

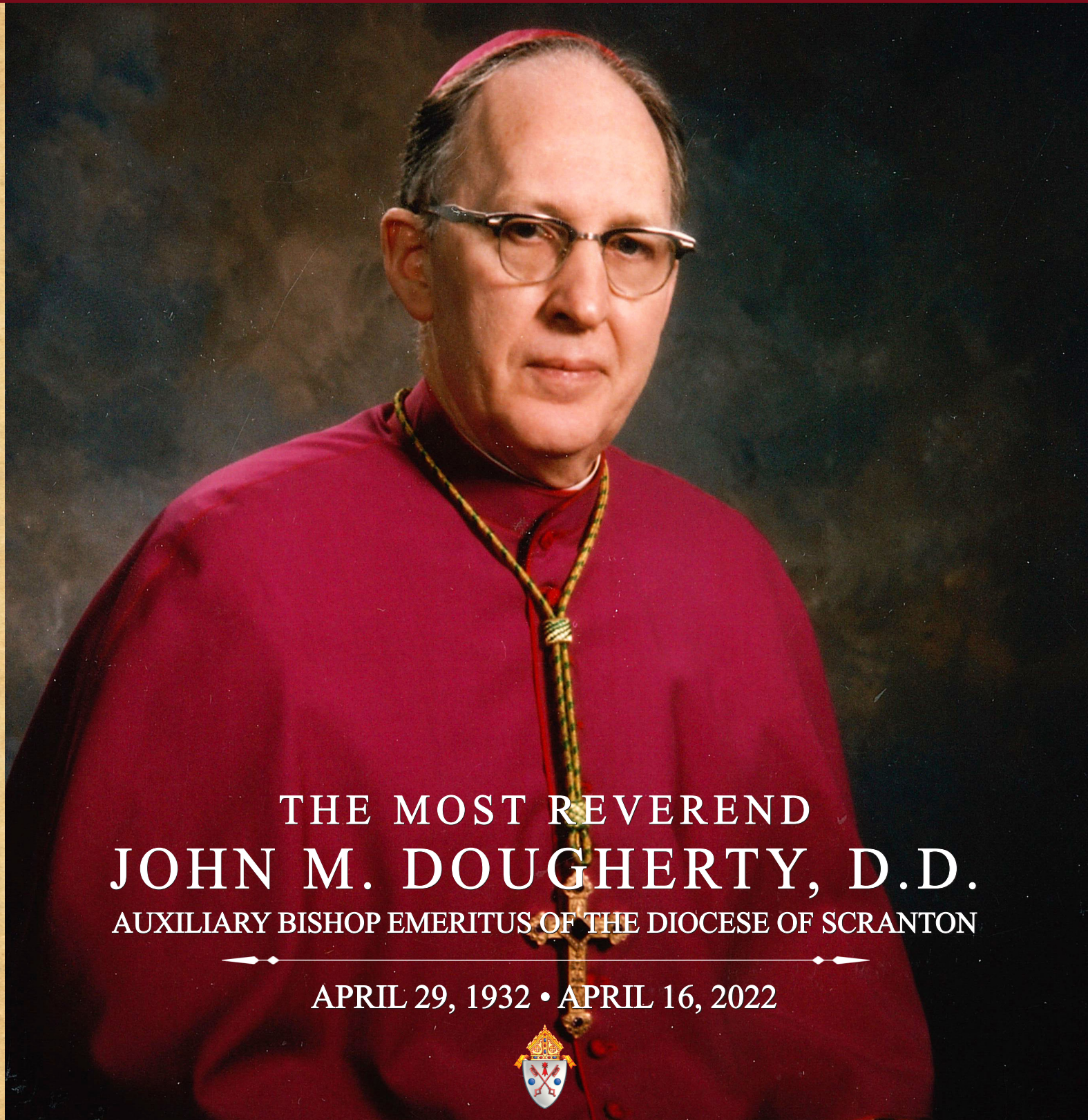
# *The Catholic Light*

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2022



THE MOST REVEREND  
JOHN M. DOUGHERTY, D.D.  
AUXILIARY BISHOP EMERITUS OF THE DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

APRIL 29, 1932 • APRIL 16, 2022







## DIOCESE OF SCRANTON MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Catholic community of the Diocese of Scranton, are called through Baptism to imitate the servant leadership of Jesus Christ. In union with Our Holy Father, the Pope, we proclaim the Gospel faithfully, celebrate the sacraments joyfully, and boldly promote life, justice and peace in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

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# Bishop John M. Dougherty Remembered

The Most Reverend John M. Dougherty, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Scranton, died on Saturday, April 16, 2022, at his family's home in Scranton. He was 89.

Bishop Dougherty provided 65 years of faithful service to the people of the Diocese of Scranton, including 27 years as a bishop. He will be remembered for his wisdom, pastoral concern, deep spirituality, and consistent presence in hospitals and nursing homes ministering to the sick and dying.

He was born April 29, 1932, in Scranton, the son of the late Edward

A. and Irene C. Kern Dougherty. A member of St. Paul's Parish, Scranton, he attended the parochial grade school and graduated from St. Paul's High School in June 1949. In September of the same year, Bishop Dougherty entered St. Charles College, Catonsville, Md., where he studied for two years.

He began his priestly studies on September 19, 1951, at St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, Md. Bishop Dougherty earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Mary's in June 1953. Three years later, he received a Master of Arts in Philosophy from the University of Notre Dame. Bishop Dougherty



**Bishop John Dougherty, in 1951, at the time he applied to Bishop William J. Hafey for acceptance into the Diocese's priest formation program.**



**The Most Reverend John M. Dougherty, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Scranton, celebrates Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Pittston in June 1999.**

returned to further studies at St. Mary's where he earned a Licentiate in Sacred Theology in 1957.

ordained to the priesthood on June 15, 1957, in the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, by the Most Reverend Jerome D. Hannan, late Bishop of Scranton.

Bishop Dougherty was



**Saint Paul's School produced some prominent leaders in the state and nation. This 1941-42 fifth grade class photo includes former Congressman Joseph McDade and former Pennsylvania Governor Robert Casey. Bishop Dougherty is the last boy on the far left in the fourth row.**





**The Most Reverend John M. Dougherty's Episcopal Ordination Mass was celebrated March 7, 1995, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. Bishop James C. Timlin served as principal celebrant and consecrator. Bishops J. Carroll McCormick and Francis X. DiLorenzo served as concelebrants and consecrators. Also in attendance were Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua, Archbishop of Philadelphia, and John Cardinal O'Connor, Archbishop of New York, who previously served as the seventh bishop of the Diocese of Scranton.**

On June 29, 1957, Bishop Dougherty was appointed assistant pastor of St. Ann Parish, Tobyhanna, a community he served for more than seven years. In preparation for the opening of St. Pius X Seminary, Dalton, he was named Professor of Ascetical Theology by Bishop Hannan on March 28, 1962.

