SCRANTON — Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant of the Mass of Thanksgiving and Sending Forth for Bishop-elect Jeffery J. Walsh on Tuesday, Feb. 15, at 12:10 p.m., in the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

Dozens of the future bishop’s brother priests from the Diocese of Scranton concelebrated the joy-filled Eucharistic liturgy, which saw the venerable cathedral filled with family, friends, religious and lay faithful who were in attendance to offer prayerful best wishes for Bishop-elect Walsh prior to his embarking on a new chapter in his life of service to the People of God — as the new bishop of the Diocese of Gaylord, Michigan.

The episcopal ordination and installation of Bishop Walsh as the sixth prelate to serve the faithful of Gaylord will take place on Friday, March 4, at 2 p.m. in the diocesan Cathedral of Saint Mary.

In welcoming the throng for the Mass of Sending Forth, Bishop Bambera began by stating the crowd was by far the largest gathering in Saint Peter’s Cathedral since the onset of the global pandemic nearly two years ago.

“We owe it all to the grace of God and to our dear brother, Father Jeff Walsh,” the Bishop remarked, leading to a rousing applause.

Noting that the special noontime gathering was being offered in thanksgiving for the blessing and gift of the Bishop-elect to his home diocese, Bishop Bambera said, “We give thanks for his ministry, that has obviously touched so many of us and in so many and different ways. And we send him forth with our love and most especially our prayers as he assumes a new role of service in the Church of Jesus Christ and in ministry to the faithful to the Diocese of Gaylord.”

Serving as homilist for the Mass, Bishop-elect Walsh quipped that he felt sorry for anyone who came to the Cathedral that day expecting a brief, midday Mass.

“I am so grateful for everyone who is here,” the future Gaylord Bishop expressed, stating he believed such a liturgical celebration on his behalf would never occur, as he expected to live out the rest of his priesthood serving the Scranton Diocese.

“Let me begin my offering my gratitude to everyone, especially Bishop Bambera and all in the Diocese of Scranton who invited me to come and celebrate this Mass,” Bishop-elect Walsh remarked. “This is a helpful way for me to have closure, to see so many familiar faces and to give thanks to God for the blessings I’ve had as a priest here over the last 27 years.”

The Bishop-elect graciously thanked the numerous faithful in attendance who traveled from within the diocese and beyond, indicating the many parishioners and laity he had come to know through his many parochial assignments.

In an emotional expression of gratitude to women and men religious he ministered with over the years, Bishop-elect Walsh said, “I thank especially my brother priests and deacons I have had the joy and privilege of serving with. I am most grateful for your witness.”

The future bishop stated, “I am filled with a heart of gratitude,” referring to the Gospel...
SCRAMANTON – Both Jerome and Nancy Walsh had the same reaction when their son, Bishop-elect Jeffrey J. Walsh, broke the news over a tray of pizza that Pope Francis had appointed him to be the Sixth Bishop of the Diocese of Gaylord.

“I was shocked that night. We’re still in shock. I just can’t believe it’s real but it is. We’re sort of adjusting to it. The more it sinks in, the more it is real,” Jerome Walsh said.

“It is just overwhelming and very humbling,” Nancy Walsh added. “We’re very thankful.”

The road to the episcopacy emanates from the path to the priesthood. Since his appointment became public in late December, Bishop-elect Walsh has consistently cited his parents and grandparents as the most significant formators in his life.

“I never thought he’d become a bishop,” his mother said with a laugh and a smile. “I was very happy to be the mother of a priest.”

The closeness between Bishop-elect Walsh and his parents is easy to see as The Catholic Light recently joined them around the kitchen table inside Walsh’s childhood home in Scranton. It is a home filled with love, faith and plenty of family photographs.

Childhood memories flow as easy as water.

“Growing up, he was a very adventures boy. He was a typical boy with sports. Whatever ‘ball’ was in season was in that corner. We’re only a block away from the park so he’d be bouncing the basketball all the way from the park. You’d know he was coming. He loved baseball. He was a very good pitcher for the little league. He was a lacrosse player, baseball, football, whatever was in season,” his mother recalled.

With his maternal grandparents living only a block away, the church was a big part of this Irish Catholic family’s life. Growing up, Bishop-elect Walsh served as an altar server and always helped at the parish picnic.

“Jeff served up until the time he was a teenager at North Scranton. I think it was sixth grade and he served so many funerals. He’d be a little late for school, about a half hour, and Monsignor would always give him a little excuse. One day the teacher said, ‘I don’t know, isn’t there anybody else, he’s late so much because he’s serving so many funerals,’” his mother added. “Monsignor saw something in him and he told me later on, when Jeff did go into the seminary. He said, ‘I think he has a vocation.’”

Since becoming a priest 27 years ago, Bishop-elect Walsh’s parents have watched their son take on numerous responsibilities in the Diocese of Scranton. They believe God has given him the gifts and talents needed to succeed in any assignment he was given.

“I think he understands people more than a regular person. He can almost feel what they’re feeling. He’s very sincere. He’s always been like that. He’s interested in you and I think it really shows,” his father said.

“I was always amazed that no matter where he was assigned, he fit right in,” his mother added. “We’ve had a wonderful 27 years of his priesthood. We’ve been to every parish. We loved going to his Masses. We’ve met wonderful people, different parishioners from every parish, going to fundraisers and dinners. We have really had a wonderful 27 years.”

With their strong foundation of faith, Bishop-elect Walsh’s parents say it is an honor that their son is becoming a bishop.

“People say to me, he’s always smiling even though he doesn’t even know he’s smiling. That is the truth. He always has a little smile on his face when he’s saying Mass, even though he’s serious, there is a little smile there. He’s just happy doing what he is doing. Different people will say he’s really found his niche and I think he did,” Nancy explained.

During all of his priestly assignments, Bishop-elect has never been more than an hour away from his parents. On his days off, he could often be seen shoveling their driveway or mowing their grass. With his new appointment taking him more than 12 hours away from his childhood home, his parents are preparing to adjust.

“He will be missed here…we’re going to have to adjust,” his father said. “I think he’ll do a good job. He’s got the background now and hopefully, God willing, he’ll do a good job. It’s a big challenge for him. He’s very adventurous so I think he’ll be anxious to see what is out there!”

Above: Bishop-elect Jeffrey J. Walsh and his parents, Jerome and Nancy Walsh, reflect on his 27 years as a Diocese of Scranton priest on Jan. 25, 2022, inside his parents home in Scranton. (Photo/Ed Koons)
CARBONDALE – Having travelled all over the world to help the less fortunate on mission trips, Father Jeffrey J. Walsh is now preparing to travel to Michigan for what is arguably his biggest mission yet.

On Friday, March 4, 2022, Bishop-elect Walsh will be ordained and installed as the Sixth Bishop of the Diocese of Gaylord. The Most Reverend Allen H. Vigneron, Archbishop of Detroit, will serve as the principal consecrator. The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, and the Most Reverend Walter A. Hurley, Apostolic Administrator of Gaylord, will serve as co-consecrators.

The Episcopal Ordination and Installation will take place at 2 p.m. at Saint Mary, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral, Gaylord.

Even though it has been nearly two months since the appointment was announced, Bishop-elect Walsh still feels a sense of amazement.

“I understand it as something that is necessary for my salvation, that God must see it as a way I need to follow in order to get to heaven but I also see it as a great challenge,” Bishop-elect Walsh said in a recent interview with The Catholic Light.

Ordained as a priest for the Diocese of Scranton in 1994, Bishop-elect has spent 27 years serving the faithful of northeastern Pennsylvania with a humble heart and deep devotion to God.

“I love northeast Pennsylvania. I grew up here. I know every nook and cranny and have been through every aspect of its natural beauty and all the other aspects of Church life,” he added. “I’ve loved every minute of it, even in the difficult times.”

HEARING GOD’S CALL

When he was a teenager, Bishop-elect Walsh freely admits he wanted to become a truck driver, not a diocesan priest. It wasn’t until attending a weekend retreat while attending The University of Scranton that he began delving deeper into his faith.

“I found myself at a place where I wanted to learn more and I saw my peers interacting with faith at a deeper level,” Bishop-elect Walsh said.

Walsh grew up in an Irish Catholic household in Scranton. The church played an important role in his life.

“I understood the proper place that the Church played in our lives, going to Mass every Sunday, going to CCD during the weekdays, serving as an altar boy and then just trying to be a good person, knowing that my parents and grandparents were good role models. They were involved in civic organizations, they worked hard. They had disciple in the home,” he said.

After graduating from college, Bishop-elect Walsh said three things came together in an unexpected way which led to him joining the seminary. He admits he wasn’t happy in the job that he had, a relationship he was in during college ended and the death of his grandmother showed him that a priest does a lot more than just celebrate Mass.

“When my grandmother died unexpectedly, a young priest came to visit her in the hospital and when I saw what he did there, that fleshed out for me what a priest does … he brings comfort and peace and prays with people and (he) brought us a great sense of relief during that very difficult time,” he explained. “As I started praying about it and thinking ‘What is God saying to me through these things,’ the option of entering into the seminary became one of those realities.”

SERVING AND INSPIRING YOUNG ADULTS

During his 27 years as a priest, Bishop-elect Walsh has held many administrative and pastoral responsibilities, but he says spending time with young adults has been among the most important.

“I looked at those experiences of being with young people as a way to, first of all, draw them into a faith that I saw myself lacking and then finding, and I wanted to be a part of them finding it too because I thought it was exciting to experience that,” he explained.

Continued on Page 4
Continued from Page 3

Bishop-elect Walsh has been involved with more than 20 mission trips – some as far away as Thailand – and has traveled to multiple World Youth Days.

“I draw energy and strength and joy and love from being around young people,” Bishop-elect Walsh explained, emphasizing the love that many young adults show for Mass, adoration, confession and faith sharing groups. “I hope until the day I die I enjoy the company of young people just because of the mutual benefit I think it has.”

**USING HIS GIFTS TO BUILD GOD’S KINGDOM**

When he is not fulfilling his priestly responsibilities, Bishop-elect Walsh can often be found outdoors. He has often used his love of nature to help whatever parish he has been assigned to.

“It started with running the Steamtown Marathon. I was at Saint Mary of the Lake in Lake Winola and we needed a new rug. I thought to myself I could get people to sponsor me by the mile. I would run the race and see what happens. We called it the ‘Run for the Rug,’” he explained.

That began multiple opportunities to tie together physical exercise and parish fundraising. He subsequently biked from Maryland to Tunkhannock to raise money for windows in a parish hall, and swam the four mile perimeter of Lake Winola to raise money for a new entranceway for his church.

During his most recent pastoral assignment, Bishop-elect Walsh raised $20,000 to renovate the steeple at Saint Rose of Lima Parish in Carbondale by walking the route of the Steamtown Marathon.

“I’ve always loved exercise and I love being active and I thought if I can marry that with opportunities for fundraising for a parish, it’s been successful so I’m grateful for that,” Bishop-elect Walsh said.

**SAM, A CONSTANT COMPANION**

Nearly everywhere Father Walsh has gone for more than a decade, his beloved dog, Sam, has been by his side. Sam will, of course, move to Gaylord as part of the episcopal transition.

“I can read his mind. He can read my mind,” Bishop-elect Walsh admits.

Sam came into Father Walsh’s life on Sept. 11, 2010.

“I was looking for a dog and I found a rescue organization that was bringing puppies up from Tuscaloosa, Ala., from a kill shelter and it was a match made in heaven,” he added. “I named him Sam because it was the anniversary of 9/11 and I wanted to think of something patriotic to call him so I thought of Uncle Sam and that’s how he got the name Sam.”

With every assignment, Sam has been an ambassador for the church. Immediately after learning of his episcopal appointment, when Bishop-elect Walsh couldn’t tell anyone, Sam also became his owner’s trusted confidant.

“Sam was my great comfort for those days when my mind was reeling over all the changes and responsibilities that were coming,” he said.

**PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE**

As he prepares to assume responsibility for the 21 most northern counties of Michigan’s lower peninsula, and the 44,000 Catholics in the Diocese of Gaylord, Bishop-elect feels confident in his abilities because of his priestly experiences in the Diocese of Scranton.

“They’ve given me a good, broad vision of Church and what typically happens in the life of a local church, at the parish level and diocesan level. I’ve been tremendously inspired and edified by so many in the Diocese of Scranton,” the future bishop said.

When asked about his vision for the future, he answers simply, that it is the “vision of the Gospel.”

“To be Church in a way that we see and read about in the Scriptures,” he explained. “To me, what I keep going back to in prayer, is a sense of the early Church and needing to be able to live the life of the Church with that original sense of excitement and challenge of the Gospel.”

While admitting there is sadness in saying goodbye, Bishop-elect Walsh gives gratitude to God for each person he has gotten to know, home he has gotten to visit and parish he has gotten to serve.

