

The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2021

Listening phase of synod begins

Online survey now available on Diocese of Scranton website

SCRANTON – Do you believe the Diocese of Scranton listens to its parishioners? Are you challenged to use your gifts and talents to better the life of your parish and the whole Church? Do you believe the Church is transparent and accountable in its decision-making processes?

The Diocese of Scranton invites everyone to answer these three questions and more as part of the local listening phase of the 2023 Synod of Bishops, which is now underway.

The word “synod” is an ancient Greek word. While unfamiliar to many, a synod is a journey of discernment, in which the people of God are called to pray and reflect upon the Holy Spirit’s will for the Church.

Pope Francis has asked every diocese in the world to develop a process to listen to the faithful of parishes, religious orders and Catholic movements and prayerfully consider the ways in which they currently experience the church as “synodal,” that is, as a community that walks together and to suggest ways to strengthen that in practice.

“What the Holy Father has challenged us to do is to create a mechanism where that listening posture can make its way through every aspect of our diocese,” Father Jeffrey D. Tudgay, J.C.L., pastor, Saint Eulalia Parish, said. “Based on what we hear, based on what we observe, based on what we discern, it will really determine the vision and future of the Church.”

Cathedral deacon working closely with Vatican to share Pope Francis’ message on mental illness

SCRANTON — Through the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network, His Holiness Pope Francis released in early November a video message in which he expressed his closeness to all those who are feeling overwhelmed in their daily life — especially those suffering from stress and depression — and implored the faithful to pray that they receive the help they need.

As the Pontiff turned his gaze toward the care, compassion and concern for those battling mental illness, his monthly intention for November led the Vatican to contact the Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers and, in particular, the association’s president and founding member, Deacon Ed Shoener, who serves in diaconal ministry at the Cathedral Parish of Saint Peter.

Deacon Shoener said direct contact by the Holy See is not nearly as eventful as that of the Holy Father’s call to address a central issue in the lives of millions of people: mental health.



Father Tudgay and Jennifer Housel, Director for Community and Family Development in the Office for Parish Life, have been selected by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera to lead a local Diocesan Synod team, which is coordinating this process.

“The Diocese of Scranton will be taking a three-pronged approach,” Housel explained.

First, there will be an online survey for anyone in the 11 counties of the Diocese of Scranton to participate. The online survey went live on Nov. 14 and is currently available on the main page of the Diocese of Scranton’s website in both English and Spanish.

“People are invited to share their hopes, their dreams, their concerns and their struggles in reference to how our church is achieving its mission in journeying together,”

Housel said.

The ten questions of the online survey are also printed on Page 3 of this edition of *The Catholic Light*. Anyone without internet access is invited to call the Diocese of Scranton’s Synod Voicemail line at (570) 591-5024 and leave their responses to the questions. Both English and Spanish speaking parishioners may leave a message on the Synod Voicemail.

Both the online survey and phone line are completely anonymous. Individuals do not have to provide their name or any identifying information other than some basic demographic questions.

The second part of the local listening phase will be parish and community group gatherings.

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“Our mission is to support the growth of mental health ministry in the Church,” Deacon Shoener noted. “Pope Francis has said that we need to fully overcome the stigma with which mental illness has often been branded in order to ensure that a culture of community prevails over the mentality of rejection.”

Ordained to the permanent diaconate in 2004, Deacon Shoener launched his Catholic Mental Health Ministry based at the Scranton Cathedral in 2017. He began the support ministry following the death of his daughter Katie, who took her own life after a 12-year battle with depression in 2016.

“I now bring Katie’s joyfulness and exuberance into the world by transforming her suffering into service to those who suffer from mental illness,” he explained. “That was my inspiration for joining the dedicated people to establish the Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers (ACMHM) in 2018.”



In a video message released by Pope Francis’ Worldwide Prayer Network Nov. 3, 2021, the pope offered his prayer intention for the month of November, which he dedicated to people who suffer from depression.

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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.

POLICY STATEMENT

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The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.
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Secretary for Communications/Editor-in-Chief:

Eric M. Deabill

Managing Editor:

Kevin G. McDonnell

Advertising Coordinator:

Eileen Manley

Circulation Coordinator:

Pamela Haeefe

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Bishop Bambera celebrates Mass to begin synod process in the Diocese of Scranton

SCRANTON – Calling the moment “historic,” Bishop Joseph C. Bambera celebrated an opening Mass for the 2023 Synod of Bishops locally on Oct. 17 at the Cathedral of Saint Peter. Faithful from around the diocese participated in the Mass in-person and via Catholic Television.

“We join with dioceses from around the world at Pope Francis’ request to begin a process of reflection, a process of dialogue and a process of discernment, as we as a local Church, contribute our perspective, our thoughts, our hopes, our dreams, our prayers, to a worldwide Synod of Bishops that will convene in Rome in 2023,” Bishop Bambera said.

Over the next six months, the Diocese of Scranton will encourage all people – including those in parishes, schools and other diocesan structures – as well as those who have fallen away from the Church or are on the margins of society to offer their thoughts on various aspects of Church life. The process will include both in-person listening sessions and an online survey that will be made available to everyone in the Diocese of Scranton.

“From the earliest days of Christianity as noted in the Acts of the Apostles, the Church has sought to listen to the voice of Christ alive in each member of the Church through the power of the Holy Spirit,” Bishop Bambera said during his homily. “Today, under the leadership of our Holy



The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, delivers the homily during the Mass for the Opening of the Synod on Synodality at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on Oct. 17, 2021.

Father, Pope Francis, and with the Church throughout the world, we begin here in the Diocese of Scranton, that process of listening; listening to the hearts of the people of God and the movements of the Holy Spirit found therein.”

After the local listening sessions are complete, the Diocese of Scranton – and all other dioceses in the United States – will submit a summary of local discussions to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. That information will then be synthesized at the national level and forwarded to the Vatican.

“By virtue of our Baptism, all of us are called to be active participants in the life of the Church through discernment, participation and co-responsibility,” Bishop Bambera noted. “By means of a process of careful listening, our participation in the Synod process will hopefully enable us to better understand how the entire Christian community is called to participate in the life of our Church and how that shared participation among our members might grow in the future.”

In addition to sending the summary of listening sessions to the USCCB, the Diocese of Scranton also plans to utilize the feedback provided locally.

As he reflected on Jesus’ life and ministry, Bishop Bambera reminded the faithful that He spent a great deal of time listening.

“The Holy Father’s hope, which is my prayer as well, is that the experience of this unique worldwide opportunity will bring about a new springtime for listening, discernment, dialogue and decision-making in our Church,” the bishop noted.

Synod survey now available online; parish gatherings expected in the coming months

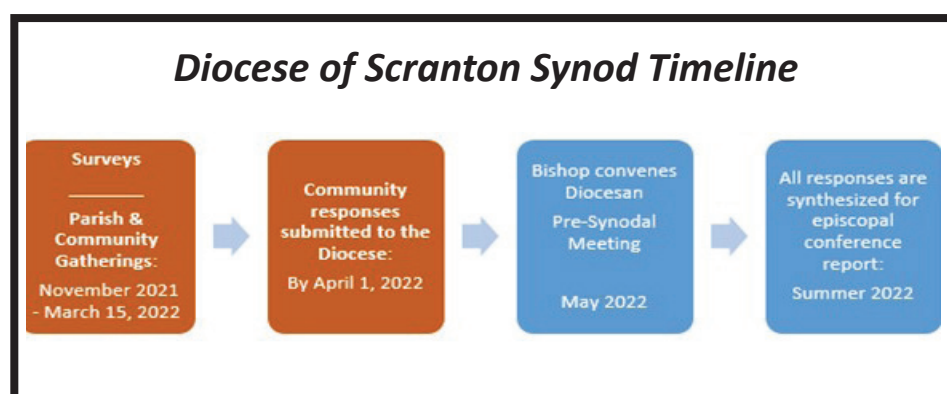
Continued from Page 1

“We’re encouraging parish communities to have in-person gatherings between now and the end of March 2022,” Housel said. “We want to hear what everyone has to say, recognizing that some of what we hear will be painful and that is necessary and an important part of this process.”

The third part of the Diocese of Scranton’s plan involves Bishop Bambera convening a Pre-Synodal meeting in the spring, to further address the information that has been gathered and solicit feedback from parish and community representatives.

During the local listening phase, Pope Francis has encouraged dioceses around the world to pay particular attention to people “on the margins” of society and gather their input as well.

“Pope Francis brings an incredible sense of self-awareness,” Father Tudgay said. “He’s not obtuse to people who are in pain, people who are struggling, people



who have been hurt by the Church.”

After listening to all people locally, the Diocese of Scranton, and all other dioceses in the United States, will submit a summary of local discussions to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which will then synthesize all of the responses into a final written presentation for the Vatican.

The Diocese of Scranton’s online survey and many more resources, including Frequently Asked Questions, can be found on the Diocese of Scranton’s website at dioceseofscranton.org.





Diocese of Scranton Survey for the Synod on Synodality

The Diocese of Scranton looks forward to listening to your voice as we journey forward in this synod process. It is our hope that you will prayerfully consider each question and offer feedback about your experience as a member of the Diocese of Scranton.

The following questions are all available in the online survey with available responses of strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree or no opinion. To take the survey, click on “Synod on Synodality” on the mainpage of dioceseofscranton.org.

Anyone that does not have internet access can answer these questions on the Diocese of Scranton Synod Voicemail System. Simply call (570) 591-5024 and leave your answers via the message system. Thank you for your participation.

Question 1: *In the Church and in society, we are called to walk together, side-by-side, as we journey through life.*

The Catholic Church in the Diocese of Scranton is inclusive, meaning every person has the ability to participate as equals?

Question 2: *Listening is one of the most powerful and deeply human experiences we can have. The act of listening respects and validates the voice that is being heard.*

The Catholic Church in the Diocese of Scranton listens to all people?

Question 3: *Catholics in the Diocese of Scranton are encouraged to speak up, be brave and boldly trust we are loved by God.*

Catholics in the Diocese of Scranton are provided with the opportunity to speak candidly with their parish priest and our bishop?

Question 4: *One of the foundations of the Catholic faith is the belief that God is alive in each and every human person. For Christians, we are baptized and anointed with the Holy Spirit and are nourished by Christ in the Eucharist.*

The celebration of the Mass inspires me toward a more joyful and holier life?

Question 5: *Every Catholic has a responsibility to participate actively in the mission of the Catholic Church, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.*

The Catholic Church in the Diocese of Scranton is succeeding in the following areas of its mission?

- *Leading People to a Deeper Relationship with God*
- *Educating People of All Ages in the Faith*
- *Helping the poor, lonely and vulnerable*
- *Welcoming immigrants, refugees and other newcomers*
- *Being compassionate to those in prison*
- *Ensuring Racial Equality*
- *Promoting Pro-Life Issues*
- *Protecting Human Rights*
- *Caring for the Environment*
- *Supporting Families*

Question 6: *From Pope Saint Paul VI to Pope Francis, successive popes have actively called the People of God to be a Church in dialogue. Through dialogue, all of the Christian faithful shape the way the Church achieves her mission.*

Catholics in the Diocese of Scranton are provided with the opportunity to discuss, debate and dialogue about the future direction of the church?

Question 7: *Christ calls all His disciples, united by Baptism, to work side-by-side with diverse groups and other faith communities.*

It is a priority of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Scranton to work with other faith communities in promoting the well-being of all?

Question 8: *Through Baptism and Confirmation, the mission of the Catholic Church belongs to all the Christian faithful. Everyone is called to play an active role.*

All Catholics, including young people, lay men and lay women, are challenged to use their gifts and talents in the life of the Church?

Question 9: *The Christian faith is accessible to everyone. Because the mission of the Catholic Church belongs to the Church's members, every voice has a right to be heard.*

In making important decisions, the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Scranton is transparent and accountable in its decision-making processes?

Question 10: *The Church's Tradition, received from the Apostles, carries the Christian faith through history. A synod is meant to identify the needs, challenges and opportunities of the present moment.*

While respecting Tradition, the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Scranton is responsive to the needs, challenges and opportunities at the present moment?

Diocese of Scranton statement on arrest of diocesan priest

SCRANTON (October 23, 2021) – On Friday evening, October 22, 2021, the Diocese of Scranton learned that Father Gregory F. Loughney, pastor, Most Holy Trinity Parish, Cresco, was arrested by members of the Pocono Mountain Regional Police Department. Four criminal charges – all connected to alleged inappropriate contact with a minor – were filed against Father Loughney on the morning of Saturday, October 23, 2021.

Under its longstanding zero-tolerance policy, the Diocese of Scranton immediately removed Father Loughney from active ministry pending the outcome of the investigation. The Diocese of Scranton will cooperate fully with law enforcement officials in their investigation.

Diocesan policy also involves notifying parishes, schools and other diocesan facilities where Father Loughney ministered to alert them of the charges.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera is asking for prayers for all people who have been affected by this situation.

“Learning the details of the behavior with which Father Loughney has been charged is extremely upsetting,” Bishop Bambera said. “In no way is this alleged behavior to be tolerated in the life and ministry of a priest.”

Anyone who might have relevant information is urged to call the Pocono Mountain Regional Police Department at (570) 895-2400, the Monroe County District Attorney’s Office at (570) 517-3052, or any local law

enforcement agency.

The Faithful of Most Holy Trinity Parish should be assured that the Diocese of Scranton will provide for the celebration of Mass and the sacraments and all other pastoral needs.

SCRANTON (23 de octubre de 2021) – El viernes 22 de octubre de 2021 por la noche, la Diócesis de Scranton se enteró de que el padre Gregory F. Loughney, párroco de Most Holy Trinity Parish, Cresco, fue arrestado por miembros del Departamento de Policía Regional de Pocono Mountain. En la mañana del sábado 23 de octubre de 2021, se presentaron cuatro cargos penales, todos relacionados con un presunto contacto inapropiado

con un menor, contra el padre Loughney.

Bajo su política de tolerancia cero de larga data, la Diócesis de Scranton inmediatamente destituyó al Padre Loughney del ministerio activo en espera del resultado de la investigación. La Diócesis de Scranton cooperará plenamente con los funcionarios encargados de hacer cumplir la ley en su investigación.

La política diocesana también implica notificar a las parroquias, escuelas y otras instalaciones diocesanas donde el Padre Loughney ministró para alertarlos de los cargos.

El obispo Joseph C. Bambera pide oraciones por todas las personas que se han visto afectadas por esta situación.

“Conocer los detalles del

comportamiento del que se ha acusado al padre Loughney es extremadamente perturbador”, dijo el obispo Bambera. “De ninguna manera se debe tolerar este supuesto comportamiento en la vida y el ministerio de un sacerdote”.

