

Scholarship gift to Catholic schools to benefit students in need

SCRANTON – A generous gift from the estate of a Lackawanna County native with a lifetime of service in education will continue to help shape the minds of the next generation of faith-filled leaders in the Diocese of Scranton.

On Oct. 28, 2021, the John P. and Ann Marie Martin Charitable Trust announced a \$150,000 gift to create the John P. and Ann Marie Martin Endowed Scholarship. Funding will be used each year to provide a need-based scholarship to an eligible student or students at one of the Diocese of Scranton's Catholic Schools.

"He never forgot his roots. He had anthracite coal dust in his blood. He never forgot where he came from and always felt dedicated and committed to the area," Thomas J. Posatko, Executive Secretary, John P. and Ann Marie Martin Charitable Trust, said of his friend.

Dr. Martin was born and raised in Scranton. He started his education work as the director of athletics at West Central Catholic High School and as assistant superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Scranton from 1965-1967. He was a founding trustee at Luzerne County Community College and an associate professor and campus chaplain at Misericordia University.



Participating in the announcement of the John P. and Ann Marie Martin Endowed Scholarship on Oct. 28, 2021, are, from left to right: Jason Morrison, Diocesan Secretary of Catholic Education/Chief Executive Officer; Thomas J. Posatko, Executive Secretary, John and Ann Marie Martin Charitable Trust; Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton; Monsignor John Bendik; and Jim Bebla, Diocesan Secretary for Development. (Photo/Dan Gallagher)

As recognition for his decades of service to the education field, the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey designated him founding dean emeritus for

the School of Health Related Professions. He was also the associate and acting dean of the College of Allied Health Professions at Hahnemann Medical College

in Philadelphia.

Dr. Martin died in 2019. His wife, the former Ann Marie Gerrity, died in 2006.

"John knew that the elementary and secondary grade levels are the places where you have to start to make sure children have a unique experience," his friend, Monsignor John Bendik, said.

The Diocese of Scranton scholarship recipient(s) will be selected on an annual basis under the direction of the Diocesan Superintendent of Schools in accordance with Diocesan Schools tuition assistance policies.

The announcement of this endowed scholarship comes at a time when the Diocese of Scranton has seen a nine-percent increase in enrollment for the 2021-2022 academic year. This gift will help to retain and recruit additional students.

Friends of Dr. Martin say this gift will keep his outstanding commitment to educational values alive.

"He was born and raised in a strong Catholic environment. He was very dedicated and committed to both the school we went to, Central Catholic, and to sports in particular," Posatko added. "He was involved in all aspects of the school and there all the time."

Two women receive certificates through Lay Ministry Formation program

SCRANTON – After taking numerous classes to learn more about their faith, two women were commissioned as lay ministers for the Diocese of Scranton during a special Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Oct. 26, 2021.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant and homilist.

The newly commissioned lay ministers are Michele Cohen from Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Brodheadsville and Kathy Grinaway from Saints Peter & Paul Parish in Plains.

"I wanted to learn more about my faith," Cohen said when asked what prompted her to begin lay ministry formation classes. "I am always seeking more knowledge and want to be involved in my parish."

"I've been involved with my church for a long time. I taught faith formation, I'm a Eucharistic minister, lector and I've been on parish council for a while," Grinaway said. "I thought this sounded really amazing because it was a way for me to get to understand my faith better."

Grinaway said the flexibility of the program's online classes was particularly important for her since she works full time. She says she learned the most from a class on Vatican II.

"I was young, eight or nine, when



After participating in several online classes, retreats and other events, two women received a certificate in Lay Ministry Formation during a special Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Oct. 26, 2021. Posing with Bishop Joseph C. Bambera following the Mass are Kathy Grinaway from Saints Peter & Paul Parish in Plains, left, and Michele Cohen from Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Brodheadsville. (Photo/Ann Marie Cawley)

Vatican II came about but I don't think I understood the importance of the mission of the laity in Vatican II. That really stuck in me," she explained.

"I loved all of the classes but especially the class on the Sacraments, the Old and New Testaments, Ecclesiology and my classes on Catholic Social Teaching," Cohen added. "I loved exploring the encyclicals, which many popes wrote in regards to this, and learning more about many Catholic saints I admire who embody these teachings."

