

# The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 2021

## Bishop to ordain Mark DeCelles to the Priesthood on June 26

SCRANTON – Years ago, Deacon Mark DeCelles' grandfather made a solemn pronouncement.

"He told me, 'you will become a priest,'" DeCelles recalled.

On Saturday, June 26, that prediction will become a reality as Reverend Mr. Mark Joshua DeCelles, 39, will be ordained to the Order of the Priesthood for service in the Diocese of Scranton.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as ordaining prelate for the Mass which will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

The public is invited to attend the Ordination Mass. CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton will broadcast the Mass live and provide livestreaming on the Diocese of Scranton's website and social media platforms.

DeCelles, a native son of the Diocese, was ordained a transitional deacon last year. He is now ready to take his final steps toward priestly ordination.

"I'm very excited," the Dunmore native said. "I didn't picture myself here and now it is happening and it's thrilling what God is doing in my life and what God is doing in the life of the Church at this moment."

At DeCelles' ordination to the diaconate last year, only 12 people attended due to COVID-19 precautions. This year, with many pandemic restrictions lifted, the ordination is open to family and friends and anyone from the Diocese who would like to attend.

"It's very, very exciting to invite friends and family," DeCelles explained. "It's going to be a beautiful celebration. I can't wait to see family and friends and I can't wait to just celebrate what God is doing here in the Church of Scranton."



**Rev. Mr. Mark DeCelles**

### FAMILY ROOTED IN FAITH

DeCelles freely admits that he never really saw himself becoming a priest.

"I always saw myself becoming a professor of theology, just like my dad. I wanted to follow right in his footsteps," he said.

Faith was incredibly important and formative in DeCelles' upbringing however.

"I was very fortunate to have two very faithful parents. My mom has been a nurse all her life so she spends a life of service and helping people in need. She always had a

profound devotion to the Blessed Mother. She would always pray the rosary with us," DeCelles explained. "My dad was a professor of religious studies at Marywood University for 43 years."

DeCelles said his father helped him see and understand that his faith was credible – moreover – it was a thoughtful and deliberate way of being.

"The thoughtfulness and the intellectual precision of my father helped me to see that faith and reason went together, that there was no conflict between faith and reason, between science and religion, between philosophy and theology," he said.

The influence of his father certainly rubbed off on Mark. Teaching has set the agenda for much of his adult life.

"I see teaching as a very important part of what I do," he said. "Teaching is my comfort zone. I love it. I love to preach. I owe so much of that to my parents and particularly my dad."

Even after DeCelles' grandfather made that bold prediction one random day that Mark would become a priest, DeCelles wasn't completely sold.

"My dad said, you want to consider your own talents, your own gifts and also the needs of the Church and that criteria never left me and I was certainly thinking about that after I finished my PhD," DeCelles said. "I was just thinking, maybe I have some unfinished business with this question – because I see the needs in the Church and I see that I have something to offer and I wonder what would happen if I actually took this question seriously in a way that I didn't when I was in high school or college."

*Continued on Page 2*

## Golden Jubilee for residence of Diocesan priests in their golden years

### Villa Saint Joseph opened its doors 50 years ago as retirement home for clergy

DUNMORE – An anonymous writer at the time penned that it was a "combination of Seville Baroque and California Mission. It doesn't exactly belong where you see it stand. It might look better in a low valley in California or on a high hill in Spain. Yet, it is far from out of place in its present location."

The writer was referring to one of the jewels of this local Church — Villa Saint Joseph — the residential abode for retired priests, who, it was written "prefer to live among the people" they have served "in full tide of human existence."

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**Villa Saint Joseph on Green Ridge Street in Dunmore**



# The Catholic Light

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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

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# Sacrament of Holy Orders to be conferred on Dunmore native

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## AN “INCURABLE ACADEMIC”

Deacon DeCelles completed his preparatory studies for the priesthood at Saint Mary’s Seminary and University in Baltimore, Md.

“There were just so many powerful and beautiful experiences in seminary,” he reflected.

From his very first day visiting, DeCelles said the staff, faculty and other seminarians surrounded him with hospitality.

“I’ve never had quite that experience of hospitality,” he admitted. “I remember thinking; these guys have something that I want.”

Describing himself as an “incurable academic,” DeCelles said he met Father Jonathan Kuhar, who was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Scranton last year, while taking his first tour of the seminary. Father Kuhar actually lent him a flash drive so that DeCelles could scan items from the seminary library.

“Everywhere I went, people wanted to hear my story and answer any question that I had,” the future priest said.

DeCelles also reflected on another experience during his first year in the seminary during an interview with *The Catholic Light*. He said he was assigned to hospital ministry at Mercy Hospital and spent five hours a week there for 20 weeks.

“I was a graduate student, I have a PhD in theology but I didn’t do ministry in that way until that point,” DeCelles reflected. “Going there – visiting patients, just talking to people, just listening to people and watching what was happening, watching what God was doing in those moments – made me realize that there was something there that God had given me some gifts for pastoral ministry. The joy was really what caught me, the joy in being with people, just being present, not only with people who were suffering a lot and to be a comforting presence there but also with people who inexplicably were filled with the joy of the Lord.”

As all servant leaders often find, they receive much more than they ever give while helping others.

“What an incredible privilege to be there, to be on the front lines, to be where the action is, where God is working in the lives of people,” DeCelles noted.

DeCelles would be the first to admit his experience in hospital ministry took him out of his comfort zone – but he said it was all worth it.



## ORDINATION TO THE SACRED PRIESTHOOD

SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 2021 • 10:00 a.m.

*Public is invited to attend!*

Mass to be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television and livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website and social media.

Ordination Prayer Vigil  
Friday, June 25, 2021 • 7:00 p.m.  
Saint Matthew Parish  
78 Ridgeway Street, East Stroudsburg



Rev. Mr. Mark Joshua DeCelles

“One of the things that I’m learning about ministry...is being outside of the comfort zone is where God wants to surprise me, that’s where God wants to surprise us – that is where He is present,” DeCelles said.

## PANDEMIC INTERRUPTS PASTORAL YEAR

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted many lives and activities – and the pastoral year of Mark DeCelles at Saint Matthew Parish in East Stroudsburg was one of those things.

“I was involved in the RCIA program, I had the opportunity to do a reflection series for Advent and a reflection series for Lent that got cut short by the pandemic,” he explained.

By the time DeCelles was able to return to the Pocono parish in June 2020, he had already been ordained a deacon.

“I got exposed to people’s questions and the concerns of the faithful and that was stimulating. It helped me to see where I could put the academics to use in a way that could actually help people and actually change people’s lives,” he said.

While ministering to the faithful in East Stroudsburg, even in the midst of a pandemic, DeCelles said he saw a “hunger of people for the Eucharist,” especially at a time when the pandemic made it challenging for people to attend Mass in person.

“When you see the Ordination Mass, I had the opportunity to pick out the readings. The Gospel is going to be that scene from John’s Gospel where Jesus says to Peter, ‘Peter, do you love me more than these?’ Peter says, ‘Yes Lord’ and Jesus says ‘feed my lambs,’” DeCelles said.

“I guess deaconing during the pandemic was my ‘lambs’ experience,” he explained.

## THANKING THE COMMUNITY

Prior to the Ordination Mass, the young church of the Diocese of Scranton is excited to pray with – and for Mark – at an Ordination Prayer Vigil on Friday, June 25, at 7:00 p.m. at Saint Matthew Parish. The public is cordially invited to attend.

DeCelles is thankful to all those who have prayed for him and supported the Diocese of Scranton’s seminarians with financial support.

“Thank you seems a little bit too easy and obvious but it has to be said,” DeCelles said.

Besides his mentors in the seminary and Diocese, DeCelles wanted to specifically thank the parish communities who have helped in his formation.

“To the people who have welcomed me into their lives over the course of my formation, in the parishes, certainly Immaculate Conception Parish, my home parish in Scranton where I received the faith, but also Blessed Sacrament Parish and Holy Cross Parish in Throop and Olyphant and Saint Matthew Parish – you have no idea how much it meant to be welcomed into those communities in the way that I was and to be welcomed into people’s lives,” he said. “That is an incredible privilege, to have the opportunity to be a minister, to learn to minister alongside you.”

Following the Ordination Mass for Reverend Mr. Mark DeCelles on Saturday, June 26, he plans to hold a Mass of Thanksgiving at Immaculate Conception Parish in Scranton on Sunday, June 27.

“That promises to be a very joyous occasion,” DeCelles remarked.

*The Catholic Light* will provide complete coverage of the Ordination Mass in its July 15, 2021 edition.



# Discalced Carmelite Nuns plan to build Monastery in Wayne County

PLEASANT MOUNT—After recently experiencing disruption to their prayerful life in Brooklyn, N.Y., a Community of cloistered Discalced Carmelite Nuns is announcing intentions to build a new Carmelite Monastery in Wayne County and relocate to the Diocese of Scranton.

The Discalced Carmelite Nuns recently launched fundraising efforts to pay for the new Monastery. It would be located on 13 acres of land in Pleasant Mount donated by a local family who was willing and eager to assist in the effort.

“They have already consecrated their property to our Blessed Mother, and we really felt that this was an indication of her guidance, since we are daughters of Our Lady, and clothed in her Holy Scapular,” the Nuns wrote in their fundraising brochure announcing their vision. “We went to visit the property...and found that it was beautiful, abounding in silence! It is an ideal site for a Contemplative Monastery.”

The Discalced Carmelite Nuns are a cloistered, contemplative community serving the Church and the world through prayer and self-sacrifice. They serve Christ and the world by interceding for the sanctification of priests and the salvation of souls.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, has been in communication with members of the Religious Community and approved their relocation to the Diocese of Scranton.

“I enthusiastically welcome the announcement of the Discalced Carmelite Nuns who intend to build a Carmelite Monastery in the Pleasant Mount area. Their presence will be a gift to all of us in the Diocese of Scranton. While they have forsaken the world for the solitude of the Monastery, they are fully committed to offering their prayers for the world and its needs. Their prayers for us are so very important and I encourage all faithful in the Diocese of Scranton to pray for and support

the Carmelite Nuns in their endeavor,” Bishop Bambera said.

The life of a Carmelite Nun is characterized by separation from the world, solitude and silence, manual labor, poverty, penance, detachment from all created things, love for her sisters, and true humility.

## VISION FOR PLEASANT MOUNT

An architect is currently drawing plans for the Discalced Carmelite Nuns to build an authentic Spanish Carmel, like those in which Saint Teresa of Jesus and her daughters lived in, following the Carmelite architecture that has characterized so many Monasteries throughout the centuries in Catholic Spain.

The nuns have been given a rough estimate that building this particular kind of Monastery, and moving everything from Brooklyn to Pleasant Mount, will cost around \$15 million.

However, the nuns say, due to the problems they are facing in their current community of drinking, drugs and satanic rituals just feet away from their home, it is important for them to leave Brooklyn as soon as possible.

Therefore, the Discalced Carmelite Nuns plan to begin by building one wing of the cloister, where the Nuns could reside and begin living their religious life, while the rest of the Monastery is being constructed. The initial phase is estimated to cost about \$2 million.

“Within the simplicity and poverty of our Carmelite charism, we hope to eventually build a Chapel and cloister worthy of the majesty of God and which will be a place set apart as consecrated ground, but even to be able to move by the end of this year to an initial structure of the new Monastery would be a great blessing for our Community,” the nuns said.



**A Community of cloistered Discalced Carmelite Nuns, who pray for the Church and for the world, have announced intentions to build a new Carmelite Monastery within the territory of the Diocese of Scranton. A family in the Pleasant Mount area has donated 13 acres of their property to the nuns. These photographs show the future site of the new Carmel in Pleasant Mount. (Provided Photos)**

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE NEEDED

When they arrived in the Diocese of Brooklyn 16 years ago, the Discalced Carmelite Nuns were given a property that had a former Franciscan Monastery on it. There was an understanding that if they ever left, the property would return to the Diocese without any revenue given to the Community.

That is why the Community is now appealing to the faithful for financial assistance.

The Nuns say there could be “no better way to make an investment toward eternal life than helping to build a Monastery where God might be glorified ... and where you will be perpetually remembered in the Masses, prayers and sacrifices.”

“Considering the generous gift of property which we have already received and with our plans for the future Carmel already in the making, will you help us take the next step of building a Monastery which will contribute so much to God’s glory, the greater good of the Church and the salvation of souls? We hope to hear a resounding yes! If the Holy Spirit touches your heart, and you think that Our Lord may be moving you to help us, we hope to hear from you! Our Community, with grateful hearts, offer perpetual prayers and Masses for our benefactors, living and deceased. Be assured that Our Lord is never outdone in generosity; He always repays us a hundred-fold for all that we give in this life to build His Kingdom,” the Discalced Carmelite Nuns wrote in their fundraising brochure.

## ***How to assist the Discalced Carmelite Nuns in building a Carmelite Monastery in Wayne County***

The Nuns of the Monastery of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel & St. Joseph are profoundly grateful for any and all donations received. There is no donation that is too small; by your support, the Nuns are able to consecrate their days to prayer and penance for the sanctification of the church’s pastors and the salvation of souls. The Monastery of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel & St. Joseph is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax-exempt to the extent permitted by law.

