

The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021

YOUR GIFTS in Action



**Diocese of Scranton to launch 2021
Diocesan Annual Appeal this weekend**

SCRANTON – When Thomas and Stephanie Dzwonczyk talk about the importance of the Diocesan Annual Appeal, they speak from a personal perspective. Their son, Thomas, is a seminarian for the Diocese of Scranton who recently started his second year at Saint Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Md.

Through their son, Tom and Stephanie have met all nine of the current seminarians for the diocese. This year, the Dzwonczyks are one of six local couples serving as regional chairs for the Appeal.

"These pious, dynamic, engaging and talented young men give us great confidence in the future for the Diocese of Scranton and the Catholic Church as a whole," Thomas said. "They will one day lead us in worship, administer the Sacraments and preside over the weddings and funerals of those we love."

Gifts to the Diocesan Annual Appeal have a wide-ranging, significant impact throughout not only the diocese but also the entire community of northeastern and north central Pennsylvania. Providing assistance to seminarians who are in priestly formation is just one of the many things that the Appeal supports.



Parishioners of Most Holy Trinity Parish in Susquehanna County gather together to pack lunch bags for children in need. The parish received a Social Justice Grant from the Diocesan Annual Appeal this year to launch the community project.

"No one with a true calling to the priesthood should be turned away for lack of funds," Thomas added.

The 2021 Diocesan Annual Appeal: *Rising Together in Christ* will begin in all parishes in the Diocese of Scranton on Sept. 18 and 19. This year's goal is \$4.5 million.

An Appeal video will be shown at Masses and made available on parish websites and Facebook pages. Six regional Appeal videos have been produced to feature ministries funded by the Appeal in each area of the diocese. The videos are all now available on the Diocese of Scranton website.

"The last 18 months have been challenging for all of us. One of the many things the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us is just how interconnected we are and how much we need one another," the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, said. "Through the generosity of Diocesan Annual Appeal donors, we have been able to touch thousands of lives – serving the poor, educating our children and spreading the Gospel message."

Continued on Page 5

Diocese to hold special collection for Haiti & Hurricane Ida recovery Sept. 25 & 26

SCRANTON – The Diocese of Scranton will take up a special collection in all parishes to help the victims of several recent disasters on the weekend of Sept. 25 & 26.

In a letter to pastors, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, explained the funds would be used to assist those impacted by a recent earthquake and tropical storm that hit Haiti as well as the countless people who have been impacted by Hurricane Ida here in the United States. Hurricane Ida made landfall in the Gulf Coast and moved inland as a tropical storm, causing damage and suffering in many states.

All funds received will become a part of the Bishops Emergency Disaster Fund and will be used to support the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for pastoral and reconstruction needs of the Church as well as efforts of Catholic Charities USA and Catholic Relief Services, the

official relief agencies of the U.S. Catholic Church.

While recognizing the continuing COVID-19 pandemic has imposed financial challenges on many parishioners, the bishop stressed that there is a growing need in communities impacted by both disasters and expressed hope that people will respond in such a time of need.

HURRICANE IDA'S IMPACT WIDESPREAD

Hurricane Ida made landfall in Louisiana Aug. 29 as one of the most powerful storms to strike the state. It caused extensive damage in the Gulf Coast region, knocking out power, destroying homes, buildings and churches, and causing extensive flooding.



Debris surrounds the remains of the St. Famille du Toirac church in Toirac, Haiti, Aug. 16, 2021. Twenty people were killed when a magnitude 7.2 earthquake hit during a funeral at the church. (CNS photo/Laura Gottesdiener, Reuters)

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The Catholic Light

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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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October is Respect Life Month

In October, the Catholic Church in the United States celebrates Respect Life Month, and the first Sunday of October is designated as Respect Life Sunday.

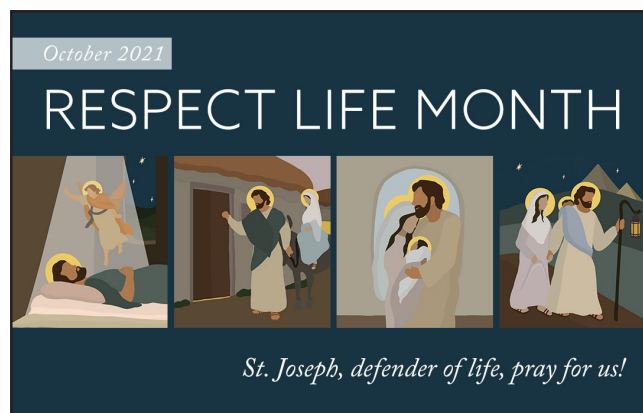
This year, during the Year of Saint Joseph, the faithful are encouraged to reflect upon – and pray to – the protector of the Holy Family.

The humble and often hidden carpenter of Nazareth accompanied Mary in her pregnancy, assisted at the birth of the Messiah in a stable, presented Jesus in the Temple, fled with his family far from their homeland to protect them, and lovingly raised Jesus as his own son in the years to come.

While the angel of the Lord appeared to Mary to announce that she would bring forth the Savior of the world, it was revealed to Joseph in a series of dreams how God's plans would be brought to fulfillment.

As Pope Francis highlights, "God trusted Joseph, as did Mary, who found in him someone who would not only save her life, but would always provide for her and her child" (*Patris corde* 5).

Like every other human family, the Holy Family had to confront real and concrete challenges. Yet, "in every situation, Joseph declared his own 'fiat'" (*Patris corde* 3). His "yes" to the Lord meant that regardless of the hardship and personal



sacrifice to himself, he consistently chose to put the needs of Mary and Jesus before his own. Joseph's devotion helps reveal to us our own call to show special care for

the lives of those whom God has entrusted to us.

During this Year of St. Joseph, each of us can find in him "an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble" (*Patris corde Intro*). Joseph shows us how to say "yes" to life, despite our own fears, frailties, and weaknesses. For it is Joseph who was "chosen by God to guide the beginnings of the history of redemption. He was the true 'miracle' by which God saves the child and his mother" (*Patris corde* 5).

May we, too, be miracles in the lives of those who are most in need, especially at the beginning and end of life.

Bishop Bambera to celebrate Respect Life Sunday Mass at Cathedral of Saint Peter Oct. 3

October is Respect Life Month and the first Sunday in October is designated as Respect Life Sunday. The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate Respect Life Sunday Mass on Oct. 3 at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Mass is open to the public. Faithful from across the Diocese of Scranton are invited to attend Respect Life Sunday Mass and focus on God's precious gift of human life and our responsibility to care for, protect and defend the lives of our brothers and sisters.

For those unable to attend in-person, the Mass will be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website and social media platforms.

Pope Francis says Benedict rightly warned against not respecting life

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis praised his predecessor's courage in denouncing the danger of people no longer respecting or understanding the sacredness of human life.

Pope Francis highlighted retired Pope Benedict XVI's insistence that Europe's renewal comes through its respect for every human life.

The pope's remarks were part of an introduction he wrote for a new book, "The True Europe. Identity and Mission," which compiles selected texts by Joseph Ratzinger/Benedict XVI on the theme of Europe. The book, currently in Italian, is one of a series of "selected texts" being published by Cantagalli press and coincides with the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Holy See and the European Union.

Vatican News republished a copy of the introduction Sept. 12.

"Beyond the many words and grandiose proclamations, today, the idea of respect for every human life is increasingly lost in Europe, starting with the loss of awareness of its sacredness, that is, precisely from the obfuscation of the awareness that we are creatures of God," Pope Francis wrote.

"Benedict XVI has not been afraid over the years of denouncing with



Pope Francis greets retired Pope Benedict XVI at the retired pope's residence during a visit with new cardinals after a consistory at the Vatican Nov. 28, 2020. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)

great courage and far-sightedness the many manifestations of this dramatic renunciation of the idea of creation" and its consequences, he wrote.

And yet, the retired pope also showed his hope and faith in knowing humanity will always be restless until they find God and discover his truth, Pope Francis wrote. He added that the volume clearly explains the current reality but without leaving the reader feeling pessimistic or sad.

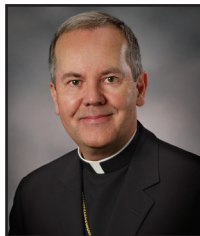
On the contrary, Pope Francis said Pope Benedict explains the reasons for his hope, saying the desire and search for God is profoundly inscribed in each human soul and cannot disappear.

"Certainly we can forget God for a time, lay him aside and concern ourselves with other things, but God never disappears," Pope Benedict said in a 2012 interview, published in the book. "St. Augustine's words are true: We men are restless until we have found God. This restlessness also exists today and is an expression of the hope that man may, ever and anew, even today, start to journey toward this God."

Pope Francis wrote this was the secret for how to have hope during these difficult times and "Pope Benedict XVI shows us the path to take for Europe's renewal."

Life is a gift to respect

*A message from the
Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera*



Dear Friends,

This year, as we traditionally set aside the month of October to reflect upon the sublime treasure that is ours in the gift of human life, we are invited to focus upon Saint Joseph and his place within the Holy Family. As the great defender of the life of our Savior, Jesus, and of Mary, his mother, we implore his intercession as we seek to live as disciples of Jesus who treasure God's gift of life.

In the gospel of Saint Matthew, Saint Joseph is described as a man of deep faith, who, despite his uncertainty about the events surrounding the birth of Jesus, is willing to set aside his own judgments and instead place his trust unwaveringly in the power of God. For Saint Joseph, God was in control and that was all that mattered.

During the course of the past year and a half, our world has battled the coronavirus that has taken the lives of over 4.5 million people throughout the world, including over 650-thousand Americans. For all of the different perspectives that

have been brought to bear upon this pandemic, one thing is clear. Despite our creativity, our ingenuity and our resolve to care for our world and to determine our future according to our own plan, we are not in control!

That power, as Saint Joseph reminds us, belongs to God.

Sadly, however, we haven't yet learned this valuable lesson as we continually fail to fully appreciate the treasure that we have been given in the gift of life. It is rather paradoxical that in reflecting upon all of the efforts being engaged to confront a virus that has the potential to destroy life, we're often conflicted in our perspective upon this unique and singular gift of God. In the midst of the current health crisis, we continually set aside convenience and personal comfort and go to great lengths to protect our children, our families and our neighbors. And so we should! Yet, at the same time, many of us fail to acknowledge or care that the very foundational building blocks of a just world for all forms of human life are being undermined at an alarming rate.

RESPECT LIFE MONTH

October 2021

*St. Joseph, defender of life,
pray for us!*

respectlife.org/celebrate



October 2021

RESPECT LIFE MONTH

St. Joseph, defender of life, pray for us!



A Prayer to Saint Joseph, Defender of Life

Dearest Saint Joseph,

At the word of an angel, you lovingly took Mary into your home. As God's humble servant, you guided the Holy Family on the road to Bethlehem, welcomed Jesus as your own son in the shelter of a manger, and fled far from your homeland for the safety of both Mother and Child.

We praise God that as their faithful protector, you never hesitated to sacrifice for those entrusted to you. May your example inspire us also to welcome, cherish, and safeguard God's most precious gift of life.

Help us to faithfully commit ourselves to the service and defense of human life—especially where it is vulnerable or threatened.

Obtain for us the grace to do the will of God in all things.

Amen.

Threats to human life increasingly abound in our world today, most notably the taking of innocent life through the scourge of abortion.

Yet, we're also confronted with proposals and policies that favor assisted suicide, euthanasia, infanticide and human cloning. These too are dire threats to our belief in the dignity and value of the human person—as are the death penalty, human trafficking, unjust immigration laws and the dire consequences of war.

Sadly, while many of us as Catholics and people of good will are deeply committed to the protection of life in its earliest moments at conception, we can often be somewhat arbitrary in our assessment of other lives and their value and worth.

Unfortunately, brothers and sisters, such an approach towards the sanctity of human life has consequences. We've experienced the slippery slope that ensued following the legalization of abortion almost 50 years ago. When we rationalize why the taking of one life should be allowed, every life is in jeopardy.

Several months ago, in reflecting upon the growing lack of respect for our global environment, Pope Francis linked his concerns for our common home to an ever-diminishing sense of respect for the gift of human life.

Pope Francis stated, "Everything is connected. It is the same indifference, the same selfishness, the same greed, the same pride, the same claim to be the master and despot of the world that lead human beings, on the one hand, to destroy species and plunder natural resources, and on the other, to exploit misery, to

abuse the work of women and children, to overturn the laws of the family cell, to no longer respect the right to human life from conception to natural end."

Brothers and sisters, as Pope Francis has noted so well, we are all "connected" and we are all a part of one—and the same—human family. As such, may we be humble enough to set aside the divisions that separate us and to embrace the lessons that we have learned during the course of the global pandemic that continues to ravage our world.

Though well beyond our ability to determine or control, life, from the moment of conception to natural end, is a gift to treasure and respect. We do so, however, not solely through the words we speak or by our self-righteous criticisms of those whose beliefs may appear to be different from our own. We treasure and respect life best when we set aside our differences and, within the lived experiences that we've been given, begin to treat one another with reverence and dignity as children of one and the same God.

Saint Joseph, defender of life, pray for us!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

+ Joseph C. Bambera

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

Seminarian takes step closer to the Sacred Priesthood

SCRANTON – Seminarian Michael J. Boris stood before the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, on Aug. 19 and affirmed his desire to advance along the path toward the priesthood.

Bishop Bambera served as presider, principal celebrant and homilist for Solemn Vespers with the Rite of Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders as well as the Celebration of the Eucharist with the Institution of Acolyte for Michael J. Boris at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

In the Rite of Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders, a man who aspires to ordination publicly declares his will to offer himself to God and to the Church for sacred ministry. During the rite, the bishop asks the candidate two questions about his resolve to complete preparations for the priesthood. If the candidate answers these questions affirmatively, he is accepted as a candidate for holy orders.

Acolyte is the last step before ordination. Acolytes serve at the altar, assisting priests and deacons during liturgical celebrations. They may also purify the sacred vessels after Holy Communion.

In his homily, Bishop Bambera reflected on a Gospel passage of Saint Luke (Luke 5:1-11) which finds Jesus beginning his ministry by calling a simple fisherman, Simon Peter, to be one of his most trusted friends.

“Today, he calls you to walk with him in a very special way,” Bishop Bambera said to Michael J. Boris.

The bishop said that Jesus accepted Simon Peter as he was, taking him as he found him with a heart that was open.

“Michael, remember that Jesus accepts and calls us as we all are also,” the bishop noted.

Bishop Bambera emphasized that Jesus is able to see beyond the brokenness of our lives and invites all of us to trust at a deeper level.

“Jesus responds to you Michael, in the very same way that he responded to his first followers. He calls you to cast the net of God’s love and mercy upon the waters of this time and



During the Institution of Acolyte, candidate Michael J. Boris goes before Bishop Bambera to receive a vessel with the bread to be consecrated. The bishop says, “Make your life worthy of your service at the table of the Lord and of his Church.” (Photos/Mike Melisky)

place. He calls you to extend your hands and grasp the lives of those who struggle to find a way forward. He calls you to embrace them with compassion, mercy and forgiveness.”



Family members of Michael J. Boris participate in Solemn Vespers at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on Aug. 19, 2021.

Scranton daughter professes final vows



A Scranton native was among three Sisters of Christian Charity who made their perpetual profession of vows during the recent Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Mother at the Chapel of Mary Immaculate of Mallinckrodt Convent in Mendham, N.J.

Christian Charity Sister Mathilde DeLucy joined fellow religious Sisters Bridget Harakai and Clara Kim in professing final vows into the hands of SCC Provincial Superior, Sister Joann Marie Aumand.

During the week leading up to their perpetual profession ceremony, the three Sisters participated in a spiritual retreat led by Holy Cross Father Daniel Issing, a theology professor at King’s College in Wilkes-Barre.

Born in Scranton, Sister Mathilde entered the Sisters of Christian Charity from Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Harrisburg. She earned her bachelor’s degrees in music education and Catholic studies from Seton Hall University, South Orange, N.J., and currently teaches music at Saint Francis Cathedral School, Metuchen, N.J.

