

The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2021

Diocese prioritizes safety as Mass obligation resumes

SCRANTON — We're back where we belong.

Days before the dispensation from the obligation to participate in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation was lifted in the Diocese of Scranton — beginning with the weekend celebration of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Aug. 15 — Bishop Joseph C. Bambera released a video message to “Welcome Back” faithful to the pews.

Joyfully proclaiming that the doors of all churches throughout the 11 counties of the Diocese are “open wide,” Bishop Bambera announced, “After seventeen months of hardship and struggle, it is time to pray together again, sing together again, and experience the love of God together again!”

The much-anticipated pronouncement was welcomed with equal joy by parishioners around the Diocese.

“It will be great to see parishioners attending Mass who have not been there since March of 2020,” Joe Hillan said,



representing Saint Adalbert Church at Holy Spirit Parish in Glen Lyon. “While livestreaming was a great asset during the pandemic, I truly hope that it will not be used as an excuse for parishioners that are capable of attending Mass.”

Bishop Bambera continued his message by referring to the Eucharistic celebration as the “center of our lives as Christians.”

“It is where we are drawn close to Jesus, where we feel his presence in the lives of one another, where we listen to his Gospel message in the Word proclaimed and where we receive His Body and Blood — His

very life — in the Eucharist,” the bishop imparted. “The importance, and necessity, of attending Mass is rooted in our Baptism as Christians.”

His words were echoed by Bernice Facciani, a member of Saint John Vianney Parish in Montdale, where she worships at Corpus Christi Church.

“I am delighted the bishops in Pennsylvania have reinstated the Sunday and Holy Day Mass obligations,” Facciani remarked.

In addition to her parish church, she said she has had “occasion to visit several other

churches in the Diocese in recent months and have found them to be both impeccably clean and the services well attended, which does seem indicative of parishioners’ desire to participate in the Mass and encounter Jesus in the Eucharist regularly.”

Facciani’s fellow parishioner, Chrysa Calafut, could not agree more. The mother of two small children stated that she and her husband “celebrated Mass” at home via media platforms for more than a year and that it is time to return to church.

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Pope prays for peace in Afghanistan

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Hours before the Taliban took control of Afghanistan’s capital, Kabul, Pope Francis expressed his hope for the peace and safety of the country’s citizens.

“I join in the unanimous concern for the situation in Afghanistan. I ask all of you to pray with me to the God of peace, so that the clamor of weapons might cease and solutions can be found at the table of dialogue,” Pope Francis said Aug. 15 during his Angelus address.

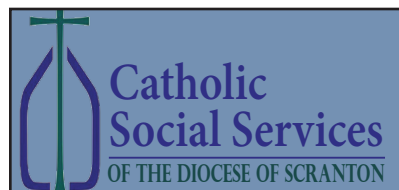
Only through dialogue, he added, “can the battered population of that country —

men, women, elderly and children — return to their own homes, and live in peace and security, in total mutual respect.”

The Taliban, an extremist Islamic movement that ruled Afghanistan until ousted by a U.S.-led coalition nearly 20 years ago, began taking over large swaths of the country as U.S. forces withdrew.

According to the Associated Press, Taliban fighters entered the presidential palace after Afghan President Ashraf Ghani fled the country.

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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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Faithful invited and welcomed back to Mass across the Diocese

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“For over a year, this was enough,” Calafut said. “The rising number of COVID cases and deaths attributed to the virus, complicated with the fact that neither a vaccine nor enough knowledge about COVID existed, the decision to stay home with our family proved to be necessary. The health and safety of not only our family but also our community depended on us making responsible decisions and following CDC guidelines.”

She noted, however, that her heart was telling her that something was lacking. As a registered nurse, Calafut explained there is always the potential to be exposed to any illness or infectious disease. “In spite of this, my devotion to serving others continues to draw me back to the bedside,” she said.

She passionately believes our devotion to serving the Lord should do the same.

“The risk will always be present, as will the fear,” Calafut concluded, “but if we continue to follow current CDC guidelines and commit to protecting one another, I am confident we can return to worshipping ‘at the bedside.’”

In his recent letter to diocesan faithful reinstating the Sunday Mass obligation, Bishop Bambera wrote, “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.”

He further noted that those 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,



The faithful celebrate Mass at Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Pittston on Aug. 15, 2021, as the Diocese of Scranton reinstated the Sunday Mass obligation. As a way to welcome back parishioners, Saint John the Evangelist held a ‘Welcome Back Weekend,’ with special music during all liturgies and receptions after each Mass.

will continue to be legitimately excused from participating in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days.

“In these times that continue to challenge us, know that we continue to do all that we can to keep you and your family safe,” Bishop Bambera assured his flock at the end of the video message.

Ray Totten, a Saint John Vianney parishioner who attends Mass at Saint Pius X Church in Royal, explained, that though vaccinated, he will continue to practice prudence and wear a face covering.

“My first reaction was, ‘why did we bother to get vaccinated?’ he said. “After thinking about it, though, it seems reasonable. You still have the ability to carry the disease even if it doesn’t enter your

body...and makes you sick.”

Noting that, though rare, those who have been vaccinated may still get infected, Totten remarked, “You never know who you might infect, or who they could in turn infect. So if I can help prevent someone from being infected, I will do what I can. The mask seems like a small price to pay.”

Hillan concurred by stating, “I know everyone is trying to be safe and cautious during this continuing pandemic.”

“I believe if everyone follows the recommendations of Bishop Bambera and wears a mask while attending Mass, we will all feel safe and welcomed as we gather together as a parish family to receive the Body of Christ,” he said.

Current Guidelines for Public Masses in the Diocese of Scranton

- The Diocese of Scranton **strongly recommends** that all parishioners wear a mask while attending Mass, regardless of vaccination status, due to the COVID-19 delta variant, which medical experts explain is more infectious and can spread more aggressively, than previous virus strains. While masks will not be mandated in our parishes at this time, we must all continue to be vigilant against this emerging health threat. As Catholics, we have a responsibility to protect our friends and neighbors.
- Altar servers need to wear a mask while performing their duties.
- Priests, Deacons and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion must return to wearing masks during the distribution of Holy Communion. Communion ministers are also expected to wash and/or sanitize their hands prior to the distribution of Holy Communion and if their hands come into contact with a recipient’s tongue.
- People are asked to be respectful of a person’s choice to wear a face covering or mask in churches throughout the Diocese of Scranton.
- Hand sanitizer is to be made available throughout the church as much as possible.
- It is encouraged that the Sign of Peace be celebrated without physical contact.
- Distribution of the Precious Blood remains suspended at this time.
- Pews no longer need to be marked for physical distancing. Parishes should remind the faithful to continue maximizing the use of space as much as possible.
- Liturgical singing can take place without any restrictions. Cantors, quartets and choirs may be used without any restrictions.
- At the discretion of the pastor, Holy Water fonts may be refilled and utilized. Additional attention must be paid to refresh and clean these receptacles on a regular basis. Daily cleansing would be the optimal schedule.
- Hymnals and missalettes can be returned to the pews. At the discretion of the pastor, parishes can continue to utilize printed worship aids for one-time use.
- Parishes should clean and disinfect surfaces at least daily. Parishes should continue to be mindful of high-touch surfaces, including door handles, railings and bathrooms and should develop a schedule of routine cleaning and disinfection for such.
- Each parish should ensure that ventilation systems operate properly.



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

300 WYOMING AVENUE
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18503-1279

August 6, 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Caring for the health, safety and spiritual well-being of all parishioners – and our entire community – has been my priority since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Diocese of Scranton has made every effort to implement best practices in public health – and has been continuously evaluating policies, monitoring data and consulting with healthcare experts. I want to assure you that these efforts continue to this day.

It is now evident that this global health crisis continues to linger – especially with the delta variant -- which medical experts explain is more infectious, and can spread more aggressively, than previous virus strains.

As the Diocese of Scranton looks forward to welcoming the faithful back to the celebration of Mass with the reinstatement of our obligation as Christians to worship on Sundays and Holy Days beginning August 15, it is imperative that we maintain the accessibility of the Eucharist in a safe environment.

I am strongly recommending that all parishioners wear a mask while attending Mass – regardless of vaccination status. While masks will not be mandated in our parishes at this time, we must all continue to be vigilant against this emerging health threat. In fact, as Catholics, we have a responsibility to protect our friends and neighbors. In order to safeguard our community, I have also requested that altar servers wear masks and all Priests, Deacons and Extraordinary Ministers return to wearing masks during the distribution of Holy Communion.

I also encourage everyone to continue good hygiene habits and follow the example of Pope Francis, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, and all Pennsylvania Bishops, in receiving a COVID-19 vaccination.

While I, along with your pastor, look forward to welcoming you back to experience the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist, individuals who have serious health conditions or concerns will still not be obligated to attend Mass. By longstanding Church law, the Sunday obligation does not apply to those who are:

- Sick
- Have a serious health risk
- In a household with those at risk
- Primary caregivers to those at risk
- Have serious anxiety or concerns about being in a large-group setting due to COVID-19
- Unable to attend Mass in person

As an act of charity, anyone who believes they might have COVID-19 or one of its variants should stay home.

Those who are legitimately excused from Mass on Sundays and Holy Days are encouraged to spend time in prayer, meditating on the death and Resurrection of the Lord, reading the sacred Scriptures, and uniting themselves to Christ. They are also encouraged to watch televised or livestream Masses.

As we continue to respond to the invitation of Jesus to come to Him, I invite all the faithful to safely return to Mass to have an intimate encounter with the Lord.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

† *Joseph C. Bambera*

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

Catholic Schools stress safety protocols for beginning of new academic year

SCRANTON – With the first day of school quickly approaching, the Diocese of Scranton's Office for Catholic Schools is unwavering in its commitment to protect the health and safety of all students, faculty, staff and administrators.

"Last year provided all of us the opportunity to achieve what many others did not – the ability to open our doors and maximize the amount of in-person learning – because we worked together in following thoughtful health and safety protocols that resulted in minimal interruptions," Jason W.S. Morrison, Secretary of Catholic Education/Chief Executive Officer, and Kristen Donohue, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, wrote in a letter to parents on Aug. 13, 2021.

Using the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Pennsylvania Departments of Education and Health, American Academy of Pediatrics and



the Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania Policy Lab, the Diocese developed protocols for all of its 19 Catholic Schools to follow this coming year for in-person instruction.

"Of critical importance is the knowledge we all have from living through this pandemic that the environment can change quickly," the administrators wrote. "We will be responsive to those changes as the situation improves or worsens in our communities. This includes every layer of mitigation and may require decisions to be adjusted on short notice."

Like last year, high touch surfaces will be cleaned and

sanitized frequently in every building and hand sanitizer will be available in hallways, near entrances and other high-traffic areas. In classrooms, desks will be placed at a minimum of three feet apart.

For the second year in a row, parents will be asked to complete a daily health questionnaire at home before their child arrives at school – and temperatures of students, faculty, staff and visitors will be taken when they enter a building.

Schools will make every effort to monitor for COVID-19 related symptoms and have specific guidance for dealing with any potential cases.



The hallways at Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport were quiet over the summer but will soon be filled with students as the new academic year begins. (Photo/Eric Deabill)

Mask requirements will be determined in accordance with the county transmission metrics in which a particular school is located. When a county is classified as having moderate, substantial or high transmission, all individuals will be required to wear masks indoors. When a county is in a low community transmission rate for at least two weeks, masking may

return to optional.

"We all long for a full return to normalcy, but must do so safely. We need to partner together to work through these ever-changing times. With your help and patience, we will achieve that return together. We were successful last year, and will be again this year," Morrison and Donohue wrote in their letter.

Diocese releases guidelines for faith formation programs

SCRANTON – With parishes across the Diocese of Scranton already planning the 2021-2022 faith formation year, the Diocese of Scranton released guidelines on Aug. 13 that parishes should follow to prioritize the safety and health of all students, parents, staff and volunteers.

Parishes continue to have flexibility in the approach to which they offer faith formation programs during upcoming school year. Parishes can hold either in-person faith formation classes, virtual classes or a hybrid approach which combines both virtual and in-person elements.

For any parishes planning to hold in-person faith formation classes, the Diocese of Scranton has put forth the following guidance:

Masks: As Catholics, we are called to provide a Culture of Safety for our children and youth. Because most religious education students are not yet eligible for vaccinations – and in an effort to ensure in-person religious education is able to continue to the best extent possible – the Diocese of Scranton will require masks for students involved in its parish faith formation programs at this time. Masks are an effective tool in mitigating the spread of COVID-19, particularly when there is a large population of unvaccinated individuals.

While indoors, masks must be worn consistently and correctly by all minors and adults, regardless of vaccination status, while attending any religious education classes.

If religious education classes are held outdoors, masks do not need to be worn in most settings. Masks must be worn in crowded outdoor settings or during any activities that involve sustained close contact with other people.

If a student/family is uncomfortable with returning to an onsite/in-person faith formation program for any reason, parishes have been urged to work directly with the student/family and make reasonable accommodations, which might include the possibility of online or individualized meetings and/or providing resource packets for pick-up.