Se insta a cualquier persona que pueda tener información relevante a llamar al Departamento de Policía Regional de Pocono Mountain al (570) 895-2400, a la Oficina del Fiscal de Distrito del Condado de Monroe al (570) 517-3052, oa cualquier agencia local de aplicación de la ley.

Los feligreses de la parroquia Most Holy Trinity deben estar seguros de que la Diócesis de Scranton proporcionará la celebración de la Misa y los sacramentos y sus necesidades pastorales.

Bishop Bambera makes pastoral visit to Most Holy Trinity Parish



The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, made a pastoral visit to Most Holy Trinity Parish in Cresco on Nov. 6, 2021, celebrating the Vigil Mass for the Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time.

CRESCO – The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, made a pastoral visit to Most Holy Trinity Parish on Nov. 6, 2021, to celebrate the Vigil Mass for the Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time and spend time with parishioners.

The visit came two weeks after the parish’s former pastor, Father Gregory Loughney, was arrested on charges of attempted statutory sexual assault, criminal use of a communication facility, attempted corruption of minors and attempted indecent assault. Immediately following his arrest, Father Loughney was removed from active ministry.

“While your faith has been tested tremendously during the past two weeks, its presence in your life and mine is why we gather in prayer today at

this Mass. We gather because we trust that somehow, amid disappointment, anger and concern, we believe that God is a part of our lives, walking with us and taking care of us, even, and especially at this moment,” Bishop Bambera said during his homily.

During his visit, the bishop announced that the Diocese of Scranton’s Priest Personnel Board has started the process to select a new pastor for Most Holy Trinity Parish. He also assured parishioners that a long-awaited building project for the parish’s new church would continue to move forward. Completion is expected around Easter.

“I am so sorry that this parish has had to undergo such trauma and pain. I apologize with all my heart for what you’re experiencing. These

Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement.

It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the *Code of Canon Law* and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator, Mary Beth Pacuska at (570) 862-7551.

Aviso al Respeto de Reportar el Abuso Sexual de Un Menor de Edad

Es la norma de la Diócesis de Scranton reportar cualquier alegación de abuso sexual de un menor de edad a las autoridades. Si usted es una víctima de abuso sexual cometido por un sacerdote, diácono, religioso o empleado laico, o voluntario de la Diócesis de Scranton, usted está obligado a reportar el asunto inmediatamente a las autoridades de la ley.

Si algún sacerdote, diácono, religioso, empleado laico o voluntario de la Diócesis de Scranton tiene sospecha de que un menor de edad ha sido sujeto a cualquier forma de abuso, incluyendo abuso sexual de menor de edad, el asunto será reportado a las autoridades de la ley.

Es la norma de la Diócesis defender todas las regulaciones civiles y del estado. Al fin de que la Diócesis esté comprometida igualmente a defender las normas del Código de Derecho Canónico y defender los principios de la Carta Para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes (Conferencia de los Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos), lo cual incluye apoyar a las víctimas de abuso sexual en pos del bienestar emocional y espiritual.

Por eso, información respecto a una alegación del asunto sexual de un menor de edad, debe ser reportada a la Coordinadora Diocesana de Asistencia para Las Víctimas, Mary Beth Pacuska, a (570) 862-7551.

things simply should not happen anywhere, but least of all in a parish community,” Bishop Bambera added.

The bishop encouraged any parishioner struggling with the situation to say the “Surrender Novena,” a prayer that reminds us we all need to turn to God in

troubled times.

“The novena asks us to pray these words every day: ‘Jesus, I surrender myself to you – I trust in you! In your mercy, take care of everything – for I know that you will,’” the bishop explained.

“Our trust needs to be placed not in me or in a pastor

or in our own righteousness, no. Our trust needs to rest in the power of God at work in our world, in this parish community and in our lives,” he continued. “It’s the same trust that will ultimately carry you and this community forward and bring you to peace.”

SCRANTON – A lay organization of faithful Catholics has named the Diocese of Scranton as being one of the most financially transparent dioceses in the United States.

For five years, Voice of the Faithful has reviewed all U.S. Catholic dioceses’ online financial transparency. The group’s 2021 report identifies the Diocese of Scranton as one of only four dioceses to receive an overall score of 100% in regards to transparency. This year’s other top-scoring dioceses included Bridgeport, Charleston and Orlando.

The Voice of the Faithful’s fifth annual review of all dioceses was conducted between June 1 and Aug. 31 by three independent reviewers and their report, “Measuring and Ranking Diocesan Online Financial Transparency: 2021 Report,” was released on Nov. 12, 2021.

The Diocese of Scranton’s score increased from 90% in 2020 to 100% during this year’s review.

“Financial transparency is extremely important because it not only fosters trust among the faithful but also helps to protect against fraud and ensures that funds



The Diocese of Scranton received a perfect score of 100% in Voice of the Faithful’s “Measuring and Ranking Diocesan Online Financial Transparency” report for 2021. The Diocese of Scranton’s website includes audited financial statements, policies and guidelines, and information on all of the Diocesan Finance Council members.

donated for the Church actually go to those purposes for which they are intended,” Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, said.

In its report, Voice of the Faithful noted that Scranton is one of the six dioceses covered in the 2018 Pennsylvania grand jury report.

“Some of the six have worked hard to improve transparency. Scranton is clearly one of them,” the report noted.

Voice of the Faithful scores dioceses’ financial transparency practices on a

scale from zero to 100. The organization awards each diocese points for publishing a variety of financial documents, including audited financial reports, information about the diocese’s cathedralicium (tax collected from individual parishes) and a current list of members on the diocesan finance council.

Information on the Diocese of Scranton’s financial policies and guidelines, audited financial reports and finance council members can be found at dioceseofscranton.org/directory/offices/financial-services.

The Voice of the Faithful’s 2021 report shows that overall, diocesan online financial transparency scores increased from 65% in 2020 to 69% in 2021.

Voice of the Faithful 2021 reviewers concluded that, “Although significant progress has been achieved in the last decade, and in particular during the last three years, members of the church in the U.S. must be vigilant if they wish to prevent financial mismanagement and abuse.”

Preparing the Thanksgiving Feast



Youth group members from Mary, Mother of God Parish in Scranton partnered with Marywood cheerleaders recently to fill 3,500 containers of cranberry sauce for the Friends of the Poor Thanksgiving Dinner. Dinners will be served Tuesday, Nov. 23 take-out style from the Scranton Cultural Center between 2:30 - 5:30 p.m.

APPOINTMENTS

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

Reverend Gregory F. Loughney, from Pastor, Most Holy Trinity Parish, Cresco, effective October 28, 2021.

Reverend Sean G. Carpenter, to Administrator *Pro Tem*, Most Holy Trinity Parish, Cresco, effective October 28, 2021. Father Carpenter will continue to serve as Pastor, Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Pocono Pines.

Reverend Michael J. Kloton, to Administrator, *Pro Tem*, Saint Patrick Parish, White Haven, effective October 14, 2021. Father Kloton will continue to serve as Pastor of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Parish, Freeland, and Good Shepherd Parish, Drums. In addition, Mrs. Mary Ann Malone will continue to serve as Parish Life Coordinator at Saint Patrick Parish, White Haven.



BISHOP BAMBERA’S SCHEDULE

- November 14-18** - United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Fall Plenary Assembly, Baltimore
- November 21** - Feast of Christ the King Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.
- November 28** - First Sunday of Advent Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.
- November 29** - Priests’ Advent Day of Reflection
Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton, Noon
- December 12** - Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass
Saint John Neumann Parish, Scranton, 1:00 p.m.
- December 12** - Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass
Saint Nicholas Church, Wilkes-Barre, 5:00 p.m.
- December 22** - Advent Mass for Chancery Staff
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.
- December 24** - Christmas Eve Vigil Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 4:00 p.m.
- December 24** - Midnight Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, Midnight
- December 25** - Mass at Gino Merli Veterans Center
Scranton, 9:30 a.m.

Plains parish to host Padre Pio relics

PLAINS — Father John Lambert, pastor, announces Saints Peter & Paul Parish will host a day of devotion with Eucharistic celebration on Sunday, Nov. 28, honoring Saint Padre Pio, as the parish welcomes the saint's relics from the Saint Pio Foundation in New Rochelle, N.Y.

The commemorative gathering opens at 1 p.m. with recitation of the Holy Rosary, followed by a brief introduction.

Sunday Mass will be offered at 2 p.m. at Saints Peter & Paul Church, 13 Hudson Road, Plains, followed by exposition and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Serving as principal celebrant and homilist for the liturgical celebration will be Capuchin Franciscan Father Pio Mandato,

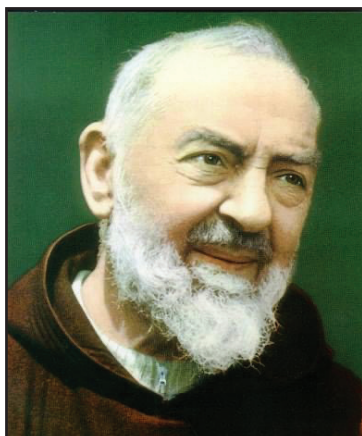
who received his First Communion from Padre Pio of Pietrelcina in Italy and currently serves in the Scranton Diocese.

The Mass will be concelebrated by Father Lambert and Saint Joseph Oblate Father Paul McDonnell, rector of the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Laflin, and Sacramental Minister for Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish in Pittston.

The day's celebration will conclude with veneration of the relics of Saint Padre Pio, in conjunction with video presentations on the life

of the saint.

All faithful throughout the Diocese are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Cathy Mack, coordinator, at (570) 654-6063.



Saint Patrick Parish dedicates memorial garden to former pastor



Members of the Father Mullally Memorial Committee gathered following the garden dedication in October 2021. Committee members include Toni and Deacon Thomas Spataro, Karen and Ed Loeschorn, Kate Burns, Father Joseph Manarchuck, Rosemary Walsh, Carol and Ray Proulx, Jack Boyle, Deacon Mike Calafiore. Not pictured in the photo is Pike County commissioner Matt Osterberg. (Photos/Thomas Duncan)

Saint Boniface Church bell chimes are heavenly music to Williamsport faithful

WILLIAMSPORT — After nearly three months of silent dormancy, the bells of Saint Boniface Church at 326 Washington Blvd. are ringing out welcomed tones once again, much to the delight of parishioners and the surrounding community alike.

The venerable bell system has been a treasured extension of the Williamsport parish of Saint Boniface since its founding nearly 150 years ago in 1875, and the Saint Boniface bells survived a fire that destroyed the original parish church in 1972.

Nearly 50 years later, a routine maintenance inspection recently revealed nature's elements had indeed taken their "toll" on the church bell tower, according to Saint Boniface pastor Father Bill Corcoran, who indicated the deterioration had presented a potentially dangerous situation.

"Our choice was to do repair work or shut them off," Father Corcoran said. "During the pandemic, with reduced (church) attendance and a cautious spending approach, I was considering not repairing them for a period of time until we had clarity about the future."

However, as the pastor noted, parishioners as well as non-parishioners felt very strongly about restoring the bells. "They loved the sound, especially from their nearby homes," he remarked.

Father Corcoran explained that when the dilemma was put before the parish council, two parishioners came forward and offered to conduct a silent campaign for the \$30,000 required for the restoration project. In a matter of weeks, the needed funds were raised through the generosity



of 25 members of Saint Boniface and the community at large.

On Sunday, Oct. 31, the parish received an All Hallows Eve treat when Father Corcoran blessed and dedicated the refurbished church bells, followed by a special reception for those donors who made the joyous event possible.

Today, the Saint Boniface Church bells once again peal every quarter hour as a call to pause and pray, with their traditional chimes filling the local neighborhoods.

"To let (the bells) lay dormant would have been another defeat in the wake of COVID," Father Corcoran concluded. "It was a great example of people's desire to invest in the present and future of Saint Boniface and was truly a wonderful moment of community."

MILFORD – Bright sunshine reflected the joyous spirit of all in attendance in late October as Saint Patrick's Church in Milford dedicated the Father Gerald T. Mullally Memorial Garden, featuring a beautiful new statue of Madonna Della Strada (Our Lady of the Streets).

The memorial garden celebrates the life of the late, beloved pastor who led the parish for 23 years.

The garden, which includes benches and raised beds for seasonal plantings, was envisioned as a place where people can gather before Mass and at other times for quiet reflection and sharing. Included are plaques featuring excerpts from some of Father Mullally's memorable homilies.

The day began with the celebration of Mass by current pastor, Rev. Joseph Manarchuck.

In his homily, Deacon



Rev. Gerald T. Mullally



Mr. & Mrs. Brian Mullally

Thomas Spataro vividly recalled the enormous impact of Father Mullally as a charismatic and caring shepherd. Mass was followed by a formal blessing of the garden and statue by Father Manarchuck.

Among the many parishioners and guests in attendance were Mr. and Mrs. Brian Mullally, major donors to the project.

In remarks following the dedication, Mr. Mullally, Father Mullally's cousin, who flew in from California for the occasion, called the memorial a truly beautiful space.

"Father would have been very excited to see so many of God's faithful here for the Mass and Dedication," Mr. Mullally said, adding, "We hope this can be a spark that helps usher in a new and exciting era at the church and parish that Father loved so much."

For more news and information from parishes, visit dioceseofscranton.org

"Socktober" collection will help people keep warm in winter



Members of the Saint Eulalia Parish Social Concerns Committee sort more than 600 pairs of socks which were donated by parishioners during October. (Photo/Eric Deabill)

ROARING BROOK TOWNSHIP – Warm socks may seem like an easy way to stay cozy in wintertime, but for some people they are a luxury and not to be taken for granted.

During its annual "Socktober" collection, Saint Eulalia Parish collected 637 pairs of socks to be donated to four local organizations that assist people experiencing homelessness.

"It's nice when you can identify that there are needs in your community, and in a small way, help to alleviate and bring comfort to people," Lisa Cummings, chairperson of the parish Social Concerns Committee, explained.

Saint Eulalia Parish began its "Socktober" collection four years ago after speaking with organizations that help the less fortunate.

"They said the most important thing they need is socks because their feet get wet and they don't have any place to launder them. They throw them away and get a new pair eventually so that they can

stay warm and dry," parishioner Helen Hilborn added.

All of the socks donated will be given to Saint Anthony's Haven, a shelter run by Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton; Keystone Mission; Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen and the Community Intervention Center in Scranton.

Many of the socks donated were made of heavy-duty material that will make a difference.

"It's a small way, as we always say, to be the hands and feet of Christ," Cummings explained.

