



# GoodNewsNotes

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

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**World Day for Grandparents  
and the Elderly Mass**  
Sunday, July 25 at 10:00AM  
Cathedral of St. Peter

**Closing Mass  
of the Saint Ann Novena**  
Monday, July 26 at 7:00PM  
Saint Ann Basilica Parish,  
Scranton

## Amoris Laetitia Family Year

On the fifth anniversary of the publication of Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris laetitia*, he proclaimed this the Year of the Family and invites all of us to spend a year studying, reflecting on and practicing a new pastoral approach to the family situation. Francis challenges us to recognize that, *"in this time and in a profoundly changed culture, there is a need for a new outlook on the family on the part of the Church. It is not enough to reiterate the value and importance of doctrine, if we do not become protectors of the beauty of the family and if we do not take compassionate care of its frailties and its wounds."*

The proclamation of this special observance characterizes the journey of family life as a vocation, a mission, and a schooling in the language of love – and *Amoris laetitia* emphasizes that the work of a parish is to proclaim good news by accompanying families and placing ourselves at the service of their happiness. More fully, Pope Francis expresses:

*When the family lives under the sign of divine Communion, then it becomes a living word of God-love, spoken to the world and for the world. Indeed, the grammar of family relationships – that is, of conjugality, motherhood, fatherhood, filiality and fraternity – is the way through which the language of love is transmitted, which gives meaning to life and human quality to every relationship. It is a language made up not only of words, but also of ways of being, of the way we speak, of the looks, gestures, times and spaces of our relationship with others. Married couples know this well, parents and children learn it daily in this school of love that is the family.*

We will be eager to hear from each of you – to see photos, video clips, demonstrations of whatever you and your parish team create together during this year!

**Office for Parish Life Team, Diocese of Scranton**



## Edmodo Product Updates

### Announcements, Discussions, Read All About It!

Announcements is officially live and we thought it would be helpful to highlight the various ways you can communicate with your organization as an admin. Use Announcements for major broadcasts, celebrate your staff and students with Discussions, and communicate privately with Messages. [Click here to see more.](#)

### Improved Rostering with School Directory Search ☑

We've heard many requests for the ability to set up and roster Classes without needing to distribute codes to students. Teachers can now search for existing students within your org and immediately add them to their rosters. Admins will soon get the ability to enter any Class and perform this function as well! [Learn more about it here.](#)

### Set Up Discoverable PD or Collaborative Groups ☑

Thinking about expanding Edmodo use beyond the classroom and into professional development spaces for your staff? Groups can be made discoverable at any level of your org and teachers can use new search functionality to find a community or collaboration team of interest. Once you set up Groups for your org, [send them this Help Center article](#) to help them find what they're looking for.

## Remote Networking Meetings

**Save the Dates**—We are excited to continue our Remote Network Meetings for DREs and Youth Ministers. Over the last few weeks, we have had to discussions publishers/programs for the upcoming year. Next meeting we will begin to network about next year and discuss VBS, Catechist Camp and much more.

We would love to have every parish represented. We invite each of you to join us every other Wednesday at 11AM. Our upcoming meeting dates are July 7 & 21. For more information on how to stay connected, please contact Jacki at [jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org) or at (570) 207-2213 ext. 1100.

## Motu Proprio-Apostolic Letter

Dr. Joseph White of Our Sunday Visitor has released an explanatory video on the Motu Proprio Apostolic letter on catechesis that Pope Francis released. Dr. Joseph White converted to the Catholic Faith while in graduate school at Virginia Commonwealth University, where he received a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. He later studied Catholic Theology at St. Mary's University in San Antonio.

Dr. White is a child and family psychologist and Director of Catechetical Resources for OSV Publishing. He has

written twelve books and numerous articles about catechesis, Catholic education, and ministry. A popular guest on Catholic radio and television, Dr. White is co-author of the *Allelu* and *Alive in Christ* religion series.