Pictured outside the Mallinckrodt Convent in Mendham are, from left: Christian Charity Sister Mary Joseph Schultz, general councilor and tertianship director; Christian Charity Sisters Clara Kim and Bridget Harakai; Bishop Kevin J. Sweeney of Paterson, N.J.; and Christian Charity Sisters Mathilde DeLucy and Joann Marie Aumand.

Pope Francis’ Prayer for Vocations

God our Father,
You made each of us
to use our gifts in the Body of Christ.

We ask you to inspire young people
whom you call to priesthood and consecrated life
to courageously follow your will.

Send workers into your great harvest
so that the Gospel is preached,
the poor are served with love,
the suffering are comforted,
and your people are strengthened
by the sacraments.

Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

2021 Diocesan Annual Appeal to begin this weekend in parishes

Continued from Page 1

Because of the pandemic, the traditional In-Pew Commitment Weekend for the Appeal will take place differently. Pledge envelopes will be mailed to parishioners' homes and donors will be asked to bring the envelopes to their churches on the weekend of Oct. 16 and 17.

This year, for the first time, the Diocese of Scranton will also be participating in the national #iGiveCatholic campaign, a special Thanksgiving-season campaign that concludes on Giving Tuesday and allows donors an easy and convenient way to donate.

Gifts to the Appeal have a significant impact to help diocesan ministries serve an increasing number of people in need and provide opportunities to offer programs and services in different ways in response to the pandemic.

There are hundreds of stories of how Appeal funds make a difference throughout the community.

In Pike County for example, Saint Patrick Church in Milford and Saint Joseph Church in Matamoras receive Social Justice Grants to support important projects.

One of several causes the two churches support is Pike County Hands of Hope, a Christ-centered organization dedicated to providing compassion and hope to homeless families by meeting their basic needs of food, clothing and shelter.

With no homeless shelters in Pike County, volunteers respond to dozens of calls for help to their “Hopeline.” Since 2016, the Hopeline has received an average of 249 calls per year. During the pandemic, that number increased significantly.

Behind each call is someone needing assistance.

“We really appreciate the Diocesan Annual Appeal for helping us so much,” Anne French, Pike County Hands of Hope volunteer, said.

In addition to Social Justice Grants that funnel back directly to parishes – donations to the Annual Appeal support many different Diocesan ministries.

Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton serves hundreds of thousands of individuals, families and seniors through its kitchens, food pantries and shelters each year. During the pandemic, the agency met the needs of clients by holding several extra food distributions outside normal food pantry hours.

Appeal gifts also support Diocesan Catholic School teachers and staff as they make the significant changes that are needed to continue to provide a quality, in-person education to our students in the safest possible way.

Donations to the Appeal support the Diocesan Office for Parish Life in its efforts to develop new ways to connect to parishes and reach out to parishioners. In an effort to reach out to our Hispanic brothers and sisters, the Hispanic ministry office recently launched a weekly Spanish Catholic radio show on LaMega Radio, which broadcasts in Scranton and Wilkes-Barre.

Thousands of the faithful who are not able to attend Mass in person continue to watch the broadcast and livestream Masses from the Cathedral of Saint Peter. Since the beginning of the pandemic, and the launch of Mass broadcasts on

the weekends, viewership of Catholic Television has increased by ten times online alone. *The Catholic Light* and information provided on the Diocesan website are also funded by donations to the Appeal.

In addition to assisting our seminarians, gifts to the Appeal also provide care and support for retired and ill Diocesan priests who have dedicated their lives in faithful service to parishioners throughout the diocese.

Donors to the Appeal may designate their gift to any of the ministries listed above.

For more information on the Diocesan ministries supported by gifts to the Annual Appeal, to view one of the regional videos or to make a donation online, visit annualappeal.org.

Gifts may also be made by calling the Diocesan Development Office at (570) 207-2250.

Donations may also be sent to: Diocesan Annual Appeal, 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA, 18503. You may use the form on this page to easily donate to the Annual Appeal.

Giving to the 2021 Diocesan Annual Appeal is easy!

Return this form to:

Diocesan Annual Appeal, 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503

Your Name _____
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Email _____

Please credit my gift to (Parish Name & City) _____

Total amount pledged \$ _____
Enclosed amount \$ _____
Balance to be paid \$ _____



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(Number of months) (month)

Your Signature _____ Date _____

Thank you for considering a gift to the Diocese.

Please make checks payable to: **Diocese of Scranton**

New year begins for Catholic schools

HAZLETON – As the new school begins, there are many new faces filling the halls of Catholic schools across the Diocese of Scranton.

Overall, enrollment in Diocesan schools is currently up nearly nine percent over last year. Approximately 4,400 students have enrolled in the diocese’s 19 schools to date.

“We have once again prepared diligently this summer to open our schools in the safest way for the new year,” Kristen Donohue, Superintendent of Catholic Schools said. “We are excited to open our doors as we did last year to provide an excellent Catholic education in-person, while continuing to share good health. It is humbling to know the result of the efforts of everyone involved in our school communities is that more students will come to experience the transformative nature of a Catholic school.”

At Holy Family Academy in Hazleton, enrollment is up 17-percent this year.

Principal Jason Tribbet believes that is because many people in the community have seen how the Diocese of Scranton Catholic Schools safely managed in-person learning during the COVID-19 pandemic last year. He also credits school families for sharing the benefits of Catholic education.

“Word of mouth is huge. Our existing families are so supportive of our school and getting the word out to members of their church community, their little league teams and different things that take place in the area and spreading the word about Holy Family in a positive way,” he said.

At Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg, enrollment is up 18-percent this year.

Interim principal Sister Dorothy Kibler, I.H.M. says several grades have waiting lists.

“We are getting students who are not of our Catholic faith and we always welcome them,” she said. “We have gotten some new students from as far away as Blakeslee.”

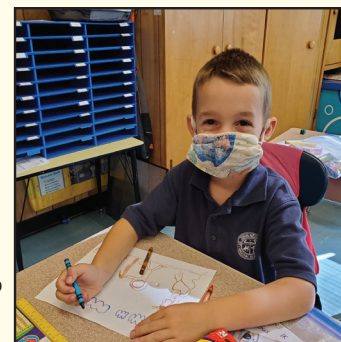
This year, Notre Dame is also pleased to welcome two international students from China. The family recently relocated to the United States because of employment.

“They have blended in very well. We have been so happy to welcome them,” Sister Dorothy added.

This is now the third year that schools have had to face challenges because of the pandemic in some form. Both principals say as the new school year begins, they will not become complacent about health and safety initiatives.

Percentage of Enrollment Increase for 2021-2022 Academic Year

All Saints Academy - 16%
 Good Shepherd Academy - 4%
 Holy Cross High School - 10%
 Holy Family Academy - 17%
 Holy Rosary School - 4%
 La Salle Academy - 13%
 Notre Dame Elementary School - 18%
 Our Lady of Peace School - 8%
 St. Clare/St. Paul School - 28%
 St. John Neumann Elementary School - 15%
 St. John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School - 4%
 St. Jude School - 26%
 St. Mary of Mount Carmel School - 23%
 St. Nicholas/St. Mary School - 12%
 Wyoming Area Catholic School - 10%



Statistics as of Sept. 10, 2021

“I sent out a reminder to our staff this week to continue to follow our safety protocols,” Tribbet said. “The COVID numbers continue to keep increasing in our communities so we have to do our part.”

“Our faculty has been very vigilant about the protocols and making sure that the students are socially distant and wearing their masks. We reinforce the fact that it is to keep ourselves healthy and to keep our friends healthy,” Sister Dorothy added.

While very conscious of the virus,

the new school year continues to allow for greater flexibility as some things begin to return to normal.

All students of Notre Dame Elementary gathered last week to celebrate Mass together in-person in the high school theater. Last year, because of COVID protocols, only a few grades came together at a time and everyone else watched via livestream.

“That was very positive,” Sister Dorothy said. “Everyone participated and you could hear it in them!”

During the 2020-2021 school year, numerous families joined the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System wanting in-person education. As the Diocese of Scranton begins this new school year, several families reflect on their experiences - and why they have now chosen to stay in our Catholic School System.

Todd and Katharine Spanish

Three Children, Daniel, T.J. and Amelia, attend Our Lady of Peace School, Clarks Green

CLARKS GREEN – Katharine and Todd Spanish of Clarks Green have quickly become invested in the Diocese of Scranton’s Catholic School System. During the 2020-2021 academic year, they decided to enroll all three of their children in Our Lady of Peace School.

Daniel, 9, has just entered fourth grade, T.J., 7, has just entered second grade and Amelia, 6, has just entered first grade. When COVID-19 struck, the family sought out in-person instruction and education when their local school district planned to hold virtual classes.

“We felt it was important, at that young critical age, that in-person education was the best for our family,” Todd explained.

The family carefully reviewed the Diocese of Scranton’s “Sharing Good Health” policies and appreciated the increased sanitization efforts, temperature checks at the door and co-horting of classes.

As this new academic year approached, the Spanish family said it was the Catholic values at Our Lady of Peace School that

made them stay in the diocesan school system.

“2020 was a hard year. 2021 was a hard year for everybody and to have the reinforcement of faith, family, community and service in a year that was so tough for so many, it was a no-brainer to continue to educate our children with those values,” Katharine said.

Katharine Spanish also pointed to the benefits of the diocese’s new NWEA Assessments, which help to chart the academic growth of her children over the course of the year.

“It was so interesting for me to watch my child’s growth over the course of the year with that in-person education and seeing them meet or exceed each of those expectations,” she explained.

Daniel Spanish was thankful for being able to attend classes in person.

“I liked social studies,” he said. “We got to do a lot of projects and that was fun. Since I like animals, we also learned a lot about animals.”

His brother, T.J., enjoys reading, math



and art. He also began learning the basics of computer coding through the school’s new BeeBOT technology.

“Those were a favorite of mine,” the

seven year old said. “It looks like a bee and it’s a robot and there are buttons on top where you can program it where to go!”

Jayme and Desiree Galdieri *Daughter Gianna, 7, attends Wyoming Area Catholic School, Exeter*

EXETER – Having both been brought up in Catholic Schools themselves, Jayme and Desiree Galdieri from West Pittston were already familiar with the excellent academic environment that the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System provides.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, they decided to enroll their daughter, Gianna, in first grade at Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Knowing that Gianna is a very social child, the Galdieri family hoped she would benefit from the continued social interaction that in-person education provides when many other school districts were still holding virtual classes. The family wanted to make sure their daughter could remain in school five days a week.

“We were just thrilled with the fact that they didn’t miss a beat,” Desiree Galdieri said.

Gianna, 7, quickly fit into the school environment at Wyoming Area Catholic School.

“All the teachers knew me by the third day,” Gianna explained.

Gianna quickly made friends and fell in love with learning.

“I loved math and spelling,” she said.

Desiree admits she was surprised to learn some of what first graders learn.

“She got an ‘O’ for outstanding in computers on her report card. I asked her what she was doing and she looked at me without skipping a beat and said ‘coding.’ I was like, ‘What? You’re doing what in computers in

first grade?’ She said, ‘coding, 0’s and 1’s.’ She is smarter than I am in computers,” Desiree said with a chuckle.

Both Desiree and Jayme Galdieri work in the healthcare field. They said there was not a single moment during the pandemic where they felt the school environment was unsafe. They praise the teachers and administrators for focusing on every little safety detail to make sure kids remained healthy.

“When they’re greeted in the morning, someone opens the door for them and the classroom doors are opened by teachers. Those are the little things that they have thought enough into to minimize (virus) exposure, to make the kids safer, without the kids every realizing that things were different. It’s astounding,” Desiree said.



Tony and Kate Shattuck *Two children, Monica and John, attend Saint Agnes School, Towanda*

Tony quickly learned the many difficulties of having to balance their professional careers with the challenges of online learning for their kids.

Wanting both of their children to be in a brick-and-mortar school, the Shattuck family relocated to Wysox so that the children could attend Saint Agnes School in Towanda. Knowing that the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System was committed to full-time, in-person education was exactly what the family needed.

“Saint Agnes had very small classrooms that we thought might work out well,” Kate Shattuck said. “We didn’t even understand how much it was just going to be a magical place.”

Kate Shattuck points to her daughter’s end-of-the-year reflection from fourth grade

as the reason why Saint Agnes School is such a special place.

Quoting from her daughter’s document, Kate read, “What are three words that describe yourself before you started this year: unconfident, scared, and nervous. List three words to describe yourself now: ready for the next school year, confident, determined. That is magical. That is magical for any parent!”

Tony appreciated not only the challenging academic environment of Saint Agnes School, but also the school’s focus on service, community and self-awareness.

“It’s the development of the whole child,” he said. “Of giving them confidence and understanding if I apply myself, if I work hard, I can get somewhere. Those are lessons that are not in books but the teachers

here provide.”

The Shattuck family says Monica and John are not just a “number” at Saint Agnes School.

“We know that there are other children that go here, but you really feel like it is your kids that are the only kids here,” Kate said.

Asked why people should support the Diocesan Annual Appeal – which supports Catholic education – the Shattuck family summed it up easily.

“Isn’t it the best investment that you can make? Our children? It is the best investment! We’re not growing children. We’re growing adults. At Saint Agnes, they’re growing adults here who are real members of the community. They care about each other. They care about their friendships,” Kate said.



TOWANDA – At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Tony & Kate Shattuck and their two children, Monica and John, were living in Arlington, Va. When their schools abruptly closed, Kate &

Chris and Melissa Heim *Daughter Dakotah, 8, attends Saint John Neumann Elementary, Williamsport*

WILLIAMSPORT – At a time when many of her peers were isolated at home and learning virtually, Dakotah Younkin, 8, was making new friends at Saint John Neumann Elementary School.

“My teacher was named Mrs. Kemser and she was really nice and all the kids were nice and I liked first grade a lot,” Dakotah said.

During the 2020-2021 academic year, the young girl transferred into the Diocese of Scranton’s Catholic School System because her family desired in-person education.

“I like to go to church. I like to learn about God and I like it because all the teachers are nice,” she added.

Dakotah’s mother, Melissa Heim, says

the environment at Saint John Neumann was very family-oriented.

“From day one, we never felt like outsiders. They were welcoming with open arms,” Melissa said. “I remember her first day. She was so incredibly nervous and just clung to me. Mrs. McNamee (principal of Saint John Neumann) came out and she grabbed her by the hand and walked her directly to her room and Dakotah was fine ever since.”

Because Melissa and her husband, Chris Heim, both work full-time jobs, virtual learning was not an option for the family. More than just wanting her to attend school in-person, both Melissa and Chris say Dakotah responds best to learning in a classroom setting.

“Her character has really developed here. She is being taught things about love and respect and being a real, Christian girl,” Chris said.

Because of their experience over the past year, the Heim family has gained a greater appreciation for the importance of the Diocesan Annual Appeal in relation to Catholic education.

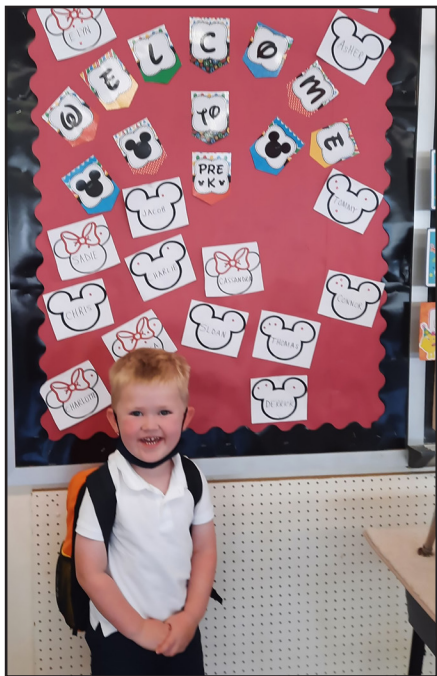
“The technology is so much more advanced than the public school system. The teachers here are just phenomenal,” Melissa said.