The "Socktober" collection is the first of many fall and winter projects that have been identified by the parish. The next big project is Saint Eulalia's Sleigh, which provides Christmas presents to the children of prisoners, residents of Saint Mary's Villa, five families at the Catherine McAuley Center in Scranton as well as parish families in need of assistance.

"This is a really generous parish," Hilborn ended by saying.

Parochial vicar of Clarks Summit parish shares path to being missionary

SCRANTON – Growing up in a small town in Ghana, West Africa, Father Stephen A. Asomah didn't have a resident priest in his community to celebrate Mass every day or even every week.

"Sometimes it took several months to have a priest so our catechists would lead the services on weekdays and on Sundays with communion service," Father Stephen said.

As the seventh of eight children, Father Stephen's mother introduced him to the Catholic faith, taking him to church, devotions, Legion of Mary meetings and daily services.

"When the priest was visiting, it was such a great occasion and a great joy," he explained.

Father Stephen explained his path to becoming a missionary as homilist for the World Mission Sunday Mass, which was held Oct. 31, 2021, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. Father Stephen has been in the United States nearly a decade. He became parochial vicar at Our Lady of the Snows Parish in Clarks Summit in Feb. 2020 after serving seven years in the Archdiocese of New York.

"Many years ago, many of your sons and daughters made a big and loving sacrifice to go to Africa and to share the love of God they had encountered with us as missionaries. It's time to reciprocate their love and their generous sacrifice," he said.

Father Stephen said it was his interaction with a missionary priest, Father Michael O'Brien, which sparked his interest in the priesthood. Shockingly, Father Stephen didn't understand English.

One day, when he was in fourth grade, Father Stephen decided to gift the missionary priest a pineapple from his family's farm.

"Father smiled and patted (me) on the shoulder. He said, 'God bless you to be

like me,' and that was it!" Father Stephen explained with a smile.

Father Stephen attended Saint Paul's Major Seminary, Sowutuom, Accra, for spirituality and philosophy and Saint Peter's Regional Seminary, Pedu, Cape Coast, for theological studies. He was ordained to the priesthood in July 2008.

"Mission is born out of love. Jesus' own mission on earth was born out of the Father's love for the world and his desire to save humanity," Father Stephen told the Cathedral crowd during his homily.

He explained that all Catholics are missionaries. While some missionaries

travel far away from their homes, others are called to support missionary work prayerfully and financially, and everyone is encouraged to make their homes a missionary outpost.

"At the end of this Mass, when you hear, 'go the Mass has ended,' know that you have a mission to accomplish," he ended his homily by saying.

At the conclusion of the World Mission Sunday Mass, the Most Reverend



**Father Stephen A. Asomah
Homilist, World Mission Sunday Mass**

Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, thanked Father Stephen for sharing his personal story and reminding parishioners of the importance that international priests play in the Diocese of Scranton.

There are currently 12 priests from countries such as Ghana, India, Bolivia, Columbia, Peru and the Dominican Republic currently sharing the love of Christ locally.

"For centuries before our present time, missionaries came from North America and Europe to go to all parts of the world to share the Good News and today, as Father said, missionaries are coming from other parts of the world to support and sustain us and preach the gospel," Bishop Bambera noted. "We are so, so blessed and so grateful for their presence and for their willingness to help us in our parish communities."

Faith & Blue event held in Moscow Oct. 10



Saint Catherine of Siena Parish in Moscow held a Faith & Blue event on Oct. 10, 2021. Pennsylvania State Police Troopers and Moscow police took part in the event. Faith & Blue was launched nationwide to facilitate safer communities by creating partnerships between law enforcement and faith-based organizations.

3,895 years of religious service honored at Jubilee Mass

SCRANTON – While waiting for the Jubilee Mass for Men and Women Religious to begin on Nov. 7, 2021, Sisters Rosella Salvato, IHM, and Myra Gilbert, IHM, sat in the first pew of the Cathedral of Saint Peter reflecting on their 60 years in ministry.

“It is a glorious occasion for us to be able to celebrate our God-given vocation,” Sister Salvato said.

“It’s hard to express what the day means because I have all these feelings of joy and gratitude. I’m thinking of the many blessings I’ve had over the years,” Sister Gilbert added.

Both Sisters are celebrating 60 years of religious life with Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

“I taught for 56 years. A tremendous part of being a Religious was to be involved in the Legion of Mary,” Sister Salvato said. “I also had the privilege of going to Waymart prison to minister with the inmates. My vocation has been glorious and I thank God for this day and my parents who nurtured me in my faith.”

Sister Gilbert was also involved in teaching and also served as a minister to the sick and homebound

“That was a beautiful ministry, to take Jesus to the people who could not get to Mass. They appreciated it so much,” she explained. “The Lord has given me a long life and he has given me many opportunities to share his goodness and blessings. I’m very joyous and very grateful for all the blessings that he has bestowed on me.”

After being postponed in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Diocese of Scranton celebrated its Jubilee Mass for Consecrated Life on Nov. 7, 2021. Women and Men Religious celebrating jubilee anniversaries of 25, 50, 60, 70, 75 and even 80 years were recognized during the Mass.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant and homilist. Following the homily, the Men and Women Religious in



Men and Women Religious celebrating 25, 50, 60 and 70 years of religious profession in 2020 and 2021 were recognized during a Jubilee Mass on Nov. 7, 2021, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. Shown in the photo, front row, left to right: Sisters Catherine Ann Morris, SS.C.M.; Jean Louise Bachetti, IHM; Eric Marie Setlock, R.S.M.; Dorothy Marie Hagan, R.S.M.; Eleanor Marie Malanaphy, IHM; Babette Opferman, IHM; Marion Tarone, IHM; Myra Gilbert, IHM; Mary Alice Kane, IHM; and Rosella Salvato, IHM. Second row, left to right: Sisters Joan Paskert, IHM; Ellen Maroney, IHM; Tarcisius Tasselli, IHM; Jane Marie Connolly, IHM; Karen Marie O'Neill, IHM; Dorothy Kibler, IHM; Joel Marie Sheehe, IHM; Susan Hadzima, IHM; and Kathryn Kurdziel, IHM, Diocesan Delegate for Religious. Third row, left to right: Sister Susan Ellen Brown, IHM; the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton; Sisters Ann Monica Bubser, IHM; and Kathryn Clauss, IHM. Absent from photo, concelebrant Rev. Leonard A. Martin, SJ, pastor, Saint Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, Scranton, and administrator, Saint John Byzantine Catholic Church, Scranton. (Photos/Mike Melisky)

attendance renewed their vows and sang the “Salve Regina.”

The bishop noted that, collectively, all of the jubilarians represent 3,895 years of service to the Church in Consecrated Life.

“Your openness to listening to the needs of God’s people, to dialoguing with them and discerning how we can walk together as sisters and brothers is a sign of your deep appreciation of how the Church best responds to the needs of a suffering world since its earliest days,” Bishop Bambera said during his homily. “Your willingness to engage and serve the people of God – especially in your commitment to work for

justice for the marginalized, immigrants, the poor and all those oppressed by far too many who deem themselves righteous – is a unique and powerful witness to the presence of God at work in our world.”

Bishop Bambera also noted how those in Consecrated Life do their work in quiet, simple ways.

“So much of what you do looks so ordinary and so natural,” the bishop noted. “Thank you for reminding us of the treasure that is ours when we live not so much for ourselves, but for Christ, in service of our sisters and brothers.”

Sister Dorothy Marie Hagan, R.S.M.,

is celebrating 60 years since she professed her vows.

“It’s a big privilege to be here with so many wonderful, dedicated women, who have spent their lives doing good for others,” Sister Hagan said.

As a Sister with the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Sister Hagan said she has never regretted her decision.

“I’ve been very involved in so many different ministries, teaching I loved and then formation ministry with the younger sisters. I’ve been all over the United States and South America, so I’ve never had a dull moment,” she explained.



Sisters Mary Alice Kane, IHM; Ann Monica Bubser, IHM; and Kathryn Clauss, IHM, participate in the Renewal of Vows during the Jubilee Mass for Men & Women Religious at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on Nov. 7, 2021.



In addition to the Men & Women Religious being honored at the Jubilee, dozens of other religious sisters, family and friends attended the Jubilee Mass to honor those celebrating 25, 50, 60, 70, 75 and 80 years of religious profession.

Congratulations to all Women and Men Religious Jubilarians!

SISTER SERVANTS OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY (I.H.M.)

2020

70 Years

Sister Mary Ellen James,
I.H.M.

Sister Kathleen McNulty,
I.H.M.

60 Years

Sister Grace Campbell, I.H.M.

Sister Jane Marie Connolly,
I.H.M.

Sister Eleanor Marie Malanapy,
I.H.M.

Sister Karen Marie O'Neill,
I.H.M.

Sister Mary Ann Remus, I.H.M.

Sister Joel Marie Sheehe, I.H.M.

50 Years

Sister Maria Peter Kratz, I.H.M.

Sister Therese O'Rourke, I.H.M.

Sister Mary Persico, I.H.M.

25 Years

Sister Susan Ellen Brown, I.H.M.

2021

80 Years

Sister M. Daria McGinn, I.H.M.

75 Years

Sister M. Elsa Eckenrode, I.H.M.

Sister Margaret Loftus, I.H.M.

Sister M. Charlene Templeton,
I.H.M.

70 Years

Sister M. Gracette Baker, I.H.M.

Sister M. Marguerite Carbone,
I.H.M.

Sister Jean Conaty, I.H.M.

Sister Joan Paskert, I.H.M.

Sister M. Celeste Parry, I.H.M.

Sister M. Tarcisius Tasselli,
I.H.M.

60 Years

Sister Jean Louise Bachetti,
I.H.M.

Sister Dolores M. Banick, I.H.M.

Sister M. Carlita Bird, I.H.M.

Sister Josephine Cioffi, I.H.M.

Sister Jane Ellis, I.H.M.

Sister M. Myra Gilbert, I.H.M.

Sister Mary Alice Kane, I.H.M.

Sister Joan Katoski, I.H.M.

Sister Babette Opferman, I.H.M.

Sister M. Rosella Salvato, I.H.M.

Sister Sue Ann Steves, I.H.M.

Sister Marion Tarone, I.H.M.

50 Years

Sister Kathryn Clauss, I.H.M.

Sister Susan Hadzima, I.H.M.

Sister Dorothy Kibler, I.H.M.

Sister Ellen Maroney, I.H.M.

Sister Ann Monica Bubser,
I.H.M.

SISTERS OF MERCY OF THE AMERICAS (R.S.M.)

2020

75 Years

Sister Colman Krise, R.S.M.

70 Years

Sister Marie Genevieve Mannix,
R.S.M.

Sister Barbara Craig, R.S.M.

60 Years

Sister Dorothy Marie Hagan,
R.S.M.

Sister Eric Marie Setlock, R.S.M.

Sister Jane O'Donnell, R.S.M.

Sister Martha Hanlon, R.S.M.

2021

75 Years

Sister Bride Pollard, R.S.M.

70 Years

Sister Mary Clare Dougherty,
R.S.M.

Sister Ruth Ann Fox, R.S.M.

60 Years

Sister Carol Ann Gallagher,
R.S.M.

Sister Annette Marie Diebold,
R.S.M.

Sister Marilyn Karas, R.S.M.

Sister Dorothy Marie Reaver,
R.S.M.

Sister Marie Noel Keller, R.S.M.

Sister Jayne Pruitt, R.S.M.

Sister Sara Sweeney, R.S.M.

SISTERS OF SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS (SS.C.M.)

2021

60 Years

Sister Catherine Ann Morris,
SS.C.M.

CONGREGATION OF THE PASSION (C.P.)

2020

70 Years

Reverend Vincent Boney, C.P.

OBLATES OF ST. JOSEPH (O.S.J.)

2020

60 Years

Reverend Raymond Tabon, O.S.J.

25 Years

Reverend Victor Leon, O.S.J.

SOCIETY OF JESUS (S.J.)

2020

60 Years

Reverend Eugene A. Nolan, S.J.

2021

60 Years

Reverend Leonard A. Martin, S.J.

50 Years

Reverend John J. Levko, S.J.

Reverend Eugene A. Nolan, S.J.



Leave a Mark Mass creates community, inspires young adults

SCRANTON – Six years after its launch, the Diocese of Scranton’s annual Leave a Mark Mass is still having a strong impact on young adults.

“It is nice to see the young Church all gathered in one place,” Thomas Cunningham, 28, said.

The Scranton man and his twin brother were among those who helped plan the first Leave a Mark Mass in 2016. They have continued to serve on the planning committee and always look forward to the special liturgy.

“It fosters a community among the young Church. We may be spread out, so to speak, but we’re all one body and one Church,” Matthew Cunningham added.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant for the sixth annual Leave a Mark Mass on Nov. 7, 2021, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. Father Alex Roche, Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians, served as homilist.

“Leave a Mark Mass is so important for young people because it’s so inspiring,” Bridget Barnic, 25, said. “After the pandemic, it has been very refreshing to be with everyone again today and to feed off the energy of each other.”

The idea for the Leave a Mark Mass developed out of comments made by Pope Francis at World Youth Day 2016 in Krakow, Poland. The pope said young adults do not come into the world to “vegetate,” but rather to “leave a mark.”

The Leave a Mark Mass helped to kick off National Vocation Awareness Week in the Diocese of Scranton. Young adults from around the diocese attended the event.

Sean Robbins, Director of Youth and College Ministry at Saint Matthew Parish in East Stroudsburg, made the trip to Scranton with a small group to participate.



Reverend Alex J. Roche, Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians, delivers the homily during the sixth annual Leave a Mark Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

“We all have a Baptismal call and we all have to participate and engage and I think that is what the Leave a Mark Mass does. It makes us realize that we’re all one, all one as a diocese, and we’re all on the same mission of spreading the Gospel,” he explained.

During his homily, Father Roche told young adults not to be timid in their faith, especially when facing big decisions in their lives.

“It is in the difficult moments and tough decisions that we should place our trust even more deeply, even more firmly, even more fervently, in what our God has promised us,” he said. “That is the time to lean in, that is the time to invest more.”

Father Roche also stressed the need to trust in the grace of God.

“Don’t be afraid to place your trust even more deeply in the path that Jesus Christ has for you,” he boldly proclaimed.

Father Roche’s homily resonated with many of the young people in the Cathedral crowd.



Tommy Flynn, a Marywood University student, prays during Mass.

“It really touched me because I’m a fearful person. I try not to take big, huge leaps but as I’m getting older and more mature, it made me think about taking opportunities,” Maria Luna, 18, said.

This was the first time Luna and her friend Nancy Cortes, 28, who are both parishioners of Saint John Neumann Parish in Scranton, attended the Leave a Mark Mass. As members of the Hispanic community, they were delighted to see readings and music in both English and Spanish.

