

The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2021

Bishop ordains Mark J. DeCelles to the priesthood

SCRANTON – Surrounded by family and friends inside the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Mark J. DeCelles was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Scranton by the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, on Saturday, June 26, 2021.

“I have so many emotions it is hard to name them all,” Father DeCelles, 39, said directly following the 10 a.m. Mass. “I feel cared for, I feel loved, I feel supported.”

More than 150 people attended the Dunmore native’s Ordination Mass. With classes, exams and the seminary experience now behind him, Father DeCelles feels ready to serve the Church of Scranton and its people.

“It feels natural. I’ve been in formation for four years now. I’ve been a deacon for over a year and I feel well prepared,” he explained.

During his homily, Bishop Bambera expressed gratitude to the many people who helped make the joyous day possible.

“I join with this local Church to give thanks – first to God – for the call to priestly service that he planted in Mark’s heart, an invitation built upon the universal call to holiness which all of us have received in Baptism,” Bishop Bambera began.

The bishop also thanked Mark DeCelles for saying ‘yes’ to the Lord’s call, and expressed gratitude for those who have helped him discern and respond to that invitation. The ordaining prelate also acknowledged Mark’s family and friends who have supported, loved and encouraged him along the way.

“I especially thank his immediate family – his brothers, Chris and Sal – and particularly his mother, Mildred, and father, Charles. I don’t know that any candidate for priestly ordination has ever received such powerful formation in the mysteries of our faith as Mark has received from you,” the bishop said. “From the selfless love and commitment to each other that you have all lived as a family on a daily basis, to the dignity with which you have treasured God’s gift of life, to your humble embrace of the crosses that have come your way, to the hope that you have placed in the power of Christ’s life, death and resurrection – you have taught Mark invaluable lessons that most of us take a lifetime to learn.”



Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, center, kneels during the Litany of Supplication at the Ordination Mass for Mark J. DeCelles on June 26, 2021, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. DeCelles, still a candidate to be ordained to the priesthood at this point, lies prostrate on the floor before the Cathedral altar in a gesture of solemn petition. The assembly, through the intercession of all the saints, asks God’s blessing on DeCelles prior to being ordained. (Photo/Mike Melisky)

For the Gospel reading of the Ordination Mass, Father DeCelles selected a reading from the last chapter of Saint John’s Gospel where the Risen Jesus showed himself to his disciples on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Three times, Jesus asked Peter, “Do you love me?” In the end, Jesus said to Peter, “Follow me.”

Bishop Bambera reflected on the meaning of that Gospel passage as it applied to DeCelles’ ordination.

“As Jesus did with Peter, he invites you, Mark, to follow him, in a deep and intimate way. He invites you to love him,” the bishop explained. “Love of God is rooted in an authentic relationship with the person of Jesus. Love of God emerges from our awareness of and gratitude for God’s abiding presence in our lives and the recognition of our unworthiness and our inability to save ourselves. The love of God is given flesh and substance in our feeble efforts to selflessly serve the people God has entrusted to our care.”

As the newest priest for the Diocese of Scranton, Father DeCelles will serve

as a teacher, shepherd and servant for the faithful.

“Always remember, when you teach in the name of Christ the Teacher – when you work for justice, truth and freedom – when you baptize – when you forgive sins in the name of Christ and the Church – when you comfort the sick and the dying – when you serve the poor – and when you celebrate the Sacraments and particularly the Sacrifice of Christ in the Eucharist – you are both a servant of the Church

and a member of the People of God. As such, while you are appointed to act on behalf of the Christian faithful for those things that pertain to God, remember that you – like all of us – are in need of God’s continued presence, life and mercy,” Bishop Bambera added.

As he ended his homily, the bishop encouraged Father DeCelles to remain close to God’s people.

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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.

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Bishop at Ordination Mass: Remain close to God's people



Principals at the Ordination Mass include, from left: Rev. Donald J. Williams, pastor, Saint Matthew Parish; Rev. Gladstone H. Stevens, P.S.S., Dean, School of Theology, Saint Mary's Seminary and University, Baltimore, Md.; Rev. Alex J. Roche, Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians, Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney, V.G., Vicar General of the Diocese and Moderator of the Curia; Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton; Father Mark J. DeCelles; Rev. Gerald W. Shantillo, V.E., Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; Monsignor David Bohr, Diocesan Secretary for Clergy Formation; and Monsignor Michael J. Delaney, pastor, Blessed Sacrament Parish, Olyphant, and Holy Cross Parish, Throop.

Continued from Page 1

"They will look to you for answers to their questions. They will look to see Jesus in the fruits of your prayer, in your words of forgiveness and encouragement, in your work, in the simplicity of your life, in your love, and in the Eucharist you celebrate for and with them," Bishop Bambera noted. "In return, they will love you, they will walk with you, they will support and they will enable you to proclaim with an ever-deepening sense of certainty the words of Peter spoken to Jesus on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, 'Yes Lord, you know that I love you.'"

The Ordination Mass featured several poignant moments.

During the Litany of Supplication, DeCelles, still a candidate for the priesthood at that point, lied prostrate on the floor of the Cathedral in a gesture of solemn petition. The choir and congregation, through the intercession of all the saints, asked God's blessing on him.

Then came the laying on of hands, an essential part of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. In complete silence, Bishop Bambera laid his hands upon DeCelles' head – followed by every priest present – signaling the true fraternity of the priesthood. The Prayer of Ordination followed that, the moment when DeCelles officially became a priest.

After that time, Monsignor Michael J. Delaney vested Father DeCelles for the first



Following his Ordination, Father Mark J. DeCelles posed with seminarians of the Diocese of Scranton who served at the Mass. They are, back row from left: David Pirolli, Saint Jude Parish, Mountain Top; Thomas Dzwonczyk, Saint John Vianney Parish, Scott Township; Jeremy Barket, Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Dupont; Cody Yarnall, Saint Matthew Parish, East Stroudsburg. Front row, from left: Rev. Alex J. Roche, Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians; Rev. Mark J. DeCelles; and Marc Phillips, Saint Maria Goretti Parish, Laffin.

time and then the bishop anointed his hands with the Sacred Chrism oil. After receiving his chalice and paten, he received a fraternal kiss of peace, first from Bishop Bambera, then from every priest present.

At the end of Mass, Father DeCelles gave his first blessing as a priest to his mother, Mildred, followed by other family members.

Asked afterward what that moment meant to him, Father DeCelles responded,

"My mother and my father, I owe them everything. I'm so conscious of how I have been blessed, how I have been blessed by them and my whole family and friends. If I can give that back to them, and the people of God in any way, that's all I want to do."

Father DeCelles received his first assignment as a priest shortly after the Mass ended. He will serve as Assistant Pastor at Saint Nicholas Parish and Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Wilkes-Barre.



Bishop Joseph C. Bambera recites the Prayer of Ordination for Father Mark J. DeCelles.



Family and friends of Father Mark J. DeCelles gather inside the Cathedral of Saint Peter.



Left: Bishop Bambera lays his hands on Mark J. DeCelles without saying anything as part of the ordination rite.

Above: Newly ordained Father Mark DeCelles gives his first blessing to his mother Mildred.



Right: Monsignor Michael J. Delaney helps Father Mark DeCelles put on his Chasuble.



Concelebrating priests participate in the Liturgy of the Eucharist at the Ordination Mass on June 26, 2021.



POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

*God our Father,
You made each of us
to use our gifts in the Body of Christ.
We ask you to inspire young people
whom you call to priesthood and consecrated life
to courageously follow your will.
Send workers into your great harvest
so that the Gospel is preached,
the poor are served with love,
the suffering are comforted,
and your people are strengthened
by the sacraments.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

Sunday Mass obligation to be reinstated August 15 in the Diocese of Scranton and all dioceses in Pennsylvania



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

300 WYOMING AVENUE
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18503-1279

July 15, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For more than a year, the COVID-19 pandemic has posed unique challenges in our lives. It has brought hardship and struggle to some – separation, anxiety and isolation to others. We pray for those who have been directly affected by the virus, those that are still impacted by its effects and those who have lost loved ones.

Since March 2020, there has been a dispensation in the Diocese of Scranton from the obligation to participate at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. In light of the continued decline in cases and hospitalizations locally, that dispensation will end on Sunday, August 15, 2021, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This change will occur in each diocese in Pennsylvania on the same date.

The Sunday celebration of Mass is the center of the Church's life. The importance – and necessity – to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is rooted in our Baptism as Christians. Baptism compels us, as Christians, to unite ourselves with Christ at the altar in his saving Sacrifice of the Cross. Put simply, attending Mass is an encounter with Our Risen Lord.

This is a moment to thank God anew for the great gift of the Mass and the Real Presence of Jesus to us in His Holy Body and Blood as well as the joy of gathering together as people of faith.

As Pope Francis reminded us in his 2013 Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, "The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus." Long before we knew a pandemic was on the horizon, the Holy Father reminded us the Sunday encounter gives us the strength to experience the present with confidence and courage and to go forth with hope.

I invite and encourage all of the faithful in our community – including those who may have left the Church long before the pandemic – to return to the Table of the Lord – and be nourished by the Bread of Life! Our participation at Mass in-person is a gift for our own spiritual well-being, happiness and eternal salvation. It is also our responsibility to our brothers and sisters with whom we journey in faith.

It is important to note that people who are seriously ill or have a serious health risk, as well as those who have significant fear or anxiety of being part of a large group will continue to be legitimately excused from participating in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days. Those individuals are still encouraged to spend time in prayer, meditating on the Death and Resurrection of the Lord, reading Sacred Scripture and uniting themselves to Christ in his worship of the Father of us all.

Please continue to pray for all of our clergy and religious – who work tirelessly to make sure our parish communities remain safe and vibrant!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

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

Pope Francis continues recovery after colon surgery



Pope Francis gives a rosary to a member of the medical staff at Gemelli hospital in Rome July 11, 2021, as he recovers following scheduled colon surgery. Earlier the pope led the Angelus from a balcony at the hospital. (CNS photo/Vatican Media via Reuters)

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Despite initial estimates of requiring a week of inpatient care, Pope Francis will continue his recovery as a patient at Rome’s Gemelli hospital after undergoing colon surgery, the Vatican press office said.

In a statement released July 12, Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni said the pope “will remain hospitalized for a few more days in order to optimize his medical and rehabilitation therapy.”

The day after his July 4 surgery for diverticular stenosis, the Vatican had said the pope was expected to stay in the hospital for seven days, barring complications.

The pope underwent a three-hour left hemicolectomy, which is the removal of the descending part of the colon, a surgery that can be recommended to treat diverticulitis, when bulging pouches in the lining of the intestine or colon become inflamed or infected.

Pope Francis appeared on the balcony of his suite at Gemelli hospital July 11 and addressed pilgrims and well-wishers while delivering his Sunday Angelus.

He also visited young patients “of the oncology ward and their families, who then accompanied him to the terrace of the 10th floor for the Marian prayer.” After his Angelus address, the pope – pushed in a wheelchair – met with patients and medical staff at the hospital.

Despite his extended stay at the hospital, the Vatican said July 12 the pope had “a peaceful day and completed his post-surgical treatment.”

The Vatican also said the pope “shared in the joy for the victory of the Argentine and Italian national teams with those closest to him.”

The pope’s native Argentina defeated

Brazil July 10 in the Copa America soccer championship while his ancestral country of Italy defeated England July 11 to win their first European championship since 1968.

Pope Francis, the Vatican said, “emphasized the meaning of sport and its values, and the sportsmanship of being able to accept any result, even defeat.”

“Only in this way, in the face of life’s difficulties, can one always put oneself on the line, fighting without giving up, with hope and trust,” the statement said.

The Vatican’s daily papal health update July 13 said Pope Francis was continuing his rehabilitation, “which will allow him to return to the Vatican as soon as possible.”

Among the many patients the pope has met, the statement said, there were several who were bedridden and unable to return home anytime soon.

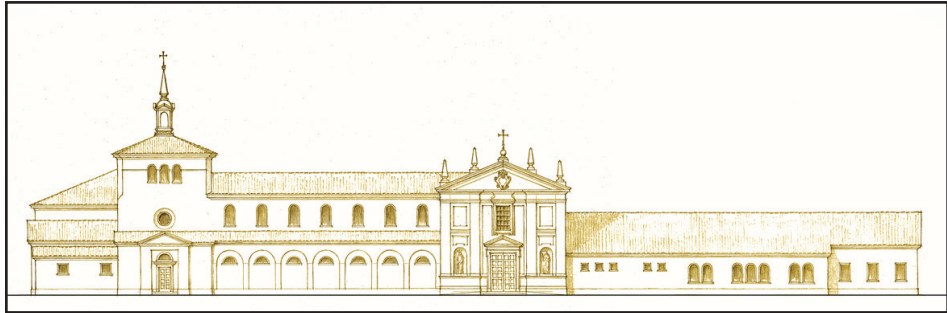
The pope’s hope for them, the Vatican said, was that they would be able to “live this time as an opportunity, even if experienced in pain, to open themselves with tenderness to their sick brother or sister in the next bed, with whom they share the same human frailty.”

The U.S. Catholic Church continues “to offer our heartfelt prayers and good wishes” for Pope Francis’ recovery, said Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

“It is with gratitude that we received the news of the success of the Holy Father’s surgery this past weekend,” the archbishop said in a July 9 statement.

“Even as he is recuperating in the hospital, our Holy Father, in his role as our shepherd has selflessly expressed his closeness to those who are sick and in most need of care.”

Disclalced Carmelite Nuns launch website, release sketch of planned Carmel



As *The Catholic Light* first reported in its June 17, 2021 edition, a Community of cloistered Disclalced Carmelite Nuns have announced intentions to build a new Carmelite Monastery in the Pleasant Mount area, relocating to the Diocese of Scranton from their current home in the Diocese of Brooklyn.

The Disclalced Carmelite Nuns recently launched fundraising efforts to pay for the new Monastery, which would be located on

13 acres of land donated by a local family who was willing and eager to assist in the effort.

Earlier this month, the Nuns launched a new website to inform the community about the project and provide ways for the faithful to assist them in building the new Carmelite Monastery.

The faithful can get more information by visiting pleasantmountcarmel.org.



BISHOP BAMBERA’S SCHEDULE

- July 15** - Mass of Remembrance
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 7:00 p.m.
- July 18** - Mass at Saint Joachim Church
Meshoppen, 9:00 a.m.
- July 18** - Mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church
Wyalusing, 11:00 a.m.
- July 25** - Mass for World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.
- July 26** - Closing Mass for the Novena to Saint Ann
Saint Ann’s Basilica, West Scranton, 7:30 p.m.
- August 9** - Malta Retreat Mass
University of Scranton Chapel of the Sacred Heart
Scranton, 5:00 p.m.
- August 13** - Region III Meeting of Bishops
- August 15** - Mass at Queen of the Apostles Parish
Avoca, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
- August 19** - Rite of Candidacy
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 5:00 p.m.
- August 22** - 150th Anniversary Mass at Saint Joseph Church
Rileyville, 9:00 a.m.