Chris Heim says Appeal funding helped their family with tuition assistance.

“We wouldn’t have been able to do it without the diocese’s help. We’re so grateful and blessed,” he said.



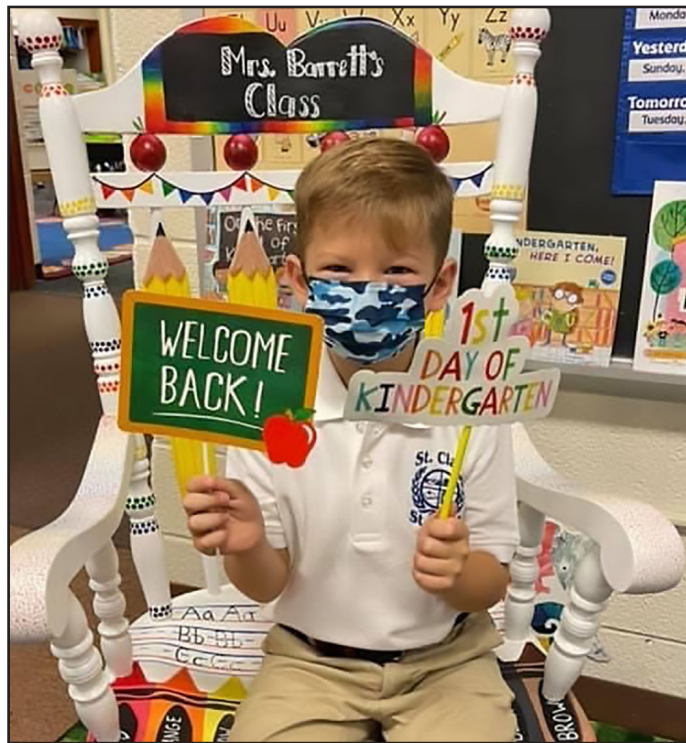
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL



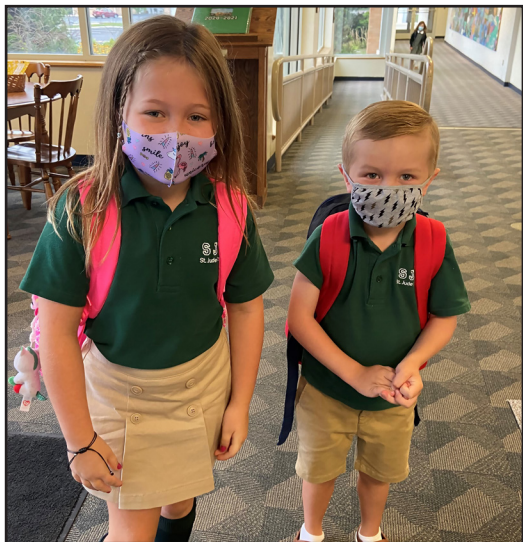
All Saints Academy in Scranton



Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter



Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton



Saint Jude School in Mountain Top



Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore



Holy Rosary School in Duryea



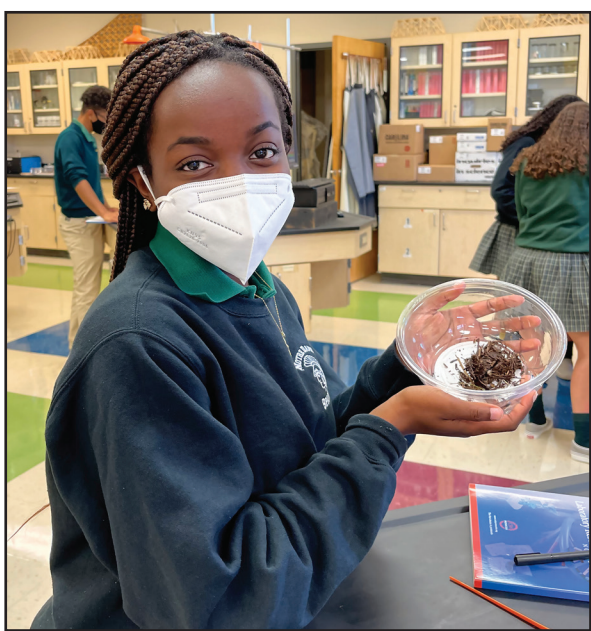
La Salle Academy in Jessup



Saint Nicholas/St. Mary School in Wilkes-Barre



Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport



Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School
in East Stroudsburg



Holy Family Academy in Hazleton



Holy Cross High School in Dunmore



Notre Dame Elementary
in East Stroudsburg



Our Lady of Peace School
in Clarks Green



Epiphany School in Sayre



Good Shepherd Academy
in Kingston



Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School in Williamsport



Saint Agnes School in Towanda



Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre

Saint Joseph Church in Rileyville celebrates 150th anniversary

RILEYVILLE – With a banner hanging outside Saint Joseph Church announcing its 150th anniversary, parishioners in northern Wayne County gathered on Aug. 22 to celebrate the special milestone of their house of worship.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant for a Pontifical Concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving marking the sesquicentennial anniversary of the church.

“For all of the memories that are likely flooding the minds and hearts of all of us who gather this morning, I suspect that when we recall events that have taken place in our lives in relationship to Saint Joseph Church, we are more likely to recall certain people than merely a place,” Bishop Bambera said during his homily.

The bishop explained a personal connection to Saint Joseph Church. When he was a young, he would often attend Mass at the church while staying with his father at a nearby hunting lodge on weekends. Even as a young boy, the bishop noted the welcoming atmosphere the parish offered.

In encouraging people to reflect on the fact that a parish is much more than just a building, Bishop Bambera used the words of Saint John Paul II. As the late Holy Father indicated, a parish is “the family of God, a fellowship afire with a unifying spirit.”

On the milestone anniversary for Saint Joseph Church, the bishop said the celebration should remind parishioners of who they are

as Catholic Christians, remind them of the need to engage a power in life bigger than themselves and reinforce that we receive the Holy Eucharist for mission.

“Right here in Rileyville, look at the mission that you’ve embraced for the past 150 years. You have celebrated life and called one another to a profound respect for that sublime gift. You have taught people about our faith. You have fed families and clothed the poor. You have healed bodies and spirits, consoled, buried and converted hearts to the Lord. You have done Christ’s work!” the bishop noted.

The anniversary Mass took place on the 21st Week in Ordinary Time, when the Gospel message indicated that many of Jesus’ followers were having a difficult time understanding his teaching about the Eucharist and many walked away.

The bishop noted that parishioners at Saint Joseph Church have stayed through the power of God at work in their lives.

“It is pretty obvious that you stay a part of this church because of your faith – a faith that enables you to see and experience signs of hope and signs of God’s life, his mercy and his love!” the bishop noted.

Saint Joseph Church was established in 1871 as a mission worship site of Saint Juliana Parish at Rock Lake. 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.



The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, delivers the homily at the 150th Anniversary Mass for Saint Joseph Church in Rileyville on Aug. 22, 2021. During his homily, the bishop thanked parishioners for doing Christ’s work over all of that time by teaching people about our faith, feeding families in need and clothing the poor.



BISHOP BAMBERA’S SCHEDULE

- September 16** - Mass of the Holy Spirit for Chancery Staff
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.
- September 18** - Saint Patrick’s Parade Day Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.
- September 21-23** - Pennsylvania Catholic Conference Board of Governors Meeting, Harrisburg
- September 23** - Provincial Meeting
Harrisburg
- September 24** - Installation of Rev. Joseph G. Marina, S.J.
29th President of The University of Scranton, 11:00 a.m.
- September 25** - Hispanic Heritage Month Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 6:30 p.m.
- September 26** - Mass at Saint Catherine of Siena Parish
Moscow, 9:00 a.m.
- September 27** - Diocesan Teachers’ Institute Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.
- October 2** - Ministry of Acolyte for Permanent Diaconate
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.
- October 3** - Respect Life Sunday Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.
- October 4-7** - Convocation for Priests
- October 6** - USCCB Committee on International Justice & Peace
Washington, D.C.
- October 12-13** - USCCB Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs Meeting
Springfield, Va.

APPOINTMENTS

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

Reverend Anthony Dorsa, F.S.S.P., from Assistant Pastor, Saint Michael Parish, Scranton, to Administrator Pro tem, Saint Michael the Archangel Parish, Scranton, effective September 1, 2021.

Reverend Edward L Michelini, to *Administrator Pro tem*, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Wyalusing, effective September 1, 2021. Father Michelini will continue to serve as Pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, Towanda.

Prayer Requests for Priests

The Daily Prayer Request for Priests schedule is as follows:

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; September 22, Father Neftali Feliz-Sena; September 23, Father Samuel Ferretti; September 24, Father Michael Finn; September 25, Father Richard Fox; September 26, Father Martin Gaiardo; September 27, Father J. Duane Gavitt; September 28, Father Anthony Generose; September 29, Father Richard Ghezzi; September 30, Father Ryan Glenn; October 1, Pope Francis; October 2, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI; October 3, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; October 4, Holy Cross Father Anthony Grasso; October 5, Father Joseph Greskiewicz; October 6, Monsignor Vincent Grimalia; October 7, Father Louis Grippe; October 8, Father Eugene Gunning; October 9, Father Gerald Gurka; October 10, Passionist Father Lee Havey; October 11, Father Robert Hochreiter; October 12, Father Joseph Horanzy; October 13, Father Thomas Hudak; October 14, Father Andrew Hvozdovic; October 15, Holy Cross Father Daniel Issing; October 16, Father George Jeffrey; October 17, Monsignor John Jordan; October 18, Father Joseph Kakareka; October 19, Father Louis Kaminski.

Community celebrates completion of parish renovation project

CARBONDALE – With champagne in hand, parishioners gathered outside Saint Rose of Lima Church on Aug. 23, 2021, to celebrate the relighting of its steeple after the completion of a major renovation project.

The outdoor event followed a 7:30 p.m. Mass for the Solemnity of Saint Rose, in which the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant.

“It is a real pleasure for me to join with this parish community,” the bishop said in welcoming the large crowd that gathered. “We give thanks for the incredible work that has been done to restore this beautiful church and particularly its tower, which really shines as a beacon of faith and hope to this entire community.”

After several years of planning and fundraising, Saint Rose of Lima Parish recently completed a large-scale church renovation project in which its granite steps, steeple and façade were all restored.

Knowing the church’s importance, both parishioners and the Carbondale business community embraced the renovation work, raising more than \$850,000 for the project.

Reverend Jeffrey J. Walsh, pastor, delivered the homily during the Mass.

“We’re so happy with the conclusion of this project. It was long overdue,” Father Walsh said. “Everyone who made a contribution to this project did what our ancestors did... They knew that faith needed to be a priority for them and their families and so they invested in a beautiful house of worship that just continued to grow and grow.”

Father Walsh spent much of his homily focusing on “little details.”

Quoting Pope Francis, the Carbondale pastor emphasized that “little details” are important saying, “Jesus asked his disciples to pay attention to details, the little detail that wine was running out at a party, the little details that one sheep was missing.”

Father Walsh then explained all the

“little details” that went into making the restoration project at Saint Rose of Lima Church a success. The details ranged from the hard work it took to replace the steps outside the church, to the meticulous effort to make sure the scaffolding outside the church was put up properly so that workers could reach the steeple, to the masonry work involved with the bluestone over the church’s archways.

“It was an awful lot of work,” Father Walsh said.

Even as the steeple was re-lit to great joy in the community, Father Walsh ended his homily by emphasizing that while a church building is a great treasure, it is the faith of each person that needs to shine the brightest.

“What God manifests in the external, he also wants to manifest in the internal,” Father Walsh said. “All of the detail work that goes into restoring the outside of this church applies equally to the detail that each one of us is responsible for in maintaining our spiritual lives.”



After years of planning and fundraising, a large renovation project at Saint Rose of Lima Church in Carbondale was recently completed. The community celebrated with a steeple relighting on Aug. 23, 2021.

Seminarians begin new year of formation



The faithful throughout the Diocese of Scranton are encouraged to pray for our seminarians as they begin a new year of formation!

Pictured, front row, left to right: Marc Phillips (Pastoral Year at Saint Jude Parish, Mountain Top and Saint Mary Parish, Dorrance) and Cody Yarnall (Saint Mary’s Seminary, Baltimore).

Back row, left to right: Father Alex Roche, Diocesan Director for Vocations and Seminarians; Jan Carlo Perez (Saint Mary’s Seminary, Baltimore); Thomas Dzwonczyk (Saint Mary’s Seminary, Baltimore); Michael Boris (Saint Mary’s Seminary, Baltimore); the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton; Andrew McCarroll (Saint Mary’s Seminary, Baltimore); William Asinari (Saint Mary’s Seminary, Baltimore); David Pirolli (Cathedral Seminary, New York); and Jeremy Barket (Saint Mary’s Seminary, Baltimore).

Diocese of Scranton welcomes new Safe Environment Coordinator

SCRANTON – Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, has announced the appointment of Ms. Erin McGrady as Safe Environment Coordinator for the Diocese of Scranton.

Ms. McGrady’s responsibilities will include making sure all diocesan employees in parishes and schools, including coaches and volunteers who have direct contact and routine interaction with children, have up-to-date criminal background and child abuse clearances. The position of Safe Environment Coordinator is also responsible for implementing educational and training programs that help people recognize and effectively respond to the problem of child sexual abuse.

“After being in the direct care field for many years, I wanted to take more of a preventative approach to child abuse and protecting our youth,” McGrady said regarding her new position.

McGrady has a Master’s degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Long Island University and is licensed as a Professional Counselor in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Prior to accepting her new position in the Diocese of Scranton, she worked as a Mental Health Professional at the Friendship House in Forest City and an Outpatient

Psychotherapist at Northeast Counseling Services in Hazleton. McGrady believes her background and experience working directly in schools will be an asset to her new position.

“Being in the school districts was a big help, working with children every day,” she explained.

McGrady succeeds Kathy Bolinski, who recently retired, in holding the position as Safe Environment Coordinator. She was able to shadow Ms. Bolinski to learn the roles and responsibilities of her new position.

McGrady is looking forward to working with all parishes and schools in the Diocese.

“Having safe environment managers at each parish and school is a big help. I’m looking forward to getting out and meeting everyone and seeing all the parishes because the diocese covers a large area.”

McGrady also wants parents and members of the public to know she is a resource available to them.

“My door is always open. Please call or email if you need assistance. I have spoken to a number of different parishes already. The welcome has been wonderful,” she added.

McGrady is a parishioner of Saint Rose of Lima Parish in Carbondale, where she serves as a catechist, Eucharistic Minister and Pastoral Council member.



Ms. Erin McGrady

Cathedral of Saint Peter to host Saint Patrick's Parade Day Mass Saturday

SCRANTON – Better late than never. The annual Saint Patrick's Parade Day Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 18, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. All are welcome to attend.

The liturgy is traditionally celebrated in March in conjunction with the city of Scranton's annual Saint Patrick's Day Parade – but because of the COVID-19 pandemic – the event was pushed back six months.

Following the Mass, the Saint Patrick's Parade is expected to take to the streets of the Electric City beginning at 11:45 a.m.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will be the principal celebrant and homilist for the Mass. Concelebrants will be priests from the Diocese of Scranton.

The Mass will be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and will be rebroadcast on Tuesday, Sept. 21, at 8 p.m., and Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 10:30 a.m. It will also be available for viewing on the Diocese of Scranton's YouTube Channel.

This year marks the 59th Anniversary of the Saint Patrick's Parade in Scranton.

Saturday's Mass is being offered in memory of all those members and friends who passed away since the last Mass was celebrated, including John Klikus, Frank Brazill, Pat Sweeney, Brian Craig, Attorney Robert Munley and Patrick Dougher.

Albert O'Donnell, President, Saint Patrick's Parade Association of Lackawanna County, will serve as lector for the Mass and Frank Jones will serve as cantor.