“I am very, very blessed,” he said.

**Above:** Father Jeffrey J. Walsh has participated in several World Youth Day events, including representing the Diocese in Rome in October 2000.

**Below:** Father Jeffrey J. Walsh poses with children he met and ministered to as part of a mission trip to Thailand in 2003.
SCRANTON – As Bishop-elect Jeffrey J. Walsh prepares to leave the Diocese of Scranton to minister to the faithful in the Diocese of Gaylord, his brother priests, many who have served alongside him for 27 years are reflecting on his many gifts and talents.

“Father Walsh is truly a servant leader. He understands that to serve is to lead and to lead is to serve and he will do it well,” Monsignor Joseph G. Quinn, pastor, Saint John Neumann Parish and Saint Paul of the Cross Parish, said.

“He’s a very gifted priest and there’s a quality of holiness that is really significant in his life and that permeates when he has conversations with people,” Father Thomas M. Muldowney, pastor, Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, said.

Monsignor William J. Feldcamp knew Jeffrey Walsh and his family long before he decided to become a priest. When Father Walsh was ordained in 1994, his first assignment was to serve along Monsignor Feldcamp as assistant pastor at Saint Rose of Lima Parish in Carbondale.

Even as a young priest, Msgr. Feldcamp recognized the abilities of his young assistant.

“I would say the biggest thing that stood out was the fact that he was very energized by serving people. He loved to go visit the hospitals. He loved to go and do communion calls, to visit the sick. Anytime there was any kind of social need with the poor or needy, he was right on deck to help,” Msgr. Feldcamp recalled.

Feldcamp believes Bishop-elect Walsh can best be described as a “missionary disciple.”

“He always will put himself out to help other people, to help the church in whatever way he can. He’ll reach out to go on trips with youth. He’ll help with formation of priests,” he said.

After two years in Carbondale, in 1996, Bishop-elect Walsh became assistant pastor at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, where Monsignor Quinn served as rector.

“He was filled with energy and enthusiasm in a wonderful way. He gave such added life to everything at the Cathedral but what I loved most of all was that he was always genuinely prayerful, sincerely humble and really selfless in every way,” Msgr. Quinn explained.

Whether working with youth, running mission trips or assisting with the long-running fundraiser “Cathedral Capers,” Msgr. Quinn said Bishop-elect Walsh always put everything in a positive light.

“I’m still smiling about his recent letter in his own parish bulletin at Saint Rose where he said there are three things he was looking forward to as he heads out to Michigan,” Msgr. Quinn said. “One is meeting a moose, two is seeing the night lights at the Great Lakes and the third is driving a snowmobile. Who else could put it in that context?! He’s smiling throughout it all and bravely, selflessly and courageously going forward as a leader needed in today’s church.”

Bishop-elect Walsh has also held a number of administrative positions, including Vicar for Clergy, where he often worked side-by-side with Father Muldowney, who previously served as Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia.

Father Muldowney said his long-time friend is authentic in the way he presents himself, celebrates Mass and has conversations.

“The Diocese of Gaylord is getting a fantastic bishop just because of his priestly zeal, holiness and authentic way of life,” Father Muldowney related. “I know the giftedness that he has and that’s a blessing he’s going to give to the faithful of the Diocese of Gaylord.”

When all three priests were asked to give Bishop-elect words of advice, each said almost the same exact thing.

“Be who you are. That’s the advice that I would give him,” Father Muldowney said. “Who he is, is why the Church called him to be a bishop.”

“Don’t change. Be you. Be the real person that everyone in this diocese has loved with every assignment he’s had. Be the humble, honest human, humorous soul that we all know him to be and he will be equally enlivened and at the service of the Church,” Msgr. Quinn said.

“My words of advice would be to be yourself,” Msgr. Feldcamp added. “Because you have all the qualities needed to be a successful bishop. You’re a blessing for the Church and I’m sure everybody in northeastern Pennsylvania is very proud of you. Our prayers go with you and don’t be a stranger. When you come back, let us see you and let us know how you’re doing!”

CATHOLIC TELEVISION DIOCESE OF SCRANTON
Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton has put together a special show, titled “Bishop-elect Jeffrey J. Walsh: Living the Call to Servant Leadership.” The broadcast premiered on Monday but will also air on Feb. 21 at 10:30 a.m.; Feb. 24 at 2 p.m.; and Feb. 25 at 10:30 a.m. It will also be available for viewing on the Diocese of Scranton website at dioceseofscranton.org.
Heraldic Achievement of Most Reverend Jeffrey J. Walsh, Sixth Bishop of Gaylord

Designing his shield - the central element in what is formally called the heraldic achievement - a bishop has an opportunity to depict symbolically aspects of his life and heritage, and elements of the Catholic faith that are important to him. Every coat of arms also includes external elements that identify the rank of the bearer. The formal description of a coat of arms, known as the blazon, uses a technical jargon, derived from French and English terms, that allows the appearance and position of each element to be recorded precisely.

A diocesan bishop shows his commitment to the flock he shepherds by combining his personal coat of arms with that of the diocese, in a technique known as impaling. The shield is divided in half along the pale or central vertical line. The arms of the diocese appear on the dexter side, that is, on the side of the shield to the viewer’s left, which would cover the right side (in Latin, dextera) of the person carrying the shield. The arms of the bishop are on the sinister side, the bearer’s left, the viewer’s right.

The arms of the Diocese of Gaylord have a field of blue (azure) surrounded by a white border drawn with wavy lines. This alludes to the geography of the diocese. The geography of the diocese is also symbolized by the chevronel, the thin V-shaped design painted white (argent), which alludes to a mountain peak, recalling that the City of Gaylord is at the highest elevation in the Lower Peninsula.

The gold Cross represents the planting of the Faith in the region. Taken together with the chevronel, which can also recall the trusses of a peaked roof, it brings to mind the parish churches where the people of the diocese gather to worship God.

In the upper part of the shield are two six-pointed stars, which are drawn from the coat of arms of the Carmelite Order; the Blessed Virgin Mary is the patroness of the diocese under her title of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. They also allude to the two Michigan dioceses - Grand Rapids and Saginaw - from whose territory the Diocese of Gaylord was formed in 1971.

The design of Bishop Walsh’s arms is meant to illustrate the motto that appears on the scroll below the shield, “Divine Providence.” Read from the bottom up, it traces the plan and providence of God as it has unfolded in the life of the Bishop.

In the lower part of the shield appears an arrowhead, known in heraldry as a pheon. The family arms of the Walsh sept or clan in Ireland display three pheons painted black (sable) on a white shield, with a red chevron between the two at the top of the shield (in chief) and one in base. A pheon appears here to recall those arms, but with the colors reversed. The black pointed background on which the pheon appears recalls the Bishop’s birth and upbringing in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Large deposits of anthracite coal have been mined for more than a century in the region, and the “coal country” became home to many Catholic immigrants from Ireland and various parts of central and eastern Europe.

At this point the viewer encounters the first of two white chevrons. This one is drawn with wavy lines on its lower edge, while the upper edge is drawn to resemble evergreen trees (sapiné). This recalls the geography of the Diocese of Scranton, which Bishop Walsh served as a priest for more than 27 years, as well as the Diocese of Gaylord. The territories of both dioceses comprise many evergreen forests and numerous lakes, rivers and streams.

Another white chevron is drawn counter-flory, that is, with heraldic lilies (fleurs-de-lis) around its edges placed in alternating directions. This chevron symbolizes the Bishop’s devotion to the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Lilies, and particularly the fleur-de-lis, are a symbol of purity and chastity that have long been associated with the Blessed Virgin Mary, and with Saint Joseph as well. The chevron also resembles a carpenter’s square, another attribute of Saint Joseph, and of Jesus, known in his home town of Nazareth as “the carpenter’s son” (Mt 13:55).

Finally, rays painted gold are seen descending from the top of the shield (a chief rayonný Or). This is meant to symbolize the Divine Providence of Almighty God, who bestows grace, wisdom and strength to enable each person to understand and embrace His Will in every moment. The various chevrons can be seen as pointing in the direction of God, who leads the individual step by step through his life and vocation, always tending toward the fulfillment of life in Heaven.

The shield is ensigned with external elements that identify the bearer as a bishop. A gold procession shield appears behind the shield. The galero or “pilgrim’s hat” is used heraldically in various colors and with specific numbers of tassels to indicate the rank of a bearer of a coat of arms. A bishop uses a green galero with three rows of green tassels.

Diocese of Scranton sends forth Bishop-elect Walsh as he embarks on new role of service in the Church

Continued from Page 1

John proclaimed earlier that emphasizes the gift of Jesus’ love for all. “That has been such a comfort to me.”

He shared with the congregation how he was naturally overwhelmed with emotions upon first learning of the tremendous responsibility that comes with shepherding a diocese. “I was just praying and it came to me that God was saying, ‘I’m giving you this assignment out of love; receive it in love and exercise it in love.’”

“That brought me some peace and consolation that it’s all about love,” Bishop-elect Walsh shared. “Love casts out fear. I came to understand the true meaning of those words in Scripture.”

The Mass of Thanksgiving and Sending Forth concluded with closing remarks and a final blessing by Bishop Bambera.

“Father Jeff has always been willing to set out in faith into the unknown,” the Bishop said, adding that the 56-year-old priest’s latest and most challenging of journeys is well underway. “This is one more opportunity for him to do what he has done throughout his priestly ministry: to place his hand in the hand of God and to follow the Lord Jesus who calls him to serve His Church as a bishop.”

Bishop Bambera extolled the Bishop-elect’s unwavering willingness to always trust in God, as reflected in the motto he has chosen for his new episcopacy — “Divine Providence.”

“Father Jeff, we send you forth with great pride and we thank you not only for your faithful service to this local Church, but also for reminding all of us that whatever our state in life may be, by your example and your resolve, we know what we are called to do and be disciples of Jesus Christ.”
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In his 2022 Lenten message to the Church, Pope Francis invites us to reflect upon Saint Paul’s words in his letter to the Galatians: “Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all” (Galatians 6:9-10).

The Holy Father challenges us to reflect upon the urgency of using the time that God has given to us in a productive manner by sowing goodness in our world with a view to a future harvest. And Lent, Pope Francis continues, is the opportune time for us to recollect our thoughts and to move forward with resolve, seeking to fulfill our baptismal promises by making the pattern of Jesus’ life our own through our authentic response to his call to discipleship.

Through his invitation to place our trust in the Lord as the surest means of responding to the apostle Paul’s appeal, Pope Francis provides us with some practical reminders of how we might achieve this noble end:

- “Let us not grow tired of praying” … We need to pray because we need God.
- “Let us not grow tired of uprooting evil from our lives or of asking for forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance,” knowing that God never tires of forgiving us.
- And “Let us not grow tired of doing good in active charity towards our neighbors,” the surest means of reflecting the life of Jesus in our own lives.

This year during our Lenten journey, we have all been given a unique opportunity to sow seeds of goodness in our Church to reap a bountiful harvest. The entire People of God, including our own local Church, have been invited to participate in the preparatory phase of the Synod of Bishops that is being convened by Pope Francis in October 2023, entitled a Synod on Synodality.

A “synodal” Church implies a way of being and of working that engages a more grassroots, collaborative effort among the members of the Christian faithful as we all seek to grow in awareness of the presence of God and engage the mission of evangelization. A “synodal” Church takes the time to discern the path forward that the Holy Spirit is calling us to embrace as together we seek to build a Church where all are welcome, valued and sent forth as ambassadors of Christ. A “synodal” Church highlights the fact that each member of the Body of Christ has been entrusted with gifts for the building up of the Church – “good” that we ought never tire of doing on behalf of one another.

I encourage you to participate in the synodal process through listening sessions in your parishes and through online opportunities that have been generously provided to all of you who desire to share your thoughts, your dreams and where you believe the Holy Spirit is calling the Church at this time in its history. The Diocese of Scranton’s online survey can be found on the “Synod on Synodality” page on the Diocese of Scranton website at dioceseofscranton.org.

As Pope Francis has reminded us, a “synodal Church” is above all a Church that listens: “It is a mutual listening in which everyone has something to learn. The lay faithful, the bishops, the pope: all listening to each other, all listening to the Holy Spirit, the “Spirit of truth” (John 14:17), in order to know what He is saying to the Church” and how best to move forward in faith.

