



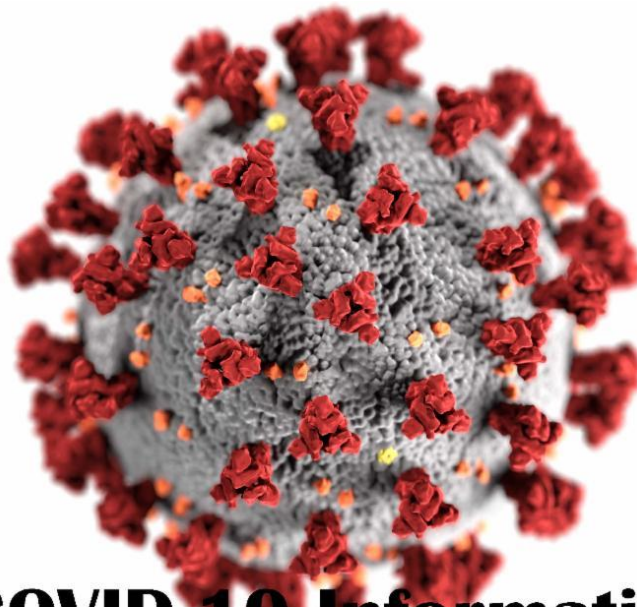
# ***The Catholic Light***

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

## **Weekly E-Newsletter**

**April 28, 2022**

### **Bishop Bambera tests positive for COVID-19; is currently isolating at home**



## **COVID-19 Information**

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, is currently isolating at home after testing positive for COVID-19 on Thursday morning, April 28, 2022.

Bishop Bambera currently has mild flu-like symptoms and will continue to conduct diocesan business remotely as needed during his isolation period.

The bishop is fully vaccinated and has received a booster shot. He has been in touch with his doctor and is following all medical advice, along with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.

The bishop last took a coronavirus test on Tuesday night, April 26, 2022, the results of which were negative at that time.

“Over the last two years, the coronavirus has impacted the lives of many in our community. We have all known people who have tested positive. I am thankful to be fully vaccinated and boosted and am grateful to report that my symptoms are mild,” Bishop Bambera stated. “While recent reports have indicated that we are moving out of the pandemic phase in the United States, I would encourage all of us to continue to pray for our doctors, nurses and healthcare workers who have been on the frontlines of battling COVID and bringing healing to those who need it. I would also like to once again take this opportunity to offer my prayers for members of our community who have died, suffered serious illness, or lost loved ones to this virus.”

During Bishop Bambera’s time of isolation, the work of the Diocese of Scranton, its parishes, schools and ministries will continue to operate as normal.

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## **Bishop Dougherty remembered for generous and selfless service**



Hundreds of people - including family, friends, clergy and former parishioners - attended funeral services for the Most Reverend John M. Dougherty, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Scranton, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on April 25 & 26, 2022.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant and homilist for Bishop Dougherty's funeral Mass. The Mass was attended by numerous other bishops, including the bishops of Allentown, Harrisburg, Greensburg, Erie, Syracuse and two Auxiliary Bishops from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

During his homily, Bishop Bambera read a message of condolence on the passing of Bishop Dougherty which was sent by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State, on behalf of His Holiness Pope Francis.

Those attending the visitation and funeral Mass recalled Bishop Dougherty's tireless dedication to the pastoral care of the sick and dying, the simplicity of his life and his sense of humor.

"No one, no one, would have wanted to avoid or shun such words and remembrances more than Bishop Dougherty himself. We all know that he crafted into an art form avoidance of the attention that so often accompanies the office of pastor or bishop," Bishop Bambera noted. "He

was clearly far more comfortable serving in the shadows of the Chancery, in hospitals and on the streets with the poor than in positions of honor or recognition."

Bishop Dougherty died on Saturday, April 16, 2022, at his family's home in Scranton. He was 89. Following the funeral Mass, he was laid to rest at Cathedral Cemetery in Scranton.

[Read Bishop Bambera's Full Homily from the Mass of Christian Burial for Bishop Dougherty](#)

[Watch the CTV Broadcast of the Mass of Christian Burial for Bishop Dougherty](#)

[View a Photo Album from the Mass of Christian Burial for Bishop Dougherty](#)

## **At Solemn Vespers, Bishop Dougherty remembered for seeking the life of Jesus**



Family, friends and former parishioners of the Most Reverend John M. Dougherty joined clergy from the Diocese of Scranton in praying for the eternal repose of the soul of the late Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Scranton on April 25, 2022.

More than 150 people participated in Solemn Vespers at the Cathedral of Saint Peter as the first day of visitation for Bishop Dougherty concluded.

“It seems like this son of God was given to us, like many others who have gone through this world, to remind us we were made not for this world,” Rev. Christopher S. Sahd said during homily.

Father Sahd stressed that Jesus lived in Bishop Dougherty – and as a priest of 65 years – the late bishop knew that to be baptized in Christ also meant to suffer with him.

“He so sought the life of Jesus, the fullness of His power, the holiness of His mysteries, and the perfection of His ways and not ours,” Father Sahd explained.

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**More than 1,100 years of marriage celebrated  
at Bradford County parish**





More than 1,100 years of marriage were celebrated by the parishioners of Saints Peter & Paul Parish, Towanda, on April 24!

Couples celebrating anniversary milestones were invited to a special luncheon which was held at JFK Hall. Each couple was recognized and photographed. Father Ed Michelini, pastor, blessed the couples at the 11 a.m. Mass prior to the ceremony.