“I liked how they incorporated English and Spanish, that way the Spanish

community could feel like we’re involved. Everything was beautiful,” Cortes said.

Following the Mass, the young adults were invited to a social at the Diocesan Pastoral Center.

Two food trucks were set up in the parking lot, while attendees inside were able to meet one another, enjoy music from a live band and participate in games.

“Leave a Mark is so important because it allows the Church of tomorrow to really embrace the Church of today,” Thomas Flynn, a student at Marywood University, said.



Young adults from across the Diocese of Scranton are invited to the annual Leave a Mark Mass, which developed out of comments made by Pope Francis at World Youth Day 2016.



Following the Leave a Mark Mass on Nov. 7, young adults gathered together for a social at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton. The young adults were encouraged to network and meet one another. Attendees could get food from one of several local food trucks that were set-up outside the pastoral center. The young adults also got a chance to listen to live music and participate in games in the building’s gymnasium. The young adults who attend the annual Leave a Mark Mass always say that getting to meet other faith-filled individuals gives them hope for the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Scranton. (Photos/Mike Melisky)



Everyone is invited to participate in the #iGiveCatholic generosity challenge!

SCRANTON – Maybe you have visited your parish office recently and noticed a puzzle box with an image that looked a lot like your church.

Or perhaps you have spotted a parish Facebook post offering a chance to win a set of AirPods Pro wireless earbuds or a GoPro HERO action camera.

Or maybe you have already ventured over to the [Scranton.igivecatholic.org](https://www.igivecatholic.org) website and seen the YETI Hopper Backflip Cooler, the Blackstone Adventure Ready Griddle and a host of other prizes.

Wondering what all this “stuff” is about?

This year, for the first time, the Diocese of Scranton has joined the nationwide #iGiveCatholic movement in conjunction with Giving Tuesday. The “stuff” is just a small part of the fun.

Celebrated annually on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #iGiveCatholic is the U.S. Catholic Church’s Giving Day that kicks off the charitable season and brings the Catholic community together to give thanks and give back. As the first-ever giving day created to celebrate our unique Catholic heritage, #iGiveCatholic inspires faithful stewards to “Give Catholic” for #GivingTuesday, a global day of giving.

Declared “the most successful Catholic crowdfunding event to date” by the National Catholic Register, the goal of #iGiveCatholic is to rally the Catholic community in support of parishes, schools, and nonprofit ministries. All Catholic Dioceses are invited to participate, and this year the Diocese of Scranton signed on for the first time to promote the Diocesan Annual Appeal and



Secure, tax-deductible donations to any of the Diocesan pages can be made at [scranton.igivecatholic.org](https://www.igivecatholic.org) during the Advanced Giving Day Phase that began at midnight on November 15 and will continue through 11:59 p.m. on #GivingTuesday, November 30.

Donors who are unable to give online may contact their parish offices for assistance or call Sandra Snyder at (570) 591-5004.

give parishes an exciting way to increase participation and meet their goals earlier than usual.

“We were looking for a fresh new way to make the Appeal, well, more appealing,” Sandra Snyder, Diocesan Director of Foundation Relations and Special Events, explained. “This year, we really wanted to shift our focus to donor participation in addition to dollar goals, and when we learned about #iGiveCatholic, we thought it was the perfect platform for what we were trying to do.”

Those who have donated to the Diocese through the annual NEPA Gives event, which takes place each June in conjunction with the Scranton Area Community Foundation and the regional nonprofit community, will find the platform, Give Gab, quite familiar, Snyder said.

The leaderboard-style website, complete with digital donor walls, allows Dioceses to create customized giving pages and Diocesan organizations to create customized pages within the main page.

This year, the Diocese of Scranton invited all of its parishes to create pages in an effort to attract new donors and engage loyal donors anew. Thirty-four parishes have created personal giving pages, and 17 of those 34 also have accepted the Diocese’s first-ever Puzzle Challenge. Each “puzzle parish” has received a personalized 500-piece puzzle and will ask parishioners to sponsor pieces through donations to the Appeal in an effort to complete the puzzle by Nov. 30 and compete for cash prizes.

The other 17 parishes have created personalized giving pages, and all remaining parishes have been asked to promote the generalized Diocesan Annual Appeal sub-page, with parishioners who donate crediting their parish in the comments section of the online giving form.

To energize the campaign, the Diocese is giving away four \$1,000 cash prizes to the top-performing parishes as well as 14 individual prizes for which anyone who makes an online donation during the special challenge period will be eligible. All donors’ names will automatically be placed into a raffle.

The prize lineup includes: a YETI Hopper Backflip 24 Cooler, a Blackstone Adventure Ready Tabletop Griddle, a Heat Storm Infrared Tripod Patio Heater, a HydroFlask jug and mug, a pair of HydroFlask food bowls, three sets of customized YETI lowball cups, a Loaves and Fishes hand-painted Armenian Pottery bread plate, a nautically themed cheese wheel and serving set, a Tree of Life outdoor artistic wall hanging, a Catholic compass, a

Faith, Hope and Love travel cup trio and a PacEarth 10-Liter Dry Bag.

“We chose an outdoors theme when selecting our prizes this year in keeping with the spirit of the times,” Snyder explained. “For all of the trials and tribulations the pandemic has brought us, we also know there were some silver linings. For many, the upside was a newfound love for God’s creation, for nature, for adventure, and for the great outdoors in general. Our prizes celebrate that spirit.”

A Facebook event page, <https://www.facebook.com/iGiveCatholicDioceseofScranton>, will allow anyone to follow our progress as well as learn about what Snyder called special “pop-up prize challenges” that will be offered throughout the event.

“We’ll be giving away a Dick’s gift card every day of the challenge, and all donors on that day will be eligible,” Snyder said. “Additionally, we’ll offer regional challenges with fun prizes donated by our parishes: think pierogies, meatballs and sauce, meatloaf dinners and much more. We really want to showcase the hard work and talents of so many dedicated parishioners by offering prizes that bring widespread attention to these important seasonal parish fundraisers.”

#iGiveCatholic is a bishop-led initiative in partnership with lay leaders in Catholic philanthropy. Directors are the Most Rev. Gregory M. Aymond, chairman, His Eminence Wilton Cardinal Gregory, and Most Rev. Joseph R. Kopacz.

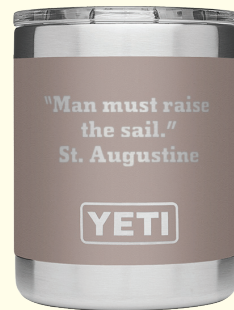
Bishop Joseph C. Bambera released a video message to the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton just before #iGiveCatholic kicked off, encouraging parishioners to consider giving generously.

“This special giving period ... offers us a special opportunity to support the work of our church,” Bishop Bambera said, noting that the campaign supports all Diocesan ministries. “The goal of #iGiveCatholic is to inspire our Catholic community to come together in an intentional way, supporting the ministries that help our families, our children, as well as the poor and the vulnerable. Together we are doing the work of the Lord and building his Kingdom.”

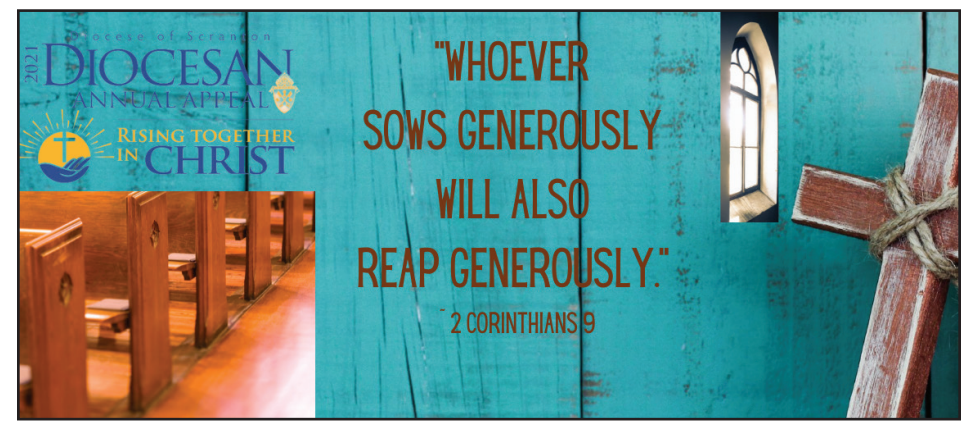
Individuals who donate \$20 or more during the #iGiveCatholic campaign will be eligible for several raffle prizes which include:



- YETI Backflip Cooler
- YETI lowball cups
- Tabletop Griddle
- Loaves & Fishes bread plate
- Tripod Patio Heater



Listing of all Raffle Prizes available at [Scranton.igivecatholic.org](https://www.igivecatholic.org)



Good Shepherd Parish marks five year milestone of feeding the needy

Parish used Annual Appeal grant to create vibrant service ministry

HAZLETON – Baked ziti, cream of broccoli soup, chicken and waffles.

Five years after launching a volunteer effort to cook and serve monthly meals for the less fortunate at the Salvation Army in Hazleton, parishioners from Good Shepherd Parish in Drums have made just about every meal imaginable.

“It really has become a fellowship. We look forward to it each month,” Dorothy Beozzo, volunteer coordinator of Good Shepherd Parish’s Soup Kitchen Ministry, said. “You just get so much more out of giving. You leave here feeling totally humbled, grateful and fulfilled.”

“This ministry has touched all of us in our own special way,” volunteer Fran Menighan added. “This is something that I cannot give up. My family knows where I am every first Wednesday of the month.”

Good Shepherd Parish served its first meal at the Hazleton Salvation Army Kitchen on Jan. 6, 2016. Since that time, the volunteer effort has grown to involve a team of 22 individuals who now cook and serve meals twice a month – on the first and second Wednesday of every month.

“It’s wonderful. You feel like you’re serving God as you are serving the people. The people are wonderful,” volunteer Mike Antinozzi said. “The people that come here are so thankful; they’re so nice to us.”

The volunteers from Good Shepherd Parish credit parishioners from nearby Saint John Bosco Parish in Conyngham for encouraging them to begin their service effort. Saint John Bosco Parish has also been



Parishioners from Good Shepherd Parish in Drums volunteer to serve clients at the Salvation Army Kitchen in Hazleton on Nov. 3, 2021. Parish volunteers cook and serve meals at the facility on the first and second Wednesday of every month.

serving meals at the Hazleton Salvation Army for quite a long time.

“Saint John Bosco basically mentored us to help us get started,” Beozzo explained.

Parishioners also credit Social Justice Grants from the Diocesan Annual Appeal in 2017 and 2018 for helping the ministry effort get off the ground. In both years, the parish received \$1,200 grants to buy necessary supplies for the meals.

“Since then we’ve been totally self-sufficient with donations we receive from

parishioners,” Beozzo added.

Captain Esau Morales and his wife, Lt. Stephanie Morales, have been in charge of the Hazleton Salvation Army site for the last three years. They are grateful for the efforts of Good Shepherd Parish.

“Without them, I don’t know how we would manage serving the community. They always come with a willing heart to help. The people always look forward to when they’re coming,” Esau Morales said.

Morales said the volunteers treat the kitchen guests with respect and dignity.

“They make them feel comfortable. They’ve been a great help to the community,” he added.

Approximately 60 people receive a meal at the Hazleton Salvation Army on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Meals are served between 11 a.m. and noon.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Salvation Army had been serving meals every weekday – but the lack of volunteer groups has meant there is no one to cook and serve meals on Monday and Thursday.

When asked if he would open those two additional days if groups stepped forward, Morales replied, “Definitely. I would definitely open Monday through Friday like we used to.”

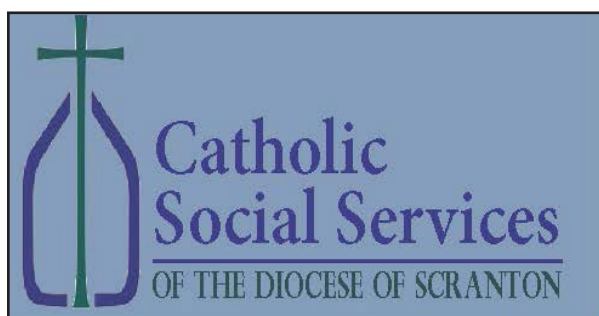
Parishioners at Good Shepherd Parish are now putting out the call to any other parish or civic organization in the Hazleton area to step up to the plate.

“If we were able to do it, we’re putting the call out to any other churches in the Hazleton area, we would be glad to mentor them. If they could do one meal a month, that would be a huge blessing to the area,” Beozzo explained.

Antinozzi, a member of the Knights of Columbus Council 8613, also helps to get more Knights involved in assisting.

“It does wonders for you to serve these people, to help these people, to do what you can for them,” he explained.

Anyone who is interested in helping the Salvation Army in Hazleton can call Captain Esau Morales at (570) 454-1631.



Tuesday, November 23, 2021
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
34 River Street, Carbondale

Sponsored by Catholic Social Services, First United Methodist Church and AOH #2 of Carbondale

Christmas Gifts for Kids registration ends Nov. 19

Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton and Friends of the Poor are once again teaming up with the Marine Corps Reserves to present the “Christmas Gifts for Kids” program for residents of Lackawanna County.

Any family in need of help with gifts this Christmas can apply online before Friday, Nov. 19, 2021.

Parents must upload proof of address and an insurance card, report card, birth certificate or some proof of identification for each child.

The online Google form can be found on the Catholic Social Services’ Facebook page. It is also available at <https://forms.gle/5QGGLJJ09IC9CHDZ7>.

If you do not have access to a computer or smart phone, please call Kara Gnall at (570) 207-2283, x2110 for assistance.

Don't make Eucharist statement partisan, urges advisory council's chair

Editor's Note: This edition of The Catholic Light went to press on Nov. 16, while the USCCB meeting was underway. The bishops were expected to debate the proposed statement on the Eucharist. Visit the Diocese of Scranton's website for updated information on the meeting.

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The U.S. bishops' proposed statement on the Eucharist "cannot be partisan," nor should it be made such "through calculated expression or calculated suppression of our doctrine and belief," said the head of the bishops' National Advisory Council.

"The Eucharist cannot be a tool for division, cannot be ideological," said Mark Sadd of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, West Virginia, who is chair of the council. He made the remarks during a Nov. 16 address to the bishops gathered in Baltimore for their fall general assembly.

The council's members – a group made up of 32 laypeople, priests, women religious, and permanent deacons as well as four bishops – were briefed on the proposed statement Oct. 15, according to Sadd. The council, he said, did not come up with a consensus, but made comments voicing their "idiosyncratic" opinions on what the document should and should not contain.