Bishop Dougherty was given additional responsibility in September 1964, which brought him to his first post in the Chancery. He was appointed Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

On May 19, 1968, Pope Paul VI named Bishop Dougherty a Chaplain of His Holiness with the title of Monsignor. In the same year, he was appointed Vicar for Religious by Bishop J. Carroll McCormick. Four years later, he was appointed Assistant Chancellor of the Diocese and

he assumed the duties of the Diocesan Pro-Life Director in February 1976.

On September 6, 1977, Bishop Dougherty was appointed Chancellor of the Diocese of Scranton and Pro-Synodal Examiner.

He was named a Prelate of Honor on November 2, 1978, by Pope John Paul II. On June 7, 1984, the day of Bishop James C. Timlin's installation as the Eighth Bishop of Scranton, Bishop Dougherty was appointed Vicar General, Moderator of the Curia and Diocesan Consultor.

Bishop Dougherty was named pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Scranton, on September 4, 1985. The parish community included the churches of Saint Patrick, Holy Cross, St. John the Baptist and Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Pope John Paul II named Bishop Dougherty the Titular

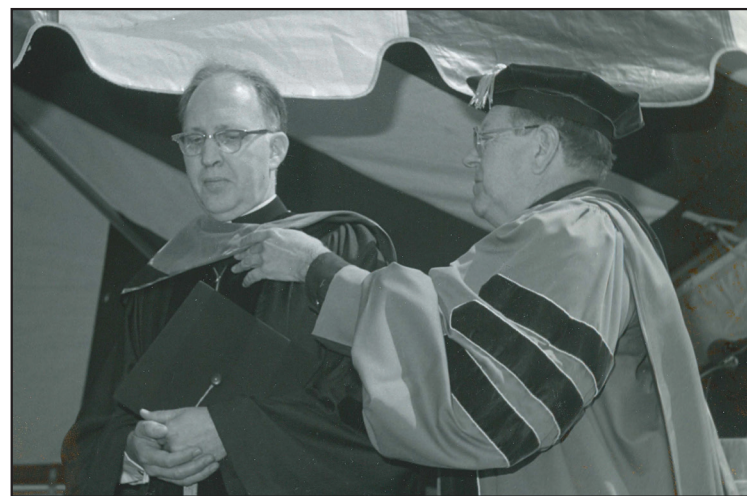
Bishop of Sufetula and Auxiliary to the Bishop of Scranton on February 7, 1995. His episcopal ordination took place on March 7, 1995, in the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, with Bishop Timlin serving as consecrator.

On June 30, 1995, Bishop Dougherty was appointed Rector of Villa St. Joseph, Dunmore, a position he held for nearly nine years. On March 1, 2004, Bishop Joseph F. Martino gave him significant additional collaborative responsibility in the daily administration of the Diocese by naming him Vicar for Administration, a newly created central administrative post.

Bishop Dougherty continued his service to the Diocese through appointments on the Council of Priests and Board of Consultors between 2005 and 2010. The Holy See accepted his resignation on August 31, 2009, two years



**Bishop Dougherty pictured at the 11th annual Knights of Columbus "Rosary for Vocations" in April 1997 at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.**



**On May 27, 1990, Bishop John M. Dougherty was awarded an honorary degree by The University of Scranton. Father J.A. Panuska, S.J., president of the university, assists in the donning of the hood.**

after reaching the mandatory retirement age.

Even after retirement, as Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus, Bishop Dougherty served in residence at Christ the King Parish in Archbald prior to Bishop Joseph C. Bambera appointing him to serve as Administrator, pro tem, at Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish, Jermyn, in June 2019.

Bishop Dougherty was also a member of the American Catholic Historical Association and was elected by Catholic Distance University in Hamilton, Va., to serve on its board of trustees.

Bishop Dougherty is survived by his sisters-in-law Margaret Laboranti Dougherty and Sallie Larson Dougherty, 20 nieces and

nephews, and numerous grand nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, his two brothers, Edward A. Dougherty, M.D., and Joseph M. Dougherty, as well as a niece, Mary Elizabeth Dougherty, preceded him in death.

A Pontifical Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, on Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. The viewing of Bishop Dougherty took place on Monday, April 25 and the morning hours of Tuesday, April 26 before the Mass of Christian Burial.

Interment is in Cathedral Cemetery, Scranton.



# *Bishop Dougherty celebrated for 'serving in the shadows' with great love*

SCRANTON – As he began his homily during the Mass of Christian Burial for the Most Reverend John M. Dougherty, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Scranton, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera looked out at the large crowd gathered inside the Cathedral of Saint Peter and smiled.

Bishop Bambera was preparing to explain Bishop Dougherty's humility in a simple, straightforward way.

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

With the Cathedral filled with hundreds of family, friends, former parishioners and fellow clergy on April 26, 2022, Bishop Bambera reflected on Bishop Dougherty's generous and faithful ministry to the Diocese of Scranton that spanned 65 years.

"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



**The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, sprinkles holy water on the casket of the Most Reverend John M. Dougherty, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Scranton, during a Mass of Christian Burial at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on April 26, 2022. (Photos/Mike Melisky)**



**Prayer cards and programs for Bishop Dougherty's funeral Mass at the entrance of the Cathedral.**

or recognition," Bishop Bambera noted.

Bishop Dougherty died on April 16, the day before Easter and 13 days shy of his 90th birthday.

The bishops of Allentown, Erie, Greensburg, Harrisburg and Syracuse attended the funeral Mass. Two Auxiliary

Bishops from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia also attended.

Bishop Bambera noted the "innumerable messages" he had received from people since Bishop Dougherty's passing.

"In virtually every message, his kindness, his care and sensitivity especially to the poor

and suffering, his simplicity of life and the depth of his holiness were recounted with deep gratitude," Bishop Bambera explained.

Bishop Bambera easily connected the Gospel of Matthew (Matthew 25:31-46) proclaimed during the Mass to the life Bishop Dougherty lived.

"The Gospel is Jesus' last discourse recorded by Matthew before the events of the Passion unfold. In the vision Matthew presents, Christ, the Shepherd-King, clearly and unequivocally identifies himself with humankind and particularly the poor: 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and



**Seminarians of the Diocese of Scranton served as Minor Ministers for Bishop Dougherty's Mass of Christian Burial on April 26, 2022.**



**Father Richard J. Cirba, left, touches Bishop Dougherty's casket during the Entrance Procession of clergy at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.**



**Allan Raffey of the Knights of Columbus stands at attention.**





**Left: Pallbearers carry Bishop Dougherty's casket out of the Cathedral of Saint Peter for final interment at Cathedral Cemetery in Scranton.**

**Above Middle: Bernadette Adcroft, Bishop Dougherty's niece, reads from the Book of Revelation.**

**Above Right: Edward A. Dougherty, Bishop Dougherty's nephew, reads from the Book of Romans.**

feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me," the bishop said.

Bishop Bambera said his friend and fellow clergyman understood the teaching of Jesus well.