The Offertory gifts will be presented by Dorothea Crowley, President, Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians of Lackawanna County; W. David Fitzpatrick, M.D., President, Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick of Lackawanna County; Jeff Sears, President, Ancient Order of Hibernians of Lackawanna County; Jack McIntyre, President, Irish Cultural Society;

and Lori Wagner, President, Society of Irish Women.



The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera celebrates the Vigil Mass for the Feast Day of Saint Patrick on March 16, 2019, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

Italian heritage and culture celebrated at annual La Festa Italiana Mass

SCRANTON – Hundreds of people gathered to celebrate their faith – and their Italian heritage – at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Sept. 5 at the 45th annual La Festa Italiana Mass.

The Mass, which was celebrated in Italian, was held in conjunction with La Festa Italiana. The annual four-day food festival takes place on Courthouse Square over the long Labor Day weekend.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, attended the Mass. Reverend Paul A. McDonnell, OSJ, served as principal celebrant and homilist. McDonnell is the current rector of the Oblates of Saint Joseph in Laflin.

"Today we celebrate the Italian heritage, this wonderful gift given first of all to our country that came from Italy," Father McDonnell said.

Reflecting on the hallmarks of the Italian culture, which he defined as "faith, family, friends and hospitality," McDonnell said gratefully each has made its way into the Diocese of Scranton.

During his homily, Father McDonnell joked that his last name is Irish – but he is half-Italian because of his mother. He emphasized that Italians love being in the company of others.

"Being able to share our lives, share our joys, our blessings and our accomplishments and to share also our sorrows, crosses and burdens. We do it together," he explained.

Connecting that to the Church, the "family of God," Father McDonnell reminded the crowd that we are also supposed to "walk" with our brothers and sisters in faith.

"We don't worship in isolation. We don't serve in isolation. Jesus reminds us over and over again, if you want to love me, then love each other," he said.



Reverend Paul A. McDonnell, OSJ, delivers the homily during the La Festa Italiana Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter Sept. 5, 2021.

While the La Festa Italiana Mass emphasizes the Italian culture, Father McDonnell reminded those in attendance that many cultures have influenced the Diocese of Scranton.

"We are reminded of all the cultures that have influenced this diocese and have a very important role to play. It reminds us of our rich and diverse history as we acknowledge all ethnic groups that immigrated here: Slovaks, Polish, Lithuanians, Irish, German and today our most recent immigrants from Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Brazil, Cape Verde, Vietnam, India, the Philippines and the continent of Africa," he said.

Just as the day's Gospel message stressed – the homilist added we must all be more accepting and loving of others.

"If we are truly rooted in Christ, then we don't see our brothers and sisters from other races, creeds or colors as a burden, but as an asset to enrich our society and personal lives," he explained.



Christopher DiMattio, President of the La Festa Italiana Committee, participates in Mass with his family. (Photos/Mike Melisky)

This year's Italian Mass was 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.

Before the concluding prayer, Bishop Bambera thanked the La Festa Committee for helping to organize and participate in the Mass – as well as for their hard work to put on one of the community's most popular events.

Seizing on the homily message that Father McDonnell shared, the bishop drew connections to the pandemic that we continue to battle.

"We are in this together," the bishop said. "We are all connected through faith, through life and the fact that we are all a part of this family that God has given to each one of us!"



Before the La Festa Italiana Mass began, banners representing various regions of Italy were carried by ushers down the center aisle at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

Parishes throughout the Diocese remember 9/11



“As we mark the twentieth anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terror attacks, we remember and pray for all those who lost their lives, as well as their family and friends, and those individuals who continue to carry the physical and emotional burdens of that terrible day.

“Over the last two decades, the people of our great nation have shared so many feelings – ranging from anger and shock – to loss and pain – to a determination to never forget. On this somber anniversary, we must continue to honor the selflessness of our first responders – including our brave firefighters, police, emergency workers and port authority personnel – as well as the heroism of ordinary citizens who were willing to sacrifice their own lives for others.

“In the immediate aftermath of that terrible day, our faith lifted us up and sustained us. Our nation turned to God in prayer and in faith with a new intensity. Let us continue to turn to God as our source of strength, comfort and peace in challenging times.

“In the words that Pope Francis and Pope Benedict XVI both used while visiting Ground Zero:

‘O Lord, comfort and console us, strengthen us in hope, and give us the wisdom and courage to work tirelessly for a world where true peace and love reign among nations and in the hearts of all.’”

Statement of the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, on the 20th Anniversary of the September 11 Terror Attacks



Queen of the Apostles Parish in Avoca held its annual 9/11 Mass to remember the nearly 3,000 souls who died because of the Sept. 11 terror attacks. Several first responders in the community attended the Mass.



Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Peckville held a two mile “Family Walk” on the morning of Sept. 11 to honor first responders and the sacrifices they make for the community. Donations were collected for local first responders at the event.



The Church of Saint John in East Stroudsburg invited parishioners to visit the parish 9/11 memorial and say a prayer for those who died. The parish also held a 9/11 prayer service after its 4 p.m. Mass outside of the church on Sept. 11.



The Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton commemorated the twentieth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks with a memorial bell toll, commencing at 8:46 a.m., the time at which American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into 1 World Trade Center in New York City.

The toll concluded at 10:03 a.m., the time at which Flight 93 crashed into a field near Shanksville in Somerset County.

A portion of the bell toll was made available on the Cathedral’s Facebook page.

Sisters at the Border:

Area nuns minister to wave of immigrants seeking asylum at the U.S. southern border



For nearly a half century, the Catholic Church in the United States has celebrated National Migration Week as an opportunity to reflect on the circumstances confronting the migrant population, including immigrants, refugees, children, and victims and survivors of human trafficking.

The 2021 National Migration Week will be marked during Sept. 20-26, concluding with the Vatican's celebration of World Day of Migrants and Refugees, traditionally celebrated on the last Sunday of September.

In his letter announcing this year's World Migrant Day theme, "Towards an ever wider WE," Pope Francis emphasizes, "This focus calls on us to ensure that after all this, we will think no longer in terms of 'them' and 'those' but only 'us' (*Fratelli tutti*). And this universal 'us' must become a reality first of all within the Church, which is called to cultivate communion in diversity."

Within this context, Catholic Charities USA in March contacted the Leadership Conference of Women Religious seeking religious sisters' help in meeting the challenges of caring for families and children at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Religious congregations throughout America responded immediately and sent individuals and delegations of women religious to welcome and accompany the

significant number of men, women and children crossing our southern borders to seek asylum.

Answering the Clarion Call

Among those were four Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters and two Religious Sisters of Mercy from the Diocese of Scranton.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Mary Elaine Anderson and Scranton IHM Sisters Terry Jordan, Donna Korba and Denise Montagne responded to the clarion call and volunteered from April 24 to July 31 to minister to the many needs of migrants at the Imperial Valley — a remote, impoverished area of California's southern desert.

Their home base was El Centro, Calif., a small town one hour west of Yuma, Ariz., and two hours east of San Diego.

"We had our first glimpse of the (border) wall on our drive from the Yuma Airport to El Centro," Sister Mary Elaine said of the man-made barrier separating the U.S. town of Calexico and Mexicali, the border town in Mexico. "We could see the wall in the distance. The expanse of dry, flat desert between the highway and the wall made us aware of how vulnerable people crossing the border are."

A backpack hanging from the upper part of the wall on the American side made for a searing image in the minds of the IHM nuns.

"It was a vivid reminder of what was left behind by those who crossed the wall," Sister Mary Elaine explained. "Surely people packed only the essentials in one bag to cross the border. How did this person feel when the wall stripped him or her of the only bag he or she was carrying?"

She continued that each day in the Imperial Valley the sisters waited in anticipation to see how many asylum-seekers would be released by the Customs Border Patrol and brought to a place of respite.

"Families arrived tired, without showering for days and with only the clothes that they were wearing," Sister said. "New arrivals were immediately tested for COVID."

Volunteers ministered to the migrants' immediate needs at the moment. Much of their time was consumed by organizing and restocking clothes and other donated items; bagging and distributing food; greeting asylum-seekers who arrived at the El Centro site; visiting and tending to families in quarantine; driving families to the airport; and easing their transition to be united with their families in America.

"In El Centro, we set up an art and play space in the arrival/departure room for COVID-negative children and invited them to be creative in whatever way they might like," Sister Mary Elaine



"These shoes were once new. They were made for playing sports. The manufacturer did not design them for crossing rivers," Mercy Sister Maryellen Fuhrman said of the footwear pictured above that helped a man cross the Rio Grande River from Mexico to find a new life in America. "The muddy river was the path taken to flee danger in his homeland. These shoes have not achieved the purpose for which they were intended. Theirs was the path by a man at the southern border who seeks what you and I seek, a purposeful life surrounded by those we love."

noted. "Parents were grateful to see their children at play after having been confined for days at the Border Patrol Station."

She further related how each day seemed to always provide grace-filled encounters and humbling experiences as the sisters' physical and spiritual presence were so heavily relied upon.

"Each sister had her own unique way of taking initiative and stepping up to meet the needs of the families and the Catholic Charities personnel,"

Sister remarked. "A sense of joy abounded even when we were filling snack bags, restocking water, buying clothes and games or washing the van."

"Holding a baby while the mother looked for clean clothing, kneeling next to a child to help her find a toy, and answering the questions of adults who were struggling to contact families and to find air flights were simple, but heartfelt, ways to be with the people."

Continued on next page



Shown in the left photo, Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Mary Elaine Anderson accompanies and assists a young asylum-seeker at the airport near the U.S. southern border. At right, Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Denise Montagne of Scranton (right) joins IHM Sister Kathy Brown from Philadelphia in organizing supplies for immigrant families seeking asylum in El Centro, Calif.



Scranton Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Terry Jordan pack meals for immigrant families seeking asylum in El Centro, Calif.



Above: IHM Sisters Mary Katherine Hamilton of Monroe, Mich. (left) and Donna Korba of Scranton transport immigrants to the airport while volunteering this summer in El Centro, Calif. At left: Sister Donna with a young asylum-seeker in the art & play area at the processing center.

Continued from previous page

Sister Mary Elaine spoke of the “privilege” of hearing the immigrants’ stories — stories rife with political violence, death threats, hunger, unemployment and lack of health care that compelled them to search for a new life in a foreign land, with the hope of families being able to survive and thrive.

“It was heartbreaking to listen to the struggles they had encountered along the way — the hundreds of miles that they had walked, their lack of food, the assaults and other abuses they had endured,” she offered. “It takes great courage and deep faith for families to leave their homes to cross the border into the U.S.”

Among the lessons learned by the IHM Sisters was that

empowering others is more about being vulnerable and present to them, not necessarily ministering as teacher, pastoral workers, counselors, artists, and peace/justice activists.

“The call...to respond to the plight of our brothers and sisters searching for a new and more dignified life was a call from God that IHM Sisters could not ignore,” Sister Mary Elaine concluded. “So, how do we share the graces received with our congregations and the wider community? How do we live now after so many weeks of being ‘on fire’ with God’s unconditional love?”

Mission of Mercy

“Why are you going to the border?”

It is a question Mercy Sisters Mary Ellen Brody and Maryellen Fuhrman frequently heard as they shared their plans for spending the month of July in Laredo, Texas, to volunteer their ministry in serving the influx of those seeking asylum from the Mexican side of the Rio Grande River.

“For us, the answer was simple,” Sister Brody said. “Sisters of Mercy live our lives based on five critical concerns, one of which is immigration. We felt impelled to respond.”

Both Religious Sisters of Mercy from the Scranton Diocese had previous experience in Central and South America and knew their fluency in Spanish would be helpful.

“We knew we could arrange our schedules to correspond to the need just as our foundress, Catherine McAuley, would have done,” she offered.

Thus began the Mercy Sisters’ nearly 30-hour, 2,000-mile journey by car, despite warnings of gas shortages and weather threats.

“On our first day we went to visit the center and were given a tour of the facilities,” Sister Brody explained. “Although I had been there as a volunteer during the summer of 2019, it was a first for my companion. Some things were the same and, because of COVID, some things were different.”

Due to the pandemic, she said, more time was spent outside by the immigrants. What was formerly a separate facility for clothing distribution was now set aside as lodging for COVID-positive families; outdoor restroom facilities were available, and all meals were served outside, weather permitting.

Sister Brody remarked that Laredo has two respite centers: La Frontera, run by Catholic Charities, and The Holding Institute, operated by the Methodist Church. Both centers receive immigrants who are released by detention centers, where they have been screened and receive papers allowing them to travel to join family and friends throughout the United States.

“None have received hearings regarding asylum when they come to the centers,” she said. “That’s still to happen when they are relocated.”

The sisters’ were surprised by the diversity of those seeking asylum and the various places they had migrated from.

“We anticipated immigrants from Central America, but we learned that different detention centers ‘process’ different populations,” Sister Brody noted. “Our guests were primarily Haitians, Cubans, Venezuelans and Mexicans.” Central Americans were being channeled through the Rio Grande Valley to McAllen, Texas.

“Some got to the center without having showered for a few days or without a change of clothing,” Sister Brody commented. “All were glad for a more varied diet and freedom to make their own plans. During their stay with us, brief though it was, most were anxious to help with the various jobs.”

The differences among the immigrants varied greatly: age, language, culture, nationality, religious beliefs, and reasons for having to leave. But, Sister related, “all shared the same need of the moment.”

“It was obvious that all were still in transition,” she said. “They arrived and yet they hadn’t. It was difficult to find time to listen to their stories, and it was also difficult for them to tell their stories because they were still being written.”

However, according to Sister Brody, their faces were “open books,” as anxiety, fear, grief, joy, relief and other emotions were etched on the visages of young and old.

The Mercy nuns also learned that the immigrants, in the midst of their travels, were not aware of policy changes in the United States. “They were focused on their need to leave their homelands and the unknown that would be

waiting,” Sister Brody commented. “They anticipated difficulties at the border, yet admitted being treated respectfully by border agents.”

Fully realizing that immigration is a complex, contentious issue, and not claiming any expertise in the area, Sister Brody noted, “We’ve come back (home) willing to share our learnings and perhaps help dispel some erroneous beliefs about immigrants.”

She and Sister Fuhrman hope to accomplish this by organizing a group of interested persons to explore the issue further, and by sharing their experience wherever and whenever possible.

“We know Pope Francis and some of the American bishops have spoken clearly about the (Christian call) to welcome the stranger in our midst, and if we can help others feel more comfortable in doing so, we would be honored,” Sister Brody concluded.

The Guatemalan Woman

On a recent visit to a respite center along the southern border, there was an elderly woman dressed in a traditional garb which is often seen in very mountainous areas of Guatemala. I was drawn to her and to what I perceived to be a bewildered facial expression. There are countless reasons for her consternation.

The respite center on that day held more people than the population of her home area. She was there with approximately 800 other people who were waiting to make travel arrangements to their families.

Around her were families with small children and the sound of their playing together echoed throughout the large room. In front of the room there were six stations where each person could receive help in making travel arrangements. When a name was called to go to a station, the microphone was loud and the sound very muffled. The Guatemalan woman would look up trying to understand if it was her name being called.

Meanwhile, she was in a line waiting to receive a meal. There was a look of confusion as she moved forward into the dining area. How different this was from the meals she prepared for her family in her own open stone oven outside the entrance to her home.

Next, she would join another line for a shower and a chance to receive clean clothes for her uncertain journey. How strange and frightening all this must have seemed to her.

She has come this far and there is no turning back. What she knew in Guatemala as “home” was no more and there was no option but to leave.

To live through all the strangeness and noise of the world about her was not a choice but a necessity. Alone, she endures the clamor and strangeness of this new world.

I will never know where her new home is or if she will be granted asylum due to the conditions in her beloved Guatemala. What I will remember is her courage in realizing what she had to do and her ability to accept dramatic change. She shares the immigration experience of displaced people since the beginning of time.

