWTN NEWS IN DEPTH	EWTN CINEMA			
8:30 PM	CATHOLICS COME HOME		MUSIC AND SPOKEN WORD							
9:00 PM	LIFE ON THE ROCK	EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Encore)								
9:30 PM	HOLY ROSARY W MOTHER ANGELICA	WEEKLY NOVENA TO ST. ANN	THE CHOICES WE FACE	FOCUS	LIVE WITH PASSION	WEEKLY NOVENA TO ST. ANN				
10:00PM	EWTN SPECIALS	THE WORLD OVER LIVE (ENCORE)	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION (ENCORE)	FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	PRO-LIFE WEEKLY	LIFE ON THE ROCK	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY			
10:30 PM					DEFENDING LIFE	ICONS SPOTLIGHT				
11:00PM	CATHOLIC BEGINNINGS	BATTLE READY	LONG RIDE HOME	CROSSING THE GOAL	REAL LIFE CATHOLIC	WOMEN OF GRACE HOUR LONG	WEB OF FAITH 2.0			
11:30PM	CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN	WOMEN OF GRACE					JOURNEY THROUGH THE SCRIPTURES			



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### Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement.

It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the *Code of Canon Law* and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator, Mary Beth Pacuska at (570) 862-7551.

### Aviso al Respeto de Reportar el Abuso Sexual de Un Menor de Edad

Es la norma de la Diócesis de Scranton reportar cualquier alegación de abuso sexual de un menor de edad a las autoridades. Si usted es una víctima de abuso sexual cometido por un sacerdote, diácono, religioso o empleado laico, o voluntario de la Diócesis de Scranton, usted está obligado a reportar el asunto inmediatamente a las autoridades de la ley.

Si algún sacerdote, diácono, religioso, empleado laico o voluntario de la Diócesis de Scranton tiene sospecha de que un menor de edad ha sido sujeto a cualquier forma de abuso, incluyendo abuso sexual de menor de edad, el asunto será reportado a las autoridades de la ley.

Es la norma de la Diócesis defender todas las regulaciones civiles y del estado. Al fin de que la Diócesis esté comprometida igualmente a defender las normas del Código de Derecho Canónico y defender los principios de la Carta Para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes (Conferencia de los Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos), lo cual incluye apoyar a las víctimas de abuso sexual en pos del bienestar emocional y espiritual.

Por eso, información respecto a una alegación del asunto sexual de un menor de edad, debe ser reportada a la Coordinadora Diocesana de Asistencia para Las Víctimas, Mary Beth Pacuska, a (570) 862-7551.

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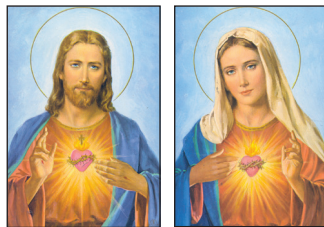
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## Blue Army Reparation Vigil

The next monthly First Friday Reparation Vigil, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary and sponsored by the Blue Army, will be held **June 4** at Saint Joseph's Oblate Seminary, 1880 Highway 315, Laffin (Pittston).

Devotions begin Friday evening at 8 p.m. with recitation of the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary, during which time confessions are heard. Mass of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is celebrated at 8:55 p.m., followed by benediction, litany and consecration to the Sacred Heart.



The vigil continues with the crowning of the Blue Army Pilgrim Virgin Statue, the Blue Army Pledge, Fatima prayers and Marian hymns, followed by litany and consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The vigil concludes with scapular enrollment at 10:15 p.m.

## Marian Devotion Rosary prayer services listed

Marian Devotion Ministries in the Diocese of Scranton, dedicated to promoting prayerful devotion to Jesus and Mary through recitation of the Rosary, continues its "Fatima Journey for 2021."

The Fatima Journey began on May 15 to commemorate the 104th anniversary of the First Apparition of Fatima in Portugal in 1917, and will continue with monthly Rosary rallies until Oct. 16, in celebration of the last Marian apparition at Fatima that year.

Prayer rallies and Rosary Evenings are hosted throughout the Diocese and include the Rosary with chanted scriptural mysteries, Fatima prayers and hymns.