"He understood that authentic faith demands that we 'put on Christ' and that his life become the pattern for our lives," Bishop Bambera preached. "Ultimately, our place in God's kingdom will be determined by how generously we have made the life of Christ our own and reached beyond ourselves to bring justice, peace and reconciliation into the lives of those in whom Christ is present."

For all his accomplishments in the administration of the Diocese of Scranton, Bishop Bambera said it was Bishop Dougherty's willingness to reach out to those people on the peripheries of life that will be remembered and appreciated above everything else.

"He quite literally fed the hungry, clothed the naked, visited the imprisoned, welcomed the stranger, shared the sacraments generously and helped to create in his own simple way the new world – the new Jerusalem – envisioned in the Book of Revelation. Why can I make such a bold statement? Because these are the stories that

are being told throughout this local Church in these days since his passing and that countless numbers of you have shared with me all day yesterday as you visited this Cathedral to honor the bishop," he said.

Bishop Dougherty is survived by his two sisters-in-law as well as 20 nieces and nephews. His niece, Bernadette Adcroft, and nephew, Edward A. Dougherty, served as lectors during the funeral Mass.

Students from five Diocesan Catholic schools, All Saints Academy, Holy Cross High School, Holy Redeemer High School, Notre Dame High School and Saint Clare/Saint Paul School, served as hospitality ministers at the Mass, distributing programs as people entered.

Members of the Knights of Columbus and the Order of Malta also honored Bishop Dougherty's lifetime of service by participating in the Mass of Christian Burial.

As Bishop Bambera concluded his homily, he shared one additional story that he said captured Bishop Dougherty's life.

"A few days ago, a friend told me of how he often encountered the Bishop praying late in the evening in a back corner of the Eucharistic adoration chapel at Saint Catherine of Siena Parish in Moscow. Therein we discover the key to understanding the generous



**The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, along with attending bishops and priests of the Diocese of Scranton, celebrate the Liturgy of the Eucharist during Bishop Dougherty's Mass of Christian Burial.**

and selfless life of Bishop Dougherty. He served because he knew his Master well," Bishop Bambera explained.

As Bishop Dougherty was taken to his place of rest at Cathedral Cemetery in Scranton, the recessional hymn, 'Sing with All the Saints in Glory,' echoed throughout the walls of the Cathedral.

### ***Visiting Bishops in Attendance at the Mass of Christian Burial for Bishop Dougherty***

Bishop Ronald W. Gainer, Harrisburg  
Bishop Alfred A. Schlert, Allentown  
Bishop Lawrence T. Persico, Erie  
Bishop Larry J. Kulick, Greensburg  
Bishop Douglas J. Lucia, Syracuse  
Bishop James C. Timlin, Scranton  
Bishop Michael J. Fitzgerald, Archdiocese of Philadelphia  
Bishop John J. McIntyre, Archdiocese of Philadelphia



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



**The casket of the Most Reverend John M. Dougherty is at the front of the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton during Solemn Vespers on April 25, 2022. (Photos/Mike Melisky)**

SCRANTON – 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.

Bishop Dougherty died on April 16 at his family’s home in Scranton. He was 89.

“Let us not fail to pray for him now, so that God, having mercy on his soul, may bring him to the promise he so longed for, so adored in the sacred mysteries,” Father Sahd added. “Bishop Dougherty would be the first to abhor the thought that we would come to this point and not pray for his soul but we also have to thank God for the way that Jesus lived in him.”

Bishop Dougherty was ordained to the priesthood in 1957. His episcopal ordination as Auxiliary Bishop followed in 1995. He is remembered by many for his deep spirituality, pastoral concern and consistent presence in hospitals ministering to the sick and dying.

Father Sahd emphasized that on a nightly basis, Bishop Dougherty would

## Pope sends condolences for death of Bishop John M. Dougherty

VATICAN CITY – Pope Francis offered his condolences for the death of the Most Reverend John M. Dougherty, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Scranton, who died on April 16 at the age of 89.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera received a letter from Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Christophe Pierre in which Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin expressed the condolences of Pope Francis at the death of Bishop Dougherty. Bishop Bambera shared the text of the letter during his homily at Bishop Dougherty’s Mass of Christian Burial.

The letter read as follows:

*“His Holiness Pope Francis was saddened to learn of the death of Bishop John Martin Dougherty, and he sends heartfelt condolences to you, to the late Bishop’s family, and to the clergy, religious and lay faithful of the Diocese of Scranton. Recalling Bishop Dougherty’s years of priestly and episcopal ministry, marked by his example of simplicity of life and tireless dedication to the pastoral care of the sick and dying, His Holiness joins those gathered for the Mass of Christian Burial in commending his soul to the compassionate love of our Heavenly Father and cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of peace and consolation in the Lord.”*

Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State



**Left: Rev. Christopher S. Sahd delivers the homily during Solemn Vespers at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on April 25, 2022.**

**Above: More than 150 people, including family, friends and clergy from the Diocese of Scranton attended the Solemn Vespers Service for Bishop Dougherty.**

encourage people not only to ask God’s mercy but to thank God for everything that is beautiful and good.

“As we come to the end of this day,

we keep vigil tonight,” Father Sahd said. “Every one of us has been a part of a beautiful day of Jesus Christ in the life of

God the Father’s beloved son.”



# Faithful fondly remember Bishop Dougherty as humble, caring shepherd

SCRANTON — Everyone has a “Bishop Dougherty story.” Usually several.

But whether the remembrances tell of his keen administrative ability, his untiring efforts to be omnipresent for anyone in need of God’s mercy or his genuine piety while celebrating the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the stories always speak of the singular wit, wisdom and humility of one John Martin Dougherty.

Jane McLane is a longtime member of Saint Patrick Parish in Scranton’s West Side and recollected how a 53-year-old Monsignor John Dougherty — having just stepped away from his role as Chancellor of the Diocese yet continuing to shoulder enormous leadership responsibilities on the diocesan level — departed the Chancery Building in 1985 to face unprecedented challenges in his new assignment as pastor of Saint Patrick’s.

Saint Patrick’s had been linked with the parishes of Holy Cross, in the city’s Bellevue section, and Saint John the Baptist, on Main Avenue. Not only were there more than 3,000 faithful as registered parishioners, but the pastoral appointment also included the operation of a Catholic elementary school with nearly 700 students.