### **Check/Cash Donations**

Monastery of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel & St. Joseph  
361 Highland Boulevard  
Brooklyn, NY 11207

### **Online Donations**

Visit  
[www.brooklyncarmel.org](http://www.brooklyncarmel.org)  
Click on DONATE

### **Arrange a Gift By Phone/Email**

Contact the Monastery Directly  
(718) 235-0422  
[newcarmelpa@gmail.com](mailto:newcarmelpa@gmail.com)

**May God reward you for helping the Discalced Carmelite Nuns fulfill their vocation in the Church!**





# Bishop Bambara to celebrate Villa Saint Joseph 50th Anniversary Mass on June 22

*Continued from Page 1*

Bishop Joseph C. Bambara will serve as principal celebrant of a concelebrated Golden Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving on Tuesday, June 22, at 4 p.m. in the chapel of Villa Saint Joseph, commemorating — to the day — the 50th anniversary of the opening of the home for retired priests in the Diocese of Scranton, located in the idyllic Green Ridge section of Dunmore Borough.

A rare and enviable amenity to this day — one which most (arch)dioceses around the country would treasure — “The Villa” was seen as even more of a unique idea when it first opened its doors in late June 1971 to welcome those Scranton Diocesan priests at the time who had labored in the Vineyard of the Lord for so many years.

The concept for such a residence was the brainchild of Bishop Bambara’s predecessor, Most Reverend J. Carroll McCormick, sixth bishop of Scranton, who envisioned a comfortable place of rest and retirement for his older confreres. Not surprisingly, Villa Saint Joseph would become an integral goal and accomplishment of the Bishop’s history-making “Project: Expansion” campaign — a monumental diocesan-wide fundraising campaign launched in the late 1960s that provided the funds for the establishment of an independent living facility for retired clergy.

In announcing the ambitious plans for the historic project in the final weeks of 1968, Bishop McCormick indicated the Diocese gained acquisition of the Saint Gabriel’s Retreat House, on the corner of Monroe Avenue and Green Ridge Street, from the Passionist community of religious

sisters as the site for the future home for retired priests. After acquiring full control of the property the following summer, the Passionist nuns would relocate to their new retreat center in Clarks Summit.

Fittingly, in conjunction with the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Holy Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and patron of the Universal Church, it was announced the priests’ retirement home would be named Villa Saint Joseph.

“These retired priests will continue to render valuable service to the Diocese by their Masses, prayers and sacrifices offered for our spiritual welfare,” Bishop McCormick said at the time.

Renovations and a repurposing of the convent of the cloistered Passionist Sisters, originally built on the site of the well-populated, residential area in 1926, had begun in earnest. The newly remodeled structure provided individual living quarters for more than 20 retired priests, with each resident’s suite consisting of a bedroom area, with an adjoining sitting room and bathroom facilities.

Special care was taken during the planning stages to provide each priest with the enjoyment of both privacy and the social and practical advantages the facility would offer.

The intimate chapel of worship affording an ideal setting for prayer and meditation would remain, as would the cloistered walks and serene garden area.

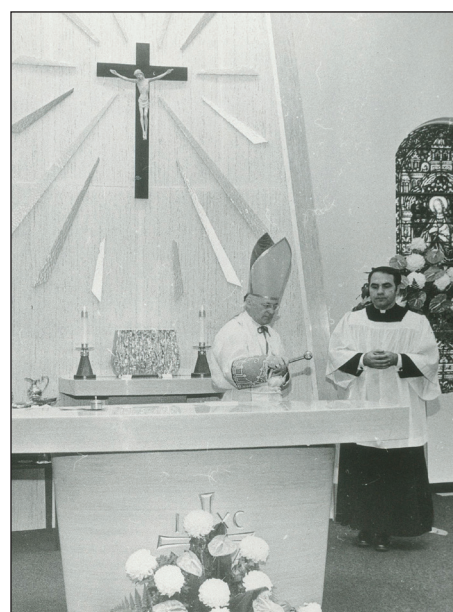
An oval marble altar of sacrifice provided the centerpiece of the newly renovated Villa Saint Joseph Chapel, which also offers four smaller altars for private Mass celebration. Today, a bronze



**Above: The Villa Saint Joseph Chapel as it appears today, adorned with an imposing mosaic of the Risen Lord and the original stained glass windows, featuring old-world artistry, that were imported for the Passionist nuns’ retreat house in 1926.**

**Left: Bishop McCormick consecrates the newly installed altar table during the official opening of Villa Saint Joseph on June 22, 1971, assisted by Father (now Monsignor) Constantine Siconolfi, first rector of the Villa.**

**Below: Bishop McCormick places a golden scroll in a repository to commemorate the generosity of donors to “Project: Expansion,” whose gifts made possible the erection of Villa Saint Joseph, Residence for Retired Priests, as Father Siconolfi looks on.**



tabernacle situated below the imposing mosaic depicting the Risen Christ behind the main altar is the focal point of the welcoming “small church,” complete with individual chairs and kneelers.

Preserved and still adorning the chapel walls are the ornate, imported European-style stained glass windows, now illuminated by indirect sunlight and recessed fixtures in the arched ceiling.

Thus, it will be exactly 50 years ago, on June 22, 1971, when Bishop McCormick blessed and dedicated the new Villa Saint Joseph, which has since been home to dozens of retired priests of the Diocese, including two bishops.

Ten years later, the Scranton prelate presided over ground-breaking ceremonies heralding a new addition for the retired-priest facility that today is home to 23 residents and can accommodate up to 31.

Having performed the duties of rector of Villa Saint Joseph for the past ten-plus years, Monsignor David Bohr is considered the longest serving in the position.

“For fifty years Villa Saint Joseph, which was an early dream of Bishop

McCormick, has provided a welcoming home for more than 100 priests,” Monsignor Bohr said. “Here their daily needs are met as they live out their remaining years and continue to help out local parishes and nursing homes, as long as they physically can.”

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**In this *Catholic Light* photo from March 1970, the chapel at Villa Saint Joseph in Dunmore undergoes extensive renovations after the residence was acquired from the Passionist Sisters and a repurposing of the facility was begun in earnest.**





# Retirement home for retired priests of the Diocese was dedicated in June 1971

Continued from Page 4

The rector commented that resident priests are expected “to get around by themselves,” since the Villa is a retirement home — not a nursing home. Monsignor Bohr was quick to praise the lay staff who tend to the cooking, housekeeping and administrative chores.

“A half dozen of our residents are in their nineties, having celebrated their sixtieth and seventieth anniversaries while here,” Monsignor noted. “The priests of the Diocese of Scranton are truly blessed; many dioceses across the country do not have such a place as Villa Saint Joseph.”

At 90 years of age, Monsignor William Ward has called the Villa home since his retirement from pastoral ministry 15 years ago. He is especially fond of the kinship and camaraderie the residence has to offer.

“What I like best is the friendship between the residents and how we help each other out when the need arises,” Monsignor Ward noted, adding that the “social hour” that takes place each afternoon in the spacious lounge area before mealtime is always a highlight of his day.

“I am happy that I chose to retire to Villa Saint Joseph,” he continued. “It has been a good experience and I am pleased to tell the story of the Villa. It is a wholesome place to live in retirement.” Monsignor also quipped, “And the rent is reasonable.”

Monsignor John Bendik was not only one of Monsignor Ward’s successors as pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Parish

in Pittston, but he also followed him to Villa Saint Joseph.

“First of all, a sincere word of gratitude to our Diocese and our wonderful people who support the Diocesan Annual Appeal,” Monsignor Bendik commented. “For fifty years they have made it possible for us to have such a marvelous place in which to retire.”

Extolling the home-like atmosphere the residence has to offer, he indicated it did not take long before he would refer to “going home” to the Villa after being away from the place.

“It truly is beautiful,” the jovial Monsignor noted. “Our staff treat us like family. It is like living in a five-star hotel with gourmet meals provided every day.”

Having been ordained 54 years ago, Monsignor Bendik took up residence at the Villa in 2018. He is continually inspired by his fellow retirees, who range in age from 75 to 97.

“Many spend quiet hours of prayer in our beautiful chapel,” he remarked. “If there is someone in need of a ride to go to a doctor’s appointment or for medications, a fraternal response is quickly given.”

Monsignor continued, “We often speak lovingly about our former parishioners and have cherished memories of our pastoral ministry. We miss parish life, so it is a great joy to see the smiles on the faces of our priests when mail arrives and there is a card or letter from a former parishioner, especially around holidays, ordination



**A typical suite, including bedroom and living areas, is shown ready for occupancy when Villa Saint Joseph opened as a residence for retired Diocesan priests on June 22, 1971.**

anniversaries or birthdays.”

The retired pastor and chaplain concluded by noting how appropriate it is that the Villa is named after Saint Joseph, who provided a home for Jesus and Mary. “Now, our patron watches over us as we grow ‘in wisdom and age and grace before God,’” he said, referring to the Gospel of Saint Luke.

Monsignor Vince Grimalia deemed it a privilege to have served as rector of the Villa Saint Joseph community during the mid-1990s.

“It was a period of my life that truly helped me grow in my own vocation, as I interacted with priests who had such diversity of experience,” Monsignor Grimalia noted. “During my time at the Villa, they generously shared their gifts of joy and faith.”

He referred to residing at Saint Joseph’s as another type of ministry and an opportunity to grow in friendship and practice the works of mercy.

“The Villa truly houses a priestly fraternity, a place where the history of the Diocese is still alive and continues to be told by the inspiring lives of the men who served so well,” Monsignor said. “This home is a wonderful gift for all concerned.”



**Sunlight streams through a window illuminating an impressively large statue of Saint Joseph with the Child Jesus in the welcoming lounge area for resident retired priests at Villa Saint Joseph.**



**Bishop McCormick hosted the Passionist Sisters in a pre-dedication tour of Villa Saint Joseph just days prior to its opening 50 years ago. Shown above, the Bishop and Father Siconolfi unveil a portrait of Pope Paul VI, the Supreme Pontiff at the time, as Passionist Sister Helen Gallagher, local superior, looks on with members of the women religious community.**



# U.S. bishops gather virtually for their spring assembly

*Editor's Note: The bishops' 2021 spring assembly began on Wednesday, June 16, after the publication deadline for this issue of The Catholic Light. This article is being included to highlight background on the meeting that is being held virtually due to concerns about the coronavirus pandemic.*

WASHINGTON (CNS) – As they gather virtually for their annual spring assembly this week, the U.S. bishops will be asked to approve the drafting of a formal statement on the meaning of the Eucharist in the life of the Catholic Church.

They also will be asked to approve three translations by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy for use in U.S. dioceses of the United States, to endorse the sainthood causes of two military chaplains revered for their heroism in World War II and the Korean War, and approve drafting of a national pastoral framework for youth and young adults.

Also on the agenda will be an update from the Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis on the Eucharistic Revival initiative; an update from the Subcommittee for Pastoral Care for Immigrants, Refugees and Travelers on a study by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate; and an update on the work of the Subcommittee on the Catechism.

Earlier this year, the bishops voted to approve convening this June meeting in a virtual format given the challenges of meeting in person with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The “Action Item” asking the bishops to approve the drafting of a teaching document on the reception of Communion is likely to draw the most debate – and media attention.

In early May, Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez, president of the USCCB, received an unprecedented letter from 67 bishops appealing for a delay in a discussion during the bishops' upcoming spring general assembly on whether to prepare a teaching document about the Eucharist.

The signers wrote that “we respectfully urge that all conference-wide discussion and committee work on the topic of eucharistic worthiness and other issues raised by the Holy See be postponed until the full body of bishops is able to meet in person.”

In a May 22 memo to fellow bishops, Archbishop Gomez explained that USCCB rules require that the body of bishops first be asked whether to issue a document on a particular topic.

The bishops' letter and Archbishop Gomez's memo follow an increasingly public debate among the bishops about Catholic politicians who support keeping abortion legal and whether they should be denied access to the Eucharist.

The bishops' meeting agenda also includes a report from the National Review Board, which advises the USCCB and the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People about matters of child and youth protection, specifically on policies and practices.

There also will be a vote to approve a “National Pastoral Framework for Marriage and Family Life Ministry in the United States: Called to the Joy of Love” and a vote to authorize the development of a new formal statement and comprehensive vision for Native American/Alaska Native Ministry.

The assembly will begin with an address by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, papal nuncio to the United States, followed by an address by Archbishop Gomez as USCCB president.

The sainthood candidates whose causes the bishops will be asked to approve are Father Joseph Verbis Lafleur and Capt. Leonard LaRue, who became Benedictine Brother Marinus of St. Paul's Abbey in Newton, New Jersey. Both have the title “Servant of God.”

Father Lafleur, a priest of the Diocese of Lafayette, Louisiana, was a World War II chaplain who gave his life while saving others on a Japanese prison ship.

Survivors recall the priest's heroic efforts helping his fellow POWs escape the hull of the ship under Japanese gunfire by pushing them up to the deck at the cost of his own life. He died Sept. 7, 1944.

In October 2017, Father LaFleur was honored posthumously with the Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart.

LaRue and the crew of the S.S. Meredith Victory piloted 14,005 refugees to safety during the Korean War from the port of Hungnam, now part of North Korea. The mission has been called a “Christmas Miracle.”

