



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

November 18, 2021

Listening phase of synod begins

Online survey now available on Diocese of Scranton website

Sinodo
2021
2023
Per una Chiesa sinodale
comunione partecipazione missione

We Are Listening!

Take the Diocese of Scranton's Online Survey for the Synod on Synodality
at dioceseofscranton.org

(Available in both English and Spanish)

We invite you to share your joys, sorrows,
hopes and dreams for our church

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.

The Diocese of Scranton will be taking a three-pronged approach to the local listening phase of the synod. That includes the online survey (and phone line for those without internet access), parish and community gatherings, and a pre-synodal meeting hosted by Bishop Bambera in the spring.

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

[Click Here to Visit the Diocese of Scranton's website to take the Synod Online Survey in Either English or Spanish](#)

Diocese of Scranton among top-scoring dioceses in financial transparency report

The screenshot shows the website for the Diocese of Scranton's Financial Services department. The header includes the Diocese of Scranton logo and navigation links: Find a Parish, Find a School, Find a Clergy, Find a Mass, Find a Helping Hand, Español, and Search. Below the header is a menu with categories: ABOUT, CATHOLIC SCHOOLS, CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES, CHILD PROTECTION VICTIM ASSISTANCE, DIRECTORY, GIVING, MEDIA, PARISH LIFE, and VOCATIONS. The main content area features a large image of hands using a calculator and a laptop, with the text: "Financial Services is responsible for the accounting function for the administrative offices of the Diocese of Scranton. This includes the maintenance and preparation of the Diocesan financial statements, the processing of parish assessments and shared administrative costs, the maintenance of the Diocesan Institute and the preparation of the annual..." To the right, a "Contacts" sidebar lists: "Diocesan Secretary for Financial Services/CFO: Eileen Bartoli" with phone numbers 570-207-2237, ext. 1090 and 570-207-1459, and an "Email Me" link. Below that, it lists "Director of Accounting" with a partially visible name.

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.

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.

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

Communion Statement Aims To 'Retrieve And Revive' Understanding



The U.S. bishops approved their statement on the Eucharist with 222 "yes" votes Nov. 17, the second of two days of public sessions during their Nov. 15-18 fall general assembly.

Their OK came a day after their discussion of the document – a discussion that took a drastically different tone than their previous debate about what

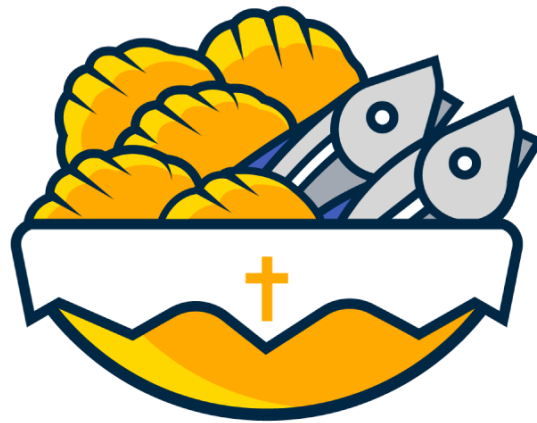
the document could potentially contain during their virtual assembly five months ago.

At that June gathering, a major focus highlighted whether it would address denying Communion to Catholic politicians who support abortion.

The document the bishops discussed and approved does not specifically call out Catholic political leaders, but it does more generally point out the seriousness of the sacrament.

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

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



#iGIVECATHOLIC

For the first time this year, the Diocese of Scranton is participating in the nationwide #iGiveCatholic movement in conjunction with Giving Tuesday.

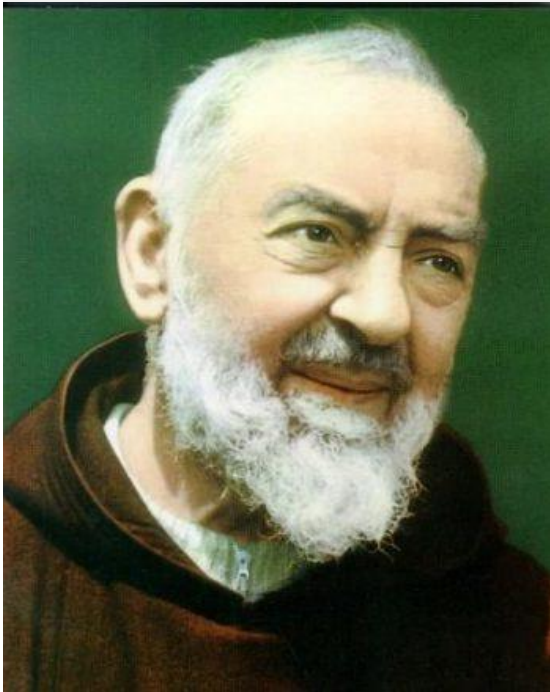
More than 40 dioceses across the country are participating and this year the Diocese of Scranton has joined to help spur giving for the many ministries and programs supported by the Diocesan Annual Appeal.

Donors have the opportunity to win prizes if they donate at least \$20 during the #iGiveCatholic giving period which started on Nov. 15. Donations will be accepted for the #iGiveCatholic campaign until Nov. 30.

[Read More About #iGiveCatholic and the Raffle Prizes that are being given away](#)

[Visit the Diocese of Scranton's #iGiveCatholic Giving Page](#)

Plains parish to host Padre Pio relics



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.

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

"Socktober" collection will help people keep warm in winter



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.

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

Scholarship gift to Catholic Schools to benefit students in need



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.

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

Follow Us



Diocese of Scranton
300 Wyoming Avenue,
Scranton, PA 18503-1279

(570) 207-2238

www.dioceseofscranton.org