



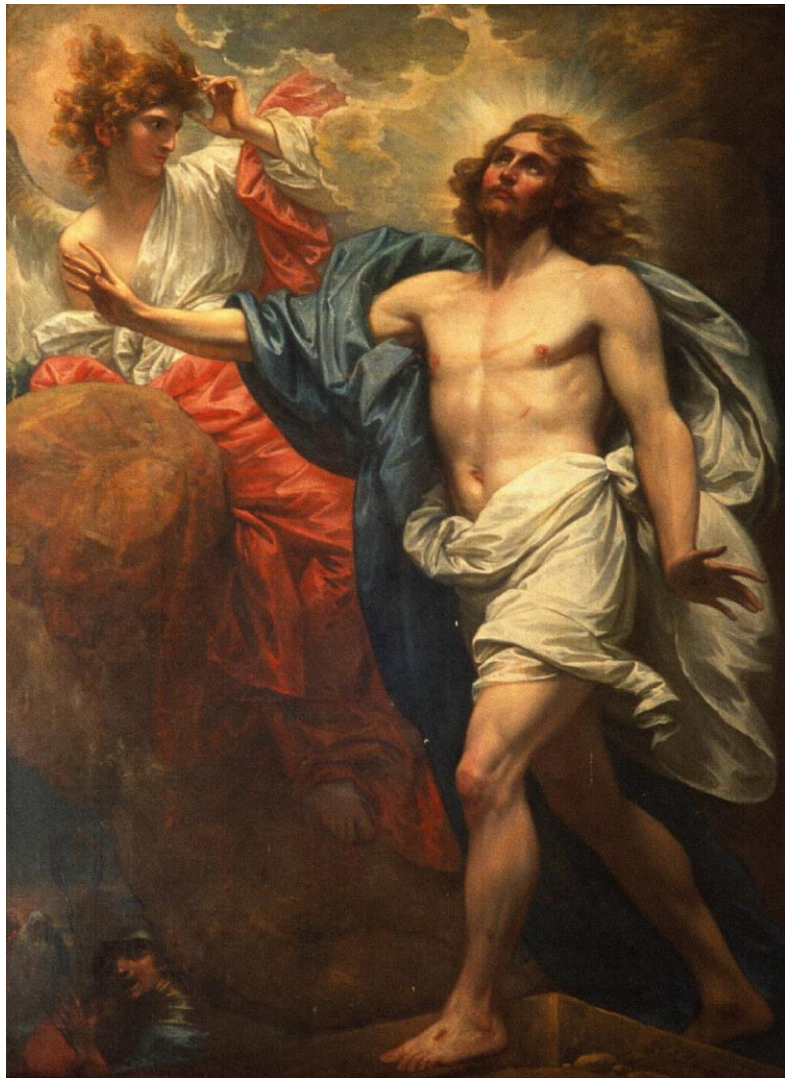
The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

April 14, 2022

Grace of God does not disappoint
Bishop Bambera's 2022 Easter Message



Dear Friends,

Two years ago during these sacred days of Lent, Holy Week and Easter, our world turned upside down. A strange virus invaded our lives in a way that none of us had ever before experienced nor could have imagined. Life came to a standstill and even our churches closed their doors as we sought to protect one another from the virus' deadly grip.

In the face of such obstacles, we held on desperately to our faith, confronting the message of Good Friday and the Cross of Jesus like never before. As we struggled to discover the blessings of Easter, the pain, uncertainty and fear of those days eventually gave way to the life and hope won for us through Christ's Resurrection.

Today, as we find ourselves at last emerging from the darkness of a global pandemic, our world is still turned upside down as our brothers and sisters in Ukraine suffer the ravages of war. This time, however, the source of our global concern is not an unknown virus. The source of this war, and others like it, is an all too familiar scourge rooted in sin – in pride, envy, greed and the absence of any fear of God that has led to a blatant disrespect of human life made in the image and likeness of the same almighty being.

As we have done countless times before in the face of suffering and pain, these sacred days beckon us to turn to the only place that enables our broken world and lives to find forgiveness, healing, hope and peace: the Paschal Mystery – the Easter miracle – the promise won for us through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus!