Finally, one of the great gifts given to us by the Church to assist in our response to the Lord’s invitation to do “good” is found in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As we have done for many years, all of the parishes of the Diocese of Scranton will participate in The Light Is On For You. Every Monday evening during the Lenten season, beginning on the first Monday of Lent, March 7, and continuing through Monday of the last full week of Lent, April 4, confessions will be heard in every parish from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

My friends, our resolve to deepen our faith and to do good on behalf of our brothers and sisters is needed today more than ever. May we open our hearts to this blessed season of Lent and all of the opportunities that we are given to deepen our trust in the ever-present grace of God, that alone can sustain us in our journey of faith as his disciples.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

+ Joseph C. Bambera
Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Scranton
Regulations for Lent 2022

All faithful of the Diocese of Scranton are reminded of Diocesan Statute No. 41, which addresses the penitential aspect of Lent:

“The season of Lent is penitential in nature and during Lent penance should be not only internal and individual, but also external and social (Sacer sanctum Concilium, No. 5, 109). Pastors are obliged to avoid scheduling activities in the parishes which in any way could possibly detract from the external and social penance required by Lent.”

Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022, marks the beginning of Lent. The following fast and abstinence regulations are observed:

- **FASTING** is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, April 15, 2022, by all Catholics over 18 years of age to the beginning of their 60th year. On days of fasting, one full meal is allowed. Two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to one’s needs, but together should not equal another full meal, unless dispensed or excused.
- **ABSTINENCE** from meat is to be observed by all Catholics who are 14 years of age or older. Ash Wednesday, all of the Fridays of Lent, and Good Friday are days of abstinence.

*(NOTE: This year, the Feast of the Annunciation falls on Friday, March 25, 2022. Because it is considered a solemnity by the church, the law of abstinence from meat and meat products does not apply specifically on Friday, March 25, this year (per Canon 1251))*

**Lenten Reminders**

Lent is a time for sacrifice and for spiritual renewal as we reflect upon our baptism and the call given to each of us to walk as disciples of the Lord.

As faithful followers of Jesus, we are traditionally encouraged to honor the sacred season of Lent by embracing the three pillars of Lenten observance:

- **Almsgiving** – generously giving to those in need
- **Fasting** – practicing self-discipline and self-denial
- **Prayer** – reading, hearing and reflecting on the Word of God

Lent is also a penitential season. It is a time to seek forgiveness, to look inward, and to admit our shortcomings and failures. It is a time to regroup and to prepare. How can you spend your time during Lent?

- By “giving up” things you hunger after, such as sweets or alcohol; or activities you desire, such as vacations, concerts or movies.
- By “doing” things to help others, such as offering an extra donation to the poor or helping those in need by providing food or clothing.
- By “adding” to our normal routine, such as going to daily Mass, praying the Stations of the Cross and going to confession.

One of the greatest opportunities given by the Church to assist us in our response to the Lord’s invitation to conversion is found in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Once again, the Diocese of Scranton is participating in The Light Is On for You.

While ensuring that every effort is made to follow safety guidelines during COVID-19 (including proper distancing, masking and sanitization), beginning on the first Monday of Lent, March 7, and continuing through Monday of the last full week of Lent, April 4, confessions will be heard in every parish from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., unless a parish already has a different established weeknight tradition.

For more information, visit the Diocesan website at www.dioceseofscranton.org.

Father Gerald W. Shantillo, S.T.L., V.G.
Vicar General of the Diocese

**Faithful invited to receive ashes at parishes across the Diocese March 2**

SCRANTON – The Diocese of Scranton and all of its parishes invite the faithful to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022.

The reception of ashes is not mandatory nor required. The faithful should know it is their own internal disposition and intention to repent and start over that is the best fruit of Ash Wednesday and the ashes are an external sign of that internal reality.

Individuals may enter into Lent with a repentant heart even if they decide that receiving ashes is not the right thing for them this year because of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

Due to continued concerns over health and safety, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera has directed that parishes do not impose ashes by thumb for the second year in a row. Ashes can still be distributed to the faithful through two options. All parishes have been given the ability to choose which method works best.

The first option involves tracing a Cross on an individual’s forehead using a cotton swab or Q-tip. With the cotton tip, the Cross would be traced on the recipient’s forehead. The minister must wear masks during the distribution of ashes and recipients are strongly encouraged to wear masks as well. A new Q-tip or cotton ball must be used for each person. After the use, each swab would be placed in a receptacle for burning.

The second option to distribute ashes is to sprinkle the ashes on the top of an individual’s head, with no contact, rather than imposing them on the forehead. In this method of distribution, the priest says the prayer for blessing the ashes. He sprinkles the ashes with holy water, without saying anything. Then he addresses all those present and only once says the formula as it appears in the Roman Missal, applying it to all in general: “Re repent, and believe in the Gospel,” or “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

The priest would then cleanse his hands, put on a mask and distribute the ashes to those who come to him, or if appropriate, go to those who are standing in their places. The priest takes the ashes and sprinkles them on the head of each one without saying anything.

The blessing and distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday normally takes place during the celebration of Mass, following the homily and general intercessions. When circumstances require, the blessing and distribution of ashes may take place apart from Mass, during a celebration of the Word of God. (Book of Blessings #1656)

To read all of the Diocese of Scranton’s COVID-19 safety guidelines for Lent 2022, visit the Diocese of Scranton website.

The Diocese of Scranton website (dioceseofscranton.org) will also have a full Ash Wednesday schedule for parishes in all 11 counties in the coming days.

For an Ash Wednesday schedule for parishes across the Diocese of Scranton visit www.dioceseofscranton.org
**FREE DAILY REFLECTIONS BEING OFFERED DURING LENT**

During these cold months of winter, we long for the stirring of new life that comes with spring. Lent gives us the opportunity to grow deeper roots, so that even when things look bleak or barren, we have all we need to experience new life in Christ.

Join us for a series of daily reflections delivered right to your email inbox! Each day of the week will provide inspiration and ideas to make this a Lenten season that calls you into a deeper relationship with Christ.

You’ll hear from a variety of people who are missionary disciples, with gifts to share so that Christ is more known and loved. Each day will have a particular focus:

- **Mercy Monday**
- **Teaching Tuesday**
- **Witness Wednesday**
- **Thirsting Thursday**
- **Forgiving Friday**
- **Stick with It Saturday**
- **Sacred Sunday**

Invite your friends and family to join you in these reflections, so that you have a shared experience even if you are separated by miles or circumstances. The content is designed for those who are faithful Catholics, and also those who are not currently part of our faith community. Wherever you are in your faith journey, these Lenten daily reflections will fill your spirit.

It’s easy! Sign up at [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org) or call the Office for Parish Life to register (570) 207-2213. For more information, contact Mary Hallman, Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life at mhallman@dioceseofscranton.org.

**ROOTED IN THE CROSS RETREAT**

“Rooted in the Cross” is a retreat for Directors of Religious Education, Lay Ministry Candidates, Youth Ministers and other catechetical leaders. As you work to provide meaningful experiences for the faithful of your parish, it is the desire of the Office for Parish Life to accompany you on your journey.

We want to provide you with retreats, resources, workshops, and support to help encourage you as you work to make disciples of Christ.

At the retreat we will gather for prayer, reflection and fellowship.

For questions or to register, contact Jacki Douglas at jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org or call (570) 207-2213, ext. 1100.

**FOR MORE RESOURCES IN LENT VISIT**
**DIOCESEOFSCRANTON.ORG**

---

**APPOINTMENT**

His Excellency, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, announces the following appointment:


---

**BISHOP BAMBERA’S SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **February 19** | Mass at Holy Child Parish  
Mansfield, 4:00 p.m. |
| **February 19** | Mass at Saint Catherine Church  
Westfield, 7:00 p.m. |
| **February 20** | Mass at Saint Peter Parish  
Wellsboro, 8:30 a.m. |
| **February 20** | Mass at Holy Child Parish  
Mansfield, 11:15 a.m. |
| **February 27** | Mass at Saint Ignatius Loyola Parish  
Kingston, 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. |
| **March 2** | Ash Wednesday Mass  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m. |
| **March 3-5** | Ordination of Bishop-elect Jeffrey J. Walsh  
Gaylord, Michigan |
| **March 6** | Rite of Election  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 2:30 p.m. |
| **March 10** | Spiritual Reflections on Vision 2030  
Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton, Noon |
| **March 12** | Saint Patrick’s Parade Day Mass  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m. |
| **March 12-13** | St. Mary’s Seminary Visit  
Baltimore |
| **March 17-18** | Bishops’ Committee for Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs Meeting, Chicago |
SCRANTON — Did you know Bishop Bambera, a seafood fan, also makes a mean meatloaf? Or that Father Seth Wasnock puts cinnamon in his pasta sauce? Did you also know Father David Cappeloni makes his own pasta – and Italian doughnuts for dessert?

You can learn many more such tasty tidbits by supporting the Diocese of Scranton’s first-ever, all-virtual, cook-off-style fundraiser, which will be a friendly online showdown among more than 25 priests, most of whom know their way around a kitchen.

Rectory, Set, Cook! is scheduled for launch on Fat Tuesday (March 1), and we are inviting Catholics across the Diocese to help turn up the heat and get out the vote for their favorite videos, pastors and recipes.

Participating parish priests are starring in individual videos showcasing a favorite recipe or recipes and counting on their flocks and friends far and near to show their support by making monetary donations as small as $10. Each $10 donation will represent one vote for a pastor chef or team. Participants can vote as many times as they would like and for as many priests as they would like. The website will be live for nearly six weeks, with winners – those who raise the most dollars – announced in mid-April. Printed cookbooks with all showcased recipes also will be available for purchase online.

Rectory, Set, Cook! will acquaint Catholics with some of the Diocese’s finest priests on a more personal level, but the best part is all voting dollars will support the anti-hunger efforts of Catholic Social Services – Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen as well as food pantries and programs across the CSS footprint – and the parishes that signed up a chef. Voting dollars will be shared 50-50 between Catholic Social Services and the participating parishes.

All sponsorship dollars will go directly to Catholic Social Services’ anti-hunger efforts. Presenting sponsor – The Executive Chef Sponsor – for this new Diocesan initiative is the Hawk Family Foundation. Other committed sponsors include McCarthy Tire and Automotive, Metz Culinary Management and Damage Control, Inc.

We are still seeking additional corporate and individual or family sponsors. For more information about sponsorships and the range of sponsorship benefits, please contact Rectory, Set, Cook! event director Sandra Snyder in the Diocesan Development Office at (570) 591-5004 or Sandra-Snyder@dioceseofscranton.org.

The event website will debut March 1, and will be linked through Diocesan social media and in the next edition of The Catholic Light. Sponsorship deadline is Feb. 23.

Above: Father John C. Lambert, pastor, Saints Peter & Paul Parish, cooks up a Guinness Irish stew recipe.

Below: Father Joseph J. Pisaneschi, pastor, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, and parishioner Maria Englot prepare Pesce al sugo, a traditional Italian dish originating from Sicily. (Photos/Eric Deabill)

Who is the pastor chef who made bananas foster? Find out March 1!

**Diocesan Annual Appeal gifts and pledges at 91% of goal**

*Faithful helping to “Rise Together in Christ”*

SCRANTON — The 2021 Diocesan Annual Appeal, Rising Together in Christ, has raised more than $4.1 million in gifts and pledges, currently bringing the campaign to 91% of the $4.5 million goal. Forty-seven parishes have surpassed their parish goal for the Annual Appeal. A complete list of parishes with their progress toward goal is included on the following page.

“I am grateful to all of our Diocesan parishioners, pastors, parish representatives and regional chairs who support the Diocesan Annual Appeal. Your continued generosity to our local Church makes it possible for our Diocesan ministries to positively impact thousands of lives each year,” Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, said. “With support from parishioners at all of our parishes, I believe we have an opportunity to reach the Appeal goal this year. Our local Church is best when each one of us uses our gifts to build up one another.”

“Due to the pandemic, we have not been reaching our Appeal goal in the past few years. This has an impact on the services we are able to offer and the number of people we are able to serve. With the help of parishioners throughout the Diocese, we have an opportunity to reach the Appeal goal this year and fully serve all those who come to us in need,” Jim Bebla, Diocesan Secretary for Development, added. “Gifts of any amount, when combined with the gifts of others, make a tremendous impact on the lives of others.”

Diocesan programs and services rely on gifts to the Annual Appeal – ministries such as Catholic Social Services and parish social justice programs that compassionately provide to those most in need in our community; education in our parishes and schools that prepare children for fulfilling, responsible and faith-centered lives; sustained support for our current and retired priests and those preparing for the priesthood; faith formation programs that strengthen our parish communities; and Catholic communication programs that spread the Gospel and build up the body of Christ.

For information on the Diocesan programs supported by Appeal or to make a donation online, visit www.annualappeal.org. Gifts may also be made by calling the Diocesan Development Office at (570) 207-2250 or by sending a donation to: Diocesan Annual Appeal, 300 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA, 18503-1279.