In early December 1950, the S.S. Meredith Victory's duties involved delivering supplies to anti-communist forces in Korea, which included a stop

in Hungnam. In the midst of the heavy fighting on land, LaRue, who also was a World War II veteran, volunteered the Merchant Marine cargo ship to participate in the rescue operation - the refugees' last hope of escape. The captain entered religious life after the Korean War.

The public sessions of the bishops' spring assembly for the rest of the week are: June 17 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. (EDT); and June 18 from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. (EDT). They will be livestreamed on the USCCB website – [www.usccb.org/meetings](http://www.usccb.org/meetings).

The vote tallies on the action items, news updates, texts of addresses and presentations and other materials will be available on the USCCB website.



## BISHOP BAMBERA'S SCHEDULE

**June 16** - United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Plenary Meeting  
Virtual Conference

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

**June 20** - Father's Day Mass  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.

**June 21** - Quo Vadis  
Marywood University, 3:00 p.m.

**June 22** - Mass Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Founding of  
The Villa Saint Joseph  
Dunmore, 4:00 p.m.

**June 24** - Mass for Priest Jubilarians  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.

**June 26** - Priesthood Ordination Mass  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.

**June 27** - Scout Mass  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.

**July 11** - Mass  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.

**July 12** - Vocations Golf Tournament  
Blue Ridge Golf Course, Dorrance Township

**July 15** - Mass of Remembrance  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 7:00 p.m.

## Priests celebrating Ordination Jubilees to be honored at Cathedral Mass on June 24

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate a Mass for priests who are observing their 60th, 50th and 25th years of ordination. The Mass will be held at 12:10 p.m. on Thursday, June 24, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The public is invited to attend the Mass. The Mass will also be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Priest Jubilarians from both 2020 and 2021 will be recognized.



# Preparations underway for 97th annual Saint Ann's Solemn Novena

SCRANTON – As pandemic restrictions continue to loosen, organizers of the Solemn Novena to Saint Ann are remaining cautious – but stress they will be ready to host the 97th annual spiritual pilgrimage in a much more traditional fashion this year.

“We’re going to be pretty close to 90-percent back to normal,” Very Rev. Passionist Father Richard Burke, rector of the Saint Ann Passionist Monastery and director of the Basilica of the National Shrine of Saint Ann, told *The Catholic Light* earlier this month.

Every mid-July for nearly a century, faithful followers of the venerated Saint are drawn by the thousands to the Catholic Church’s only national shrine and basilica church dedicated to the mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary and grandmother of Jesus – located high atop the hill on Saint Ann Street in Scranton’s West Side.

Devotees of “Good Saint Ann” will once again pilgrimage to their favorite destination next month beginning on Saturday, July 17, and continuing each day until the devotion’s faith-filled conclusion on the Feast of Saint Ann on Monday, July 26.

While planning for this year’s Novena has been – and continues to be – fluid, Father Burke says the traditional slate of daily Masses and Devotions will occur this year.

“We will have five services through the day in the traditional format that we’ve had,” Father Burke said. “We are reinstating the



**The Annual Solemn Novena to Saint Ann will be held from July 17-26 at Saint Ann's Basilica, which is located on Saint Ann Street in Scranton. The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate the Solemn Closing Mass of this year's Novena on July 26, 2021, at 7:30 p.m.**

7:30 p.m. Mass and Novena. Last year, because of sanitizing efforts, we weren’t able to do both a 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Mass because they were too close together.”

One change that will remain this year is that the large tents in the upper parking lot will not be used again.

“Most people are still hesitant about being in big crowds. To have 200 people under one tent is going to be a little bit too challenging,” Father Burke explained. “We’ll still have drive-in parking. They can bring a lawn chair with them and get out of the car and sit.”

Last year, all of the Novena Masses and devotions were held indoors. This year, the 8:00 a.m. Mass and Devotions, along with the 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Masses and Devotions will be held outdoors once again.

“We have many benches under the portico and along the walkway and people can feel free to sit in all those places or bring a blanket and sit on the lawn if they want,” Father Burke added.

For services that will be held indoors, mainly at 11:45 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., there should be plenty of seating.

“The church is big enough that I encourage people to use common sense and not sit too close to one another. It’s big enough that you can have 600 or 700 people that are spaced out pretty well,” Father Burke said. “People are coming back in larger numbers on the weekends now and they’ve been spreading out and being careful.”

Confessions will be available before all Masses each day. The basilica is planning to have additional confessors this year and will offer the Sacrament for an hour before each Mass begins in the Lower Basilica.

“The Lower Basilica confessionals are large enough to have a decent distance between the penitent and the priest. The Upper

Confessionals are a little boxy,” Father Burke admitted.

The Passionist superior is still working out some final details of how this year’s Solemn Novena will run – most notably how the blessing with the relic of Saint Ann will take place. He is hoping to return to individual blessings again this year, after only offering a general blessing last year, out of an abundance of caution. Further information will be forthcoming in the following weeks.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate the Solemn Closing of the Novena on the Feast Day of Saint Ann, July 26, at 7:30 p.m.

The Most Reverend Kurt Burnette, Bishop of the Byzantine Ruthenian Catholic Eparchy of Passaic, will also

celebrate the Divine Liturgy on Tuesday, July 20, at 5:30 p.m. On that evening there will be no 7:30 p.m. Mass.

Sure to be appreciated by many, the traditional Saint Ann Novena food stand will be back open this year on Basilica grounds.

“The food stand will help especially with the kids,” Father Burke emphasized. “They enjoy being able to pray and then go down and get something to eat.”

Planning for the Solemn Novena requires a great deal of conversation, discussions and decisions.

“About two and a half, three months ago, we thought we were going to have to be limited the way we were last year. But then things developed over the last three months with vaccinations and the diminishment of the presence of the virus, illnesses and infections – to the point where we’re able to plan a little bit more vigorously for the traditional welcoming and traditional presence,” Father Burke said.

Father Burke recognizes that the Solemn Novena might be the first time some members of the faithful return to Mass since the pandemic started. As a result, he stresses this year’s pilgrimage is being planned with caution. For the last 15 months, he has personally stressed that anyone who is not comfortable returning to Mass can continue to pray at home.

For those who wish to participate remotely, livestreaming will occur on the Basilica of the National Shrine of Saint Ann’s website and broadcasts will be made available on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton.



**In this July 2020 photo, faithful followers of Saint Ann utilized outdoor seating and space to participate in the Solemn Closing of the Novena on the Feast of Saint Ann on July 26, 2020. (Photos/Eric Deabill)**





# Married couples mark milestone anniversaries at Cathedral Mass

SCRANTON – On his wedding day, Patrick Aquilio made a promise to his new wife. Twenty-five years later, he continues to keep that promise – to love and cherish his wife, Julie.

The couple, parishioners of Epiphany Parish in Sayre, were among more than 100 who celebrated milestone anniversaries with a special Mass Sunday, June 6, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter. The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant and homilist for the liturgy which recognized married couples celebrating 25, 50 or more years of marriage in 2021.

“I’ve actually been looking forward to this for quite some time. I heard about this Mass many, many years ago and I looked forward to the time that we were able to celebrate just like everybody else,” Patrick said.

“It’s hard to believe that 25 years ago we were just out of college and the whole world was ahead of us and how much we have accomplished in the last 25 years,” Julie added. “We have four wonderful boys who are all growing and becoming productive citizens and they’re continuing on with their Catholic faith. It has been a blessing!”

With the married couples gathered in the Cathedral, Bishop Bambera felt the collective joy and pride from all of the couples gathered.

“I don’t believe that there is any other Mass that we celebrate as a Diocese that generates more interest and excitement than this one,” the bishop said. “Thank you for your presence and for your example!”

The date of the Wedding Anniversary Mass fell on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. The bishop said the link between what the Church celebrates on Corpus Christi Sunday and what is acknowledged in the lives of married couples speaks profoundly to the power of authentic, Christ-like love as it has grown in each couple’s lives through the Sacrament of Marriage.

“In the Church’s ritual for marriage, the words of blessing bestowed on a newly married



**More than 100 married couples, who are celebrating milestone anniversaries in 2021, gathered at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on Sunday, June 6, 2021, to participate in the Diocese of Scranton’s annual Wedding Anniversary Mass.**

couple acknowledge the fact that the union of a man and woman is so holy a mystery that it symbolizes the marriage of Christ and His Church. In other words, your relationship as husband and wife is somehow meant to reflect God’s love for us,” Bishop Bambera explained.

Deacon J. Patrick McDonald of Immaculate Conception Parish and his wife Ann Marie attended the Wedding Anniversary Mass. They are celebrating 50 years of marital bliss this year.

“I’m still trying to process that we’ve been together that long,” Deacon McDonald said with a chuckle.

“It’s a big number. I still feel like the bride I was sometimes. He still makes me laugh. He makes me mad sometimes but he can still make me laugh,” Ann Marie quickly jumped in saying.

With four children, the Dunmore couple acknowledged marriage is a gift but it also requires work.

“Take things in stride. The good will come and the bad will come but if you have faith and trust in each other and God, you’ll get through it all,” Ann Marie added.

Patience and laughter have been the keys to success for Carl and Kathleen Ives of Dunmore who are also celebrating five decades of marriage this year.

“I’m just grateful that we’re still together and that we survived and that we’re still here. I have so many widow friends who have not been able to celebrate this kind of anniversary,” Kathleen explained.

When she first met Carl at a pizza shop in Olyphant, Kathleen knew immediately she had met her match.

“The minute I met him, I knew he was the one,” Kathleen said.

John and Angela McCarthy of New Milford, who attend Most Holy Trinity Parish, said it was an honor to attend the Wedding Anniversary Mass. They were especially struck by the Bishop’s homily and being able to renew the commitment they made 50 years ago.

“It was wonderful. The bishop is excellent. We watch him on TV all the time,” Angela said.

The Susquehanna County couple says they have been blessed with two daughters as well as grandchildren.

When asked for a piece of advice they might give to a newlywed couple, both weighed in.

“Compromise a lot, talk to one another and have conversation,” Angela explained.

“Have a lot of meetings at the kitchen table,” John added, explaining that talking about problems is always better than not addressing them.

Compromise and sacrifice were two of the ideals noted by Bishop Bambera in his homily.

“In the end, marriage is less about the things you’ve acquired and the bucket list that you’ve fulfilled. It is far more about each of you giving of yourself in a total and complete manner. The real miracle of Christian marriage is that when this Sacrament is



**Anne and Joseph Koniszewski of Sacred Heart Parish in Peckville, who are celebrating their 25th anniversary, participate in the ‘Renewal of Commitment’ on June 6, 2021.**

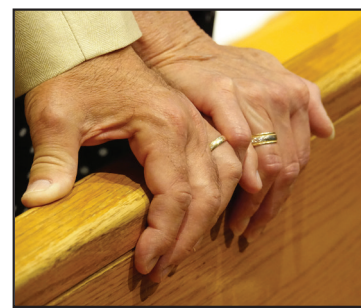


**Deacon Patrick McDonald and his wife Ann Marie, who are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary, serve as gift bearers during the 2021 Wedding Anniversary Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.**



**Patrick Aquilio and his wife Julie, who are celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary, pose for a photo with Bishop Joseph C. Bambera after Mass. (Photos/Mike Melisky)**

lived in an authentic way, you don’t have to look very far for the deep sense of happiness and contentment that you’ve achieved and all of us seek,” Bishop Bambera said as he congratulated all of the couples.





SCRANTON – While some parishes across the Diocese of Scranton are still determining whether to hold summer picnics and festivals during the ongoing pandemic, other events are already taking shape.

Mary, Mother of God Parish at Holy Rosary Church will once again hold a Drive-Thru Block Party this weekend – Friday, June 18, and Saturday, June 19, in the 300-block of William Street in North Scranton.

“Normally, we have a very large, three-day block party. As the planning started in January, we didn’t know what restrictions would be lifted and what wouldn’t,” Mary Claire Boylan, a member of the planning committee, said. “We certainly didn’t want to be responsible for holding a super spreader so we decided to do a drive-thru event once again this year as we did last year.”

The Drive-Thru Block Party will run from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. each day this year.

“You have the opportunity to pre-order your food on our website (MaryMotherofGodParish.org) or through our Facebook page or our Instagram page,” Boylan added. “You can pick your time slot that you want to pick it up and pre-pay for the food.”

Pre-orders are not a necessity. Anyone can drive-up to the church, enter the driveway and order food right there. All are welcome.

“The cooks are right there. There are people that will be taking orders,” Boylan explained.

Visitors can choose from delicious food options that include potato pancakes, par-baked pizza, pizza frita, haluski and steak and cheese sandwiches. Each night, the Drive-Thru Block Party will also have a ‘specialty’ food item.

On Friday night, customers can order either a hot sausage and pepper sandwich or a sweet sausage and pepper sandwich for \$6.00. On Saturday night, the specialty food item will be a porketta sandwich for \$6.00.

“There will be a DJ playing. You’ll be able to listen to music while you’re sitting in the car. You never have to leave your car. Everybody is safe,” Boylan explained.

Since COVID-19 restrictions on events have lessened in the recent month, organizers have gotten asked by a few people why they don’t simply change their format.