- Reflection by Mercy Sister Maryellen Fuhrman during her ministry mission to aid immigrants coming into the U.S. at the southern Texas border in July.



Sisters of Mercy Mary Ellen Brody and Maryellen Fuhrman outside the La Frontera respite center in Laredo, Texas.

Diocese of Scranton begins Spanish Catholic radio program

SCRANTON – With an excited “Buenos Dias,” the Diocese of Scranton’s Hispanic Ministry Program launched its first Spanish Catholic radio program on Aug. 14, 2021.

Through a partnership with La Mega radio, a local Spanish radio station serving the Latino communities in the Wyoming Valley, the Diocese now hosts a one-hour radio program to discuss the fundamentals of the Catholic faith each Saturday morning from 11:00 a.m. until noon.

The program is available locally at 94.9 FM in Scranton and 95.3 FM in Wilkes-Barre. The station also streams its programming at lamega95fm.com.

Jose Flores, Coordinator for Hispanic Ministry in the Diocese of Scranton, developed the idea for the show and secured the weekly timeslot.

“I felt that this was a great opportunity to reach out to our Spanish community and to respond to their needs,” Flores said. “Our primary goal is to share the Gospel and evangelize and share our

faith and bring people back to the church if they are not there.”

Flores established a team of five people who help to get the weekly radio show on the air. Even though they are all new to radio broadcasting – they all participate in the live broadcasts. The team also receives assistance and guidance from Father Jonathan Kuhar, Parochial Vicar of both Saint John Neumann Parish and Saint Paul of the Cross Parish in Scranton.

Rufino Cano, a member of the radio broadcast team, says using radio is an effective means of communicating with the local Hispanic population.

“People listen to the radio, either for entertainment, at their jobs or at their homes. Having a Saturday morning program will be helpful to all of them,” he said.

Flores adds that having the radio program is a way to welcome newcomers into Catholic churches throughout the Diocese of Scranton.

“We’re seeing a wave of people moving in from New York and New Jersey so this is an opportunity



Members of Diocese of Scranton’s Hispanic Ministry Program host their weekly Spanish Catholic radio program on Sept. 4, 2021 from the LaMega Radio Station studio in Scranton. (Photo/Eric Deabill)

for us to create community with them,” Flores explained. “I have met a few people who didn’t even know there was a Spanish Mass in town so I think this radio program is definitely an important tool for creating community and welcoming those who are new to the area into the Church.”

During the first few weeks, Spanish Catholic radio program members have introduced their ministry to the listening audience, discussed the love that God has for each one of us and talked about matrimony as both a Sacrament and Vocation. During the month of September, the program is focusing

on the importance of the bible.

“A lot of people don’t know how to read the bible or know how many books are in the bible,” Cano said.

Even in its first few weeks, the radio program is getting the attention of Hispanic parishioners.

“When we first aired our program, after Mass, a couple people approached us saying congratulations, saying that it is nice for the Diocese to have something for the Spanish community that people can listen to. We had many congratulations from people. They were happy for us and the ministry that we are starting,” Cano added.

Seven years ago, Cano attended Mass at Saint John Neumann Parish in Scranton but was not involved in the life of the church. That has changed. He has joined the parish choir and taken classes to learn more about his faith – a faith he now willingly shares with others on the radio.

“I feel grateful and good to serve others through new ministries,” he said.

La Diócesis de Scranton inicia programa de radio católico en español

SCRANTON – Con un emocionado “Buenos Dias,” el Programa del Ministerio Hispano de la Diócesis de Scranton lanzó su primer programa de radio católico en español el 14 de agosto de 2021.

A través de una asociación con La Mega radio, una estación de radio local en español que sirve a las comunidades latinas en el Valle de Wyoming, la Diócesis ahora presenta un programa de radio de una hora para discutir los fundamentos de la fe católica todos los sábados por la mañana desde las 11:00 am hasta el mediodía.

El programa está disponible localmente por el 94.9 FM en Scranton y 95.3 FM en Wilkes-Barre. La estación también transmite su programación en lamega95fm.com.

José Flores, Coordinador del Ministerio Hispano en la Diócesis de Scranton, desarrolló la idea del programa y aseguró el horario semanal.

“Sentí que esta era una gran oportunidad para llegar a nuestra comunidad hispana y responder a sus necesidades,” dijo Flores. “Nuestro objetivo principal es

compartir el Evangelio y evangelizar al compartir nuestra fe y de esta manera invitar a las personas de regreso a la iglesia si no están allí.”

Flores estableció un equipo de cinco personas que ayudan a transmitir el programa de radio semanal. Aunque todos son nuevos en la radiodifusión, todos participan en las transmisiones en directo. El equipo también recibe asistencia y orientación del padre Jonathan Kuhar, Vicario Parroquial de la Parroquia San Juan Neumann y la Parroquia San Pablo de la Cruz en Scranton.

Rufino Cano, miembro del equipo de transmisión de radio, dice que usar la radio es un medio eficaz de comunicarse con la población hispana local.

“La gente escucha la radio, ya sea para entretenerse, en sus trabajos o en sus hogares. Tener un programa el sábado por la mañana será útil para todos,” dijo.

Flores agrega que tener el programa de radio es una forma de dar la bienvenida a los recién llegados a las iglesias católicas en toda la Diócesis de Scranton.

“Estamos viendo una ola



José Flores, Coordinador del Ministerio Hispano en la Diócesis de Scranton, habla durante el programa de radio Católico en español el desde el estudio de Estación de Radio La Mega en Scranton.

de personas que se mudan desde Nueva York y Nueva Jersey, así que esta es una oportunidad para crear comunidad con ellos,” explicó Flores. “He conocido a varias personas que ni siquiera sabían que había una Misa en español en la ciudad, así que creo que este programa de radio es definitivamente una herramienta importante para crear una comunidad y dar la bienvenida a la Iglesia a

quienes son nuevos en el área.”

Durante las primeras semanas, los miembros del programa de radio católico en español han presentado su ministerio a la audiencia que los escucha, discutieron el amor que Dios tiene por cada uno de nosotros y hablaron sobre el matrimonio como un sacramento y una vocación. Durante el mes de septiembre, el programa se centra

en la importancia de la Biblia.

“Mucha gente no sabe cómo leer la Biblia o no sabe cuántos libros hay en la Biblia,” dijo Cano.

Incluso en sus primeras semanas, el programa de radio está llamando la atención de los feligreses hispanos.

“Cuando transmitimos nuestro programa por primera vez, después de la misa, un par de personas se acercaron a nosotros para felicitarnos y decirnos que es bueno para la Diócesis tener algo para la comunidad hispana que la gente pueda escuchar. Recibimos muchas felicitaciones de la gente. Se alegraron por nosotros y por el ministerio que estamos comenzando,” agregó Cano.

Desde hace siete años, Cano asiste a misa en la parroquia de San Juan Neumann en Scranton, pero no participaba en la vida de la iglesia. Eso ha cambiado. Se ha unido al coro parroquial y ha tomado clases para aprender más sobre su fe, una fe que ahora comparte de buena gana con otros en la radio.

“Me siento agradecido y bueno de servir a los demás a través de nuevos ministerios,” dijo.

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15 - October 15

SCRANTON – Each year in the United States, Hispanic Heritage Month is observed from Sept. 15 - Oct. 15.

Hispanic Heritage Month is a national celebration to honor the history, culture and influence of past generations who came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate a Pontifical Mass in Spanish at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Saturday, Sept. 25, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

All are welcome to attend the Mass.

This celebration will highlight the cultural richness and special gifts that Hispanics bring to the life of the Church in the Diocese of Scranton.

The observation of Hispanic Heritage Month began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage

Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period. It was enacted into law on Aug. 17, 1988.

During the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, Catholics can do one of many things to celebrate.

First, pray a Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe. On Dec. 9, 1531, the Blessed Mother appeared to Juan Diego on Tepayac Hill and instructed him to build her a church. Our Lady of Guadalupe remains the most popular devotion in the Hispanic Catholic community.

Other ideas include learning about the life of Pope Francis, the first Latin American Pope, connecting with a national Hispanic Catholic organization or educating yourself about the Hispanic ministry program in the Diocese of Scranton.

Catholic Social Services continues outreach to the community

CARBONDALE – Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton continues to respond to the needs of people throughout northeastern and north central Pennsylvania during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hundreds of people received a helping hand on Aug. 26 as the agency held a special food distribution outside its River Street office in Carbondale. The event assisted a total of 122 children, 246 adults and 162 seniors.

Volunteer Joseph Loftus saw the wide range of individuals looking for assistance at the food distribution.

“We had people in their 20s with kids to people who are 60 and 70 just trying to get by,” he explained.

Catholic Social Services Carbondale Office operates a food pantry that has been open to the public every day during the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the last 18 months, the agency has regularly hosted larger food distribution events to give clients extra produce, meat and other necessities.

“It makes me feel very special to help others. It comes from the heart,” volunteer Lucia Sacco said.

The food distribution on Aug. 26 took place differently than previous ones. Instead of having cars line up on River Street, vehicles were able to pull behind the Catholic Social Services building as they waited for assistance. The change helped traffic flow much more efficiently.

“The cars were able to go behind the building. The city helped out by clearing out some shrubs so the cars could get through. It worked out much better,” Loftus said.

Volunteers braved temperatures in the low 90s during the food distribution, which took place from 1:00 until 3:00 p.m.

Mason Cuellar, 12, heard about the food distribution and volunteered to help distribute food.

“My grandma told me that they were doing a food give away so I thought I might volunteer,” he explained.

At an early age, Cuellar has learned the value of giving back to agencies like Catholic Social Services – and that small

gestures can have a big impact.

“A few weeks ago, we got \$100 worth of cereal and I brought it down here,” the young man said.

The next special food distribution, sponsored by Catholic Social Services and the United Methodist Church of Carbondale will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 29 from 2 – 4 p.m.

The Carbondale food pantry is also open on Monday from 9:00 a.m. until noon; Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. until noon and 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.; Thursday from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.; and Friday from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

Anyone in need of assistance can call the Catholic Social Services Carbondale Office at (570) 282-0460.



Volunteers help to distribute food outside the Catholic Social Services Office in Carbondale on Aug. 25, 2021. (Photo/Eric Deabill)

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Nuestra Herencia Hispana*

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**Sábado | 6:30 PM
25 de Septiembre**

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333 WYOMING AVE. SCRANTON, PA 18503



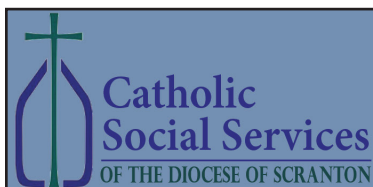
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DIÓCESIS DE SCRANTON
MINISTERIO HISPANO



MINISTERIO HISPANO - DIÓCESIS DE SCRANTON



**Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2021
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Catholic Social Services
34 River Street, Carbondale**

Sponsored by Catholic Social
Services & United Methodist
Church of Carbondale

**FOOD
DISTRIBUTION**



****Drive-Thru or Walk-Up****

Family Fun Day at Knoebels to take place this Saturday



As part of the Year of the Family observance, the Diocesan Office for Parish Life is sponsoring a Family Fun Day at Knoebels Amusement Resort in Elysburg on Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021.

Groups or individuals are welcome to enjoy all that Knoebels has to offer from noon until 8 p.m. and take advantage of our discounted ticket offer!

You can choose from a “Lunch and Ride” package (\$25 per person includes a bagged lunch and \$20 worth

of ride tickets) or a “Discounted Tickets Only” option (\$20 worth of ride tickets for \$17).

Regardless of the package you choose, you are welcome to take advantage of our reserved pavilion for lunch or to simply gather with your family and friends.

To purchase tickets by credit card, visit dioceseofscranton.org.

To order and pay by check, call (570) 207-2213, ext. 1155. All orders must be paid in advance.

Parish groups encouraged to participate in “Scranton Serves”

SCRANTON - Parish and school groups are being invited to organize special service projects next month.

“Scranton Serves” is a challenge for groups and individuals to serve our brothers and sisters in need throughout the Diocese of Scranton on Saturday, Oct. 2 and/or Sunday, Oct. 3.

Parish and school groups are encouraged to arrange a service opportunity in their local community at either a nonprofit organization, their own parish/school, local cemetery or some other location.

Although participants will be spread throughout the 11 counties of the Diocese of Scranton, everyone will be united in a spirit of service. The Diocese will provide free t-shirts for all participating groups who register.

For more information or to register your local service project, visit dioceseofscranton.org.

“Scranton Serves” is being organized and sponsored by the Diocesan Offices for Parish Life and Vocations.



Bishop Bambara accepts donations from Knights of Columbus



George E. Schneider, Jr., State Advocate of the Pennsylvania Knights of Columbus, presents two checks to the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambara, Bishop of Scranton on Sept. 2 at the Chancery building in Scranton. (Photo/Eric Deabill)

SCRANTON – Members of the Knights of Columbus recently presented the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambara, Bishop of Scranton, with two charitable donations.

A check for \$1,409.35 came from the Knights of Columbus Christopher Fund for the Bishop’s charitable donations.

A separate \$5,288 check from the Knights of Columbus, which is to be used for promoting vocations in the diocese, was also presented to Bishop Bambara.

Bishop Bambara was very grateful for both of the presentations from the Knights of Columbus – and expressed sincere thanks for all of the work that the Knights have been doing in our parish communities.

“So often during the course of the past year and a half as we have confronted the consequences of the coronavirus in our lives, the Knights of Columbus were hard at work – helping to feed the hungry, to serve those struggling to make ends meet and to assist many people in providing safe environments for the celebration of Mass,” Bishop Bambara said. “In the midst of all of these exceptional efforts, the Knights of Columbus have continued to promote efforts that deepen our respect for human life. The Knights have also continued to work tirelessly to support our diocesan vocation efforts by adopting seminarians.”

This past year, the Catholic Church had the honor of celebrating the beatification of Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney, who founded the Knights of Columbus to bring fraternal support, assistance and financial aid to those in need.

To learn more about the Pennsylvania Knights of Columbus State Council, visit their website at pakofc.us.

Eucharistic Adoration

at St. Jude Parish

SPEAKER, MUSIC, RECONCILIATION, AND SOCIAL.

Thursday, October 28th
The Feast of St. Jude
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October 30, 2021

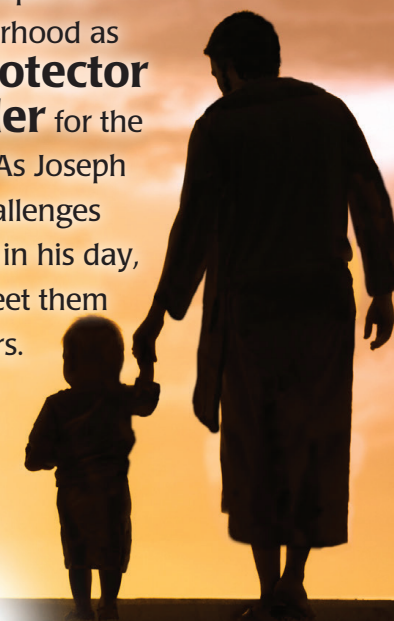
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 to be the fathers that God has called us all to be.

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 Speakers: **Karl Keating • Fr. Glenn Sudano • Jim O'Day**

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Scranton rabbi to participate in Vatican climate change conference

SCRANTON – When Rabbi Daniel Swartz received a letter from the Vatican last December inviting him to help put together a new declaration on climate change, the leader of Temple Hesed had only one thought.

“My first reaction was which of my friends is pranking me,” Swartz admitted.

The letter was no joke. Swartz is one of 40 religious leaders and 10 scientists from around the world invited to participate in the ‘Faith and Science: Towards COP26’ conference on Oct. 4.

While Rabbi Swartz is preparing to head to Rome to participate in the conference, he has already taken part in a series of online meetings with the other members of the group – discussing how religion and environmental policy can intersect.

“We discussed what our different faith traditions from around the globe have to say about our responsibility to each other, to our common home, to action on climate change,” he said.