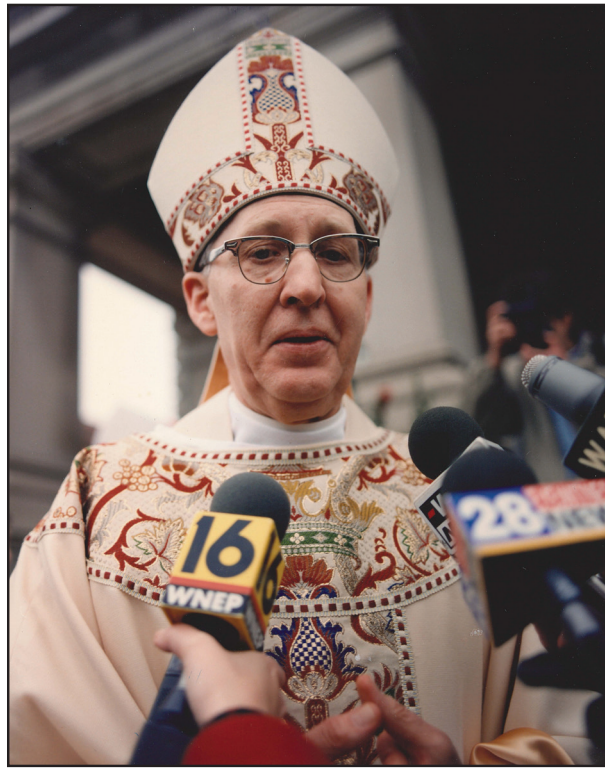
“During his ten years at Saint Patrick’s, he modeled pastoral organizational skills,” McLane noted, referring to Monsignor Dougherty’s tenure that came to a close with his episcopal elevation to serve as Auxiliary Bishop of Scranton in 1995.

“Thankfully, Bishop Dougherty had invaluable assistance from young priests who served him well over the years,” McLane continued. “He inspired them with his priestly conduct, his boundless charity and tireless efforts to be a presence in the lives of his parishioners,” attending school events, meetings of parish societies, and always at the bedsides of the sick and dying.

“We parishioners remember Bishop Dougherty as a talented administrator and a joyous, faith-filled priest,” she concluded.

Fellow Saint Patrick parishioner Jeanne Palumbo remarked that memories of the late bishop will remain forever in her heart, as she referred to him as a tremendously important and unforgettable part of her life.

“I had the pleasure and honor of knowing him as a very caring, kind, dignified, holy, honorable and



**Bishop Dougherty speaks with TV reporters following his Episcopal Ordination on March 7, 1995.**

compassionate priest and leader who captured the hearts of everyone,” Palumbo said of Bishop Dougherty, whom she credits — and is eternally grateful to — for involving her in church service as a Eucharistic minister and lector.

She continued, “He was also a dear friend, as well as a bishop, when I needed one,” remembering how he offered endless comfort and counsel as she grieved the passing of her mother.

“He was always caring, patient and asking if I was okay,” Palumbo said. “He was always there for me. Heaven has certainly opened its door to a great, holy, remarkable man.”

Palumbo’s dear friends — Louise Passarella and her husband of nearly 70 years, Gene (Dempsey) Passarella — fondly recalled how their onetime pastor uniquely touched their lives forever. Louise explained that she shared an enviable relationship with Bishop Dougherty since she is first cousins with Margaret “Peggy” Dougherty, whose husband Joe, the bishop’s late brother, owned the landmark Dougherty’s Restaurant in Scranton’s Pine Brook section.

“When my mom was very ill, I had to make an end-of-life decision concerning her, and I was very upset and called Bishop Dougherty,” Louise reflected. “We talked from early evening until almost midnight. He helped me through the most difficult decision I ever had to make.”

“The next day the Lord took it out of my hands as my mother passed. I am so grateful for that conversation with Bishop Dougherty.”

The Passarellas remembered how then-Monsignor Dougherty assured Gene, the founding bandleader of the area’s venerable Gene Dempsey Orchestra, that his musical group would always have the support of Saint Patrick’s as a permanent part of the parish’s annual summer picnic.

“Whenever the bishop saw us, he would greet us with, ‘Hi, cuz. How’s the band?’” the couple noted.

Ninety-three-old Jim Connor continues to serve as an altar server for funeral Masses at Saint Patrick’s, as he did during Bishop Dougherty’s pastorate there.

He and his wife Eleanor, a parish lector, fondly reminisced about the late auxiliary bishop and his lasting impression on them, noting that while visiting loved ones in the hospital it was not unusual to cross paths with their pastor — at four o’clock in the morning!

“He was a just a great guy, and not only our pastor but a close friend,” Jim shared. “Bishop Dougherty was a prime example of a Catholic priest.”

Peggy and Bill Cusick of Saint Patrick Parish were enthusiastic about sharing their most memorable Bishop Dougherty “stories” while he served as their shepherd at the Scranton parish.

“I remember Monsignor Dougherty coming to visit me during one of my extended hospital stays,” Peggy began, seemingly about to recount another of the countless classic examples of the priest’s

compassion for the suffering.

The tale took an unexpected twist, however, and wound up being an example of his classic dry wit, as she added, “He said to me, ‘Don’t worry, Peggy, everything is under control at home. I just went by the house and Bill was hosing off all the dinner dishes in the front yard.’”

On a serious note, Peggy explained the reason why Bishop Dougherty was always the last person in line at the funeral home during a viewing. “He made sure that if anyone was behind him, he insisted they go ahead of him.”

Two years after Bishop Dougherty was required by canon law to submit his letter of resignation at the age of 75, Pope Benedict XVI released the Scranton Auxiliary from his official duties in 2009. Not surprising, however, the word “retirement” had only a nominal effect on the 77-year-old shepherd.

In addition to other such official/unofficial assignments he fulfilled as Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus, Bishop Dougherty served in residence for several years at Christ the King Parish in Archbald.

“I became a better Catholic because of Bishop Dougherty,” Christ the King parishioner Mary Lynn Krushinski said. “His solemn Masses, his stature was so noticeable, along with his deep voice that got your attention. He renewed my love for God by his example.”

Rockne O’Connor, a member of the Archbald parish who attends Holy Cross High School in Dunmore, prefaced his comments with the following quote from Saint John Vianney, patron saint of parish priests, which he believes best sums up the bishop’s legacy: “The priest is not a priest for himself...he is for you. After God, the priest is everything.”

“Bishop Dougherty, by his selflessness and humility, is a true priest for all of us forever,” the young man stated.

Rockne’s father, Jay, was spiritually insightful and somewhat poetic in offering these thoughts on the revered clergyman of cherished memory: “His voice, as stern and as authoritative as I would imagine God’s would be; his eyes and heart as empathetic, kind and merciful as I know Mary’s are, he was and will forever be a giant of a man of God and an immaculate example of a true priest in his humble, selfless service to all.”



# *Learning from his loving example*

## *Bishop Dougherty's brother priests honor his life of service*

SCRANTON – When the phone rang in the middle of the night at the Saint Patrick Parish Rectory in West Scranton in the 1980s, Bishop John Dougherty was normally the first to pick it up.

“We would assume it was the hospital calling for someone to go over to anoint someone or give them Last Rites and before Monsignor Tressler or I could get to the phone to answer it, he would pick up the phone. Before moments passed, Bishop Dougherty would be dressed, in the car and on the way to the hospital,” Father James Paisley said.