This Diocesan guidance on masking for parish religious education programs is consistent with the protocols being implemented at all of the Diocese of Scranton's Catholic Schools. These protocols will be re-evaluated on a consistent basis and are subject to change at any time and will be communicated to parishes if adjustments are made.

Mask requirements will be determined in accordance with the county transmission metrics and

guidance from various sources, which may include, but are not limited to the CDC and PA Department of Health. The levels of transmission for a county are listed as Low, Moderate, Substantial and High. When counties are in moderate, substantial or high, all individuals will be required to wear masks indoors. When a county is in a low community transmission rate for at least two weeks, masking may be optional for all. Anyone that is not vaccinated at that time, will still be encouraged to continue to mask indoors if desired.

Vaccinations: It is highly recommended that everyone who is eligible be fully vaccinated for COVID-19, whether that be a catechist or student of eligible age.

Classroom Set-up: Classroom desks or tables should face in the same direction whenever possible and parishes should make every effort to maintain three feet of distancing while in a classroom setting.

Cleaning: Clean and disinfect classroom space and frequently touched surfaces such as door handles, sink handles and light switches with regularity. Parishes that utilize Catholic School buildings for space should work with the building principal to ensure sanitization.

Prayer to Begin a New School Year

*Blessed are you, Lord God,
Creator of body and mind and heart;
you have sent the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge
to guide your people in all their ways.*

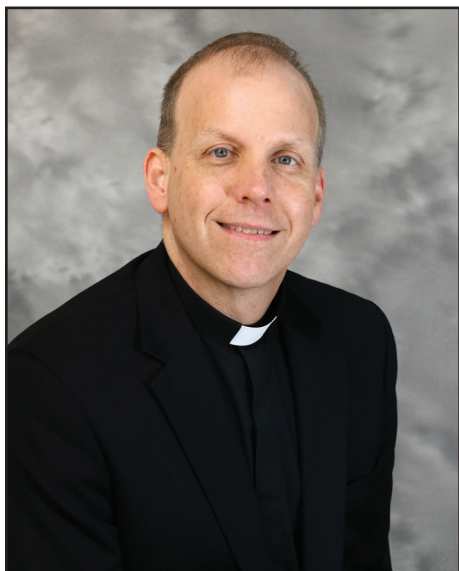
*At the beginning of this new school year
we implore your mercy:
bless the students, teachers, and staff of our
Catholic Schools and religious education programs,
that together we may grow in faith, hope, and love
as we learn from you and each other
how to follow your Son Jesus.*

*Expand the horizons of our minds,
that we may grow in wisdom,
understanding, and knowledge;
deepen our commitment to seek the truth of your
ways;
and enliven our faith to reach out to those in need.*

*Glory and praise to you, Lord God,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus forever and ever.*

Amen.

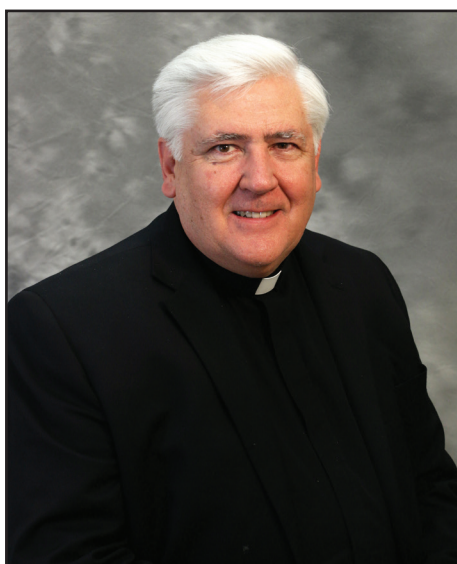
Diocese of Scranton announces new leadership appointments



Rev. Gerald W. Shantillo, V.G., S.T.L.



Rev. Thomas M. Muldowney



Rev. John V. Polednak, V.E.

SCRANTON – Father Gerald W. Shantillo has been appointed Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, announced on July 15, 2021.

A Vicar General is a priest who assists the Bishop in the governance of a diocese, and has authority to act on behalf of the Bishop.

Ordained a priest in 2009, Father Shantillo had previously been serving as Episcopal Vicar for Clergy since July 2020. He also served five years as pastor at Saint Matthew Parish in East Stroudsburg as well as Assistant Pastor at Saint Jude in Mountain Top, Our Lady Help of Christians in Dorrance and Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Tunkhannock.

“I have a great love for the Diocese and serving as Episcopal Vicar for Clergy for the last year has given me a better understanding just how large and comprehensive the Diocese really is and the good it does for so many people in all 11 counties we serve,” Father Shantillo said.

In making his announcement to the Diocese, Bishop Bambera said Father Shantillo brings to his new position a wealth of experience, credentials and proven dedication of service to the People of God.

“More than just being an excellent priest and a dedicated pastor, Father Shantillo brings strong organizational skills to his new role, having served as a former healthcare finance and operations executive prior to ordination. This knowledge will help in his handling of the many personnel and financial matters necessary in his new role,” Bishop Bambera stated.

Even though his title may have changed, Father Shantillo believes his mission has not. He plans to continue serving the community and spreading the Gospel message.

“The bishop has an incredible responsibility to run a diocese and the Vicar General is appointed to help him behind the scenes. He works diligently to implement the bishop’s directives and priorities and allows the bishop to be available to all the people,” Father Shantillo explained. “Our focus must always be – how do we use our diocesan resources to better support our parishes and schools, Catholic Social Services and our mission.”

Father Shantillo started his new role as Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia on Aug. 9, 2021. He succeeds Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney who requested to return to parish ministry following 11 years of service in diocesan leadership positions.

On Aug. 9, now-Father Muldowney became pastor of Saint Catherine of Siena Parish in Moscow.

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APPOINTMENTS

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

Reverend Robert J. Antonelli, from Senior Priest, Saint Joseph the Worker Parish, Williamsport, to Senior Priest, Saint Lawrence Parish, South Williamsport, and Saint Boniface Parish, Williamsport, effective August 7, 2021.

Reverend Michael M. Bryant, from Pastor, Saint John Neumann Parish, Scranton, effective July 20, 2021, to Pastor, Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Duryea, effective August 2, 2021.

Reverend Anthony Dorsa, F.S.S.P., to Parochial Vicar, Saint Michael the Archangel Parish, Scranton, effective August 1, 2021.

Reverend Simon Harkins, F.S.S.P., from Pastor, Saint Michael the Archangel Parish, Scranton, effective August 1, 2021.

Reverend Sixtus Appiah Kyeremeh, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Faustina Kowalska Parish, Nanticoke, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Lake Silkworth, effective August 11, 2021.

Reverend Jonathan P. Kuhar, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Paul of the Cross Parish, Scranton, effective August 2, 2021. Father Kuhar will continue to serve as Parochial Vicar, Saint John Neumann Parish, Scranton.

Reverend Arun Lakra, from Parochial Vicar, Immaculate Conception Parish, Freeland, and Good Shepherd Parish, Drums, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Carbondale, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Carbondale, effective August 2, 2021.

Reverend Christopher Mahowald, F.S.S.P., to Pastor, Saint Michael the Archangel Parish, Scranton, effective August 1, 2021.

Reverend Paul McDonnell, OSJ, to Sacramental Minister, Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish, Pittston, effective August 9, 2021. Father McDonnell will continue his duties as Rector of the religious community, Oblates of Saint Joseph Residence, Laflin.

Reverend Joseph J. Mosley, from Assistant Pastor, Saint Ignatius Loyola Parish, Kingston, to Pastor, St. Peter’s Parish, Wellsboro, and Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish, Elkland, effective August 11, 2021.

Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney, from Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, to Pastor, Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, Moscow, effective August 9, 2021.

Reverend John V. Polednak, from Pastor, Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Duryea, to Episcopal Vicar for Clergy, effective August 9, 2021.

Reverend Dominic Sabi, to Parochial Vicar, Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Honesdale, effective August 2, 2021.

Reverend Christopher S. Sahd, S.T.L., from Senior Priest, Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Honesdale, to Leave of Absence for the discernment of a vocation to Consecrated Life, effective September 7, 2021.

Reverend Gerald W. Shantillo, from Episcopal Vicar for Clergy and Sacramental Minister, Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish, Pittston, to Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, effective August 9, 2021.

Reverend Shawn M. Simchock, from Parochial Vicar, Saint Faustina Kowalska Parish, Nanticoke, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Lake Silkworth, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Ignatius Loyola Parish, Kingston, effective August 11, 2021.

Reverend Casimir M. Stanis, from Pastor, Saint Brigid Parish, Friendsville, to Pastor Emeritus, Saint Brigid Parish, Friendsville, effective August 2, 2021.

Reverend Scott P. Sterowski, from Pastor, St. Paul of the Cross, Scranton, to Pastor, Holy Cross Parish, Olyphant, and Blessed Sacrament Parish, Throop, effective July 20, 2021.

Reverend Fidelis Ticona, to Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Wilkes Barre, effective August 2, 2021. Father Ticona will continue to serve as Parochial Vicar, Saint Nicholas Parish, Wilkes-Barre.

Reverend Daniel A. Toomey, from Pastor, Gate of Heaven Parish, Dallas, and Our Lady of Victory Parish, Harvey’s Lake, to Pastor, Epiphany Parish, Sayre, effective August 11, 2021.

Diocese welcomes new seminarians

Jeremy Barket and Cody Yarnall have been accepted as seminarians for the Diocese of Scranton and will begin the Program for Priestly Formation this fall.

Jeremy is a member of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Dupont. Cody is a member of Saint Matthew Parish in East Stroudsburg. They will attend Saint Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, Md.

Let us pray for them, all of our seminarians and those who are discerning a call to serve our local Church as a Diocesan Priest.



Pictured, left to right: Father Alex Roche, Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians; Jeremy Barket; and Monsignor David Bohr, Diocesan Secretary for Clergy Formation.



Pictured, left to right: Monsignor David Bohr, Diocesan Secretary for Clergy Formation; Cody Yarnall; and Father Alex Roche, Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians.

Diocesan leadership changes announced

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"I am grateful for the experience that I had working in the Diocesan administrative offices. During that time, I had the privilege of allowing my faith to be strengthened by the parishioners and friends of the Mother Church of the Diocese of Scranton. I am leaving with a heart that is full of gratitude and excitement because I get to continue my journey of serving the Lord in parish ministry once again," Father Muldowney said.

Father Muldowney said he had been discerning a possible transition back to parish ministry for a while. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he says the necessity and importance of parish priests became even more critical – as they needed to reach out to people in so many different ways over the past year.

"When I was ordained a priest in the Cathedral in 2003, I never envisioned myself working in the Diocesan administrative offices. I've always lived by a philosophy that God places you where you need to be, when you need to be there. I've lived that philosophy prior to ordination and I try to live that out each and every moment of my life," he added.

"I am excited that Bishop Bambara has appointed me as Pastor of Saint Catherine of Siena Parish. I feel blessed to be able to serve the vibrant faith community that has been nurtured there over the years," he continued.

Bishop Bambara expressed his deep gratitude for Rev. Muldowney's willingness to share so generously of his strong faith and many talents, having dutifully and faithfully devoted over a decade to the mission of the entire Diocese.

"Monsignor Muldowney has helped our local Church in immeasurable ways

to proclaim the Good News of Jesus and to continue to grow vibrant parishes and ministries. Our Diocese is most grateful to Monsignor for the tireless service that he has provided and the numerous gifts he has brought to the position of Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia. While his presence in our administrative offices will be missed, it is most gratifying to know that Monsignor's pastoral sensitivity has prompted him to return to parish ministry in his continuing service of the People of God, a calling that lies at the heart of every diocesan priest," the bishop said.

Father John V. Polednak has been appointed to succeed Father Shantillo as Episcopal Vicar for Clergy. Ordained in 1976 by Bishop J. Carroll McCormick, Father Polednak has been an outstanding servant leader who has garnered the respect of his brother priests as well as the lay faithful.

Prior to his current assignment, Father served as Pastor of Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Duryea, since 2015. He brings more than 40 years of experience in priestly ministry – having previously served as pastor for parishes in Kingston, Roaring Brook Township, Nicholson, Wilkes-Barre and Olyphant. In addition to his pastorate, Father Polednak has also served as Episcopal Vicar, Southern Pastoral Region; Diocesan Secretary for Clergy Formation; Director of the Permanent Diaconate and Director of Seminarians; Dean of the Dunmore Deanery; and Director of the Fatima Center among numerous roles as Director of Religious Formation in various schools.

"The clergy of the Diocese of Scranton are blessed to have such a highly respected and capable priest to serve their needs as they, in turn, work to build up the Church in the Diocese of Scranton," Bishop Bambara stated in making the appointment.

Sept. 1 is World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation

The Season of Creation spans five weeks between the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (Sept. 1) and the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi (Oct. 4).

This "time for creation" offers, in the words of Pope Francis, "individual believers and communities a fitting opportunity to reaffirm their personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has

entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of creation as well as his pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live."

The faithful are invited and encouraged to live out these three dimensions of Pope Francis' call, both as individuals and as a community.

For suggestions on how to do this, visit the USCCB website at usccb.org.



