



GoodNewsNotes

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

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**World Day of Prayer for the Care for Creation
Wednesday, September 1**

**World Day for Migrants and Refugees
Sunday, September 26**



As September arrives we find ourselves beginning again. This September we find ourselves navigating with the Delta Variant in our midst. As we eventually create an even more robust version of our parishes the Office for Parish Life is desiring to accompany you, support you and serve you in that mission.

Years prior to the pandemic Pope Francis suggested that we see our church as a field hospital after battle. He shared that it was useless to ask a seriously injured person if he had high cholesterol or about high blood sugars. Instead, he suggested that we first need to heal wounds.

Recently Pope Francis encouraged us to focus on healing our world from the physical and social ills related to the coronavirus pandemic.

We are currently in the midst of searching for a new Secretary for the Office for Parish Life.

In the interim the Office for Parish Life team is most desiring to serve and support you, in any way, as you heal and form your path forward from the pandemic. This expanded edition of the *Good News Notes* gives you an idea of some of the resources available to you and your parishioners.

Sincerely,
Ann Marie Cawley
Interim Director
Office for Parish Life



Bishop's Youth Awards

As you are all aware, over the past few weeks there has been an upsurge of COVID cases in the 11 counties throughout the Diocese of Scranton. With this in mind, some adjustments have been made in the preparation for and celebration of the Bishop's Youth Awards. **The awards, this year only, will be moved to early spring, 2022.** Once the new spring dates have been confirmed, they will be sent out to each parish/school. Nominations will take place at that time.

We are sorry if this has caused any inconvenience however, we will continue to make every effort to ensure the safety and well-being of the faithful in the Diocese of Scranton. Bishop Bambera looks forward to gathering with the recipients of the Bishop's Youth Awards each year. It is our prayer that we will be able to celebrate the awards together in the spring.

We appreciate all that you do to encourage the young people of your parish as they grow in missionary discipleship!

If you have any questions, please contact Jacki Douglas, Director of Word and Lifelong Faith Formation, Office for Parish Life. jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org 570-207-2213 x-1100.

Faith Alive!

Powered by Edmodo

The Office for Parish Life and the Directors of Religious Education were busy last year discovering all the benefits available through Faith Alive! Powered by Edmodo.

With the fluidity of the future again this year, we are happy to announce the return of our Faith Alive! Powered by Edmodo platform with communication and collaboration tools built for religious education and focused on faith formation outcomes. On this platform, your entire religious education community learns together—in person, online or anywhere in-between.

The benefits of using hybrid learning as a parish:

- **This platform provides a flexible classroom space that lets DREs/teachers/catechists and their families connect—no matter where they are.** Classroom features give parishes a versatile space to conduct engaging lessons—complete with rigorous discussions, robust assessment and assignment tools, fun class challenges, and to create family faith formation experiences.
- **Your faith formation resources are just a few**

clicks away in your private resource library. Reduce the time it takes your parish DREs/catechists/teachers to create lessons by providing them access to all of our religious education resources, all in one place.

- **Quickly build interactive weekly lessons.** Our customizable lesson builder lets your DREs assemble warm-ups, activities, small groups, faith experiences—anything you can think of—into a weekly/daily class playlist for students to work through at their pace.
- **Use Small Groups to deliver instruction and content, whether your class meets in person, online, or both.** We support synchronous and asynchronous learning to fully meet the needs of learning regardless of where it occurs.
- **Deliver live instruction online.** Gives your DREs/catechists/teachers a powerful video lesson and whiteboard tool that's perfect for remote learning.
- **Fuel ministerial development.** Power training with Diocese of Scranton for Ministerial Development, where your DREs, teachers, and faith formation resources combine to improve learning outcomes.
- **Assessments to make sure we are meeting the Faith Formation needs of our students and families.** Use this site to measure progress of all students/families. You will have access to whether the family is engaged. Dashboards allow teachers/DREs to monitor progress in real time, and students can easily ask questions and get feedback.

To learn more, please contact Jacki Douglas at jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org or (570)207-2213 x-1100.