Featured above is the longest married couple, Pat and Carol Beirne, who are celebrating 70 years of wedded bliss. Tips for a long-lasting marriage and happy marriage were shared by many couples.

D.J. Bob Brenner, and wife Bev, entertained the crowd and Father Ed sang "If You Want to Be Happy" to a receptive audience. Following a delicious lunch prepared by Kathie Dewan and Sandy Kasenga, lively dancing ensued.

[View More Photos from the Wedding Anniversary Celebration in Towanda](#)

## Diocese of Scranton Online Synod Survey to close Friday



This is your last chance to participate in the Diocese of Scranton's online survey for the Synod on Synodality!

The Diocese of Scranton continues to listen to your thoughts and opinions as we answer the call of Pope Francis to participate in the local listening phase of the 2023 Synod on Synodality. It is our hope that you will prayerfully consider each question and offer feedback about your experience as a member of the Diocese of Scranton.

The Synod survey is available on the "Synod on Synodality" page of the Diocese of Scranton website ([dioceseofscranton.org](http://dioceseofscranton.org)) through midnight on April 29, 2022.

Since last October, more than 3,000 people in all 11 counties of the Diocese of Scranton have participated in the online synod survey or individual parish listening sessions.

If you have already taken the survey, please spread the word – including to family and friends that may no longer attend Mass. A key component is listening to those voices who are easily ignored or marginalized.

[Take the Diocese of Scranton Synod Survey Right Now](#)

## **Pope, Council of Cardinals meet, discuss war in Ukraine**



Pope Francis and his international Council of Cardinals met in-person at the Vatican April 25, discussing the war in Ukraine, the Vatican press office said.

There was a discussion about the conflict and its impact on the church, ecumenism and the sociopolitical sphere, the Vatican said April 28.

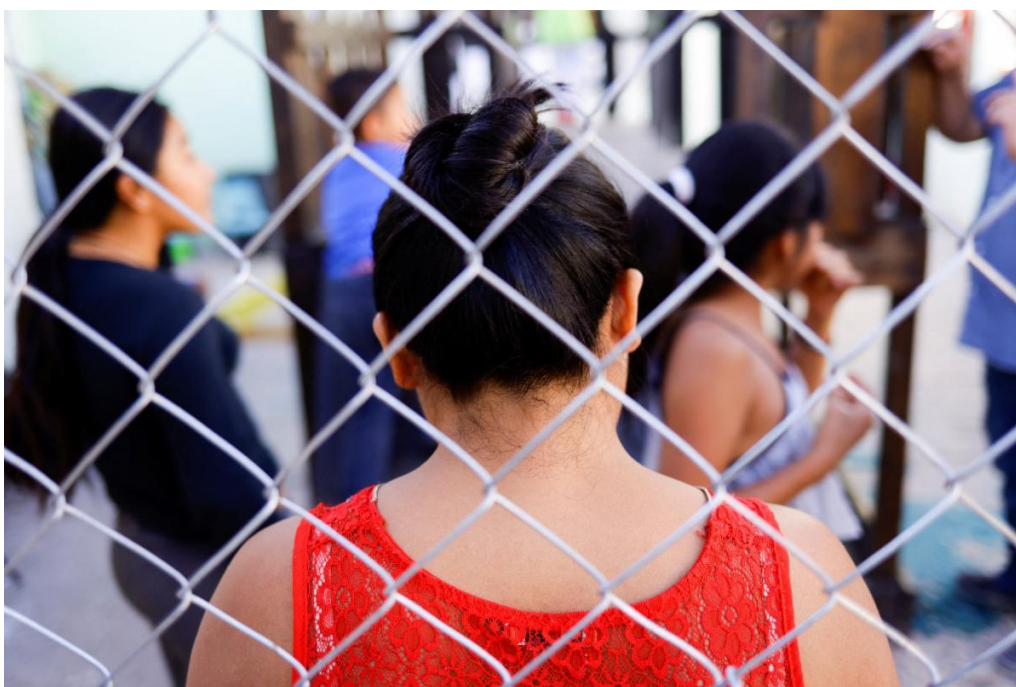
The cardinals reflected on the situation and supported the different initiatives that have been launched by Pope Francis and the Vatican's



secretary and secretariat of state, aimed at finding a peaceful solution, according to the Vatican press office.

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

## **Judge threatens to block Biden's plan to end pandemic border restrictions**



A federal judge at an April 25 hearing said he would grant the requests of three states to force the federal government to keep in place a public-health order at the U.S.-Mexico border that has increased the number of expulsions of immigrants trying to cross into the United States.

The public-health order, known as Title 42, allows the United States to bar entry of persons who have recently been in a country where a communicable disease was present. It was applied by the Trump administration in March 2020, soon after the coronavirus pandemic was declared by the World Health Organization.

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

## Catholic University of America dedicates 'Angels Unawares' sculpture



A monumental work of art depicting migrants and refugees seeking a home has found its own permanent home at a new plaza at The Catholic University of America.

During an April 22 blessing and dedication ceremony, Washington Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory blessed Timothy Schmalz's "Angels Unawares" sculpture and philanthropist and arts patron Jacqueline Mars pushed a button that initiated water flowing around the base of the sculpture to form a reflecting pool.

The sculpture depicts 140 diverse migrants and refugees from different countries and historical eras huddled together on a boat as if seeking a safe harbor, with the flowing water in the reflecting pool seeming to represent the tides carrying the boat's occupants toward a new life.

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