Upcoming Marian Devotion events are scheduled as follows:

**First Friday Rosary and Mass** — June 4, at 6:30 p.m., hosted at Saint Lucy Parish in West Scranton.

**June 13 Outdoor Rosary Rally** — hosted by Saint Thomas More Parish in North Scranton at 1 p.m. on the Theodore St. side of the church.

**Third Monday of the Month Rosary** — June 21, from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laffin.

To host an event or for more information, contact Ernie Pappa at (570) 241-8171 or email: singtomary@aol.com.

## Eucharistic Day in Wilkes-Barre

WILKES-BARRE — Our Lady of Fatima Parish at Saint Mary Church of the Immaculate Conception will host its annual Day of Eucharistic Adoration on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) on Sunday, June 6.

The Wilkes-Barre parish will celebrate the Solemnity with exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament at Saint Mary's Church from 1 to 4 p.m., concluding with Evening Prayer (vespers).

All parishioners and area faithful are invited during the visitation hours to spend time in prayerful thanksgiving and petition in the presence of the Eucharistic Lord.

## Enthronement Guild Masses to celebrate Sacred Heart of Jesus Solemnity

The Diocesan Enthronement Guild of the Sacred Heart of Jesus announces it will celebrate the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus by offering a livestream Mass on the solemnity's vigil, Thursday, June 10, at 6 p.m., celebrated by the Guild's spiritual moderator, Father Dan Toomey.



**Father Dan Toomey**

The Eucharistic liturgy will broadcast live on the Facebook pages of the parishes of Gate of Heaven, Dallas, and Our Lady of Victory, Harveys Lake, where Father Toomey serves as pastor. The Mass will also be available for viewing on the social platform after the live presentation.

Continuing a longstanding tradition at the Saint Joseph Oblates Seminary, Route 315, Laffin, the Sacred Heart Enthronement Guild will host the celebration of Mass on the Sacred Heart of Jesus feast day, Friday, June 11, at 7 p.m. in



the seminary chapel.

Saint Joseph Oblate Father Joseph Sibilano will serve as principal celebrant.

## Oblates of Saint Joseph celebrating founder's feast day this weekend

PITTSSTON — The religious community of the Oblates of Saint Joseph is honoring their founder, Saint Joseph Marello, with a three-day triduum of Masses and

devotions at noon and 7 p.m. in anticipation of his feast day.

The annual celebration is being held daily through Friday, May 28, in the Chapel of Saint

Joseph, 1880 Route 315 Highway, Laffin.

The Feast Day Mass of Saint Joseph Marello will be celebrated on Saturday, May 29, at noon.



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**Who makes house calls?**  
As of October 2015, I will now meet clients either at their home, or at a location they choose and no longer require clients to meet at my office. I have decided that I would change the way I meet with people so it will be as easy and as convenient as possible for the client.

Based on my practice, which consists of estate planning and administration along with elder law, I find that clients are more comfortable discussing such matters in familiar surroundings. While I know this may seem unconventional to some, I believe I will be able to serve clients much better in this fashion. If anyone is uncomfortable with home visits, I have a few locations where I can meet in an office setting. I look forward to meeting with my existing clients and especially meeting new clients that are looking for any assistance in estate or elder law matters.



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# Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese

**Parish Lottery Fundraiser** — **MAY-AUGUST**, sponsored by Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish at Lake Silkworth; four-month lottery calendar tickets for May, June, July & August sold for \$25 each. Numbers matching the PA Evening Lottery drawing win ticket prizes, ranging from \$50 to \$750. Tickets available by contacting the parish office at (570) 477-5040.

**Weekly/Monthly Pro-Life Rosary Gatherings** — **MAY 27 & JUNE 4**, offered for the special intentions of ending abortion and closure of the Planned Parenthood location in Wilkes-Barre; Rosary is prayed every Thursday and First Friday of the month at 10 a.m. in front of the offices of Planned Parenthood, 101 N. Main St., Wilkes-Barre (across from King's College). All faithful are welcome to participate.

**Designer Purse & Cash Raffle** — **JUNE 1-30**, sponsored by Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, Hanover Twp.; monthly

tickets for June cost \$30, with two lottery numbers per ticket. Match of PA Evening Lottery number wins a designer purse; cash prizes also available. Includes four special drawings on Facebook. To order, visit www.exhc.org or call Bonnie at (570) 762-7342.