Remote Networking Meetings

Save the Dates—We are excited to continue our Remote Network Meetings for DREs, and Youth Ministers. These meetings will keep with the focus that we began at the onset of the pandemic. We will center on Lifelong Faith Formation through Catechesis, youth ministry and parish life whether virtually or in person. Members of the Office for Parish Life team will be on hand to lead our discussions and to keep all parishes well-informed of upcoming events. We would love to have every parish represented. So we invite each of you to join us every other Wednesday at 11AM. Our upcoming meeting dates are Wednesday, September 1st, 15th and 29th. For more information on how to stay connected, please contact Jacki Douglas, Director of Word and Lifelong Faith Formation, Office for Parish Life. jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org (570)207-2213 x.1100.



Confirmations with Bishop Bambera

Parishes that were originally scheduled to have the Sacrament of Confirmation with Bishop Bambera in the Spring of 2022 should have received letters confirming the date and time of the celebration. Parishes not originally scheduled to celebrate the sacrament with Bishop Bambera in 2022 should plan to have the pastor/sacramental minister celebrate Confirmation on Pentecost (June 5, 2022). For the list of parishes celebrating the sacrament with Bishop Bambera and all other Confirmation documents, please visit the diocesan website at this link: <https://www.dioceseofscranton.org/parish-life/worship/christian-initiation-sacraments/#ConfirmationDocuments>. If you have any questions regarding the Confirmation schedule, please contact David Baloga at david-baloga@dioceseofscranton.org or at 570-207-2213, x. 1158.



Extraordinary Minister of Communion Training Session

Need to invite more faith-filled parishioners to serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Communion in your parish? Mark your calendars now because the Office for Parish Life will offer the next all-day training session for new Extraordinary



Ministers of Communion on **Saturday, October 2, 2021 from 9:00AM to 2:30PM at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton**. There is no fee for the training and lunch will be provided. To register, please fill out the [EMHC Training Registration Form](#) or call the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213.

Liturgical Resource for the Twentieth Anniversary of the 9-11 Attacks

The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions has prepared a twenty-three-page resource booklet for parishes and schools to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. It includes a full presider text for a prayer service, Scripture suggestions, music suggestions, sample intercessions, Mass preparation sheets and more. The resource can be found on the [FDLC website](#).



Prayer Resources for the Pandemic

The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions has prepared a simple novena which may be used in communal or private prayer. Each of the nine days includes:

- Scripture
- Prayer
- A Petition
- Lord's Prayer
- Intercession to a Saint

You may download it from the FDLC website at https://fdlc.org/sites/default/files/COVID_NOVENA.pdf. Other resources and diocesan policies may be found at <https://fdlc.org/covid>

When the liturgical day allows, please remember to use the Mass texts which the Vatican promulgated in 2020 -- "Mass for Various Needs and Occasion: In Time of Pandemic." <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/votive-masses-and-various-needs/mass-in-time-of-pandemic>.

Other prayer resources during a time of pandemic can be found on the diocesan website at [this link](#).

LTP Virtual Workshops

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



These virtual workshops are different than other webinars in that they invite participants to engage with the presenter and one another in providing feedback, reflections on the topic at hand, and discuss best practices and strategies for enhancing engagement in their ministries.

New to the LTP Virtual Workshop catalog are virtual retreats designed for liturgical ministers to renew their ministry following the COVID-19 pandemic. Here are just some of the upcoming virtual workshops:

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

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

A Conversation with Deacon Ed Shoener

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

Join us on October 19 for an evening webinar with Deacon Ed as he shares information about the book, *Responding to Suicide...* and the companion book, *When a Loved One Dies by Suicide*. Deacon Ed — one of the founders of the Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers— 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.

Deacon Ed also facilitates a parish grief support group through the Cathedral of Saint Peter Parish and has great wisdom, experience, and knowledge to share. This will be a wonderful learning opportunity for those involved in parish grief and bereavement ministry, or for anyone interested in learning more.

To register to attend or for additional details, contact Jen Housel, jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org, 570-207-2213 x 1104.

Coming this fall from Scranton Mental Health Ministry at the Cathedral of St. Peter:

Mental Health and Our Faith—The Sanctuary Course for Catholics

What is The Sanctuary Course for Catholics? One in four people will be affected by a mental health problem at some point in their lives, yet the stigma surrounding mental illness silences many and prevents faith communities from responding compassionately and effectively. This eight-session course—designed for use in small groups—explores the realities of mental health and illness, as well as the vital need for faith-based community conversations about these topics. The sessions are accompanied by compelling films that feature the stories of Catholics living with mental health challenges, along with the insights of archbishops, theologians, and psychologists.