The statement, Sadd said, has to be accessible "to those who wish to hear it and to those who do not."

Some council members, he said, asked: "How will this (statement) be transmitted to the faithful? How will it be received, and how will pastors share it?"

One member noted the "compelling imagery of Pope Francis" with the Eucharist



Atlanta Archbishop Gregory J. Hartmayer, wearing a protective mask, prays Nov. 16, 2021, during a session of the fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is the first in-person bishops' meeting since 2019. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)

in the proposed statement, but was concerned that "his words might wrongly suggest that only the pandemic is keeping people from the Mass, when the pandemic only exacerbated" the situation, said Sadd.

A council member took note of the various "challenges to catechize the disbeliever, the nonbeliever, the alienated and the indifferent," according to Sadd.

A priest member asked, "To whom is this document addressed?" said Sadd. "As a pastor, he is concerned that there is already division."

Other, disparate views also came into play, added Sadd: That "there is a diminished sense of the supernatural;" the Eucharist is "just a piece of bread and not Jesus Christ;" a "failure to grasp why we

need this" statement; that the bishops are "sidestepping their responsibility;" and that priests need "more clarity of what to do where there is open scandal."

Still other comments voiced concern that the statement will "go over the heads of its readers if the purpose is to engage people with the Eucharist," that it needs to be "more pastoral" than "theological or punitive" and that the document lacks "the golden thread" that should run through the full statement, Sadd said.

"The members urge the bishops to act with all deliberate speed and to take the time to create not necessarily the most thorough, but the most thoroughly compelling" statement, he added.

In his remarks, Sadd also said the council's members reviewed 14 of the 15 action items on the bishops' agenda and the items "received favorable majorities or supermajorities." He did not specify the 15th, but the range of comments Sadd gave on the Eucharist statement indicates that was the lone holdout.

Apart from the proposed Eucharist document, Sadd spent most of his time on Catholic education issues.

The coronavirus pandemic, took a "financial toll" on Catholic schools, as marked by enrollment declines, and the closure of more than 200 schools, he said, noting the "disparate and negative effects on the poor." Many, he added, "stretched themselves to stay open and give live instruction."

Catholic schools are "instruments of evangelization," Sadd said, adding that one National Advisory Council member quipped, "A catechized youth can catechize his parents." Catholic education, he said, "must be made available to 'the diverse and growing Latino communities.'"

Too many schools have "failed to marshal the resources to survive," Sadd said, and "dioceses and allied institutions ... should apply the most modern financial resources" to help them, including state school-choice funds where available.

The bishops also should "support the Catholic home schooling lay movement," Sadd added. "A remarkable lay movement within the church it surely has become."

Further, he said, more coordination is needed between Catholic schools and parish religious education programs, "since 90% of our Catholic children do not attend Catholic schools."

Pope's prayer intention for November hits home with Diocesan Deacon Ed Shoener

Continued from Page 1

In the papal broadcast message, Pope Francis asserts that in many cases, "sadness, apathy and spiritual tiredness end up dominating people's lives, which are overloaded due to the rhythm of life today."

People experiencing depression often need someone to talk to, and they can benefit from psychological counseling and reading what Jesus has to say, the Holy Father offered. Thus, his Apostleship of Prayer intention for November reads: "Let us pray that people who suffer from depression or burnout will find support and a light that opens them up to life."

The words resonated profoundly with the Saint Peter Cathedral deacon, who has

been emphasizing the same precise message for years.

"We are committed to following the pope's call to build a community of warmth and affection where people who live with depression and other mental health challenges can find hope and healing," Deacon Shoener remarked.

A recently published study estimates that about one in ten people worldwide lives with a mental health disorder — that is to say, approximately 792 million, or 11% of the population. Among the various disorders that exist, the study identifies depression (264 million, 3%) and anxiety (284 million, 4%) as the most prevalent in people's lives.

The worldwide COVID-19 pandemic has caused the death of millions of people,

but it has also tried the mental and emotional resilience of countless others. Aware of this reality, the plea of Pope Francis is that we "be close to those who are exhausted, to those who are desperate, without hope. Often we should simply listen in silence."

His Holiness continued, "Let us not forget that, along with the indispensable psychological counseling...Jesus' words can also help," alluding to the Lord's urging in Matthew's Gospel: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest."

This month's edition of the Pope's video was created with the support of the ACMHM, which offers support to those suffering some form of mental illness and fosters actions to prevent any kind of

discrimination that would impede them from participating fully in the life of the Church.

Deacon Shoener said the association views the legacies of Saint Dymphna and Saint John of God as models for mental health ministry, providing free prayer cards of the saints for those in mental health ministries.

"On each card there is an image of the saint turning from the darkness, which so often envelops people who suffer with mental illness, and looking toward the light of Christ," he explained. "At the bottom of the card is the phrase, 'The Pain is Real — but so is Hope.'"

Inquiries about the Catholic Mental Health Ministers Association may be directed to info@catholicmhm.org and Deacon Ed Shoener at (570) 207-2229.

Join Deacon Ed Shoener to discuss the ways the Holiday Season can impact Mental Health, Suicide and Grief Issues

Wednesday, Dec. 1 at 6:30 p.m.

Heaven and Earth Cafe, Scranton (Corner of Mulberry Street & Wyoming Avenue)

Anyone with questions or to register, please contact Jen Housel at JHousel@dioceseofscranton.org or call (570) 207-2213, x1104

Parishes plan to celebrate Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Through the intercession of “Virgen de Guadalupe,” plans for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe next month are proceeding with the hopes of providing as much celebration as possible amid the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. Particularly in the areas of

large Latino populations in the Diocese of Scranton, the annual observance commemorates the appearance of the Virgin Mary to a Mexican Indian peasant — now venerated as Saint Juan Diego — in December 1531 in Tepeyac, near present-day Mexico City.

The Blessed Mother’s appearance is believed to have resulted in millions of conversions to Catholicism, and her message of hope continues to inspire those of Hispanic descent. In 1946, Pope Pius XII declared Our Lady of Guadalupe

as Patroness of the Americas. The Our Lady of Guadalupe feast on Dec. 12 will culminate a host of celebrations being planned throughout the Diocese, especially in those parishes made up of significant Hispanic/Latino communities.



Saint Matthew Parish East Stroudsburg

Novena
Saturdays 7 PM in the Church

December 1
5:00 p.m. welcoming of the Guadalupana Torch (The Guadalupana Torch comes from the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City and goes across parishes in the U.S. bringing a message of Hope before returning to the Basilica on December 12th)

Participants may join in welcoming the Torch.

Meeting location is the Rite Aid Pharmacy parking lot, 128 North Courtland St, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301.

Following the welcome, a 6:00 p.m. Mass will take place at Saint Matthew Church with a reception following.

December 2
12:45 p.m. farewell to the Guadalupana Torch to Lambertville, N.J. The meeting point will be Saint Matthew Church. Everyone must register for bus accommodations because there is limited space.

December 11
7:00 p.m.- Vigil (Blessed Sacrament Exposed)
11:00 p.m. - Mañanitas

December 12
2:00 p.m. Mass with a reception following Mass

Annunciation Parish Hazleton

December 3 - 11
6:30 p.m. Rosary
7:00 p.m. Mass

December 12
12:00 p.m. Mass

Holy Name of Jesus Parish Hazleton

December 12
12:00 p.m. Mass

Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary Parish, Jermyn

December 12
12:00 p.m. Mass with a reception following Mass

Saint Joachim Parish Meshoppen

December 12
3:00 p.m. Mass with a reception following Mass

Saint John Neumann Parish, Scranton

December 3-11
6:30 p.m. Novena

December 12
3:00 a.m. procession from the Cathedral of Saint Peter to Saint John Neumann Parish.

4:30 a.m. - 6:30 a.m. -
Mañanitas with Mariachi

6:30 a.m. Mass with Mariachi

1:00 p.m. Mass with Bishop Joseph C. Bambera with a reception after Mass (Chinelo Danza at Mass and at the Gym)

Saint Nicholas Parish Wilkes-Barre

December 11
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Vigil (Prayer and Danza)

December 12
5:00 a.m. Mañanitas
3:00 p.m. procession beginning

at 368 Old River Road, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

5:00 p.m. Mass with Bishop Joseph C. Bambera with a reception after Mass

Saint Boniface Parish Williamsport

December 12
4:30 p.m. Mass with a reception following Mass



Parroquia San Mateo East Stroudsburg

Novena
Sábados 7 PM en la Iglesia

Diciembre 1
5:00 p.m. Recibimiento de Antorcha Guadalupana Estacionamiento de la Farmacia Rite Aid - 128 North Courtland St, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301
6:00 p.m. Misa en la Iglesia de San Mateo
Recepción después de Misa

Diciembre 2
12:45 p.m. Despedida de Antorcha Guadalupana para Lambertville, NJ
Punto de partida Iglesia San Mateo. Debe registrarse para reservar espacio en el autobús. Cupo limitado.

Diciembre 11
7:00 p.m. Vigilia (Santísimo Expuesto)
11:00 p.m. Mañanitas

Diciembre 12
2:00 p.m. Misa
Recepción después de Misa

Parroquia Anunciación Hazleton

Diciembre 3 - 11
6:30 p.m. Rosario
7:00 p.m. Misa

Diciembre 12
12:00 p.m. Misa
Parroquia Santo Nombre de Jesús, Hazleton

Diciembre 12
12:00 p.m. Misa

Parroquia Sagrado Corazón de Jesús y Maria, Jermyn

Diciembre 12
12:00 p.m. Misa
Recepción después de Misa

Parroquia San Joaquín, Meshoppen

Diciembre 12
3:00 p.m. Misa
Recepción después de Misa

Parroquia San Juan Neumann, Scranton

Diciembre 3-11
Novena 6:30 PM

Diciembre 12
3:00 a.m. Procesión desde la

Catedral de San Pedro hasta la Iglesia San Juan Neumann

4:30 a.m. - 6:30 a.m. Mañanitas con Mariachi

6:30 a.m. Misa con Mariachi

1:00 a.m. Misa con el Obispo Bambera
Recepción después de Misa en el Gimnasio (Baile de Chinelo en misa y en el gimnasio)

Parroquia San Nicolás, Wilkes-Barre

Diciembre 11
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Vigilia (Oración y Danza)

Diciembre 12
5:00 a.m. Mañanitas (Almuerzo después de las Mañanitas)

3:00 p.m. Procesión comenzando en 368 Old River Road Wilkes Barre, PA 18702

5:00 p.m. Misa
Recepción después de Misa

Parroquia San Bonifacio, Williamsport

Diciembre 12
4:30 p.m. Misa
Recepción después de Misa



Hundreds attend sixth annual Catholic Men's Conference

PLAINS TOWNSHIP – Hundreds of Catholic men got a lesson in being a leader, protector and provider at the sixth annual “Be a Man Catholic Men’s Conference” on Oct. 30, 2021, at the Woodlands Inn & Resort.

The daylong event featured several speakers, Adoration, Reconciliation as well as the opportunity to celebrate Mass with the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton.

Organizers of the event say the conference aimed to challenge all men, regardless of whether they are single, married or clergy, to explore how they could be good fathers in an increasingly fatherless society.

Father Glenn Sudano

Father Glenn Sudano, CFR, one of the eight founding members of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, kicked off the conference by challenging attendees about their mission in life.

“We have the Holy Spirit within us. The question is, is this flame which burns within us, a pilot light or is it burning brightly?” he asked. “Christ wants us to feed and fan the flame of faith.”

Father Sudano focused on the changing times we live in, citing examples that more people shop on Sundays than attend Mass and have destination beach weddings than traditional church weddings.

“It’s getting colder, spiritually things are getting colder, hearts are getting hardened. People are no longer feeling a sense of God’s presence,” he explained.

Stressing that each man in the audience can change themselves by cutting out what is negative, Father Sudano ended on an upbeat note.

“Dig down deep, go deeper, go deeper into the Word. Read the Scriptures every day, go to Mass, Adoration and forgive people that injure you. Pray in every which way!” he added.

Karl Keating

Karl Keating, founder of Catholic Answers, a lay apostolate of Catholic apologetics and evangelization, was the second speaker to take the stage.

The author explained that



After being postponed in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, hundreds of Catholic men participated in the sixth annual “Be a Man Catholic Men’s Conference” on Oct. 30, 2021, at the Woodlands Inn & Resort.

it was much easier to be Catholic when he was growing up decades ago, since it had tremendous influence in the movie industry and media.

“The Church was respected even when it was opposed,” Keating said.

Despite the changing times, Keating stressed that every man in the crowd can do something.

“We are all given talents, our talents are of various sorts. Some people have more than others but none of us is talentless,” he explained.

Unfortunately, Keating said many people are unaware what is happening around them because they are focused largely on themselves.

“People go about their daily lives worrying about this week’s paycheck, next month’s mortgage. They don’t, in general, have the larger picture,” he said.

Keating’s main message to the crowd was that it is never too late to do something beautiful for God.

“We’re all incompetent and yet, we’re all loved beyond measure by a God beyond measure. How this can be, we cannot understand fully here below, but someday,



Father Glenn Sudano

once we see Him face to face, we will understand fully. In the meantime, there’s gratitude,” Keating ended his presentation saying.

Jim O’Day

Jim O’Day, director of Integrity Restored, the third and final conference speaker, took the stage following lunch.

“Everybody in this room is responsible to the man next to you,” the husband, father and grandfather said.

O’Day explained several stories in which his Catholic faith became relevant in his life. When his girlfriend became pregnant at 21, two male family members tried encouraging them to get an abortion.

“I knew in my heart that was wrong,” he said. “I can promise



Karl Keating

helped bring him back to the Catholic Church in a much more intentional way.

“On the outside, I looked like I had it all together. I looked like I was a good husband. I looked like I was a good father but it was all a front. Inside, where it matters, I was still that boy from Queens who was broken, who was angry, who was lust-filled, who liked drinking,” O’Day explained.

As the director of Integrity Restored, O’Day now helps other men with an addiction to pornography through a Catholic perspective.

“It is the biggest impediment to evangelization and a faith-filled life in the Church today and it doesn’t matter if you go to Mass every Sunday. It affects everybody,” he said. “If you’re

struggling, reach out to a brother.”

The title of O’Day’s presentation was “Fatherless Sheepdog.” He said as Catholic men, everyone in the audience is called to be a protector – but they can only do that if they themselves are healthy first.

“Build strong relationships with the men in this room. Use the Catholic faith to inform your decisions on how you support each other,” he said. “It is our time now to immediately stand up, be there for each other and be willing to take a stand.”

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera

The conference concluded with Mass celebrated by the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, who spoke of Saint Joseph during his homily. The bishop explained that just as Saint Joseph met the challenges of fatherhood in his day, Catholic men today must also meet them now.