Thanks to Dr. White for the wonderful introduction of what this means for all of us. [Click here](#) for the video link.

## Catechetical Sunday

The USCCB has posted the theme for Catechetical Sunday (Sept. 19, 2021)—"Say the Word and My Soul Shall be Healed." Resources for this year's observance of Catechetical Sunday can be found on the [USCCB website](#).

## Catechist Camp 2021

We are happy to announce that the Office for Parish Life will be hosting in person Catechist Camp this year on **July 27, 28 and 29** and the theme is "**Anchored in Christ**". The Location for camp will be released soon, so watch your email for more information.

### Who could attend Catechist Camp...?

- A person who loves God- And, desires a deeper knowledge of the father, Son and Holy Spirit
- A person who has a childlike spirit-And, understands the wisdom of teaching children by example, and using words, when necessary
- A person who ponders the Gospel-And, finds the joy sharing life stories that echo the Good News of Jesus
- A person who participates in the Eucharist- And, is humbly aware of living the Works of Mercy
- A person who is a practicing Catholic-And, feels an inner nudge to learn more about our faith
- A person who is a parent, grandparent, godparent, single person, college student-And, is not necessarily a person who has studied theology and Scripture, or an experienced teacher

To learn more, please contact Jacki Douglas at [jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org) or (570)207-2213 ext. 1100.

## Put Amoris Laetitia into Practice

Deacon Matthew Halbach, PhD, invites Catholic families to honor the Year of Amoris Laetitia Family (2021–2022) in a three-part blog series on the [Sadlier Religion Blog](#). Celebrate this special year commemorating the fifth anniversary of Pope Francis's exhortation with a kit of activities designed to help families put *Amoris Laetitia* into practice in meaningful and practical ways.

Resources are available in English and Spanish.

For more information or for the link to these resources contact Jacki Douglas, at [jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org) or (570)207-2213 x-1100.

"I CALL us to be servant leaders who WORSHIP our God and celebrate the Sacraments in union with the universal Church."

# WORSHIP

## Encore Presentation of RCIA 101: A Crash Course on Christian Initiation

Have new leadership with your parish RCIA team? Never had the RCIA process in your parish and don't know where to begin? Been doing RCIA for years but want to learn more?

The Office for Parish Life will offer an encore presentation of a virtual "crash course" day on the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults on **Saturday, August 14, 2021 from 9:00AM to 3:00PM.**

The goal of this offering for priests, deacons, parish life coordinators, RCIA coordinators, RCIA team members is to provide a overall sense of what the Church asks of parishes in responding to seekers and preparing them for Initiation. This course day would be ideal for anyone new to the RCIA as well as seasoned veterans who are looking to deepen their understanding of the process.

To register, please [click here](#) and complete the online registration or for more information, please contact David Baloga at 570-207-2213 ext. 1158 or at [David-Baloga@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:David-Baloga@dioceseofscranton.org).

## NPM National Convention

The National Association of Pastoral Musicians National Convention will take place in New Orleans, Louisiana on **July 27-30, 2021**. The event will be a "hybrid event" offering both an in-person and virtual experience for an attendee to register. Feel safer not traveling this year, or does your budget not allow for travel? Sign up for the virtual convention experience. You'll watch the same Plenum addresses, breakout sessions and other events that your in-person attendees are experiencing as well.

Want to join the fun in New Orleans? Register as an in-person attendee. We have some surprises up our sleeve to make the in-person experience full of New Orleans spirit. [Click here](#) for more information.

## Looking to Have a Renewal Workshop for Your Liturgical Ministers?

Are your cantors or choir members in need of an day of renewal as we come out of the pandemic? Could your lectors or Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion use a "refresher" course or a day of reflection? The Office for Parish Life is here to help and willing to travel to provide a workshop or session for your parish ministers. Please contact David Baloga at 570-207-2213 ext. 1158 or at [David-Baloga@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:David-Baloga@dioceseofscranton.org) to discuss.