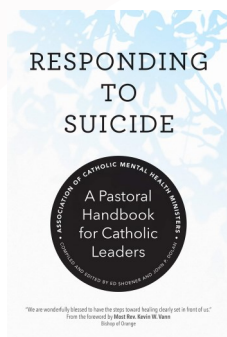
Who should participate in this course? The Sanctuary Course for Catholics is designed to raise awareness and start conversations in local parishes regarding men-

tal health. Attendees may be:

- People with questions about mental health
- Mental health professionals with a wealth of knowledge to share
- Leaders or religious educators who want to engage their community in mental health conversations
- People supporting loved ones with mental health problems
- People living with mental health problems

The Sanctuary Course for Catholics is for anyone who wants to learn about faith and mental health. It requires no previous training or expertise—just a willingness to engage in dialogue with your faith community. Each topic is explored from a psychological, social, and theological perspective.

Stay tuned for more information on dates and location. To learn more contact Jen Housel, jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org, 570-207-2213 x 1104.



911 SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND RESOLVE

Saturday, September 11, 2021 at 2:00P.M.
First Presbyterian Church, Wilkes-Barre

(Sponsored by the Interfaith Council Wyoming Valley and the Wilkes-Barre Downtown Clergy)

Live Streaming Link:

<https://cutt.ly/wb911remembrance>

We Remember



20TH ANNIVERSARY

9-11-01

Join your community
in person or through live-streaming:
to remember, to thank our first responders,
and to reaffirm our resolve to secure peace
for all God's children.

Among the participants:
Wilkes-Barre mayor, George Brown,
First Responders, Honor Guard,
Wyoming Seminary Choral Group,
and local clergy representing various faiths.

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

SERVICE

Diocese of Scranton Serves

Join us on **October 2nd or October 3rd** for our annual days of service - *Diocese of Scranton Serves!* Volunteer at a non-profit organization in your local community with your parish, school, young adult group, etc. Regional service sites may be organized by parish groups, school groups, or individual volunteers. Diocesan sponsored t-shirts are available for volunteer who register before September 18th and media coverage creating a unified spirit of service. For more information, visit dioceseofscranton.org.



Family Fun Day at Knoebels

As part of our Year of the Family observance, the Office for Parish Life is sponsoring a Family Fun Day at Knoebels Amusement Resort on Saturday, September 18th. Groups or individuals are welcome to enjoy all that Knoebels has to offer from 12pm to 8pm 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 www.dioceseofscranton.org. To order and pay by check, call (570)207-2213 ext. 1155. All orders must be paid in advance.



World Day for Migrants and Refugees

On Sunday, September 26th we celebrate World Day for Migrants and Refugees. Church teaching calls on all Catholics to provide special attention to migrant populations; this call has important pastoral and policy dimensions, which are geared to the spiritual and physical well-being of migrants and their families and the communities that receive them. There are currently more than 70 million people around the world who have been forcibly displaced from their homes due to political instability, violence, and other reasons. We must continue to stand in solidarity with our refugee and migrant brothers and sisters.

Recognizing the vital role that the international community plays in providing support to these populations, the Vatican recently turned its attention to an initiative spearheaded by the United Nations that would create the first intergovernmental agreement to cover all dimensions of international migration: The UN Global Com-

pacts on Migration and on Refugees. The Vatican released a list of Twenty Points that can help to guide advocacy and other forms of engagement in the development of the compacts. These points can inform how Catholics should engage migrants who live in their communities or whom they might meet along the way. While the uses and implementation of the Twenty Points is versatile, they are particularly relevant to the development and finalization of the UN Global Compacts on Migration and Refugees that will occur over the next several months. The Twenty Points are structured around a set of four verbs: welcome, integrate, protect, and promote. Learn more about the Church's role in migration and refugee services and how you can be an advocate: [Click Here to Learn More](#)

Prayer for the Anniversary of 9/11

God of love, we place in your loving arms the thousands of innocent lives that were lost on that unforgettable morning of September 11, 2001. We also remember the courage of the countless men and women who put their lives at risk in order to rescue, alleviate and bring solace to the afflicted. Help us to continue to work for a world free from every form of hatred, violence and ignorance. May terrorism -- in all its forms -- disappear from the face of the earth. Amen.