The bishop said we have a lot to learn from Saint Joseph, who served as a protector of the Holy Family and teacher who showed Jesus the dignity of work and the value of human life.

“Joseph understood that God was worshipped most authentically when people of faith fulfilled the law expressly noted in the book of Leviticus, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself,’” Bishop Bambera explained. “Don’t be deceived, brothers, into believing that somehow this commandment is easily fulfilled. It is a reminder of the cost of discipleship as we discover within it both the blessing and also the challenge that has been confronted by believers since the days when God first established a relationship with his people.”

In a world filled with division, polarization and hatred, the bishop said we all need to treat our neighbors with love and respect regardless of the color of their skin, language, lifestyle, wealth or political affiliation.

“May we always seek to fulfill God’s will like our patron, Saint Joseph, who understood well the great commandment to love God and to love and respect every life that God places into our own,” Bishop Bambera said.

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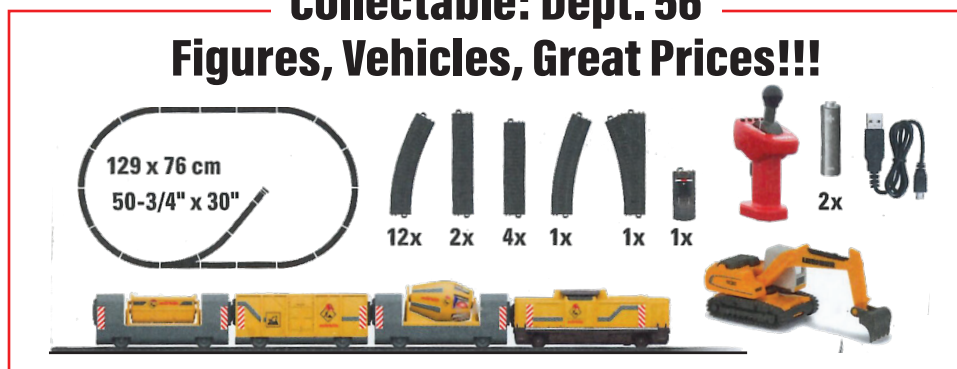
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Tombs of fallen soldiers are crying for peace, pope says on All Souls' feast

ROME (CNS) — The tombstones of soldiers killed in war cry out to people today to end all wars and to stop the production of weapons, Pope Francis said.

"I am sure that all of those who went with goodwill (to war), called by their country to defend it, are with the Lord," he said, celebrating Mass on the feast of All Souls, Nov. 2, at the French Military Cemetery in Rome.

"But we, who are journeying (on earth), are we fighting enough so there will be no more wars, so there will be no more domestic economies fortified by the arms industry?" he asked.

An easing of restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic allowed Pope Francis to resume his usual practice of celebrating Mass on the feast of All Souls in

a cemetery — in Rome or nearby — but only about 250 people were in attendance.

Last year he presided over a private Mass in a chapel and then visited and blessed graves in a small cemetery inside the Vatican.

The Italian government established the French Military Cemetery to honor the French soldiers who fought against Nazi and fascist forces on Italian soil from 1943 to 1944. Nearly 2,000 French soldiers are buried here, many of them Moroccan soldiers who served under French officers.

Among those present at the Mass was Cardinal Dominique Mamberti, prefect of the Vatican's highest court, who was born in Marrakech, Morocco, to French parents.

Diocese takes part in Interfaith Luncheon



Nearly one hundred people of various faith traditions gathered Nov. 8 at the Sidney and Pauline Friedman Jewish Community Center in Kingston to take part in the 42nd Annual Community Interfaith Luncheon and "Citation of Distinction." Sponsored by the Wyoming Valley Interfaith Council, the "Citation of Distinction" is conferred annually upon community leaders who exemplify high ideals of human dignity, compassion and friendship for all people. This year, citations were awarded to Monsignor Vincent Grimalia (pictured standing), president of the Interfaith Council and coordinator of Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations for the Diocese of Scranton; Richard Goldberg, Esq., distinguished member of the local Bar Association; and the late Sam Greenberg, a well-known local business owner who was posthumously honored with the award. Scranton Bishop Joseph C. Bambera delivered the benediction for the gathering, and was joined by Scranton Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus John M. Dougherty.

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

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



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 \$2525 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.



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Pope plans Dec. 2-6 visit to Cyprus and Greece

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis' planned trip to the eastern Mediterranean in December will focus on migration, Catholic-Orthodox relations and promoting peace in a region known more for its vacation spots than its ongoing political tensions.

The Vatican announced Nov. 5 that Pope Francis would visit Nicosia, Cyprus, Dec. 2-4 and Athens and Lesbos, Greece, Dec. 4-6. The pope had made a one-day visit to migrant and refugee camps on the Greek island of Lesbos in 2016, but this will be his first visit to the Greek mainland.

The Moria refugee camp

the pope visited was the largest refugee camp in Europe until it burned down in September 2020; a temporary camp was set up nearby and continues to host thousands of migrants and refugees.

While migrants and refugees crossing the Mediterranean and landing in Italy, Spain, Greece and even Malta make headlines, significant numbers of them end up in Cyprus.

As of Oct. 31, according to the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, 464 migrants had reached Malta since Jan. 1 while 1,515 had reached Cyprus.

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Collection for Religious Retirement Fund Dec. 11-12

The Diocese of Scranton will hold the Retirement Fund for Religious collection Dec. 11-12. The parish-based appeal is coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) in Washington, D.C. Proceeds help religious communities across the country to care for aging members.

Last year, the Diocese of Scranton donated \$50,029.74 to the collection. In 2021, the Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary received financial support made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious.

"I am continually heartened by the generosity of U.S. Catholics," said NRRO Executive Director Sister Stephanie Still, a member of the Sisters of the Presentation of San Francisco. "Even in difficult times, they find a way to give back to those who have tirelessly served our Church and our world."

Hundreds of U.S. religious communities face a large gap between the needs of their older members and the funds available to support them. Historically, Catholic sisters, brothers and



religious order priests — known collectively as women and men religious — served for little to no pay. As a result, many communities now lack adequate retirement savings.


At the same time, health-care expenses continue to rise, and an increasing number of older religious require specialized services. NRRO data shows that 26,330 women and men religious in the United States are older than age 70. The total cost for their care exceeds \$1 billion annually.

To help address the deficit in retirement funding among U.S.

religious orders, Catholic bishops of the United States initiated the Retirement Fund for Religious collection in 1988.

Distributions are sent to each eligible order's central house and provide supplemental funding for necessities, such as medications and nursing care. Donations also underwrite resources that help religious communities improve eldercare and plan for long-term retirement needs.

The 2020 appeal raised \$20.7 million, and funding was distributed to 321 U.S. religious communities.



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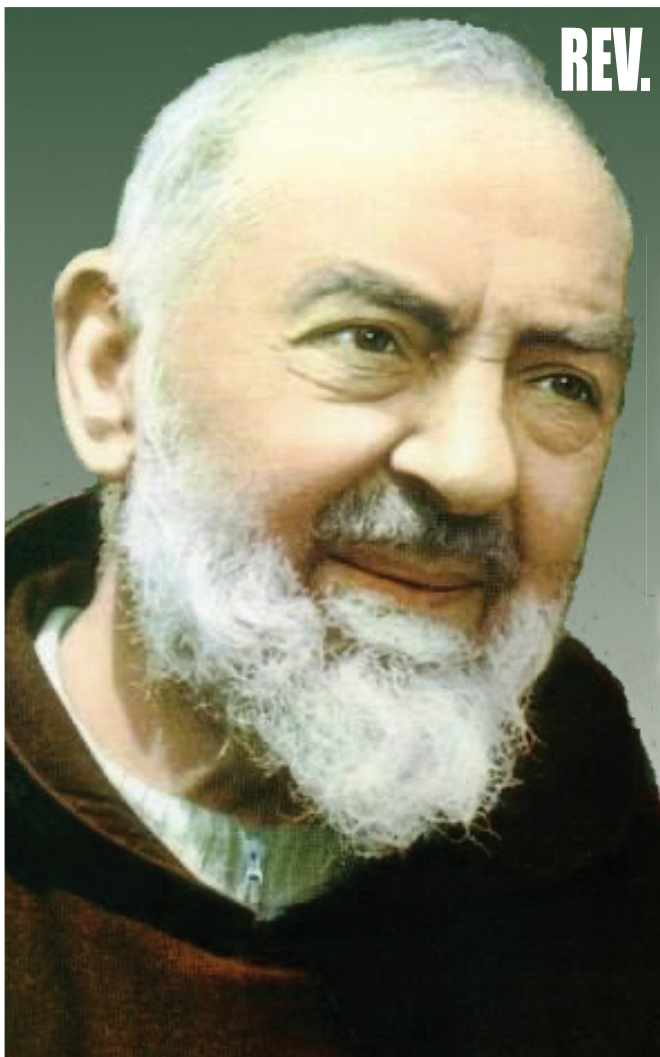
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 Concelebrants Fr. Paul McDonnell, O.S.J. and pastor Fr. John Lambert, M.S.W.**

ITINERARY FOR THE CELEBRATION IS AS FOLLOWS:

1:15 PM • Recitation of the Rosary followed by a brief introduction

2:00 PM • Holy Mass followed by Exposition and Benediction

Concluding with Veneration of the relics while videos of St. Pio will be shown on screens.

All parishes and priests in the Diocese are welcome to attend!

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Mission Message

Go Forth

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



“Am I my brother’s keeper?”
Cain asks this devious, dismissive question after God confronts him about Abel’s disappearance, something which Cain knew about since he was the one who “offed” his brother.

The question is actually much more tragic than it sounds. His indifference to his brother likely sunk deep within him before he could have ever imagined killing him. He simply didn’t care and found his brother’s success to be an obstacle to his own dignity and prosperity.

The sort of indifference experienced in the life of Cain and Abel is extreme and led to extreme actions on Cain’s behalf.

Indifference, however, is very much alive in the life of many of us and certainly in the life of the Church, as we see — or don’t see for that matter — the needs of our



Venerable Pauline Marie Jaricot

brothers and sisters throughout the world. Sad to say, indifference seems to be in our DNA.

That said, there’s hope for all of us. We have great examples in the Church’s life and history and in the lives of the saints, who can help us to look at the world around us and the people around us with great love and empathy. One such example is the life and example of Venerable Pauline Marie Jaricot, the founder of The Society of the Propagation of the Faith.

For those of you who have supported The Society for a time, or who have read articles in *The Catholic Light*, you know

that we are approaching our 200th anniversary in 2022. That anniversary would not be a reality if it were not for the 23-year-old Pauline.

It is told that Pauline was so concerned about the Missions (her brother was a missionary) that she organized a group of workers from her family’s silk mill to offer one penny per week to support the ministry of missionaries. Word spread quickly of her efforts and before long there were many more contributing to her efforts.

All of this at 23, and the Society that Pauline founded at such a young age thrives still today.

Pauline Marie Jaricot will be beatified in Lyon, France, on May 22, 2022. It is fitting, indeed, that her beatification occurs in the bicentennial of the missionary society she founded.

I suppose the question that Blessed Pauline would pose to you and me regarding the Missions is not so much, “am I my brother’s keeper?”; rather, I think she would say, “what little can I do that would make a lot for others?”

After all, she started with pennies a week and founded a missionary “empire” which serves the poor throughout the world. What will you do?

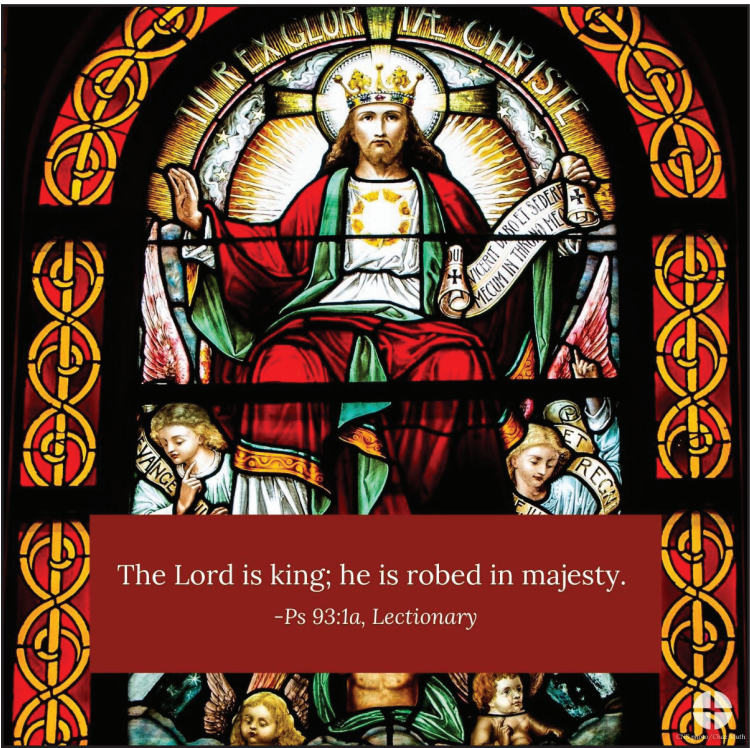
Apostleship of Prayer

Papal Intention for November 2021

Those Who Suffer from Depression —

We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe to be celebrated Nov. 21



On the last Sunday of each liturgical year, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, or Christ the King.

Pope Pius XI instituted this feast in 1925 with his encyclical *Quas primas* (“In the first”) to respond to growing secularism and atheism. He recognized that attempting to “thrust Jesus Christ and his holy law” out of public life would result in continuing discord among people and nations.

This solemnity reminds us that while governments come and go, Christ reigns as King forever.

During the early twentieth century, in Mexico, Russia, and some parts of Europe, militantly secularistic regimes threatened not just the Catholic Church and its faithful but civilization itself. Pope Pius XI’s encyclical gave Catholics hope and – while governments around them crumbled – the assurance that Christ the King shall reign forever.

Jesus Christ “is very truth, and it is from him that truth must be obediently received by all mankind” (*Quas primas*, 7). For Christians, when our faith is repeatedly marginalized in public life, we can fall into the habit of compartmentalizing our lives. We love Jesus in our private lives, but we shrink from acknowledging the kingship of Christ in social life.

When we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King, we declare to the world and remind ourselves that Jesus is the Lord of the Church and of the entire universe.


Catholic Campaign for Human Development collection Nov. 20-21

For more than 50 years, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development has worked on the margins by supporting groups that defend worker rights, promote responsible environmental practices, advocate for people with disabilities and immigrants, and support employee-owned businesses.

On November 20-21, the Diocese of Scranton and many dioceses across the United States will take up the collection to support CCHD.