“It’s too late in the season and planning process to do that. It also could be entirely too many people together because our Friday night, when Picture Perfect plays, you can’t move. We have so many people there,” Boylan said. “For the three-day event, it takes us approximately 450 volunteers to get through those three days which is a lot of people. We still need a tremendous amount of volunteers for this (Drive-Thru Block Party) but we’re able to rely on the youth group to do all of the running. They’re wonderful kids!”

Organizers of the block party say last year’s event turned out to be a huge hit, which



**Above: Volunteers have spent the last several weeks making 9,277 pierogies for this year's Christ the King Parish Picnic, which will be held July 23-25 on the grounds of Saint Mary of Czestochowa Church, at the corner of Betty & Main Streets in Eynon.**

**Right: Rev. Brian J.T. Clarke, pastor, Christ the King Parish, helps pinch pierogies that will be sold during this year's Parish Picnic.**



is why they felt comfortable, hosting it once again. While things might not be completely the same as the parish’s traditional festival, organizers say the event still fosters a sense of community.

“There absolutely is a sense of community because everybody is out in the middle of the road chit-chatting with everybody in their cars,” Boylan said.

In East Stroudsburg, Saint Matthew Parish made the difficult decision to cancel its traditional three-day parish festival this year but decided to replace it with another community-building event.

On Saturday, July 10, Saint Matthew Parish will hold an International Food Fest in its lower parking lot on Ridgeway Street.

“We want to highlight our diversity, united as one parish, but recognizing the beauty of our differences,” Father Ryan Glenn, Assistant Pastor of Saint Matthew Parish, said.

Noting that everyone loves food, the event will have plenty of room for visitors to spread out.

“We will be offering food from many different parts of the world. Parishioners are donating their time and are cooking. We are going to have food from Latin America, food from the Philippines, Poland, Germany, Ireland, England and of course the United States,” Father Glenn added.

Attendees will be able to purchase a passport to sample foods from four countries of their choice. Tickets are being pre-sold for \$20 and will be available for \$25 on the day of the food festival. The parish is planning to hold a lunch session from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. and then a dinner session from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

“We’re very excited,” Father Ryan explained. “It’s just a creative way for us to get together, to do it safely and try and raise some necessary funds for the mission

of our parish.”

Saint Matthew Parish is blessed to have parishioners from several different counties. Masses are offered in both English and Spanish. During the pandemic not everyone has been able to gather and this food festival is an opportunity for everyone to gather under one large tent.

“It is really a blessing and I think it’s always eye opening to see the beauty that we have in our diversity,” Father Glenn added.

For more information on purchasing a pre-sale ticket, email CCD2ndgrade@yahoo.com for more information.

All parishes across the Diocese of Scranton have been invited to submit information for their summer bazaars, picnics and festivals to be published here in *The Catholic Light* throughout summer editions and on the Diocese of Scranton website. To view the full list of events, please visit dioceseofscranton.org.

## Parish Bazaar, Picnic and Festivals Listing

All parishes in the Diocese of Scranton have been invited to send information regarding their summer bazaars, picnics and festivals to the Diocese of Scranton Communications Office. Information obtained to date is contained below and will be updated as new submissions are received. A full listing of events is also available at dioceseofscranton.org.

**Mary, Mother of God Parish in North Scranton — June 18 & 19, from 4 to 8 p.m.** Event will be a Drive-Thru Block Party, featuring freshly made food items. Picnic foods include pizza, steak & cheese, pizza frita, potato pancakes and halushki available both days. Special food favorites to be added to the menu include sausage & peppers (Friday) and porketta sandwiches (Saturday). Event also includes nightly entertainment by DJ Edwin Velez, raffle drawings and theme basket raffle. Food items may be ordered on site or in advance. Pre-orders must be paid in

advance. For more information, contact the parish at (570) 342-4881 or mmog.secretary@gmail.com.

**Nativity of Our Lord Parish in Duryea — July 9 & 10.** Summer festival held on the Nativity Parish picnic grounds at Holy Rosary Church, 127 Stephenson St., Duryea. Visit: nativityduryea.org.

**Saint Matthew Parish in East Stroudsburg — July 10.** International Food Fest includes afternoon offering held from 1 to 4 p.m., followed by an evening event from 5 to 8 p.m. Featuring authentic cuisine dishes representing nine different countries/regions from around the world.

For more information, contact Kathy Coyle at kath06051963@yahoo.com.

**Saint Eulalia Parish in Roaring Brook Township — July 16 & 17, from 6 to 10 p.m.** Festival includes Grandma’s Attic, picnic foods, games and Tricky Trays. Featuring the 11th Annual 5K Run/Walk on Saturday at 9 a.m. Kid’s Fun Run starts at 8:55 a.m. for ages 12 and under. All will receive medals. Registration for all 5K Run/Walk participants is online only. Register online at www.steulalia5k.com. For more information, contact the parish office at (570) 842-7656.

*Continued on Page 23*



# Diocese of Scranton Catholic High Schools Class of 2021

## Holy Redeemer High School



**Patrick  
DelBalso**



**Lauren  
Patrick**

WILKES-BARRE — Holy Redeemer High School was the first Diocesan secondary school to hold spring commencement exercises when graduation ceremonies were staged on June 2 at the Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza in Wilkes-Barre Township.

A total of 130 Holy Redeemer seniors, led by Principal Doreen S. Dougherty, were conferred their diplomas by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, who also addressed the graduates and offered benediction.

The class' Baccalaureate Mass was celebrated June 1 in school's McCarthy Auditorium. Serving as principal celebrant and homilist was Father Seth Wasnock, chaplain of Holy Redeemer High School.

The 2021 Holy Redeemer class valedictorian is Patrick DelBalso, son of Patrick and Leane DelBalso of Plains. This year's Holy Redeemer salutatorian is Lauren Patrick, daughter of Edward and Andrea Patrick of Mountain Top.

Of the total number of graduates, 120 will be enrolling in colleges or universities to further their education, including 49 who will be attending Catholic institutions of higher learning. The 2021 Holy Redeemer senior class merited a total of 690 scholarship awards worth more than \$35 million.

**"We have been blessed  
with our God-given talents  
to boldly go out into the world  
to make positive changes.  
The world is a beautiful place  
with endless opportunities  
just waiting for us to shine.  
Class of 2021, be kind, be  
yourself, be amazing!"**



— *Patrick DelBalso*  
Valedictory Address  
Excerpt

**"Our senior year was not what any of us  
had ever imagined. Yet, through God's grace,  
we braved our challenges and have become  
stronger individuals in the process. Now,  
filled with hope and excitement for what  
the future holds, we step forth in the beginning  
of the rest of our lives."**

— *Lauren Patrick*  
Salutatory Address  
Excerpt

## Saint John Neumann Regional Academy

WILLIAMSPORT — Graduation ceremonies were conducted for the Saint John Neumann Regional Academy Class of 2021 on June 3 at the Church of Saint Boniface in Williamsport.

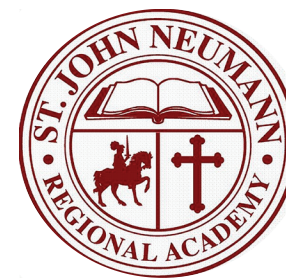
Saint John Neumann Principal Alisia McNamee presided over the presentation of diplomas to the 15 members of this year's graduating class, which were conferred by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, who also offered remarks and the closing benediction.

The Baccalaureate Mass was celebrated June 1 at Immaculate Conception Church in Williamsport, where Father Bert Kozen, host pastor, served as principal celebrant and homilist.

This year's Saint John Neumann valedictorian is Sydney Rosenthal, daughter of Dr. Marc Rosenthal and Lorraine Seiffert, Williamsport. Salutatorian honors were bestowed upon Faith Reid, daughter of Thomas and Sarah Reid, residents of Williamsport.

All of the 2021 Saint John Neumann graduates will be pursuing further education on the university/college level, including four class members who plan to attend Catholic institutions of higher learning. As a class, the Saint John Neumann seniors amassed 21 academic scholarships worth \$1.4 million.

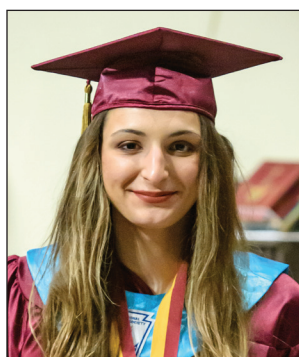
**"So many great adventures  
await us. My only sorrow  
today is that we don't  
experience them together.  
I'm honored to have the  
privilege to stand up here  
today and recognize each  
and every one of us for the  
unique individuals we were,  
are, and will become."**



— *Sydney Rosenthal*  
Valedictory Address  
Excerpt

**"The education we received at Saint John Neumann  
not only drove each of us to succeed, but it also  
created within us a deeper understanding  
of our faith and how we can rely on it once we leave.  
With the weekly Masses, theology classes,  
and prayer integrated into our schedules, each one  
of us had a chance to root ourselves in Christ."**

— *Faith Reid*  
Salutatory Address  
Excerpt



**Sydney  
Rosenthal**



**Faith  
Reid**



**247**

*The total number of young men and women who graduated from the four Catholic High Schools in the Diocese*

**\$61 million**

*Graduates earned nearly 1,200 scholarships, cumulatively earning this much toward their future schooling*

**94%**

*The percentage of seniors who will continue their education in college. Nearly 40% will attend Catholic institutions*

## Notre Dame High School



— Aaron Bailey  
Valedictory Address  
Excerpt

**“Prepare for the next journey and never forget that you are resilient! We dealt with year-long challenges that no other class in Notre Dame school history has dealt with and we got through it all.”**

**“Our families and teachers taught many things, including how to be kind and considerate, and we have built friendships on these principles. We will remember the support we have given each other when things were tough, and the celebrations we shared, even for the smallest achievements.”**

— Rachel Krechel  
Valedictory Address  
Excerpt

EAST STROUDSBURG — Commencement exercises were held June 4 for Notre Dame High School, during which 40 graduates received their diplomas from Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, who also offered the principal address and closing benediction.

Pocono Raceway in Long Pond provided the setting for the graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2021 at Notre Dame, where Jeffrey N. Lyons serves as principal.

The Baccalaureate Mass was celebrated June 3 in the school's theater by Father Ryan Glenn, chaplain of Notre Dame High School.

Earning co-valedictorian honors for this year's Notre Dame graduating class were Aaron Bailey, son of Ronald and Sandra Bailey of Tobyhanna; and Rachel Krechel, daughter of Steven and Kelli Ann Krechel, Saylorsburg.

Nearly the entire 2021 Notre Dame senior class will continue their education at the university/college level, including ten students who will be attending Catholic institutions of higher learning. The class received a total of 86 scholarship awards valued at nearly \$7.5 million.

## Holy Cross High School



— Peyton Phillips  
Valedictory Address  
Excerpt

**“We will continue to strive. We will continue to achieve, serve and prevail. We will indubitably blaze trails where none has gone before and have many great stories to tell. God bless the Class of 2021.”**

**“We have been well prepared by Holy Cross. We have been prepared in not only academics but also in care and concern for others. The future might not be exactly how you planned it and it likely will not be what you expect. But we must keep our faith in God, Who has been a loving and influential presence throughout our time at Holy Cross.”**

— Norah Kelly  
Salutatory Address  
Excerpt

DUNMORE — The Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza in Wilkes-Barre Township provided the setting for the annual commencement of Holy Cross High School.

Graduation ceremonies for the 62 members of the 2021 Holy Cross senior class were held on June 4, led by school Principal Benjamin D. Tolerico.

Presiding over the commencement exercises and conferring the high school diplomas was Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, who addressed the Holy Cross graduates and gave the benediction.

The Baccalaureate Mass was celebrated June 3 at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, with Father Cyril D. Edwards, school chaplain, serving as principal celebrant and homilist.

The 2012 Holy Cross valedictorian is Peyton Phillips, daughter of Nancy and Justin Phillips of Nicholson. Class salutatorian is Norah Kelly, daughter of Meg Kelly and Thomas Pappas, Scranton.

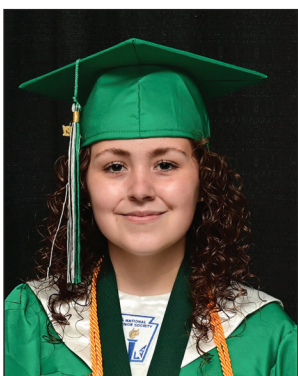
Nearly 95 percent of the Holy Cross graduation class will be attending institutions of higher learning, with 29 graduates planning to enroll at Catholic colleges or universities. As a whole, the class earned 392 post-secondary scholarship awards totaling almost \$17 million.



**Aaron Bailey**



**Rachel Krechel**



**Peyton Phillips**



**Norah Kelly**

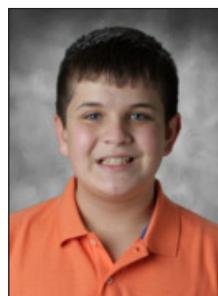


# Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Award

The Diocese of Scranton Catholic Schools Office recognizes these Seton Award winners for their achievement on the high school entrance examination and their enrollment in a Diocesan high school for the 2021-2022 school year. Families of these individuals are commended for their commitment to Catholic education, and the students are congratulated for this distinguished honor. For these students and for all young people in our Catholic schools, Catholic education impacts their formation by incorporating a strong emphasis on the spiritual that is evident in all components of the learning process. Our vision for these students is to provide them an educational experience that promotes a lifelong learning in the faith, and one that prepared them to be responsible, competent, and confident persons as citizens of our country and world. In addition, our schools are dedicated to providing a loving, safe and nurturing environment where the young learn respect for themselves and for all persons.