BISHOP BAMBERA'S SCHEDULE

- 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.
- August 23** - Mass celebrating relighting of Refurbished Steeple
Saint Rose of Lima Church, Carbondale, 7:30 p.m.
- September 5** - La Festa Italiana Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.
- September 9** - Mass of the Holy Spirit
University of Scranton/Byron Center, 11:30 a.m.
- September 16** - Mass of the Holy Spirit for Chancery Staff
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.
- September 18** - Saint Patrick's Day Parade Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.

Mass in Italian to be celebrated Sept. 5 in Scranton

SCRANTON – The annual Mass in Italian will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 5, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. All are welcome to attend.

The liturgy is celebrated in conjunction with La Festa Italiana, which occurs over the Labor Day weekend, Friday through Monday, Sept. 3-6, on Courthouse Square, one block away.

Father David Cappelloni, V.F., La Festa chaplain, has announced that the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will preside and the homilist will be Oblates of Saint Joseph Father Paul A. McDonnell.

Concelebrants will be priests from the Diocese of Scranton. Deacons from the Diocese will also participate.

The Mass will be broadcast live by CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and will be rebroadcast on Tuesday, Sept. 7, at 8 p.m., and Wednesday, Sept. 8, at 10 a.m. It will be available for viewing later in the week on the Diocesan website at www.dioceseofscranton.org.

Father McDonnell, OSJ, a member of the Congregation of the Oblates of Saint Joseph, was ordained a priest on Aug. 10, 1991, by the late Bishop Francis X. DiLorenzo. He is a native of West Pittston and a graduate of Wyoming Area High School, immediately afterwards entering the Oblates of Saint Joseph Seminary, Laflin, where he obtained a bachelor of arts degree in Philosophy at King's College, Wilkes-Barre. He then left for Italy for five years, first completing the novitiate year in Padua and then in Rome for theological studies at the Angelicum & Lateran Universities.

Father McDonnell has served in various roles throughout his 30 years of priesthood, namely as pastor of the former Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish (Saint Joseph Marelllo), Pittston, rector of the Oblates Seminary and the first provincial superior of the newly united USA Province of the Oblates of Saint Joseph, residing at their headquarters in Santa Cruz, Calif. from 2013 - 2020.

Last summer, he returned to his native area to resume his

duties as rector of the religious community in Laflin and most recently has been appointed by Bishop Bambera to serve as Sacramental Minister of Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish, Pittston.

This year's Italian Mass is being offered in memory of all those members and friends of La Festa Italiana who passed away since the last Mass was celebrated, including Ray Alberigi, John "Jack" Brunetti, Christina Caprio, Father Andrew Gallia, Patrick A. Luongo, Joseph "Chef" Schiavone, Kevin Shaughnessy and Father Joseph Sica.

Music ministry for the Italian Mass will be provided by the choir of Saints Anthony and Rocco Parish, Dunmore; accompanied by a brass quartet, all directed by Joseph Moffitt. Dominick DeNaples, mandolin; Patrick Loungo, Nicholas Luongo, Lou Cossa, guitar, and Monica Spishock, timpani, will also accompany.

Ashley Yando-DeFlice is the cantor and leader of prayer. The guest vocalist will be Olivia DiMattio.

The lectors are Heather Luciani and Sister Catherine

Iacouzze, MPF. The Prayer of the Faithful will be led by Diane Alberigi, Frank Castellano and Karen Clifford.

The Offertory gifts will be presented by La Festa President Chris and Ann Celli DiMattio, Grace Castellano, Honorable Robert Mazzoni, UNICO National President Steve Pelonero and Robert W. Pettinato, founding member of La Festa.

James Baress, Patrick Caramanno, Joshua Cillo, Stephen Eboli, Jonathan Eboli, Richard Garofalo and Joseph Wentline are the ushers.

Catholic Men's Conference October 30



The sixth "Be A Catholic Man" Catholic Men's Conference in the Diocese of Scranton is planned for Saturday, Oct. 30, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre. "Called to Fatherhood" will be theme for this year's conference, dedicated to the patronage of Saint Joseph. The event will feature national Catholic speakers who will challenge all men – single, married and ordained – to live virtuous lives in a secular world. The day's program will include the Rosary, Eucharistic adoration, sacramental confessions, lunch break and a closing Mass celebrated by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera. For more information, contact Michael Kilmer at (570) 746-0100 or michaelkilmer71@gmail.com. Further details will be forthcoming.

Conference organizers pictured above are, first row from left: Chris Calore, Bill Leandri, Dr. Lou Guarnieri, Ralph Marino, Dr. Chris Carr, Michael Kilmer, John Witkowski, Jim Gerichten and Joe Alinoski. Second row: Marc Guarnieri, Joe Adcroft, Scott Reinbold, Jim Biondo, Gerard Schmidt and George Hayden.

LA FESTA ITALIANA

RETURNS TO SCRANTON

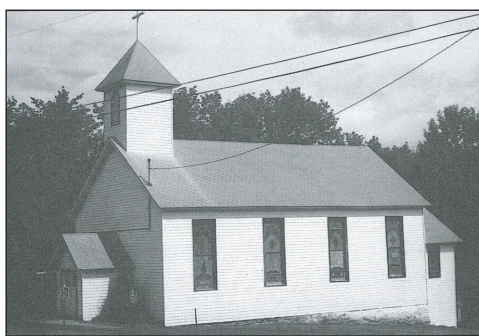
**FRIDAY
SEPT 3**
OPENING CEREMONIES
4:30 PM

**SATURDAY
SEPT 4**
JAMES R. MINICOZZI
MEMORIAL RACE

**SUNDAY
SEPT 5**
FIREWORKS
10:00 PM

**MONDAY
SEPT 6**
CLOSING
8:00 PM

Italy returns to downtown Scranton's Courthouse Square. This Labor Day weekend, enjoy Italian food & entertainment.
MASS IN ITALIAN: SUNDAY, SEPT. 5TH, 10AM, ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL
For more information and complete daily schedule, visit: www.lafestaitaliana.org



Saint Joseph Church in Rileyville Celebrating 150th Anniversary



RILEYVILLE — Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will serve as principal celebrant of a Pontifical Concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday, Aug. 22, at 9 a.m. at Saint Joseph Church in Rileyville. The celebration marks the 150th anniversary of the mission church of Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Honesdale, where Father William Langan serves as pastor.

The sesquicentennial celebration will continue following the jubilee liturgy with a testimonial reception in the church's social hall.

According to a written history of Saint John the Evangelist in Honesdale, compiled by Mary Heaton on the occasion of the parish's 150th anniversary in 1992, the Church of Saint Joseph in Rileyville was established in 1871 as a mission worship site of Saint Juliana Parish at Rock Lake by the presiding pastor, Father Thomas Brehony.

In 1944, the care of Saint Joseph's was assumed by Saint Mary Magdalen Parish, Honesdale, with Saint John the Evangelist taking over the guardianship of the small mission church three years later.

Constructed on Wayne County farmland purchased by Isaac Dougherty, Saint Joseph's was considered a typical white country church, with the original structure forming the body of the religious edifice. The sacristy and a partition creating a vestibule area in the front of the place of worship were later additions, as was the small front entrance.

Early years found no regularly scheduled Eucharistic celebrations scheduled at Saint Joseph's. Word of the pastor's arrival would spread, and parishioners would walk or

travel by horseback to worship. Eventually, Mass was scheduled for the fifth Sunday of the month.

In the early 1960s, Saint Joseph's received extensive renovations, including interior and exterior painting, replacement of the cross on the church tower, new altar and altar rails, pews, tile flooring and wainscoting. An acre of land was purchased to provide a 55-car parking lot.

The centennial celebration of Saint Joseph Church was held on Sunday, Aug. 15, 1971, with the Most Rev. J. Carroll McCormick, sixth bishop of Scranton, serving as principal celebrant. A testimonial dinner followed at the Elks Lodge in Seelyville.

In 1989, the sacristy of Saint Joseph's was refurbished and a restroom was added. Later improvements included new sidewalks, repairs to the stained glass windows and ventilators, and new storm windows. Dedication of a new social hall situated adjacent to the church on the pastoral grounds was celebrated in 2017.

The Mission Church of Saint Joseph continues as a vital extension of Saint John the Evangelist Parish. A Sunday Mass is offered each week at 9 a.m., preceded by the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

For as long as she can remember throughout her 87 years of life, Helen Adams attended Mass at Saint Joseph Church with her family until the onset of the COVID-19 crisis. She recalled receiving her sacraments of Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation at the country church in Rileyville — the last of which was conferred upon her and one other Confirmant by Bishop William J. Hafey, fourth bishop of Scranton.

"Our son received religious education at the church with their mother as their teacher," Adams said. "I taught classes at Saint Joseph for many, many years. Both boys were altar servers until they got taller than the priest."

Adams reminisced how she enjoyed the various celebrations at the mission church during her lifetime, while witnessing improvements to the house of worship: from the introduction of electricity to the church, to the digging of a well to allow running water for restroom facilities, to the installation of the first heating system, to, most recently, the construction of a much-needed social hall for church functions.

"We were grateful for a shrine to our Blessed Mother at the edge of the cemetery with its beautiful hand-crafted stone grotto and very special flower garden," she added.

The Saint Joseph parishioner explained how her family history is inextricably intertwined with that of the venerable church.

"Four Burke brothers came to the area from Ireland during the Potato Famine," Adams noted. "One of them, Thomas, was my great grandfather. He was listed as one of the original members of the church and as one who physically helped build Saint Joseph's."

She further indicated that Thomas Burke and Eliza Byrnes were united in marriage at Saint Joseph Church exactly 150 years ago at Saint Joseph Church — coinciding with the sesquicentennial celebration. "My grandmother said this was the first wedding in the new church," she noted.

Adams remarked that upon entering Saint Joseph Church, the first two windows are dedicated to the Burke family and the family of her other great grandparents, Patrick and Jane Osborne. "Their son, James, married Mary 'Mamie' Burke in 1893," she said.

As she looks forward with grand anticipation to the 150th anniversary of historic Saint Joseph Church, Adams remarked that each celebration and turn in the road down through the ages at the simple Catholic worship site evokes special memories — and challenges.

"When I was a child, I had Doherty girls for my religious education teachers," Adams recollected. "When one left the area, there would be a sister to take her place," pointing out the Doherty family included numerous children. "Now, when a church leader closes a door, there is a wonderful 'Kathy' or 'Linda' to accept responsibility. God has blessed us and the future will be bright."



The Grotto of the Blessed Mother at Saint Joseph Church in Rileyville was dedicated in 2004, blessed by senior priest Father Edward Finn, during a ceremony attended by many members of the local community. The project, coordinated by the church's Altar and Rosary Society, began as a dream and ended as an endeavor of faith. The Marian shrine was designed and erected by Paolo Ul, who was assisted by three other men from the Portuguese community of Nativity of Our Lord Church in South Scranton, where Father Finn celebrated Mass for the Brazilian immigrant faithful. Parishioners raised funds, and volunteers from the parish and community, including inmates from the Wayne County Prison, hauled ten tons of stone from local fields and installed lighting. The white stone at the apex of the niche was offered as a gift by Kathy Fives of Honesdale, who had returned with the souvenir from her pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady in Medjugorje in the former Yugoslavia.



On the grounds of Saint Joseph Church in Rileyville, Father William Langan, pastor of Saint John the Evangelist in Honesdale, dedicates the new social hall of the parish's mission church (inset) in 2017.

Carbondale church restoration project becomes sign of renewal of faith

CARBONDALE – After walking up 15 flights of scaffolding steps, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, reached the steeple atop of Saint Rose of Lima Church and took in the view.

“I’m actually really proud to be on top here,” Bishop Bambera said – standing 93 feet over the city sidewalk.

On Thursday, July 29, 2021, Bishop Bambera joined St. Rose’s pastor, Father Jeff Walsh, to offer a blessing on the church’s renovation project that nears completion. Several other parishioners who were instrumental in getting the work – literally – off the ground joined the bishop.

After raising \$850,000 over the last year and a half, the church’s granite steps, steeple and façade have all been restored.

“It’s the oldest church in Lackawanna County and one of the earliest churches in the Diocese of Scranton,” Father Walsh said. “We know it was built on the backs of the coal miners and the immigrants who came to this area who took their faith seriously and it’s good to know that new generations are still doing that.”

The parish itself was founded in 1832 and the current church building dates back to 1873.

“This is probably the tallest building in Carbondale. The tower itself was put on in 1899 so it has been on over 100 years before now and it had some needed repair both inside and outside, spalling along the bluestone in the front, and all around the tower itself, so it was ready, it’s been in the works for two years,” project manager John Devine explained. “It was very urgent because some of it was peeling off the front of the building and we even had one of the pieces of metal up there flapping in the wind. Had it fallen, it was really a safety issue.”



The Saint Rose of Lima steeple is a focal point in the Pioneer City. Knowing its importance, both parishioners and the Carbondale business community embraced the renovation work.

“A lot of the people who are natives of Carbondale said this has always been a community that has stepped up when they needed to do what they were called to do. That has proven to be a true statement. We reached the \$850,000 goal. We got the work on the steps done and the façade is going to be completed and the steeple is going to be restored to its original glory,” Father Walsh said.



A Mass celebrating the renovated steeple will be held Monday, Aug. 23, at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited to join in the relighting at Saint Rose of Lima Church.