Annual Saint Ann's Novena begins this weekend at Scranton shrine

Revered summer devotion in its 97th year gets underway Saturday

SCRANTON — The 97th annual Solemn Novena to Saint Ann at the Basilica of the National Shrine, honoring the mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary in West Scranton, opens on Saturday, July 17. It will continue with nine days of Eucharistic worship, devotional prayer and preaching, culminating with the celebration of the Feast of Saint Ann on Monday, July 26.

Very Rev. Passionist Father Richard Burke, rector of the Saint Ann Passionist Monastery and director of the Saint Ann National Shrine Basilica, announces the guest preachers for this year's Solemn Novena will be Passionist Fathers Robert Joerger and Robert Carboneau.

The theme for the 2021 Novena devotion, "Lift High the Cross," pays homage to the very foundation and charism the religious Congregation of the Passion was established upon 300 years ago by Saint Paul of the Cross — namely, the spreading of the Gospel message through pious devotion to, and particular emphasis on, the Passion and Death of Jesus Christ.

"The Cross of Christ is the focus on our faith," Father Richard said. "The Cross of Christ is the wellspring of meaning for all the joys and trials in the pathway of life."

According to the Passionist superior, the preachers for the midsummer Novena to the grandmother of Jesus will narrow the focus of this year's general theme to provide a sub-theme for each day of the devotion. The daily schedule of those preached messages that will apply the overall theme to the lives of the faithful is as follows:

July 17, "The Cross and Our Search for Life"; July 18, "The Cross as the Foundation of My Faith"; July 19, "The Cross: Where Wounds Become Wisdom"; July 20, "Carry Our Cross as Ambassadors for Christ"; July 21, "The Cross and the Breath of the Spirit"; July 22, "Mary and the Healing Message of Christ"; July 23, "The Cross and the Healing of Resentment"; July 24, "Compassion and the Cross"; July 25, "The Cross is Our Belonging"; and July 26, "Lift High the Cross & Humbly Accept Healing."

In regard to the blessing with the Saint Ann relic following all Novena devotions, Father Richard explained that precautions will continue due to the ongoing pandemic. As was the case during last year's Saint Ann Novena, only a general blessing of the faithful with the saint's relic will be imparted. No individual blessings will be offered.

A native of Brooklyn, N.Y., where he graduated from Xaverian High School, Father Bob Joerger currently serves as pastor of Saint Therese of Lisieux Parish in Montauk, N.Y., and is an Affiliated Member of the De LaSalle Christian Brothers.

Upon graduating from Assumption College in Worcester, Mass., he entered the Passionist Novitiate, professing his vows in 1973. He received his master's degrees in theology and divinity from Saint John's University, Queens, N.Y., prior to his ordination as a Passionist priest in 1977.

Father Bob later earned a master's degree in Christian spirituality and certification as a spiritual director from Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., and attended the Institute of Culinary Arts in New York City.

He is past director of Saint Gabriel's Youth Retreat House on Shelter Island, N.Y., and served as provincial superior of the Saint Paul of the Cross Province of Passionists ministering in Canada, the Eastern United States, Jamaica, Haiti and Puerto Rico. He is also a former consultant to the Superior General of the Passionists in Rome.

Father Rob Carboneau was assigned to the Passionist religious community at Saint Ann's Monastery and National



Father Robert Joerger, CP

Shrine Basilica in 2018, serving as an adjunct professor in the History Department at The University of Scranton, where he has taught courses on the history of American Catholicism and Modern China. As official historian for the Saint Paul of the Cross Passionist Province, Father Rob oversees the Passionist Historical Archives collection at the Weinberg Memorial Library at The University of Scranton.

A native of West Hartford, Conn., and graduate of Assumption College in Worcester, Mass., Father Rob was ordained a priest for the Passionist order in 1978. He received his doctorate in American and East Asian history from Georgetown University in 1992, with his thesis providing in-depth research into the martyred deaths of three Passionist missionaries killed in Hunan China in 1929.

During 2015-18, the Passionist priest served as executive director of the U.S.-China Catholic Association in Berkeley, Calif., where he acted as an official spokesman on the present realities of the Catholic Church in China.

Father Rob is recognized as an international scholar on the Passionists in America, with an emphasis on the history of American Catholic missionaries in 20th-century China. In 2004, he published an article, entitled "Coal Mines, Saint Ann's Novena and Passionist Spirituality in Scranton, Pennsylvania," for American Catholic Studies.

Special spiritual offerings highlighting this year's Novena to Saint Ann include the Divine Liturgy of the Byzantine Rite on Tuesday, July 20, at 5:30 p.m., celebrated by Bishop Kurt Burnette of the Byzantine Ruthenian Catholic Eparchy of



Father Robert Carboneau, CP

Passaic, and Mass with Anointing of the Sick on Thursday, July 22, at 1:30 p.m., with the Sacrament of the Sick available to all elderly, infirm and the ill.

On Saturday, July 24, the Novena will offer a special blessing service for all infants and children at the 10 a.m. Mass. The following day, Sunday, July 25, all Eucharistic liturgies will honor and bless grandparents and the elderly, in observance of World Day for Grandparents and Elderly recently inaugurated by Pope Francis and in prayerful tribute to Saints Ann and Joachim, the grandparents of Jesus.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera of Scranton will celebrate the Solemn

Closing of the Novena on the Feast of Saint Ann, July 26, at 7:30 p.m. Earlier on the feast day, the Mass in Polish will be celebrated at 1:30 p.m., featuring Polish hymns. Anyone wishing to join the choir in singing the liturgical songs in Polish is welcome to do so by coming to the choir loft before Mass.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available to all faithful 45 minutes before each Novena Mass/devotion, with confessions heard in the Lower Basilica. On Saint Ann's Feast Day, the Sacrament will be available throughout the day.

Father Richard also announced that the Saint Ann's Religious Article Shop will be open throughout the Novena, and the Shrine's Memorial Walkway and Saint Padre Pio Plaza will be available for those wishing to remember and honor the memory of loved ones.

Much to the delight of the faithful in attendance, Saint Ann Basilica Parish will once again staff and provide for the time-honored and popular tradition of the Novena Food Pavilion, offering menu items and refreshments for all devotees during their visit.

Prayer Requests for Priests

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

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 (memorial); July 20, Father Donald Williams; July 21, Father Bryan Wright; July 22, Holy Cross Father Michael Wurtz; July 23, Father Clement Kwabena Yeboah; July 24, Father Daniel Yenkevich; July 25, Father Michael Zipay; July 26, Father Joseph Adonizio; July 27, Saint Peter Priestly Fraternity Father Zachary Akers; July 28, Father Patrick Albert; July 29, Father John Albosta; July 30, Father James Alco; July 31, Father Robert Antonelli; August 1, Pope Francis; August 2, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI; August 3, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; August 4, Father Stephen Asomah; August 5, Monsignor Thomas Banick; August 6, Father David Bechtel; August 7, Father Richard Beck; August 8, Saint Joseph Oblate Father Mariusz Beczek; August 9, Jesuit Father John Begley; August 10, Monsignor John Bendik; August 11, Monsignor John Bergamo; August 12, Father Eric Bergman; August 13, Father Jacek Bialkowski; August 14, Monsignor David Bohr; August 15, Passionist Father Vincent Boney; August 16, Father John Boyle; August 17, Father Michael Bryant; August 18, Passionist Father Richard Burke; August 19, Jesuit Father Timothy Cadigan; August 20, Father William Campbell; August 21, Father David Cappelloni; August 22, Father Thomas Cappelloni; August 23, Passionist Father Robert Carboneau.



SOLEMN NOVENA

IN HONOR OF

Saint Ann

JULY 17 TO 26, 2021

PREACHERS: FR. ROBERT E. CARBONNEAU, C.P., PH.D. & FR. ROBERT JOERGER, C.P.

NOVENA DEVOTIONS After 8 & 11:45 A.M., & 5:30 & 7:30 P.M. Masses and at 3:30 P.M. (Novena only) DIVINE LITURGY - BYZANTINE RITE Tuesday, July 20, 5:30 P.M. (No 7:30 P.M. Mass and Novena on this day)	DAILY MASSES 7:00, 8:00 & 11:45 A.M. & 5:30 and 7:30 P.M. CONFESSIONS Lower Basilica for 45 minutes prior to each Mass and the 3:30 P.M. Novena Service <i>Confessions will not be available following the services.</i>	MASS OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK Thursday, July 22, 1:30 P.M. CHILDREN'S MASS & NOVENA PRAYERS Saturday, July 24, 10:00 A.M.; Special Blessing for Families and Grandparents
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**SUNDAY
JULY 18th & 25th**

MASSES

8:00 A.M., 11:45 A.M., 5:30 P.M. & 7:30 P.M.

SUNDAY, JULY 25

Mass in **TAMIL** Language at 1:30 P.M.
Celebration of Grandparents
& Elderly at all masses

NOVENA DEVOTIONS

After 8:00 A.M. & 11:45 A.M. Masses
After 5:30 & 7:30 P.M. Masses
and at 3:30 P.M. (Novena Only)

General Blessing with Relic of St. Ann After Each Devotion

SOLEMN CLOSING MONDAY, JULY 26, AT 7:30 P.M.

Pontifical Mass celebrated by Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.

• **CTV COVERAGE** •

The Annual Solemn Novena to Saint Ann being held from July 17-26 at Saint Ann's Monastery in Scranton, PA, will be broadcast on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton, weekdays at 12:00 p.m., 3:30 p.m., and 7:00 p.m., and on Saturday and Sunday at Noon and 7:00 p.m.

The Closing Ceremony being held on Monday evening, July 26, will air on CTV on Tuesday, July 27 at 8:00 p.m., and Wednesday, July 28, at 10 a.m.

• **LOCAL TV COVERAGE** •

WSWB: Mon.-Fri. 6:30AM to 7:30AM; Sat. & Sun. 5:00PM to 6:00PM; Solemn Closing July 27 6:30PM to 7:30PM
On Comcast - Channel #7 & #807 • Service Electric - Channel #11 • Dish - Channel #38
DirectTV - Channel #38 • Over-the-Air - Channel #38.1 & 56.2

**SAINT ANN'S FEAST DAY
MONDAY, JULY 26**

CONFESSIONS 4:00 AM

MASSES & DEVOTIONS

4:30, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00 & 11:45 A.M.
3:30 (Novena only) & 5:30 P.M.

LANGUAGE SERVICE

1:30 PM - POLISH in Upper Basilica



**BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF ST. ANN
PASSIONIST MONASTERY**

1239 SAINT ANN STREET

SCRANTON, PA 18504

For the convenience of the people attending the novena, refreshments will be available on the monastery grounds during the entire novena.

Father Joseph Weber, Diocesan Priest for 64 years, dies in Scranton

SCRANTON — Bishop Joseph C. Bambera served as principal celebrant of a Pontifical Mass of Christian Burial for Father Joseph O. Weber, pastor emeritus of Saint Frances X. Cabrini Parish, Carverton, on July 1 in the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

Having ministered as a priest of the Diocese of Scranton for 64 years, Father Weber died June 22 at Marywood Heights (formerly Holy Family Residence) in Scranton at the age of 89.

Born in Scranton on Nov. 24, 1931, son of the late Joseph and Anna Hogan Weber, Father Weber received his early education at Saint Mary of the Assumption School in South Scranton. He enrolled at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, where he earned his bachelor's degree and completed his preparatory and theological studies for the priesthood.

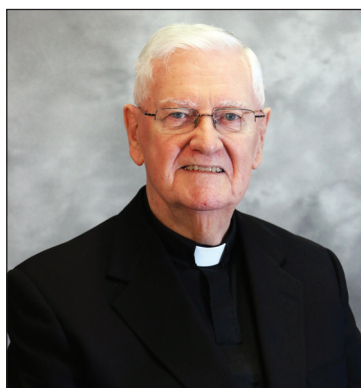
Father Weber was ordained a priest for the Scranton Diocese on May 25, 1957, in the Pontifical College's chapel by the late Italian Cardinal Amleto G. Cicognani. Following ordination and for the first 18 years of his priesthood, he taught college-level courses at the

Josephinum.

Returning to his home diocese, Father Weber served as assistant pastor at the parishes of Saint Luke, Jersey Shore; Christ the King, Dunmore; Immaculate Conception, Scranton; and Saint Mary's Assumption, Scranton. He received his first pastoral assignment in 1974 at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Weston.

In 1977, he was appointed pastor of Saint Patrick Parish, Milford, and four years later was assigned the pastorate of Good Shepherd Parish, Drums, where he served for ten years. Father Weber would later fulfill the pastoral duties at Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, Moscow, until 1994, when he would receive his last pastoral assignment, at Saint Frances X. Cabrini. He served as spiritual shepherd of the Carverton parish for 13 years until his retirement and appointment as pastor emeritus in 2007.

In addition to his parochial duties, Father Weber served as program director at Camp Saint Andrew in Tunkhannock in 1957, and as chaplain of the Marywood Novitiate during 1968-71. He was also a two-term member of the



Father Joseph O. Weber

Diocesan Advisory Board of the Office for Continuing Education for Priests and served on the Diocesan Liturgical Commission in 2005-06.

Father Weber commemorated the 60th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood in 2016 with a Pontifical Concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving with Bishop Bambera presiding.

"As his obituary noted, Father Joseph Weber spent 64 years serving as a priest in our diocese," Father Tom Maloney began his homily at the funeral Mass for his longtime friend. "He touched many people's lives as he celebrated Mass, anointed the sick, forgave sins, prepared couples for

marriage, baptized children and adults, and guided those needing assistance."

Explaining that the two priests began their close relationship many years earlier at Saint Mary Parish in Scranton, where Father Weber was an assistant pastor and Father Maloney was in residence as a teacher at nearby Bishop Klonowski High School, the homilist commented, "Over the time we were there together we came to realize that we had many common interests related to our priesthood, as well as our lives, and gradually a friendship developed that lasted all these years."

Father Maloney continued, "That friendship brought me to his room in Marywood Heights over the last three days of his life. I was glad I had the opportunity to spend precious time with him those days. It was a time of listening, praying, waiting, watching for that call we all will get one day."

"What struck me most was the dedication Father Weber had for the Eucharist," Father Maloney related. "Liturgy was of utmost importance to him. He took great care to be sure the Eucharist

was celebrated with dignity and meaning."