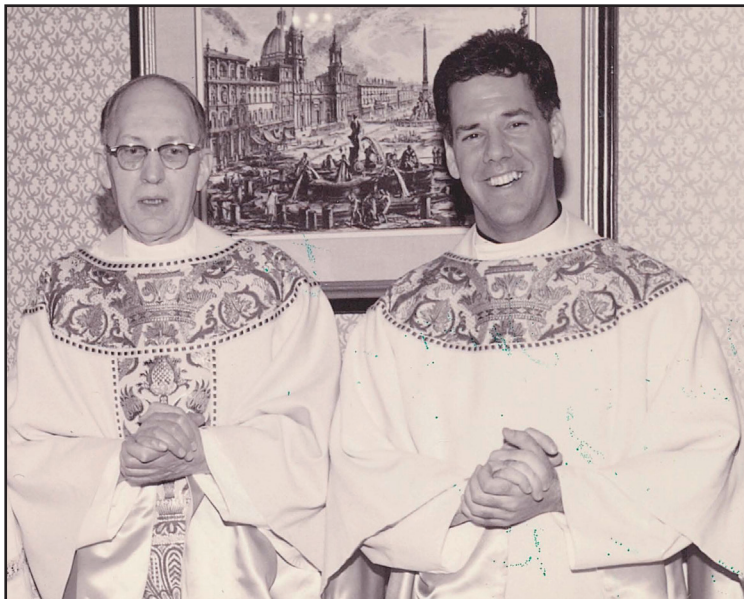
Father Paisley and Monsignor David Tressler were both assigned to be assistant pastors under Dougherty for their first assignments after ordination in the 1985. Both say Dougherty had a deep love for ministering to the sick and dying.

“He would go to the hospital almost every day when I was a newly ordained priest. I was with him three years. That was a priority to him,” Monsignor Tressler said. “As assistants we had our assigned days to go, but he still would go late in the evening when his day was freed up.”

As a young priest, Tressler said he learned how to be a pastor by watching Dougherty's humble example.

“I learned the importance of compassion, of taking time for people in need, being present to people. I think that was key,” he said.

“Everything I do now, hopefully for the people, the needs of the people, for the Church and for my God, I learned all of that from his loving example,” Paisley added. “I carry a little bit around and I will continue to do that long after he's gone now.”



**Bishop Dougherty and Father James Paisley pose for a photo on the morning of Bishop Dougherty's Episcopal Ordination on March 7, 1995.**

### ***GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT***

Both Paisley and Tressler said Bishop Dougherty would never expect his assistants to do something that he would not do.

“He instilled my great love of the priesthood. I love my priesthood. I love being able to serve the people of God and I really attribute it to him because of the fact that he was a great example,” Tressler said.

Paisley said even when he became Auxiliary Bishop of Scranton, Dougherty always worked to avoid attention and extravagant things.

“His big fancy car was a 1976 AMC Hornet and it literally, this is not an exaggeration, had a hole in the floor that you could see right down into the ground. Larry and I called it the ‘Flintstone Mobile’ because it was a Fred Flintstone kind of thing,” Paisley said.

Deacon Ed Kelly, Parish Life Coordinator of Saint Mary Parish, Waymart, became close

with Bishop Dougherty while previously serving with him at Christ the King Parish in Archbald.

“Maybe it's not a coincidence that he died in Cycle C in our Gospel, the Gospel of Luke, because the Gospel of Luke is known as the Gospel of Prayer,” Deacon Kelly said.

Kelly said he would often find Bishop Dougherty alone in prayer.

“Witnessing with my own eyes, seeing him sit before the tabernacle, or visit one of the churches and sit there in silence, and letting the Lord speak to him, that's one thing I'm going to take with me from his legacy,” he added.

### ***LOVE OF CONFIRMATION***

As an Auxiliary Bishop, Dougherty would often travel around the Diocese of Scranton celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation with young adults in parishes.

Dougherty's fellow clergy

say it was something he enjoyed.

“All of the priests know that he spoke at length at Confirmations. We would think, these kids are never going to pay any attention,” Paisley joked.

It is usually the opposite – as Bishop Dougherty would be engaging and relatable.

“They were riveted to every word that he said. He would get right down there with them. His message was very powerful and very direct. They loved it. It stayed with them for years and years afterward. That is how much he loved the young people,” Paisley said.

“I always found it so amazing how he really tried to engage them. He would get down on his knees and be eyeball to eyeball with the confirmation candidates,” Tressler added. “He made them feel so much at home. He gave them a sense of hope and a sense of peace.”

### ***UNEXPECTED HUMOR***

While all of Bishop Dougherty's clergy colleagues admit he had a reputation of being stern and serious, they all say he had a great sense of humor.

“He had this extraordinary poignant dry wit and it would come out a lot,” Kelly said.

Monsignor Tressler said Dougherty's humor often came out when he would not heed his advice.

“He'd stand at the wall and talk to the wall. He would say, ‘I get a better response out of this wall than out of you!’” Tressler recalled lovingly. “He also asked me if I was a piano player but he knew I had no musical ability. He said, ‘You know what keys to play to get a reaction out of me.’”

“I'll never forget one night, in the middle of the winter, it

was freezing cold outside, he said, come on we have to go somewhere. I got in the car with him and he scraped open a little, tiny opening. We went to the parking lot behind the school and he did donuts in the parking lot as I was holding on for dear life. I will never forget that. I couldn't wait to get out of the car but I enjoyed every minute of it as well. That is the kind of humor that he had, that hardly anyone ever saw,” Paisley explained.

### ***A LOVING EXAMPLE***

While all of Dougherty's fellow clergymen admit he would not like all the attention that his funeral brought, they say it is all well deserved.

“Monsignor Dougherty was the best pastor we could have possibly had,” Paisley said. “He taught by example. He didn't tell us what to do, he didn't force us to do anything, he taught by showing us what a good and holy priest would be.”

“He was able to take the Church to the sick and dying and he was able to bring people to the Church,” Kelly explained. “Bishop Dougherty understood, that not only was he bringing consolation through the Eucharist to the sick, he was also being consoled.”

“He believed priesthood is a lifestyle, it's not a job, it's something that we're called to be priests 24 hours a day and he demonstrated that right up until the end of his life,” Tressler added. “I'll be eternally grateful to Almighty God for having him in my life and his example. His compassion, his humility, his ability to give direction without being in anyway hurtful or critical. He just was a man who was rooted in his prayer life and he exuded that in everything that he did.”



# John Dougherty: Bishop and Theologian

By: J. Brian Benestad, Ph.D.  
Special Guest Columnist for *The Catholic Light*

While a theology professor at The University of Scranton (1976-2013), I regularly sent my writings to Bishop John M. Dougherty hoping for his comments. I was also privileged to hear many of the bishop's homilies, all of which he wrote out in longhand on half sheets of paper; many of them I hope to see published.

In this article, I would like to highlight the depth of his theological understanding as revealed in two homilies.

A familiar definition of theology is faith seeking understanding. This means that theology does not discover its subject matter by itself, but rather receives it from revelation, that is, from the Bible, or Scripture and Tradition. The theologian, then, rationally reflects upon the contents of revelation seeking to understand "their inner coherence and intelligibility." To do his work well, a theologian needs an ever-growing understanding of his faith, conversion or a deepening practice of that faith, as well as a philosophical mind.