While the project has taken a little longer than expected, the scaffolding around the church began coming down earlier this month. The total price tag of the restoration project has been a little more than expected as well – estimated to be \$975,000 now – so anyone in the community is still encouraged to help.

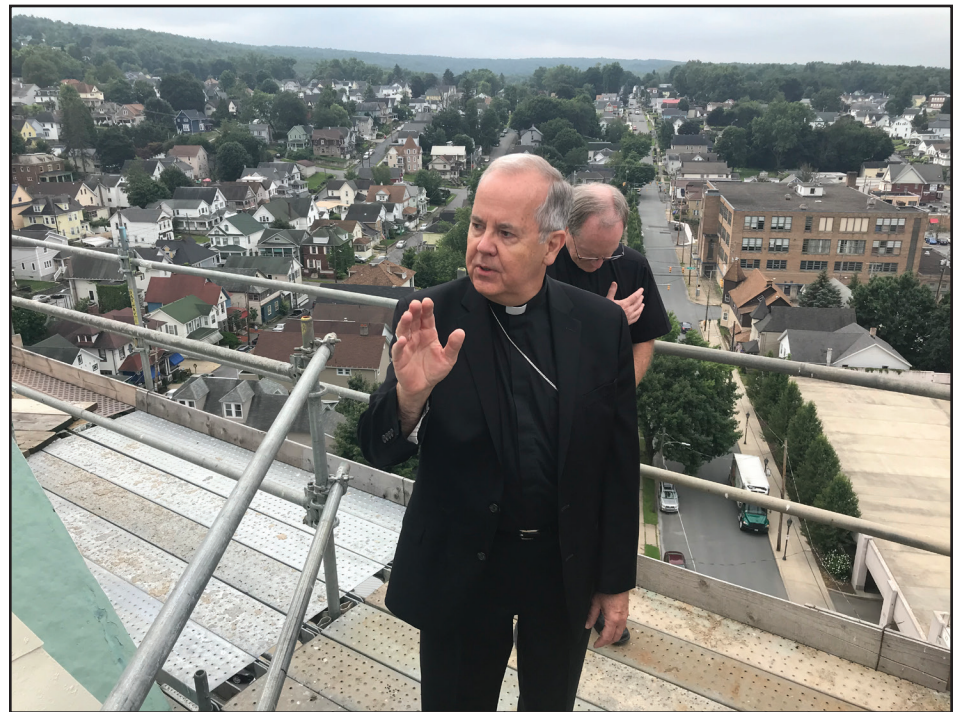
Father Walsh gave credit to the work of his predecessors, Father James Price and Father Seth Wasnock, who began the renovation project.

“It’s certainly a sign to the community that we’re here to stay and we’re going to be around another 100 years at least and it’s a sense of stability and pride that we do take in this building,” Father Walsh said. “But it’s always more than the building. The outside is meant to represent what’s on the inside.”

“It’s going to be stunning. People are going to look up and say ‘wow.’ You’re not even going to remember what it looked like before because it’s going to be new and clean and hopefully serve the community for another 100 years,” Devine added.

As he offered his blessing, Bishop Bambera marveled at the change that has taken place. His blessing was as follows:

“Lord, We thank you for the work that is being done on this incredible tower, this beacon of hope and promise and love and



From 93 feet in the air, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, offers a blessing on the renovation project at Saint Rose of Lima Church in Carbondale on July 29, 2021. Father Jeff Walsh, pastor, is seen in the background. (Photos/Eric Deabill)

God’s mercy to this entire community. We pray that through the work that is done here, faith that has been given to so many people may grow and flourish. We thank you for the workers who have put this beautiful tower back in place and have restored it to its original beauty. We thank you for the good people – the parishioners and the friends of this parish – who have

worked so hard to make this a reality, who have given of their time and their treasure to bring this church back to its beautiful state. Finally Lord, we just ask your blessing upon this community and this congregation – that it will always be a community filled with love, hope, working towards peace. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.”

Bishop celebrates Masses at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish



The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, celebrated two Masses at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish on Sunday, July 18, 2021.

The bishop first celebrated Mass at Saint Joachim Church in Meshoppen at 9 a.m., followed by Mass at Saint Mary of the Assumption Church in Wyalusing at 11:00 a.m.

The parish was honored to have Bishop Bambera baptize Matthew Aaron Trowbridge, the newest member of the parish community during his visit.

Along with Father Peter Tran, pastor, Bishop Bambera also got a chance to visit with parishioners at the parish’s old-fashioned picnic held at Saint Mary’s Hall.

Crowds thankful to return to Solemn Novena to Saint Ann

SCRANTON—After watching the Solemn Novena to Saint Ann on television last year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Carol Nowacki of Taylor was thrilled to return to the Basilica of the National Shrine to Saint Ann for in-person Masses and devotions this year.

“I can’t be without it. It is so special,” she said. “The first day back, I sat down and I said, ‘This is good!’”

Nowacki planned to attend the Novena each day from July 17-26. She jokes she has been coming to the Novena since before she was born since her mother attended the religious pilgrimage in West Scranton while pregnant.

“When you come here, there’s a feeling. I can’t describe it other than to say, I just have a feeling in my heart, in my chest, of having arms wrapped around me,” she explained.

Nearly 50 years ago, Nowacki convinced her husband, Jack, to attend the Novena with her and they have been going together ever since.

“It’s relaxing. It is a nice, quiet time. You can reflect,” Jack Nowacki said about attending the revered summertime devotion, which is now marking its 97th year.

The theme for this year’s Novena was “Lift High the Cross.” The guest preachers for this year’s event were Passionist Fathers Robert Joerger and Robert Carbonneau.

“Everybody needs a little bit



of help and sometimes you don’t even realize it,” Jack Nowacki said of the spiritual rejuvenation he feels after attending the Novena. “Just hearing the different speakers, they bring something up where you just look at things differently.”

For many, attending the Novena to Saint Ann, the mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary and grandmother of Jesus, is a family affair.

Diane Helbing of Archbald attended the 11:45 a.m. Daily Mass on Wednesday, July 21, with her husband, two grandchildren and sister-in-law. Sitting on lawn chairs outside the Basilica, they were thankful to avoid passing rain showers that threatened to soak the faithful outside.

When asked why she makes the pilgrimage to West Scranton, Helbing responded, “It’s a feeling deep within that I don’t find in many places. It’s a feeling of peace, a feeling of love and acceptance.”

Helbing says she has brought



numerous intentions to Saint Ann over the years.

“Any question that I’ve had, I’ve had answered. It’s amazing,” she said. “It’s very uplifting. I had a question a couple years ago that I was really struggling with and while here at Saint Ann’s saying prayers, without even thinking of the intention at the time, I heard the answer. It was as clear as if you spoke it and that has happened over and over.”

While acknowledging the pandemic is still a reality, Helbing



is glad this year’s Novena was 90-percent back to normal.

“We still follow the mandates but it’s a feeling of relief, a feeling of freedom to be able to come back here and be with other people that feel the same way,” she added.

Barbara Werts of West Pittston has been attending the Novena for the last decade with her sister and feels the same way.

“I enjoy it very much. I feel it is very calming, very enlightening and rewarding. It gives you a good feeling,” Werts said.



Photos taken throughout the Solemn Novena to Saint Ann/
Mike Melisky

Bishop Bambera celebrates Closing Mass of Solemn Novena to Saint Ann on July 26



The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, delivers his homily at the closing Mass of the Solemn Novena to Saint Ann in West Scranton, which was held outdoors on July 26, 2021.

“The simple reality of God’s plan for creation affirms that God continues to work in my life and yours – if we but open our eyes to see and our hearts to acknowledge God’s presence all around us. God continues to use unlikely individuals like (Saints) Ann and Joachim, like Mary and Joseph, like me and you, to accomplish his purpose in our world – to give hope – and to proclaim a message of life, salvation, mercy and peace.

“Take a look around you. Look at the faces that you see – not just the familiar faces that you haven’t seen for a few years, but faces wounded by pain and grief, faces that have known loneliness and separation, faces that are longing to be healed, and faces that are grateful for God’s abiding presence in their lives.

“This gathering is so powerful and encouraging, isn’t it? First, it reminds us that the hope we have placed in God is a well-founded reality as we finally emerge from the darkness of this past year into the light and promise of a world permeated by God’s grace. It also reminds us that we are not created to be alone but need one another as we journey through life. That is simply the way that God has chosen to work within our world.”

Excerpt from the Homily of Bishop Joseph C. Bambera
Read the entire homily at dioceseofscranton.org

Elderly are to be valued, not discarded, Pope Francis says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Older people are not “leftovers” to be discarded; rather, they continue to be precious nourishment for families, young people and communities, Pope Francis said in the homily he wrote for the Mass marking the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.

“Let us ask ourselves, ‘Have I visited my grandparents, my elderly relatives, the older people in my neighborhood? Have I listened to them? Have I spent time with them?’” the pope said in his homily, which was read aloud at the Mass by Archbishop Rino Fisichella.

“Let us protect them, so that nothing of their lives and dreams may be lost. May we never regret that we were insufficiently attentive to those who loved us and gave us life,” the homily said.

The Mass July 25 was celebrated in St. Peter’s Basilica with about 2,000 people in attendance, including multi-generational families, older people and their caregivers.

Pope Francis, who had colon surgery July 4, did not preside over the Mass

as he was still undergoing “normal convalescence,” according to the Vatican press office.

The pope, however, did give his Angelus address and lead prayer at noon the same day.

Archbishop Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, presided over the Mass, which he began by greeting the older people in attendance who, he said, had been understandably expecting to celebrate with Pope Francis.

But “we do not want him to tire himself so that he may spend these days resting to regain his strength and fully resume his pastoral ministry,” the archbishop said before reading the homily the pope prepared for the Mass.

“Grandparents and the elderly are not leftovers from life, scraps to be discarded,” the pope wrote. “They are a precious source of nourishment.”

“They protected us as we grew, and now it is up to us to protect their lives, to alleviate their difficulties, to attend to their needs and

to ensure that they are helped in daily life and not feel alone,” he wrote.

The pope asked people to reconnect with older people, to visit or call and “listen to them and never discard them. Let us cherish them and spend time with them. We will be the better for it,” young and old alike, he wrote.

“I worry when I see a society full of people in constant motion, too caught up in their own affairs to have time for a glance,

a greeting or a hug,” he wrote.

The notion of “every man for himself” is “deadly,” he wrote, and the Gospel asks people to share “what we are and what we possess” in order to find true and lasting fulfillment.

“Our grandparents, who nourished our own lives, now hunger for our attention and our love; they long for our closeness. Let us lift up our eyes and see them, even as Jesus sees us,” the pope wrote.

First roots of faith remembered in Bradford County



Father Ed Michelini, pastor, St. Peter & Paul Parish in Towanda, and seminarian Marc Phillips celebrate Mass at the French Azilum Historic Site in Bradford County on Sunday, July 25, 2021. Father Michelini started celebrating a Mass at this site four years ago.

Bishop celebrates Mass for World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly



SCRANTON – As the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, celebrated the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly on July 25, he wanted to send one important message to those being recognized – you are loved, cherished and important.

“Our grandparents and the elderly are vitally important in God’s plan. Without them, the body of Christ is incomplete,” he said during his homily.

Bishop Bambera was principal celebrant and homilist for the Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter. The Mass took place on the Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

“While some in our materialistic and self-consumed world tragically maintain that the lives of the elderly are more burdens to be born than gifts to be

celebrated, the teachings of the Gospel continually remind us that all of life – from the moment of conception to natural death – has value, purpose and dignity, having been created in the image and likeness of God,” Bishop Bambera added.

The bishop urged both grandparents and the elderly to generously share their lives, love and prayers with others.

“We are all called to cherish and share in the lives of our elderly parents, grandparents, neighbors and friends in the same way that the Lord Jesus, in giving us the Eucharist, has made us sharers in his own life,” the bishop said. “As Pope Francis has reminded us, ‘no one is saved alone.’ At every stage and circumstance of life, ‘we are all indebted to one another. We are all brothers and sisters.’”

BRADFORD COUNTY – Returning to the first roots of the Catholic faith in Bradford County, where they were originally planted, Father Ed Michelini from St. Peter & Paul Parish in Towanda began a new tradition four years ago.

Once a year, on a Sunday in July, he offers Mass at the French Azilum Historic Site, accompanied by parishioners and visitors. The Board of Directors at the French Azilum Site welcomes this event each year on their calendar as another living link to its past history.

Many aristocrats fled the violence of the French Revolution by coming to America in the late 18th century. The group of refugees who came to this area had an additional goal — to establish a place of refuge for their Queen, Marie Antoinette, and her two children, hence the name “Azilum,” which means asylum or safety.

Investors in Philadelphia who were sympathetic to the French loyalists’ plight, initially purchased 1600 acres along the Susquehanna River. They set aside 300 acres on a fertile “horseshoe” bend in the river for a planned community, including agricultural area, and began building houses for the refugees.

The occupation began in 1793, including one or more priests, and more homes added as numbers increased. As history explains, Marie Antoinette did not escape death, and the “Grand Maison” (The

Big House) which they had built for the queen was later utilized for other purposes. This community eventually dwindled; by the turn of the century, several had migrated to more established places, such as New Orleans with its large French population; many others returned home to France when the new government granted them amnesty.