Pope Francis so providentially spoke to the ongoing struggles that continue to confront our world in his Easter message shared a year ago.

The Holy Father said, “In the midst of this complex reality, the Easter message speaks concisely of the event that gives us the hope that does not disappoint: ‘Jesus who was crucified has risen.’ It speaks to us not about angels or ghosts, but about a man, a man of flesh and bone, with a face and a name: Jesus. The Gospel testifies that this Jesus, crucified under Pontius Pilate for claiming he was the Christ, the Son of God, rose on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, just as he had foretold to his disciples ... In so doing, Jesus took upon himself our weakness, our infirmities, even our death. He endured our sufferings and bore the weight of our sins ... His wounds are the everlasting seal of his love for us. All those who experience a painful trial in body or spirit can find refuge in these wounds and, through them, receive the grace of the hope that does not disappoint.”

Brothers and sisters, for all that we have experienced throughout the journey of our lives, the grace of God, indeed, does not disappoint! And that grace abounds through the presence of the Risen Jesus dwelling in the hearts of his disciples – all of us who have been baptized into his life, death and resurrection. In countless numbers of ways, your openness to the love and mercy of God has enabled you to give hope to many – from the care that you have offered to those burdened by the pandemic, to your material support of those suffering because of the war in Ukraine, to your daily efforts to build up your parishes and to proclaim the gospel message through your words and especially your gestures of love and service.

One of the greatest signs of the grace of God at work in our world is the presence of those who have responded to the Lord’s call and opened their

hearts to the life giving waters of Baptism and a determination to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. On Holy Saturday night, 107 catechumens and candidates from throughout the Diocese of Scranton will be baptized into the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and presented for full communion in the Catholic Church. These catechumens and candidates – our relatives, neighbors and friends – join with tens of thousands of catechumens and candidates from around the world to publically profess their faith in Jesus Christ and to assume their place in his body, the Church. Their lives and faith affirm the reality of the living God continually working in and through his sons and daughters.

During this Holy Week, I pray that we will all come to appreciate more deeply than ever the fact that we are indeed blessed in more ways than we might believe or imagine. May we trust in God's promise to sustain us and dispel our deepest fears. And may we open our hearts to the risen Jesus and allow him to fill them with his love and peace.

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad!

Faithfully yours in the Risen Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Scranton

[Read and Share Bishop Bambera's Easter Message through the Diocese of Scranton website](#)

Broadcast of liturgies during the Easter Triduum on CTV: Catholic Television



CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton is planning to broadcast and livestream all of the Pontifical celebrations of the Easter Triduum, celebrated by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, from the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

In addition, Morning Prayer will be broadcast on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday at 8 a.m., which will be celebrated by Monsignor Dale Rupert, Pastor of the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

Numerous other liturgies celebrated in Rome by Pope Francis - as well as from the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. - will also be broadcast in the coming days.

[To See the Full Broadcast Schedule of Events for the Easter Triduum Click Here](#)

At Chrism Mass, Diocesan priests thanked for their witness to faith



Great rejoicing marked the Solemn Pontifical Chrism Mass on Tuesday of Holy Week on April 12 in the Cathedral of Saint Peter as the celebration returned to its rightful grandeur for the first time in three years due to the global pandemic.

Sincere joy resonated in the voice of Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, who served as principal celebrant and homilist, as he welcomed those in attendance to the “glorious Mass of the Chrism,” in which he joined his brother priests in renewing their sacred vows of ordination in ministry to the people of the Diocese of Scranton.

The annual gathering of the priests of the Diocese — customarily the largest of its kind each year — celebrates their brotherhood and shared divine vocation, usually before a full Cathedral congregation.

Not since 2019 had Saint Peter’s witnessed the normalcy of the ancient traditional rite, which was adapted greatly due to COVID-19, including last year’s Chrism Mass when the diocesan priests were the only ones in attendance and compelled to practice social distancing.

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

Grace of priesthood is given for service, not priests' glory, pope says



In the life of every Christian, but especially of priests, God's love and forgiveness are the greatest rewards, and any attempt to seek one's own glory plays into the hands of the devil, Pope Francis said.