## Extraordinary Minister of Communion Training

The Office for Parish Life will offer an all-day training session for new Extraordinary Ministers of Communion on **Saturday, July 17, 2021 from 9:00AM to 2:30PM** at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave. Scranton.

This session will cover the theology of the Eucharist and the Mass, the history and spirituality of the ministry, as well as the particular functions of the Extraordi-



nary Minister of Communion, and how to properly prepare and carry out this ministry. Candidates for the training should have the approval of his or her pastor/parish life coordinator. There is no fee for the training, and lunch will be provided.

To register, please fill out the [EMC Training Registration Form](#) or contact David Baloga at 570-207-2213, ext. 1158 or at [David-Baloga@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:David-Baloga@dioceseofscranton.org) by Tuesday, July 13, 2021. Please note that it is necessary for candidates to attend the entire session.

## LTP Virtual Workshops

Liturgy Training Publications is offering several different series of online workshops for cantors, lectors, extraordinary ministers of Communion, liturgists, teachers and catechists throughout the year.



These virtual workshops are different than other webinars in that they invite participants to engage with the presenter and one another in providing feedback, reflections on the topic at hand, and discuss best practices and strategies for enhancing engagement in their ministries. New to the LTP Virtual Workshop catalog are virtual retreats designed for liturgical ministers to renew their ministry following the COVID-19 pandemic. Here are just some of the upcoming virtual workshops:

- **Virtual Retreat for Liturgical Ministers (in English and Spanish)**—Sept. 20 at 7:00PM (in English)/ Sept. 21 at 7:00PM (in Spanish)
- **The Parish Initiation Team**—Oct. 4, 11, 18 at 7:30PM
- **A Virtual Retreat for Cantors**—Nov. 9-11, 7:30PM

For more information or to register for any of these sessions or to see what other sessions are available throughout the year, please visit [www.ltp.org/virtualworkshops](http://www.ltp.org/virtualworkshops).



# COMMUNITY

"I CALL us to be servant leaders who build COMMUNITY through hospitality, respect, inclusion and holiness."



## National Natural Family Planning Week

July 25 - 31, 2021

*To have, To hold, To honor*  
Natural Family Planning

**Supporting God's gifts of love and life in marriage**

Each year, along with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, we celebrate National Family Planning Week! To learn more about how your parish and you can observe NFP Week this year, please visit the [USCCB site](https://uscbb.org).

If you would like to share your family's experience with NFP – we would love to hear about it! Please contact Jen Housel at [jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org) or at 570-204-2213 ext. 1104. To learn more about NFP, please visit our [diocesan page](https://diocesan.page).

## World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

Pope Francis has dedicated **Sunday, July 25** as the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. The theme for this first celebration is "I am with you always" referring to the Gospel of Saint Matthew 28:20.

Bishop Bambera will commemorate this Day at the 10:00AM Mass in the Cathedral on July 25, and information will be sent to all our parishes about additional ways in which this Day can be celebrated. In observance of this day, let us recognize the great treasure that grandparents and the elderly are for our families and our society!

To live this day more fully on a personal level, we invite

you to consider doing something special for the elderly in your family and community. Here are a few ideas to spark your thinking:

- If you still have your grandparents, use this day to call them or to visit them.
- If your children have the ability to spend time with their grandparents, encourage that beautiful opportunity to enjoy their presence and create memories for a lifetime.
- If your parents are no longer here, pray together with your children for them, and tell them stories about them.
- Share with the younger generations in your family about your grandparents and the moments lived with them and teach them the importance of respecting and valuing the elderly.
- Check on any elderly in your community, and take the opportunity to visit them to make sure they are well or to simply spend time and hear their stories.