A few families remained, and some of their descendants are still among the local county population. Place names, like Homet’s Ferry and LaPorte are remnants of that period.

On Sunday, July 25, 2021, Father Michelini, along with parish summer seminarian, Marc Phillips, set up the altar under the pavilion for the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

A number of parishioners, site guides and visitors assembled and participated in the Mass.

In his homily, Father Michelini recalled not only our grandparents and the elderly, for the celebration of the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, but also the region’s ancestors in faith, and the intrepid French settlers who made Bradford County home.

Phillips led the entrance and recessional hymns, with all happily joining in singing in the open air. He also sang a solo Communion hymn. A gentle breeze wafted like the Holy Spirit through the flock of the faithful who gathered once more on the grounds for the Holy Mass.

Young adults get eye-opening experience during Philadelphia service trip

PHILADELPHIA – Several teenagers from Mary, Mother of God Parish recently got what they call an “eye-opening experience” as they spent a week volunteering to serve the poor in Philadelphia.

The students, who are all involved in the Scranton parish’s youth group, spent the week of July 26-30 preparing and serving meals at Saint Francis Inn in the Kensington-section of Philadelphia.

“What I got out of it is an appreciation for what I have,” Ryan Legg, 17, said after returning from the service trip. “I have a new-found appreciation for what I have and what I’m given on a daily basis.”

Emma Woody, 14, was the youngest volunteer of the group. The incoming freshman at Holy Cross High School admits she was nervous about the trip until she arrived.

“I really enjoyed it. Going there, I didn’t really know what to expect. When I got there I was really surprised,” Woody explained. “Once I met the people, I found out they are really nice and we have common interests.”

Saint Francis Inn has been serving meals to the neediest individuals and families in Philadelphia since 1979. The



Above: Ryan Legg, Ryan Burda and Sean Kennedy help to prepare food at Saint Francis Inn in Philadelphia during a parish service trip.

Right: Claudia Pitts, Madison Kranson and Emma Woody help to sort fruits and vegetables during a service project from July 26-30, 2021.



facility serves a sit-down meal in its dining room every day. The meals are unique because they are served restaurant-style. Instead of walking through a line to get food, volunteers serve them right at their tables.

“While serving them, we have the opportunity to talk to them and get to know them a little bit,” Sean Kennedy, 17, a senior at Holy Cross High School, said. “Throughout the week, it is most of the same guests so you really get to have a good understanding of them and have a nice experience with them.”

Volunteer Julia Lidle, 17, was especially touched by a seven-year-old boy who relied on Saint Francis Inn for his meals.

“He liked to play tag with us. He is seven and he’s homeless and it brings him so much joy when we play tag with him around the soup kitchen,” Lidle explained.

All of the students say they felt the love and appreciation of the dinner guests – and that made their volunteer efforts worth it.

“One thing that stuck out was how grateful everybody was and how they all came up and

thanked every one of us after their meal,” Madison Kranson, 17, a senior at Holy Cross High School, said.

“For dinner, there were usually around 170 people,” Ryan Burda, 16, a junior at Holy Cross High School, said. “Even though the people may have been down on their luck, they were just so appreciative of every little thing they have.”

Rev. Cyril D. Edwards, V.E., pastor, Mary, Mother of God Parish, leads the annual service trip. He is always touched by the

stories of kindness, love and charity that the students experience.

Many of the students say they were so inspired by the service trip – they plan to continue volunteer efforts locally.

“I will try to volunteer more at local soup kitchens and try to get my friends involved,” Woody said.

“I feel like getting more people involved and getting more people to go on this trip so they can see how life is really different for some people,” Kranson added.

Saint Jude youth help community organizations during ‘Week of Service’

MOUNTAIN TOP – When you consider spending a week volunteering during the middle of July, young adults might think they are “giving up” part of their summer vacation.

That wasn’t the feeling of dozens of young people from Saint Jude Parish who took part in a “Week of Service” in their community from July 19-22, 2021.

During the first day, the students started by serving their parish by sprucing up the church grounds but then their ministry mission went on the move to non-profit organizations across the Wyoming Valley.

Volunteering at the Catholic Youth Center in Wilkes-Barre had a profound impact on Juliet Biscotti, a junior at Crestwood High School.

“I realized just helping out for a few hours can make a big impact. The children were so happy to have us there. It meant a lot to me to know that I helped add fun and

happiness to their day,” she said.

Jack Scanlan, a Crestwood senior, agreed.

“The CYC had the most impact on me because I was directly interacting with the kids and it had an impact on their day,” he explained.

This was Scanlan’s sixth year taking part in Saint Jude’s “Week of Service.” He says he continues to serve because he wants to help people and have an impact in his community in a positive way.

“I will use the lessons I learned to benefit others by serving the community more. I plan on continuing to help the community through service in whatever ways become available to me,” he added.

Thomas Dugan, a freshman at Holy Redeemer High School, spent part of his week volunteering at Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre and the Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO).

“Working at the soup kitchen helped me learn how the soup



Young adults involved in Saint Jude’s ‘Week of Service’ sing Christmas carols outside Mountain Top Senior Care to celebrate Christmas in July.

kitchen operates from giving food, stocking shelves and cleaning dishes. At CEO food packing, we packed the boxes by using an assembly line that helped me learn how to be efficient so that we could pack the most possible boxes,” Dugan said.

The students filled 520 boxes of food at CEO, answering Jesus’ call to serve others.

“I think it’s important to help people in need and spread happiness,” Biscotti said.

This year, Saint Jude’s “Week of Service” was only four days because many community organizations are only starting to open up from the COVID-19 pandemic. Other places that benefited from the young people’s service include the MS Kirby Library, Brandon’s Forever

Home and the residents of Mountain Top Senior Care. The students sang Christmas carols (for Christmas in July) outside the facility and handed out handmade cards to all of the residents.

Each young adult vowed to take lessons learned from the “Week of Service” and continue to spread the love of Jesus to their neighbors.

“I can carry the lessons of this year’s ‘Week of Service’ by telling the people in the community and telling them to join next year for a first-hand experience,” Dugan explained. “I can tell this to people by continuing to do other service projects in my community that I intend to keep doing.”

“I can use the lessons that I learned to continue to do service in the community,” Biscotti added. “This year, I plan on teaching the kindergarten CCD class at Saint Jude’s. I love working with children and spreading the news about Jesus with them,” she said.

MOSCOW – From singing songs praising God to listening to bible stories and even learning composting – Saint Catherine of Siena Parish was buzzing with activity the week of July 19-23, 2021.

The weather cooperated as the Lackawanna County parish hosted its annual Vacation Bible School. The weeklong event was held outdoors for the first time to keep both students and volunteers safe.

“We’ve never been outside. It really worked out well,” Sandra Czyzyk, Saint Catherine of Siena Parish Director of Religious Education, said. “We could move from one session to another, getting some fresh air and the kids loved being outside.”

A total of 88 students attended the program. This year’s event was centered on the theme of “Earthkeepers.”

Czyzyk said it took 65 volunteers – many of them young adults – to make sure the program was a success.

“It means a lot to see the students grow throughout the week,” aide Samantha Bajor, 16, said. “At the start, the kids are always so shy and they don’t really want to talk to you but by the end of the week they all break out of their shell.”

After COVID-19 forced the parish to hold a virtual event last year, Bajor said she is glad everyone was able to gather in person this year. She helped to lead the fourth, fifth and sixth grade students during the week.

“I’m glad it’s back,” Bajor explained.

Fred Kloss, 15, agreed. The teenage youth group member also volunteered to help make this year’s vacation bible school a success.

“It was a great experience. I think it definitely brings younger kids closer to church,” he said.



Diocesan seminarian Thomas Dzwonczyk leads a group of young children in Bible study on July 23, the final day of Vacation Bible School, at Saint Catherine of Siena Parish in Moscow.

Kloss believes the students he worked with learned a lot.

“Most of the kids liked the music a lot and the dancing. They learned songs and they sang the lyrics that teach them about their faith as well. A lot of them really liked the bible stories as well,” he added.

Czyzyk said vacation bible school is an important summer event to keep kids connected to the faith and let them see their pastor at their level having fun with them.

“Just coming out in the sunshine and being elbow-to-elbow with other young people, peers of their age, whether they’re 3 or 13 has just been so invigorating, physically and spiritually as well!” she said with a smile.

The reviews from the kids back up the week’s success.

“One little guy said to a teacher – this must be what heaven is like!” Czyzyk added.



Children participate in a Vacation Bible School activity at Holy Rosary Parish in Hazleton in early August. The theme of this year’s weeklong program was “To Mars and Beyond.”

Holy Rosary Parish in Hazleton also recently completed a successful weeklong vacation bible school program from Aug. 2-6, 2021.

With the theme “To Mars and Beyond,” 20 students participated in the nightly program at the parish.

“I wanted to start something that would get the kids into their faith, meet new kids and find other followers of Christ and that they could bond together with and spread the Gospel with,” Hailey Dudinyak said.

Dudinyak, a sophomore at Moravian College, put together Holy Rosary’s vacation bible school two years ago for a Girl Scout project and jumped at the chance to do it again this year.

“All the kids, they really put the energy in that we needed to have for it to be successful. I loved all the kids that

came. They were just so energetic and they really enjoyed themselves. They all worked together beautifully,” she added.

Dudinyak, along with her brother and a few others, did most of the work for the event.

“Each day we started out with the kids seeing a skit between me and my brother. My brother was a robot called “EP3-20,” which stands of Ephesians 3:20, which was the key bible verse,” she added.

Each session also consisted of learning dances, bible stories and participating in craft projects.

“I actually just received a video from one of the parents of their kid doing the dances in their backyard by the campfire,” Hailey explained. “They’re continuing to praise the Lord and spread the Gospel, which is all we need, and that’s what the whole goal was!”

Anchored in Christ: Catechist Camp Begins



The Diocese of Scranton Office for Parish Life recently hosted three Catechist Camp sessions for everyone involved in catechetical ministry or family-oriented faith formation.

The first session was held Tuesday, Aug. 17 at Saint Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport. The other sessions were held on Aug. 18 at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton and Aug. 19 at Saint Luke Parish in Stroudsburg.

Prayer Requests for Priests

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

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 Carbonneau; August 24, Father Sean Carpenter; August 25, Father Eugene Carr; August 26, Father Edward Casey; August 27, Father John Chmil; August 28, Father Richard Cirba; August 29, Father Brian J.T. Clarke; August 30, Father Brian J.W. Clarke; August 31, Father Charles Connor; September 1, Pope Francis; September 2, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI; September 3, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; September 4, Father William Corcoran; September 5, Father David Cramer; September 6, Father William Culnane; September 7, Father Charles Cummings; September 8, Father Wilfredo Cusicanqui; September 9, Father Richard Czachor, V.E.; September 10, Father Vincent Dang; September 11, Father Mark DeCelles; September 12, Sulpician Father Daniel Doherty; September 13, Father John Doris; September 14, Father David Dormer; September 15, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus John M. Dougherty; September 16, Father Michael Drevitch; September 17, Father Cyril Edwards, V.E.; September 18, Father Joseph Elston; September 19, Monsignor John Esseff; September 20, Father Joseph Evanko; September 21, Monsignor William Feldcamp.

Appealing to need for unity, pope restores limits on pre-VaticanII Mass

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Saying he was acting for the good of the unity of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis has restored limits on the celebration of the Mass according to the Roman Missal in use before the Second Vatican Council, overturning or severely restricting permissions St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI had given to celebrate the so-called Tridentine-rite Mass.

“An opportunity offered by St. John Paul II and, with even greater magnanimity by Benedict XVI, intended to recover the unity of an ecclesial body with diverse liturgical sensibilities, was exploited to widen the gaps, reinforce the divergences and encourage disagreements that injure the church, block her path and expose her to the peril of division,” Pope Francis wrote in a letter to bishops July 16.

The text accompanies his apostolic letter “Traditionis Custodes” (Guardians of the Tradition), declaring the liturgical books promulgated after the Second Vatican Council to be “the unique expression of the ‘lex orandi’ (law of worship) of the Roman Rite,” restoring the obligation of priests to have their bishops’ permission to celebrate according to the “extraordinary” or pre-Vatican II Mass and ordering bishops not to establish any new groups or parishes in their dioceses devoted to the old liturgy.

Priests currently celebrating

Mass according to the old missal must request authorization from their bishop to continue doing so, Pope Francis ordered, and for any priest ordained after the document’s publication July 16, the bishop must consult with the Vatican before granting authorization.

Pope Francis also transferred to the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the new rules.

In 2007, Pope Benedict XVI issued “Summorum Pontificum” on the use of the pre-Vatican II Roman liturgy. It said any priest of the Latin-rite church may, without any further permission from the Vatican or from his bishop, celebrate the “extraordinary form” of the Mass according to the rite published in 1962. The Roman Missal based on the revisions of the Second Vatican Council was published in 1969.

The conditions Pope Benedict set out for use of the old rite were that there was a desire for it, that the priest knows the rite and Latin well enough to celebrate in a worthy manner and that he ensures that the good of parishioners desiring the extraordinary form “is harmonized with the ordinary pastoral care of the parish, under the governance of the bishop in accordance with Canon 392, avoiding discord and favoring the unity of the whole church.”

