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The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

June 10, 2021

Catholic Women's Conference to draw hundreds together on June 19



Marywood University will host hundreds of women on 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.

[Register Now for the 2021 Catholic Women's Conference](#)

Couples celebrate milestone anniversaries during Mass held at Scranton Cathedral



More than 100 married couples gathered together at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on Sunday, June 6, to celebrate their milestone anniversaries.

"I've actually been looking forward to it 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 Aquilio of Sayre said.

Patrick and his wife Julie, parishioners of Epiphany Parish, drove nearly two hours to the Cathedral to celebrate with Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, who served as principal celebrant and homilist at the Mass.

"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. 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," Julie added.

[Read Bishop Bambera's Homily from the Wedding Anniversary Mass](#)

[View the Photo Album from the Wedding Anniversary Mass Held at the Cathedral of Saint Peter](#)

Pennsylvania Catholic Conference praises PA House for passing Down Syndrome Protection Act



The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference this week praised members of the state House 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.”

[Visit the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference Website](#)

U.S. Bishops will gather virtually for June 16-18 Spring Assembly

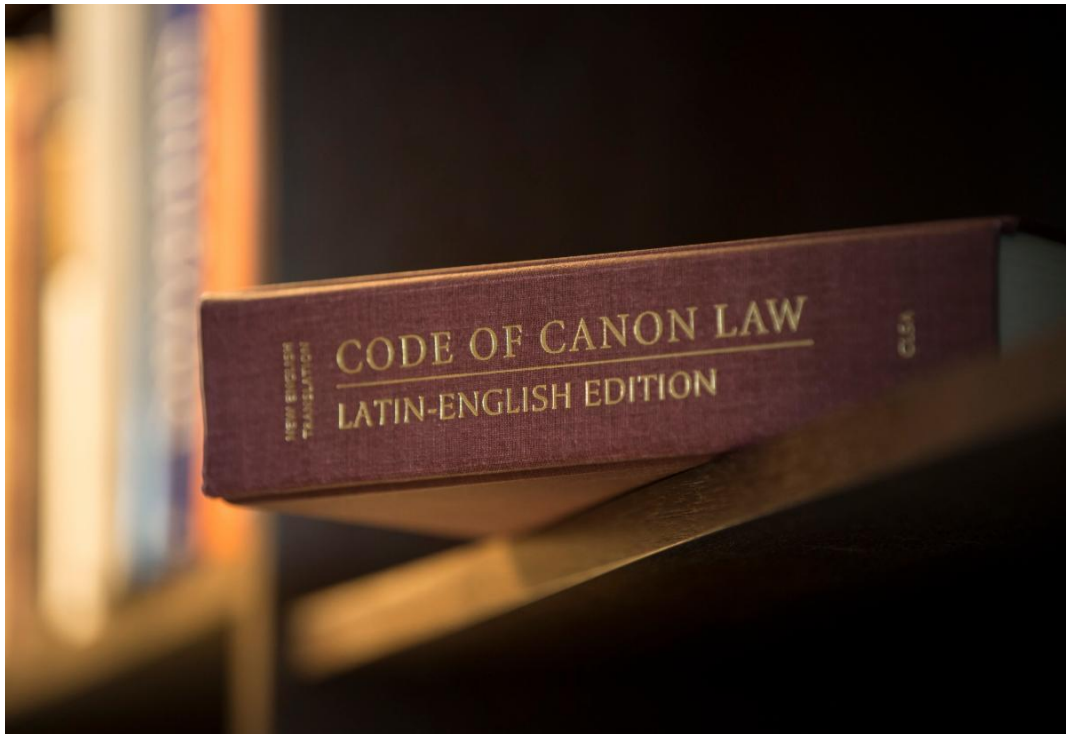


When they gather virtually for their annual spring assembly June 16-18, the U.S. bishops will be asked to approve the drafting of a formal statement on the meaning of the Eucharist in the life of the Catholic Church.

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.

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

What the new revisions to the Code Of Canon Law mean for safeguarding



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, said two canon lawyers.

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.

Pope Francis promulgated the new changes in “Book VI: Penal Sanctions in the Church,” and they will go into effect Dec. 8 — the feast of the Immaculate Conception. The revisions reflect almost two decades of work in updating, adding, clarifying and strengthening what the church considers to be crimes and what provisions for sanctioning are available.

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

Priesthood always involves closeness with the faithful, pope says



Pope Francis told a group of priests studying in Rome that if they do not want to be pastors, spending time with the faithful, they should request dismissal from the priesthood and concentrate on academics instead.

“Be pastors with the scent of your sheep, persons able to live, laugh and cry with your people — in other words, to communicate with them,” the pope told the priests June 7.

[Read the Full Story](#)

Twin seminarians following one after the other into the priesthood



Not a day goes by that identical twins Luke and Ben Dagher don't get confused for each other.

It's probably even more confusing now since Luke and Ben, both graduate seminarians, wear black shirts with white clerical collars.

"We've gotten so used to it, it's become a part of our life," said Luke during a June 3 interview with Catholic News Service held jointly with his brother. "You just smile."

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