Remarking how the celebration of all the sacraments was cherished by his late friend, Father Maloney was quick to note that Father Weber, following his retirement, "spent many Saturdays here in the Cathedral hearing confessions."

"Today as we come together to thank God for the presence of Father Joe Weber in our lives, let us remember and give thanks," he concluded. "He was a faithful priest with a great love for Jesus, expressed in the care he gave to all God's people and the life he was dedicated to living. He was a person of deep and strong faith, a person of prayer, a caring person with a special outreach to those needing care, help and advice."

Surviving are two nieces, Donna and Michelle; one nephew, Anthony; several cousins and dear friend, Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Rose Marie Mozzachio. He was also preceded in death by a sister, Shirley Cognetti, and an infant sister, Ann.

Interment was conducted at Saint Catherine Cemetery in Moscow.

Mass honors Priests celebrating Ordination Jubilees



Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant and homilist for a Mass for Priest Jubilarians at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on Thursday, June 24, 2021. During the Mass, the faithful prayed for those priests who are celebrating milestone anniversaries of service in the Priesthood. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Priest Jubilarians from both 2020 and 2021 were invited to attend.

Shown after the Mass with their years of service are, from left: Rev. Gerald W. Shantillo, S.T.L., V.E., Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; Rev. Martin J. Gaiardo (50 Years in 2020); Rev. John J. Kilpatrick (60 Years in 2021); Rev. Michael P. Litcheck (50 Years in 2021); Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; Monsignor Arthur J. Kaschenbach (70 Years in 2021); Rev. Joseph J. Adonizio (65 Years in 2021); Monsignor David Bohr (50 Years in 2021) and Rev. Jacek J. Bialkowski (25 Years in 2021).

Not attending the Mass but still marking Jubilee Anniversaries are: Rev. William R. Culnane (60 Years in 2020); Most Reverend Joseph F. Martino, D.D., Hist. E.D. (50 Years in 2020); Rev. Glenn E. McCreary (25 Years in 2020); Rev. Vincent H. Dang (25 Years in 2020); Rev. John J. Chmil (25 Years in 2020); Most Reverend James C. Timlin, D.D., (70 Years in 2021); Rev. Cyril J. Rable (65 Years in 2021); and Rev. Theodore L. Obaza (60 Years in 2021).

Monsignor Joseph G. Quinn appointed pastor of new parish linkage in South Scranton

SCRANTON—After it was announced that the parishes of Saint John Neumann and Saint Paul of the Cross would be brought together in a new linkage, Monsignor Joseph G. Quinn has been appointed the new pastor of this combined South Scranton community.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, announced the appointment after consulting with the Diocese's Priest Personnel Board and diocesan leadership.

The change becomes effective July 20, 2021.

As he looks forward to this new experience, Msgr. Quinn considers it a grace-filled opportunity to continue building an even more vibrant parish community.

"The task of every single priest is to both proclaim the Gospel and build up community. This is a particularly exciting opportunity to do so as our entire South Scranton community moves forward together in faith in a new spirit of unity," Msgr. Quinn said.

On May 10, Bishop Bambera informed parishioners that the two South Scranton parishes would be brought together with a single pastor. The announcement came more than two years after the Diocese of Scranton launched its Vision 2020 Blueprint Process, a long-range process aiming to look proactively at the realities of our local Church in the present moment while striving to meet the opportunities and challenges of the coming decade.

Ordained in 1985, Msgr. Quinn has most recently served as pastor of Our Lady of the Snows Parish in Clarks Summit and the Church of Saint Benedict for the last six years. Monsignor returned to the Diocese in the fall of 2015 after serving a six-year tenure in New York City as Fordham

University's Vice President for Mission and Ministry. Prior to that, Msgr. Quinn served as the pastor of Saint Rose of Lima Parish in Carbondale and previously as the Rector of the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton for sixteen years.

As he prepares to begin his duties as pastor of this new linkage, Msgr. Quinn plans to take things one day – and one-step – at a time.

"I've learned that at the top of the list for any true servant leader is to listen, to listen first, to hear where people are as well as what their needs and hopes are as well," he explained.

In the coming months, Msgr. Quinn will begin to engage a project team with members of both parishes to discuss a shared approach in regard to worship and sacraments, adult faith formation, youth ministry and formation, Hispanic ministry, community outreach and other necessary partnerships, particularly those partnerships with other social service ministries.

Msgr. Quinn says it is important for the faithful of both Saint John Neumann Parish and Saint Paul of the Cross Parish to know that he is committed to open and honest communication.

"We can only do this together. Our call by God is to love one another and we can only do that as true neighbors and people united in faith, hope and love," he said.

In announcing the appointment of Msgr. Quinn to his new pastoral assignment, Bishop Bambera also expressed his deepest appreciation to the lay leaders, parishioners and staff members of both parishes who have embraced the opportunity that lies ahead. He also thanked both current pastors for their service.

"I cannot adequately express my gratitude to your current parish pastors, Reverend Michael



Monsignor Joseph G. Quinn, J.D., J.C.L.

Father Joseph D. Verespy appointed pastor of new parish linkage in Wilkes-Barre

WILKES-BARRE—After it was announced that Our Lady of Fatima Parish and Saint Nicholas Parish would be brought together in a new linkage, Father Joseph D. Verespy has been appointed the new pastor of this combined community in downtown Wilkes-Barre.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, announced the appointment after consulting with the Diocese's Priest Personnel Board and diocesan leadership.

The change becomes effective July 20, 2021.

With both churches physically located only about a half-block away from each other, Father Verespy already sees a lot of opportunity for this new linkage.

"We are not strangers and there has been a lot of people back-and-forth between the two churches. This will be an exciting opportunity to share resources, to take advantage of what each of us has to share with the other and become an even more vibrant presence in Wilkes-Barre as a parish community."



Father Joseph D. Verespy

Before his appointment as the pastor of the new linkage, Father Verespy was already serving as pastor at Saint Nicholas Parish. He also has a deep love and appreciation for Our Lady of Fatima Parish at Saint Mary's Church of the Immaculate Conception. He graduated from Saint Mary's High School 50 years ago in the church itself – as a part of the school's last graduating class.

Father Verespy believes his familiarity with both parishes – and its people – will help this new linkage be successful.

"We've had penance services together. Two years ago, we began sharing our faith formation program," he explained. "During the pandemic, we did everything virtually but we did it as one program, one community."

As of July 20, Father Mark DeCelles, who was just ordained to the priesthood, will also become a part of the new community, serving as an assistant pastor at both Saint Nicholas Parish and Our Lady of Fatima Parish.

Continued on Page 23

M. Bryant and Reverend Scott P. Sterowski, for the extraordinary examples of priestly sacrifice they have been – and continue to be. At this

time, new assignments for both are pending and will be announced in the near future," Bishop Bambera said.

APPOINTMENTS

His Excellency, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, announces the following appointments, effective as follows:

Clergy Assignments:

Reverend David W. Bechtel, from Pastor, Saint Peter Parish, Wellsboro, and Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish, Elkland, to Pastor, Saint Joseph the Worker Parish, Williamsport, effective August 11, 2021.

Reverend Mark J. DeCelles, to Assistant Pastor, Saint Nicholas Parish and Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Wilkes-Barre, effective July 20, 2021.

Monsignor Michael J. Delaney, from Pastor, Holy Cross Parish, Olyphant, and Blessed Sacrament Parish, Throop, to Pastor, Our Lady of the Snows Parish, Clarks Summit, effective July 20, 2021.

Reverend J. Duane Gavitt, from Pastor, Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Wilkes Barre, to Pastor, Saint Elizabeth Parish, Bear Creek, and Saint Rita Parish, Gouldsboro, effective July 20, 2021.

Reverend Andrew S. Hvozdovic, from Pastor, Epiphany, Sayre, to Pastor, Gate of Heaven Parish, Dallas, and Our Lady of Victory Parish, Harveys Lake, effective August 11, 2021.

Reverend Thomas J. Maloney, from Sacramental Minister, Saint Elizabeth Parish, Bear Creek, effective July 20, 2021.

Reverend Patrick D. McDowell, from Pastor, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Weston, to Pastor Emeritus, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Weston, effective June 30, 2021.

Reverend Kevin M. Miller, from Assistant Pastor, Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Carbondale, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Carbondale, to Pastor, Saint Brigid Parish, Friendsville, effective August 2, 2021.

Reverend James R. Nash, from Pastor, Saint Faustina Kowalska Parish, Nanticoke, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Lake Silkworth, to Pastor Emeritus, Saint Faustina Kowalska Parish, Nanticoke, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Lake Silkworth, effective August 11, 2021.

Reverend Carmen J. Perry, from Pastor, Saint Luke Parish, Stroudsburg, to Chaplain, Mercy Center, Dallas, effective July 20, 2021.

Monsignor Joseph G. Quinn, J.D., J.C.L., from Pastor, Our Lady of the Snows Parish, Clarks Summit, to Pastor, Saint John Neumann Parish, Scranton and Saint Paul of the Cross Parish, Scranton, effective July 20, 2021.

Reverend Michael F. Quinnan, to Pastor, Saint Luke Parish, Stroudsburg, effective July 20, 2021. Father Quinnan will serve as Administrator *Pro Tem*, Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Brodheadsville.

Reverend Robert J. Simon, from Pastor, Saint Catherine of Siena, Moscow, to Pastor, Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Brodheadsville, effective August 9, 2021.

Reverend Brian F. Van Fossen, from Pastor, Saint Joseph the Worker Parish, Williamsport, to Pastor, Saint Faustina Kowalska Parish, Nanticoke, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Lake Silkworth, effective August 11, 2021.

Reverend Joseph D. Verespy, to Pastor, Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Wilkes-Barre, effective July 20, 2021. Father Verespy will continue to serve as Pastor, Saint Nicholas Parish, Wilkes-Barre.

Reverend John J. Victoria, from Chaplain, Mercy Center, Dallas, to retirement for reasons of health, effective July 20, 2021.

Parish Life Coordinator Assignment:

Mr. Anthony Butel, from Parish Life Coordinator, Saint Elizabeth Parish, Bear Creek, and Saint Rita Parish, Gouldsboro, effective July 20, 2021.

U.S. Catholics asked to pray for bishops as Communion document is drafted

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has asked the nation’s Catholics to pray for him and his brother bishops “as we continue our dialogues and reflections” in the process of drafting a document on the “meaning of the Eucharist in the life of the church.”

“I pray that this will be a time for all of us in the church to reflect on our own faith and readiness to receive our Lord in the holy Eucharist,” Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez said in a statement released late June 21.

During their virtual spring general assembly June 16-18, the bishops approved in a 168-55 vote, with six abstentions, the drafting of this document. The vote followed a lengthy debate June 17 and the results were announced the following day.

The USCCB’s Committee on Doctrine will draft it and present the document for discussion when the bishops reconvene in person in November for their fall general assembly.

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL PLANNED

Catholics can expect added emphasis on the Eucharist at all levels of the church beginning next summer, culminating in a large-scale national event in 2024.

Auxiliary Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of St. Paul and Minneapolis, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, detailed a three-year National Eucharistic Revival initiative and announced plans for a national event in his committee update June 18, the last day of the U.S. bishops’ three-day virtual spring assembly.

Called a “Eucharistic Revival: My Flesh for the Life of the World,” the initiative aims to “renew the church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the holy Eucharist.”

Bishop Cozzens described it as “a movement of Catholics across the United States, healed, converted, formed and unified by an encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist - and sent out in mission for the life of the world.”

“My brother bishops and I voted overwhelmingly to issue a teaching document on the beauty and power of the Eucharist,” Archbishop Gomez said.

As the committee begins drafting it, “in the months ahead the bishops will continue our prayer and discernment through a series of regional meetings and consultations,” he said, noting they’ll discuss the draft at their fall meeting.

“The Eucharist is the heart of the church and the heart of our lives as Catholics,” he said. “In the holy Eucharist, Jesus Christ himself draws near to each one of us personally and gathers us together as one family of God and one body of Christ.”

“As bishops, our desire is to deepen our people’s awareness of this great mystery of faith, and to awaken their amazement at this divine gift, in which we have communion with the living God,” Archbishop Gomez added. “That is our pastoral purpose in writing this document.”

Before they voted, debate lasted for over two hours, and 43

SAINTHOOD CANDIDATES’ CAUSES GET APPROVAL

The U.S. bishops gave their go-ahead to two dioceses to continue their efforts to make their case for a priest and a brother to be considered for sainthood.

The men are Father Joseph Verbis Lafleur of the Diocese of Lafayette, Louisiana, an Army chaplain who died in World War II, and Leonard LaRue, a Merchant Marine captain who later became a Benedictine monk named Brother Marinus. They are revered for their heroism in World War II and the Korean War, respectively.

Each cause received 99% approval from the bishops.

The votes were not to endorse the causes, but rather to confirm the bishops “consider it opportune to advance (them) on the local level.”

Consultation with other bishops is one of the requirements in advancing a sainthood cause, said Archbishop Jerome E. Listek of Milwaukee, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Canonical Affairs and Church Governance.



A priest prepares to distribute Communion during Mass in Washington. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)

bishops expressed differing views about drafting such a document. Some stressed the document was necessary to provide clarity about the significance of the Eucharist, while others questioned its timing and if it could be perceived as fracturing the unity of a church already faced with numerous challenges.

Although the bishops reached no consensus during the discussion, most of those who spoke during the comments’ session welcomed

CATECHISM ‘INSTITUTE’ ANNOUNCED

The bishop who is chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Subcommittee on the Catechism has proposed what he called a “catechism institute” that would “respond to new challenges in catechesis.”

While Bishop Frank J. Caggiano of Bridgeport said the institute would not be a physical structure, he said it would be an “initiative” to accompany publishers and users of catechetical materials in changing times for the Catholic faith in the U.S., as more people leave the church, and the church sees a rise in Latino Catholics who may be in need of more “inculturated” materials.

Bishop Caggiano said a well-formed catechetical consultant working directly for the subcommittee would be trained to ensure the teaching of the Catechism of the Catholic Church “is faithfully represented in publishers’ texts.”

It would also carry out yearly formation conferences in a retreat-like environment.

the idea of strengthening teaching about the Eucharist.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, chairman of the doctrine committee, presented a proposed outline to the bishops June 17 in a prerecorded message. It would include three parts, subtitled “The Eucharist, A Mystery to be Believed,” “The Eucharist, A Mystery to be Celebrated” and “The Eucharist, A Mystery to be Lived.”