On the following page is a listing of Parish Reports for the Diocesan Annual Appeal as of Feb. 11, 2022.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parishes</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Pledges</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Andrew - Wilkes-Barre</td>
<td>$17,000.00</td>
<td>$7,515.00</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Ann Basilica - Scranton</td>
<td>$30,000.00</td>
<td>$27,681.00</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Ann - Shohola</td>
<td>$20,000.00</td>
<td>$19,135.00</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Ann - Williamsport</td>
<td>$59,000.00</td>
<td>$54,067.00</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Barbara - Exeter</td>
<td>$31,000.00</td>
<td>$27,755.00</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Boniface - Williamsport</td>
<td>$60,000.00</td>
<td>$60,987.50</td>
<td>102%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Brigid - Friendsville</td>
<td>$22,000.00</td>
<td>$38,860.00</td>
<td>177%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Catherine of Siena - Moscow</td>
<td>$63,000.00</td>
<td>$67,727.00</td>
<td>108%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Elizabeth Ann Seton - Swoyersville</td>
<td>$44,000.00</td>
<td>$55,687.00</td>
<td>127%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Elizabeth - Bear Creek</td>
<td>$24,000.00</td>
<td>$25,530.00</td>
<td>106%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Eulalia - Roaring Brook Township</td>
<td>$40,000.00</td>
<td>$40,410.00</td>
<td>101%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Faustina Kowalska - Nanticoke St.</td>
<td>$47,000.00</td>
<td>$43,512.76</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frances X. Caprini - Carverton</td>
<td>$13,000.00</td>
<td>$16,080.03</td>
<td>124%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Gregory - Clarks Green</td>
<td>$74,000.00</td>
<td>$87,800.46</td>
<td>119%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Ignatius Loyola - Kingston</td>
<td>$77,000.00</td>
<td>$80,439.50</td>
<td>104%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. John Bosco - Conyngham</td>
<td>$58,000.00</td>
<td>$57,720.00</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. John Neumann - Lords Valley</td>
<td>$28,000.00</td>
<td>$24,285.00</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. John Neumann - Scranton</td>
<td>$52,000.00</td>
<td>$26,478.00</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. John - E. Stroudsburg</td>
<td>$57,000.00</td>
<td>$32,529.16</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. John the Baptist - Larksville</td>
<td>$21,000.00</td>
<td>$15,125.00</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. John the Evangelist - Honesdale</td>
<td>$64,000.00</td>
<td>$64,229.00</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. John the Evangelist - Pittston</td>
<td>$54,000.00</td>
<td>$40,411.98</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. John Vianney - Montdale</td>
<td>$30,000.00</td>
<td>$30,050.00</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Joseph Marello - Pittston</td>
<td>$27,000.00</td>
<td>$30,744.00</td>
<td>114%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Joseph - Matamoros</td>
<td>$37,000.00</td>
<td>$41,760.00</td>
<td>113%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Joseph the Worker - Williamsport</td>
<td>$75,000.00</td>
<td>$76,356.50</td>
<td>102%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Jude - Mountain Top</td>
<td>$79,000.00</td>
<td>$73,429.00</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Katharine Drexel - Pleasant Mount</td>
<td>$13,000.00</td>
<td>$17,375.00</td>
<td>134%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Lawrence - S. Williamsport</td>
<td>$26,000.00</td>
<td>$27,221.00</td>
<td>105%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Leo - Ashley</td>
<td>$33,000.00</td>
<td>$21,835.00</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Lucy - Scranton</td>
<td>$19,000.00</td>
<td>$9,360.00</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Luke - Jersey Shore</td>
<td>$16,000.00</td>
<td>$13,301.00</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Luke - Stroudsburg</td>
<td>$114,000.00</td>
<td>$126,715.00</td>
<td>111%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Maria Goretti - Laflin</td>
<td>$42,000.00</td>
<td>$19,070.00</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Mary of the Lake - Lake Winola</td>
<td>$12,000.00</td>
<td>$8,294.80</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Mary - Waymart</td>
<td>$17,000.00</td>
<td>$26,901.00</td>
<td>158%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Matthew - E. Stroudsburg</td>
<td>$60,000.00</td>
<td>$46,925.50</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Maximilian Kolbe - Pocono Pines</td>
<td>$24,000.00</td>
<td>$21,060.00</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Michael - Canton</td>
<td>$12,000.00</td>
<td>$13,690.00</td>
<td>114%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Michael - Scranton</td>
<td>$9,000.00</td>
<td>$5,118.00</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Monica - West Wyoming</td>
<td>$31,000.00</td>
<td>$26,906.00</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Nicholas - Wilkes-Barre</td>
<td>$52,000.00</td>
<td>$54,758.86</td>
<td>105%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Patrick - Milford</td>
<td>$33,000.00</td>
<td>$25,676.00</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Patrick - Nicholson</td>
<td>$9,000.00</td>
<td>$9,165.00</td>
<td>102%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Patrick - Scranton</td>
<td>$42,000.00</td>
<td>$26,175.00</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Patrick - White Haven</td>
<td>$16,000.00</td>
<td>$10,681.00</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Paul of the Cross - Scranton</td>
<td>$52,000.00</td>
<td>$22,175.00</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Paul - Scranton</td>
<td>$66,000.00</td>
<td>$44,163.00</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Peter - Wellsboro</td>
<td>$43,000.00</td>
<td>$43,941.00</td>
<td>102%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Peter's Cathedral - Scranton</td>
<td>$71,000.00</td>
<td>$96,814.50</td>
<td>136%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Rita - Gouldsboro</td>
<td>$14,000.00</td>
<td>$11,412.00</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Robert Bellarmine - Wilkes-Barre</td>
<td>$34,000.00</td>
<td>$35,560.00</td>
<td>105%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Rose - Carbondale</td>
<td>$62,000.00</td>
<td>$58,487.00</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Therese - Shavertown</td>
<td>$71,000.00</td>
<td>$80,062.00</td>
<td>113%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Thomas More - Lake Ariel</td>
<td>$49,000.00</td>
<td>$51,210.40</td>
<td>105%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Thomas the Apostle - Elkland</td>
<td>$13,000.00</td>
<td>$8,930.00</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Vincent de Paul - Milford</td>
<td>$35,000.00</td>
<td>$38,165.00</td>
<td>109%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitation, Blessed Virgin Mary - Dickson City</td>
<td>$55,000.00</td>
<td>$49,176.00</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
At Vigil Mass for Life, hope evident that abortion ruling will be overturned

LAFLIN – As a new mother, Rosemary LaBar of Dallas feels it is important to share her belief that all human life, including that of the unborn, is sacred.

“That is why she bundled-up her four-month-old daughter, Josie, putting the infant in a baby stroller to join more than 100 other people at the Diocese of Scranton’s Vigil Mass for Life on Jan. 20, 2022, at Saint Maria Goretti Parish in Laflin.

“It was important for me to come because I think that being pro-life isn’t just about changing the law, you have to show up and be there for mothers and I wanted to show up and be here,” LaBar said.

Born and raised Catholic, LaBar is hopeful the U.S. Supreme Court might reverse its 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion by upholding a Mississippi law banning most abortions after 15 weeks. A decision in the case of Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization is expected this summer.

“I’m definitely hopeful. I’m part of a couple pro-life groups online. It’s not just a religious thing anymore. I see a larger number of secular people who just understand that human life begins at conception and it should be protected,” she added.

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant and homilist at the Vigil Mass for Life. He was just a junior in high school when the Roe v. Wade decision was handed down.

Even though the battle to end abortion has been challenging and long – almost 50 years – Bishop Bambera agreed this past year has given people a reason to be hopeful.

“While the battle is far from won, with states like our neighbor to the east in New Jersey that recently codified into state law an individual’s right to an abortion, including late-term abortions, the United States Supreme Court has engaged the question of abortion rights more intensely than ever before,” the bishop said. “As we wait for a determination by the Court, we would do well to keep ourselves focused on the goal of our journey and the example of Jesus. Otherwise, we risk losing our way by engaging perspectives that distract from, rather than serve, the noble ends of our efforts to preserve the sanctity of human life.”

The Vigil Mass for Life was scheduled on the eve of the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. Recognizing that some people might not want to travel because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the diocese organized the Mass as a special prayer opportunity for all those who believe that every life has value, dignity and worth.

“The theme for this year’s march, ‘Equality Begins in the Womb,’ emerged in response to the national dialogue about the nature of equality that our country has continued to engage, particularly in the last few years. Citing the tragic reality of inequality that has impacted our land as a result of race, country of origin, disability status, age and economic background, organizers of the event sought to build upon the vital need for our country and people to finally put to rest divisions among us. They stated, ‘What matters is the fact that each of us is a human being. What matters is that life is precious, and that because it has inherent human dignity, it should be protected from the moment of conception,’” Bishop Bambera said.

Reflecting on all three readings from the Mass, the bishop noted that the sacred scriptures are filled with words that command us to reverence every life that comes into our world.

“What they expect from us as Christians is clear and unambiguous… Our welcome into God’s eternity will be determined by nothing short of our willingness to reverence, respect and serve the poorest and most vulnerable among us in whom Christ is present,” he explained.

During his homily, Bishop Bambera also shared the personal story of his grandmother who refused the advice of doctors to have an abortion after becoming sick during the pregnancy of her sixth child in the 1920s.

The bishop recounted the words that his grandmother said, words the bishop said have always spoken powerfully to him about life, faith, trust and God: “Any mother would give her life for her child. How can I chose who lives and who dies. I’ll leave that choice to God.”

While her baby was born healthy, the bishop’s grandmother continued to get sicker following childbirth. She died one month later.

“If we have learned nothing else during the past two years in which we have had to confront the deadly coronavirus pandemic, I hope we have come to appreciate the value of human life as never before. I hope we’ve also come to understand that so much of life is beyond our ability to control and, on our own, we are helpless to address the challenges that confront us,” the bishop added.

“Only by handing ourselves over to the power of God - by trusting in his wisdom, grace and mercy - and only by working together to care for the lives that have been given to us will we ever discover a way forward filled with peace and hope for all.”

The bishop ended his homily by thanking those in attendance for their witness to the sanctity of human life – God’s greatest gift to the world.

“On this day in which we recall a tragic moment in our history that legalized the taking of innocent, unborn lives, may we resolve through our prayers and actions to set aside the divisive behavior that has plagued us as a people, a nation and a Church. In so doing, may we begin to carve a way forward together first as brothers and sisters who believe in and treat every human being with equality and reverence, from the moment of conception in the womb until God, in his providence, takes us home at the end of our journey of life,” Bishop Bambera said.

People who attended the Vigil Mass for Life were encouraged to bring a new pack of diapers to support families in need. All of the diapers collected were distributed to the Saint Joseph’s Center Baby and Children’s Pantry in Duminore and Shepherd’s Maternity House in East Stroudsburg.
WASHINGTON, D.C. — There was an extra spring in their step for those participating in this year’s March for Life in the nation’s capital on Jan. 21.

With last year’s edition of the largest, peaceful assembly staged faithfully each year in Washington being virtually curbed by the global pandemic, pro-life proponents refocused their rallying cry against the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court’s Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion in America.

Those in attendance for the 2022 March for Life that included a rally on the National Mall and march up Constitution Avenue to the Supreme Court were especially energized and emboldened by the possibility the high court — in a decision expected this summer — may effectively overturn the landmark 49-year-old ruling by upholding the Mississippi abortion law in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization.

**Youthful Exuberance**

Faithful from the Diocese of Scranton rejoined this year’s effort with plenty of hearty representation.

Chris Calore, vice president of the Wyoming Valley Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life, once again led a contingent from the Greater Wilkes-Barre area and, like many of his counterparts, was overwhelmed by the abundance of youthful participation for the March that has grown since its inception in 1974.

“In the late 1970s I was the young guy attending the March for Life. Decades later, the March has become outnumbered by young people who truly love life,” he observed. “The speakers were phenomenal, including legislators who bravely stand for pro-life laws and people who were challenged by an abortion decision and said ‘yes’ to life.”

Joining Calore’s group was his nephew, Anthony Macko of Wilkes-Barre, a student at King’s College.

“My experience at the March for Life was rooted in love, peace, and the belief that all human life is created equal from the time of conception to natural death,” Macko said.

Group member John Witkosky of Swoyersville remarked, “I go to the March for Life out of love for all the innocent unborn and born children in the world. It doesn’t require eloquent words. All that is required is to walk by faith, persevering and hoping and praying for an end to the evil of abortion.”

Grateful to be able to once again journey to the March, Ann Jake of Duryea noted, “Over the many years that I’ve been participating, I’m constantly amazed at the growing number of young people becoming dedicated to upholding the sanctity of life.”

**A Family Affair**

For Ryan Rupprecht and his wife Adrianna, members of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Dupont, the March has become an annual tradition for them and their four children: Lily, 12; J.J., nine; Adeline, seven; and four-year-old Nate.