- Fr. Alberto Cutie

Diocese of Scranton
YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Hike at Ricketts Glen

Sunday, September 26th

Meet at 11am for Mass, Lunch, & Hiking!
Bring your own lunch or order out with us.

TO REGISTER PLEASE CALL OR TEXT (570) 362-0370
ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 23RD.

Creating a Thriving Faith Formation Program

ATTENTION DRE's! If you liked what you saw at this year's Catechist Camp, an exciting formation 'pilot' opportunity called "Rekindling Our Faith" for DRE's is beginning this fall as we enter new faith formation year!



Today's busy schedules can make it challenging for catechists to find time for catechist training, let alone work on their own formation. DREs have the challenge of forming their volunteers to be energetic and effective teachers. Often we see training as a burden, but maybe we need to look at it with a different angle—through the lens of discipleship.

Rekindling Our Faith will help you:

- Get some practical ideas for your parish programs (lesson planning ideas, tips for engaging the whole family in catechesis, prayer ideas!)
- Carve out the time to renew yourself and (re) connect with other DREs in the diocese

During learning blocks of 6-weeks each, "Rekindling Our Faith" is a wonderful way to help you help your catechists grow more comfortable in teaching the faith, while also growing in your own vocation as a missionary disciple.

Contact Jacki Douglas and Kitty Scanlan for questions or more information!

Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation

As we anticipate a new ministry year, consider pursuing continued enrichment for your faith through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation. The VLCFF offers a variety of courses in English and Spanish, such as: *Faith and Human Development, Introduction to Catechesis, Evangelization and Discipleship; Comunicación y Comunidad, La Familia como Iglesia Doméstica, Pastoral Hispana, Fundamentos de la Fe.*



Cycle 7 Course Dates are October 10 - November 13, 2021 (Registration now open until October 6). Visit <https://vlcff.udayton.edu/calendar/> to see more course choices, and to register! Because of diocese's partnership with the VLCFF, all members of the faithful are able to take courses at a discounted rate!

FORMED—Unlimited Access to Life-Changing Catholic Content!

Office for Parish Life is pleased to announce that all parishes in the Diocese of Scranton that do not presently have a FORMED subscription may register to participate in a special grant opportunity to reduce the cost of a one-year subscription by as much as \$400.00. Parishes that currently have a FORMED subscription are eligible for reduced renewal pricing as well. Details of our special arrangement with the Augustine Institute will be announced on a special webinar to be held on Wednesday, September 1st at 11:00 AM Eastern Time. Information on registering is found below.

For those who are not familiar: A Parish FORMED Subscription, created and powered by the Augustine Institute, includes 24x7 access to FORMED for *all* people within the parish boundaries, including:

- Streaming of video-based study programs that provide real solutions for your adult faith formation groups, RCIA, sacramental preparation, Bible studies, youth ministry, Marian devotion, and more.
- Streaming of full-length feature films, audio talks, audio books and dramas and programs, plus downloading of e-books, designed to ensure that your parishioners can enrich their faith throughout the week.
- Online access to promotional resources and trailer videos. (Printing is not included.)
- Live coaching from expert evangelization team members at the Augustine Institute.
- The ability to download content for offline use.
- Ongoing technical and implementation support from the FORMED ParishCare customer service team.

FORMED Overview for Parishes within the Diocese

A free webinar with a tour of FORMED content and resources will be offered by the Augustine Institute for parish leaders within the Diocese.

- **When:** Wednesday, September 1 at 11:00 A.M.
- **Who:** Priests, parish staff, parish leaders, catechists and key volunteers should all be encouraged to attend. Your parish will get the most benefit out of FORMED if all your leaders are on board!
- All registrants will be sent a link to a recording of the webinar, so even if you cannot attend live, you do not have to miss out!

To register for the for the Webinar or to register for the grant, please contact Jacki Douglas Director of Word and Lifelong Faith Formation, Office for Parish Life. jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org (570)207-2213 x-1100.

"I CALL us to be servant leaders who engage in SERVICE to our neighbors

HISPANIC MINISTRY

Septiembre Mes de la Biblia

Septiembre es dedicado como el mes de la Biblia. Conocer y amar la Biblia es indispensable para todo cristiano.