Bishop Dougherty had all three.

In a homily on anger, the bishop demonstrates, not only keen wit and practical sense, but also a profound grasp of the sins caused by anger. "Our Lord is very serious about our need to avoid anger. It can involve missing out on heaven," he says. "There are three angers: (1) the blow up-cut off in traffic-cheated-insulted-it is over as quickly as it happens and best forgotten after an act of contrition type - little guilt, if any; (2) the built-up type. One works at it almost hoping it will energize one to get even. This is very seriously wrong. (3) The held-on-to type. This too is very serious. One won't let go and keeps it fresh with words like "raka" (imbecile or blockhead) and "you fool." These two types - built-up and held-on-to - we must get rid of. Here is how: before the Blessed Sacrament or the crucifix say 'God at this moment you are making me from nothing, loving me with a love stronger than death and asking me for patience, not anger, with a passing cross only in order to get me to heaven. By your grace, it is yours, Lord. Amen.'"

It takes but a moment to see oneself in at least one of the three types.

In a long homily delivered Holy Thursday 2007, Bishop Dougherty finds an "amazing observation" in the work of Pope Benedict XVI, thinking of himself as a priest at the altar. "Jesus Christ alone can say, 'This is my Body ... This is my Blood.' The mystery of the priesthood lies in the fact that we, miserable human beings, by virtue of the sacrament of Holy Orders, can speak with His "I"; we can speak in the person of Christ. At the center of the sacrament of Holy Orders is the imposition of hands with which Jesus took possession of me, saying to me: 'You belong to me, you are under the protection of another heart. Stay in my hands and give me yours. The Lord has laid his hands upon us and now he wants our hands, so that they may become His own in the world.'"

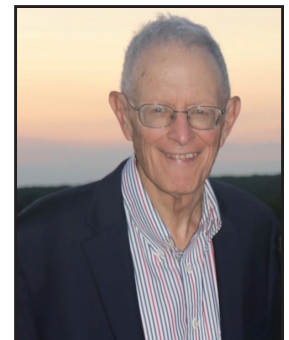
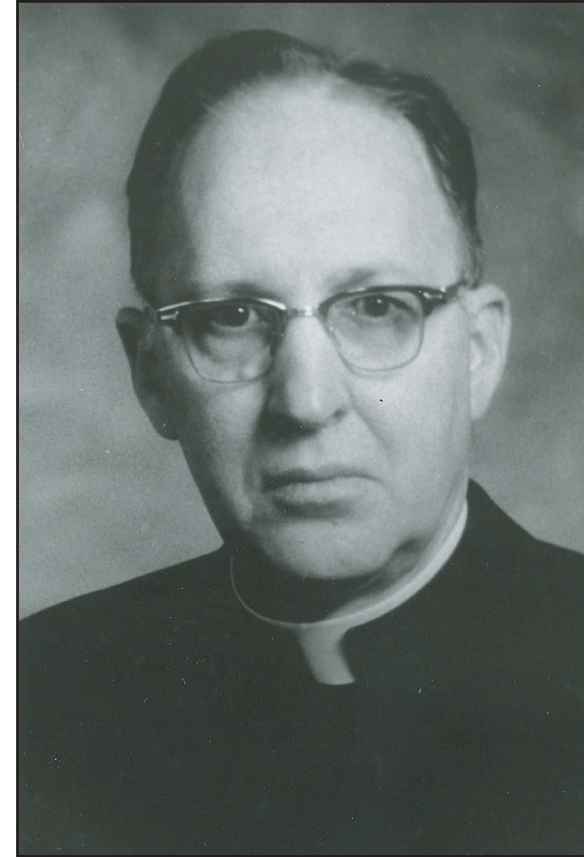
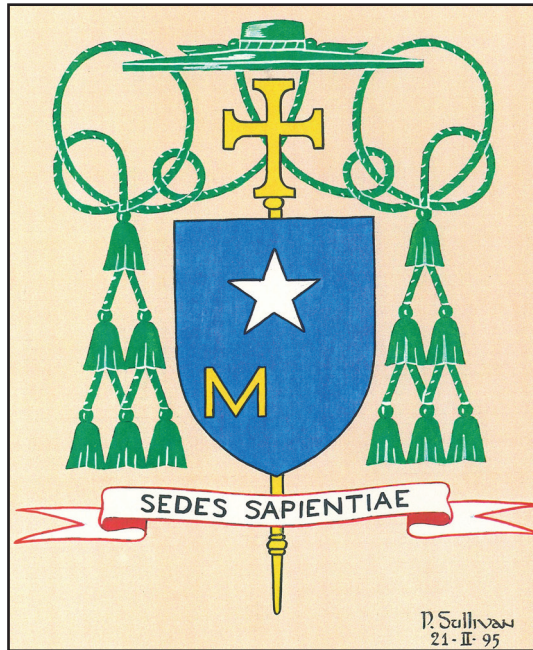
The depth of Christ's love for us cannot be explained simply in words. "Only his action of washing feet can intimate the depth of his giving Himself for us and to us and of the love contained in this giving. When Peter is reluctant to accept the washing of his feet by Jesus, he says to Peter, "Unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with me.' Why? Because only by accepting his love for us, believing it and trusting it, will we be equipped to use our hands, to live our lives, in accord with the effect of the Holy Eucharist: 'ever closer union with God and with each other, so that finally God may be all in all.'"

Bishop Dougherty's conclusion is dramatic: "May our hands not be idle but ever busy in serving one another for we are in flight and time is limited."

Quoting Saint Teresa of Avila, he reinforces the moral teaching.

"Christ has no body on earth but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours. You are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ must look out on the world. You are the feet with which He is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which He is to bless His people ... 'If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.' Amen." Saint Teresa was named a Doctor of the Church by Pope Paul VI in 1970.

Those who attended the 6:30 a.m. Daily Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton came to count on the wit and wisdom of this bishop-theologian.



J. Brian Benestad, Ph.D.  
Professor of Theology Emeritus  
Assumption College  
Worcester, Mass.



# “Let them come to Cresco!”

## Bishop says turnout for Dedication Mass shows naysayers that faith still matters

CRESKO – As parishioner Cheryl Lynott handed over the keys of the new Most Holy Trinity Church to the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, she acknowledged the significance of the moment.

“Although our road has been long and our journey rout with obstacles, we come today realizing our dream. We began as several mission churches and three distinct parishes, ultimately merging to become known as Most Holy Trinity Parish,” Lynott said. “Our congregation’s resiliency was demonstrated time and time again when we moved from one temporary worship space to another but our faith remained steadfast.”

Immediately following the presentation of the keys to the bishop, that faith was on display as at least 500 people raised their voices, singing “Let the King of Glory come.” That song began the Dedication Mass on Sunday, May 15, 2022.