As proposed, each part includes three topics that

would be addressed including, respectively, the real presence of the body and blood of Christ in Communion; unity, beauty and identity as the “fount and apex of the whole Christian life”; and moral transformation, eucharistic consistency and missionary discipleship.

Bishop Rhoades said this was developed in light of the decline in Catholics’ belief in the Real Presence in the Eucharist as well as the long absences from regular Mass attendance, which may have led to people placing less significance on the Eucharist in their lives.

He also said the document was never intended to present national norms for the reception of the Eucharist, but to serve as a teaching tool for Catholics about the reception of holy Communion as a grace-filled gift.

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON STATEMENT REGARDING BISHOPS’ DOCUMENT ON THE EUCHARIST

Since the conclusion of the Spring General Assembly of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), there has been significant attention (and in some cases misinformation) on the vote taken to draft a document on the meaning of the Eucharist in the life of the Church.

A great deal of media coverage has focused on the question of whether to deny an individual or groups of people Holy Communion. In reality, this question was not up for a vote or debate at the meeting. Bishops made no decision about barring anyone from receiving Holy Communion.

The vote taken by the full body of bishops tasked the USCCB’s Committee on Doctrine to begin the drafting of a teaching document on the Eucharist. For the last several years, helping all people understand the beauty and mystery of the Eucharist has been an important goal for bishops – especially after a 2019 Pew Study found that many Catholics do not understand or believe in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

As indicated to all bishops at the recent USCCB meeting, the document would include a section on the Church’s teaching on the responsibility of every Catholic, including bishops, to live in accordance with the truth, goodness and beauty of the Eucharist we celebrate – but the document would not be disciplinary in nature.

The Eucharist is an amazing gift from the Lord that He has given to us as nourishment for our souls. Each Catholic is called to continual conversion and Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, along with his brother bishops, have repeatedly emphasized the obligation of all Catholics to support human life and dignity and other fundamental principles of Catholic moral and social teaching.

In addition to the proposed document, the USCCB Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis has detailed plans for a three-year National Eucharistic Revival, which would aim to share the love of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist with the world. This revival has the opportunity to have a tremendous impact – as it would be designed to affect every level of the church, from the home and parish to the national stage.



Questions and Answers on the U.S. Bishops' Vote to Draft a Document on the Meaning of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church

Since the conclusion of the Spring Plenary Assembly of the U.S. bishops June 18, there has been much attention on the vote taken to draft a document on the Eucharist. The question of whether or not to deny any individual or groups Holy Communion was not on the ballot. The vote by the bishops last week tasked the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Doctrine to begin the drafting of a teaching document on the Eucharist.

The Eucharist is the source and summit of Christian life. The importance of nurturing an ever deeper understanding of the beauty and mystery of the Eucharist in our lives is not a new topic for the bishops. The document being drafted is not meant to be disciplinary in nature, nor is it targeted at any one individual or class of persons. It will include a section on the Church's teaching on the responsibility of every Catholic, including bishops, to live in accordance with the truth, goodness and beauty of the Eucharist we celebrate.

Below are a few commonly asked questions on the meeting and on this topic at issue.

Why are the bishops doing this now?

For some time now, a major concern of the bishops has been the declining belief and understanding of the Eucharist among the Catholic faithful. This was a deep enough concern, that the theme of the bishops' [strategic plan](#) for 2021-2024 is *Created Anew by the Body and Blood of Christ: Source of Our Healing and Hope*. This important document on the Eucharist will serve as a foundation for the multi-year Eucharistic Revival Project, a major national effort to reignite Eucharistic faith in our country. It was clear from the intensity and passion expressed in the individual interventions made by the bishops during last week's meeting that each bishop deeply loves the Eucharist.

Did the bishops vote to ban politicians from receiving Holy Communion?

No, this was not up for vote or debate. The bishops made no decision about barring anyone from receiving Holy Communion. Each Catholic - regardless of whether they hold public office or not - is called to continual conversion, and the U.S. bishops have repeatedly emphasized the obligation of all Catholics to support human life and dignity and other fundamental principles of Catholic moral and social teaching.

Are the bishops going to issue a national policy on withholding Communion from politicians?

No. There will be no national policy on withholding Communion from politicians. The intent is to present a clear understanding of the Church's teachings to bring heightened awareness among the faithful of how the Eucharist can transform our lives and bring us closer to our creator and the life he wants for us.

Did the Vatican tell the bishops not to move forward on drafting the document?

No. The Holy See did encourage the bishops to engage in dialogue and broad consultation. Last week's meeting was the first part of that process. It is important to note that collaboration and consultation among the bishops will be key in the drafting of this document.

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly to be celebrated July 25

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera invites the faithful to commemorate the day at Cathedral Mass

Pope Francis has announced the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly will be celebrated on Sunday, July 25, 2021.

All parishes in the Diocese of Scranton have been encouraged to dedicate one Sunday Mass to grandparents and the elderly in advance of the liturgical memorial of Ss. Joachim and Ann on July 26.

The pope has chosen the theme, “I am with you always” (cf. Mt. 28:20) for this inaugural celebration.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, invites the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton to join him in celebrating Mass for the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on Sunday, July 25.

The Mass will also be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton with a livestream made available on all Diocesan social media platforms.

Pope Francis also recently released a special message for the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. That message can be found on the following page.

Writing to his peers, Catholics who have reached a venerable age like he has, Pope Francis told older Catholics that God is close to them and still has plans for their lives.

“I was called to become the bishop of Rome when I had reached, so to speak, retirement age, and thought I would not be doing anything new,” said the pope, who is

84 now and was elected when he was 76.

“The Lord is always – always – close to us. He is close to us with new possibilities, new ideas, new consolations, but always close to us. You know that the Lord is eternal; he never, ever goes into retirement,” the pope wrote in his message.

The Vatican also announced that people who attend a Mass or other celebration for the day, “devote adequate time to actually or virtually visiting their elderly brothers and sisters in need or in difficulty” or join in prayers for the elderly July 25 can receive a plenary indulgence as long as they fulfill the usual requirements of also going to confession, receiving the Eucharist and praying for the intentions of the pope.

The indulgence also is available to “the elderly sick and all those who, unable to leave their homes for a serious reason, will unite themselves spiritually to the sacred functions of the world day, offering to the merciful God their prayers, pains or sufferings of their lives,” the Vatican said.

Pope Francis’ message, which was distributed in writing in eight languages and on video, acknowledged how many older people around the world suffered and continue to suffer physically, emotionally and spiritually because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

But he also insisted that the Christian call to share the Gospel is as pertinent now for all of them as it ever was.

“Think about it: what is our vocation today, at our age? To preserve our roots, to pass on the faith to the young and to care for the little ones,” he wrote. “Never forget this.”

“It makes no difference how old you are, whether you still work or not, whether you are alone or have a family, whether you became a grandmother or grandfather at a young age or later, whether you are still independent or need assistance,” he said. “There is no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel and handing down traditions to your grandchildren. You just need to set out and undertake something new.”

Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell, 73, summarized Pope Francis’ vision for how younger people should mark the special day

by using the phrase, “try a little tenderness.”

The cardinal, prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life, encourages younger people to take an action of tenderness on July 25: Visit your grandparents or any older person living alone, offer them a ride to Mass, take them a flower or even potentially take them the Eucharist.

“Tenderness is not just a private feeling, one that soothes wounds, but is a way of relating to others, which should also be experienced in public,” Cardinal Farrell said. “We have become accustomed to living alone, to not hugging each other, to considering the other as a threat to our health. Our societies, the pope tells us in ‘Fratelli Tutti,’ are now fragmented.”

“Tenderness has a social value,” the cardinal insisted.

PRAYER FOR THE FIRST WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

I thank You, Lord,
for the comfort of Your presence:
even in times of loneliness,
You are my hope and my confidence,
You have been my rock and my fortress since my youth!

I thank You for having given me a family
and for having blessed me with a long life.
I thank You for moments of joy and difficulty,
for the dreams that have already come true in my life and for
those that are still ahead of me.
I thank You for this time of renewed fruitfulness to which You
call me.

Increase, O Lord, my faith,
make me a channel of your peace,
teach me to embrace those who suffer more than me,
to never stop dreaming
and to tell of your wonders to new generations.

Protect and guide Pope Francis and the Church,
that the light of the Gospel might reach the ends of the earth.
Send Your Spirit, O Lord, to renew the world,
that the storm of the pandemic might be calmed,
the poor consoled and wars ended.

Sustain me in weakness
and help me to live life to the full
in each moment that You give me,
in the certainty that you are with me every day,
even until the end of the age.
Amen.

"I am with you always"
**WORLD DAY FOR
GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY**

- SUNDAY, JULY 25, 2021 -



**Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera
10:00 a.m. - Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton**

EVERYONE IS INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!
CTV: Catholic Television will provide a live broadcast of the Mass

A MESSAGE FROM POPE FRANCIS

I AM WITH YOU
ALWAYS

WORLD DAY
FOR
GRANDPARENTS
AND THE
ELDERLY

#IAMWITHYOUALWAYS



THE CATHOLIC LIGHT • JULY 15, 2021

build a more humane and welcoming world. Without memory, however, we will never be able to build; without a foundation, we can never build a house. Never. And the foundation of life is memory.

Finally, prayer. As my predecessor, Pope Benedict, himself a saintly elderly person who continues to pray and work for the Church, once said: “the prayer of the elderly can protect the world, helping it perhaps more effectively than the frenetic activity of many others.” He spoke those words in 2012, towards the end of his pontificate. There is something beautiful here. Your prayer is a very precious resource: a deep breath that the Church and the world urgently need (cf. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 262). Especially in these difficult times for our human family, as we continue to sail in the same boat across the stormy sea of the pandemic, your intercession for the world and for the Church has great value: it inspires in everyone the serene trust that we will soon come to shore.

Dear grandmother, dear grandfather, dear elderly friends, in concluding this Message to you, I would also like to mention the example of Blessed (and soon Saint) Charles de Foucauld. He lived as a hermit in Algeria and there testified to “his desire to feel himself a brother to all” (Fratelli Tutti, 287). The story of his life shows how it is possible, even in the solitude of one’s own desert, to intercede for the poor of the whole world and to become, in truth, a universal brother or sister.

I ask the Lord that, also through his example, all of us may open our hearts in sensitivity to the sufferings of the poor and intercede for their needs. May each of us learn to repeat to all, and especially to the young, the words of consolation we have heard spoken to us today: “I am with you always!” Keep moving forward! May the Lord grant you his blessing.

Francis

Dear Grandfathers and Grandmothers,
Dear Elderly Friends,

“I am with you always” (Mt 28:20): this is the promise the Lord made to his disciples before he ascended into heaven. They are the words that he repeats to you today, dear grandfathers and grandmothers, dear elderly friends. “I am with you always” are also the words that I, as Bishop of Rome and an elderly person like yourselves, would like to address to you on this first World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly. The whole Church is close to you – to us – and cares about you, loves you and does not want to leave you alone!

I am well aware that this Message comes to you at a difficult time: the pandemic swept down on us like an unexpected and furious storm; it has been a time of trial for everyone, but especially for us elderly persons. Many of us fell ill, others died or experienced the death of spouses or loved ones, while others found themselves isolated and alone for long periods.

The Lord is aware of all that we have been through in this time. He is close to those who felt isolated and alone, feelings that became more acute during the pandemic. Tradition has it that Saint Joachim, the grandfather of Jesus, felt estranged from those around him because he had no children; his life, like that of his wife Anne, was considered useless. So the Lord sent an angel to console him. While he mused sadly outside the city gates, a messenger from the Lord appeared to him and said, “Joachim, Joachim! The Lord has heard your insistent prayer.” Giotto, in one of his celebrated frescoes, seems to set the scene at night, one of those many sleepless nights, filled with memories, worries and longings to which many of us have come to be accustomed.

Even at the darkest moments, as in these months of pandemic, the Lord continues to send angels to console our loneliness and to remind us: “I am with you always.” He says this to you, and he says it to me. That is the meaning of this Day, which I wanted to celebrate for the first time in this particular year, as a long period of isolation ends and social life slowly resumes. May every grandfather, every grandmother, every older person, especially those among us who are most alone, receive the visit of an angel!

At times those angels will have the face of our grandchildren, at others, the face of family members, lifelong friends or those we have come to know during these trying times, when we have learned how important hugs and visits are for each of us. How sad it makes me that in some places these are still not possible!

The Lord, however, also sends us messengers through his words, which are always at hand. Let us try to read a page of the Gospel every day, to pray with the psalms,

to read the prophets! We will be comforted by the Lord’s faithfulness. The Scriptures will also help us to understand what the Lord is asking of our lives today. For at every hour of the day (cf. Mt 20:1-16) and in every season of life, he continues to send labourers into his vineyard. I was called to become the Bishop of Rome when I had reached, so to speak, retirement age and thought I would not be doing anything new. The Lord is always – always – close to us. He is close to us with new possibilities, new ideas, new consolations, but always close to us. You know that the Lord is eternal; he never, ever goes into retirement.

In Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus tells the Apostles, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (28:19-20). These words are also addressed to us today. They help us better understand that our vocation is to preserve our roots, to pass on the faith to the young, and to care for the little ones. Think about it: what is our vocation today, at our age? To preserve our roots, to pass on the faith to the young and to care for the little ones. Never forget this.

It makes no difference how old you are, whether you still work or not, whether you are alone or have a family, whether you became a grandmother or grandfather at a young age or later, whether you are still independent or need assistance. Because there is no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel and handing down traditions to your grandchildren. You just need to set out and undertake something new.

At this crucial moment in history, you have a renewed vocation. You may wonder: How this can be possible? My energy is running out and I don’t think I can do much. How can I begin to act differently when habit is so much a part of my life? How can I devote myself to those who are poor when I am already so concerned about my family? How can I broaden my vision when I can’t even leave the residence where I live? Isn’t my solitude already a sufficiently heavy burden? How many of you are asking just that question: isn’t my solitude already a sufficiently heavy burden? Jesus himself heard a similar question from Nicodemus, who asked, “How can a man be born when he is old?” (Jn 3:4). It can happen, the Lord replies, if we open our hearts to the working of the Holy Spirit, who blows where he wills. The Holy Spirit whose freedom is such that goes wherever, and does whatever, he wills.

As I have often observed, we will not emerge from the present crisis as we were before, but either better or worse. And “God willing... this may prove not to be just another tragedy of history from which we learned nothing... If only we might keep in

mind all those elderly persons who died for lack of respirators... If only this immense sorrow may not prove useless, but enable us to take a step forward towards a new style of life. If only we might discover once for all that we need one another, and that in this way our human frailty can experience a rebirth” (Fratelli Tutti, 35). No one is saved alone. We are all indebted to one another. We are all brothers and sisters.