With some 1,800 priests concelebrating and renewing the promises made at their ordinations, Pope Francis celebrated the chrism Mass in St. Peter's Basilica April 14.

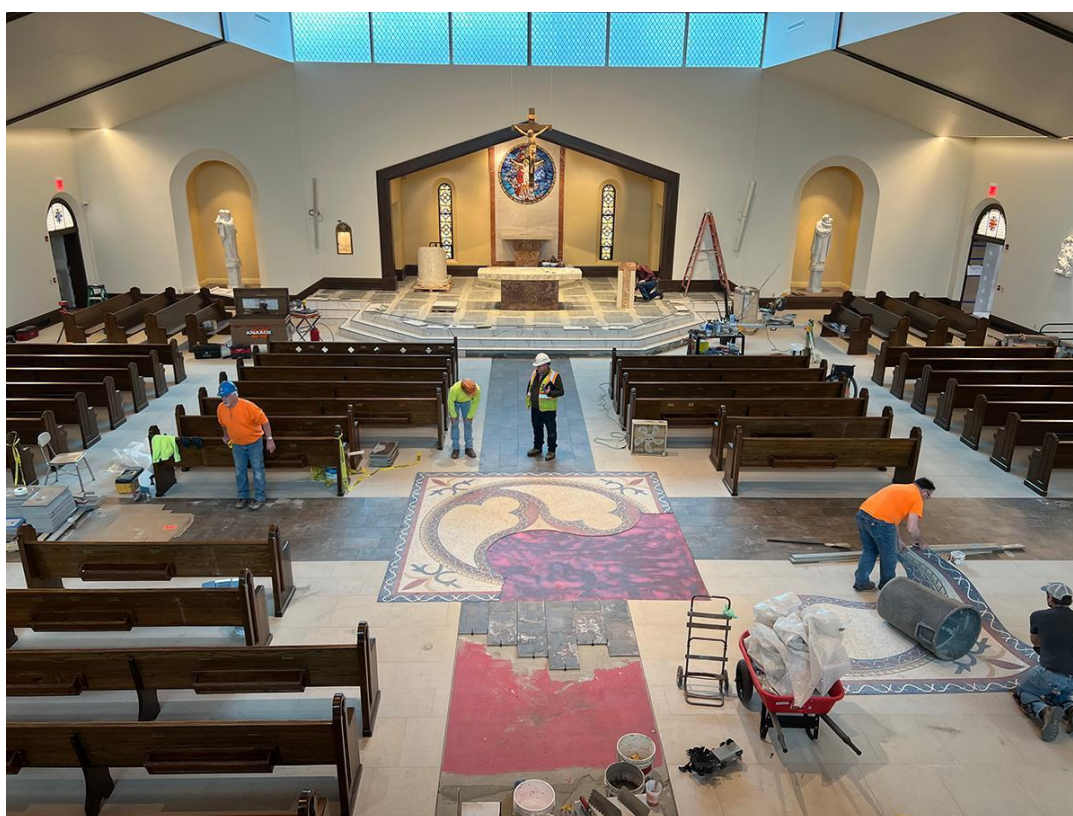
"There is no recompense greater than friendship with Jesus," the pope told them. "There is no peace greater than his forgiveness. There is no greater price than his precious blood, and we must not allow it to be devalued by unworthy conduct."

The chrism Mass was canceled in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and ongoing restrictions in 2021 meant that only 75 priests

from the Diocese of Rome could represent all their brothers at the Mass with their bishop, the pope.

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

Labor of Love: *Parishioners devote time and talent to create new worship space for Most Holy Trinity Parish*



After two decades of dreaming and planning, the finishing touches are finally being put on a new worship space for Most Holy Trinity Parish in Monroe County.

In anticipation of completing work on the new church in the coming weeks, *The Catholic Light* was invited to highlight the renovation project in its final days. An opening Mass is currently being planned for May.

The new worship space for Most Holy Trinity is located in the former gymnasium/auditorium of the now-closed Monsignor McHugh School located on Route 390 in Cresco.

“It is overwhelming beautiful,” parishioner Cheryl Lynott of Paradise Township said.

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

Lycoming County parishes help Ukraine with Lenten dinner



Parishes of Saint Boniface and Saint Lawrence held a Lenten soup dinner April 1 which will benefit people who are suffering in Ukraine.