“What a glorious day that we are privileged to experience in praise of God and with gratitude for all that God has done in our lives and in this wonderful parish community of Most Holy Trinity,” Bishop Bambera said. “This magnificent dwelling place for God is a tribute to all of you who, in so many and different ways, have served to build not merely this



**More than 500 people filled the new Most Holy Trinity Church in Cresco for a Dedication Mass on Sunday, May 15, 2022. The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant and homilist. (Photo/Eric Deabill)**



**Rev. Brian J.W. Clarke, pastor, Most Holy Trinity Parish, opens the door of the new church before the processional hymn.**

worship site – but the Church – the People of God.”

The new church for Most Holy Trinity Parish is located in the former gymnasium/

auditorium of the now-closed Monsignor McHugh School located on Route 390 in Paradise Township.

During his homily, Bishop Bambera noted that a Mass of Dedication for a new church does not take place often. In fact, the bishop noted it is only the second he has celebrated since becoming shepherd of the Diocese of Scranton.

Using the Scriptures, including the First Reading from the Book of Nehemiah, which is required for a church dedication Mass, Bishop Bambera spoke to the reality of the moment.

“Look at the journey that brought you from three distinct communities – Saint Mary of the Mount, Saint Ann and Saint Bernadette – and countless other parishes to this great day and this sacred space,” Bishop Bambera noted. “Many of you have said to me today and in recent months, ‘Finally, our dream of a church is realized.’ It has been realized and it is beautiful to behold, isn’t it? But, my brothers and sisters, this dream has become a reality only because from

your earliest days as Most Holy Trinity Parish, you have first been committed to building CHURCH – not a building – but the people that God has called you to be!”

To further illustrate his point, the bishop quoted Saint John Paul II, who said, a parish is not just a structure but rather “the family of God, a fellowship afire with a unifying spirit, a familial and welcoming home, the community of the faithful and the place where the mystery of the Church is present and at work.”

As he ended his homily, the bishop reminded all those present that their journey of faith is not over with the dedication of their new building.

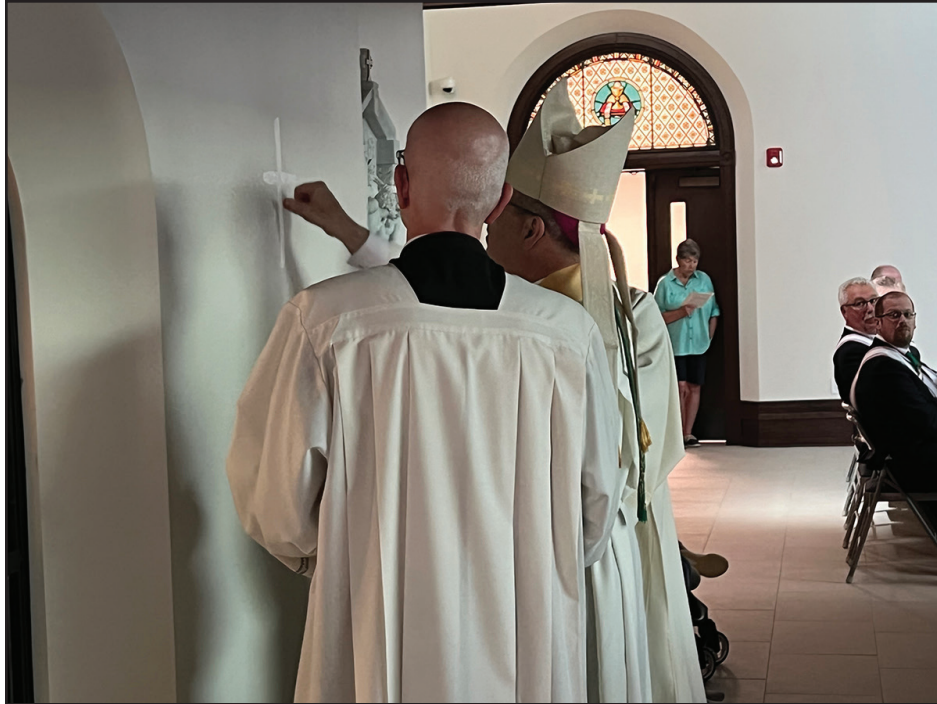
“While we have much for which to be grateful this day, this church building will only shine forth as a vibrant sign of love and hope to all if you, who have given it life, continue to live your faith in service of the Gospel of Jesus,” the bishop challenged them.

*Continued on Page 11*



**The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, begins the Introductory Rites of the Dedication Mass outside the main body of the new church.**





**After praying the Prayer of Dedication, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, assisted by Monsignor Dale R. Rupert, Master of Ceremonies for the Dedication Mass, anointed the walls of the new Most Holy Trinity Church in Cresco.**

*Continued from Page 10*

Following his homily, the bishop prayed the ‘Prayer of Dedication.’ He also anointed and incensed the altar and walls of the church, preparing the building for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

For many parishioners, the Dedication Mass was the first time they have seen the new worship space.

“It’s beautiful. It’s stunning. It’s amazing to see how far it has come and how much work has been done. It’s really breathtaking. It’s beautiful,” parishioner Kelly Ann Devita of Tobyhanna Township said. “This is something that we can all be proud of. So many people had a piece in bringing this all together and we are all proud to be here and be a part of it.”

“This is the day the Lord has made and we are rejoicing and we are truly glad,” parishioner Jeannine Lotito of Tobyhanna added, quoting scripture. “Everybody gave their best, whatever their talent was, and I’m just excited that everybody did what they could.”

Michael Trombetta of Easton grew up across the street from the Most Holy Trinity school complex and graduated from what was then Pocono Central Catholic High School in 1979. As he reminisced about all of the events that had taken place in the

same gym decades ago, he was amazed at the transformation.

“This was our second home. We did everything in here. We graduated from this space and now look at it, it’s our new church and it’s unbelievable and I can’t thank everybody enough, from the bishop and everybody in the diocese who worked hard to put it together to all the local people,” Trombetta said. “It is glorious!”

Many of the items in the new church – including the pews, stained glass windows, presider’s chair, marble Stations of the Cross and more – were all taken from the old church buildings that closed.

At the conclusion of Mass, Father Brian J.W. Clarke, pastor, Most Holy Trinity Parish, acknowledged all of the people who made the renovation project and liturgy possible. He echoed the words of the bishop, saying the “real story” here isn’t the building but the people of the parish. He especially highlighted the work of the Most Holy Trinity Parish Building and Grounds Committee.

“So many of you volunteering countless hours, day in and day out, it’s rare to see that kind of dedication,” Father Clarke said.

As the Mass ended – the most poignant words came from Bishop Bambera – who continued to be visibly struck by the nature



**Top: A standing room only crowd of more than 500 people attended the Dedication.**

**Middle Left: The altar and sanctuary area of the new Most Holy Trinity Parish. This area was once the former gymnasium/ auditorium of Monsignor McHugh School.**

**Middle Right: The Baptismal Font at the new church.**

**Left: A parishioner takes a photo during the Dedication Mass on May 15, 2022.**

of the crowd and their faith-filled witness.