Given this, I want to tell you that you are needed in order to help build, in fraternity and social friendship, the world of tomorrow: the world in which we, together with our children and grandchildren, will live once the storm has subsided. All of us must “take an active part in renewing and supporting our troubled societies” (ibid., 77). Among the pillars that support this new edifice, there are three that you, better than anyone else, can help to set up. Those three pillars are dreams, memory and prayer. The Lord’s closeness will grant to all, even the frailest among us, the strength needed to embark on a new journey along the path of dreams, memory and prayer.

The prophet Joel once promised: “Your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men will have visions” (3:1). The future of the world depends on this covenant between young and old. Who, if not the young, can take the dreams of the elderly and make them come true? Yet for this to happen, it is necessary that we continue to dream. Our dreams of justice, of peace, of solidarity can make it possible for our young people to have new visions; in this way, together, we can build the future. You need to show that it is possible to emerge renewed from an experience of hardship. I am sure that you have had more than one such experience: in your life you have faced any number of troubles and yet were able to pull through. Use those experiences to learn how to pull through now.

Dreams are thus intertwined with memory. I think of the painful memory of war, and its importance for helping the young to learn the value of peace. Those among you who experienced the suffering of war must pass on this message. Keeping memory alive is a true mission for every elderly person: keeping memory alive and sharing it with others. Edith Bruck, who survived the horror of the Shoah, has said that “even illuminating a single conscience is worth the effort and pain of keeping alive the memory of what has been.” She went on to say: “For me, memory is life.” I also think of my own grandparents, and those among you who had to emigrate and know how hard it is to leave everything behind, as so many people continue to do today, in hope of a future. Some of those people may even now be at our side, caring for us. These kinds of memory can help to

Villa Saint Joseph celebrates 50th Anniversary

DUNMORE – Exactly 50 years to the day of its formal dedication and blessing, Villa Saint Joseph was once again the setting of celebration.

Current residents, along with past rectors and invited guests, gathered together on June 22, 2021, for a Mass of Thanksgiving for the Golden Jubilee of Villa Saint Joseph, celebrated by the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton.

The date was significant – coming exactly five decades after the Most Reverend J. Carroll McCormick, sixth bishop of Scranton, first opened the home for retired priests on June 22, 1971.

Villa Saint Joseph, located on Green Ridge Street, was built on the site of the former Saint Gabriel’s Retreat House, which was acquired from the Passionist community of religious sisters. Since it opened, it has provided a comfortable home to many retired priests who have faithfully served the Diocese of Scranton.

“For all of the changes that our Diocese has undergone for the past 50 years ... this facility, Saint Joseph’s Villa, is one of the few that has survived and been maintained and refurbished and continues to serve its original mission without missing a beat,” Bishop Bambera said during his homily.

The Golden Jubilee Mass was celebrated in the Villa Saint Joseph Chapel. Following the Mass, Bishop Bambera joined the current residents of the Villa along with staff members for dinner. The bishop acknowledged the staff for being the ‘lifeblood’ of the facility.

“We are privileged to celebrate this 50th anniversary of Saint Joseph’s Villa and hopefully many, many more because of the generous people who make this Villa possible, who make it a reality in our lives and in our ministry – who have come to know all of you – and countless other priests over the years,” the bishop said.

In many respects, Bishop Bambera said the real story celebrated on this 50th anniversary has little to do with bricks and mortar – but much more to do with the retired priests who now live here and have faithfully served every corner of the Diocese of Scranton.

“They (the faithful) know you to be men who seek to live your lives with faith and integrity, preaching not only by your words but by your lives and your service. They have looked to you over the years as an example of what Jesus would do,” the bishop continued.

Many faithful Catholics may not know – or appreciate – the life of a retired priest. They are still called upon to serve in many different ways, including celebrating Mass in churches and nursing homes and hearing confessions.



Rev. Joseph M. Horanzy, foreground, along with several other retired priests joined together for a Mass of Thanksgiving to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Villa Saint Joseph in Dunmore on June 22, 2021, in the Villa Saint Joseph Chapel. (Photos/Mike Melisky)



Bishop Joseph C. Bambera delivers the homily during the 50th Anniversary Mass for the Villa Saint Joseph.



Monsignor John J. Bendik sings a special Villa Saint Joseph Halleluiah during Mass. The words of the song are included below.

Villa Saint Joseph Halleluiah for its 50th Anniversary Mass written and performed by Monsignor John J. Bendik

*We gather in this Holy place
To Thank the Lord for all His Grace
That filled the souls of all
who came to live here.*

*For fifty years of welcome peace
and kindness that will never cease.
The home for scores of priests who
faithfully served you.*

Halleluiah, Halleluiah, Halleluiah, Halleluiah

*They served with love and gratitude
but came a time for solitude
Their days of pastoring
now being over.*

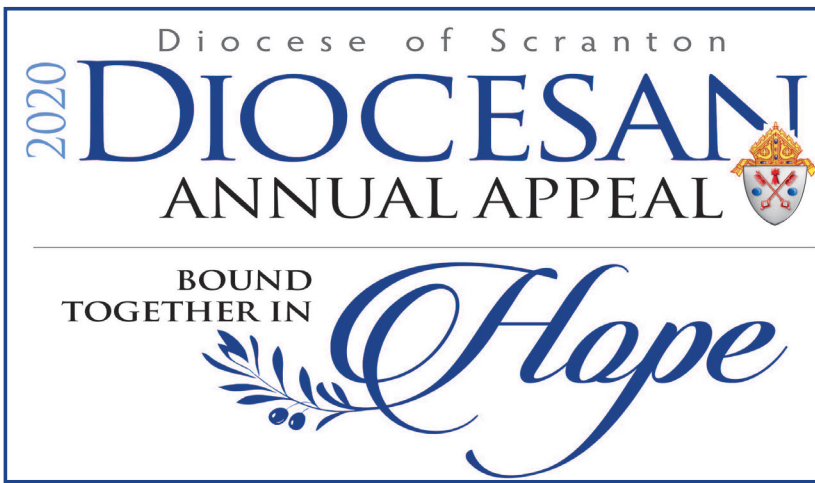
*But shepherds they will always be
when welcomed to eternity.
To join at supper with the Lord
for whom they labored.*

Halleluiah, Halleluiah, Halleluiah, Halleluiah

*As Joseph made a loving home
for Mary and her son, Our Lord,
We give thanks for all who served us
as a family.*

*May all of us baptized in Christ
be signs of love to all in sight
Leading others to the light
That shines forever.*

Halleluiah, Halleluiah, Halleluiah, Halleluiah



SCRANTON – The 2020 Diocesan Annual Appeal: Bound Together in Hope has concluded with gifts and pledges of nearly \$4.1 million from 20,800 donors. This is 91% of the goal of \$4.5 million. Forty-six parishes surpassed their Annual Appeal parish goal. Those parishes are all listed in the column on the side of this page.

“I am extremely grateful to our parishioners, clergy and friends for their support of the 2021 Annual Appeal,” Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, said. “I appreciate the generosity of so many of our faithful especially in this most difficult year when everyone has faced struggles of their own.”

“Donors to the Appeal offer a wonderful example of God’s love and mercy in our lives and provide significant support and encouragement for all those who benefit from the Diocesan ministries funded by the Appeal,” Bishop Bambera added.

Gifts to the Diocesan Annual Appeal support the mission of our local Church to:

- Feed the hungry, clothe the naked and provide shelter and assistance for those most in need
- Care for our retired priests who have faithfully served, and continue to serve, the needs of the faithful in our Diocese
- Encourage and support our men who are in formation to become priests and deacons as we look to the future of our parishes and our Diocese
- Support our young people in our Catholic schools and in our parish religious education programs by helping them to prepare for fulfilling and faith-centered lives
- Renew and strengthen our parish communities by providing opportunities for all of us to more fully share their personal gifts in devoted service to God and one another
- Joyfully proclaim the message of the Gospel by informing and inspiring the faithful of our Diocese through *The Catholic Light*, CTV: Catholic Television, and the Diocesan website.

More specific information on ways that gifts to the Appeal have helped Diocesan and parish ministries in the past year are included in the 2020 Diocesan Annual Appeal Mission Impact Report on the next two pages of *The Catholic Light*.

The Diocesan Annual Appeal team includes Diocesan staff, pastors, parish volunteers and committees and regional chairpersons throughout the 11 counties in the Diocese in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania. “Congratulations and sincere thanks to our pastors, regional chairs and Appeal parish representatives who partnered with us to promote the Diocesan Annual Appeal and encourage participation among our parishioners in our 117 parishes throughout the Diocese,” Jim Bebla, Diocesan Secretary for Development, said. “This support is a key part of the success of the Appeal.”

This year’s Annual Appeal Regional Lay and Clergy Chairs are listed below.

Bradford, Sullivan and Susquehanna Counties – Karen Garman and Larry Hoey, Epiphany Parish, Sayre, and Father Joseph Kutch, Saint Michael Parish, Canton.

Lackawanna and Wyoming Counties – Chris and Ann DiMattio, Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, Moscow, and Father Patrick Albert, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Tunkhannock, and Saint Mary of the Lake, Lake Winola.

Luzerne County – Joe and Paula Panzitta, Corpus Christi Parish, West Pittston, and Father Joseph Elston, Saint John the Evangelist Parish and Saint Joseph Marello Parish, Pittston.

Lycoming and Tioga Counties – Jim and Susan Dinsmore, Saint Lawrence Parish, Williamsport, and Father Glenn McCreary, Resurrection Parish, Muncy.

Monroe County – Atty. Joe and Linda McDonald, Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Brodheadsville, and Father Carmen Perry, Saint Luke Parish, Stroudsburg.

Wayne and Pike Counties – Gerald Najarian, Saint Vincent de Paul Parish, Milford, and Father Ed Casey, Saint Ann Parish, Shohola, and Saint John Neumann Parish, Lords Valley.

2020 Diocesan Annual Appeal Parishes Over Goal

Ascension Parish - Forest City
Blessed Sacrament Parish – Throop
Corpus Christi Parish - West Pittston
Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish - Hanover Township
Holy Cross Parish – Olyphant
Holy Family Parish – Luzerne
Holy Family Parish - Sugar Notch
Holy Name of Mary Parish – Montrose
Holy Rosary Parish – Hazleton
Immaculate Conception Parish – Scranton
Most Precious Blood Parish – Hazleton
Our Lady of Fatima Parish - Wilkes-Barre
Our Lady of Hope Parish - Wilkes-Barre
Our Lady of Victory Parish - Harveys Lake
Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish - Brodheadsville
Resurrection Parish - Muncy
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish - Peckville
SS Peter & Paul Parish - Towanda
Saint Ann Parish - Shohola
Saint Barbara Parish - Exeter
Saint Brigid Parish - Friendsville
Saint Catherine of Siena Parish - Moscow
Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish - Swoyersville
Saint Elizabeth Parish - Bear Creek
Saint Faustina Kowalska Parish - Nanticoke
Saint Frances X. Cabrini Parish - Carverton
Saint Gregory Parish - Clarks Green
Saint Ignatius Loyola Parish - Kingston
Saint John Bosco Parish - Conyngham
Saint John Neumann Parish - Lords Valley
Saint Joseph Marello Parish - Pittston
Saint Joseph Parish - Matamoras
Saint Joseph the Worker Parish - Williamsport
Saint Katharine Drexel Parish - Pleasant Mount
Saint Lawrence Parish - South Williamsport
Saint Luke Parish - Stroudsburg
Saint Mary Parish - Waymart
Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish - Pocono Pines
Saint Michael Parish - Canton
Saint Nicholas Parish - Wilkes-Barre
Saint Peter’s Cathedral - Scranton
Saint Rita Parish - Gouldsboro
Saint Robert Bellarmine Parish - Wilkes-Barre
Saint Therese Parish - Shavertown
Saint Thomas More Parish - Lake Ariel
Saint Vincent de Paul Parish - Milford

Dear Friends in Christ,

This has been a year like no other. We have all been wounded and broken, confronted by our own limitations and the reminder that for all of our gifts and abilities, we are ultimately not in control of our lives.

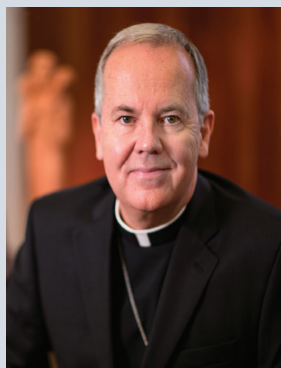
As we experience light in our world, I trust that we are able to see and embrace the abiding presence of God — a God who has continually been at work in our lives through countless encounters with mercy and compassion that we have been blessed to extend to others and experience ourselves.

I am grateful to so many parishioners who have extended God's mercy and love during the past year to help others by reaching out to support family, friends, our parishes and our Diocese even when families may have been struggling themselves. I am grateful also to our clergy, parish and Diocesan staffs for your selfless service and your commitment to build up the Kingdom of God especially in this most difficult year.

Thank you to all those who were able to make a gift to the Diocesan Annual Appeal. Because of your generosity, we were able to raise nearly \$4.1 million.

Your support makes a difference in the lives of those we serve in so many ways. I am pleased to share the impact of your gifts to the 2020 Diocesan Annual Appeal on these pages in *The Catholic Light*.

By God's grace, may we continue to be bound together in the hope and love of Jesus Christ.



Faithfully yours in Christ,

Joseph C. Bambera

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



COVID-19 has affected all of our lives and has had a significant impact on our parishes and our Diocese during the past year. While we experienced significant challenges, we saw so many clergy, parishioners, Catholic Schools, Catholic Social Services, Catholic Youth Center and Diocesan staff members come together to continue to minister to others especially in this time of great need. And 21,800 parishioners supported the 2020 Diocesan Annual Appeal donating nearly \$4.1 million this year.

Here are some ways your generosity helped to serve others this past year and bring alive the theme of the 2020 Diocesan Annual Appeal: *Bound Together in Hope*.

Catholic Social Services



This past year, Catholic Social Services saw a significant increase of families and individuals in need of food and emergency help with rent, utility and medication expenses. Staff members in Carbondale, Scranton, Wilkes-Barre and Hazleton also offered additional

counseling services to help families during the pandemic.

Here are some direct ways that Appeal gifts helped this year:

- **18,499 households served at four food pantries**
(4,133 in Wilkes-Barre, 7,287 in Carbondale, 5,874 in Hazleton and 1,205 in Scranton)
- **11,096 nights of Emergency Shelter provided**
(4,371 at St. Anthony Haven, Scranton; 4,029 at Mother Teresa Haven, Wilkes-Barre; and 2,696 at Divine Providence Shelter, Hazleton)
- **54 Homeless Veterans were provided assistance at St. Francis Commons, Scranton, and 26 secured permanent housing with assistance from Catholic Social Services staff**

Catholic Schools

Gifts to the Appeal provide significant financial assistance to our Catholic Schools. Nineteen schools received need-based scholarships and operating funds in support of more than 4,000 students.