The desire to come to Washington every January for the March for Life was ingrained in Ryan by his Dad — who has attended every March for the past 48 years — and Mom who made a commitment to lead their nine children for the annual celebration of life.

“Through the years, no matter the conditions — rain, wind, cold, and even a blizzard (his most memorable) — it would not cease our efforts,” Ryan explained, relating how the annual trek is now being passed on to his children. “Our fight is worthy of our best efforts to preserve and protect the most precious gift of all, our unborn children.”

Adrianna added, “Just when you think you’re outnumbered, you go to D.C. for the March for Life and you are mingling and unified with thousands of like-minded people of all ages and backgrounds willing to travel from other states and countries to try to put an end to the world’s biggest sin.”

Their daughter Lily was so excited to be able “to talk to people my age who made the trip to New Orleans,” and her brother J.J. said, “It was cool to see the buildings in our country’s capital and march with people from all over.”

To reinforce the time-honored adage, “Out of the mouths of children come words of wisdom,” Adeline and Nate said, respectively, “my favorite part was marching for the babies” and “my friends were there to help the babies.”

Linda Carbone, director of parish engagement at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Brodheadsville and a seasoned marcher, was among the travelers for the trip organized by John Blundetto of the parish’s Knights of Columbus.

“There are groups from high schools and universities, families and singles, Christian and secular groups are also represented and it’s always peaceful,” she said. “If you make it to the Supreme Court, the energy increases. This is not just a religious issue, but a human issue.”

Representatives from the Young America Foundation (YAF) who encountered thousands of youth taking a bold stand for the unborn talked to several for a YouTube video espousing that the so-called Generation Z — those born in the late 1990s through 2010 — is indeed the “Pro-Life Generation.”

Among them was Linda’s son, Giuseppe, who when interviewed by YAF, said, “I’m 18 and I’m pro-life because it’s extremely important to fight for the unborn and those who cannot fight for themselves.”

He was joined by fellow Queen of Peace parishioner Kendyl Ramsay. In proclaiming her pro-life stance, the 17-year-old marcher remarked she believes the term “feminism” is misleading, and that there is a need to protect unborn women as much as those outside the womb.

In regard to Roe v. Wade, Ramsay referred to the 1973 Supreme Court decision as “outdated and needs to be revisited.”

“I was so happy to see so many young students who were so eagerly participating in the March. It was very heartwarming for the future of our pro-life movement,” said Blundetto, whose bus excursion included several Marywood University collegians and Mary and Brian Tilton, their five children ranging in age from 12 to two and two teenage nephews.

Bob Bonno, Blundetto’s fellow Knight from the Queen of Peace Council, was effusive in his appreciation, as was the trip’s coordinator.

“Through the years, no matter the conditions — rain, wind, cold, and even a blizzard (his most memorable) — it would not cease our efforts,” Ryan explained, relating how the annual trek is now being passed on to his children. “Our fight is worthy of our best efforts to preserve and protect the most precious gift of all, our unborn children.”

Adrianna added, “Just when you think you’re outnumbered, you go to D.C. for the March for Life and you are mingling and unified with thousands of like-minded people of all ages and backgrounds willing to travel from other states and countries to try to put an end to the world’s biggest sin.”

Their daughter Lily was so excited to be able “to talk to people my age who made the trip to New Orleans,” and her brother J.J. said, “It was cool to see the buildings in our country’s capital and march with people from all over.”

To reinforce the time-honored adage, “Out of the mouths of children come words of wisdom,” Adeline and Nate said, respectively, “my favorite part was marching for the babies” and “my friends were there to help the babies.”

Linda Carbone, director of parish engagement at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Brodheadsville and a seasoned marcher, was among the travelers for the trip organized by John Blundetto of the parish’s Knights of Columbus.

“There are groups from high schools and universities, families and singles, Christian and secular groups are also represented and it’s always peaceful,” she said. “If you make it to the Supreme Court, the energy increases. This is not just a religious issue, but a human issue.”

Representatives from the Young America Foundation (YAF) who encountered thousands of youth taking a bold stand for the unborn talked to several for a YouTube video espousing that the so-called Generation Z — those born in the late 1990s through 2010 — is indeed the “Pro-Life Generation.”

Among them was Linda’s son, Giuseppe, who when interviewed by YAF, said, “I’m 18 and I’m pro-life because it’s extremely important to fight for the unborn and those who cannot fight for themselves.”

He was joined by fellow Queen of Peace parishioner Kendyl Ramsay. In proclaiming her pro-life stance, the 17-year-old marcher remarked she believes the term “feminism” is misleading, and that there is a need to protect unborn women as much as those outside the womb.

In regard to Roe v. Wade, Ramsay referred to the 1973 Supreme Court decision as “outdated and needs to be revisited.”

“I was so happy to see so many young students who were so eagerly participating in the March. It was very heartwarming for the future of our pro-life movement,” said Blundetto, whose bus excursion included several Marywood University collegians and Mary and Brian Tilton, their five children ranging in age from 12 to two and two teenage nephews.

Bob Bonno, Blundetto’s fellow Knight from the Queen of Peace Council, was effusive in his appreciation, as was the trip’s coordinator.

“Through the years, no matter the conditions — rain, wind, cold, and even a blizzard (his most memorable) — it would not cease our efforts,” Ryan explained, relating how the annual trek is now being passed on to his children. “Our fight is worthy of our best efforts to preserve and protect the most precious gift of all, our unborn children.”

Adrianna added, “Just when you think you’re outnumbered, you go to D.C. for the March for Life and you are mingling and unified with thousands of like-minded people of all ages and backgrounds willing to travel from other states and countries to try to put an end to the world’s biggest sin.”

Their daughter Lily was so excited to be able “to talk to people my age who made the trip to New Orleans,” and her brother J.J. said, “It was cool to see the buildings in our country’s capital and march with people from all over.”

To reinforce the time-honored adage, “Out of the mouths of children come words of wisdom,” Adeline and Nate said, respectively, “my favorite part was marching for the babies” and “my friends were there to help the babies.”

Linda Carbone, director of parish engagement at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Brodheadsville and a seasoned marcher, was among the travelers for the trip organized by John Blundetto of the parish’s Knights of Columbus.

“There are groups from high schools and universities, families and singles, Christian and secular groups are also represented and it’s always peaceful,” she said. “If you make it to the Supreme Court, the energy increases. This is not just a religious issue, but a human issue.”

Representatives from the
ASHLEY — Father Gerald Shantillo, Vicar General of the Diocese of Scranton, was principal celebrant of a concelebrated Mass of Christian Burial for Father Leo McKernan on Jan. 29 at Saint Leo Church in Ashley.

A resident of West Wyoming, Father McKernan, who retired for health reasons in 2018 after faithfully serving as a pastor, educator and spiritual counselor in the Scranton Diocese for numerous years, died Jan. 23 at Hospice of the Sacred Heart, Dunmore.

Born Sept. 17, 1953, in Wilkes-Barre, son of the late John and Marjorie Franchi McKernan, Father McKernan received his early education at Saint Leo School and Hanover Memorial High School and earned his bachelor’s degree from King’s College, Wilkes-Barre, in 1975.

He began his early years of priestly formation at Saint Pius X Seminary, Dalton, eventually enrolling at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, Italy, where he earned both his bachelor and licentiate degrees in sacred theology from the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) in 1983.

Father McKernan was ordained to the Scranton Diocesan priesthood on Nov. 5, 1983, in the Cathedral of Saint Peter by the late Bishop of Scranton and Cardinal Most Rev. John J. O’Connor, late of Saint Peter and on the faculty of Saint Pius X Seminary.

Shortly thereafter, he attended Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., earning a master’s degree in Christian spirituality in 1990.

Father McKernan received his first pastoral assignment in June 1992 at Holy Name of Mary Parish in Montrose. He subsequently served as administrator pro tem at Ascension Parish, Williamsport, and pastor of Saint Mary Parish, Avoca.

Eventually appointed to serve as assistant pastoral roles at Our Lady of the Snows Parish, Clarks Summit, and the parish community of Holy Name and Saint Mary, Swoyersville, Father accepted an appointment as chaplain at Gonzaga University and Bishop White Seminary, where he served as spiritual director, in Spokane, Wash., in July 2000. Upon his return to his native dioecese a year later, he was assigned the pastorate of Christ the King Parish, Dunmore, and subsequently served as a pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Scranton.

Father McKernan was named administrator of Our Lady of Lourdes, Montoursville, in 2002 and became the parish’s pastor four years later. After serving as pastor of Saint Elizabeth Parish, Bear Creek, he was appointed Diocesan Preacher for the Call to Holiness and Mission initiative during 2008-09. He would later serve in a six-month ministry at Saint Joseph Hermitage in Laceyville, and in July 2010 was named pastor of the churches of Our Lady of Sorrows, West Wyoming, and Saint Joseph, Wyoming, which would eventually combine to form the current Parish of Saint Monica in West Wyoming.

His final pastoral assignments had him serve for six months as Senior Priest at Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Pittston, prior to being appointed pastor of Saint Ignatius Loyola Parish in Kingston in June 2017.

In addition to his parochial duties, Father McKernan also served in the Diocese of Scranton as a teacher at various Catholic high schools and colleges, the diocesan Religious Education Institute and Veteran Teachers Program; director of the Commission on Ecumenism and Interfaith Affairs; spiritual director of Saint Pius X Seminary; and chaplain for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, the People of God Community and the Neo-Catechumenal Way.

He most recently filled the roles of chaplain and program director for JMJ Catholic Radio and chaplain for the Scranton Catholic Men’s Conference.

Capuchin Franciscan Father Pio Mandato began the funeral homily for his beloved priest-friend by recalling the time he asked Father McKernan, “What will you say when you see the Lord Jesus?”

“He said, ‘I will stand there and gaze upon Him and thank Him for calling me to be His disciple and to forgive me for not doing better,’” Father Mandato related, stating for Father McKernan that “call” to a priestly vocation came at the tender age of seven.

The homilist continued, “We are here to intercede and worship and offer Father Leo to the Lord, that he be washed and cleansed and prepared for eternal life with the Lord.”

“Father Leo did not leave a written testament, but he left his vision for life as a Christian and disciple and priest of the Lord Jesus in the readings he chose,” Father Mandato said. “The Lord Jesus is the ultimate King and He will make all things new, and we can be with Him in Heaven where there will be no more tears, mourning… pain and no more death.”

Quoting diocesan priest Father Jim Alco, who was Father McKernan’s apartment neighbor, Father Mandato echoed, “Father Leo taught us how to live and how to prepare for death, but it was a struggle for him.”

He stated further, “(Father McKernan) developed a tremendous devotion to Saint Bernadette of Lourdes) this past year. Leo decided to ask her for help in his pain and to help him suffer a bit for the Lord. He felt he had not suffered much in life and could at least offer something to the Lord before he was called” from this life.

Father Mandato concluded, “The last time I saw him I said, ‘Leo, let’s pray to Saint Joseph that he come and take you home.’ He got up from the chair, came over to me, grabbed my hands and said, ‘Let’s pray.’ His eagerness moved and impressed me. A week later Saint Joseph came for him.”

Surviving are three sisters, Kathleen Miller and husband, Harry, Sarasota, Fla.; Alice Jones and husband, Reg, Lido, N.Y.; and Mary Appello and husband, Vinny, Media, Pa.; two brothers, Mark, Grove City, Ohio, and Michael, Kingston; and several nieces and nephews.

Interment was held at Saint Mary’s Cemetery in Hanover Township.

---

BISHOP BAMBERA APPOINTS MARY HALLMAN AS DIOCESAN SECRETARY FOR PARISH LIFE

SCRANTON — The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, has announced that Mary Hallman has been named Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life. Hallman was selected from a number of highly qualified candidates following an extensive nationwide search process. She began her new position on Jan. 3, 2022.

Hallman joins the Diocese after most recently serving as Director of Evangelization in the Diocese of Syracuse for eight years. In that position, she worked closely with both clergy and lay leaders, forming relationships and building trust, in an effort to create vibrant parishes and form disciples of Jesus Christ. Through her experiences in that position, Hallman is keenly aware of the many obstacles that parishes face and has been successful in collaboratively implementing innovative solutions.

Prior to her work at the diocesan level, Hallman also served for five years in parish ministry as Director of Evangelization & Catechesis at Saint Charles/Saint Ann Parish in Syracuse. During that time, she assisted in implementing a parish strategy for conversion and discipleship that was inclusive of adults, children and youth.

She holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of California, Irvine, and a master’s degree in theology from Augustine Institute in Denver, Colo.