Emma Woody  
All Saints Academy



Richard Shelp  
All Saints Academy



James Howey  
Epiphany School



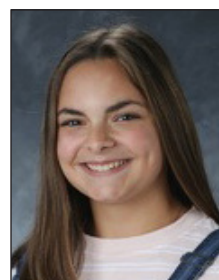
Sofia Marica  
Epiphany School



Adriyanna Kushner  
La Salle Academy



Zachary Kovaleski  
La Salle Academy



Chloe Mendicino  
Our Lady of Peace School



Angelina Tavani  
St. Agnes School



Elizabeth Kilmer  
St. Agnes School



Brayden Moran  
St. Clare/St. Paul School



Yelyzabeta Myronyuk  
St. Clare/St. Paul School



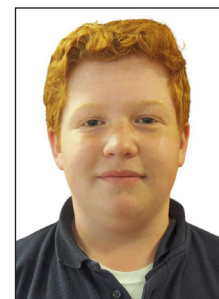
Roger Rossi  
St. Clare/St. Paul School



Andrew Cleveland  
St. Clare/St. Paul School



Gavin Monahan  
St. Mary of Mount Carmel School



Tyler Musso  
St. Mary of Mount Carmel School



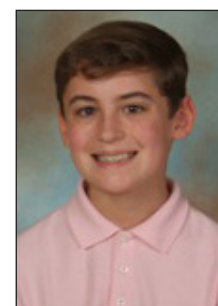
Jenna Pipan  
Good Shepherd Academy



Christopher Dutko  
Good Shepherd Academy



Jadon White  
Good Shepherd Academy



Owen Clark  
Good Shepherd Academy



Erica Boyle  
Holy Family Academy



Tyler Berlanda  
Holy Family Academy





To the students who have benefited from a Catholic education, and to those  
who continue their educational journey in a Catholic environment,  
we salute you and pray that God, through the intercession of  
Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, guides you in

*Faith, Hope and Love.*



Matthew Lyons  
Holy Rosary School



Thomas Dugan  
St. Jude School



Addison Rosenko  
St. Nicholas/St. Mary School



Matthew Ahnert  
Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School



Cadence Bohdal  
Notre Dame Elementary School



Kaidance Meixel  
St. John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School



Evan Licari  
Holy Rosary School



Carolyn Phillips  
St. Nicholas/St. Mary School



Ian Harris  
Wyoming Area Catholic School



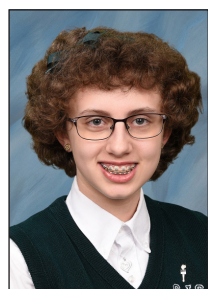
Blain Assegid  
Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School



Rory Malone  
Notre Dame Elementary School



Margaret Lundy  
St. John Neumann Elementary School



Grace Tedford  
St. Jude School



Emily Pugh  
St. Nicholas/St. Mary School



Jack Broda  
Wyoming Area Catholic School



Shelbi Calligari  
Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School



Sophia Reid  
St. John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School



Brecken Gusick  
St. John Neumann Elementary School



Logan Sekol  
St. Nicholas/St. Mary School



Michael Peterson  
Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School



# Congratulations Catholic High School Graduates!

## Class of 2021

### HOLY CROSS

Jack O'Malley Allardyce  
Kathryn Grace Augustine  
Bria Ann Beggin  
Emma Lauren Beilman  
Patrick Michael Bennie

Alice Julia Jones  
Kevin Joseph Jumper  
Will Anthony Kalinich  
Robert J. Kane



Jillian Frances Brennan  
Sarah Lynne Callejas  
Paige Marie Caskey  
Lucca Anthony Cerminaro  
Kelsey Anne Conlon  
Laurel Marie Cortazar  
Arabella Cecile Cox  
James B. Davis IV  
Matthew Adrian Dec  
Carter Elizabeth Englehardt  
Kylie Noelle Engleman  
Ryan Philip Evans  
James Michael Fay  
Emily Jane Ferguson  
Kylee Rian Gale  
Patrick Robert Gilman Jr.  
Emily Rose Haikes  
William Robert Hanna  
Lauren Elizabeth Hegedus  
Ryan Joseph Huester  
Amaya S. Jackson

Norah Ann Kelly †  
Molly Marie Landsiedel  
Thomas Theodore Lee  
Abigail Grace Lentowski  
Mark Lopez  
Brandon Ludovici Jr.  
David Joseph Mariotti  
Julia Hockey Mazur  
Erin Elena McGee  
Catherine Grace McGovern  
Jacob Richard McLane  
Nathan Patrick McLane  
Ashlyn Marie McNally  
Tyler Loren Mendicino  
Samuel Morales  
Sarah Elizabeth Murphy  
Alexander Joseph Nole  
Peyton Olivia Phillips \*  
Cristia Lourdes Ives Polizzi  
William Henry Roever II  
Craig T. Roman

### \* Valedictorians

David Christopher Romanski  
Corey Thomas Scochin  
Caroline Grace Shaffern  
Andrew Nicholas Skutack  
Alexis Marie Tanana  
Mikele – Danilo A. Tenev  
Connor Benjamin Tone  
Rebecca Maureen Tone  
Kristina Lynn Tranovich  
Elizabeth Wallace  
Douglas Patrick Walsh

### HOLY REDEEMER

Dominic Michael Alberti  
Matthew Albrecht  
Theresa Erin Amerise  
Amelia Rose Anderson  
Logan M. Atcavage  
Aubrey Lynn Ayre  
Amelia K. Banks  
Laura Bednar  
Krista Marie Biago  
Addison Teresa Bielski  
Isabelle Paige Birmer  
Rachel Grace Black  
Molly Marie Blaskiewicz  
Lucia Asuntina Bonk

### † Salutatorians

Michael James Brown  
John Michael Bush  
Anna Elizabeth Capaci  
Matthew Australia Carty  
Kyle Bernard Castle  
Kimberly Ann Clocker  
Kailey Marie Considine  
Makaylee Brianna Crake  
Patrick David Michael DelBalso \*  
Madison Jane Dewees  
Michael G. Dotzel Jr.  
Collin Patrick Dougherty  
Emily Dairin Dougherty  
Jacob Drevitch  
Daniel David Drost  
David Joseph Durko  
Katelyn Rebecca Engel  
Jacob Lawrence English  
Gianna Lyn Evans  
Amanda Clare Feher  
Tanner Fenstermacher  
Ava Rose Fino  
Alexandra Fumanti  
Anthony Francis Giovinnazzo  
Kenly Jane Golanoski  
Amelia Frances Grudkowski  
Alexander J. Hajkowski

Sean Carson Hand  
Rose Kathryn Hayward  
Emmslie Hernandez  
Christopher Hine  
Sierra Nicole Hines  
Tyler Joseph Hoedl



John Joseph Jamiolkowski III  
Olivia C. Kaluzny  
Connor James Kane  
Ryan Patrick Kane  
Zachary James Kehoe  
Hannah Elisabeth Kern  
Peter Michael Khoudary  
Zev Isaac Kornfeld  
Ethan Christopher Kozden  
Brett Anthony Kugler  
Kelci Charlee Kuren  
Christina Marie Kurlandski  
Abigail Rose Kush  
James Thomas Lavan  
Tyler Lee  
Olivia Kathryn Lewis  
Ayva Rose Lisowski  
Kathleen Margaret Magda  
Emily N. Mahler







Aimee Makowski	Brady Dominic Rood
Anthony L. Mandoza	Maxwell Missett Rosen
Bella Rose Martin	Vaughn A. Rudloff
Matthew Martin	Sydney Anne Rush
Owen Gerard Martin	Alexander Joseph Rymar
Joshua William Mayerski	Raymond Anthony Sabatini
Bailey Elizabeth M'Dermott	Abigail Maria Sankus
Lance Robert McGrane	Mariel Rose Schramm
Kip William Miller	Daniel Anthony Schuler
Hasan S K A Mohammed	Matthew Francis Schuler
Gabrielle Marie Morgan	Abbigail Elizabeth Schultz
Chloe Faith Morris	Lynzie Isabella Skoronski
Olivia Grace Murray	Adam Gregory Smith
Maxwell William Nehila	Nicholas M. Smith
Catal Orlando	Mya Kalyn Soler
Olivia Elizabeth Owens	Karissa F. Spade
Antonio H. Panzak	Matthew James Spiccioli
Lauren Frances Patrick †	Sarah Patricia Stettler
Olivia Noelle Pavlico	Jeffrey Thomas Stilp
Vanessa Celine Pinto	Jordan Elizabeth Stochla
Jacob William Pizzolato	Giana Taylor Stoddard
Logan James Porzucek	Anthony Joseph Strish
Julianna Rose Powis	Michael David Strunk
Erica Elizabeth Rey	Joseph Ethan Swartwood

Aleeza Syed  
 Hideki Joseph Takagi  
 Dominick Jeffrey Adam Tavella  
 Lola Rose Terrana  
 Michael James Tkach  
 Alexa Mercedes Ullrich  
 Abigail Patricia Varzaly  
 Andrew Jamison Wallace  
 William Leon Wasiakowski  
 Alyssa C. Whitfield  
 Amelia Rose Williams  
 Matthew Steven Williams  
 Colin James Wills  
 Grace Elizabeth Wolsieffer  
 Austin Michael Zabresky  
 Noah Stephen Zim

**NOTRE DAME**

Aaron Christopher Bailey ✱  
 Amy Falleiros Coogan  
 Gabriella Ann Danatzko  
 Aleena Jade DeLorenzo  
 Dylan Nicholas DiLauro  
 Gianna Anastasia DiLauro  
 Arthur Andrei Dragomir



Jamie-Lee Garcon  
 John Michael Gilroy  
 Lianna Marie Hilario  
 Gianna Iandoli  
 Laura E. James  
 Matthew D. James  
 Miya Veronica Jankowski  
 Kristina Rose Kasharian  
 Rachel Lily Kasharian  
 Rachel Reilly Krechel ✱  
 Sarah Rose Ledet  
 Devlin J. Leonard  
 Mary Elizabeth Long  
 Xavier Leon Lorenzo  
 Michael Nicholas Martinetti  
 Alyssa M. Martinez-Tovar  
 Vi Son Nguyen  
 Matthew Dariusz Nowacki  
 Jordan Emily Pansy  
 Ahnika Elizabeth Patrow  
 Chloe E. Paul  
 Nicholas Maxon Pelletier  
 Jefferson Perez  
 Myka Simone Price  
 Maurice Ramirez Sierra  
 Yudeliz Ellie Sanchez  
 Macy Elizabeth Schnatter

Shawn Bernard Aaron Seay  
 Michael Alexander Tichy  
 Selena Teresa Vergara  
 Juliana Marie Vojtash



William Reid Warnken  
 Zachary Brian Wolf

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 REGIONAL ACADEMY**

Ellie Dare Androvette  
 Keon Elijah Issah Burkholder  
 Kevin le Quoc Cao  
 Megan Elaine Crosby  
 Jeffrey Lynn Hamilton  
 David Dwayne Hill  
 Juliana Kathleen Kriner  
 Zachary Wayne Lisi  
 Alexander James Lockcuff  
 Ryan Thomas McNamee  
 Caleb James Reddy  
 Faith Margaret Reid †  
 Sydney Hannah Rosenthal ✱  
 ZuZu Victoria Shanaway  
 Qadry Ismail Taylor

**Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton**

Mr. Jason W.S. Morrison, M.B.A. • Diocesan Secretary of Catholic Education/Chief Executive Officer

Mrs. Kristen Donohue, M.Ed., Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Ms. Kathleen A. Gilmartin, M.Ed. • Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Mrs. Michele Long, M.Ed. • Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Schools

OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS  
 DIOCESE OF SCRANTON



# "Kindness is Contagious"

## Wyoming Area Catholic School donates money to C.E.O. as part of pilot project

EXETER – When 150 students leave their classroom and head outdoors in late May – you would expect a lot of noise. The sound coming from the kids at Wyoming Area Catholic School on May 27, 2021, did not involve talking or joking around however.

The sound of coins – quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies – rattling around loudly filled a large tent on the school's front lawn.

"That's inspirational," Rabbi Yossi Schulman told the students during a special presentation celebrating the school's ARK Charity Program. "ARK" stands for Acts of Random Kindness.

As part of a pilot program, each student received a small plastic bank in the shape of an ark. The students collected money outside of school whenever they performed a selfless act. The kids brought the money to school and counted it weekly to highlight the power of collective giving.

The students chose to donate all of the money to the Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO), which helps to fight food insecurity in northeastern Pennsylvania.

"I would hold the door open for people in the morning and when I'm at my house, my grandma would ask me to carry the bags and I would usually do it," 10-year-old Cayden Richards said.

"I helped my mom with the laundry," 10-year-old Julianna O'Hop added.