When the pandemic began in March 2020, our Catholic schools were able to offer virtual learning to its students within one day. And because of the dedicated effort of our faculty, staff, parents and students, appropriate health and safety protocols were developed and our schools were able to offer in-person education throughout this past school year.

Catholic Media and Communications

Staff in our Diocesan Communications Office and in our parishes offered live streaming of Masses and other events to continue to offer the Word of God to the faithful in our Diocese. Online viewership of Mass from the Cathedral of St. Peter increased tenfold with 53,000 viewing the live-streaming of Mass this year as compared to 5,000 last year.



In addition, Daily Mass from the Cathedral is offered on Catholic TV to 250,000 homes in the Diocese. Broadcast of the 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass on Saturdays was added during the pandemic and was a favorite of thousands of the faithful each week.

Clergy Care and Education



Your Annual Appeal donations help care for more than 100 retired or ill priests including a wonderful community of retired priests at Villa St. Joseph in Dunmore. The Villa celebrated the 50th Anniversary of its founding in June.

The Diocese recently celebrated the ordination of one seminarian, Father Mark DeCelles, from Immaculate Conception Parish, Scranton. Two young men recently joined the seminary bringing the total number of seminarians to nine.

Parish Social Justice Grants



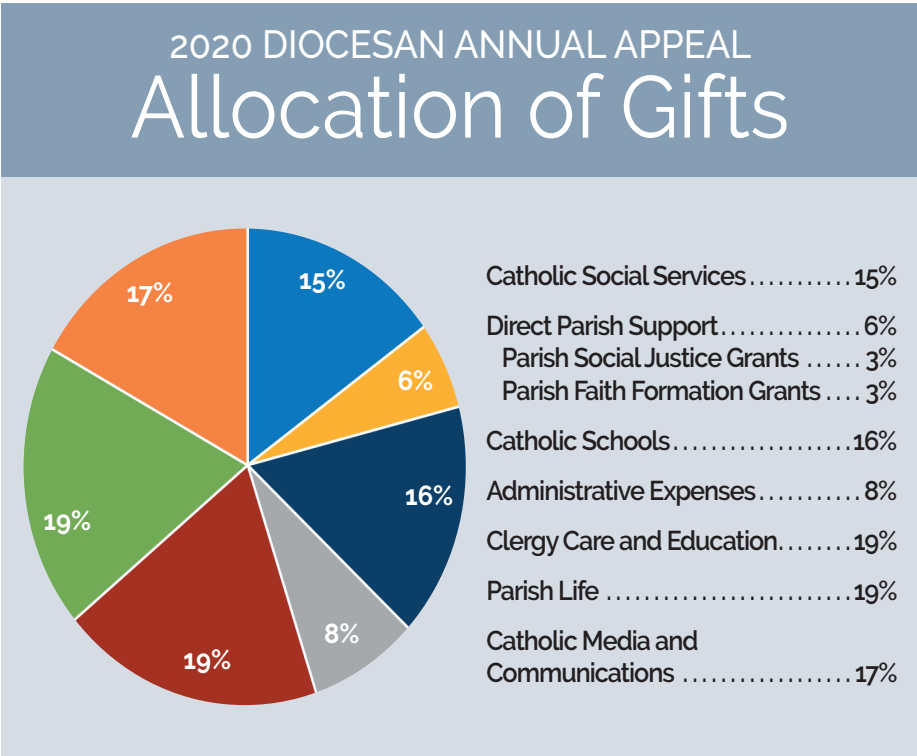
More than 30 parishes received social justice grants totaling \$135,000 this year. These grants are funded by gifts to the Appeal and help parishes respond to needs in our parish communities such as food pantries, care for the elderly, emergency assistance, pregnancy care, bereavement ministry, back to school programs, prison ministry and much more.

Parish Life

The Parish Life staff is able to offer 117 parishes a variety of faith formation programs throughout the year for adults, children and “the Young Church” because of your generosity to the Appeal. During this past year, the Parish Life staff worked closely with parishes to offer an innovative virtual faith formation program that provided live interactive instruction to parishioners.



Several remote networking opportunities and virtual learning presentations were also provided to keep the faithful connected to parish life during the pandemic.



“With Merciful Love”

Hundreds of women gather for 2021 Catholic Women’s Conference

DUNMORE – After being unable to come together last year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Catholic women from the Diocese of Scranton and beyond joyfully gathered once again on June 19 to experience God’s divine love and mercy.

More than 250 women attended the 2021 Catholic Women’s Conference in-person at Marywood University while dozens of others participated via livestream.

“I think today was a huge success,” Deborah Kennedy, conference chair, said at the end of the day. “I have had so many people come up to me and say the speakers are phenomenal, they truly felt that they were the best we’ve had yet, so I think we really nailed it.”

Patricia Carpenter of Nicholson attended the 2021 Catholic Women’s Conference for the first time this year and regarded the event as a ‘spa day for her soul.’

“It has been amazing. The speakers have been phenomenal. It’s really been a good experience. I’m glad I came,” she said.

Carpenter, a parishioner of Saint Patrick Parish in Nicholson, decided to attend after seeing an advertisement in her parish bulletin. The theme, “With Merciful Love,” was something that attracted her and she appreciated the speakers focusing on.

“I really appreciated what Father Chris (Alar) was talking about because he was explaining things that were really hard to understand. He brings it down to your level. As a matter of fact, I even bought his book,” she explained.

Father Chris Alar, MIC, was the first speaker to take the conference stage after the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, led participants in Mass at 8:30 a.m. Father Chris is a priest with the Marian



Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, right, celebrates Mass at the start of the 2021 Catholic Women’s Conference, which was held on June 19, 2021 at Marywood University.



Women recite the rosary which was led by Sister Virginia Joy. (Photos/Mike Melisky)

Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. A regular host and guest on EWTN-TV, he wrote and produced the popular “Divine Mercy 101” and “Explaining the Faith” DVD series.

Two other featured speakers, Theresa Bonopartis and Sister Virginia Joy, spoke to the women’s conference after lunch. Bonopartis shared her personal journey of healing after experiencing an abortion. Sister Joy, who entered the Sisters of Life in 2009, spoke of her work in helping vulnerable pregnant women in need.

Michele Regan of Hazleton, a parishioner of Saint John Bosco Parish in Conyngham, was particularly touched by Bonopartis sharing her deeply personal story of abortion – and the path with which she has found God’s mercy.

“I commend her greatly for going in front of people and sharing her story and all the trials she’s gone through. She is just amazing,” Regan said.

This was also the first time Regan has attended the women’s conference. She decided to attend after seeing information in *The Catholic Light* newspaper.

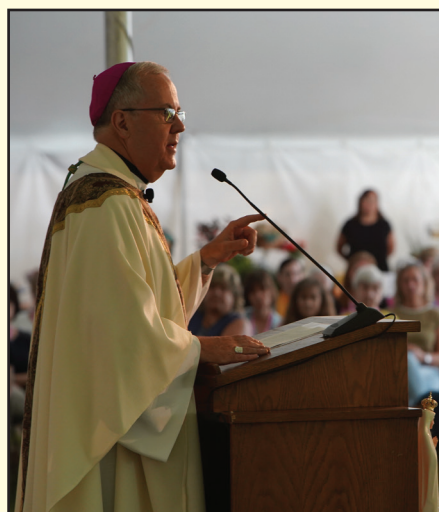
“I came up with two other ladies from a different parish,” she explained. “God



Attendees give Father Chris Alar, MIC, a standing ovation after his speech on Divine Mercy at the 2021 Catholic Women’s Conference.

willing, I’ll be able to attend conferences in the future also.”

Continued on Page 19



“The question for me and for you today as we gather in prayer and reflection is quite fundamental to our lives as Christians and disciples of Jesus. Through what lens do we look at Jesus? Do we see him as a God who measures our worthiness of his saving grace by the perfection of our lives? Or do we see him as Lord, Savior, and the incarnation of God, who comes into our lives first with merciful love, since on our own, we cannot save ourselves?”

**Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera
Bishop of Scranton**



“Mercy is the highest form of the highest virtue. You can’t do any better. There are three levels of how we deal with people in our lives - justice, forgiveness and the greatest of these is mercy!”

**Father Chris Alar, MIC
Director of the Association of
Marian Helpers, The National
Shrine of The Divine Mercy**



Taylor Tripodi uses her voice to bring God glory and praise during Mass.



Conference organizers were delighted that several mothers brought their children to the 2021 conference.



Attendees were encouraged to place prayer intentions into the 'Ocean of Mercy' located near the front stage.

Continued from Page 18

Women attending this year's conference were not just local. The furthest attendee hailed from Nigeria. There were also participants from Williamsburg, Virginia. Two buses of women came in from the Williamsport area and one from Stroudsburg.

Ana Rivera, a parishioner of Saint Luke Parish in Stroudsburg, was one of 12 people who took the bus from the Poconos to the conference. She has attended every women's conference held in the diocese.

"I think it has been great like all the other ones. The speakers were fantastic. The singer (Taylor Tripodi) was great. The mood in the crowd was great. I loved that we had a lot of babies in the crowd," Rivera said.

As she listened to each speaker, Rivera said she felt a sincere appreciation for how merciful our Lord is.

"I think sometimes we are so unaware of it. Each of them (speakers) touched on the mercy of our Lord but they did it in different ways. Each of the speakers had a different perspective on how our Lord's mercy played out in their lives," she said.

Rivera believes the message of God's mercy is something everyone needs to hear.

"Even when you're in the darkest of the darkest of the darkest (place) – He reaches in – and can pull you out if you are open to it and

He doesn't give up on you!" she explained.

As she got ready to head back home on the bus, Rivera said the "Refresh Your Faith" conference lived up to its name – because she felt "refreshed."

"I'm leaving refreshed. I'm interested now in finding out more about mercy and how I am implementing it on a daily basis in my life – how am I using it to love others? How am I being merciful towards others? It has made me more self-aware," she explained.

Conference reviews like that inspire organizers to continue holding the event.

"That is the best thing to hear. We don't want them to stop here. Heaven and Earth Gift Shop and Altus for Women have partnered and they're going to be doing book studies. It's just a way for the women who are here today to continue down that path and keep themselves refreshed," Kennedy said.

Planning for next year's conference is already underway. Catholic women are encouraged to save the date, June 18, 2022, for the next Catholic Women's Conference which will feature the theme, "Full of Grace."

"Our speakers are set two years in advance. Next year's speakers are already planned and booked and we'll now start for the following year. Believe it or not – we're really looking at 2023," Kennedy said.



Conference participants recite a prayer during Mass.



Father Chris Alar, MIC, speaks during the 2021 Women's Conference.



"God didn't look down and say, there is Theresa, I want to save her. His mercy is there for every single one of us...God is waiting to heal you. In our misery, he shows us His mercy and in His mercy he shows us our misery."

Theresa Bonopartis
Co-Developer, "Entering Canaan-
a Sacramental Journey to an
Inheritance of Mercy"



"Jesus is always finding a way to communicate with us. He's always trying to find a way to communicate His love, His mercy and we must trust him!"

Sister Virginia Joy, SV
Director of Respect Life Office
Archdiocese of New York

Diocese of Scranton

CATHOLIC

SCHOOL SYSTEM

FAITH • ACADEMICS • SERVICE

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



The last week of classes at **Saint Jude School in Mountain Top** was busy with the 8th grade, Kindergarten, and Pre-Kindergarten classes all celebrating graduations. These young graduates proudly show off their caps after their ceremony.



The students and faculty of **All Saints Academy in Scranton** were recently presented with an original sketch of their building by a former student. Mr. Bill Succolosky was a senior at West Scranton Central Catholic High School (now All Saints Academy) when he drew a replica of the school as part of his mechanical drawing class. He later graduated from Kutztown University with a degree in Fine Arts and had a long career as a graphic designer. Reflecting sentimentally on his drawing, which he has kept for more than 50 years, he donated his artwork to the school as a show of appreciation.



Students at **La Salle Academy in Jessup** helped welcome in the last days of school and the beginning of summer with a lively game of BINGO.



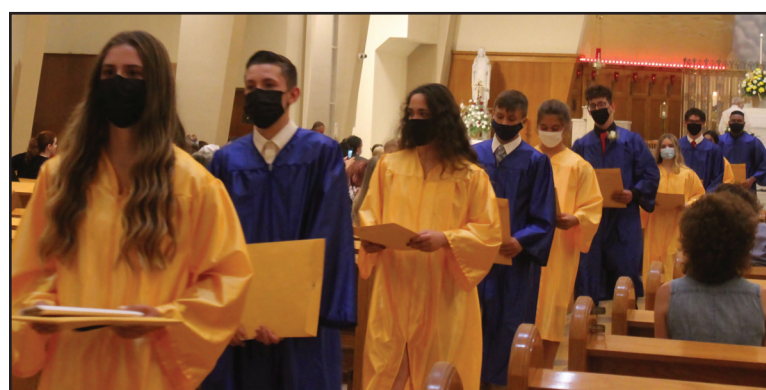
Sophia Pisano, Libby Lalli, and Michelen DeNaples, 8th grade students at **Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore**, crown the Blessed Mother statue during the school's annual May Crowning.



Margaret Lundy, Louise Cromley and Kane Meixel, 5th graders at **Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport**, were altar servers at the last Mass of the school year at Saint Boniface Church.



On a sunny day in May, the 2nd grade class at **Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg** celebrated the Mother of our Lord with their annual May Crowning in the school's Mary Garden.



The 8th grade students of **Holy Family Academy in Hazleton** process out of their Graduation Mass and Ceremony after receiving their diplomas.



During the closing days of classes, the 6th grade class at **Saint Agnes School in Towanda** had the chance to visit the Bradford County Museum.



Members of the Student Leadership Council, along with faculty and staff at **Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre**, gathered on a Saturday and cleaned up the school grounds before the school closed for summer break.



Reverend Bert Kozen, Chaplain at **Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School in Williamsport**, distributes Holy Communion to students and faculty during the last liturgy of the 2020-21 school year.



Deacon John Musyt, who is also a Guidance Counselor at **Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg**, distributes Holy Communion to Olivia Niestepski at the school's closing Eucharistic liturgy. Deacon Musyt retired at the end of the school year after more than 40 years of service at NDHS.



Students made placards of their favorite reading books and marched around **Epiphany School in Sayre** as they celebrated the end of the year with their annual Book Parade.