Continued on Page 18
The 19 Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Scranton recently celebrated Catholic Schools Week, a week-long national celebration where schools showcase all they have to offer students and their families. During this week, our students celebrated Mass, donated goods to those in need, dressed as their favorite saint as well as wearing themed clothing and accessories, planned for their future professions including being teachers for a day, played games, shared their talents, and supported one another just as the Master Teacher would have.
Holy Rosary School in Duryea

Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg

Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore

Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston

Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre

All Saints Academy in Scranton

Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green

Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School in Williamsport

Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School in Wilkes-Barre
SCRANTON – As the 19 Catholic Schools across the Diocese of Scranton celebrated Catholic Schools Week – one event at All Saints Academy was “stickier” than the rest.

On Thursday, Feb. 3, 2022, students had the opportunity to duct tape their principal, Brittany Haynos-Krupski, to a cafeteria wall. The event was a fundraiser for the school’s Parent Teacher Organization.

“We were researching and found this idea on Pinterest and she (Haynos-Krupski) was like, ‘Sure, I’ll do it,’ and the rest is history,” JoAnn Lameo, All Saints Academy PTO President, said.

For a two-dollar donation, students got a two-foot strip of duct tape to help hold their principal in place.

“It was something interesting. It was an out-of-the-box idea, not something I was expecting but the school is always about new things. I think the kids really enjoyed it,” eighth grader Jacob Roberts said.

Offering students the unique opportunity to tape their principal to the wall is just one of the many activities that students at All Saints Academy took part in this week.

“Catholic Schools Week is when we really have fun and everyone enjoys it,” eighth grader Allie Romanchick explained.

“There have been a lot of fun activities like duct taping our principal, we painted earlier today, last year we tie-dyed t-shirts and had movie days,” eighth grader Ariana Cabelly added.

Since 1974, Catholic Schools Week nationwide have been celebrating the importance of Catholic education. This year’s theme is, “Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service.”

Each one of the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Scranton have a series of week-long activities planned, which include Masses, open houses in many cases and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members. Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation.

As he prepares to go to transition to a Catholic high school, Roberts said he would not trade his Catholic school experience for anything.

“It’s definitely a lot more focused. It’s a lot more hands on. It is definitely something that parents should be considering when sending their kids to school. Personally, I think Catholic Schools are one of the best experiences you could have,” he explained.

Cabelly just started at All Saints Academy last year during the COVID-19 pandemic and said she couldn’t have felt more welcome.

“All the students and teachers are nice and welcoming. For me, I went to a public school for almost all my life and when switching I was very nervous, but it was a nice and welcoming community,” she said.

Through its duct tape fundraiser, the students raised $670 for the All Saints Academy Parent Teacher Organization. The group has many other fundraisers planned to help support its annual Fun Day and Teacher Appreciation Week.
SCRANTON – The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, joined several other faith leaders for an Ecumenical Celebration of the Word of God on Jan. 19, 2022, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

The prayer service was the Diocese of Scranton’s keynote event for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2022. The theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was, “We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him” (cf. Matthew 2:2).

The theme, taken from the second chapter of the Gospel according to Matthew, is the Epiphany. Each year in January, the Church recalls the visit of the Magi to Bethlehem, highlighting God’s invitation to all of humanity to a new covenant in the Incarnation of Christ.

“The story of the magi, who are the last to arrive in Bethlehem in Matthew’s infancy narrative, carries with it all sorts of rich imagery even as their arrival in Bethlehem triggered the unleashing of evil and hatred aimed at the newborn Christ and his mission of mercy and salvation,” Bishop Bambera noted during his sermon. “Their arrival and welcome also revealed something else; Jesus’ message of hope was extended to all peoples through his self-sacrificing and unconditional love.”

More than ever before, the bishop said people need to embrace the message proclaimed in Scripture.

“Epiphany celebrates God’s all-inclusive love manifested in the life of his Son, Jesus, something integrally woven into the work of ecumenism,” he added. “Sadly, as with some of the earliest followers of Jesus, some of us still act as if God is our sole possession. Some still attempt to place parameters around where God is able to work, with whom and how.”

In the great prayer from the seventeenth chapter of Saint John’s Gospel, Jesus asks four times that his disciples be “one,” as he and his Father are one.

Bishop Bambera suggested three areas that can help fulfill Jesus’ prayer for unity.

First, the bishop said the work of official dialogues between Christian churches must continue.

“In the Catholic Church alone, when I completed my term as Chair of the U.S. Bishops’ Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, I was privileged to have overseen a dozen active dialogues in the United States alone, with more on the horizon,” the bishop explained.

The second area the bishop focused on was encouraging people to participate in the Synod on Synodality.

“Because a synodal Church is a Church which listens, we have been challenged to recognize that this listening should concern the totality of those who are honored by the name of Christian,” Bishop Bambera explained.

The third and final area that Bishop Bambera emphasized is our common witness to the love of Christ within us, which is poured forth in service to the least among us.

New Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life named

Continued from Page 14

“Mary’s skills and qualifications will be a tremendous asset to the Office for Parish Life and all of our parishes, especially as we continue our long-range pastoral planning process in the Diocese of Scranton,” Bishop Bambera said. “She shares the Diocese of Scranton’s mission of calling all the baptized to imitate the servant leadership of Jesus and to enter into a personal relationship with Him.”

“In my short time in the Diocese of Scranton, I have come to know so many people who are committed to building a more vibrant Church that meets the needs of the poor and the disenfranchised. God is already at work,” Hallman said. “I believe God has provided us with everything we need; our challenge is to intentionally call forth the gifts and talents of the laity so each person recognizes their particular role in the missionary work of our parishes. The future depends on our willingness to surrender our lives to Christ and live distinctively, in a way that is attractive to those who are far from the Church. We are all called to grow as disciples.”

As Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life, Hallman is responsible for overseeing the Office for Parish Life and its team, as well as regularly interacting with Regional Episcopal Vicars, Deans, Pastors, Priests, Parish Life Coordinators and Deacons regarding diocesan initiatives and services related to parish vitality. She will also play a key role in the Vision 2030 Blueprint Process.

“The collaborative style of Bishop Bambera and his leadership team is what brought me to the Diocese of Scranton. Like most dioceses, especially during COVID, we have challenges, but we are able to see them together and share our hopes and dreams. It’s an exciting time, with lots of opportunities! I’m hoping the experiences of my life – as a Catholic school student, a college student involved in campus ministry, a youth ministry coordinator, Director of Faith Formation for linked parishes, and diocesan Director of Evangelization – allow me to contribute from a variety of perspectives. With the great team in place in the Office for Parish Life, we look forward to supporting parishes through the Vision 2030 process and beyond,” Hallman added.

Hallman welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with clergy and the laity. She can be reached in OPL at (570) 207-2213.
CANTON — Just ten days into the upcoming Lenten season, Saint Michael Parish in Canton will host a unique, riveting guest presentation on a widely believed article of faith representing the culmination of the 40 days of penitence and renewal leading to the celebration of Easter Sunday — the Crucifixion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ two thousand years ago.

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus at Saint Michael’s, Alex Piechochi, of Saints Peter & Paul Parish in Towanda, will bring to the Canton parish his in-depth knowledge of the inimitable Shroud of Turin, which for centuries has piously been purported to be the genuine burial cloth of the Son of God.

The one-hour presentation will be given on Saturday, March 12, at 5 p.m. — following the 4 p.m. Mass at Saint Michael Church — and include a full-sized replica of the Shroud.

According to Knight of Columbus David Beahm, event organizer, Piechochi’s informative talk will explore many of the details experts have uncovered about the universally venerated and studied fabric.

“It is sure to enhance one’s Lenten experience,” Beahm noted. “We welcome everyone to come and spend some time to discover if Our Father in heaven left a photograph of His Son’s passion for us.”

Beahm explained the Saint Michael K of C Council viewed the Shroud presentation as an opportunity to bring a deeper spiritual experience to the parish and local community, stating, “We as knights are known for our community support, but we hope this presentation will also help recruit others who are looking for a spiritual bond with other like-minded Catholic men.”

According to Saint Michael’s pastor, Father Joseph Kutch, the life-like replica of the Shroud to be displayed at the parish’s March 12 presentation is one of just five authentic copies that travel throughout the United States.

Father Kutch recalled one of those impressive facsimiles visited Saint Matthew Parish in East Stroudsburg when he served as a senior priest there some ten years ago.

“It’s an astonishing representation of the original Shroud of Turin,” he said. “I’m thrilled that we will be able to have it displayed at Saint Michael’s. We are so fortunate to host such a presentation, and I’m so grateful for the opportunity it offers to our parishioners and the public to experience. Such an experience can really strengthen one’s faith or bring about an explosion of belief.”

Piechochi said he has been offering his presentations on the Shroud for eight years, not only in the Scranton Diocese but the Upstate New York Sees of Rochester and Syracuse. He shared that it all began with a trip to Israel — one of numerous destinations for the much-traveled retired chemical engineer whose scholarly and religious pursuits have led him to almost every state in the union and five continents.

“We had a private Mass in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in the Holy Land,” he explained. “Hanging on the wall in the chapel was a full-size photograph of the Shroud which I had never seen before.”

He continued, “What really stood out for me was the backside of the image and the terrible scourging” it exhibited. The experience prompted him to purchase a full-size material copy of the Shroud from a company in New Zealand.

Unabashedly proclaiming that he is 100 percent certain the Shroud of Turin is the actual burial cloth that covered the Crucified Christ, Piechochi remarked, “I want the people attending (his presentations) to see the power and glory of God that made this great miracle, as well as to see first-hand the suffering that Our Lord experienced to redeem us from our sins.”

“When people see what God used for ‘ink’ to paint this image, it is absolutely jaw-dropping,” he said, confident that the both birth and burial cloths of Jesus were Middle Eastern period linens — “the fabric of kings.” “There is so much information about the Shroud, it is a real challenge to keep (the presentation) to only one hour."

Beahm related that he first met Piechochi at the Scranton Diocesan Men’s Conference in 2017.

“When Alex told me of his extensive travels and experiences at religious sites around the world and the presentation he gives on the Shroud of Turin, I thought it would be a perfect opportunity for Lent,” he recalled.

Beahm emphasized the event is open to the community free of charge and, in the spirit of Christian unity, a special invitation is extended to all church denominations. Refreshments and fellowship conclude the program.

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic Church worldwide is showing good progress and “much joy” after the opening of the synodal process, but there also have been some “uncertainties” and challenges, said the ordinary council of the Synod of Bishops.

“There is growing awareness that the synodal conversion to which all the baptized are called is a lengthy process that will prolong itself well beyond 2023,” the council said in a press release Feb. 7.

“The desire all over the world is (that) this synodal journey, which has begun at the local level,” continues “so that tangible signs of synodality might increasingly be manifest as constitutive of the church,” it said.

The ordinary council met in person and online Jan. 26 to discuss the progress being made on the synodal process around the world and to elaborate the criteria for the “reports” to be prepared by dioceses and bishops’ conferences and submitted to the general secretariat of the Synod of Bishops, it said in a statement published Feb. 7 at synod.va.

“It seems that the novelty of the synodal process has given rise to much joy and dynamism,” it said. Nearly 98% of all bishops’ conferences and synods of Eastern Catholic churches worldwide have appointed a person or an entire team to implement the synodal process and a large number of initiatives have been set up to promote consultation and discernment.

“Many of the faithful perceive the synodal process as a crucial moment in the church’s life, as a learning process as well as an opportunity for conversion and renewal of ecclesial life,” it said.
A little over a year ago, a dear friend, a mother of twin boys and an overall healthy woman, had a seizure. Understandably concerned and burdened with worry, I was one they turned to for prayers. In addition to my prayers to Our Lord and our Blessed Mother, I turned to the internet to search for the patron saint of those who suffer from seizures. To my great surprise - and with his feast day looming - I found that patron is none other than, Saint Valentine.

With not much reliably known about this “romantic” saint, the Church suspended the celebration of this feast within the liturgical calendar of our worship. He is believed to have been a physician-priest who in the third century healed the daughter of a Roman prison guard. The healing led to the family’s conversion to Christianity and would lead Valentine to his martyrdom. Though we know very little about Valentine, he is still recognized as a saint in the Church’s martyrology.

What is known about Saint Valentine does demonstrate that his life clearly had an impact on the Church and that his example has given him a special place of honor and devotion, especially for married couples and those who are courting. Who can forget being children and exchanging valentines at school or special dances to mark this great day in our culture, but let’s not procrastinated swarming the stores that day. Heart-shaped boxes of candy, flowers abounding, and in the ninth hour, the sad sight of men who have missed the mark. Each of these gestures is and should be a part of this great day in our culture, but let’s add something more. What better way to mark a day that has as its very center love than by turning to God for direction on how to honor those we love the most. Surely, those of you who are married hold this day with particular solemnity; for those of us who are not married or courting, this is a day to reach out to those we love and thank them for who they are and thank God for these relationships we treasure.