Rabbi Schulman, president of the Unite the World organization, asked the Diocese of Scranton if one of its schools would participate in the pilot project and Wyoming Area Catholic School was selected.

"You have done such a phenomenal job," principal Eileen Rishcoff told the students as the students and community members gathered to celebrate the project's success.



**Students from Wyoming Area Catholic School raise plastic banks on May 27, 2021, and shake them to highlight the coins they collected as part of the schools ARK Charity Project. (Photos/Eric Deabill)**



**Students from Wyoming Area Catholic School empty their ark-shaped banks into collection buckets in an effort to fight hunger in northeastern Pennsylvania.**

Gretchen Hunt, Resource Development Director for C.E.O., called the students an "inspiration."

"You've turned not just yourselves, but your whole family and your extended family into givers in demonstrating acts of kindness every day," Hunt said.

Hunt explained that the funding the students collected will help children who don't have enough food to eat at home.

"A lot of times, hunger, especially in families with children goes unseen," she added. "It could be the kid sitting next to you in class, it could be the family that lives down the street that you play with after school and we don't see it unless somebody tells you and that's a hard thing to tell somebody when you're struggling because you're hungry."

Students enjoyed taking part in the project.

"I love the fact that my school was given the opportunity to do this and help out

our community and other people in need," 12-year-old Isabella Falzone said. "This has just been a great opportunity for me to grow in my faith and really learn valuable life lessons about donating time and money and doing little acts of kindness."

"I was really inspired and I thought it was really cool that our school was able to donate so much money in that short period of time that we had to do it," O'Hop added. "It makes me feel really good that our school can raise so much money and that every kid in the school knows how important it is to raise money for other people."

Part of the reason why the students had such fun with the project was because Wyoming Area Catholic School built a large ark, resembling Noah's Ark, out of boxes. For every \$5 donated, students got to color a picture of an animal and stick it to the ark. In no time, the ark was covered in lions, zebras, koalas, monkeys and alligators, among other animals.

On the day of the school presentation, the school donated a \$2,000 check to C.E.O. to signify the students' collection up until that point. By the end of the year, the school raised more than \$5,000 total.

"Looking out at you today is perhaps one of the greatest inspirations I've seen in a very long time. You are our future! You are so inspiring to me personally, to our community, because of the way you grasped this project. You built the ark, you collected coins and money in such a short period of time, you understand the idea of giving back. Please never forget that. It is our responsibility to look out for others because if we don't do it, who will?" Charles Barber, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Luzerne Foundation, told the students.

As the program wrapped up and each student deposited their coins in buckets to be tallied, one overriding theme became apparent. Rabbi Schulman emphasized it.

"Kindness is contagious," he said.

## House Call: Catholic Social Services distributes food to senior apartments



**James Harris, an employee of Saint Francis Kitchen, hands food to Ryan Stefanovich and other volunteers, who helped to distribute it to seniors at Saint Catherine Manor in Dunmore on May 26, 2021.**

DUNMORE – Residents living in two apartment complexes in Lackawanna County recently received a helping hand thanks to Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton.

On May 26, more than 50 elderly residents living at Saint Catherine Manor in Dunmore received fresh food and vegetables delivered to their door. A similar delivery took place for residents of Saint Michael on the Hill in Jessup on June 10.

Karen Beavers, a resident at Saint Catherine Manor for the last

six years, greatly appreciated the extra assistance.

"Everything helps. Every little bit helps when you're a senior," Beavers said.

Ryan Stefanovich, a Catholic Social Services Relief Services Case Manager, said the residents received a number of different items.

"We have meat, chicken, hamburger, several canned vegetables, orange juice, tea and other things that the residents can use," Stefanovich explained.

Catholic Social Services worked with Schiff's to get all of

the food delivered.

"Every little bit helps, especially in these unprecedented times," Stefanovich added, referring to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Beavers said the food delivery is appreciated by residents – because many have medical conditions that make it hard to make frequent trips to the grocery store.

Asked what she will make with the food delivered to her, she responded, "I'll probably make barbeque chicken!"



VATICAN CITY (CNS) – A series of laws and procedures promulgated by now-retired Pope Benedict XVI and, especially, by Pope Francis to protect children, promote the investigation of allegations of clerical sexual abuse and punish offenders are included in a heavily revised section of the Code of Canon Law.

The revision of “Book VI: Penal Sanctions in the Church,” one of seven books that make up the code for the Latin rite of the Catholic Church, was promulgated June 1 and will go into effect Dec. 8, Pope Francis wrote.

Rewriting 63 of the book’s 89 canons, the revision addresses a host of issues that have come up in the life of the church since St. John Paul II promulgated the code in 1983. The descriptions of crimes of sexual abuse, including child pornography, are more explicit, and the required actions of a bishop or superior of a religious order in handling allegations are more stringent.

The revised canons also include new references to the attempted ordination of a woman and to a variety of financial crimes; like with the new canons dealing with sexual abuse, they rely on language from laws promulgated separately over the past 20 years.

“In the past, much damage has been caused by a failure to perceive the intimate relationship existing in the church between the exercise of charity and recourse - when circumstances and justice require it - to the discipline of sanctions. This way of thinking, as experience has

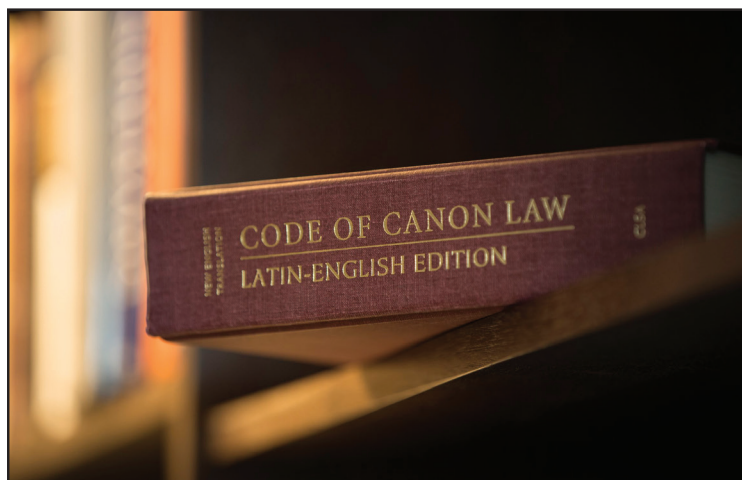
taught us, risks leading to a life of behavior contrary to the discipline of morals, for the remedy of which exhortations or suggestions alone are not sufficient,” Pope Francis wrote in “Pascite Gregem Dei” (Shepherd God’s Flock), the apostolic constitution promulgating the changes.

While church law applies to all Catholics, the pope said, for bishops, the observance of canon law “can in no way be separated from the pastoral ‘munus’ (service) entrusted to them, and which must be carried out as a concrete and inalienable requirement of charity not only toward the church, the Christian community and possible victims, but also toward those who have committed a crime, who need both mercy and correction on the part of the church.”

Over the years, he said, it became clear that the code’s description of crimes and penalties needed to be “modified in such a way as to allow pastors to use it as a more agile salvific and corrective instrument, to be employed promptly and with pastoral charity to avoid more serious evils and to soothe the wounds caused by human weakness.”

The revised book was presented to the press June 1 by Archbishop Filippo Iannone and Bishop Juan Ignacio Arrieta, respectively president and secretary of the Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts. In 2009, Pope Benedict had asked the council to begin the revision project.

The revision moves the



**A Latin-English edition of the Code of Canon Law is pictured on a bookshelf. New canon law provisions approved by Pope Francis are expected to help the Catholic Church safeguard against abuse. (CNS photo/Nancy Phelan Wiechec)**

canons about the sexual abuse of children - on the part of a priest, religious or layperson working for the church - out of the section on violations of the obligation of celibacy and into a newly titled section of “Offenses Against Human Life, Dignity and Liberty.”

It adds to canon law the crime of “grooming,” calling for penalties, including dismissal from the priesthood for a cleric who “grooms or induces a minor or a person who habitually has an imperfect use of reason or one to whom the law recognizes equal protection to expose himself or herself pornographically or to take part in pornographic exhibitions, whether real or simulated.”

However, the revised language still refers to rape and other forms of sexual abuse as “an offence against the Sixth Commandment” - You shall not commit adultery.

The continued use of the Sixth Commandment to refer to any improper, immoral or even criminal sexual activity “is traditional” in church law, Bishop Arrieta said, and for Catholics its meaning “is clear,” which is necessary when drafting a law that will be valid on every continent and in every culture.

In incorporating recent church law regarding abuse, the new code does not refer to abuse of “vulnerable” adults or “vulnerable persons” as Pope Francis did in his May 2019 motu proprio, “Vos estis lux mundi.”

Bishop Arrieta said the term “vulnerable person,” while understood and recognized in the law of many countries, is not universally accepted as a legal category of persons deserving special protection. Instead, the new law refers to people whom the law recognizes as deserving

of the same protection extended to minors and those with “an imperfect use of reason.”

The revised law also foresees penalties for “a person who neglects to report an offence, when required to do so by a canonical law.”

Bishop Arrieta said that provision refers to the obligation to report serious crimes, such as sexual abuse, to church authorities, not civil authorities. If criminal reporting to the state is obligatory, the state will enforce that, he said.

The revised code also says, “Both a person who attempts to confer a sacred order on a woman, and the woman who attempts to receive the sacred order, incur a ‘laetæ sententiae’ (automatic) excommunication reserved to the Apostolic See; a cleric, moreover, may be punished by dismissal from the clerical state.”

Given that Pope Francis in April 2020 formed a second “Study Commission on the Female Diaconate,” Bishop Arrieta was asked why the revised canon did not specify priestly ordination, leaving open the possibility of ordaining women to the diaconate.

Canon law, he said, relies on the current state of the teaching of the church. “If we come to a different theological conclusion, we will modify the norm,” he said, just as was done in January when Pope Francis ordered a change in the wording of canon law so that women, as well as men, could be formally installed as lectors and acolytes.

## What the new revisions to the Code of Canon Law mean for safeguarding

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The new series of laws and provisions set out in the revised section on crimes and penalties in the Code of Canon Law will help the Catholic Church in its efforts at safeguarding, two canon lawyers said.

And yet, like with every new norm and measure, its success will depend on following through on enforcement, being mindful in interpreting still unclear aspects and working on remaining gaps, they said.

Claudia Giampietro, a canon lawyer and project

officer at the office for care and safeguarding for the International Union of Superiors General, told Catholic News Service that this mindset of respect and protection is a significant change.

The ultimate principle of safeguarding “is recognizing that a wounded humanity needs respect, and this must inform every single act performed within and outside of the Catholic Church,” she told CNS in an email response to questions June 3.

It shows how the revisions have been informed by and reflect “the voice of victims and survivors

of abuse, which is making the church aware and, therefore, responsible” in turning their requests “into canonical provisions which can support the healing process involving the entire ecclesial community,” she added.

Also, she said, by putting abuse, indecent exposure, pornography and grooming in a new chapter that adds the term “dignity,” - under the heading “Offences Against Human Life, Dignity and Liberty” - shows an understanding that such crimes “harm the inalienable dignity of human beings acknowledged

in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,” and are not just a violation of the Sixth Commandment.

“I believe that this choice of language expresses at its best the mind of a legislator (the pope) who has been always defending the inestimable value of every human life in his pontificate and in his entire life,” Giampietro said.

Msgr. Robert Oliver of the Archdiocese of Boston and formerly of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors told CNS that “the one thing that stands out for

safeguarding is that the Holy Father has introduced legal requirements that suspected offenses be reported and that bishops respond to these reports by making use of the church’s penal procedures” for the restoration of justice, the reform of the offender and the repair of scandal.

In other words, where previous canons suggested what “can” be done when an offense has been committed, now the rules are what “must” be done and making sure the law is applied.



# COVID vaccines made available at Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen



**Bo Fuller, assistant chef at Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen, receives his COVID-19 vaccination during a vaccine clinic held at the kitchen on June 2, 2021. Staff from the clinics at Scranton Primary Health Care Center made COVID-19 vaccines available to anyone who wanted one. (Photo/Eric Deabill)**

SCRANTON – Guests of Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen were able to receive more than a warm, nutritious meal on Wednesday, June 2. Visitors were also able to get a free COVID-19 vaccination.

Through a partnership with the clinics at Scranton Primary Health Care Center, Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen was able to offer Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine from 10:30 a.m. until 12:45 p.m.

After helping to cook the daily meal of stuffed peppers, mashed potatoes and green beans, Saint Francis of Assisi Assistant Chef Bo Fuller rolled up his sleeve to get the single-dose vaccine.

"It needs to be done. It was a personal choice. I decided to go with it," Fuller said. "It was convenient and it was here."

In addition to the vaccines distributed at the kitchen on June 2, free vaccines were also made available for anyone at the kitchen on Wednesday, June 9. No reservations were required on either occasion.

"It was no problem at all," Rose McIntosh of Dalton said after receiving her shot at the kitchen. "My doctor suggested I get it because I'm a diabetic and my husband has COPD."

McIntosh volunteers with the Friends of the Poor and says having the vaccines

available at Saint Francis Kitchen was quick and convenient.

"I'm usually always down here. My son lives in Finch Towers and I come down and see other people. I'm usually always down in Scranton," she added.