The now-retired pope also insisted that Catholics celebrating

predominantly according to the old rite acknowledge the validity of the new Mass and accept the teachings of the Second Vatican Council.

In his letter to bishops, Pope Francis said that responses to a survey of the world’s bishops carried out last year by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith “reveal a situation that preoccupies and saddens me and persuades me of the need to intervene. Regrettably, the pastoral objective of my predecessors, who had intended ‘to do everything possible to ensure that all those who truly possessed the desire for unity would find it possible to remain in this unity or to rediscover it anew,’ has often been seriously disregarded.”

“Ever more plain in the words and attitudes of many is the close connection between the choice of celebrations according to the liturgical books prior to Vatican Council II and the rejection of the church and her institutions in the name of what is called the ‘true church,’” Pope Francis wrote.

To promote the unity of the church, Pope Francis said, bishops should care for those Catholics “who are rooted in the previous form of celebration” while helping them “return in due time” to the celebration of Mass according to the new Missal.

The pope also indicated he believed that sometimes parishes and communities devoted to the older liturgy were the idea of the

priests involved and not the result of a group of Catholic faithful desiring to celebrate that Mass.

Pope Francis asked bishops “to discontinue the erection of new personal parishes tied more to the desire and wishes of individual priests than to the real need of the ‘holy people of God.’”

However, he also said that many people find nourishment in more solemn celebrations of Mass, so he asked bishops “to be vigilant in ensuring that every liturgy be celebrated with decorum and fidelity to the liturgical books promulgated after Vatican Council II, without the eccentricities that

can easily degenerate into abuses.”

The liturgical life of the church has changed and developed over the centuries, the pope noted.

“St. Paul VI, recalling that the work of adaptation of the Roman Missal had already been initiated by Pius XII, declared that the revision of the Roman Missal, carried out in the light of ancient liturgical sources, had the goal of permitting the church to raise up, in the variety of languages, ‘a single and identical prayer’ that expressed her unity,” Pope Francis said. “This unity I intend to re-establish throughout the church of the Roman Rite.”

Diocese of Scranton statement on Pope Francis’ Apostolic Letter, *Traditionis Custodes*

“On Friday, July 16, 2021, Pope Francis issued the Apostolic Letter, *Traditionis Custodes*, concerning the use of the Roman Liturgy prior to the reform of 1970. On the same day, Archbishop Jose Gomez of Los Angeles, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, encouraged the Bishops of our country to “work with care, patience, justice and charity” as the new norms are implemented.

“Presently in the Diocese of Scranton, the Traditional Latin Mass is celebrated at Saint Michael the Archangel Church in Scranton under the stewardship of the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter. That arrangement will continue until further study and guidance can inform the appropriate implementation of the motu proprio in accord with the directives of the Holy Father. Diocesan priests who, in the past, have celebrated Mass according to the Missale Romanum of 1962 are to explicitly request from the diocesan Bishop authorization to continue to do so.

“I ask all of you to join me in continuing to foster the unity among all Catholics throughout the world that Pope Francis desires in his latest teaching.”

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

Pope offers prayers for Afghanistan

Continued from Page 1

In February 2020, the Trump administration signed a peace agreement with the Taliban and agreed to withdraw its forces by May 2021 in exchange for the group’s promise to cut ties with al-Qaida and cease attacks on American troops.

In April, President Joe Biden announced a complete withdrawal of U.S. troops in Afghanistan by Sept. 11 – the 20th anniversary of the attacks on U.S. soil coordinated by al-Qaida’s Osama bin Laden, who received

protection from the Taliban.

However, as Taliban fighters took control of the country, Biden announced July 8 that the U.S. “military mission in Afghanistan will conclude on Aug. 31.”

The U.S. invaded Afghanistan in late 2001 in a bid to dismantle al-Qaida and force the Taliban from power. More than 2,300 U.S. soldiers have died in the 20-year conflict, the longest war in U.S. history, and thousands of Afghan civilians were killed and displaced as a result of the conflict, according to the U.N. Mission in Afghanistan.

Priest killed, one missing, after Haiti earthquake

LES CAYES, Haiti (CNS) – The magnitude 7.2 earthquake that struck Haiti collapsed the bishop’s residence in Les Cayes, killing one priest, leaving one missing and injuring Cardinal Chibly Langlois.

Father Emile Beldor died of his injuries after the Aug. 14 quake. Father Jean-Antoine Coulanges is reported missing. Cardinal Langlois sustained arm and leg injuries; church sources say his life is not in danger.

Voice of America reported that 18 people, assembled for a baptism, were killed in Immaculate Conception Parish church of Les Anglais.

The Haitian civil protection service reported late Aug. 15 that nearly 1,300 people had been killed,



The destroyed Immaculate Conception Church is pictured in Les Anglais, Haiti, Aug. 14, 2021, after a magnitude 7.2 earthquake. (CNS photo/courtesy AVSI)

more than 5,700 were injured and more than 30,250 families needed shelter.

At the Vatican Aug. 15, Pope Francis expressed his condolences and closeness to the Haitian people.

“While I lift up my prayer to

the Lord for the victims, I extend my word of encouragement to the survivors, hoping that the interest of the international community to help might move toward them,” the pope said during his Angelus address.

Bishop Joseph Gontrand Décoste of Jérémie also called on the international Catholic community for help to rebuild. The diocesan cathedral’s roof was ripped off for the second time in less than five years.

“The population is desperate and beleaguered. They are sleeping outside under the trees, in open public spaces, to protect themselves from aftershocks every few hours,” Bishop Décoste told Vatican News. “We are in distress. We are counting on your solidarity, your proximity.”

Diocesan Catholic Schools welcome two new Assistant Superintendents

SCRANTON – As the 2021-2022 academic year gets underway, the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System is welcoming two new Assistant Superintendents after a nationwide search.

In addition to bringing extensive credentials to their new positions, both Charlene Krushinsky and Michael Slesinski are personally vested in Catholic education and are unwavering in their dedication to the transformative nature of all that Catholic schools offer spiritually and academically.

Krushinsky comes to the Diocese of Scranton with more than 30 years experience in education and a vast knowledge of the Catholic school environment as both an educator and administrator. Beginning her educational career as a fourth grade teacher, she spent the last nine years as a principal in Catholic schools in the Diocese of Phoenix.

The mother of three has a Masters in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University and a certificate in Effective Catholic School Administration from the University of Notre Dame and her principal certification from the state of Arizona. She has also been a principal mentor and presenter with the Latino Enrollment Institute at the University of Notre Dame since 2014. The Institute focuses on creating a welcome environment in Catholic schools for Latino families.

"I'm blessed to be here," Krushinsky told *The Catholic Light*.

Having never experienced snow or winter in the northeast, she believes God led her to this point in her career on the East Coast.

"God opened a door and here I am. I trust in God. It's God's will, not our will," she said.

In just her first few weeks in the diocese, Krushinsky already visited all 19 Catholic schools and met with each principal. She will primarily be responsible for curriculum development and principal mentoring.

"I'm anxious and excited to meet the teachers and I can't wait to go back and visit and meet the children," Krushinsky said. "What I love is the history and the deep roots of Catholicism that are here in the Diocese of Scranton."

As an instructional leader, Krushinsky is committed to a growth mindset and has worked with NWEA Map Growth to improve educational outcomes. She also has a proven record of accomplishment in enrollment and fundraising.

Having put three daughters through the Catholic education system, Krushinsky wants parents and families to know that she is always available to them.

"I would love for parents to know that my door is always open. Feel free to call or email with questions or concerns. We're here to support parents in this journey in providing a Catholic education for their child. They are making the right choice, the best choice, they're investing in their child's future," she added.

Michael Slesinski says he is "tremendously excited" to join the Diocese of Scranton's Catholic Schools team.

After beginning his career as an educator more than 15 years ago, Slesinski most recently worked as an administrator at the district and Intermediate Unit level as a Supervisor for Special Education and Director of Special Services.

Slesinski previously worked in the Luzerne Intermediate Unit, East Stroudsburg Area School District, Mountain View School District and the New York City Department of Education. He attended Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of New York his entire life growing up.

As the Diocese of Scranton works to enhance our offerings for students with exceptionalities, Slesinski hopes his knowledge will help all levels of learners in the diocese.

"The idea of being able to bring those tools to schools in our system, so that students who want to be a part of our system can succeed to the greatest extent possible is incredibly exciting for me," Slesinski said.

Slesinski has a Masters in Educational Leadership from Lehman College in New York and anticipates completion of a doctoral degree in Administration and Leadership Studies from East Stroudsburg University this year. He also has obtained a PA Superintendent Letter of Eligibility.

"During the course of the past 15 years of work in education, one of the highlights for me has been working collaboratively with parents and allowing parents to feel comfortable with the different schools where I worked," he added.

In his new role, Slesinski will also focus on technology and school safety initiatives.

"My goal is to take the wonderful things we're already doing in both of those areas and continue to grow them," he said.

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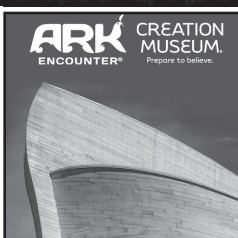
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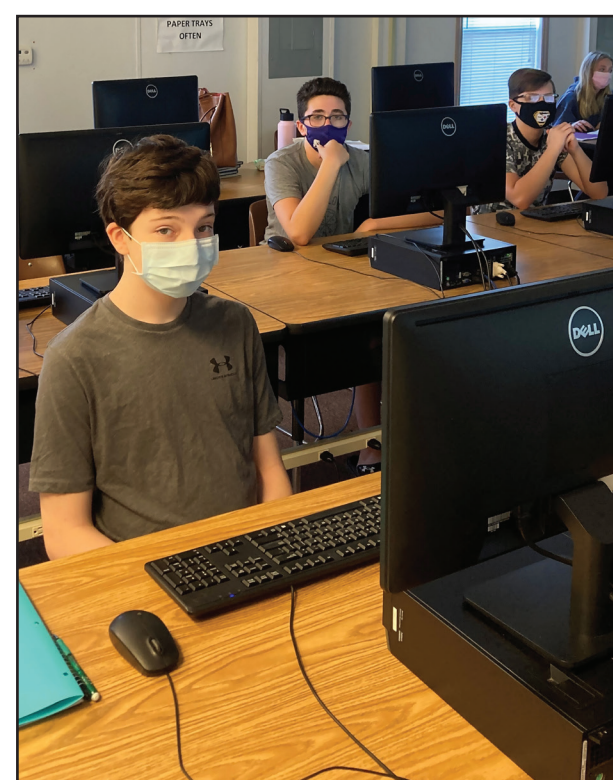
The Diocese of Scranton is committed to educating our students in an environment that is academically excellent and facilitates the development of moral judgment and Christian decision-making. We are proud to share the following successes of our students in the classroom and in their service to others.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



"Second grade here we come!" Students at **La Salle Academy in Jessup** are looking forward to the new school year.



At the Annual Solemn Novena to Saint Ann, Michael Coval, a student at **Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore**, volunteered at all Masses and Novena services for all 10 days, even the 4:30 a.m. Mass on the Feast Day! He had the opportunity to have his photo taken with the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton.



Incoming freshmen participated in the Head Start to High School program at **Holy Cross High School in Dunmore**. Students reviewed concepts in math, computers, English, and Latin in preparation for the start of the upcoming school year.



Mrs. Melissa Skutack, principal of **Holy Rosary School in Duryea**, enjoys some summertime fun with students Gianna Fino, Nicholas Riviello, and Roman Riviello at the annual Nativity of Our Lord Parish picnic.



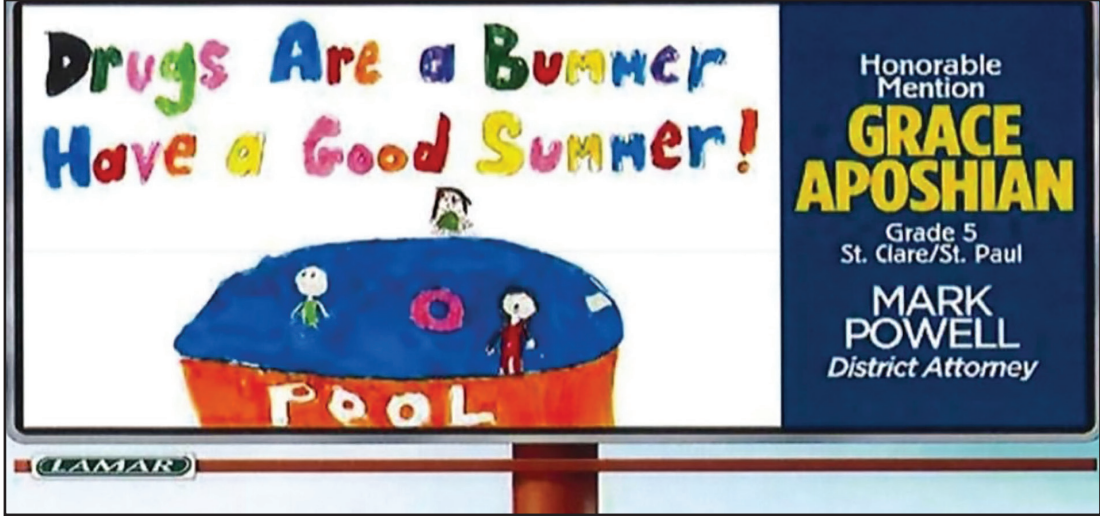
All Saints Academy in Scranton just finished hosting summer enrichment camps, which focused on reading, math, and STREAM activities for various grade levels. Student activities were theme-driven with Kindergarten–2nd graders enjoying "Superheroes," 3rd–5th graders going on a "Camping Adventure," and 6th–8th graders participating in "Sports Camp."