In addition to the flowers and candy, the romantic meal at one of our fine local restaurants, the sappy card from the store, dig deep to offer something more spiritual. Offer a prayer for your loved one, light a candle at church for him/her, call your local parish and offer a Mass for his/her intentions. Better yet, go to Mass together and place yourselves before the altar of God in humble thanks for the love that you share, a gift we believe is divinely given.

Just as I never knew that Saint Valentine was the patron saint of epilepsy and of those who suffer seizures, imagine how else he can assist you as he prays before the throne of God for us. Maybe your spouse or another loved one is struggling with depression, loss of work, hopelessness, or some crippling illness, perhaps they’ve lost someone to death: This great saint will intercede on your behalf and theirs. Turn to him in an act of love for all the good that is evident in your relationships, for those who suffer, and in gratitude for the gift of love that makes life worth living. We thank God for this unique saint.

Saint Valentine, pray for us!
SCRANTON – They come for a hot, nutritious daily meal. Some return for a supper served three nights a week. All enjoy a friendly atmosphere and socialization with their fellow guests, and being treated with dignity and respect by staff and volunteers.

Many visit the Client-Choice Food Pantry and Free Clothing Store, getting what they need for themselves and their families.

Approximately 200 men, women and children of all ages benefit from these services provided by Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen in Scranton each day. This includes those who are offered meals through the Mid Valley Outreach Program at parish locations and high-rise housing buildings in Carbondale and Olyphant.

Founded in 1978, the Kitchen has been able to do all of this due to the dedicated service of staff and volunteers, and with financial support from the community – primarily through the annual Host-for-a-Day campaign. The 2022 campaign is now underway.

For a donation of $100 or more, an individual, family, business, community organization or faith-based group can help to sponsor the day’s meal. Recognized sponsorships begin at the $500 contribution level.

In effect, each contributor becomes a “host” for a day. Contributors may then select a date on which they, or someone they designate or memorialize, will be recognized as the provider for that meal.

Through its partnership with the Kitchen, lunch is provided each Wednesday at Holy Cross Parish in Olyphant, where Father Scott Sterowski serves as pastor. Frank Marek is among those who is grateful for this service.

“Many are familiar with how the Kitchen provides these meals, they might not be aware of just how important the Client-Choice Food Pantry is.

According to Kitchen Executive Director Rob Williams, there has been a significant increase in the number of individuals and families who take advantage of the pantry in recent months – well over 1,000 individuals and 503 family servings in January alone. He noted that pantry offerings have expanded to include cleaning supplies and ensure fresh produce each day of operation.

“We see individuals and people with children coming to our food pantry every week,” he said. “They need these items to help feed their families. They are so grateful that we offer this service.”

Maria McCool, a member of the Kitchen’s Advisory Board, is chairing the Host-for-a-Day campaign and leading the effort with her fellow board members.

“We are fortunate to be able to help our sisters and brothers in need even with all the challenges of the pandemic,” she said. “And we are truly blessed by so many in our community who continue to support our mission.”

Past contributors to the campaign are receiving an appeal directly from the Kitchen through the mail or will be contacted by members of the Kitchen’s Advisory Board.

Anyone who does not receive an appeal through the mail can make a Host-for-a-Day gift by calling the Kitchen at (570) 342-5556, or sending a check to Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen, 500 Penn Avenue, Scranton PA 18509. Donations can also be made online at: stfranciskitchen.org or facebook.com/stfranciskitchen.

Also, out of continuing concern for the health and safety of benefactors and board members, the typical Appreciation Reception that concludes the campaign will not be held in a gathered way again this year. Instead, the culmination of the campaign will be marked with a Virtual Celebration consisting of a pre-recorded program. The release date will be Wednesday, April 27, at 6 p.m. on facebook.com/stfranciskitchen.

This year the Virtual Celebration will honor Monsignor Constantine V. Siconolfi, founder of the Kitchen, and Toyota of Scranton for outstanding support.

Those who would like to sponsor the Virtual Reception are asked to call (570) 342-5556.

Bennington and Son Church Specialists Inc.

INTERIOR
- Plastering
- Painting
- Stencil Work
- Gold Leafing
- Refinishing of Woodwork and Pews
- Professional Wall Washing
- Marbleizing
- Stained Glass Work

EXTERIOR
- Steeple Work
- Painting
- High Pressure Cleaning
- Masonry Restoration
- Water Proofing/Caulking
- Roofing and Flashing
- Metal Fabrication
- Fiberglass Work
SCRANTON – The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, has announced that Joe Mahoney has been named Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Human Services and Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Social Services. Mahoney began his new position on Jan. 31, 2022, and this marks the fourth Catholic Social Services agency for which he has worked.

Mahoney joins the Diocese after most recently serving as Chief Operating Officer of the Pueblo Housing Authority in Colorado. Prior to that position, Mahoney spent ten years as the Executive Director of Catholic Charities of Pueblo. During his tenure, Mahoney focused on early childhood education, homelessness prevention, workforce readiness and immigration services. From 2011 to 2014, Mahoney was also elected to serve on the Executive Committee of the Catholic Charities Council of Diocesan Directors.

Mahoney has a Master’s degree in Nonprofit Management from Regis University. Before joining Catholic Charities of Pueblo, he spent two years coordinating disaster response operations for Catholic Charities USA in Alexandria, Va., and two additional years working as Program Director for Katrina Aid Today with Catholic Charities of New Orleans following the devastation done by Hurricane Katrina.

“I am pleased to welcome Joe Mahoney to our Diocesan family as the new Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Human Services and Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Social Services. Joe has a passion for helping others and is dedicated to community engagement, all of which is underpinned by his strong ministry to the Catholic faith,” Bishop Bambera said. “Joe’s vision, experience and leadership capabilities will help us to continue serving individuals and families in need and grow our presence across northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.”

“It is an honor and privilege to take on this new position. I am excited and enthusiastic to begin working with our boards, staff and many volunteers to provide help and create hope for those in need in our Diocese,” Joe Mahoney said.

As Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Human Services and Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Social Services, Mahoney is responsible for providing leadership, administration and oversight of all programs operated by Catholic Human Services and Catholic Social Services. He will also oversee the fundraising efforts and community outreach to ensure the organization is meeting the vision, mission and values of the Diocese.

For nearly 100 years, the mission of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton has been to serve individuals and families in poverty and hardship, as we are called by Christ to do, and to respond compassionately to their needs. The agency provides assistance to tens-of-thousands of men, women and children on an annual basis. To learn more about the food assistance, housing, shelter, relief, pregnancy and maternal health, children and youth programs, or immigration assistance programs provided, visit: dioceseofscranton.org/css/catholic-social-services.

Mahoney is a former Marine Corps Officer and is married to Nhung Mahoney.
SCRANTON — Community groups and organizations that assist individuals with special needs came together on Feb. 13 at the Cathedral of Saint Peter to celebrate a Mass for Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities Awareness.

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

The Order of Alhambra, which has a local caravan, Alhamar No. 4, had several members attend the Mass.

“We can’t forget people that are God’s special children. They may be overlooked but we always want to remember them in our hearts and this is a wonderful opportunity to do that,” Ada Magni, Deputy Supreme Director and Scribe of the Exchequer, said.

The Order of Alhambra is a social organization dedicated to providing assistance to the intellectually disabled. It provides activities and support for special needs children and adults. Each year, the order also provides scholarships to educate undergraduate students studying to become special education teachers.

“We try to always help group homes. We go visiting at the White Haven Center singing Christmas carols, the Saint Joseph House, the Alhambra House, we go there as well,” Magni added.

Sister Maryalice Jacquinot, IHM, President & CEO of Saint Joseph’s Center, represented her residents and staff at the special liturgy.

“I really appreciate this annual liturgy because it is affirming to the people that we support and it also helps to build community within the Church and the broader society to say that everyone is accepted, everybody is welcome,” Sister Maryalice explained.

The mission of Saint Joseph’s Center is to provide individuals and families who have special needs the opportunity to develop their abilities and potential to the fullest extent possible. The organization has residential, community and home-based services.

For the last two years, many of the residents at Saint Joseph’s Center have been limited in their interactions with the broader community for health and safety reasons during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Because the Mass for Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities Awareness was broadcast on Catholic Television, many residents were still able to take part.

“Prayer still unites. It crosses all boundaries,” Sister Maryalice added.

During his homily, Bishop Bambera emphasized that all individuals have gifts to share with the church and society. He said individuals with special needs provide us all with priceless lessons on how to live as disciples of Jesus.

“You teach us that we are all a part of God’s plan and each of us is blessed by God for being just the way we are,” Bishop Bambera said.
A Different Kind of Lawyer
Real Estate
Living Wills
Estate Planning & Administration
Municipal Law

Jonathan A. Spohrer
Attorney at Law
279 Pierce Street, Kingston
570.287.1156

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 assistance in estate or elder law matters.

Elder Law
- Guardianships
- Asset Protection Planning
- Medicaid Application Assistance

Estate Administration
Probate:
Settle all estate matters and distribute inheritances.

Inheritance Tax:
Utilize all discounts and proper deductions.
Meet all requirements and deadlines.
- Powers of Attorney • Living Wills • Wills
- Trusts Guardianships • Asset Protection Planning
- Medicaid Application Assistance

Estate Planning
- Powers of Attorney • Living Wills
- Wills • Trusts Guardianships

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 assistance in estate or elder law matters.

Bishop Bambara celebrates Mass for the World Day of the Sick Feb. 11

SCRANTON - Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambara, Bishop of Scranton, celebrated Mass for the 30th World Day of the Sick on Friday, Feb. 11, 2022, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The annual Mass is an opportunity to devote special attention to the sick and to those who provide them with assistance and care both in health care institutions and within families and communities.

The Mass also featured the Litany of Anointing.

“Through Jesus’ example of selfless love, we find the pattern for our life’s journey. Through His cross and resurrection, we discover the path to salvation. Through this wonderful Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, every one of us who approaches it with faith and hope will be touched by the closeness of God’s love. Some of us may experience a physical healing. All of us will encounter the merciful presence of the Lord Jesus who promises to touch our spirits and give us peace,” the bishop said.

AROUND THE WORLD TRAVEL
BROADWAY IN SYRACUSE:
★ HAMILTON ★
March 26th: price includes bus and show $200 pp

VIKING RHINE RIVER CRUISE CHRISTMAS MARKETS
Nov. 25 - Dec. 3, 2022
- We are a preferred Sandals & Beaches Agency -
www.around-world-travel.com • (570) 383-0544 • Like us on fb

STUCKER TOURS
570-655-8458 • www.stuckertours.com

SOUTH DAKOTA & YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK — AUGUST 14-27, 20 MEALS • $3,099
Safari jeep tour in Custer State Park, Mount Rushmore, Old Faithful geysers, authentic rodeo, visit to the wild west town of Deadwood, Chuck wagon dinner, tour the Badlands National Park & much more.

ATLANTIC CITY — APRIL 24-26 & OCT. 23-25 • $289
Resorts Casino accom., right on the boardwalk, $20 Slotplay, $50 Food. Plenty of dining options!

“DAVID” AT SIGHT & SOUND, LANCASTER — APRIL 22
Includes a meal at Shady Maple Smorgasbord with time to shop their gift shop with Amish handcrafts, PA Dutch Foods & collectibles, $185

WILDWOOD — MAY 30-JUNE 2 • $589
The Aqua Beach Hotel accom., 3 breakfasts, 1 dinner with entertainment and a pizza party, and an Ice Cream Social at Cool Scoops. Trolley ride of Historic Cape May, visit to historic Smithville & an evening flag ceremony on Sunset Beach.

VERMONT & NEW HAMPSHIRE — JUNE 28-JULY 1 • $799
Accom. at The Historic Middlebury Inn, VT & Indian Head Resort, NH. 3 breakfasts, 3 dinners including one on the Lafayette Dinner Train—a unique dining experience aboard a restored vintage rail car, visits to the Vermont Country Store & Barks Trading Post.

PLUS LAKE TOBIAS WILDLIFE PARK, MACKINAC ISLAND, MI, MYRTLE BEACH, 1000 ISLANDS, ATLANTIC CITY 1, 2 & 3 NIGHT PACKAGES, LANCASTER OVERNIGHT & MORE.
Hazleton parishes celebrate Masses in honor of Our Lady of Altagracia

HAZLETON - Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, celebrated Masses at two Luzerne County parishes on Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022, in honor of Our Lady of Altagracia.

The bishop celebrated the 10 a.m. Mass at Queen of Heaven Parish and the Noon Mass at Annunciation Parish, both are located in Hazleton.

Our Lady of Altagracia (also referred to as “Our Lady of la Altagracia” and “the Virgin de la Altagracia”) is the Patroness of the island of Hispaniola, the island containing the nations of Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

The feast, which falls on Jan. 21 and dates to 1514, is the oldest Marian devotion in the Western Hemisphere.