Prior to their commissioning Mass, both women completed projects to put the skills that they learned into action. Cohen put together a "virtual walk" to

Bethlehem to meet Christ for Christmas during the pandemic. Grinaway focused on getting more lay people involved in parish ministries by holding a ministry fair.

During the Lay Ministry Commissioning Mass, Bishop Bambera thanked both women for diving deeper into their faith to help their parish communities.

"We give thanks for your commitment and for your resolve to use the gifts that God has planted in your hearts to build up the Kingdom of God," Bishop Bambera said.

Both women encourage others interested in learning more about their faith to get involved in the lay ministry formation program.

"The program consisted of great classes, great teachers and mentors, workshops, nights of reflection, retreats and spiritual direction which forced me to grow and reflect on my prayer life, my relationships, my presence in the world and in how I live the gospel," Cohen said. "Sometimes, I didn't like what I saw in myself and it was a struggle to persevere, to change things I knew needed changing, which I'm still working on."

"It is so important for people, no matter their age, to keep learning about their faith. Even if it's just a couple classes, they'll get hooked because you will want to learn more," Grinaway said. "I'm not going to quit being involved. I will never know everything but I'm going to try my best to do it. I just don't think you can ever learn too much."

For more information on the Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry, visit dioceseofscranton.org or contact Kitty Scanlan, Coordinator for Lay Ministry Formation at (570) 207-2213

Diocese of Scranton

CATHOLIC

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FAITH • ACADEMICS • SERVICE

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



There is nothing better than a guest reader in your class, especially when it's one of your kindergarten classmates at **Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg**.



As part of the STREAM initiative, the Individualized Instruction students at **Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston** recently began their adapted computer program. Students will be learning technology literacy skills, which can be directly applied to their individualized curriculums.



Students from **Holy Rosary School in Duryea** recently presented a \$255 check to the city of Pittston in support of their "Shop with a Cop" program, which supports community members in need during the holidays.



After a recent Mass, students from **Saint Nicholas/ Saint Mary School in Wilkes-Barre** were inducted into the Junior National Honor Society. Students are considered for JNHS membership on the basis of their grades, service, leadership, citizenship and character.



Congratulations to Lucy Abrahamsen, Addison Ahern, Giuseppe Pilone, Anna Millett and Grace Donohue, students at **Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green**. They were recently elected as Student Council officers for the 2021-22 school year.



Students at **La Salle Academy in Jessup** recently donated \$566 to Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen in Scranton to help the less fortunate.



The freshman class at **Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg** work on their PSAT-9 test.



RJ Moeller and Cate Davis, second grade students, portrayed Saint Francis and Saint Clare during the Blessing of the Animals ceremony at **Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore**.



A beloved tradition continued when students from **Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre** were able to invite their loved ones to attend the school's annual Grandparents Mass.



The 2021-22 Student Council Officers at **All Saints Academy in Scranton** gather together on a beautiful day to talk about plans for this school year. Elected officers are Thomas Gavin, Cameron Kelly, Allison Romanchick, Price Simrell and Adele Maynor.



Sixth grade students at **Saint Agnes School in Towanda** built models of Egyptian pyramids using marshmallows and toothpicks. Groups worked together to develop, modify and execute their constructions.



No tricks allowed! Students from **Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport** parade in their Halloween costumes to the high school campus to receive treats.



Ella Ballard, Kaidance Meixel and Gloria Oladejo, ninth grade honors biology students at **Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School in Williamsport**, examine bubbles representing cell membranes. The students are learning about a membrane's flexibility and fluidity.



Kindergarten students at **Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton** visited the Veterans American Flag Memorial at Marywood University. Each flag represents a service member who made the ultimate sacrifice after the attacks of 9/11.



Beatrice Marcalus and Elise Carone, pre-kindergarten students at **Saint Jude School in Mountain Top**, enjoy the school's Trunk or Treat.



Promoting the tenets of leadership, service, character and scholarship, **Holy Cross High School in Dunmore** recently inducted students in the National Honor Society with a Mass and ceremony.



The student team from **Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter** placed first at the Young Scholars Program at Scranton Preparatory School.