Students, faculty, and staff from **Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre** volunteered their time this summer beautifying classrooms as they prepare to return for the 2021-22 school year.



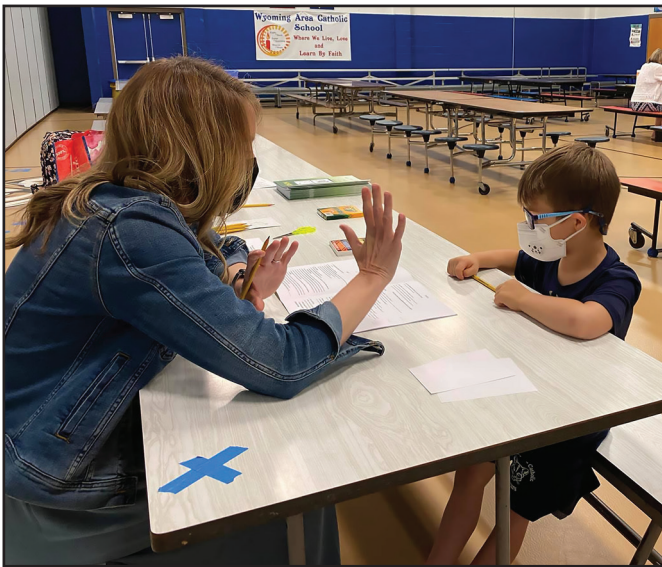
Epiphany School in Sayre recently hosted a school tour for the Class of 1981's 40th reunion. Sister Anne Quigley, first grade teacher, shared information on how the school has changed and grown over the years. Class of '81 member Paul Bednarek said, "We are not only lifelong friends; we are a family."



Congratulations to Grace Aposhian, fifth grade student at **Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton**, for receiving an Honorable Mention in the Lackawanna/Susquehanna Drug and Alcohol Poster Contest. The poster is on display on Green Ridge Street in Scranton.



Teachers at **Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston** recently met to review the new Envision Math Series. The teachers also discussed various methodologies of utilizing differentiated instruction to tailor their lessons to reach all levels of learners.



Mrs. Stephanie DePhillips, the Kindergarten teacher at **Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter**, administers a Kindergarten Readiness test to Pre-Kindergarten student Bryce Cohen as the school prepares for the 2021-22 school year.



Drishti Matta, Chloe O'Donnell and Yianna Papadopoulos, students at **Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg**, put the finishing touches on the school's new mural.



After finishing the book *Twenty-one Elephants and Still Standing* by April Jones, students participating in Storybook STREAM Camp at **Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green** were challenged to design and construct bridges that will hold 21 elephants.



Eighth grader Andrew Walter along with 11th graders Mark Roman and Andrew Mitchell from **Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School in Williamsport** volunteer their time helping to set up classrooms at the Saint John Neumann Elementary School.



Mrs. Charlene Harbach, the Kindergarten teacher at **Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport**, screens a new Kindergarten student for 2021-22.



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Mission Message

Go Forth

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



Here we go again. Yes, once again, the world is seemingly falling apart around us with both environmental and political crises stirring feverishly. We have watched with stomachs turning the events of these past few days: the earthquakes to the already-quaked Haiti and the dramatic events faced by our Afghan brothers and sisters over the weekend.

In many ways, we may feel distant and helpless as we reflect upon our part in both events. We may even confess that we've not done anything to contribute to these events, nor can we do much to alleviate the suffering. Well, I will share with you a favorite saying of mine: "This may not be your fault, but it is your problem."

It's our problem.

Saint Paul reminds us, "if one part of the body suffers, all the parts suffer with it" (1 Corinthians

12:26). Not only do we suffer with our brothers and sisters in Haiti and in Afghanistan and elsewhere, but we are also compelled to act swiftly and decisively on their behalf.

I don't intend to offer solutions or formulas on how to raise up those in the shadows of death, but that does not mean that we are not part of a solution to the global pains that surround us.

Again and again, Jesus reminds us of the missionary role of the Church. By virtue of our very identity as Christians, we are a people that go forth into the world and preach the Gospel, who sow seeds of unity and peace, who demand that each person be treated with the utmost dignity and respect. That is our call; that is our responsibility.

As you have heard me say before — and perhaps tire of hearing it — the missionary spirit of the Church is so aptly applied in the Dismissal given at Holy Mass. We are told, "Go in peace." And we respond, "Thanks be to God." Why? What is this exchange all about?

It's not like being dismissed from school or work or another event. It's not that we're told

"OK, you can go home now." The Dismissal at Mass is a missionary one. It means, go forth and proclaim the Gospel, be who you are...quite literally, change the world.

That is the key to these issues. No one person can make a desperate situation in Les Cayes, Kabul, or Scranton, for that matter, better; however, we can as a group of faithful people make a difference for change and alleviate the suffering of many.

Our Catholic faith demands that we work together for the good of the other, whether Jew or Greek, slave or free, man or woman (cf. Galatians 3:28). We are not alone, and therefore no person should be distant from our love and compassion.

The words of the book of Ecclesiastes offer a profound challenge, to see and appreciate how we are to work together for good: "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!"

We must lift each other up. This is not our fault, but it is our problem. Go forth.

Apostleship of Prayer

Papal Intention for September 2021

An Environmentally Sustainable Lifestyle —

We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

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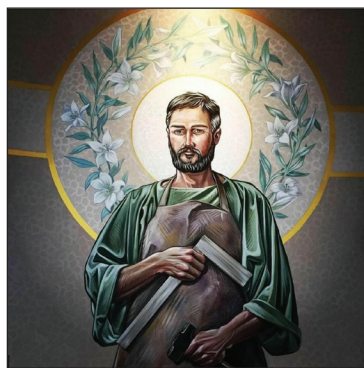
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Saint Joseph Oblates to honor Saint Joseph the Worker with Tridium of Masses during Labor Day Weekend

PITTSTON — The Congregation of the Oblates of Saint Joseph will hold their annual celebration honoring Saint Joseph the Worker with a Tridium of Masses over the Labor Day Weekend on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 3-5, at 7 p.m. in the Oblates Chapel, located on Route 315 in Laffin.

Three permanent deacons serving in the Diocese of Scranton are the scheduled preachers for this year's Tridium: Deacons Jim Rose, Andre Kabacinski and Alan Baranski.

Devotional prayers will be



offered to Saint Joseph following every Mass, with special intentions for all workers, the unemployed and underemployed.

A special Mass will be

celebrated on the morning of Labor Day, Sept. 6, at 10:30 a.m., with Father John V. Polednak, Diocesan Vicar for Clergy, serving as principal celebrant and homilist.

Saint Joseph Oblate priests of the area will concelebrate the Eucharistic liturgy.

All Masses will be broadcast live on JMJ Catholic Radio (www.jmj750.com) and livestream on Facebook: <http://www.osjseminary.com>.

For more information, contact the office of the Oblates of Saint Joseph at (570) 654-7542 or email: osjseminary@comcast.net.

Enthronement Guild to host September 11 Healing Mass

LAFLIN—The Enthronement Guild of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary in the Scranton Diocese will host a Mass of Healing on “Patriot Day,” Saturday, Sept. 11, at 5:30 p.m. at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laffin, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States in 2001.

Saint Joseph Oblate Father



Fr. Joseph Sibilano, OSJ

Joseph Sibilano will serve as celebrant of the Eucharistic liturgy, which will offer prayers for spiritual healing for America and physical healing for the

ill, elderly and infirm.

The Sacred Heart Singers, directed by Ernie Pappa, will provide music ministry for the Mass, beginning with a prelude of contemporary selections.

All faithful are welcome to attend the Healing Mass as a solemn remembrance of the day that holds special significance for the country.

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.”

The Fatima Journey began on May 15 to commemorate the 104th anniversary of the First Apparition of Fatima in Portugal in 1917, and continues with monthly Rosary rallies until Oct. 16, in celebration of the last Marian apparition at

Fatima that year.

Prayer rallies and Rosary Evenings are hosted throughout the Diocese and include the Rosary with chanted scriptural mysteries, Fatima prayers and hymns.

Upcoming Marian Devotion events are scheduled as follows:

First Friday Rosary and Mass — Sept. 3, beginning at 6:30 p.m., hosted at Saint Lucy Parish in West Scranton.

Outdoor Rosary Recitation — Sept. 11 at noon, held on the

grounds of the Basilica Shrine of Saint Ann (near the Candle Grotto) on Saint Ann St., West Scranton. Those attending should provide their own chairs.

Third Monday of the Month Rosary — Sept. 20, from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laffin.

To host a Rosary rally/service event or for more information, contact Ernie Pappa at (570) 241-8171 or email: singtomary@aol.com.

Pro-Life ‘Remembrance Day’ September 18

The Diocese of Scranton will participate in the ninth annual National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children on Saturday, Sept. 18, when pro-life Americans will honor the memory of the nearly 61 million unborn victims of abortion since its legalization in 1973.

Diocesan observances on Sept. 18 will include a Memorial Service for Victims of Abortion to be held at 11 a.m. at Mount Olivet

Cemetery, 612 Mount Olivet Road, Carverton.

The pro-life gathering will take place at Mount Olivet’s Wyoming Valley Knights of Columbus “Tomb for the Unborn,” located at the top of the hill on the cemetery grounds.

During the memorial observance, the Rosary will be recited in remembrance of all aborted babies. All faithful are welcome to attend.

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Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese

Red Cross Blood Drive — AUG. 19, hosted by St. John Vianney Parish at the Corpus Christi Church worship site, 704

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Pigs-in-a-Blanket Dinner

AUG. 21, sponsored by Blessed Sacrament Parish, 215 Rebecca St., Throop; dinner served from noon to 7 p.m. in the parish hall (take-outs available). Event also includes potato pancake sale, theme basket raffle, and cash drawing. For dinner tickets, contact the parish office at (570) 489-1963.

Weekly Bereavement Support Group Sessions — SEPT. 8-29, series of weekly meetings, addressing topics dealing with the grief process in order for participants to find healing; Bereavement Support Group meets on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave., Scranton (across from St. Peter's Cathedral). Anyone interested in attending is asked to contact the Cathedral Parish office at (570) 344-7231.

Annual Lebanese Festival — SEPT. 12, hosted by St. Anthony & St. George Maronite Church, 311 Park Ave., Wilkes-Barre; held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Featuring authentic Lebanese food and pastries, grand raffle cash prizes, theme basket raffle drawings (including basket of cheer), DJ

musical entertainment, children's games/prizes and pictures with super heroes.

Annual Flea Market — SEPT. 18-19 & 25, sponsored by St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Old Forge; held in the church hall, 320 Vine St., Old Forge. Three-day flea market hours: Saturday, Sept. 18, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, Sept. 19 (half-price sale), 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and Saturday, Sept. 25 (bag & box sale), 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sale features antiques, household goods, furniture and children's items; also includes a variety of ethnic foods, baked goods and refreshments for purchase.

Fall Fling — SEPT. 25, sponsored by Saint John Bosco Parish in Conyngham; held from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the parish gymnasium. Event features huge flea market and homemade food sale. For more information, call (570) 788-1997 ext. 3.

Drive-Thru Potato Pancake Fest — SEPT. 25 & 26, sponsored by the Men's Club of Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, 420 Main Road, Hanover Township; take-out sale will be held on Saturday and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. Cost: eight potato pancakes for \$10; limit is 40 pancakes per vehicle. Men's Club cash raffle drawing is on Sunday at 6 p.m. For more information, call (570) 823-6242 or visit: www.exhc.org.

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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IHM Sisters to resume series of virtual prayer evenings

SCRANTON — The Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters will resume their monthly "Evenings of Prayer with the Sisters of IHM" on Wednesday, Sept. 8, the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The ongoing series of prayer devotions celebrates a specific theme each month relating to IHM history and the religious community's charism.

Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the Evenings of Prayer are offered on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. via videostreaming. Participants may access the devotions at: https://



video.ibm.com/channel/ihm-tv.

The theme for the September prayer service is: "New Beginnings — Marian Prayer."

For more information, contact the IHM Sisters in Scranton at (570) 346-5404 or communications@sistersofihm.org.

Parish Bazaar, Picnic & Festivals Listing

Saint Juliana Rock Lake Picnic — Aug. 21. Sponsored by Saint Katharine Drexel Parish, the annual summer festival will be held from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on the grounds of Saint Juliana Church, 2048 Creamton Drive (Route 247), Rock Lake, followed by the celebration of Mass at 7:30 p.m. Church picnic includes chicken barbecue dinner beginning at noon, with eat-in or take-out service; flea market from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; pierogi, pie and bake sales; traditional refreshments, raffle drawings, games and prizes. For more information, call (570) 798-2539.