To learn more, please visit the [USCCB webpage](https://uscbb.org) for information about and resources for this celebration or contact Jen Housel at [jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org) or at 570-204-2213 ext. 1104,

### 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 CALL us to be servant leaders who engage in SERVICE to our neighbors near and far and who work for justice and stewardship to hasten the Reign of God."

# SERVICE

## Mass of Remembrance

Many families in the Diocese of Scranton continue to suffer the loss of loved ones who have died as a result of violent or tragic death. In response, the Diocese of Scranton is offering the annual **Mass in remembrance of victims of violent or tragic death**; particularly for persons who have died through murder, suicide, or accidental death. This year we remember in a special way those who lost their battle with COVID-19. The Mass will be a way for family and friends to remember and celebrate the lives of these victims and to stand together surrounded in God's love.



The Mass of Remembrance will be taking place this year on **Thursday, July 15 at 7:00PM**. Due to COVID-19 there will be some changes. The Books of Remembrance will not be available to search for a name but instead will be placed near the altar. There will not be a reception after the mass. There will be a live broadcast on CTV.

Parishioners are encouraged to register the name of their loved one for entry into the Book of Remembrance. We ask that the names of the deceased loved ones are registered on the registration form which can be found on the [diocesan website](#). Please ensure that the forms are returned no later than **Friday, July 9, 2021**.

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

## WORLD YOUTH DAY PILGRIMAGE



**Young Adults from the Diocese of Scranton will be heading to World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon!**

- Late July/Early August 2023
- Open to 18-35 Year Olds
- Extended Trip to Barcelona Included

For More Information, Please Contact  
Shannon Kowalski at  
[Skowalski@Dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:Skowalski@Dioceseofscranton.org)

## Year of the Family Parish Observance

Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Brodheadsville, is planning to host Family Faith Days as part of their celebration of *Amoris Laetitia* Year of the Family:

*In light of Amoris Laetitia I am creating Family Faith Days that families will attend each month. I am incorporating Family Catechesis into our current lectionary based curriculum. Catechists will be trained as to how we will present this and will be trained in how to be a co-teacher to parents. They will be given the tools they need to "Stand beside" families on their faith journey. I am so excited to implement this family inclusion into our current Religious Education!!*

*(Sent by Margaret La Fiura, Director: Religious Education/  
Faith Formation of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish)*

There are so many ways to celebrate this beautiful *Amoris Laetitia* Year of the Family. Please share your parish ideas with us, and we will make them available for others to review on our [diocesan page](#) dedicated to this yearlong celebration. To learn more about the Year of the Family, please see the Vatican's Dicastery for Laity, Family, and Life website: <http://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en/amoris-laetitia.html> Additionally, you may contact Jen Housel at 570-204-2213 x 1104, [jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org).



# OPL Month At A Glance

## July 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Independence Day	5	6	7 DRE/YM Remote Networking Meeting 11AM	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 Mass of Remembrance 7:00PM Cathedral	16	17 Extraordinary Minister of Communion Training 9AM-3PM DPC
18	19	20	21 DRE/YM Remote Networking Meeting 11AM	22	23	24
25 World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly Mass 10AM Cathedral	26	27	28	29	30	31
NPM NATIONAL CONVENTION, NEW ORLEANS & VIRTUAL						

### OPL TEAM MEMBERS

Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life:

Director for WORD and Lifelong Faith Formation: **Jacki Douglas**

Director for WORSHIP: **David Baloga**

Director for SERVICE and Mission: **Shannon Kowalski**

Coordinator for Pilgrimages: **Fr. Andrew Hvozdovic**

Director for COMMUNITY and Family Development: **Jen Housel**

Coordinator for Ecumenical/Interfaith Relations: **Msr. Vincent Grimalia**

Coordinator for Lay Ministry Formation: **Kitty Scanlan**

Coordinator for Hispanic Ministry: **José Flores**

Consultant for Pastoral Council Development: **Ann Marie Cawley**

Diocesan Pastoral Center Manager: **Kitty Scanlan**

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