



DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

ROOTED IN CHRIST

LENT 2022



What's your story?

In December 2021, I left behind all that was familiar in Syracuse, NY and moved to Scranton to begin a new role as the Diocesan Secretary for

Parish Life. People have asked if I have family here, if that's what brought me to this area. Nope. As a matter of fact, I didn't know a single person here. I came alone, and am now living by myself for the first time in my entire life. It's quite an adjustment.

While I hadn't actively sought a new position, I was aware that God had been stirring something within me for quite some time, and I was open consider how this opportunity might be part of God's plan for me.

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. *Jeremiah 29:11*

God has a plan for each of us. From the time of our baptism, we are invited into God's mission, the very thing that brought Jesus to the earth, the heart of the Father who longs to gather us back into his loving arms.

God's plan is perfect! His plan is always the best plan for our lives. The prophet Jeremiah reminds us, "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope" (Jeremiah 29:11).

The thing is, we have to be open to God's plan. That means making room for God, creating a space where God can enter in, so we don't make all the decisions on our own. It can be a challenge to step back, realize we have all the answers, and rely on God. And it takes practice to be able to recognize God's voice in the midst of our crazy, busy, noisy world.

The witness of Christians, whose lives are filled with the hope of Christ, opens the hearts and minds of those around them to Christ.

For me, moving to Scranton is about so much more than a job. It's a chance to participate in the unfolding of God's perfect plan. It's a chance for us to walk along side one another, envisioning new ways to invite people to encounter Christ, and grow as disciples together in our parish communities.

How does this happen? **By creating a culture of witness.**

The witness of Christians, whose lives are filled with the hope of Christ, opens the hearts and minds of those around them. If we want people to know and love Christ, we must be visible witnesses of that love to the people we meet. We have to share our stories of the way God is working in us, and through us. We have to share our witness stories.

What's your witness story?

What's your witness story? Think about how you might share your story, which is the most powerful way you can be a witness for Christ.

Each Wednesday, we will share the WITNESS of someone who has encountered Christ in a powerful way.

Perhaps that someone is you!

[Click here to send us your](#)



3 *parts of your* **WITNESS STORY**

- 1** Your life before Christ
- 2** The moment in which you came to know Christ and everything changed
- 3** Your life after coming to know Christ



Mary Hallman is the Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life. A native of Southern California, she has worked in both parish and diocesan ministry, and has learned from some of the best Catholic and Protestant leaders throughout the country. In her free time, Mary enjoys movies, a good cup of coffee, and the company of family and friends...and she is always looking to meet new people! [Send her a message](#) to say "hello."