Knights of Columbus support evangelization efforts

SCRANTON - On Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2022, the Northeast Board of District Deputies for the Pennsylvania State Council Knights of Columbus presented a $500 check to Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, to use for the purposes of evangelization via Catholic media.

Presenting the check to Bishop Bambera was Frank Socha, Diocesan Membership Chairman.

The donation comes in addition to two charitable donations the Knights of Columbus made for promoting vocations and for the Bishop’s charitable donations in September.
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 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (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 Respecto 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.
Marian Devotion Rosary prayer services scheduled

Marian Devotion Ministries in the Diocese of Scranton is dedicated to promoting prayerful devotion to Jesus and Mary through recitation of the Holy Rosary.

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:

Third Monday of the Month Rosary — Feb. 21, from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laflin. Service also includes litany and Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

Lenten Monday Rosary — March 21, from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laflin. Service also includes Lenten hymns, litany and Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

To host an event or for more information, contact Ernie Pappa at (570) 241-8171 or email: singtomary@aol.com.
The Holy Name Society of Saints Anthony and Rocco Parish in Dunmore hosted its 64th annual Communion Breakfast on the first Sunday of February at La Buona Vita banquet hall in the borough. The event began with the 8:30 a.m. Mass at Saint Anthony of Padua Church, celebrated by Father David Cappelloni, host pastor, who also offered the invocation and benediction for the Communion Breakfast. Honored during the event was longtime parishioner Jim Colangelo, who received the society’s Pio M. Ferrario Christian Witness Award that is bestowed annually by the Dunmore parish’s Catholic men. Pictured is Father Cappelloni presenting the coveted Ferrario Award to Mr. Colangelo.

St. Ann’s Shrine Basilica
1239 Saint Ann Street, Scranton, PA 18504
(570) 347-5691

LENTEN SCHEDULE OF MASSES • MARCH 2, 2022-APRIL 13, 2022
Mondays: 8:00 AM, 12 Noon, 3:30 PM, 6:00 PM
Tuesday to Friday: 9:00 AM, 12 Noon, 7:00 PM
Saturday: 9:00 AM Mass

Novena Lenten Retreat
PREACHER: PASSIONIST FATHER ROBERT JOERGER, C.P.
MONDAY, APRIL 4TH THROUGH WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6TH

RETREAT HOMILY DURING MASSES
MONDAY, APRIL 4TH • 8:00 AM AND 6:00 PM MASSES
TUESDAY, APRIL 5TH • 9:00 AM AND 7:00 PM MASSES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6TH - 9:00 AM AND 7:00 PM MASSES

Everyone is welcome to attend!
Catholic family band to perform in concert at Poconos parish

BRODHEADSVILLE — Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Brodheadsville will host a concert featuring the musical group MJM7 on Sunday, March 27, at 6 p.m. in the parish’s McCawley Hall.

Described as a Catholic family band, MJM7 consists of Michael James Mette and his three children, Charity, 14; Cecilia, 14; and MJ, 11.

According to organizers, the Mettes’ gifts of music, joy and family life offer the confidence and innocence of youth with the wisdom and depth of lived experiences. Their performances exhibit the qualities of both a rock concert and parish mission, with vibrant lights, powerful music, faith-sharing and an invitation to prayer.

MJM7’s uplifting concerts provide an engaging environment and empower all ages to pray more fully and worship more freely.

All are welcome to the musical event, which is being offered free of charge. Free-will donations will be accepted.

IHM Sisters prayer evening on March 9

SCRANTON — The Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters will continue their monthly “Evenings of Prayer with the Sisters of IHM” on Wednesday, March 9.

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 are offered on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. via livestreaming.

Participants may access the devotions at: https://video.ibm.com/channel/ihm-tv.

The theme for the March service is: “Prayer of Chapter 2022: Let this be the Time.”

For more information, contact the IHM Sisters at (570) 346-5404 or communications@sistersofihm.org.
University of Scranton Performance Music Series: In Recital — FEB. 20, featuring pianist John Wilson; 7:30 p.m. in the University’s Houlihan-McLean Center on campus, corner of Mulberry St. & Jefferson Ave. Performance is open to the public free of charge.

Take-Out Turkey Dinner — FEB. 19, sponsored by St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport; take-out dinners available for purchase from 2 to 6 p.m. at 720 West Fourth St., Williamsport. Cost: $12 per dinner; includes turkey, filling, mashed potatoes, green beans, cole slaw & dessert.

Weekend Pierogi & Soup Sales — FEB. 19 & 20, sponsored by SS. Peter & Paul Parish, 1309 West Locust St., West Scranton; pierogi and variety of soups are sold prior to and following the weekend Masses on Saturday at 4 p.m. and Sunday at 11 a.m. Soups include clam chowder, chicken noodle, piggy, and Italian Wedding. Cost per order: pierogi, $8/dozen; soups, $8/quart.

Take-Out Turkey Dinner — FEB. 19, sponsored by St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport; take-out dinners available for purchase from 2 to 6 p.m. at 720 West Fourth St., Williamsport. Cost: $12 per dinner; includes turkey, filling, mashed potatoes, green beans, cole slaw & dessert.

75th Annual Mardi Gras — FEB. 26, hosted by St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport; held from 7:30 p.m. to midnight in the parish’s Fleming Center, 720 West Fourth St. Doors open at 7 p.m.; dance music provided from 8 p.m. to midnight. Cost: $20 (in advance) or $25 (at door); reservations for table of eight available for $150 (in advance). For tickets, contact the parish office (570) 323-9456.

Ash Wednesday & Lenten Friday Fish Dinners — MARCH 2, 11 & APRIL 1, sponsored by St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport; dinners are take-out only and cost $12 each. Dinners sold and available for pick-up at 720 West Fourth St., Williamsport, on Ash Wednesday, March 2, from noon to 6 p.m., and Fridays, March 11 & April 1, from 4 to 6:30 p.m.

“40 Days for Life” Pro-Life Rosary Gathering — MARCH 2-APRIL 8, offered for the special intentions of an end to abortion and closure of the Planned Parenthood location in Wilkes-Barre; Rosary is prayed each weekday, Monday thru Friday, at 10 a.m. in front of the offices of Planned Parenthood, 101 North Main St., Wilkes-Barre. The pro-life campaign draws attention to the evil of abortion through prayer & fasting, constant vigil, and community outreach.

Apostleship of Prayer Papal Intention for March 2022

For a Christian Response to Bioethical Challenges — We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.
VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Highlighting the importance of the Bible in the life of faith and the role of lay women and men in sharing the Gospel, Pope Francis formally installed eight men and women in the ministry of lector and eight others in the ministry of catechist.

During Mass Jan. 23, the church’s celebration of Sunday of the Word of God, the pope used a revised rite for formally installing lectors, a ministry he opened to women a year earlier, and the new rite for the ministry of catechist, which he established in May.

Pope Francis installed six women - from South Korea, Pakistan, Ghana and Italy - and two Italian men in the ministry of lector, telling them they were placing themselves “in the service of the faith, which is rooted in the word of God.”

Three women from Spain, Brazil and Ghana and five men from Italy, Peru, Brazil and Poland were installed as catechists, and Pope Francis told them they were called “to live more intensely the apostolic spirit, following the example of those men and women who helped Paul and the other apostles to spread the Gospel.”

Series to focus on aiding the elderly

SCRANTON — The Elder Justice Multidisciplinary Team of Lackawanna County announces the presentation of a new series of programs, “The Silvers Series: Life Lessons for Older Adults,” to address issues affecting the elderly population.

The monthly education series for seniors and caregivers will get underway with a kickoff presentation on Thursday, Feb. 24, at 1 p.m. via Zoom video teleconferencing.

This first series installment will focus on the opening topic, “Get and Stay Connected.”

Future series topics include: Getting Around, Lifelong Planning, Life Transitions, Aging in Place, Avoiding Scam, and Preventing Abuse.

For more information and to register, email: ejmdt@lackawannacounty.org, or contact Kerri at (570) 963-6740 ext. 1438.

Prayer Requests for Priests

The Daily Prayer Request for Priests schedule is as follows:

- February 17, Father Arbogaste Satoun
- February 18, Father Kenneth Seegar
- February 19, Monsignor John Sempa
- February 20, Father Gerald Shantillo, V.G.
- February 21, Saint Joseph Oblate Father Joseph Sibilano
- February 22, Monsignor Constantine Siconolfi
- February 23, Father Shawn Simchock
- February 24, Father Robert Simon
- February 25, Father Andrew Sinnott
- February 26, Father Joseph Sitko
- February 27, Father Phillip Sladicka
- February 28, Father Casimir Stanis
- March 1, Pope Francis
- March 2, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI
- March 3, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera
- March 4, Father Stephen Stavoy
- March 5, Father Scott Sterowski
- March 6, Jesuit Father Daniel Sweeney
- March 7, Saint Joseph Oblate Father Raymond Tabon
- March 8, Father Philbert Takyi-Nketiah
- March 9, Father John Terry
- March 10, Father Fidel Ticona
- March 11, Bishop Emeritus James C. Timlin
- March 12, Father Peter Tomczak
- March 13, Father Daniel Toomey
- March 14, Father Rawel Toppo
- March 15, Father Peter Tran
- March 16, Monsignor David Tressler
- March 17, Father Jeffrey Tudgay
- March 18, Father John Turi
- March 19, Father Anthony Urban
- March 20, Father Brian Van Fossen
- March 21, Monsignor Neil Van Loon
- March 22, Father Joseph Verespy

YOU Can Feed People In Need!

Up to 200 men, women and children rely on Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen for a daily meal, food for their household, and clothing to keep warm.

These services include the daily midday meal and three evening suppers at the Kitchen in Scranton as well as weekly meals in Carbondale and Olyphant at parish locations and high-rise housing buildings. The Kitchen also operates the Saint Francis Client-Choice Food Pantry and the Saint Francis Free Clothing Store.

All of this is only possible through the dedicated service of our staff and volunteers, and your generous financial support for the annual Host for a Day campaign. For a donation of $100 or more, an individual, a family, a business, a community organization or faith-based group can help sponsor a day’s meal at the Kitchen and be recognized as a “host” of that meal.

Now more than ever, our brothers and sisters in need are relying on us for help. Thanks to the generosity of individuals and organizations in our community, Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen continues to serve the most needy among us with hot, nutritious meals each day.

All past contributors to the campaign are receiving an appeal directly from the Kitchen through the mail. Donations can also be made by:

Calling the Kitchen at 570-342-5556, online at www.stfranciskitchen.org
or sending a check to: Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen, 500 Penn Avenue, Scranton, PA 18509.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

The culmination of the campaign will be marked with a Virtual Celebration consisting of a pre-recorded program. The release date will be Wednesday, April 27, at 6 p.m. on www.facebook.com/stfranciskitchen. Those who would like to sponsor the Virtual Reception are asked to call the Kitchen at 570-342 5556.
U.S. Ukrainian Catholic Bishops urge prayer, fasting for peace in Ukraine

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) – As fears of a Russian invasion of Ukraine continue to mount, the Ukrainian Catholic bishops of the U.S. have called for a three-day prayer vigil “for peace and the conversion of the hearts of those who preach violence and escalate war.”

The appeal, directed to Ukrainian Catholic faithful and “to all people of goodwill,” was issued in a Feb. 12 letter signed by Archbishop Borys Gudziak, who heads the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia and is metropolitan archbishop of Ukrainian Catholics in the U.S.

Also signing the letter were: Bishop Paul P. Chomnycky of the Eparchy of Stamford, Connecticut; Bishop Benedict Aleksiychuk of the Eparchy of St. Nicholas in Chicago; Bishop Bohdan J. Danylo of the Eparchy of St. Josaphat in Parma, Ohio; and Auxiliary Bishop Andriy Rabiy of the Archeparchy of Philadelphia.

“We ask that each pastor and community, each family and each person, participate in this vigil in whatever way is possible for them,” said the bishops. “May our churches be open throughout the day, may the prayer of the church interchange with personal contemplation.

“Conduct and participate in services, pray the Jesus Prayer, the Marian rosary, the Paraclesis (a prayer service of supplication), sit with the Scriptures. Fast in order to focus on the hope that only God gives.”

Russia has amassed more than 100,000 troops near the Ukrainian border, while launching large-scale joint maneuvers with neighboring Belarus Feb. 10.

In recent days, a number of countries, including the U.S., the United Kingdom and Germany, have urged their nationals to leave Ukraine.

A massive Jan. 14 cybersecurity attack, regarded by many as a prelude to Russian military action, crippled approximately 70 Ukrainian government websites, with an onscreen message warning users to “be afraid and expect the worst.”

“Over the last weeks, the world has become fully aware of the fact that democratic Ukraine and its freedom-loving people are increasingly surrounded by hostile military forces prone for invasion,” said the bishops.