



# *The Catholic Light*

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

**Weekly E-Newsletter**

**October 7, 2021**

## **Key to 2023 synod is listening, Bishop Bambera says to Church of Scranton**



Pope Francis is inviting Catholics – both in the mainstream of church life and on the margins – to voice their dreams, ideas and concerns in preparation for the Synod of Bishops in 2023.

Pope Francis is scheduled to formally open the synod process with a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica this Sunday, October 10. The bishop of every diocese around the world will then open the process in his diocese the following weekend.

Bishop Bambera has written a new "Letter to the Faithful" of the Diocese of Scranton introducing the synod process and inviting them to join in an opening Mass locally at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 17, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. Representatives from all parishes are welcome and encouraged to attend.

In the coming weeks, additional information will be shared about how parishes, schools and other diocesan structures will engage in a process of listening and consulting the People of God as part of the local synod process.

[Read Bishop Bambera's Letter to the Faithful Regarding the Upcoming Synod Process](#)

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**Holy Cross students participate in Diocese of Scranton's annual Respect Life Mass**



When reflecting on the importance of October as Respect Life Month, it is heartening to know that many young people are involved. Thousands of students attend the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. – while many others take part in pro-life efforts in their high school and colleges.

Several students from Holy Cross High School in Dunmore showed their commitment to the protection of life on Sunday, Oct. 3, by serving as readers, gift bearers and altar servers at the Diocese of Scranton’s annual Respect Life Mass held at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

“I think it’s important as high schoolers to be here and represent our age group and our support for life,” senior Molly White said.

“It’s important to me. It makes me happy to see everybody coming together to respect life,” senior Andrew Francis added.

[Read the Full Story from The Catholic Light](#)

## Candlelight Novena begins at Scranton church



Saint Lucy's Church in West Scranton is conducting its 41<sup>st</sup> annual Candlelight Rosary Novena to the Blessed Mother. Each night, a Novena for the Souls in Purgatory will be recited.

The Candlelight Novena began on Saturday, Oct. 2, and will run through Sunday, Oct. 10. The service begins at 7 p.m. each night. Saint Lucy's Church is located at 949 Scranton Street in Scranton.

The Rosary will be said by candlelight in the Church. The crowning of Our Blessed Mother will also take place each night. The Novena will close each evening with Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Everyone is invited to attend. Saint Lucy's Church is handicap accessible.

[See More Photos from the Candlelight Novena at St. Lucy's Church](#)

## Participate in an upcoming Rosary Rally



The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary and today (Oct. 7) is the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary.

Throughout the month, but especially on Saturday, Oct. 16, many parishes across the Diocese of Scranton are planning to hold Rosary Rallies either at their parish or in other highly visible locations.

All of the faithful are invited to join together this month to seek healing and ask Our Lady, to pray for us and help lead us to Jesus.

[Click Here for a Current Listing of Rosary Rallies Planned in the Diocese of Scranton](#)

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**2021 Diocesan Annual Appeal Supports  
Catholic Education**





The 2021 Diocesan Annual Appeal has a big impact on our children! Your gifts help to support the more than 4,400 students who attend our 19 Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Scranton.

During the 2020-21 academic year, administrators, teachers and staff were able to provide a safe, encouraging and supportive in-person learning environment for our students.

In the video above, many families who joined the Catholic School System during the pandemic discuss the reasons why they have chosen to stay with us this year.

Gifts of any size make a difference!

[Learn More about the 2021 Diocesan Annual Appeal or Make a Donation Now!](#)

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**Federal judge's order temporarily blocks  
Texas' abortion law**



A federal judge Oct. 6 temporarily blocked Texas from enforcing a law that went into effect Sept. 1 banning most abortions after six weeks of pregnancy.

The order from U.S. District Court Judge Robert Pitman in Austin, Texas, granted an emergency request from the Justice Department, which had already sued the state saying the abortion law was unconstitutional.

Pitman's 113-page order said that once the new abortion law "went into effect, women have been unlawfully prevented from exercising control over their lives in ways that are protected by the Constitution."

[Read the Full Story from Catholic News Service](#)

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## **Pope to name Saint Irenaeus of Lyon a Doctor of the Church**



Pope Francis said he intends to declare as a doctor of the church St. Irenaeus of Lyon, the second-century theologian known for his defense of orthodoxy amid the rise of gnostic sects.

During a meeting Oct. 7 with members of the St. Irenaeus Joint Orthodox-Catholic Working Group, the pope praised the group's efforts in creating a space for dialogue between Catholics and Orthodox Christians, much like their namesake.

[Read the Full Story from Catholic News Service](#)

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**Parish festivals to continue well into fall**





St. John Neumann Parish  
**Fall Festival**

*Join Us!*

at **Nativity Church Grounds**  
633 Orchard St., Scranton

**Saturday, Oct. 16**  
3 p.m. - 8 p.m.

**Sunday, Oct. 17**  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Pulled Pork Sandwiches!

Potato Pancakes!

Hispanic Foods!

Baskets Galore!

White Elephant!

Bake Sale!

Even though it is almost October, a number of parishes across the Diocese of Scranton are still holding events to bring their communities together.

The Diocese of Scranton's Communications Office has a list of all remaining bazaars and fall festivals that have been submitted.

[To View the Full Listing of Parish Bazaars, Picnics and Festivals](#)

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