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The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

June 17, 2021

Bishop to ordain Mark DeCelles to the Priesthood on June 26



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 • 6:30 p.m.
Saint Matthew Parish
78 Ridgeway Street, East Stroudsburg



Rev. Mr. Mark Joshua DeCelles

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.

The public is also invited to attend and participate in an Ordination Prayer Vigil which will be held on Friday, June 25, at 6:30 p.m. at Saint Matthew Parish (78 Ridgeway Street) in East Stroudsburg.

DeCelles, a native of Dunmore, recently sat down with *The Catholic Light* to talk about his family roots, life in the seminary and his pastoral year at Saint Matthew Parish which was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Read the Full Story](#)

Golden Jubilee for residence of Diocesan priests in their golden years



This coming Tuesday, June 22, will mark the 50th anniversary of the opening of Villa Saint Joseph in Dunmore. Located on Green Ridge Street, the facility serves as a home for retired priests in the Diocese of Scranton.

The concept for such a residence was the brainchild of the Most Reverend J. Carroll McCormick, sixth bishop of Scranton, who envisioned a comfortable place of rest and retirement for his older confreres who had labored in the Vineyard of the Lord for so many years.

On June 22, 1971, Bishop McCormick blessed the dedicated the Villa Saint Joseph.

Monsignor William Ward, 90, 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. "I am happy that I chose to retire to the Villa Saint Joseph. 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!"

[Read the Full Story](#)

Discalced Carmelite Nuns plan to build Monastery in 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.

[Read the Full Story](#)

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



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.

[Read the Full Story](#)

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 next week.

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.

Parishes begin planning for summer events, while stressing COVID safety



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.

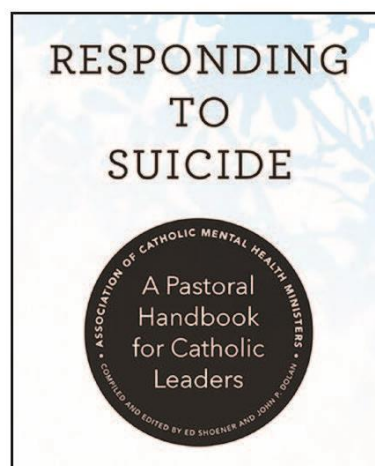
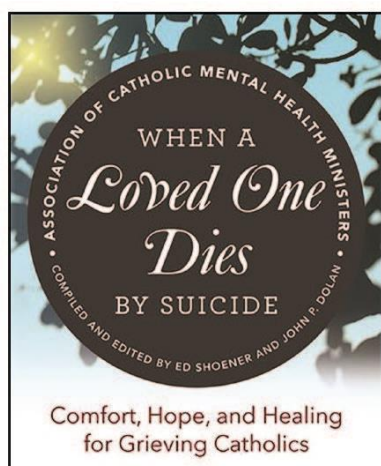
Mary, Mother of God Parish at Holy Rosary Church will once again hold a Drive-Thru Block Party this weekend – Friday, June 18, and Saturday, June 19, in the 300-block of William Street in North Scranton.

“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.”

[Read the Full Story](#)

[To View the Full Listing of Parish Bazaars, Picnics and Festivals Received So Far](#)

Cathedral Deacon's two books on suicide ministry merit awards



When the Catholic Publishers Association announced their 2021 Excellence in Publishing Awards on June 7, two books attributed to Deacon Ed Shoener 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.

[Read the Full Story](#)

House Call: Catholic Social Services distributes food to senior apartments



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.

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