**Weekly Novena Devotion to Saint Anthony of Padua** — **JUNE 1 & 8**, hosted by Our Lady of Hope Parish, 40 Park Ave., Wilkes-Barre; 13-week Saint

Anthony Novena devotion held on consecutive Tuesday evenings, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the parish church. Novena theme: "Venerable Matt Talbot: Patron Saint of Those Battling Alcohol Addiction." All faithful are welcome; social distancing and facial coverings required. For more information, call (570) 824-7832.

**"St. Al's Summer Food Fest"** — **JUNE 12**, sponsored by St. Robert Bellarmine Parish at St. Aloysius Church, Barney & Division streets, Wilkes-Barre; food available for pick-up from noon to 6 p.m. in the church parking lot. Items include potato pancakes, hot/sweet Italian sausage hoagies, halushki and wimpies. Sale is take-out only and pre-order/pre-pay is preferred. Visit www.facebook.com/bellarmino.alyosius, or call (570) 823-3791 ext. 2.

**11th Annual St. Eulalia 5K Run/Walk** — **JULY 17**, sponsored by St. Eulalia Parish, Roaring Brook Twp.; Kids' fun run begins at 8:55 a.m. and 5K begins at 9 a.m. on the church grounds. First 100 registrants receive free performance t-shirt and gift bag. Pre-registration only. Register online at www.steulalia5k.com.

**Memorial blood drive  
July 15 at Moscow church**

The North Pocono Blood Council of the American Red Cross, in conjunction with Saint Catherine of Siena Parish in Moscow, will sponsor a blood drive on Thursday, July 15, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Saint Catherine Church, 220 Church St.

The 18th annual Red Cross Blood Drive is being held to honor the memory of John Paul Ruggiero, a young parishioner of Saint Catherine's who passed away while attending the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., in 2002.

For details, call (1-800-733-2767).

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ASBURY, N.J. — The World Apostolate of Fatima USA (Blue Army), headquartered in Asbury, N.J., has dedicated 2021 as the Year of Saint Joseph under the title: "The greatest consoler of the Immaculate Heart."

In celebration of the devotional year, the Blue Army Apostolate continues a series of spiritual events being presented virtually on the First Saturday of each month, dedicated to Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Virtual presentations are livestream on the First Saturday beginning at 11 a.m. from the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at the Blue Army Shrine and can be viewed online at: [BlueArmy.com/YearofStJoseph](http://BlueArmy.com/YearofStJoseph).

The First Saturday discussion on June 5, entitled "The Holy Family: A Solution to the Breakdown of the Family," will feature virtual speaker Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle.

The livestream talk at 11

a.m. will be followed by Rosary recitation with a 15-minute meditation at 11:30 a.m.; Holy Mass at 12:15 p.m., celebrated by Blue Army Shrine chaplain, Father Ronan Murphy; and concluding with the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Brown Scapular enrollment.

The National Blue Army Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima will also present virtual livestreaming of the First Friday Reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 4, including Rosary prayers at 11:30 a.m., followed by celebration of the First Friday Mass at noon.

To celebrate the 104th anniversary of the second Marian Apparition of Our Lady of Fatima, the Blue Army Shrine will host a "Mary-thon of Prayer" on Sunday, June 13. Livestreaming of the day's events begin with a Rosary procession at noon.

For more information, contact the Fatima Apostolate at (908) 689-1700 ext. 210, or [service@bluearmy.com](mailto:service@bluearmy.com).

## Franciscan Brother John Patrick Calvey, of Scranton, Dies in Loretto

LORETTO—Aconcelebrated Mass of Christian Burial was offered for Franciscan Brother John Patrick Calvey, a member of the Third Order Regular of Saint Francis, Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, on March 28 at Saint Francis Friary at Mount Assisi in Loretto.

He died March 24 at Saint Francis Friary after a brief illness.

Born April 28, 1944, in Scranton, the eldest of six children of the late John Jennings and Kathyne Dailey Calvey, Brother John Patrick entered the Third Order Regular Franciscans in 1989 at the Mount Assisi friary and professed his solemn vows on July 1, 1995.