Fifteen meatless soups were prepared and donated by parishioners.

Seventy-five guests brought their own bowls and spoons to join together at the Lenten table.

A good will offering resulted in more than \$2,100 being raised.

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

Catholic Social Services in Hazleton serving as collection site for donations to Ukraine



Catholic Social Services in Hazleton, 200 W. Chapel Street, continues to serve as a collection drop-off site for material donations to help our brothers and sisters impacted by the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. The items will be passed along to one or more organizations in Philadelphia that are providing assistance to those in need.

In conjunction with the group, “City of Hazleton Outreach to Ukraine,” Catholic Social Services is accepting nonperishable items, including dry rations, such as freeze-dried or dehydrated foods, granola or energy bars, and other non-liquid items. Baby food is also needed, but it must be in pouches and not jars.

Medical supplies and personal hygiene items, including new underwear, thermals, bras, socks, diapers, wipes, blankets, linens, pain relievers, and medical aids, such as crutches, canes, wheelchairs, walkers, are being accepted.

Donations can be made weekdays (Monday-Friday) between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

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

**Rectory, Set, Cook raises more than \$170,000
for parishes and Catholic Social Services**

"Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor." ~ Proverbs 22:9



THANK YOU!



TOTAL RAISED: \$170,907

**TOTAL RAISED FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES
ANTI-HUNGER INITIATIVES: \$101,953.50**
(includes \$33,000 in sponsorships)

TOTAL RAISED FOR PARISHES: \$68,953.50
TOTAL DONORS: 2,718

WINNING PASTOR CHEFS

1. **FR. JAMES PAISLEY**, St. Therese and St. Frances Cabrini, Shavertown (\$31,560)
~ Also had most individual donors (441) ~
2. **FR. DAVID CAPPELLONI**, SS. Anthony and Rocco, Dunmore (\$13,815)
~ Also had third-most individual donors (221) ~
3. **FR. JOSEPH MOSLEY**, St. Peter, Wellsboro, and St. Thomas The Apostle, Elkland (\$11,202)
~ Also had second-most individual donors (226) ~
- ROUNDING OUT OUR TOP 10**
4. **Msgr. David Tressler**, St. Ignatius, Kingston (\$10,245)
5. **Fr. Jack Lambert**, SS. Peter & Paul, Plains (\$6,405)
6. **Fr. Paul McDonnell**, St. Joseph's Oblates, representing Our Lady of the Eucharist, Pittston (\$5,255)
7. **Fr. Joseph Elston**, St. John The Evangelist and St. Joseph Marelo, Pittston (\$5,230)
8. **Fr. Brian J.T. Clarke**, Christ The King, Archbald (\$5,215)
9. **Fr. Kevin Miller**, St. Brigid, Friendsville (\$4,445)
10. **Msgr. John Bendik, Msgr. Vincent Grimalia and Father Charles Cummings**, Villa St. Joseph (Retired Priests) (\$4,317)

MOST GENEROUS CITIES/BOROUGHES

1. Dunmore
2. Scranton
3. Dallas
4. Shavertown
5. Pittston

COUNTY WITH MOST DONORS

Luzerne County
1,200+ donors

COUNTY WITH MOST DOLLARS RAISED

Luzerne County - \$71,000+

HIGHEST SINGLE DONATION DAY:

March 1, 2022 - Day 1!
208 gifts

PARISH WITH HIGHEST SINGLE DONATION

St. Therese and St. Frances Cabrini, Shavertown, \$3000, twice!



DONATIONS FROM OUT OF STATE: 150!
STATES REPRESENTED: 24!

MOST OUT-OF-STATE DONATIONS:

FLORIDA - 30!

BOCA RATON, BRADENTON, BRANDON, ESTERO, FORT MYERS, GULF BREEZE, HAINES CITY, JACKSONVILLE, LAKE LAND, LAKE MARY, NAPLES, ORANGE PARK, OXFORD, PALM HARBOR, PONTE VEDRA BEACH, PUNTA GORDA, SAFETY HARBOR, ST. AUGUSTINE, WINTER GARDEN, VENICE, AND THE VILLAGES

DONATIONS FROM FARTHEST AWAY

SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA (3)
Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish, Pittston

PLAINS, OREGON

St. Nicholas Parish and Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Wilkes-Barre

DAVIS, CALIFORNIA

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Swoyersville

BOTHELL, WASHINGTON

St. John The Baptist Parish, Larksville

FRIENDS AND DONORS IN 20 OTHER STATES!