Rabbi Swartz called his friend and colleague in ministry, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, for his advice before agreeing to participate. The bishop assured him that under the direction of Pope Francis, conferences such as this are “true consultations.”

“The bishop was exactly right,” Swartz said. “I spoke up early and often and really shared teachings from the Jewish tradition and my own experience about the need for us to promote both justice and hope.”

Swartz holds degrees from Brown University in Geological

Sciences and in Environmental Policy. He is also the author of “To Till and To Tend: A Guide for Jewish Environmental Study and Action” and “Faith Communities and Environmental Health: From Global to Local.”

The rabbi is one of only four Americans selected to participate in the drafting of the climate change declaration. Other religious leaders across the globe that participated in the discussions included the Archbishop of Canterbury, the General Secretary of the World Evangelical Association, the General Secretary of the Society of Friends of the World Lutheran Church and many others.

“It was a huge honor for me to participate with these other folks who are very notable religious leaders,” Rabbi Swartz said. “I really cannot emphasize enough that if I had not spoken with Bishop Bambera and he hadn’t encouraged me to speak up and to believe that if they asked me to be a part of this, then I deserved to be, I would have been really intimidated!”

Bishop Bambera says he is delighted that Rabbi Swartz is being acknowledged by the Vatican for his care and concern for social justice issues, particularly the environment.

“In my many years of friendship with Rabbi Swartz, I have come to know just how passionate and dedicated he is to addressing the crisis of environmental justice and demonstrating the connection between Judaism and the environment. As religious leaders and scientists gather at next month’s conference, Rabbi Swartz possesses the deep insight



Rabbi Daniel Swartz

and wisdom to help address the many challenges that our planet faces in the coming decades and centuries,” Bishop Bambera said.

The bishop also noted that Rabbi Swartz’s work parallels the work of Pope Francis, who in 2015 published his encyclical, *Laudato Si*, which focuses on the urgent need to protect the environment, reduce wasteful lifestyles, stem global warming and protect the poor from the effects of climate change.

“He is such a hero of mine,” Rabbi Swartz said regarding Pope Francis. “As the pope has said,

this is really one of the most profound religious questions of the day – what do we do in terms of how we treat our common home because it touches on so many aspects of what we consider to be fundamental religious questions. Most fundamentally, how can you be more pro-life than taking actions that may save literally billions of souls over the course of the future of humanity.”

When Rabbi Swartz and the other religious and science leaders come together on Oct. 4, they are expected to sign a climate change declaration that they have been working on. Swartz says the document has already undergone four drafts – and will be released ahead of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in November in Glasgow, Scotland.

The document is expected to press politicians to make courageous and ambitious decisions at the U.N. Conference.

“With all signs saying we’re running out of time” to address the issue of climate change, Rabbi Swartz says the document will indicate what “the faith community can do to help political leaders from around the world take this

more seriously and act more urgently.”

Once signed, Rabbi Swartz will advocate for spreading the declaration around the world and getting all faith leaders to support it.

“I’m going to make the case that we should have some way for faith leaders and all people of faith to ‘sign on’ whether they are actually additional signatories to the original document or can sign a statement saying they agree with the principals,” Swartz said. “Let us get millions of people to sign this and speak from their faith.”

At a time when many politicians are focused on the next election cycle, Rabbi Swartz believes they should be focused on the decades and centuries to come.

“It’s not just about us but it’s about our children and our children’s children,” he said.

For the hope of his own daughter, Alana, who is 22, Rabbi Swartz hopes his efforts will make a difference.

“I hope our grandchildren live in a world where they have the blessings of a stable climate. There is a significant possibility that they won’t,” he explained.

Diocese to hold special disaster collection

Continued from Page 1

The storm continued toward the Northeast, where it dropped heavy rains in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Connecticut, leading to massive flooding of homes, subways and streets. Through Sept. 7, Ida had claimed 89 lives in the U.S. Another 20 people died in Venezuela before Ida headed northward.

Catholic Charities in and around the areas of Louisiana and Mississippi affected by Hurricane Ida – one of the most powerful storms to hit the continental U.S. since Hurricane Katrina in 2005 – are working hard to assist residents. More than two million people initially lost electricity after the storm.

Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards has classified the damage as “catastrophic.”

Pastors in the areas that suffered the most damage during Ida are now getting help from people all around the community.

Father Jared Rodrigue, pastor, Saint Luke the Evangelist Church in Slidell, talked about the outpouring of support.

“It is unfortunate that it takes a tragedy to see Catholic Church teaching in its essence – to see faith in action” Father Rodrigue said. “There’s great hope in knowing we are capable of giving time and resources.”

Officials in the hardest hit areas say there are still many houses with water and some houses that are not even accessible.

HAITI STRUGGLES POST-QUAKE

Weeks after Haiti’s Aug. 14 earthquake, the country’s southwest peninsula is still marked by funerals, aftershocks and a daily search for clean water, food and shelter.

“One of the things that really struck me two weeks out is the number of funerals – everywhere you go there are funerals, as people

are burying their loved ones, and it brings a sense of overwhelming grief when that many people pass away; it is very striking,” said Beth Carroll, head of programs for Catholic Relief Services in Haiti.

The magnitude 7.2 quake killed more than 2,200 and injured more than 12,200 others. About 130,000 homes were damaged, including 50,000 which were completely destroyed, according to Haiti government estimates.

“It is very visible in the affected communities, where 90% of homes, schools and churches were flattened in the hot spots,” said Carroll. “There is also significant damage which is less visible: a lot of water systems are damaged and no longer functioning, or the water is dirty and not usable.”

Staffers of CRS, the U.S. bishops’ international relief and development agency, are operating under tarps at a parking lot near their operations center in Les Cayes following damage to their offices.

Pope plans to visit climate change conference in Glasgow

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis said he plans to make several papal trips before the end of the year, including to Scotland in early November to attend the U.N. Climate Change Conference.

During an interview broadcast Sept. 1 with COPE, the radio station owned by the Spanish bishops’ conference, the pope was asked if he planned to attend the meeting, known as COP26, in Glasgow.

“Yes, in principle, the plan is that I go,” he said. “It all depends on how I feel at the time. But in fact, my speech is already being prepared, and the plan is to be there.”

Pope Francis is expected to host about three dozen religious leaders from around the world, which will include Rabbi Daniel Swartz from Scranton, at a meeting at the Vatican and in Rome Oct. 4 in preparation for the summit.

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia (CNS) – The violence of the Holocaust and the atrocities committed against the Jewish people are tantamount to blasphemy, Pope Francis said.

“The divine name, the Lord himself, is blasphemed whenever the unique and distinctive dignity of the human person, created in his image, is violated,” the pope said Sept. 13 at a meeting with members of Slovakia’s Jewish community.

The meeting took place in Rybné námestie Square, site of a memorial tribute to the 105,000 Slovak Jews who were killed in the Holocaust.

The memorial includes a black wall with an etching of the Neolog synagogue that once stood in the square before it was destroyed by communist authorities in 1969 to make way for a bridge.

A bronze abstract sculpture topped with the Star of David with the word “Remember,” inscribed in Hebrew and Slovak, stands at the center of the square.

Daniel Feldmar, a 19-year-old member of the Jewish community in Bratislava, told Catholic News

Service he saw Pope Francis’ visit not only as an acknowledgment of “the tragedies of the Holocaust but also to acknowledge that the Jewish presence in Bratislava and in Slovakia is still strong.”

“I am so happy that a person who is considered to be holy in the Christian religion decided to come and walk through the parts where this synagogue once used to be,” he said.

Feldmar said that although the Jewish community is small, it is still strong. Nevertheless, anti-Semitism is still alive in Slovakia, due in part to “a lack of communication.”

“People usually don’t know or have never met a Jew so, of course, they will be prone to those prejudices, and they will be happy to find a scapegoat,” Feldmar told CNS.

“However, that is one of the reasons why I am happy that the pope came here today to meet with us. This dialogue will break the barriers between the Catholic Church and Judaism,” he said.

During the meeting, Pope Francis heard several testimonies, including from Holocaust survivor



Pope Francis and Richard Duda, president of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Slovakia, light candles during a meeting with the Jewish community in Rybné námestie Square in Bratislava, Slovakia, Sept. 13, 2021. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)

Tomáš Lang, who recalled the anti-Jewish persecution in his country and the death of his parents.

He also noted that one of the few to openly speak out against anti-Semitism in Slovakia was the late Archbishop Giuseppe Burzio, who served as chargé d’affaires at the apostolic nunciature.

Archbishop Burzio, Lang said, “tirelessly sought to end

the anti-Semitism of the deadly regime of that time. No Slovak politician at the time opposed that regime.”

In his address, Pope Francis recognized the importance of the synagogue that once stood alongside the Cathedral of St. Martin.

The presence of both spiritual edifices, he said, was “an expression of the peaceful coexistence of the

two communities, an unusual and evocative symbol, and a striking sign of unity in the name of the God of our fathers.”

The pope remembered the victims of the Holocaust and said it was “the worst form of blasphemy” that violated the second Commandment, “Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.”

“Here, in this place, the name of God was dishonored, for the worst form of blasphemy is to exploit it for our own purposes, refusing to respect and love others.”

Noting the word “Remember” etched on the memorial, Pope Francis said that the memory of the horrors of the Holocaust “must not give way to forgetfulness,” indifference and “forms of manipulation that would exploit religion in the service of power or else reduce it to irrelevance.”

“I repeat: let us unite in condemning all violence and every form of anti-Semitism, and in working to ensure that God’s image, present in the humanity he created, will never be profaned,” the pope said.

Pope encourages faithful to spend time in Eucharistic adoration

BUDAPEST, Hungary (CNS) – Presiding over the closing Mass of the International Eucharistic Congress Sept. 12, Pope Francis urged people to make time for eucharistic adoration.

“Let us allow Jesus, the living bread, to heal us of our self-absorption, open our hearts to self-giving, liberate us from our rigidity and self-concern, free us from the paralyzing slavery of defending our image, and inspire us to follow him wherever he would lead us,” he said.

Pope Francis, arriving in his popemobile, was greeted warmly by thousands who lined the street leading toward the Mass site in Heroes’ Square.

In the homily, Pope Francis reflected on the Sunday Gospel reading for the Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, in which Jesus asks his disciples, “Who do you say that I am?”

Jesus, he said, addresses the same question to Christians today



Pope Francis uses incense as he celebrates the closing Mass of the International Eucharistic Congress at Heroes’ Square in Budapest, Hungary, Sept. 12, 2021. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

and requires a response that is “more than a quick answer straight out the catechism.”

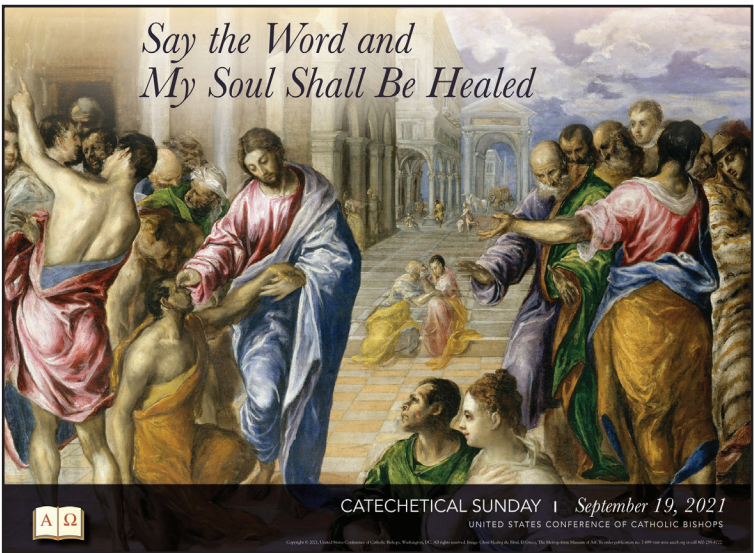
The first step in responding to Jesus’ question, he explained, is to proclaim Jesus as Lord. However, the pope recalled that Jesus told his disciples to “tell no one about him.”

“There was a very good reason: to call Jesus the Christ the Messiah is correct, but incomplete. There is always the risk of proclaiming a false messianism, one of human origins, not from God,” he said.

Nevertheless, to proclaim Christ means also proclaiming his death on the cross, and the Eucharist serves as a reminder of God “as bread broken, as love crucified and bestowed.”

Lastly, Christians must learn to “walk behind Jesus,” because Christianity is not “a race toward success” but to find true freedom in “not needing to be the center of everything.”

In doing so, Pope Francis said Christians can learn to follow in the footsteps of Christ, “who came to serve and not be served.”



Official Notice August 30, 2021

The faithful of the Diocese of Scranton are hereby advised that Jean-Pierre Pilon, an incardinated priest of the Diocese of Scranton currently living in Canada, is not permitted to exercise priestly ministry in any capacity in any place. The Catholic faithful should also be aware that Pilon does not possess the faculty to hear confessions or to preach the Word of God.

Rev. Gerald W. Shantillo
Vicar General, Diocese of Scranton

Texas bishops highlight state-funded program to help pregnant women

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Amid heated discussion surrounding the new abortion law in Texas, which bans abortions from six weeks, Catholic bishops have emphasized the importance of a long-running state program to help pregnant women.

“Texas has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in programs for pregnant moms and families,” said a statement issued by the Texas Catholic Conference, two days after the new law went into effect.

The conference, which is the public policy arm of the state’s Catholic bishops, was referring to the state-funded program Alternatives to Abortion, which started in 2005. The program provides funds for pregnancy centers that offer counseling services and resources to women in crisis pregnancies.

“Hundreds of pregnancy and parenting support programs and adoption services in our state provide practical resources to women and families facing overwhelming circumstances,” the group’s Sept. 3 statement said.

The Texas Catholic Conference noted that “pregnant and parenting moms in need are in our parishes and our neighborhoods. As Pope Francis reminds us, our parishes must be ‘islands of mercy in the midst of a sea of indifference.’”

The state’s bishops also stressed that “everyone in the parish should know where to refer a pregnant woman in need.” They said this work is also something that has been taken up on the national level with the initiative of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Walking with Moms in Need, which helps pregnant women and mothers.

In a Sept. 9 statement, Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Pro-Life Activities, said that he wished to “echo the words of the Texas Catholic bishops who expressed gratitude for the growing network of support for pregnant mothers and their families in Texas.”

The archbishop noted that the Texas legislature recently increased support for low-income mothers by 25% in its Alternatives to Abortion program and by expanding Medicaid coverage for new mothers.

In addressing the new Texas abortion law, he said it “seeks to use civil rather than criminal law to protect the lives of vulnerable children in the womb.”

On Sept. 9, the Justice Department sued the state of Texas for the new abortion ban, calling the state law unconstitutional. It is also seeking an injunction to prohibit the law’s enforcement.

Archbishop Naumann called it tragic that political leaders, including President Joe Biden and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, “have responded with statements that ignore our nation’s sacred interest to protect the life and health of both mothers and their unborn children, instead responding with radical pledges to mobilize the full force of the federal government to block all efforts to protect the life of the child in the womb.”

San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone similarly criticized these leaders and also highlighted state support for pregnancy centers in Texas in a Sept. 5 op-ed piece in The Washington Post where he said: “Texas gets this right.”

“The state is investing \$100 million to help mothers by funding pregnancy centers, adoption agencies and maternity homes and providing free services including counseling, parenting help, diapers, formula and job training to mothers who want to keep their babies,” he said.

The archbishop primarily emphasized the importance of Catholics speaking out against abortion and urged Catholics to particularly challenge Catholic politicians who support laws favoring abortion.

“You cannot be a good Catholic and support expanding a government-approved right to kill innocent human beings,” he said.

Currently, there are 22 abortion clinics in Texas and more than 200 pregnancy centers.

Pregnancy centers provide free diapers, formula, clothing, toys, books, car seats, furniture as well as pregnancy tests, adoption referrals and nutrition and counseling resources.