Before school ended, **Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston** held its annual May Crowning to honor our Blessed Mother with "May Queen" Megan Albrecht and her attendants leading the ceremony. Shown, far left to right: Cole Bradley, Harry Perillo, Lincoln Raub, Albrecht, Kayla Pekarovsky and Emma Zyllo.



Inspired by the virtual visit of author Alana Adams, Mrs. Dixon's 4th grade class at **Holy Rosary School in Duryea** wrote and illustrated their own books.



There were smiles all around as the Pre-Kindergarten students at **Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton** celebrated at the end of their graduation program.

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Hundreds support seminarians at annual golf tournament in Luzerne County

DORRANCE TOWNSHIP – A sold-out crowd, 207 golfers in all, braved the heat and humidity on Monday, July 12, 2021, to support future priests in the Diocese of Scranton.

Blue Ridge Trail Golf Course served as the setting for the John Yourishen Memorial Vocations Golf Classic. The event benefits the Saint John Vianney Endowment Fund, which provides much needed financial support to seminarians as they answer God's call to serve in priestly ministry.

"I'm happy to support the seminarians," golfer Gerry Najarian of Matamoras said.

Najarian, a parishioner of Saint Vincent de Paul Parish in Pike County, has been attending the golf tournament for the last five years. During his 52-year business career, Najarian has been invited to numerous golf outings – but he said this one is special.

"I tell my friends, when was the last time you went to a golf outing in which we went off with a prayer? I think the fact that we have a spiritual dimension to something that is fundamentally a sport, is really what continues to attract me," Najarian said.

Father Alex Roche, Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians, said parishioners from every corner of the 11-county diocese registered for the tournament.

"We have a lot of priests and seminarians here. It is so wonderful to be able to connect with people and to put the different



Above: Golfers participate in the John Yourishen Memorial Vocations Golf Classic, held on July 12 at Blue Ridge Trail Golf Course near Mountain Top.



Left: Rev. Alex Roche, Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians, welcomes the sold-out crowd and leads them in prayer before going out to play.

parts of the diocese together for a day," he said.

Father Roche served as the chair of the tournament along with Sandy Snyder, Diocesan Director of Foundation Relations and Special Events. The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as tournament honorary chair. The bishop joined all of the golfers on the course during the tournament.

"It is a big commitment when somebody decides they're going to enter formation and discern possibly becoming a priest. I think it's very important for our seminarians, our future priests, to know that the people of the Diocese are behind them," Father Roche added.

Cody Yarnall was recently accepted as a seminarian for the Diocese of Scranton. He will begin the Program for Priestly Formation this fall. He helped with registration and ticket sales at the tournament and delivered water to golfers on the course.

"It's a great opportunity to come together with everyone from the diocese, to see all the people who support us as seminarians, to support our priests," Yarnall said. "Being from the southern part of Monroe County, I don't often get to meet all these nice folks. To be able

to meet them is a great blessing."

The Diocese renamed the Vocations Golf Classic in memory of John Yourishen, Jr. Mr. Yourishen was a loyal supporter of the Vocations Golf Classic each year since the start of the tournament. He included a significant estate gift to the Saint John Vianney Vocations Endowment Fund.

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

Many prayers were answered as rain, which threatened the event with thunderstorms in the afternoon, held off. That helped make the tournament a huge success.

"We live in an era where we have a lot of bad news. You hear about the shortages of priests and you hear about different troubles facing the church and the world – and those are all real things we have to grapple with – but it's nice to have a day with some good news and some really encouraging and positive signs for the future of our diocese," Father Roche said.

CHRIST THE KING PARISH PICNIC

(St. Mary of Czestochowa Church, Eynon & St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Archbald)

July 23, 24, & 25, 2021

Friday- The Sperazza Band
6:00P.M. to 10:00P.M.
Picnic starts at 5:00P.M.

Saturday - Hoopla
6:00 P.M. to 10:00P.M.
Picnic starts at 5:00P.M.

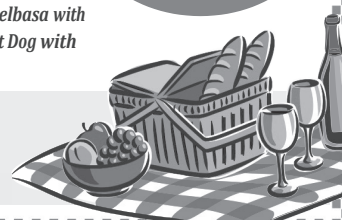
Sunday- The Wanabees Duo
5:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.
Picnic starts at 3:00P.M.
Sarah Marie & Joseph 3-4pm

Held on the grounds of St. Mary of Czestochowa Church, corner of Betty & Main Streets, Eynon.

Beer & Wine Tent, Beverages, ~~Bake Sale~~, and the following Ethnic and American cuisine: Cabbage & Noodles, Potato Pancakes, Pierogi with onion & butter or deep fried, Pigs in the Blanket, Pagoch, Sausage Plain, Sausage with peppers, Steak & Cheese, Steak & Cheese with Peppers and Onions, Steak Sub Hoagie, Texas Burger, Kielbasa with Kraut, Texas Weiner, Wimpie, Porketta, Clam Chowder, French Fries, Hamburger, Hot Dog Plain or Hot Dog with Kraut, Pizza, Pizza-Frita, Funnel Cakes, Fried Oreos.

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Parish Bazaar, Picnic & Festivals Listing

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.

Christ the King Parish in Archbald — July 23, 24 & 25. Summer picnic begins at 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 3 p.m. on Sunday on the grounds of Saint Mary of Czestochowa Church, corner of Betty & Main streets, Eynon. Featuring homemade picnic foods, basket raffles, live music and flea market. For more information, contact the parish at (570) 876-1701 or christtheeking18403@comcast.net.

Saint Joseph’s Center Summer Fest 2021 — July 24 & 25. The annual Saint Joseph’s Summer Fest events include the WNEP-TV Telethon, “Go Joe 24 & Ride Along,” and the Chicken Dinner Drive-Thru. WNEP’s Telethon will air Saturday, July 24, from 8 to 10 p.m. with heart-warming stories featuring those who benefit from the Center’s mission and services. “Go Joe 24” will include a ride along portion with multiple community events ranging from Family Fun Nights to indoor cycling at area gyms. The drive-thru chicken dinner will be held Sunday, July 25, from noon to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$15 each and are required in advance. The “tricky trays” basket raffle begins July 21 and ends Aug. 4. For more information & tickets, visit: stjosephscenter.org.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Dupont — July 31. The 74th Annual Polish Parish Picnic will be held from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on the grounds of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 215 Lackawanna Ave., Dupont. Variety of ethnic and traditional festival foods include homemade pierogi, golombki (pigs-in-blanket), halushki, kielbasi, placki (potato pancakes) and funnel cakes. Event also includes amusement games, theme basket raffle and live Polka music.

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.

Continued on Page 27

Father Verespy named pastor of new Wilkes-Barre linkage

Continued from Page 9

“He indicated that he is really interested in adult faith formation. He has been a teacher; he has his doctorate in theology. What a great resource that is going to be as we expand our vision about what faith formation is. It is not just CCD up to confirmation, but faith formation includes adults who want to deepen their faith,” Father Verespy said.

As this new linkage begins to take shape, Father explained they will not make hasty decisions, but instead will be sensitive to the feelings and emotions of all.

“I’ve said to people, the answer you’ll get to many questions right now is, ‘I don’t know yet.’ But we’re going to find our way together. We’re going to develop a vision for what it means to be a vibrant, Catholic

parish in downtown Wilkes-Barre,” Father Verespy noted.

In announcing the appointment of Father Verespy to his new pastoral assignment, Bishop Bambera also expressed his deepest appreciation to the lay leaders, parishioners and staff members of both parishes who have embraced the opportunity that lies ahead. He also thanked Father J. Duane Gavitt of Our Lady of Fatima Parish, who has now been appointed Pastor of the previously linked parishes of Saint Elizabeth, Bear Creek, and Saint Rita, Gouldsboro.

“This transformation in our Church will be successful if we are all in this together, building on our strong parish traditions. Please know I pray daily for you and all the faithful of the Church of Scranton,” Bishop Bambera said.



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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		EWTN GALLERY						
2:00 AM	ICONS SPOTLIGHT		EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Encore)					
2:30 AM	THEY MIGHT BE SAINTS	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	
3:00 AM	EWTN GALLERY							EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE
3:30AM		DEFENDING LIFE	REASONS TO BELIEVE	REAL LIFE CATHOLIC	FORGOTTEN HERITAGE	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY (Call in thurs)		AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY
4:00 AM	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	REFURBISHING THE SOUL				GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR A HAPPY LIFE	REAL LIFE CATHOLIC	BOB AND PENNY LORD
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
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					MASSTERPIECE DONUT	
10:30 AM		CHOICES WE FACE	MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE	LIVE WITH PASSION	FOCUS	MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE CLASSICS	ANIMATED STORIES FROM THE BIBLE	
11:00 AM	EWTN NEWS IN-DEPTH	OFOD OR SPECIALS		ST ANN'S WEEKLY NOVENA	CHOICES WE FACE	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY CALL IN	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY	
11:30 AM		THEY MIGHT BE SAINTS	TERESA OF AVILA	SAINTS FOR TODAY	EUCCHARISTIC JOURNEY	SAINTS	BOB & PENNY LORD PRESENT	

12:00 PM	SOLEMN NOVENA TO ST. ANN						
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	LIFE ON THE ROCK	EWTN ON LOCATION
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	SOLEMN NOVENA TO ST. ANN					ROSARY FROM LOURDES
4:00 PM	VATICANO						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	THE REFORMATION
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	
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	SOLEMN NOVENA TO ST. ANN						
7:30PM							

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	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY
10:00PM	EWTN SPECIALS	THE WORLD OVER LIVE (ENCORE)	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION (ENCORE)	FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	PRO-LIFE WEEKLY	LIFE ON THE ROCK	
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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Mission Message

Go Forth

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

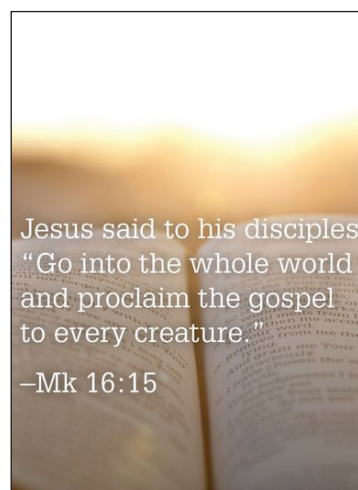


Are you a prophet?

I'm sure that as you read that question your response is likely negative. In many ways, that response is understandable and each of us can appreciate the tendency to minimize our place in the church, relegating our spiritual lives to that of a simple disciple plugging along and doing our best to be faithful and holy.

That said, we are fooling ourselves if we put ourselves at odds with our baptismal vocation to lead a prophetic life as we sojourn this life to heaven.

If there is any drawback to the Church's tradition of baptizing infants it would be that the child does not comprehend in those moments what is unfolding, what is being said and done. It is the duty of the parents and godparents to instill in their child the meaning of baptism and the life that was forged in them on the day of baptism.



As a child is baptized, the priest chrismates the child on the crown of his/her head while speaking the following words: "As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet, and King, so may you live always as a member of his body, sharing everlasting life." This action is not just a nice addition to the Order of Baptism, but is a deliberate, meaningful act that harkens back not only to our Lord's anointing but to the anointing that would have occurred to the priests, prophets, and kings of the Old Testament.

The baptismal anointing is a missionary act, entrusting to the one chrismated the gift and the command to be a prophetic voice in the world. If that unnerves you

in terms of the gravity of that call, you are in good company.

We read recently at Mass the exchange between Amaziah and Amos. Amaziah, a priest himself, called to Amos and sent him out to be a prophet. Shaken with both disbelief and concern that he was ill-prepared to take on such a lofty title, Amos countered Amaziah's call by defining himself as just a "shepherd" and a "dresser of sycamores." How could he be a prophet? He's just a regular guy.

Therein lies the point for you and me. Yes, we may just be ordinary folks, with ordinary jobs, living simple, ordinary lives. But the Lord wants you, chooses you and me, to be prophets in the world. He chooses to need us and to be part of the missionary work of the Church to bring others to Himself.

Sure, we're weak and perhaps not as charismatic or as knowledgeable as the "professional" prophets of the Bible. Nevertheless, we are chosen and go forth as prophets day after day.

We can rest in the words of Saint Paul, who reminds us where we find our strength and our hope: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

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Papal Intention for August 2021

The Church —

Let us pray for the Church, that She may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.

Quo Vadis Days helps young men deepen their faith and discern God's call in their lives

DUNMORE – Nearly 30 young men from across the Diocese of Scranton spent several days this week deepening their faith and learning more about various vocations as part of Quo Vadis Days 2021 at Marywood University.

Participants got a chance to spend time in prayer, listen to several talks and presentations and participate in games, sports and other activities.

Quo Vadis Days began on Sunday, June 20, and ended on the evening of Tuesday, June 22, 2021.

Juan Lugo, a parishioner of Saint Matthew Parish in East Stroudsburg, attended Quo Vadis for the second time this summer.

“Quo Vadis is a really amazing experience. It’s something you get to cherish,” Lugo said. “It’s something that will strengthen your relationship with God and make everything more possible in His sight and everything He has planned.”

Participants also got the opportunity to meet Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, along with several priests and seminarians from the Diocese. While young men could learn more about the process of



Bishop Joseph C. Bambera participated in a Question-and-Answer session with Quo Vadis participants at Marywood University on June 21, 2021. (Photo/Mike Melisky)

becoming a priest – they also learned about the vocation of marriage and much more.

“It’s a chance for the young men of the Diocese to really open their minds,” Dominic Tavani, a parishioner of Saints Peter & Paul Parish in Towanda, said.

As this year’s Quo Vadis experience ended, Tavani said he – and the other participants – would take the energy and inspiration back to their home parishes.

“You don’t stop. You keep praying. You keep your mind

open. You keep saying ‘yes’ to God. You keep in contact with the friends you made. This is the start of something that helps them change their lives and helps them become the person they’re called to be.”

That is something that Lugo agrees with.

“The main message of ‘where are you going’ is something you can constantly ask yourself on a daily basis. You can put that in any situation. Only God knows where you’re headed,” Lugo added.

TAKE ACTION: Catholics urged to sign petition to Congress on Hyde Amendment

The Diocese of Scranton is urging the faithful to contact members of Congress to preserve the Hyde Amendment, which prevents federal funding of elective abortions.

The Hyde Amendment has protected taxpayers from funding elective abortion for 45 years. Now, powerful members of Congress want to eliminate this protection that both Democrats and Republicans have supported for nearly half a century.

That would potentially allow billions of taxpayer dollars to be used to fund abortions.