Te invitamos a descubrir [esta práctica de orar con las Escrituras](#).



Mes de la Herencia Hispana

Acompáñanos a celebrar este mes en una Misa pontifical en la Catedral de San Pedro con nuestro Reverendísimo Obispo Joseph C. Bambera.

Sábado, 25 de septiembre a las 6:30 pm

Dirección: 315 Wyoming Ave, Scranton, PA 18503

Más información: 570-207-2213 ext. 1130



Programa Semanal de Radio del Ministerio Hispano de la Diócesis de Scranton

Escúchanos todos los sábados de 11 am a 12 del mediodía por la Mega 95.3 FM Wilkes Barre & 94.9 Scranton.

También puedes descargar la aplicación móvil como **mega95fm** o escucharnos en línea <https://www.lamega95fm.com/>

PROGRAMA SEMANAL
Del Ministerio Hispano de la Diócesis de Scranton

CRECIENDO & FORTALECIENDO
NUESTRA FE CATÓLICA
CONOCE, AMA & VIVE TU FE

SÁBADOS 11 AM - 12 PM por LA MEGA
95.3 FM WILKES BARRE
94.9 FM SCRANTON

Ministerio Hispano - Diócesis de Scranton

DIÓCESIS DE SCRANTON
MINISTERIO HISPANO

DESCARGA LA APLICACIÓN

LA MEGA 94.9 FM - 95.3 FM

CONOCE, AMA & VIVE TU FE
CRECIENDO
FORTALECIENDO NUESTRA
FE CATÓLICA
MINISTERIO HISPANO - DIÓCESIS DE SCRANTON

Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry Accepting Applications

The Office for Parish Life encourages parish leaders to consider application for the *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry*!

The *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry* is a ministry formation program designed to equip and advance the servant leadership capacities of individuals serving their parish in areas such as:

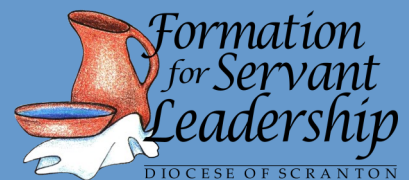
Through independent online study with the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning

- Parish Pastoral Councils,
- Directors of Religious Education and Catechists,
- Liturgical Coordinators,
- Parish Staff,
- Volunteer Ministry teams,
- and others!

Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF)—in English or Spanish language tracks—as well as ministry skills workshops and opportunities for prayer and reflection, *Diocesan Certificate* candidates enrich their knowledge base, while also learning practical tools for effective parish ministry in their faith communities.

The Office for Parish Life welcomes new candidates into the *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry* program every September and January.

Prospective candidates are encouraged to contact Kitty Scanlan, Coordinator for Lay Ministry Formation, at 570-207-2213, or by email at Kitty-Scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org for application information, materials, and application submissions.



OPL Month At A Glance

September 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation DRE/YM Remote Networking Meeting 11AM	2	3	4 Hispanic Ministry Radio Program Each Saturday 11AM-12PM ↓
5	6 Labor Day	7	8	9	10	11 Patriot Day
12	13	14	15 DRE/YM Remote Networking Meeting 11AM	16	17	18 Family Fun Day at Knoebels 12PM-8PM
19 Catechetical Sunday	20	21	22	23	24	25 Mass for Hispanic Heritage Month 6:30PM Cathedral of St. Peter
26 World Day for Migrants and Refugees	27	28	29 DRE/YM Remote Networking Meeting 11AM	30		<i>Diocese of Scranton Serves—Oct. 2 & 3</i> <i>Extraordinary Minister of Communion Training—Oct. 2</i>

OPL TEAM MEMBERS

Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life:

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

Director for WORSHIP: **David Baloga**

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

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

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

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

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

Coordinator for Hispanic Ministry: **José Flores**

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

Diocesan Pastoral Center Manager: **Kitty Scanlan**

Administrative Assistant: **Jennifer Andres**



Office for Parish Life

330 Wyoming Ave.

Scranton, PA 18503

phone: 570-207-2213

fax: 570-207-2204

oplgeneral@dioceseofscranton.org

www.dioceseofscranton.org



SUBSCRIBE