ARKANSAS (1)

CONNECTICUT (3)

DELAWARE (2)

GEORGIA (3)

INDIANA (3)

KENTUCKY (1)

MASSACHUSETTS (7)

MARYLAND (11)

MAINE (3)

MICHIGAN (1)

NEW JERSEY (23)

NEW YORK (28)

OHIO (4)

NORTH CAROLINA (5)

SOUTH CAROLINA (2)

TENNESSEE (3)

TEXAS (4)

UTAH (2)

VIRGINIA (7)

WASHINGTON, D.C. (1)



After six weeks of friendly competition, the votes are in!

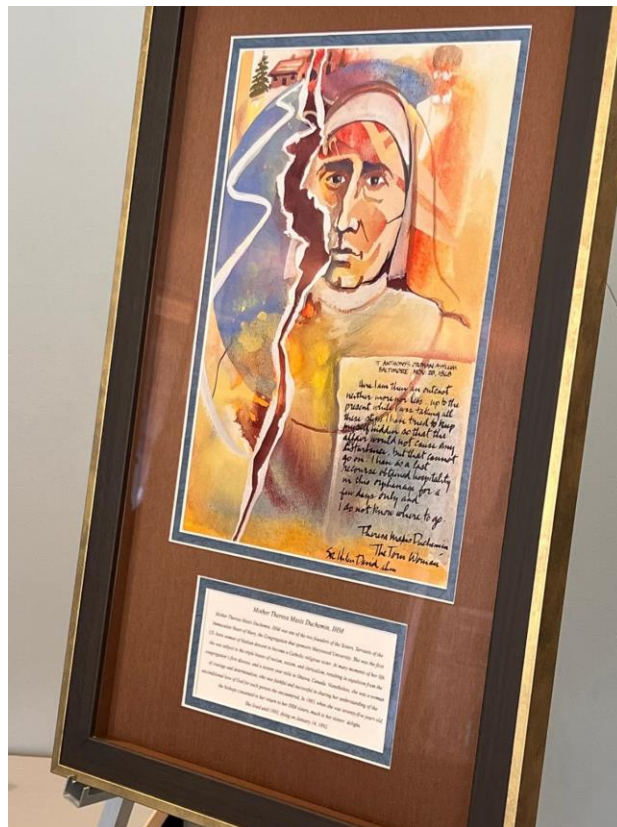
Rectory, Set, Cook!, our inaugural fundraiser featuring "pastor chefs" raised more than \$170,000 for parishes and anti-hunger initiatives of Catholic Social Services.

More than 2,700 donors participated - and donors not only came from northeastern and north central Pennsylvania but a total of 25 other states!

Father James Paisley, pastor of St. Therese Parish and St. Francis Cabrini Parish, both in Luzerne County, was named "winning chef" after raising more than \$31,000 from nearly 450 donors.

Thank you to everyone who participated. The graphic above is include in this week's Catholic Light newspaper.

Marywood University unveils portrait of IHM Congregation Foundress



Even though she has been deceased for more than 125 years, the life and memory of Mother Theresa Maxis lives on at Marywood University.

Dozens of people gathered April 5 for the official unveiling of Theresa Maxis, Torn Woman, a portrait created by Sister Helen David Brancato, IHM.

“We’ve known about this portrait for many, many years because we know the sister from the IHM Congregation in Philadelphia who actually did the portrait,” Sister Mary Persico, IHM, President of Marywood University, said.

Born of unwed parents in 1810, Mother Theresa Maxis co-founded the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM), together with Father Louis Florent Gillet, a Redemptorist priest from Belgium, to educate girls of the Michigan frontier.

“She suffered from classism, she suffered from racism, she suffered from sexism,” Sister Mary Persico added. “We can join her sufferings to the sufferings of people all over the world today.”

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

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