Catholics are encouraged to go to www.NoTaxpayerAbortion.com and sign a petition to send an “urgent message” to Congress to keep the Hyde Amendment. A link to the petition is also available on

the Diocese of Scranton website.

The Hyde Amendment first became law in 1976 to prohibit federal funds appropriated through the Labor Department, the Health and Human Services Department and related agencies from being used to cover abortion or fund health plans that cover abortion except in cases of rape, incest or when the life of the woman would be endangered.

Hyde has been reenacted in spending bills every year since it was

first passed.

On May 28, President Joe Biden unveiled his proposed budget of \$6 trillion for fiscal year 2022 and did not include the Hyde Amendment. His proposal would include spending to improve and modernize the nation’s infrastructure, provide free pre-K and community college,

and increase domestic programs aimed at boosting public health and helping the poor.

Hyde also was excluded in the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act that Biden signed into law March 11. The U.S. bishops called its absence “unconscionable.”

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Three parishes to get ECHO apprentices from University of Notre Dame

SCRANTON – The Diocese of Scranton is joining forces with Notre Dame University this summer to help develop the next generation of young adult leaders in the Catholic Church.

In August, three students from the McGrath Institute's Echo Program at the University of Notre Dame will travel to northeastern Pennsylvania to begin serving in various parishes locally.

Kylie Ballinger, a 2020 graduate of Arizona State University; Cecilia Dietzler, a 2020 graduate of Marquette University; and Deirdre Drinkall, a 2021 graduation of Saint Mary's College, will each begin working full-time in parishes focusing on a variety of catechetical ministries.

Each student has committed to two years of service. They will initially spend nine months in the Diocese of Scranton working directly in parishes. Next summer,

the three will return to Notre Dame for more coursework, after which they will return for one more year at their assigned location.

Shannon Kowalski, Director for Service and Mission in the Diocesan Office for Parish Life, helped coordinate the Diocesan partnership with Notre Dame University. She is looking forward to its launch.

"This program is a win-win in many different ways," Kowalski explained. "The apprentices who are coming to work in our Diocese have a passion for ministry and want to dive head-first into strengthening our parish communities. While we will benefit from their energy and enthusiasm, they will be working toward their Master of Arts in Theology."

When they arrive locally, the apprentices may work with RCIA, religious education, youth ministry, adult faith formation, social justice ministry or other parish programs.

Kylie Ballinger, who is from Flower Mount, Texas, will be working at Saint Jude Parish in Mountain Top and Our Lady of Help of Christians Parish in Dorrance.

"I am excited to work in a parish and want to learn more about what mission and evangelization, especially to families and children, can look like in a parish setting," she said. "I want to learn how to make a parish a place in which parishioners can serve the Lord and one another and find a strong sense of community that pushes them in their faith and service."

Ballinger is hoping this upcoming experience will help her grow deeper in her own faith journey. Saint Jude pastor, Father Joseph Evanko, will mentor her.

"I am excited for my parish ministry experience and faith journey and am thankful to have a mentor to turn to with new ideas I am unsure about, any problems I may face in ministry and to seek advice," she added.

Cecilia Dietzler, who hails from the Archdiocese of Denver, is also looking forward to learning from her mentor in her parish placement at Saint Catherine of Siena Parish in Moscow.

"I applied to Echo because I want to strengthen my ministerial skills by being exposed to new settings in ministry and learning from those experiences," Dietzler explained. "The ministers who have shaped me have had a strong intuition that allowed them to offer the support, knowledge and encouragement I needed to grow closer to Christ."

Having previously served as a sacristan and retreat director at her home parish, the Littleton, Colo. native wants to share the power of her faith with people in the Diocese of Scranton.

"I bring a passion for the faith and gratitude for what God has blessed me with, as well as strong leadership skills and a desire to grow."

The final Echo apprentice, Deirdre Drinkall, is also excited to get started. She will be serving the faithful of Saint Ignatius Loyola Parish in Kingston and will be mentored by Father Joseph Mosley.

"I look forward to learning the tried-and-true methods in leading and ministering, with the Holy Spirit as the guide," she said. "I hope to learn how to create a merciful, personal, and welcoming parish environment where each member is known and loved."

Drinkall said she is passionate about sharing God's true light in the Church and the world.

"My experience in youth ministry, children's catechesis, and young women's ministry has prepared me to dive head-first into a community with creativity, energy and warmth," Drinkall added.

The three students who will arrive in the Diocese of Scranton as part of the Echo Program at the University of Notre Dame are among 31 students nationwide who have made the commitment to serve the Church for the next two years.

In addition to Scranton, Echo apprentices will also serve in the Arch/Dioceses of Atlanta, Camden, Fall River, Galveston-Houston, Kalamazoo, Knoxville, Milwaukee, Newark and Saint Petersburg.

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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Parish Bazaar, Picnic & Festivals Listing

Continued from Page 23

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.

Saints Anthony & Rocco Parish Italian Festival in Dunmore — Aug. 13, 14 & 15. Festival opens Friday and Saturday at 5 p.m. on the grounds of Saint Rocco Church, 122 Kurtz St., Bunker Hill section of Dunmore, and concludes on Sunday following the Saint Rocco Feast Day Mass and Procession of the Saints through neighborhood streets at noon. Event features homemade Italian foods and traditional picnic menu favorites. Live entertainment schedule: Friday, Dunmore High School marching units & cheerleaders, and music by Picture Perfect; Saturday, Holy Cross High School cheerleaders, and music by Popstar Drive; and Sunday, music by Jim Cullen, Jack Bordo and Sharon Ambrozia, and The Luongo Brothers Band; concludes with Fireworks display at 9 p.m. For more information, contact the parish at (570) 344-1209 or office@saintsanthonyandrocco.com.

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 Mary’s Homecoming Picnic in Mocanaqua — Sept. 4 & 5. Labor Day Weekend festival held on Saturday, from 4 to 9:30 p.m., and Sunday, 12:30 to 9:30 p.m., at the Parish Park. Polka Mass, with music by Joe Stanky & the Cadets, celebrated on Saturday at 4 p.m. Live musical entertainment on Sunday by Flaxy Morgan at 5 p.m. Featuring homemade ethnic foods and traditional picnic fare, including pierogi, halushki, pigs-in-blanket, ziti & meatballs, potato pancakes, clam chowder, sausage & peppers, and funnel cakes; numerous games and activities.

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.

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Montoursville — Sept. 17 & 18 at 5 p.m. Annual festival featuring picnic foods, entertainment, games and family activities held on the parish grounds at 100 Walnut St., Montoursville. For more information, contact Pamela Collins at (570) 337-5142 or patimco@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.



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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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Pittston parish flagpole blessing



On Sunday, July 11, Father Joseph Elston, pastor of the parish communities of Saint John the Evangelist and Saint Joseph Marello in Pittston, blessed and dedicated the flagpole and American flag donated and installed on the grounds of Saint John's by the parish Holy Name Society. Shown at the blessing ceremony on the corner of William and Church streets in the city — with the majestic Saint John the Evangelist Church in the background — are, from left: Father Elston, Paul Mullock, Stephen Vitek, Jim McGill, Greg Serfass, Tony Grieco and Marty Simko.



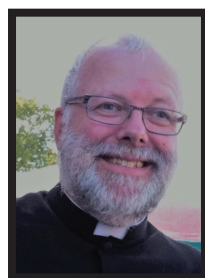
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IHM Sisters virtual celebration August 7

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.

The following individuals are being featured for their benevolent work in the community and to highlight the impact IHM sisters have

had on their lives:

Ann Montoro Williams, Stewardship Manager, Friends of the Poor, Scranton; Maria Montoro Edwards, President & CEO, Maternal and Family Health Services, Wilkes-Barre; Dan Santaniello, President & CEO, Fidelity Bank, Dunmore; and Carl Witkowski, Chief Operating Officer, Berkshire Hathaway GUARD Insurance Companies, Wilkes-Barre.

For more information, visit www.sistersofihm.org or call (570) 346-5431.

Marian Devotion Rosary Prayer Services Listed

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

Upcoming Marian Devotion events are scheduled as follows:

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

Solemnity of the Assumption Outdoor Rosary Rally — Aug. 15 at 5:30 p.m., held at the Marian Grotto on the grounds of the

Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laffin, followed by Mass in the Chapel.

Third Monday of the Month Rosary — Aug. 16, from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laffin.

Outdoor Rosary Recitation — Aug. 21 at noon, held at the Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto on the grounds of Saint Anthony of Padua Church, 208 Smith St., Dunmore.

To host an event or for more information, contact Ernie Pappa at (570) 241-8171.

Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese

"Day in the Park(ing) Lot"

Parish Fundraiser — JULY 17, sponsored by Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Lake Silkworth (Hunlock Creek); begins at 8:30 a.m. on the grounds of the parish church, 2011 State Route 29, Hunlock Creek. Day of family activities, shopping and leisure features more than 50 "parking" spots occupied by local vendors and businesses offering various arts & crafts, antiques, flea market items and other sale attractions; basket raffle and food items available for purchase, including potato pancakes and baked goods. Event also includes special visit by the Lake Silkworth Volunteer Fire Dept. and their "Touch A Truck" tour and free gifts for children. Rain date: July 24. Parking for patrons available in the pavilion lot; no vehicles allowed in the sale area.

Weekly Bingo — JULY 19, 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. For more information, call the parish office (570) 489-2091.

Summer Youth Music Camp — JULY 19-23, hosted by Gate of Heaven Parish, 40 Machell Ave., Dallas; music camp for children held daily throughout the week from 9:30 a.m. to noon, concluding with a Youth Liturgy on Sunday, July 25. Camp is open free of charge to youth singers ages 8 to 15; camper gatherings will include choir rehearsals, snacks and other activities. For more information and registration, contact the parish office at (570) 675-2121.

Chicken BBQ Dinner — AUG. 1, hosted by Holy Cross Parish at St. Patrick Church, 200 Delaware St., Olyphant; barbecue chicken dinners served from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the church parking lot. Event also includes bake sale, theme basket & cash raffle drawings, ice cream stand, and live music. Dinner cost: adults, \$10; children, \$5. Tickets available at all weekend Masses and the rectory office. For more information, donations or to volunteer, call (570) 489-0752.

Parish Flea Market — AUG. 5-7, sponsored by St. John the Evangelist Parish in Pittston; held at the Msgr. Bendik Pastoral Center Auditorium (former Seton Catholic High School). Market hours: Thursday and Friday, 5 to 8 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Patrons are requested to use the Church Street entrance to the building, adjacent from St. John the Evangelist Church on William Street. For more information, call the parish office (570) 654-0053.

Livestream Mega Parish Raffle Drawing — AUG. 8, sponsored by Gate of Heaven Parish in Dallas; livestreaming of raffle drawing begins at 1 p.m. on the parish Facebook page or website: goholv.org. Featuring 66 prizes valued at approximately \$6,000, including nearly 40 cash and gift card prizes and 27 unique theme baskets. Raffle tickets cost \$10 each and available by calling the parish office at (570) 675-2121, or Carol at (570) 675-1394. For more information, contact Patty Price at (570) 407-1734 or Cloudsp24@gmail.com.

20th Annual Lebanese-American Mini Food Fest — AUG. 13-15, hosted by St. Joseph Melkite Greek Catholic Church, 130 North St. Frances Cabrini Ave. (off lower Jackson St.), West Scranton; event offers take-out and curbside pick-up service and limited seating. Featuring authentic Lebanese food and pastries, traditional picnic food favorites and a variety of gift baskets. For menu offerings and more information, visit: www.melkite.scranton.org. Advance pre-paid orders available after Aug. 8 by calling (570) 343-6092.

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.

15th Annual Golf Tournament — AUG. 16, sponsored by St. Mary's Villa senior care facility in Elmhurst; hosted at Glen Oak Country Club in Waverly. Registration fee: \$150 per golfer, includes luncheon at 11 a.m. and cocktail reception and awards dinner following tournament play. Golfer registrations accepted through Aug. 10; tournament sponsorship packages also available. For more information and registration, contact David Leonori at (570) 795-2810 or dleonori@stmarysvilla.com. Tournament brochure available on the St. Mary's Villa website: www.stmarysvilla.com.

18th Annual Golf Classic — AUG. 22, sponsored by St. John Bosco Parish in Conyngham; hosted at Sugarloaf Golf Course. Opens with registration and putting contest at 9:30, followed by tournament play with shotgun start at 11 a.m. (captain & crew format). Registration deadline: Aug. 11. For more information and details about participating as a player or sponsor, call the parish office at (570) 788-1997 ext. 3.



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Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen reopens its dining room to guests



Guests are once again enjoying food and fellowship inside the dining room at Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre.

WILKES-BARRE - Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen reopened its dining room to guests on a daily basis on July 5, 2021.

With a decreasing number of COVID-19 cases locally and the availability of vaccines, kitchen staff once again welcome clients into the dining room at 39 East Jackson Street for a warm, nutritious daily meal between 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Additionally, Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen has resumed evening meals as well. Evening meals take place in the dining room every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evening from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

“We are excited to reopen our dining room to our neighbors and friends. While we have continued to provide meals every day since the beginning of the pandemic, it is clear the in-person experience of being in our dining room has been missed by many,” Mike Cianciotta,

Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen Director, said. “A lot of people use Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen for socialization, to see friends and enjoy time together.”

Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen has continued to serve clients throughout the course of the COVID-19 pandemic by providing meals in take-out containers since March 2020. In addition to the pre-packaged meals, kitchen staff has also provided extra food for families to take home if needed.

In addition to providing its daily meals to the community, Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen also continues to provide the following services to the community:

- Saint Vincent de Paul Food Pantry is open to the public every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

- Saint Vincent de Paul Clothing Room is open to the public every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Office for Parish Life to host Catechist Camp in August

SCRANTON - The Diocesan Office for Parish Life is happy to announce that the annual Catechist Camp will take place in-person this year August 17-19.

The theme is “Anchored in Christ.”

The first session, Tuesday, August 17, will be held at Saint Boniface Church in Williamsport.

The second session, Wednesday, August 18, will be held at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton.

The final session, Thursday, August 19, will be held at Saint Luke Church in Stroudsburg.

There are a number of reasons why individuals should

attend Catechist Camp. They include:

- A person who loves God and desires a deeper knowledge of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

- A person who ponders the Gospel and finds the joy in sharing life stories that echo the Good News of Jesus.

- A person who is a practicing Catholic and feels an inner nudge to learn more about the faith.

To learn more about Catechist Camp, please contact Jacki Douglas, Director of Word and Lifelong Faith Formation, at jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org or call (570) 207-2213, x1100.

The Catholic Light

MAILING LABEL - Please be sure to enclose this label with any address changes and mail to The Catholic Light, 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503

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