One guest who received a vaccination – David – knows the importance of being immunized first-hand. He had COVID-19 in December.

"I don't want it again," David explained. "It was bad for almost three weeks, headaches and muscle aches, my whole body."

It was only after walking in the door of Saint Francis Kitchen that David learned the free vaccines were available from Executive Director Rob Williams. David wasted no time in getting the shot, he received it before he even ate his meal.

"I didn't know they had them. I had scheduled one and I missed the appointment. I tried to get another one and they didn't have any available at that time and I gave up for a couple days," David said.

Two weeks after receiving his vaccine, David will be considered fully vaccinated and he looks forward to that time.

"This will help me move around a little bit more with freedom," he said with a smile.

# News from the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference



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

## PCC URGES SENATE ACTION ON UNBORN CHILD DIGNITY ACT

HARRISBURG – The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference praised the state House on June 10, 2021, for the passage of HB 118, the Unborn Child Dignity Act, sponsored by Rep. Frank Ryan (R-Lebanon). The PCC is also urging the Senate to take up the measure as soon as possible.

"This legislation is desperately needed for parents," said Eric Failing, the Executive Director of the PCC. "It will give them the option of either taking the remains of their child or leaving them with the health care facility for cremation or burial. It would be entirely their choice."

Failing also had high praise for Rep. Ryan for his work on the bill and for holding steady in the face of constant criticism from opponents. Ryan consistently pointed out the mischaracterizations of HB 118 and was able to maintain solid bi-partisan support.

"The catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that 'bodies of the dead must be treated with respect and charity, in faith and hope of the resurrection,'" Failing said. "House Bill 118 would achieve this, and help provide closure for countless parents."

## PCC PRAISES PA HOUSE FOR PASSING DOWN SYNDROME PROTECTION ACT

HARRISBURG – The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference praised members of the state House on June 8, 2021, who voted in favor of Rep. Kate Klunk's House Bill 1500, also known as the Down Syndrome Protection Act. It would prohibit an abortion based solely on the diagnosis of a possible Down syndrome.

The vote went 120-83, with most Republicans and a handful of pro-life Democrats voting in support.

"This critical legislation seeks to protect children from being killed simply because they have been diagnosed with Down syndrome," said Eric Failing, the Executive Director of the PCC. "Pennsylvania cannot claim to be a champion for the rights of the disabled if our laws allow them to be killed solely because of their disability."

Failing offered strong praise as well for the hard work put in by Klunk on this measure.

"Rep. Klunk is the essence of what the PA Pro-Life Caucus is all about," he said. "She was the driving force behind this legislation in the last session and picked up right where she left off after Governor Wolf vetoed that bill. We can't control what the governor does, but he's not going to be in office forever. We have to keep working to preserve life."

## PCC CONGRATULATES REP. CLINT OWLETT ON PASSAGE OF OPIOID BILL

HARRISBURG – The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference congratulated Rep. Clint Owlett on June 7, 2021, for the unanimous House passage of his House Bill 253. It calls for the establishment of a task force to look into the impact of the opioid epidemic on infants and children.

The PCC supports this measure and commends all members of the House on the final vote of 202-0.

"We all know of the disastrous impact that the opioid epidemic has caused throughout our Commonwealth," said Eric Failing, the Executive Director of the PCC. "All of our Catholic Charities have witnessed a surge in requests for help from impacted families."

"It is our hope that the task force created through this legislation can specifically focus its attention on the infants and children impacted by the opioid epidemic and thereby identify and develop recommendations to help this vulnerable group."



**Thank you to the 643 individuals who supported the Diocese of Scranton on June 4, NEPA Gives Day. The Diocese, along with its schools, programs and ministries raised \$75,535 when combining donor gifts and bonuses from sponsoring charitable foundations.**





## Join Father William Langan and Pilgrims from the Diocese of Scranton on an Incredible Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

**November 13 - 23, 2021**

**\$4590.00** PER PERSON  
AIR-INCLUSIVE FROM NEWARK

On this trip we will visit the many incredible sites throughout the Holy Land. The itinerary features five nights in Jerusalem, three nights in Tiberias and one night in Tel Aviv, with multiple excursions to many different sites along the way.

Father Langan will lead us in daily Mass and prayer, and our Catholic tour director from Nazareth will share with us his love and knowledge of the holy places. From Bethlehem to Bethany, Nazareth to Jerusalem, our Faith will come to life as we walk in Christ's very footsteps.

This trip has been designed to be as comfortable as possible. We've arranged round-trip direct airfare from Newark EWR, beautiful four and five star hotels, and private transportation and tour services.

Currently only those who have been fully vaccinated can visit Israel. Please contact us for more information!

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## Mission Message

# Go Forth

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



If there's one thing that individuals of different political persuasions can agree on, it would be that many look at our world and its many problems with a sense of hopelessness. We have completely run amok, gone astray from what is decent and unifying. I have heard a good number of folks tell me that they no longer watch the news because it has lost its focus and center.

Even more unsettling, people of good will have distanced themselves from the political process and no longer vote or will not seek public office because they feel it's a fruitless effort. The fact is, we need good people, people of hope to step forward to change and — I risk sounding trite here — make the world a better place. Hope has been seemingly lost and we are desperate to recover this virtue.

Therein lies the point. We must be a people of hope that what God wills for us as His children will come to pass. That the promises He has made for peace and justice to reign are possible when we turn to Him in humble trust and in hope.

Saint Paul urges us on in his words to the Romans, saying "hope does not disappoint" (Rom. 5:5). To recover our practice of the virtue of hope and to ensure that it results in positive change in the world, we must first know what it means to embrace hope as a virtue and not some secular value.

The Catechism defines hope as the "sure and steadfast anchor of the soul...and is also a weapon that protects us in the struggle of salvation" (CCC 1817). Indeed, hope is what anchors us and gives us what is needed to find joy and purpose even in the midst of strife and struggle, when all else seems lost. We hope not in vain, but in the promises Jesus makes that assure us of His presence among us in this life.

Here's what hope is not: The theological virtue of hope is not an earthly expectation or desire for something to come to happen. Surely you have hoped for a raise

at work, a promotion, a particular Christmas present as a child, or hoped that you win the lottery.

How often, in "hoping" for these things, were you disappointed that they never came to pass? Apparently, the odds of winning the Powerball Jackpot are 1 in 292.2 million. These hopes are very much earthly desires and lead again and again to disappointment.

You know what the odds of finding God's peace are when we place our trust and hope in Him alone? Let's just say the odds are on our side.

The virtue of hope does not disappoint. So, when we look around and see chaos overcoming our world, pray for the virtue of hope to be our anchor. That we welcome the hope that can only come from God. With that disposition, the world will indeed be renewed by the promises made by our Lord. And with the help of God's grace alone will that come to pass.

"O my God, relying on your infinite mercy and promises, I hope to obtain pardon of my sins, the help of your grace, and life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer. Amen."

## Apostleship of Prayer

Papal Intention for July 2021

### Social Friendship —

We pray that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.



# Catholic Women's Conference to draw hundreds together this weekend

*Walk-In Registrations still available on Saturday*

SCRANTON – Marywood University will host hundreds of women this Saturday, June 19, as the 2021 Catholic Women's Conference delivers a powerful message about God's merciful love. After being cancelled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference will bring together Catholic women from across northeastern Pennsylvania and beyond.

The day will begin with opening remarks at 8 a.m. followed by Mass with the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, at 8:30 a.m.

Throughout the day, various speakers will focus on Divine Mercy, which is when God's love meets and helps us in the midst of suffering. The daylong conference will conclude at 4 p.m.

Keynote speaker Theresa Bonopartis will share her deeply personal story of guilt, shame, healing and ultimate redemption through Divine Mercy. Bonopartis came to her life's work after experiencing abortion as a teenager. It was only in discovering God's infinite mercy and capacity to forgive that she came to learn how to forgive herself. She has collaborated with the Sisters of Life to co-found Entering Canaan Ministry: Healing After Abortion.

Other speakers at the 2021 Catholic Women's Conference will include Father Chris Alar, a priest with the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception and Sister Virginia Joy of the Sisters of Life. The day will also include Eucharistic Adoration, Recitation of the Rosary and

inspirational music performed by Cleveland-born Christian music artist Taylor Tripodi and her band. Participants will also enjoy a continental breakfast, lunch and shopping at the Catholic Vendor Marketplace.

It is still not too late to attend the conference in person!

Registrations will be taken on Saturday morning at Marywood University. The cost is \$50. Student tickets are \$20 and women religious are welcome free of charge.

Anyone with questions about the conference can email [cwcnepa@gmail.com](mailto:cwcnepa@gmail.com).

## Conference Schedule for June 19

*Refresh your faith... With Merciful Love*



<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Opening remarks</b>
<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Mass celebrated by Bishop Bambera</b>
<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Father Chris Alar</b>
<b>11:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Rosary</b>
<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Theresa Bonopartis</b>
<b>2:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Sister Virginia Joy</b>
<b>3:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Eucharistic Adoration</b>
<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Closing</b>

*To learn more about the speakers or the schedule for the Catholic Women's Conference, visit [cwcnepa.com](http://cwcnepa.com)*

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—Ps 30:2a



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# Church must learn to listen to families, Pope Francis says



**Pope Francis delivers a June 9, video message to participants of an online forum titled "Where are we with Amoris Laetitia?" (CNS screenshot/Vatican Media)**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – To truly reach out to families, the Catholic Church first must learn to listen to their concerns rather than doling out theoretical solutions to life's harsh realities, Pope Francis said.

In a video message sent June 9 to participants of an online conference dedicated to his apostolic exhortation "Amoris Laetitia," the pope said the church must "set aside any 'merely theoretical message without connection to people's real problems,' as well as the idea that evangelization is reserved for a pastoral elite."

"In the midst of the difficulties caused by the pandemic, which lacerate the life of the family and 'its intimate communion of life and love,' the family today is more than ever a sign of the times, and the church is invited above all to listen actively to families, and at

the same time to involve them as subjects of pastoral care," he said.

The June 9-12 forum, titled "Where are we with Amoris Laetitia?" is one of several events for "Amoris Laetitia Family Year," commemorating the pope's 2016 apostolic exhortation on family life.

Representatives of family ministry offices of bishops' conferences, associations and international ecclesial movements were invited to the three-day virtual event, the dicastery said.

In his video message, the pope said the virtual event "represents an essential moment of dialogue" in which the church and the laity "can come together to listen to the concrete needs of families and to

help each other in undertaking the processes necessary to renew the proclamation of the church."

To bring God's love to families, he explained, the church needs the help of families themselves and "their concrete experience of life and communion."

"We need spouses alongside the pastors, to walk with other families, to help those who are weaker, to announce that, even in difficulties, Christ is present in the sacrament of marriage to give tenderness, patience and hope to all, in every situation of life," the pope said.

Young Catholics, he added, also must "see with their own eyes the love of Christ alive and present in the love of spouses" who give witness through their lives that love is possible.

"Just as the spouses Aquila and Priscilla were valuable collaborators of St. Paul in his mission, so too today many married couples, and even entire families with children, can become valid witnesses to accompany other families, create community, and sow seeds of communion among the peoples receiving the first evangelization, contributing in a decisive way to the proclamation of the kerygma," the pope said.

## Prayer Requests for Priests

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

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; June 22, Father Philbert Takyi-Nketiah; June 23, Father John Terry; June 24, Father Fidel Ticona; June 25, Bishop Emeritus James C. Timlin; June 26, Father Peter Tomczak; June 27, Father Daniel Toomey; June 28, Father Rawel Toppo; June 29, Father Peter Tran; June 30, Monsignor David Tressler; July 1, Pope Francis; July 2, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI; July 3, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; July 4, Father Jeffrey Tudgay; July 5, Father John Turi; July 6, Father Anthony Urban; July 7, Monsignor Neil Van Loon; July 8, Father Brian Van Fossen; July 9, Father Joseph Verespy; July 10, Father John Victoria; July 11, Father James Walsh; July 12, Father Jeffrey Walsh; July 13, Passionist Father Mark Ward; July 14, Monsignor William Ward; July 15, Monsignor Christopher Washington; July 16, Father Marek Wasilewski; July 17, Father Seth Wasnock; July 18, Holy Cross Father Jarrod Waugh; July 19, Father Joseph Weber; July 20, Father Donald Williams; July 21, Father Bryan Wright.

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Parish Bazaar, Picnic & Festivals Listing

Continued from Page 9

**Christ the King Parish in Archbald — July 23, 24 & 25.** Featuring homemade picnic foods, basket raffles, live music and flea market. For more information, contact the parish at (570) 876-1701 or christtheking18403@comcast.net.

**Saint Lawrence Parish in South Williamsport — Aug. 8.** Event held at the South Williamsport Picnic/Sports Complex, off of East Central Avenue. For information, contact Dianne Fisher at (570) 322-3278 or dbfish07@comcast.net.

**Most Precious Blood Parish “La Madonna del Monte Festival” in Hazleton — Aug. 13, 14 & 15.** Festival honors the Blessed Mother through spiritual observances, including Novena devotions, Mass and procession, followed by benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto. Social activities include bake sale, tricky trays, calendar lottery and Grotto candle sale. Festival Food Nights on Friday and Saturday from 5 to 9 p.m., offering picnic food items and beverages. Pasta & Meatball Dinner (take-out only) served on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, contact the parish office at (570) 454- 8714 or mpbhaz@ptd.net.