When you participate in this collection, you help fight poverty nationwide and in your community because 25 percent of your contribution stays in your diocese to help local antipoverty initiatives.

To learn more about CCHD or view the most current annual report visit, <https://www.usccb.org/cchd/collection>.

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<h2>NOVEMBER SCHEDULE</h2> <p>CTV LOCAL ORIGATION IS BOXED IN BOLD BORDER, OTHER PROGRAMMING IS FROM EWTN</p>											
	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	EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Encore)										
2:30 AM	THEY MIGHT BE SAINTS		EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY					
3:00 AM	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE	SPECIALS	ANGELUS FROM NAZARETH	LIFE ON THE ROCK	BATTLE READY	THE WILL OF GOD				
3:30AM		DEFENDING LIFE		PAPAL AUDIENCE(3:15)	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	REFLECTIONS(4:15)	BOB AND PENNY LORD	WEB OF FAITH 2.0	SAVORING OUR FAITH				
4:30 AM		SUNDAY BEST WITH FR GROESCHEL	GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR A HAPPY LIFE	REAL LIFE CATHOLIC	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	CATHOLIC BEGINNINGS				
5:30 AM	WHERE GOD WEEPS	CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN	METANOIA	KATERI - ALL FOR CHRIST			CATHOLICS COME HOME				
6:00 AM	ANGELUS WITH POPE FRANCIS	EWTN ORIGINAL PRODUCTIONS									
6:30 AM	JOURNEY THROUGH THE SCRIPTURES	G.K. CHESTERTON	CHURCH AND THE POOR	MATTHEWS TESTIMONY TO JESUS	SAINTS VS SCOUNDRELS	THE CHOICES WE FACE	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE				
7:00 AM	THE CHAPLET OF ST. MICHAEL					STATIONS OF THE CROSS	CHAPLET OF ST. MICHAEL				
7:30 AM	THE HOLY ROSARY	HOLY LAND ROSARY					THE HOLY ROSARY				
7:50 AM		LITANY OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	LITANY OF THE HOLY NAME	LITANY OF ST. JOSEPH	LITANY OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD	LITANY OF SACRED HEART					
8:00 AM	SUNDAY MASS (Live)	DAILY MASS (Live)									
9:00 AM	(9:20AM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	HOLY ROSARY WITH THE FRANCISCAN MISSIONARIES OF THE ETERNAL WORD									
9:30 AM	EWTN ROSARY FRANCISCANS	SUNDAY BEST WITH FR. GROESCHEL	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION (ENCORE)	EWTN LIVE (ENCORE)	THE WORLD OVER (Encore)	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	LUCY AND FRIENDS				
10:30 AM		CHOICES WE FACE					HERMIE AND FRIENDS				
11:00 AM	EWTN NEWS IN-DEPTH	OFOD OR SPECIALS	MARRIAGE, FOR BETTER, FOREVER	ST ANN'S WEEKLY NOVENA	CHOICES WE FACE	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY				
11:30 AM		THE PROMISE					MAN AND WOMAN	MARRIAGE WORKS IN CHRIST	NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING	BOB & PENNY LORD PRESENT	
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					EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE				
1:30 PM	IN CONCERT	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	PRO LIFE WEEKLY	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	CTV SPECIALS / OFOD	WOMEN OF GRACE HOUR LONG	EWTN BOOKMARK				
2:00 PM		CALLED TO COMMUNION	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION	FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE		THE JOURNEY HOME	LIFE ON THE ROCK	EWTN ON LOCATION			
2:30 PM					STATIONS OF CROSS						
3:00 PM	THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY IN SONG										
3:20 PM	LIVE ADORATION FROM EWTN CHAPEL										
3:30 PM	THE ROSARY FROM LOURDES	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, (Encore)					ROSARY FROM LOURDES				
4:00 PM	VATICANO	THE HOLY ROSARY DIOCESAN DATEBOOK					SUNDAY VIGIL MASS ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL				
4:30 PM	SAVORING OUR FAITH	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	GRAB YOUR CATECHISM				
5:30 PM	SUNDAY PASSIONIST MASS	SPECIALS					FIRST COMES LOVE				
6:00 PM	SUNDAY MASS FROM ST. PETERS CATHEDRAL	EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Live)					METANOIA				
6:30 PM		CATHOLICS COME HOME	REAL LIFE CATHOLICS	CHURCH UNIVERSAL	VATICANO	WHAT IS GOD'S WILL?	TURLEY TALKS				
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)	EWTN NEWS IN DEPTH	EWTN CINEMA			
8:30 PM	CATHOLICS COME HOME										
9:00 PM	LIFE ON THE ROCK	EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Encore)									
9:30 PM	HOLY ROSARY W MOTHER ANGELICA	WEEKLY NOVENA TO ST. ANN	THE CHOICES WE FACE	FOCUS	LIVE WITH PASSION	WEEKLY NOVENA TO ST. ANN					
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		BATTLE READY	LONG RIDE HOME	CROSSING THE GOAL	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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Pope may go to Canada as part of reconciliation process, Vatican says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis is willing to travel to Canada as part of “the long-standing pastoral process of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples,” the Vatican press office said.

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has invited the pope to visit the country, the press office said Oct. 27, although no date or time frame for the trip was mentioned.

A delegation of Indigenous leaders, accompanied by several bishops, is scheduled to meet with Pope Francis at the Vatican in December to listen to their experiences of how they and their people have been treated by Catholics in Canada, with special attention to the impact on the Indigenous communities of Canada’s residential schools, many of which were run by Catholic religious orders or dioceses.



An offering is seen at the site of the former Brandon Indian Residential School June 12, 2021. Researchers located 104 potential graves at the site in Brandon, Manitoba. (CNS photo/Shannon VanRaes, Reuters)

“Pope Francis will encounter and listen to the Indigenous participants, so as to discern how he can support our common desire to renew relationships and walk together along the path of hope in the coming years,” the bishops’ conference said in a statement after their September meeting.

“We pledge to work with the Holy See and our Indigenous partners on the possibility of a pastoral visit by the pope to Canada as part of this healing journey,” the bishops said.

The statement was part of the first formal apology the bishops as a conference made to Canada’s Indigenous people.

Acknowledging the “grave abuses” perpetuated, the bishops acknowledged “the suffering experienced in Canada’s Indian Residential Schools. Many Catholic religious communities and dioceses participated in this system, which led to the suppression of Indigenous languages, culture and spirituality, failing to respect the rich history, traditions and wisdom of Indigenous peoples.”

In 2015, the Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Call to Action asked for such an apology from the entire church in Canada.

It also said: “We call upon the pope to issue an apology to survivors, their families and communities for the Roman Catholic Church’s role in the spiritual, cultural, emotional, physical and sexual abuse of First Nations, Inuit and Métis children in Catholic-run residential schools. We call for that apology to be similar to the 2010 apology issued to Irish victims of abuse and to

occur within one year of the issuing of this report and to be delivered by the pope in Canada.”

Archbishop Donald Bolen of Regina, Saskatchewan, who will travel with the Indigenous representatives in December, told Catholic News Service in June that the pope’s involvement is important for many Indigenous people.

First of all, he said, “most Indigenous people, especially Indigenous Catholics, see the pope as the chief,” and “when there is a wound between families, the fathers are engaged in the reconciliation process.”

So, he said, many Indigenous Canadians are looking to the pope “to be connected, to take some ownership and to speak on behalf of the church.”

Asking the pope to make the apology formally on Canadian soil is not an arbitrary request, the archbishop said. “The land is so central to Indigenous spirituality, to meet people on their land is vital in terms of a relationship.”

The residential schools have long been at the heart of discussions and reconciliation efforts between Indigenous Canadians and the Catholic Church. The issue gained urgency in late May when the Tk’emlúps to Secwépemc First Nation reported that using ground-penetrating radar an estimated 215 bodies had been found in unmarked graves at the site of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School, run by a Catholic religious order until 1969. Similar discoveries followed at the sites of other residential schools.

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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For More Information, Please Contact
Shannon Kowalski at
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WYD LISBON 2023

Proposed Itinerary



July 28 - Depart for overnight flight to Europe.

July 29 - Arrive in Lisbon. Possible mass at Santarem, the location of Eucharistic Miracle. Activities in Fatima.

July 30 - Day in Fatima. We will walk the Stations of the Cross to Aljustrel, the village of the 3 children of Fatima, visit the Chapel of the Apparitions, and participate in a candlelight procession.

July 31 - Travel to Lisbon. City tour of Lisbon with a free evening.

August 1 - Walking tour of old city Lisbon, visit to the Church of St. Anthony. Opening WYD Mass.

August 2 - August 4 - WYD events. Official welcome of Pope Francis to Lisbon. Stations of the Cross.

August 5 - WYD Vigil & Overnight

August 6 - Closing Mass w/ Pope Francis.

August 7 - Travel to Barcelona. Panoramic tour of the city. Mass at La Sagrada Familia Church.

August 8 - Morning tour to Montserrat Monastery. Afternoon free. Farewell dinner.

August 9 - Depart to US

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Bishops: Bill would help many but its funding of abortion is 'unacceptable'

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The proposed Build Back Better Act has much-needed provisions “uplifting the common good,” but “it is completely unacceptable” the current House version of the bill “expands taxpayer funding of abortion,” the chairmen of six committees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said Nov. 3.

“We have been consistent in our position and reiterate that it would be a calamity if the important and life-affirming provisions in this bill were accompanied by provisions facilitating and funding the destruction of unborn human life,” they wrote in a joint letter to all members of the House and Senate.

The six prelates commended “the bipartisan efforts that led to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act,” which will create millions of jobs, improve global competitiveness and provide new funds for roads, bridges, the electric grid and other major projects. That piece of legislation was signed into law on Nov. 15, 2021.

The bishops also outlined their support for social policies and programs in the Build Back Better Act that would strengthen the social safety net, support workers and families, increase affordable housing, provide affordable health care coverage and protect the environment.

They renewed their requests to Congress – outlined in at least four other letters to lawmakers over the last several months – “to work together toward legislation that promotes the common good and the dignity of every person.”

The USCCB chairmen who signed the Nov. 3 letter were: Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, Committee for Religious Liberty; Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, Committee on Pro-Life Activities; Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development; Bishop Michael C. Barber of Oakland, California, Committee on Catholic Education;

Bishop David A. Konderla of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage; and Auxiliary Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville of Washington, Committee on Migration.

In addition to their opposition on abortion funding in the bill, the bishops also expressed concern about provisions that could effectively exclude faith-based providers from child care and pre-K programs.

Several provisions “do not align” with preserving religious liberty and expanding access to early childhood education, the bishops said.

“Expanded access to early child care and pre-K would be beneficial for many working families,” they said, but “current provisions to do so - in a departure from the approach in existing federal programs - explicitly make providers recipients of federal financial assistance and attach new and troubling compliance obligations.”

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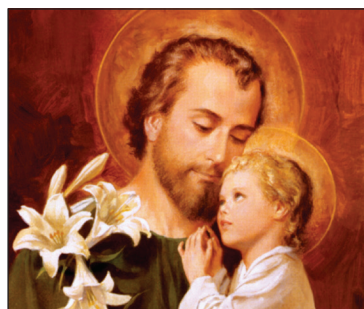
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Oblates plan solemn conclusion for 'Year of Saint Joseph'

PITTSTON — The Oblates of Saint Joseph religious congregation serving in the Diocese of Scranton announces plans to solemnly conclude the Year of Saint Joseph proclaimed by Pope Francis for the Universal Church, designated from Dec. 8, 2020, to Dec. 8, 2021.

The Oblates community will host a special Eucharistic liturgy to close the yearlong observance honoring the husband of the Blessed Mother and guardian of the Holy Family on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary on Wednesday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m. in the Chapel of Saint Joseph, 1880 Route 315, Laflin.

Father Gerald Shantillo, Vicar General of the Diocese, will serve as principal celebrant and homilist for the Mass, concelebrated by



priests and deacons of the Greater Pittston Deanery.

A Eucharistic Holy Hour will precede the Mass from 6 to 7 p.m. and a light reception will conclude the celebration in the community room. All faithful are invited to participate.

Saint Joseph Oblate priests have ministered in the Scranton Diocese since 1929.

For more information, contact the OSJ office at (570) 654-7542.

Alhambra Supreme Chaplain visits local caravan



WILKES-BARRE — The Supreme Chaplain of the Order of Alhambra, Father Martin Gillespie of Biloxi, Miss., recently visited with members of the area's local Alhambra caravan — Alhamar No. 4 — in Wilkes-Barre.

Founded in 1904, the Order of Alhambra is open to Catholic men and women interested in furthering the order's efforts in preserving and commemorating Catholic history, and especially, its commitment to assist intellectually disabled individuals.

Alhambra caravans provide activities and support for special-needs children and adults, and each year the order provides scholarships to college undergraduate and graduate students pursuing studies in the special education field.

Alhamar Caravan No. 4 traditionally meets on the second Wednesday of every month in the community room of the Christ the King Chapel on the campus of King's College in Wilkes-Barre. The local caravan's premier event each year is the annual festival fundraiser held in August to benefit the intellectually disabled.

For more information on membership and donation opportunities with the Alhamar Caravan, contact Ada Magni at (570) 693-1338 or amagni@earthlink.net.

Pictured above, first row from left: Alhamar Grand Commander Thomas Keeney; Father James McGahagan, caravan chaplain; Father Gillespie; Father Thomas Petro, assistant chaplain; Donna Magni, vice grand commander; and Marilyn Krall. Second row: Ada Magni, scribe of the exchequer; Cathy Kennedy, grand scribe; Bob Williams; Raymond Kownacki, grand advocate; Francis Kennedy, sentinel of the tower; Ruth Yaple, master of the wardrobe; Karen Misorek and Patrick Williams.





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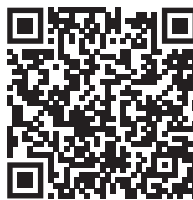
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Enthronement Mass slated for Christ the King Solemnity on Sunday

PITSTON — The Diocesan Enthronement Guild of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary will host a special Mass of Enthronement to celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King on Sunday, Nov. 21.

The Mass commemorating the annual feast day that marks the end of the Church's liturgical year will be celebrated at 7 p.m. in the chapel of the Oblates of Saint Joseph Seminary, Route 315, Laflin.

Father Dan Toomey, spiritual moderator of the Enthronement Guild, will serve as principal celebrant for the liturgy. Saint Joseph Oblate Father Joseph Sibilano, who resides at the seminary, will concelebrate.

Music ministry for the liturgical celebration will be provided by Ernie Pappa and



Father Dan Toomey

beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Sacred Heart Singers Vanessa James and Robert Zito.