One pregnancy center, Flourishing Tree Family & Pregnancy Resource Center in Aledo, Texas, is part of an outreach of the Diocese of Fort Worth.

Terri Schauf, the Respect Life coordinator for the diocese, said: “Pregnancy centers are really at the forefront of pro-life ministry, helping women directly in need when they have a crisis pregnancy or an unexpected pregnancy.”

In an article last year in the North Texas Catholic, the online newsmagazine of the Diocese of Fort Worth, Schauf said it is crucial to have pregnancy centers around the diocese because clients often don’t have the resources to travel far from home.

She also said the diocese’s Respect Life office is “putting our actions where the church’s teachings are. We respect life from the moment of conception to natural death.”

The issue of when does life begin comes up with the new Texas abortion law that had been called the “heartbeat bill” when it moved through the state legislature for banning abortions when a fetal heartbeat could be detected at about six weeks.

The Texas Catholic Conference said the law’s opponents have called the heartbeat terminology misleading, saying that what is heard is “embryonic cardiac activity” or “electrically induced flickering of embryonic tissue.”

“These attempts to dehumanize the unborn are disturbing,” the state’s bishops said.

Similarly, Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York raised this point on a Sept. 7 episode of “Conversation with Cardinal Dolan” on SiriusXM’s Catholic Channel.

Speaking about the Texas abortion law, which the Justice Department is expected to challenge in court, the cardinal asked: “When does life begin?”

He added that if the line is drawn at different stages in fetal development, then it’s not really “a question of life; it’s a question of convenience. It’s a question of choice.”

“Choice is not an absolute value; life is,” he added.

As U.S. presence in Afghanistan ends, Catholics call to welcome refugees

WASHINGTON (CNS) – As Aug. 30 ended in the U.S. and a new day began in a different time zone in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Aug. 31, 2021, the U.S. Central Command released a green-tinted photo of a soldier about to get on a cargo plane, a photographic coda to seal the historic moment that put an end to nearly two decades of U.S. military presence in Afghanistan.

Though many were quick to call it “the end” of the United States’ longest war, it’s too early to tell what, if any, involvement may continue in the now Taliban-controlled nation since some U.S. citizens remain there.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said “under 200 and likely closer to 100” U.S. citizens are still in Afghanistan.

“We did not get everyone out that we wanted,” said Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, head of U.S. Central Command announcing the withdrawal on Aug. 30 in the U.S., reminding reporters listening that it was Aug. 31 in Afghanistan, fulfilling the date



Afghan refugees at Dulles International Airport in Va., board buses Sept. 2, 2021, that will take them to a processing center. (CNS photo/Evelyn Hockstein, Reuters)

the U.S. had set for the withdrawal.

But there are some U.S. citizens in the country, he said, who because of family or other ties, did not want to leave Afghanistan. Others were not able to make it to the airport in time for the last U.S. plane out.

The administration of President George W. Bush sent troops to Afghanistan after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks that left 2,996 dead on U.S. soil, trying to pin down al-Qaida

militants who planned the hijacking of airplanes, including Osama bin Laden, who was believed to be in and out of Afghanistan hiding with help from the Taliban.

U.S. troops remained there under previous administrations from both political parties and in October 2020, President Donald Trump tweeted that he would withdraw U.S. troops from Afghanistan by Christmas. President Joe Biden continued with the plan but with a different timeline. However, analysts have blamed the four previous administrations -- from George W. Bush to Biden’s -- with the unfolding drama.

Gen. McKenzie said U.S. military had evacuated 79,000, including 6,000 U.S. citizens from the Kabul airport since Aug. 14, after the Afghan military collapsed following the imminent withdrawal of U.S. troops and contractors.

“The evacuation from Kabul is coming to an end. A larger crisis is just beginning,” warned the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo

Grandi on Aug. 30.

“The evacuation effort has undoubtedly saved tens of thousands of lives, and these efforts are praiseworthy. But when the airlift and the media frenzy are over, the overwhelming majority of Afghans, some 39 million, will remain inside Afghanistan. They need us -- governments, humanitarians, ordinary citizens -- to stay with them and stay the course,” Grandi said in a statement.

Catholics in the U.S. joined faith leaders from the Interfaith Immigration Coalition, who, in an Aug. 30 letter, urged Biden to “take full responsibility for protecting the lives of thousands of Afghan allies that worked alongside U.S. forces, as well as provide robust protections for vulnerable populations in Afghanistan...”

As the Biden administration pivoted its future in Afghanistan from a military operation to a diplomatic one, the interfaith coalition urged the U.S. government to help.

Continued on Page 29

Parish Bazaar, Picnic & Festivals Listing

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 “Fall Festival” in Muncy — Sept. 24 & 25. Festival held on Friday from 4 to 7 p.m. and Saturday, 1 to 7 p.m., on the grounds of the Church of the Resurrection, 75 Musser Lane, Muncy (Lycoming County). Event features the inaugural Chili Cook-off, picnic foods, musical entertainment, prize raffles, children’s games and sweet treats, including ice cream and baked goods. Live music on Saturday with the Resurrection Singers, from 1:30 to 2 p.m., and the Catawissa Military Band, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. For more information, contact Marisol DeWitt at (570) 546-3900, or resurrection@windstream.net.

Saint Barbara Parish “Oktoberfest” in Exeter — Sept. 26, from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Traditional German October festival celebration will be hosted on the parish grounds and pavilion area of Saint Anthony of Padua Church on Erie Street in Exeter. Admission cost: \$20 for food vouchers; advance tickets available after all weekend Masses. Menu specialties include authentic, homemade German favorites and traditional picnic foods; take-out orders are available. Event will also feature an Oktoberfest Basket Raffle. For more information, contact Saint Barbara Parish office at (570) 654-2103.

Good Shepherd Church “Harvest Gathering” in Drums — Oct. 9 & 10. Fall Festival held on Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, 1 to 7 p.m., on the grounds of Good Shepherd Church, 87 South Hunter Highway, Drums, Luzerne County. Event features various food trucks, craft show, fireworks display, family activities, live music, beer station, tricky trays, games of chance, and scarecrow decorating contest. Musical entertainment provided both days by Father Mike & His Heavenly Delight, and The Late Arrivals on Sunday from 4 to 6 p.m. For more information call (570) 788-3141, or visit: www.goodshepherd-drums.org.

Saint Aloysius Church “Fall Food Festival, Flea Market & Craft Fair” in Wilkes-Barre — Oct. 16, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Event will be held on the grounds of Saint Aloysius Church, Barney & Division streets, Wilkes-Barre. Food sale begins at 11 a.m.; includes homemade festival foods, potato pancakes and bake sale. Flea market/craft fair vendor rental space is available for the day for \$25. For more information, contact the parish office at (570) 823-3791 ext. 2, or visit: www.stalschurchwb.com to download forms.

Saint John Neumann Parish “Fall Festival” in Scranton — Oct. 16 & 17. Event will be held on Saturday, 3 to 8 p.m., and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., on the parish grounds of Nativity of Our Lord Church, 633 Orchard St., South Scranton. Festival menu items include pulled pork sandwiches, potato pancakes and Hispanic foods; event also features bountiful theme gift baskets, white elephant sale and bake sale.



CTV: CATHOLIC TELEVISION

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SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

CTV LOCAL ORIGATION IS BOXED IN BOLD BORDER, OTHER PROGRAMMING IS FROM EWTN

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
12:00 AM	DAILY MASS	SUNDAY MASS (Encore)	DAILY MASS (Encore)				
1:00 AM	FR SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	(1:10AM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	THE JOURNEY HOME (Encore)	MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE CLASSICS	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	THE WORLD OVER (Encore)	EWTN NEWS IN DEPTH
1:30 AM		EWTN GALLERY					
2:00 AM	ICONS SPOTLIGHT		EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Encore)				
2:30 AM	THEY MIGHT BE SAINTS	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY
3:00 AM	EWTN GALLERY		EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE	SPECIALS	SPECIALS	LIFE ON THE ROCK	BATTLE READY
3:30AM		DEFENDING LIFE	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY (Call in thurs)			AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY	
4:00 AM	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	LIVING THE DIVINE MERCY	FIRST COMES LOVE	REAL LIFE CATHOLIC		BOB AND PENNY LORD	WEB OF FAITH 2.0
4:30 AM		SUNDAY BEST WITH FR GROESCHEL	GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR A HAPPY LIFE		THE PROMISE	LIFE IS WORTH LIVING	GK CHESTERTON
5:00 AM	THE REFORMATION	EWTN BOOKMARK	THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL		DOMINICAN SISTERS	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY	EWTN SPECIALS
5:30 AM	WHERE GOD WEEPS	CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN	METANOIA	CATHOLIC SPHERE	CATHOLICS COME HOME		
6:00 AM	ANGELUS WITH POPE FRANCIS	EWTN ORIGINAL PRODUCTIONS					
6:30 AM	WHERE GOD WEEPS	G.K. CHESTERTON	CHURCH AND THE POOR	MATTHEW'S 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)	MY CATH. FAMILY
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	ST ANN'S WEEKLY NOVENA		CHOICES WE FACE	NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY
11:00 AM	EWTN NEWS IN-DEPTH	OFOD OR SPECIALS		THE CASE FOR MARRIAGE	MARRIAGE WORKS IN CHRIST	SAINTS	BOB & PENNY LORD PRESENT
11:30 AM		THE PROMISE	MAN AND WOMAN				
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		(1:20PM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	WOMEN OF GRACE				
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							
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	MASSTERPIECE DONUT	THE FRIAR	TRUTH IN THE HEART	CAT CHAT	BUG TIME ADVENTURES	
5:00 PM	THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL	EWTN BOOKMARK	THE CHOICES WE FACE	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE	POLISH CATHOLIC	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		CATHOLICS COME HOME	REAL LIFE CATHOLICS	CHURCH UNIVERSAL	VATICANO	WHAT IS GOD'S WILL?	
7:00 PM	SUNDAY MASS	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, (Encore)					DAILY MASS
7:30PM		THE HOLY ROSARY DIOCESAN DATEBOOK					
8:00 PM		(8:20) LITANY OF SACRED HEART	THE JOURNEY HOME (Live)	OFOD OR SPECIALS (CAN BE 90 MINUTES) MUSIC AND SPOKEN WORD	EWTN LIVE	THE WORLD OVER (Live)	
8:30 PM	CATHOLICS COME HOME						EWTN CINEMA
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	
10:00PM	EWTN SPECIALS	THE WORLD OVER LIVE (ENCORE)	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION (ENCORE)	FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	PRO-LIFE WEEKLY	LIFE ON THE ROCK	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY
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					EWTN BOOKMARK

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Mission Message

Go Forth

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



What's on your bucket list? Whether it's visiting an exotic or historic place, skydiving, bungee jumping or a host of other adventures, each of us surely has something that we want to do in life before we die.

Like many of you, I have such hopes and lofty dreams about places to visit and things to do. I am willing to bet we are apprehensive and certainly don't dream about going to places that are challenged by great social, economic, and political poverty.

Rightly so. It is natural to protect and shield ourselves from harm. I have this apprehension, but at times wish I didn't. Hear me out.

Saint Ignatius of Loyola aptly wrote in his spiritual exercises that there are many good things in life that are worthy of our attention

and cooperation, such as working with the poor and those in need, becoming a missionary, making sacrifices that may benefit those who lack the good things of this world.

However, though we may acknowledge that these are noble and worthy pursuits, we may find it very difficult — even insurmountable — to want to do them. Saint Ignatius's spiritual solution to this is to pray for the "desire for the desire."

So, it is with my "other" bucket list. I have always wished I had the personal and spiritual wherewithal to become a missionary in places where there is such great need. I marvel at religious and lay missionaries throughout the world who in many ways journey from the relative comfort of their own homes and the familiarity of their surroundings and willingly travel to some of the most challenging places around the globe.

I have always admired the resolve of the Missionaries of Charity — the society founded by Mother Teresa — who leave so much behind to serve the poorest of the poor.

I was privileged during my studies in Washington, D.C., to

celebrate Mass and give retreats to the Missionaries of Charity at their novitiate in a quiet neighborhood just blocks from the Basilica of the National Shrine. It is there that they also provide care to dozens of poor elderly folks in the nursing home they staff and sponsor.

Just a few weeks ago as the fate of Afghanistan, our American brothers and sisters stranded there, and many other people of good will hung in the balance, a news story reported that the Missionaries of Charity, along with 14 disabled orphans, were rescued and given refuge in Rome.

My heart sank and my spiritual curiosity ballooned. To be rescued meant that those holy nuns — like many others — first had to bring to fruition a desire they had in their heart to serve the poorest of the poor. They had to go into Afghanistan and serve. Imagine being that fearless. If it's not fearlessness, imagine having such radical trust in God to simply go, wherever there is a need in the name of God.

How I wish I could have such deep trust and the willingness to surrender. For now, I can only desire for that desire.

Apostleship of Prayer

Papal Intention for October 2021

Missionary Disciples —

We pray that every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavor of the Gospel.

Deacon's ministry with suicide focus of October 19 webinar

SCRANTON — *Responding to Suicide: A Pastoral Handbook for Catholic Leaders*, widely 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 Diocesan Office for Parish Life will sponsor a webinar focusing on the topic on Tuesday, Oct. 19, at 7 p.m., when Deacon Ed will share information about the published work and his companion book, *When A Loved One Dies by Suicide*.

One of the founders of the Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers, the cathedral deacon will reflect on the spiritual insights he has gained after losing a loved one to suicide and discuss the support that pastoral leaders can provide to individuals and communities who are affected by suicide.

The presentation by Deacon Shoener, who also facilitates a



Deacon Ed Shoener

parish grief support group through the Cathedral Parish of Saint Peter, will offer a unique learning opportunity for those involved in parish grief and bereavement ministry, or for anyone interested in learning more.

To register to attend this one hour webinar, or for additional details, contact Jen Housel at jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org or (570) 207-2213 ext. 1104.

Marian Devotion Rosary prayer services scheduled

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 has continued with monthly Rosary rallies that will conclude on Oct. 16, in celebration of the final 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 — Oct. 1, beginning at 6:30 p.m., hosted at Saint Lucy Parish in West Scranton.

Rosary Evening — Oct. 14, at 6 p.m., hosted by Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Parish, Centre St., Freeland.

October Rosary Rallies — held on Oct. 16 at two locations: noon at Lackawanna County Courthouse, North Washington Ave., Scranton; 5:30 p.m. at the outdoor Grotto on the grounds of the Oblates of Saint Joseph Seminary, Route 315, Laflin, followed by Mass in the chapel.

Third Monday of the Month Rosary — Oct. 18, from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laflin.

Rosary Retreat — Oct. 23, beginning at 10 a.m., hosted at Saint Patrick Parish in Milford.

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



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Wyoming Valley Knights 'Rosary Rally' set for September 26 at Larksville parish



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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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 following the Mass, and all faithful are welcome to participate.

Pictured are representatives from the various Wyoming Valley Knights of Columbus councils. Shown, first row from left: Grand Knight Michael Yavorchak, Plymouth Council 984; Grand Knight James Ford, Nanticoke Council 913; Father Gurka; Christopher Calore, Plymouth Council 984, rally coordinator; Past Grand Knight Mike Frantz, Sacred Heart Glen Lyon Council 10676; and Past Grand Knight Paul Makuch, Wilkes-Barre Council 302.

Second row: Past Grand Knight George Grantuskas, Plymouth Council 984; Grand Knight Thomas Havrilak, Kingston Assumpta Council 3987; Past Grand Knight Francis Kennedy, Ashley Council 12089, District 44 deputy; Past Grand Knight John Duesler, Kingston Assumpta Council; Sam Wolfe, color corps commander, Plymouth Council 11901; David Miller, recording secretary, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Swoyersville Council 12976; and Past Grand Knight Matt Owazany, Plymouth Council 984, district deputy.

Public Rosary October 16 in Wilkes-Barre

A public recitation of the Holy Rosary will take place on Saturday, Oct. 16, at noon at the Our Lady of Fatima Blessed Grotto on North Street in North Wilkes-Barre.