**Saint Jude Parish “68th Annual Picnic in the Grove” in Mountain Top — Aug. 14 & 15.** Event held on Saturday from 4 to

10 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 8 p.m. on the grounds of the parish’s nearby Saint Jude Grove. For more information, contact Tracie Machalick at (570) 474-6315 or tmach@stjc.org.

**Saint Boniface Parish in Williamsport — Sept. 9, 10 & 11.** Parish Carnival held on the grounds of Saint Boniface Church, 326 Washington Boulevard, Williamsport. Featuring nightly sit-down dinners served in the school gym, and picnic foods, including homemade pierogi. Event also includes carnival rides & games, bingo, White Elephant sale, and annual parish raffle drawing. For more information, contact Deb Wheeler at (570) 220-2303, or email: stboniface@comcast.net.

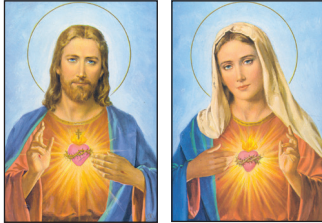
**Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Swoyersville — Sept. 17 & 18.** Fall Festival held Friday and Saturday, from 5 to 11 p.m., on the church grounds. Featuring ethnic foods, games, and live music provided by Sweet Pepper and the Long Hots (Friday) and Hoopla Band (Saturday). For more information contact the parish office at (570) 287-6624 or seton.swoy@aol.com.

**Resurrection Parish in Muncy — Sept. 24-26.** Fall Festival includes games, festival foods, prize raffles and cash drawing. For more information, contact Marisol DeWitt at (570) 546-3900, or resurrection@windstream.net.

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 **July 2** 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.



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JULY SCHEDULE

CTV LOCAL ORIGATION IS BOXED IN BOLD BORDER, OTHER PROGRAMMING IS FROM EWTN

	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	SPECIALS	LIFE ON THE ROCK	BATTLE READY	THE WILL OF GOD
3:30AM		DEFENDING LIFE			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		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			CATHOLICS COME HOME
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					
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		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	EWTN NEWS IN-DEPTH	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
2:30 PM					STATIONS OF CROSS		
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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# National Right to Life decries new bill aimed at codifying *Roe v. Wade*

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The Women's Health Protection Act, introduced in the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House June 8 "would invalidate nearly all existing state limitations on abortion," said Jennifer Popik, director of federal legislation for National Right to Life.

"This legislation would also prohibit states from adopting new protective laws in the future, including various types of laws specifically upheld as constitutionally permissible by the U.S. Supreme Court," she said in a June 9 statement.

The measure was introduced in the Senate by Sens. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., and Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., and in the House by Reps. Judy Chu, D-Calif., Lois Frankel, D-Fla., and Ayanna Pressley, D-Mass. Blumenthal first introduced the measure in 2013 and has reintroduced it off and on over the years.

The current measure has 48 Democrats as co-sponsors in the Senate; Sens. Joe Manchin, D-W. Va., and Bob Casey Jr., D-Pa., are not co-sponsoring it. In the House, there are 176 co-sponsors, all of whom are Democrats.

Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life, said the measure "would essentially remove all legal protections for unborn children on the federal and state level. The Women's

Health Protection Act is, in effect, a no-limits-on-abortion-until-birth bill."

"Tragically, the only ones to benefit from such a law would be abortionists and abortion providers such as Planned Parenthood," she added. "This legislation endangers women and their unborn children, would expand taxpayer funding of abortion and would no longer require that a woman be given information about the development of her unborn child."

The House and Senate bills would codify *Roe v. Wade* in law and establish the legal right to abortion in all 50 states under federal law.

The bill would nullify requirements to provide women seeking abortion with specific information on their unborn child and on alternatives to abortion; laws requiring a waiting period before a woman receives an abortion; laws allowing medical professionals to opt out of providing abortions; and laws stating that only licensed physicians can perform abortions.

According to National Right to Life, the measure also would end bans on elective abortions being performed after 20 weeks "when an unborn child is capable of feeling pain," it said, and bans on the use of abortion as a method of sex selection."

"Anti-sex selection laws

generally have broad public support in the states in which they are enacted, including support from substantial majorities of women," said a news release from National Right to Life.

"The bill would also invalidate most previously enacted federal limits on abortion, including federal conscience protection laws and most, if not all, limits on government funding of abortion," the organization said.

The introductory paragraph in the companion bills states the aim is "to protect a person's ability to determine whether to continue or end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide abortion services."

Ahead of the November 2020 election, now-President Joe Biden and his running mate, now-Vice President Kamala Harris, had vowed to support congressional efforts to codify *Roe* in the event that *Roe* is overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Biden also expressed his support for repealing the long-standing Hyde Amendment, which outlaws federal tax dollars from directly funding abortion except in cases of rape, incest or when the life of the woman would be endangered.

The president's American Rescue Plan became law in March with no Hyde Amendment language, and on May 28, the

president released his federal budget proposal without the Hyde Amendment, which has been included in spending bills since 1976.

In separate statements the same day, Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, and Mercy Sister Mary Haddad, president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association, acknowledged the Biden budget proposal has a number of provisions to help vulnerable Americans but said it is remiss in leaving out Hyde, which protects the most vulnerable - the unborn.

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## Poll: Majority of likely voters support limits on abortion after 15 weeks

WASHINGTON (CNS)—A nationwide poll of 1,200 likely voters in a general election found that a majority oppose unrestricted abortion on demand throughout pregnancy and support limits on abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy.

The Susan B. Anthony List, a national pro-life group, commissioned OnMessage Inc. to conduct the survey shortly after the U.S. Supreme Court's May 17 order announcing it will hear oral arguments during its next term on a 2018 Mississippi abortion law banning most abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy.

OnMessage asked respondents if they would support a Republican candidate who backs limiting abortion after 15 weeks — with exceptions for the life and physical health of the mother or severe abnormality of the unborn baby — or would support a Democratic candidate who backs abortion on demand throughout all nine months of pregnancy.

Fifty-three percent said they would support the GOP candidate's abortion position, while 28% said they would support the Democratic candidate. Nineteen percent said, "Don't know."

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# Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese

**Outdoor Flea Market** — **JUNE 25-27**, hosted at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Brodheads ville; event held on Friday and Saturday, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, from 1 to 5 p.m. For more information, contact Kim Hoffman at (610) 681-6137 or [hoffman@qopchurch.org](mailto:hoffman@qopchurch.org).

**Weekly Bingo** — **JULY 12**, hosted by Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Dickson City; bingo games held every Monday evening in St. Mary's Visitation parish center, 625 Dundaff St., Dickson City, with doors opening at 5 p.m. Early bird games begin at 6:20 p.m.; regular games follow. Admission package includes weekly jackpot and 17 regular games. Center is handicapped accessible at the Scott Road entrance; variety of foods and beverages available for purchase. Shuttle service provided from Carbondale and Scranton; face masks required for anyone not vaccinated. For more information,

call the parish office (570) 489-2091.

**Designer Purse Bingo** — **AUG. 14**, hosted by St. Maria Goretti Parish, 42 Redwood Drive, Laflin; games party featuring designer purse prizes held from 1 to 4 p.m. in the church hall. Admission fee: \$25 (\$20 in advance); includes 20 bingo games, with extra games available for additional cost. Event also features basket raffle, door prizes and bake sale; food and beverages available for purchase. For

tickets, contact the parish office at (570) 655-8956.

**Seventh Annual Car Show & Chicken Barbecue** — **AUG. 15**, sponsored by St. Ann Basilica Parish in West Scranton; opens with all-day car show from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the basilica grounds, 1233 Saint Ann St. Take-out chicken dinner served from noon to 4 p.m.; advance tickets are required. For more information, contact Lynda DePalma at (570) 342-5166 or [rshelp@cpprov.org](mailto:rshelp@cpprov.org).

## Putting Homelessness to Bed



"Where will I sleep tonight?" is a very real question women and children experiencing homelessness have to ask themselves every day. Participants in the Catherine McAuley Center's inaugural virtual event named after this question will no doubt express gratitude that they'll only have to ask it one night – on Thursday, June 24. While organizers do not expect to re-create the experience of homelessness in a single night, they are hoping the event will bring the community together in raised awareness of the struggles faced by homeless families. Participating students, individuals, families, and other groups may choose to sleep on the living room floor or in the back yard; they may crash on a friend's couch or on the futon in a relative's spare room or office. In addition to raising awareness, the event will help raise critical funds needed to help homeless families in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties. Suggested donations for registrants range from \$10 to \$50. Pictured above representing the Catherine McAuley Center, sponsored by the Religious Sisters of Mercy, are, foreground: Jenny Blanchard and Daniel King. Background, from left: Mercy Sisters Kathleen Smith, Leonita Duhoski and Therese Marques; and Krista Somers. More information about the event and a link to the online registration form can be found at [www.CatherineMcAuleyCenter.org/sleep.aspx](http://www.CatherineMcAuleyCenter.org/sleep.aspx). To learn how you can make a difference in the life of someone who is homeless, contact the Catherine McAuley Center at (570) 342-1342.

## 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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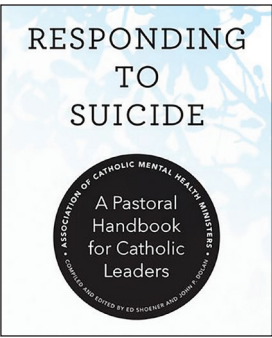
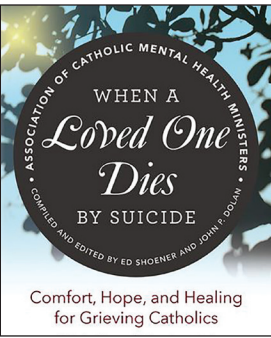
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# Cathedral deacon's two books on suicide ministry merit awards



SCRANTON — When the Catholic Publishers Association announced their 2021 Excellence in Publishing Awards on June 7, two books attributed to Deacon Ed Schoener of the Cathedral of Saint Peter Parish received high praise and recognition for their contributions to Catholic mental health ministry, particularly with regard to suicide.

*Responding to Suicide: A Pastoral Handbook for Catholic Leaders* was awarded top honors in the “Resources for Ministry” category by the Catholic Publishers. The Association also recognized *When A Loved One Dies by Suicide: Comfort, Hope and Healing for Grieving Catholics* with a second-place award in the “General Interest” category.

Both published works were compiled and edited by Deacon Shoener and Auxiliary Bishop John P. Dolan of San Diego, who were also among the books’ contributors.

Ordained to the permanent diaconate in 2004, Deacon Shoener launched his Catholic Mental Health Ministry, based at the Scranton Cathedral, in 2017. He began the support ministry following the death of his daughter, Katie, who took her own life after a 12-year battle with depression.

Deacon Shoener currently serves as president and a founding member of the Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers.

“If today is a typical day in the United States, about 130 people will die this day from suicide,” the deacon said. “Please pray for them, their families and those who will minister to them.”

## IHM Sisters virtual celebration August 7

William “Bill” and Mary Jean “Bean” Foley Lynett of Clarks Summit have been named honorary co-chairpersons for the 2021 Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters Celebration, which will be held as a virtual event on Saturday, Aug. 7. The ceremonies will air live on Electric City Television (ECTV), beginning at 6 p.m.

Since 2014, the Sisters of IHM Foundation has sponsored the annual fundraiser to raise awareness and generate vital financial support for their congregation — the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Bill Lynett is publisher emeritus of The Times-Tribune (*The Scranton Times*) and served as publisher from 1966-2012. He has also held positions of CEO of Shamrock Communications and president of *The Daily Review* in Towanda.



**William & Mary Jean Foley Lynett**

“The IHM sisters had a strong influence on the person I am today,” he said. “It wasn’t until I was older when I realized the sacrifices the sisters make on behalf of others and for their love of God.”

Bean added, “We want to express our gratitude to the sisters who all deserve our unending thanks and support.”

For more information, visit [www.sistersofihm.org](http://www.sistersofihm.org) or call (570) 346-5431.



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# Prayer is like a musical score, giving life melody and meaning, Pope Francis says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – People need to find harmony between prayer and the demands of everyday life, Pope Francis said.

“It is inhumane to be so absorbed by work that you can no longer find the time for prayer. At the same time, prayer that is alienated from life is not healthy,” the pope said June 9 during his weekly general audience.

“The time dedicated to being with God revives faith, which helps us in the practical realities of life, and faith in turn nurtures prayer without interruption,” he said.

The audience was held in the San Damaso Courtyard of the Apostolic Palace, where the pope spent the first 30 minutes chatting at length with individuals, blessing them or objects they had brought and greeting children. While the pope was maskless, attendees were obliged to wear masks, but many ignored social distancing



**Pope Francis greets people during his general audience in the San Damaso Courtyard of the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican June 9, 2021. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)**

rules when they crowded along the barricades to greet and speak with Pope Francis.

In his main audience talk, the pope continued his series on prayer by looking at the importance of perseverance and praying unceasingly.

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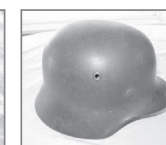
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