Recitation of the Rosary will be offered prior to the Mass, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The Enthronement of the Sacred Heart apostolate enables families and individuals to consecrate their homes to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Homes that have been enthroned become an extension of the liturgy, whereby faithful can follow up their Eucharistic devotion in church with prayerful devotion in

their own private settings.

Anyone interested in enthroning their home and family to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary may register to receive an Enthronement packet by contacting Maria Pappa, coordinator of the Enthronement Guild, at (570) 241-8171. Enthronement renewals are also available.

All are welcome to attend.

IHM Sisters to host virtual Advent prayer service Dec. 15

SCRANTON — The Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters will continue their monthly "Evenings of Prayer with the Sisters of IHM" by hosting a Wednesday evening Advent prayer service on Dec. 15.

The ongoing series of prayer

devotions celebrates a specific theme each month relating to IHM history and the religious community's charism.

Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the Evenings of Prayer have been offered on the second Wednesday

of each month at 6:30 p.m. via videostreaming. Participants may access the devotions at: <https://video.ibm.com/channel/ihm-tv>.

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

Marian Devotion Rosary prayer services listed

Marian Devotion Ministries in the Diocese of Scranton, dedicated to promoting prayerful devotion to Jesus and Mary through recitation of the Rosary, continues its "Fatima Journey for 2021."

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 — Dec. 3, beginning at 6:30 p.m., hosted at Saint Lucy Parish in West Scranton.

Christmas Rosary with Carols and Fatima Prayers — Dec. 17, hosted at the Basilica of Saint Ann in West Scranton; held

from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m., followed by celebration of Mass.

— Dec. 20, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., hosted at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laflin (Pittston).

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

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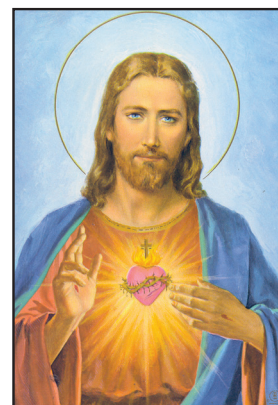
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Blue Army Reparation Vigil



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 **Dec. 3** at Saint Joseph's Oblate Chapel, 1880 Highway 315, Laflin (Pittston).

Devotions begin Friday evening at 8 p.m. with recitation 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 and exposition

of the Blessed Sacrament 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.

Music for the First Friday devotion is provided by Marian Devotion Ministries, led by Ernie Pappa.

'Las Posadas' Advent event at Poconos parish

BRODHEADSVILLE — Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish will host a special program for the Advent season referred to as "Las Posadas," which is a re-creation of the Holy Family's journey to Bethlehem for the birth of the Christ Child, on Wednesday, Dec. 15, at 6 p.m.

Las Posadas — literally translated as "the inns" or "the lodgings" — is a Latino Christmas tradition symbolizing Mary and Joseph's biblical journey in search of shelter before Jesus' birth.



Traditionally a nine-day celebration held from Dec. 16 to Christmas Eve, the dramatic ritual includes a colorful pageant of children as "pilgrims" (or "peregrinos") portrayed in costume as Joseph, Mary, angels, shepherds and the three Wise Men, who travel to a designated home where Las Posadas is celebrated with

feasting and fellowship.

All are welcome to enjoy the family-oriented event for children and adults from various cultural backgrounds.

'Tomb of Unborn' marks milestone anniversary



Father Thomas Petro, pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Dupont and chaplain of Pittston Knights of Columbus Council 372, leads the Rosary devotion Oct. 24 for nearly 30 faithful who were in attendance for the 25th anniversary celebration of the Wyoming Valley Knights "Tomb of the Unborn," which sits atop Mount Olivet Cemetery in Carverton.

Prayer Requests for Priests

The Daily Prayer Request for Priests schedule is as follows:

November 18, Jesuit Father John Levko; November 19, Father Michael Litchek; November 20, Holy Cross Father Thomas Looney; November 21, Holy Cross Father Robert Lozinski; November 22, Father Edward Lyman; November 23, Monsignor Peter Madus; November 24, Jesuit Father Ryan Maher; November 25, Father Thomas Major; November 26, Jesuit Father Richard Malloy; November 27, Father Thomas Maloney; November 28, Father Joseph Manarchuck; November 29, Capuchin Franciscan Father Pio Mandato; November 30, Father Michael Marchetti; December 1, Pope Francis; December 2, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI; December 3, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; December 4, Monsignor Francis Marini; December 5, Jesuit Father Leonard Martin; December 7, Bishop Emeritus Joseph F. Martino; December 8, Holy Cross Father Brendan McAleer; December 9, Passionist Father Thomas McCann; December 10, Father Michael McCormick; December 11, Father Glenn McCreary, V.E.; December 12, Saint Joseph Oblate Father Paul McDonnell; December 13, Holy Cross Father Russ McDougall; December 14, Father Patrick McDowell; December 15, Father James McGahagan; December 16, Father Gerard McGlone; December 17, Monsignor Stephen McGough; December 18, Father John McHale; December 19, Father Connell McHugh; December 20, Jesuit Father Bernard McIlhenny.

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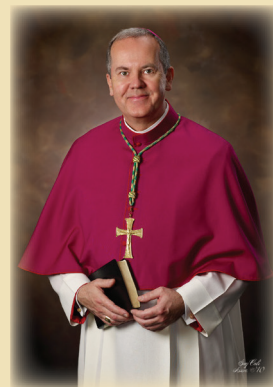
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Weekly Eucharistic Adoration — **NOV. 18**, hosted at St. Anthony/St. George Maronite Catholic Church, 311 Park Ave. (corner of Dana Street), Wilkes-Barre; all-day exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament held every Thursday. Devotion concludes 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. All faithful are welcome.

Weekly/Monthly Pro-Life Rosary Gatherings — **NOV. 18/DEC. 3**, 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.

Fall Basket & Cash Raffle — **NOV. 20**, sponsored by Ss. Peter & Paul Parish, 1309 West

Locust St., West Scranton; basket and raffle drawings will be held following the celebration of the weekend Vigil Mass on Saturday at 4 p.m. Tickets available for purchase before and after the Mass.

Christmas Craft Show — **NOV. 20**, sponsored by the Christian Women of St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport; event held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Fleming Parish Center, 720 West Fourth St., Williamsport. Features various holiday displays and sale items by local vendors; food purchases and bake sale available throughout the day.

Weekend Pierogi & Clam Chowder Sales — **NOV. 20 & 21**, sponsored by Ss. Peter & Paul Parish, 1309 West Locust St., West Scranton; pierogi and clam chowder are sold prior to and following the weekend Masses on Saturday at 4 p.m. and Sunday at 11 a.m. Cost per order: pierogi, \$8/dozen; clam chowder, \$8/quart.

Craft & Gift Fair — **NOV. 20 & 21**, hosted by St. Maria Goretti Parish, Laflin Road, Laflin; weekend fair held on Saturday and Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the parish center. Features nearly 30 vendors offering a various assortment of handmade crafts and unique gift items. Event also includes a Specialty Basket & Gift Raffle, with gift baskets and prizes each worth \$150 or more; raffle tickets will be sold for \$1 each, six for \$5, or arm's length for \$10. Food stand menu items, with hot and cold refreshments and baked goods, available for purchase. Admission is free.

Christ the King Eucharistic Adoration Day — **NOV. 21**, hosted by Our Lady of Fatima Parish at St. Mary Church of the Immaculate Conception, 134 South Washington St., Wilkes-Barre; exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament offered from 1 to 4 p.m. in commemoration of the Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. All faithful are welcome for visitation and private prayer/meditation in the presence of the Eucharistic Lord.

Weekly Bingo — **NOV. 22**, 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.

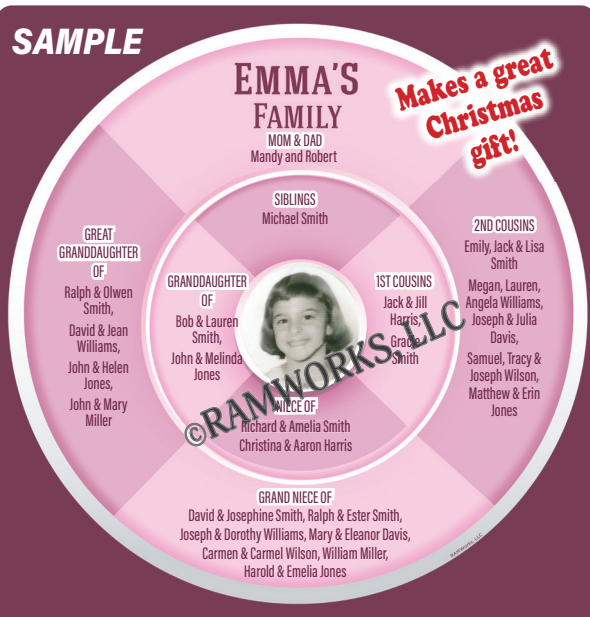
Weekly Novena Devotion to Saint Anthony of Padua — **NOV. 23-DEC. 14**, hosted by Our Lady of Hope Parish, 40 Park Ave., Wilkes-Barre; nine-week Saint Anthony Novena devotion held on consecutive Tuesday evenings, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the parish church. Novena theme: "Saint Rita of Cascia: Patron Saint of the Impossible." All faithful are welcome; for more information, call (570) 824-7832.

Free Take-Out Community Thanksgiving Dinner — **NOV. 25**, sponsored by St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 101 St. Vincent Drive, Route 739, Dingman Township; take-out dinners available for pick-up from 1 to 3 p.m. in the parish hall. Holiday dinner includes turkey, stuffing, mashed & sweet potatoes, vegetables, gravy, cranberries, rolls and dessert. Pre-ordering is required by Friday, Nov. 19. For more information and to place orders, contact the parish office at (570) 686-4545, or email: stvdepaulchurch@gmail.com.

Knights' 'Breakfast with Santa' Program — **NOV. 28**, sponsored by Knights of Columbus St. Ann's Council 12572; breakfast is take-out only and will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Ann Basilica Parish in West Scranton. Event includes children's photos with Santa Claus. For ticket information, call (570) 591-1375, or online at: ScrantonKnights.com. All proceed from the breakfast benefit local charities.

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Continued on next page



Members of Knights of Columbus, Wilkes-Barre Council 302, recently donated a monetary gift to benefit the Pro-Life Center operated by the Wyoming Valley Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life. The Pro-Life Center is a volunteer-run apostolate in Wilkes-Barre that assists young families in need of infant clothing, blankets and furnishings. Pictured above, from left: Ronald Hanson, K of C Council inside guard; David Andrejewski, outside guard; Ted Straub, warden; Joseph Jacobs, financial secretary; Christopher Calore, Wyoming Valley PHL; Grand Knight Joe Mansuedo; Father Mark DeCelles, assistant pastor at Our Lady of Fatima and Saint Nicholas parishes, Wilkes-Barre, and council chaplain; Frank McDonough, chancellor; Joe Liscosky, board member; Raymond Kownacki, senior trustee; and David Miller, recording secretary.

Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese

Advent Series — DEC. 1, 8 & 22, sponsored by Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Brodheadsville; three Wednesday evening presentations begin at 6 p.m. in the parish church. Program features a series of talks, entitled “Raise Your Heads, Lift Up Your Hearts,” by Father Robert Simon, pastor, on the celebration of the Mass. All are welcome. For more information, contact the parish office at (610) 681-6137.

Advent Retreat Day — DEC. 4, offered in person or virtually by the Sisters of Saints Cyril & Methodius religious community; held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Guest presenter: Sister Jean Marie Holup, SSCM. Guided retreat will focus on “special spiritual gifts” awaiting those who look with joyful and hope-filled anticipation to the Lord’s birth at Christmas. Registration deadline is Nov. 29. For more information and to register, call (570) 275-3581 or visit: www.sscm.org.

Catholic Choral plans Advent-Christmas Concert

Following a 73-year choral history of music for the Advent season, the Catholic Choral Society will present an Advent–Christmas Concert on Sunday, Dec. 5, at 3 p.m. at Saint Mary’s Church of the Immaculate Conception at Our Lady of Fatima Parish, 134 S. Washington St., Wilkes-Barre.

The chorus will be presenting sacred Advent and Christmas music as well other Christmas selections. The concert is open

Christmas Bake Sale — DEC. 15, sponsored by the Monastery Pantry (formerly Carmelite Kitchen) at Holy Annunciation Monastery, 403 West County Road, Sugarloaf; sale benefits the Ruthenian Catholic religious sisters at Holy Annunciation Monastery. Christmas sale items include large variety of cheesecakes, fruitcake & plum pudding, cookies, traditional Slavic Christmas specials, jams & jellies, yogurt, cheese and holiday scented candles. Order deadline is Monday, Dec. 6; pick-up day is Wednesday, Dec. 15, from noon to 5 p.m. at St. Mary’s Center, 320 Mifflin Ave., Scranton. For more information and complete listing of items for purchase & pricing, call 1-800-882-0028 or email: giftfromthenuns@ptd.net (include contact number).

Christmas Cookie & Fruitcake Sale — DEC. 18, sponsored by St. Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic

Church, 317 Charles St., Old Forge; pre-order sales of Christmas cookies and fruitcakes held from 10 a.m. to noon. Featuring a wide assortment of homemade holiday cookies and baked goods. Cost: \$10 per pound; fruitcakes available for \$6 (small) and \$15 (large). Advanced orders only; deadline is Dec. 10. For more information and pre-orders call Maria at (570) 457-8275.

to the public free of charge; however, free-will offerings will be accepted.

Brenda Grunza serves as president of the Catholic Choral Society; Dr. Thomas Rittenhouse is president emeritus.

Serving as music director for the choral ensemble is Ann Manganiello, and Kimberly Gnall is the accompanist.

For more information, call (570) 575-1040.


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Elizabeth McGill professes first IHM vows



SCRANTON — Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Elizabeth McGill professed first vows of chastity, poverty and obedience as a Sister, Servant of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at a Eucharistic celebration on Sept. 26 at the IHM Center in Scranton.

A native of Elmira, N.Y., Sister Elizabeth is the youngest of six children of Richard and Helen McGill.

As a young adult she pursued advanced education and a career in human development and higher education. While still desiring a deeper relationship with God, Sister Elizabeth began to discern a vocation to religious life and entered the Sisters of IHM community in March of 2018.

Today, Sister Elizabeth serves at Marywood University as the interim executive director of student services, where she works closely with personnel to coordinate and promote a strong student experience at the university.

Shown above, Sister Elizabeth McGill, IHM (center) is pictured with the witnesses to her vows, IHM Sisters Annmarie Sanders, left, and Mary Kay Faliskie.

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