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-a-blanket, ziti & meatballs, potato pancakes, clam chowder, sausage & peppers, and funnel cakes; numerous games and activities.


Saint Martha Church in Fairmount Springs — Sept. 4 & 5. Church picnic held on Saturday, 5 to 11 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 11 p.m., on the grounds of Saint Martha’s, 260 Bonnieville Road, Fairmount Springs (Stillwater). Saturday’s festivities begin at 5 p.m. following the celebration of the Vigil Mass at 4 p.m. Summer festival includes live musical entertainment both days; homemade ethnic foods, including pierogi and halushki (with homemade noodles), potato pancakes, clam chowder, pigs-in-a-blanket and other picnic favorites; games for all ages; and indoor country store bargains.

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.

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Montoursville — Sept. 17 & 18, from 5 to 9 p.m. Annual festival held on the parish grounds at 100 Walnut St., Montoursville. Friday night features complete barbecue chicken dinner and entertainment by Leo and KG Family Traditions Band from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday night is “Polish Night,” featuring homemade pierogi, stuffed cabbage and halushki; the contemporary Christian band Truth to Bare will perform from 6 to 9 p.m. Two-night event also includes children’s games, train ride, basket raffle, pumpkin stand, wine and cake wheels. Traditional picnic foods include hot sausage, hamburgers & hot dogs, French fries, funnel cakes, kettle corn, fresh-squeezed lemonade, Bruster’s Ice Cream and homemade pies. 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.

Saint John Vianney Parish Harvest Festival in Scott Township — Oct. 3. Sunday Fall festival hosted at Corpus Christi Church, 704 Montdale Road, Montdale (Scott Twp.); featuring home-cooked turkey dinner served from noon to 5 p.m. (take-outs available). Ticket cost: adults, \$13; children, \$6. Festival also includes homemade baked goods, monetary raffle drawing, and bountiful array of theme baskets.

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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						EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Encore)		
2:00 AM	ICONS SPOTLIGHT		EWTN GALLERY					EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY
2:30 AM	THEY MIGHT BE SAINTS	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE	EWTN GALLERY	SPECIALS	SPECIALS	LIFE ON THE ROCK	BATTLE READY	THE WILL OF GOD		
3:00 AM	EWTN GALLERY								DEFENDING LIFE	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY (Call in thurs)
3:30AM		REFURBISHING THE SOUL	REASONS TO BELIEVE						BOB AND PENNY LORD	
4:00 AM	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	A1	GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR A HAPPY LIFE	REAL LIFE CATHOLIC	FORGOTTEN HERITAGE	LIFE IS WORTH LIVING	GK CHESTERTON			
4:30 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		
5:00 AM	THE REFORMATION	CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN	REAL LIFE CATHOLIC	CATHOLIC SPHERE	EWTN ORIGINAL PRODUCTIONS			THE CHOICES WE FACE	CATHOLICS COME HOME	
5:30 AM	ANGELUS WITH POPE FRANCIS									
6:00 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					MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE	LIVE WITH PASSION	FOCUS	MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE CLASSICS
10:30 AM		CHOICES WE FACE	OFOD OR SPECIALS	ST ANN'S WEEKLY NOVENA	CHOICES WE FACE	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY CALL IN	ANIMATED STORIES FROM THE BIBLE			
11:00 AM	EWTN NEWS IN-DEPTH	THEY MIGHT BE SAINTS						TERESA OF AVILA	SAINTS FOR TODAY	EUCCHARISTIC JOURNEY
11:30 AM										
12:00 PM	SUNDAY MASS (Encore)	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, LIVE AT 12:10 p.m. "DIOCESAN DATEBOOK" airs before and after Mass.					EWTN DAILY MASS (Encore)			
12:30PM	(1:10PM) 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	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, (Encore)					ROSARY FROM LOURDES			
4:00 PM	VATICANO	THE HOLY ROSARY DIOCESAN DATEBOOK					SUNDAY VIGIL MASS ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL			
4:30 PM	SAVORING OUR FAITH	LUCY AND FRIENDS	BUG TIME ADVENTURES	TRUTH IN THE HEART	MY CATHOLIC FAMILY	THE FRIAR				
5:00 PM	THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL	EWTN BOOKMARK	THE CHOICES WE FACE	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE	GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR A HAPPY LIFE	THEY MIGHT BE SAINTS	THE REFORMATION			
5:30 PM	SUNDAY PASSIONIST MASS	SPECIALS					REASONS TO BELIEVE			
6:00 PM	SUNDAY MASS FROM ST. PETERS CATHEDRAL	EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Live)					THE JUORNEY HOME			
6:30 PM	SUNDAY MASS	CATHOLICS COME HOME	REAL LIFE CATHOLICS	CHURCH UNIVERSAL	VATICANO	WHAT IS GOD'S WILL?				
7:00 PM		THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, (Encore)					DAILY MASS			
7:30PM	(8:20) LITANY OF SACRED HEART	THE HOLY ROSARY DIOCESAN DATEBOOK								
8:00 PM		THE JOURNEY HOME (Live)	OFOD OR SPECIALS (CAN BE 90 MINUTES) MUSIC AND SPOKEN WORD	EWTN LIVE	THE WORLD OVER (Live)	EWTN NEWS IN DEPTH	EWTN CINEMA			
8:30 PM	CATHOLICS COME HOME									
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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Area businesses assist Scranton kitchen & pantry



In the left photo, staff from the Wright Center donated personal care items and drawstring bags to clients of Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen and Saint Francis Client Choice Food Pantry in Scranton on July 22. Pictured making the donation are, from left: Marah Lettieri and Gerri McAndrew from the Wright Center; and Stanley Burton, a longtime volunteer at the Saint Francis Client Choice Food Pantry, which is open to the public Tuesday thru Friday from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. The photo at right depicts team members from J. Crew Factory Store 153 at the Shoppes at Montage, Moosic, who provided expert help in folding and sorting clothing donations at the Saint Francis of Assisi Free Clothing Store on July 25. Volunteers shown are, from left: Janelle Roche, Kaitlyn Minutes, James Shygelski, Ruth Grimaldi, Colleen Ducas and Christine Mackie. The Saint Francis Free Clothing Store is open Tuesday thru Thursday from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Knights bestow Catholic education scholarship



Knights of Columbus Council 7622 in Jermyn have established a scholarship program to benefit a graduating eighth-grade student from La Salle Academy in Jessup who plans to continue his or her Catholic education in Lackawanna County at either Holy Cross High School or Scranton Preparatory School. Students receiving the \$1,000 scholarship award are selected based upon criteria put forth by La Salle and Council 7622, including academics, leadership, financial need, courage, honor, patriotism, and service to God and community. This year's recipient is Olivia Strazzeri, who was also presented

with a Certificate of Award. Shown at the scholarship presentation are, from left: Council Deputy Grand Knight Mario Fitzgerald; Kelly Strazzeri, mother; Olivia; Grand Knight Tony Spataro; and Lou Strazzeri, father.

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Olyphant borough honors Monsignor for years of ministry



(Photo courtesy of Lauren Telep)

The Lackawanna County borough of Olyphant recently honored Monsignor Michael Delaney upon his departure as longtime pastor of the community's Holy Cross Parish at Saint Patrick Church to fulfill his new pastoral duties at Our Lady of the Snows Parish in Clarks Summit. To express the borough's appreciation for Monsignor Delaney's nine years of ministry there, while he also served as pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish in nearby Throop, Olyphant Mayor John Sedlak and the Olyphant Borough Council presented a plaque dedicated to the priest in gratitude for his "many years of encouragement and support to the community, its citizens and special events." Monsignor Delaney is pictured during the presentation at the foot of the steps of the imposing Olyphant Catholic church of Saint Patrick on Delaware Street with Mayor Sedlak, left, and Councilman Robert Hudak with the honorary



Memorial scholarship awarded

Robert Gentile, a recent eighth-grade graduate of La Salle Academy in Jessup, received the 2021 Katie Sokoloski Gilroy Scholarship to assist in continuing his Catholic education at Holy Cross High School in Dunmore. Established to honor the memory of Katie Sokoloski Gilroy, a beloved teacher and graduate of Bishop O'Hara High School, the scholarship is awarded to an incoming freshman student at Holy Cross, which is the former Bishop O'Hara High School. Robert is pictured with Father Gerard McGlone, pastor of Queen of Angels Parish in Jessup.



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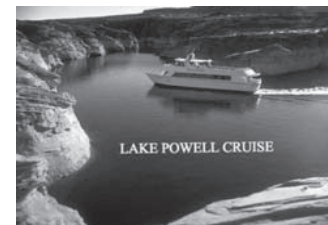
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Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

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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The Knights of Columbus Saint John Neumann/Good Shepherd Council 12571, representing Saint John Neumann Parish in Hawley and its sister Parish of Saint Ann in Shohola, held two "Flags for Heroes" dedication events last month as part of a community tribute to personal heroes, both past and present, in people's lives. The first "field of flags" celebration was held July 10 in Lords Valley. Program highlights included a blessing ceremony presided over by Deacon Nick Ardito, permanent deacon serving the two Pike County parishes; a moving tribute to the Pledge of Allegiance; playing of the National Anthem; and reading of the heroes' names, including military and first-responder personnel, teachers, coaches, mentors, family members and other loved ones. Many of those honored served in the United States' major military conflicts during the 20th century, along with those who fought and sacrificed in the wars on terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan. The name of PA State Trooper, Corporal Bryon Dickson II, was sponsored by State Police from the nearby Blooming Grove barracks, where the Marine veteran was shot and killed in an ambush by a lone gunman on Sept. 12, 2014. A second Flags for Heroes ceremony was held July 17 at the Lackawaxen Fire House. Both public displays of the "flag fields" remained through the end of July, and the personal medallions accompanying each flag were given to the sponsors as a keepsake.



Wyoming Valley Knights 'Rosary Rally' **September 26 at Larksville Parish**

The combined Knights of Columbus Councils of Wyoming Valley will host their 44th annual Rosary Rally on Sunday, Sept. 26, at Saint John the Baptist Church, 126 Nesbitt St., Larksville, where Father Gerald Gurka serves as pastor.

The Knights will begin the Rosary Procession with the Our Lady of Fatima Statue at 2 p.m. on the parish grounds, followed by participating faithful.

Rosary prayers are offered in sacrifice as reparation for sin and for the salvation of souls, as requested by the Blessed Mother at Fatima in Portugal in 1917.

Those unable to process are invited to go directly to the church at 3 p.m., at which time the Knights will lead the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary. Celebration of Sunday's Eucharistic liturgy will immediately follow at 3:20 p.m.

Refreshments will be served after the Mass, and all faithful are welcome to participate.

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Deacon's Responding to Suicide book named 'Resource of Year'

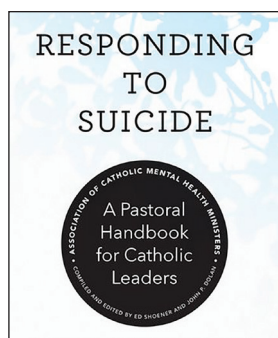
SCRANTON — *Responding to Suicide: A Pastoral Handbook for Catholic Leaders*, majorly attributed to Deacon Ed Shoener of the Cathedral of Saint Peter Parish, has been named Resource of the Year by the Association of Catholic Publishers.

The book earned a first-place award in resources for ministry in the ACP's 2020 Excellence in Publishing Awards, which qualified it as a Resource of the Year finalist.

Recognized and hailed as an invaluable contribution in the arena of Catholic mental health ministry, particularly with regard to suicide, *Responding to Suicide* was compiled and edited by Deacon Shoener and Auxiliary Bishop John P. Dolan of San Diego, both of whom contributed to the work.

One member of ACP's five-judge panel emphasized that one of the strengths of the book is that it focuses on a timely topic presented in an accessible way. Another judge noted that it explores the psycho-social-spiritual aspects of suicide in a balanced and pastoral, making the book a necessary resource for those in parish ministry.

"We so much appreciate ACP's recognition of *Responding*



to Suicide as Resource of the Year," Karey Circosta, publisher and CEO of Ave Maria Press, said. "The Association of Catholic Health Ministers, Deacon Ed Shoener and Bishop John P. Dolan created a unique and much-needed book that allows pastoral leaders to better understand suicide and more effectively minister to those who are grieving. Their work is a blessing to the Church."

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

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

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Evening of Adoration planned



All faithful are welcome to participate in an evening of Eucharistic Adoration the Scranton Diocesan Offices for Parish Life and Vocations are sponsoring on Thursday, Aug. 26, beginning at 7 p.m. in the Church of Saint Gregory in Clarks Green. The devotional event will include music, a spiritual reflection offered by Monsignor Michael Delaney, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and a fellowship social.

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 Daggers, Swords, Bayonets, Knives, Pistols, Rifles,
 Equipment, Pictures, Letters, Currency, Coins, etc...

Contact Sam at (570) 814-8287
 Please leave a message if I'm unavailable.

(I am a private collector not a dealer and would be honored to purchase your military souvenirs to display in my collection.)