A graduate of Holy Rosary High School in Scranton, he earned his bachelor's degree in English education from The University of Scranton and pursued graduate studies at Clare College and Oxford in England. He also studied at Washington Theological Union in Silver Spring, Md.

Prior to entering the Franciscan community, Bother John Patrick was a 20-year faculty member at Valley Central High School in Montgomery, N.Y., and served as a pastoral assistant at Our

Lady of Mercy Parish, Hillsboro, Texas, and Sacred Heart Parish, Bradenton, Fla.

He also served on the staff of the Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, and on the faculties of Bishop Egan High School and Conwell-Egan Catholic High School in Fairless Hills.

Devoted to his Catholic faith and an educationalist by nature, Brother John Patrick instilled religious values throughout his life, even while battling a terminal illness.

Surviving are two sisters, Mary Port, Fort Myers, Fla., and Kathleen (Paul) McLaine, Easton; three brothers, Francis (Joanne), Whitney Point, N.Y.; Joseph (Linda), Binghamton, N.Y.; and Christopher (Sharon), Clarks Summit; an uncle, Patrick Calvey Jr., Clarks Green; several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Interment was held in the Franciscan Friars Cemetery on the campus of Saint Francis University, Loretto.



**Br. John Patrick Calvey, TOR**

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# Virtual tours open doors of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton's shrine to the world



**Claire Bodine, coordinator of group visits at the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg, Md., gives a live virtual tour Jan. 27, 2021. (CNS photo/Kevin Shinkle, courtesy National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton)**

EMMITSBURG, Md. (CNS) – They say when one door closes, another door opens.

When the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg closed its historical buildings to public tours last year due to the pandemic, its team opened a window, a Zoom window.

Rather than bringing people to the shrine, they decided to bring the shrine to the people. The solution: virtual tours of

the basilica and the historical buildings at the shrine.

Launched on Mother Seton's feast day, Jan. 4, the shrine's live virtual tours have been a streaming success – so much so shrine officials intend to make the virtual tours a permanent option for those who want to learn about America's first native-born saint.

Over 3,000 people from 21 states have taken a virtual tour of the shrine, and the tours continue to attract school groups and others from as far away as Alaska and Oregon.

Virtual or in-person tours can be booked at [www.setonshrine.org/virtual-tours](http://www.setonshrine.org/virtual-tours).

While the shrine is currently open to in-person visitors again, the virtual tours have become an important way of showing how Mother Seton's experiences as a wife, mother, convert, servant of the poor and teacher make her relatable to people today, shrine officials said.

The shrine is in the middle of a yearlong commemoration of the 200th anniversary of her death, Jan. 4, 1841.

"Technology has been one of

the silver-linings to come from the pandemic," said Bridgett Bassler, the shrine's education programs manager. "We realized we had the capability at our fingertips to connect with people from every corner of the country."

"With virtual tours," she said, "we have the ability to provide access to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's life and legacy to those who may never be able to experience an in-person visit to the shrine."

The tours use Zoom to showcase the shrine and introduce it to new visitors. Virtual visitors can choose to explore the shrine and Elizabeth Ann Seton's journey through four different live tour options, including the Historic St. Joseph's House, the Stone Farmhouse, the Basilica of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, and the history of the Sisters of Charity who ministered during the Civil War.

Schools have been the main adopter of the shrine's virtual tours program. Over 37 schools have taken tours, including 12 that are named after Mother Seton. The group that has virtually traveled

the farthest to visit is the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School in Anchorage, Alaska, which is 4,236 miles away from Emmitsburg.

"In closing the physical doors of the shrine, we've actually opened its reach to a wider audience," said Claire Bodine, the shrine's coordinator of group visits. "We've been able to connect with schools across the nation, working with students from kindergarten through college. It's truly been a blessing to share St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's story in this innovative way."

The interest in visiting the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton extends beyond U.S. borders. In May, the shrine had its first international virtual tour for a group from Ontario.

"We even had a group from Australia try to book a virtual tour," Bodine said. "While that tour hasn't panned out yet due to time zone differences, to me it emphasizes Mother Seton's relatability. Her work, her devotion and her experience resonate with people around the world."

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