The Rosary devotion will commemorate Our Lady's final apparition at Fatima in Portugal on Oct. 13, 1917. All are welcome.

Father Cizek Day Celebration October 17

SHENANDOAH — The Father Walter Cizek Prayer League announces the annual Father Cizek Day celebration will be held on Sunday, Oct. 17, in Shenandoah.

The Prayer League is dedicated to promoting the canonization cause for Father Cizek, who has been revered and venerated for his extraordinary faith and devotion to his priestly vocation.

The centerpiece of the daylong celebration will be a Divine Liturgy offered at 2 p.m. at Saint Casimir Church, 229 North Jardin St., Shenandoah.

Monsignor Ronald Bocian, president of the Father Walter Cizek Prayer League, will serve as principal celebrant for the Eucharistic liturgy, with Jesuit Father Thomas Stegman as the homilist.

Prior to the liturgical celebration, a “Father Walter Cizek” video presentation will be available for viewing from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. A social reception immediately follows the Mass in the church hall.

Father Cizek served



Father Walter Cizek

the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) congregation as a teacher and missionary in Eastern Europe during the mid-20th century. It was during his missionary ministry the Catholic priest was arrested by Soviet authorities and held in confinement for 15 years in a Siberian labor camp.

Upon his release, Father Cizek wrote two well-known defining books, *With God in Russia* and *He Leadeth Me*, offered as meditations on his acceptance and forgiveness after surviving horrific conditions as a prisoner of the Communists.

IHM Sisters virtual prayer evening

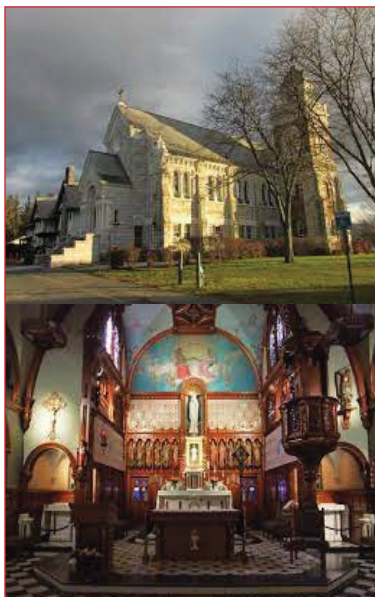
SCRANTON — The Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters will continue their monthly “Evenings of Prayer with the Sisters of IHM” on Wednesday, Nov. 10.

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.ihm.com/channel/ihm-tv>.

The November prayer service will feature the “Founders Day IHM Associate Commissioning.”

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



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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 Respetto 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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Catholics call on President Biden to protect Afghan allies

Continued from Page 22

“If ‘human rights must be at the center of our foreign policy, not the periphery,’ as you stated in (your) address to the American people and to the world, the United States must stand behind its promises...,” the interfaith coalition said in its statement.

“We are called by our sacred texts to love our neighbor, accompany the vulnerable, and welcome the sojourner... Our places of worship and faith communities stand ready to welcome all Afghans in need of refuge,” the group added.

Others, such as the Catholic organization Pax Christi USA, criticized the Biden administration for a drone strike Aug. 29 against suspected suicide bombers, which resulted in explosions that led to the death of 10 civilians, including children.

“Pax Christi USA calls on the Biden administration to cease the use of lethal drones,” the organization’s executive director, Johnny Zokovitch, said in an Aug. 30 statement.

“Such indiscriminate killing just furthers the cycle of violence, undermines real human security

and traumatizes survivors. What we are seeing now after 20 years of military occupation in Afghanistan should, at the very least, cause our leaders to pause and question to what end more arms, more bombs, and more death will lead.”

The administration ordered the strike after blasts near the Kabul airport, carried by suicide bombers, killed 13 U.S. service members on Aug. 26.

In a televised late afternoon speech on Aug. 31, Biden said “it was time to end this war” in Afghanistan a long time ago. It was something past presidents had promised but did not carry out.

“I refused to open another decade of warfare in Afghanistan,” he said, adding that he did not want “to send another generation of American sons and daughters to fight a war that should have been done long ago.”

Civilian and military advisors counseled him to end this war as it didn’t serve any vital interest to the U.S., he said, which at one point had been ensuring that Afghanistan could not be used by those wanting to attack the U.S.

“We delivered justice to bin Laden, al-Qaida was decimated,” he said.


He also took ownership and responsibility for his decision.

“As we close 20 years of war and strife and pain and sacrifice, it’s time to look to the future, not the past,” he said. “I give my word with all of my heart: I believe this is the right decision, a wise decision and the best decision for America.”

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Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese

Weekly Eucharistic Adoration — **SEPT. 16, 23 & 30**, hosted at St. Anthony/St. George Maronite Catholic Church, 311 Park Ave. (corner of Dana Street), Wilkes-Barre; all-day exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament held every Thursday, concluding with sacramental confessions at 6 p.m., followed by Rosary recitation and closing benediction, with individual blessing with the monstrance of the Eucharistic Lord. Celebration of Mass concludes the day of adoration on the first Thursday of the month at 6 p.m.

Weekly/Monthly Pro-Life Rosary Gatherings — **SEPT. 16, 23 & 30/OCT. 1**, offered for the special intentions of ending abortion and closure of the Planned Parenthood location in Wilkes-Barre; Rosary is prayed every Thursday and First Friday of the month at 10 a.m. in front of the offices of Planned Parenthood, 101 N. Main St., Wilkes-Barre (across from King's College). All faithful are welcome to participate.

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, bake goods and refreshments for purchase.

Weekly Bingo — **SEPT. 20**, hosted by Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Dickson City; bingo games held every Monday evening in St. Mary's Visitation parish center, 625 Dundaff St., Dickson City, with doors opening at 5 p.m. Early bird games begin at 6:20 p.m.; regular games follow. Admission package includes weekly jackpot and 17 regular games. Center is handicapped accessible at the Scott Road entrance; variety of foods and beverages available for purchase. Shuttle service provided from Carbondale and Scranton; facial masks required for anyone not vaccinated. For more information, call the parish office (570) 489-2091.

Weekly Bereavement Support Group Sessions — **SEPT. 22 & 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.

"40 Days for Life" Pro-Life Rosary Gathering — **SEPT. 22-OCT. 29**, offered for the special intentions of ending abortion and closure of the Planned Parenthood location in Wilkes-Barre; Rosary is prayed each weekday, Monday thru Friday, at 10 a.m. in front of the offices of Planned Parenthood, 101 North Main St., Wilkes-Barre. The pro-life campaign draws attention to the evil of abortion through prayer & fasting, constant vigil, and community outreach. For more information, visit: ww.40daysforlife.com.

Knights of Columbus Car Wash — **SEPT. 25**, sponsored by Knights of Columbus St. Ann's Council 12572 in Scranton; held

from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the grounds of the Basilica Church of St. Ann, located on St. Ann's Street in West Scranton. Cost: \$10 per car. All proceeds will benefit local charities.

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.

Chicken Barbecue Dinner — **SEPT. 26**, hosted by St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church at St. Mary's Center, 320 Mifflin Ave., Scranton; serving of dinners begins at 12:05 p.m. Event includes bake sale & raffle drawings. Dinner cost: \$12 per person; advance sales preferred. For ticket reservations, call St. Mary's Center at (570) 343-5151.

41st Annual Candlelight Rosary Novena — **OCT. 2-10**, hosted by St. Lucy Parish in West Scranton; nine-day Novena devotion begins each evening at 7 p.m. in St. Lucy Church. Nightly Novena includes recitation of the Rosary by candlelight and crowning of the Blessed Mother statue, concluding with solemn benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Annual Candlelight Rosary Novena is led by parish Deacon Carmine Mendicino, who began the traditional devotion in California following his ordination to the permanent diaconate in 1979. Music ministry provided by Christopher Mendicino; Father Sam Ferretti is host pastor. All faithful are welcome to attend.

*Continued on
Page 31*

Parish Take-Out Food Sale — **OCT. 2 & 3**, sponsored by St. John the Baptist Church in Larksville; featuring homemade rice pudding and Manhattan (red) & New England (white) clam chowder. Pick-up of advance orders on Saturday, from noon to 6 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 2 p.m. Cost: large orders of each, \$7; medium orders, \$5. Pre-orders required by Sept. 26; to place orders, call Judy Toporcer at (570) 779-0431.

Columbus Day Weekend “New Discovery” Rummage & Bake Sale — **OCT. 8 & 9**, sponsored by St. Paul of the Cross Parish in South Scranton; held in the parish center, 1215 Prospect Ave. Hours: Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; half-price sale and bag sale on Saturday at noon and 1 p.m., respectively. Event also includes homemade

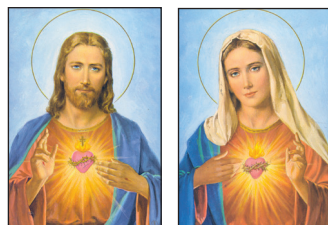
baked goods, raffle drawing, and a bountiful array of sale items for shoppers. Donations of gently used or new items are welcome; no furniture or electronics will be accepted. For more information, call (570) 862-0390 or (570) 947-8641.

Craft Fair & Home Showcase — **OCT. 24**, sponsored by the Parent Club of Holy Cross High School in Dunmore; opens at 10 a.m. at Holy Cross High School, 501 East Drinker St. Annual event features more than 80 vendors showcasing handmade arts & crafts; also includes a basket raffle and homemade foods for sale. General admission: \$3 per person; \$2 for seniors and students (ages 12 & older). All proceeds benefit student programs and local charities. For more information, contact Renee Hanna at (570) 614-3727.

Blue Army Reparation Vigil

The next monthly First Friday Reparation Vigil, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary and sponsored by the Blue Army, will be held **October 1** at Saint Joseph’s Oblate Seminary, 1880 Highway 315, Laflin (Pittston).

Devotions begin Friday evening at 8 p.m. with recitation of the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary, during which time confessions are heard. Mass of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is celebrated at 8:55 p.m., followed by benediction, litany and consecration to the Sacred Heart.



The vigil continues with the crowning of the Blue Army Pilgrim Virgin Statue, the Blue Army Pledge, Fatima prayers and Marian hymns, followed by litany and consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The vigil concludes with scapular enrollment at 10:15 p.m.

Saint Pio Prayer Group gathering Sept. 26

HONESDALE — The Saint Padre Pio Prayer Group invites all faithful to their devotional gathering on Sunday, Sept. 26, at Saint Mary Magdalen Church, 416 Church St., Honesdale, beginning with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 2:30 p.m.

Father William Langan, host pastor and group spiritual director, will lead the faithful in prayers offered for all priests, followed by recitation of the Rosary.

A reading from sacred Scripture will be followed by a spiritual reflection by Father Langan.

The Book of Special Intentions invoking the intercession of Saint Padre Pio will be presented, and special prayer intentions will be offered.

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick will be administered to those who are seriously ill or about to undergo surgery.

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy will be chanted at 3 p.m., followed by Liturgy of the Hours (vespers), benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, a closing hymn to the Blessed Mother and individual blessing with the relic of Saint Pio.

‘Remembrance Day’ in memory of aborted children 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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41ST ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT

Rosary Novena
Saturday, Oct. 2nd through Sunday, Oct. 10th at 7:00 P.M.

ST. LUCY’S CHURCH

949 Scranton Street – Scranton, PA

“Stay with us Lord”

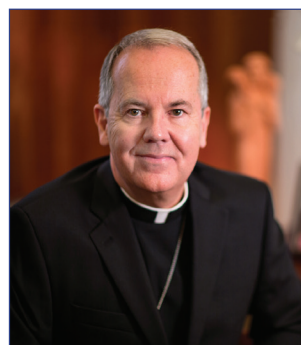
- The Rosary will be said by candlelight in the Church.
- The crowning of Our Blessed Mother takes place each night.
- Novena for the Souls in Purgatory will be recited.
- The Novena will close each evening with Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.



Everyone is invited to attend. Handicap accessible.

Rev. Sam Ferretti, Pastor – Deacon Carmine Mendicino, Director- Christopher Mendicino, Choir Director

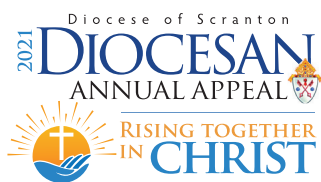
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— Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton

Donate Now: AnnualAppeal.org



Gifts of Any Amount Are Appreciated

Pittston Parish Hosting 64th Saint Jude Novena

PITTSTON — Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish will host its 64th Annual Novena to Saint Jude, patron saint of hopeless cases and things despaired of, at Saint Mary, Help of Christians Church, 535 N. Main St., Pittston, beginning Tuesday, Oct. 19, and concluding on the Feast of Saint Jude, Thursday, Oct. 28.

Mass, homily, Novena prayers and veneration of the relic of Saint Jude will be held Monday through Friday at noon and 7 p.m. Saturday devotions are offered at noon and 4 p.m.; Sundays at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

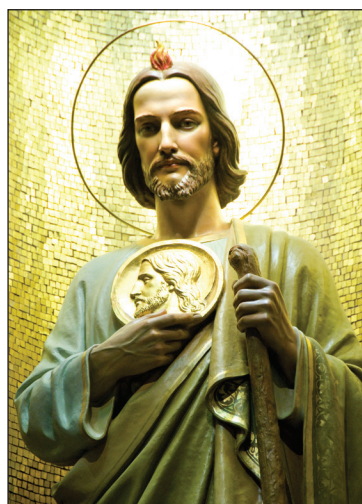
Recitation of the Rosary and Confessions precede all Novena devotions, except on Sunday.

Scheduled Novena homilists are as follows:

Tuesday, Oct. 19, noon and 7 p.m., Father Mark DeCelles; Wednesday, Oct. 20, noon and 7 p.m., Father Seth Wasnock.

Thursday, Oct. 21, noon and 7 p.m., Father Brian Van Fossen; Friday, Oct. 22, noon, Father James Alco, and 7 p.m., Saint Joseph Oblate Father Paul McDonnell, Sacramental Minister for Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish.

Saturday, Oct. 23, noon, Father Thomas Maloney, pastor



emeritus; and 4 p.m., Father McDonnell; Sunday, Oct. 24, 11 a.m., Father McDonnell, and 5 p.m., Father Maloney.

Monday, Oct. 25, noon and 7 p.m., Father Alex Roche; Tuesday, Oct. 26, noon and 7 p.m., Father Michael Bryant.

Wednesday, Oct. 27, noon and 7 p.m., Father Jeffrey Walsh.

On the Feast of Saint Jude, Thursday, Oct. 28, Father Gerald Shantillo, Vicar General of the Scranton Diocese, will celebrate the Novena's closing liturgies at noon and 7 p.m.

For more information, contact the parish office at (570) 654-0263.

The Catholic Light

MAILING LABEL - Please be sure to enclose this label with any address changes and mail to The Catholic Light, 330 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503

Organ Rededication Recital in Pittston planned for October



PITTSTON — Mark Laubach, organist and choirmaster of Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church in Wilkes-Barre and Professor of Organ at Marywood University, Scranton, will present a Rededication Recital on Sunday, Oct. 24, at 3 p.m. for the 1920s Kilgen pipe organ at Saint John the Evangelist Parish, 35 William St., Pittston.

The instrument was cleaned and refurbished in early 2020 by the Peragallo Pipe Organ Company of Paterson, N.J., and the Trivo Reed Company of Hagerstown, Md. It was reinstalled at Saint John's in late spring 2020 and played for the first time at Mass on July 18, 2020.

A trumpet stop which was installed in 1983 was repurposed as a *trumpet en chamade* and named the Evangelist Trumpet after the patron saint of the parish. The project also helped to improve the tuning of the instrument and blended the sounds of the original Kilgen pipework with the pipe ranks added to the organ in 1983. Minor tonal changes were made during the 2020 refurbishment.

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