“For all the naysayers in our world, who say that faith doesn’t matter anymore, for all those who say Catholics or Christians are just grasping at straws, let them come to Cresco and let them look at this community of faith. What a blessing!” the bishop boasted.

Following the Dedication Mass, parishioners lingered throughout the new

church taking photographs. They also enjoyed food and fellowship in the Narthex and hallways of the building.

Most Holy Trinity has daily Mass each weekday at 8 a.m. It also has a Spanish Mass on Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. The parish’s weekend Mass schedule includes a 4 p.m. Vigil Mass on Saturday and Masses at 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and Noon on Sunday. The Noon Mass is celebrated in Spanish.



# Peckville parish marks 75 years with Jubilee Mass and reception

PECKVILLE — The COVID-19 pandemic may have delayed the party but there was no way it was going to cancel the celebration.

On April 23, 2022, one year after it was originally scheduled to take place, hundreds of people gathered at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Peckville to celebrate the parish's 75th anniversary.

The celebration began with a Jubilee Mass celebrated by the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, and continued well into the night with a dinner at Fiorelli Family Catering.

"What a great, great joy this is for me to join with all of you who are a part of this great community here at Sacred Heart in Peckville to celebrate 75 years of life, love, ministry and service, proclaiming the Gospel and the Good News of Jesus Christ," Bishop Bambera said as he welcomed the faithful to Mass. "What a blessing this is for all of us."

Father Andrew Kurovsky, pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish since 2017, delivered the homily.

"For 75 years, you have touched the presence of Jesus



**Father Andrew Kurovsky, pastor, Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, delivers the homily during the parish's 75th Anniversary Jubilee Mass on April 23, 2022. The principal celebrant for the liturgy was the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton.**

Christ in our midst by the way that you have reached out to one another in your woundedness, in your hurt and in your pain," Father Kurovsky said. "For 75 years, you have recognized the presence of a Resurrected Christ right here in our midst and that is what we celebrate today."

The Mass took place on the Second Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday, which always includes the Gospel message of 'Doubting Thomas,' who had a hard time believing Jesus is alive after the Resurrection without touching his wounds.

Father Kurovsky used the popular refrain from Diana Ross' song, "Reach Out And Touch"

(Somebody's Hand), to connect the Gospel message to the work being done by people in the parish on a daily basis.

"In the last 37 years, I've never experienced a community of faith, a group of people more filled with the Holy Spirit and your willingness to continue to build up God's kingdom right here in our own little corner of the world," Father added.

Sacred Heart of Jesus began as a mission church of Saint Mary Assumption Parish in Jessup. The original church, built on Main Street in Peckville in 1942, was served by Rev. William Boyd, who acted as administrator, and by the assistant pastors of Saint

Mary's until 1946.

With the appointment of Rev. Joseph Gilbride, Sacred Heart of Jesus became a parish in its own right on April 24, 1946.

Following the 75th Jubilee Mass, 341 people attended the reception at Fiorelli's, in which Mark and Lisa DeLeo served as chairpersons.

"It was really a moving and wonderful experience," Mark DeLeo said. "It was such a wonderful sense of fellowship. Our parish has grown tremendously since Father Andy is there."

Like the Jubilee Mass, the reception was originally supposed to take place in 2021 – but was

also delayed because of the pandemic. The DeLeos believe it actually made the event more meaningful.

"People were ready to get out, people were ready to see each other, to socialize," Lisa DeLeo explained. "It was a long time coming but it was worth every extra hour and the extra year that we put into it."

Organizers say tickets for the reception sold out after only two weekends of offering them after Masses.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, where the motto is '*The Round Church...Where There's Room for Everyone*,' has been growing in population over the last five years. The parish reports an increase of approximately 500 families.

The most recent parish census shows 1,380 registered households and more than 3,000 parishioners. The parish currently has more than 250 students in its faith formation program.

As he thanked everyone for the role they play in helping the parish grow, Father Kurovsky emphasized, "Good things happen in churches where the Holy Spirit is alive!"

## Celebration to mark 100 years of worship for Wilkes-Barre church



**Saint Patrick Church, the primary worship site of Saint Andrew Parish, will celebrate its 100th anniversary on June 4, 2022.**

WILKES-BARRE — June 4 is going to be a big day of celebration for Saint Andrew Parish, as its primary worship site, Saint Patrick Church on Parrish Street, will mark a century of service to the community.

The public is invited to the church's 4 p.m. Mass and to enjoy a coffee-and-dessert reception following the liturgy. The principal celebrant for the special liturgy will be Rev. Gerald W. Shantillo, S.T.L., V.G., Vicar General of the Diocese of Scranton and Moderator of the Curia.

"We have invited all of the surviving former pastors to be here with us. Most have said yes," Deacon Bill Behm, Parish Life Coordinator of Saint Andrew Parish, said.

Church officials only recently realized the century mark was approaching for Saint Patrick Church, thanks to the Times Leader newspaper, and columnist Tom Mooney, who discovered the first Mass actually took place in the basement area of the church, even though construction was not complete on the building itself.

"Our cornerstone was laid in 1929 and the church was

dedicated in 1930 so I figured we had years before we had to worry about a major anniversary," Behm said. "They dug the basement here before the church and put a roof over the basement. That is where they had Mass from 1922 on and they built the church around that structure."

Since learning of the anniversary, parish staff have been digging through archives.

"We have been through the attic of the rectory, the third floor, we have a lot of pictures. We have pictures of them constructing the main church, what we now call the Upper Church, but we had no

idea when they were building the Upper Church, there was already a functioning Lower Church," Behm said.

Behm, whose grandparents and parents both attended the church, believes the Anniversary Mass will be a nice opportunity for people to realize the history of their building.

"It is a way of touching the history so you realize that it is a neighborhood church, but the neighborhood has expanded over the years," he said. "It was given to us from those who came before us and it is our gift to those coming after us."



# Diaconate Ordination planned for May 28

SCRANTON—Michael Boris, a native of Dallas, will be ordained a deacon for the Diocese of Scranton by the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, on Saturday, May 28, 2022, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter. The ordination Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m.

The public is invited to attend the Ordination Mass, which is a very important event in the life of the Diocese. The Mass will be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website and across all social media platforms.

Boris will be ordained for service as a transitional deacon, the ordination serving as the last major step before ordination to the priesthood, which typically occurs a year later after additional pastoral, liturgical and educational preparation.

Once ordained as a deacon, Boris will assist the bishop and his priests in ministries of the Word, Liturgy and Charity. This includes proclaiming the Gospel, leading intercessions, preaching, preparing the altar, celebrating baptisms, leading the faithful in prayer, distributing holy communion, witnessing marriages and conducting wake and funeral services. Deacons also identify the needs of poor and underserved, and shepherd the Church's resources to meet those needs.

Boris, 26, is the son of Joseph and Susan Boris. He is a graduate of Holy Redeemer High School and King's College where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Theology and Philosophy. Boris entered Saint Mary's Seminary and University in the fall of 2018. In 2019, he served a summer assignment in the parish communities of Holy Cross Parish, Olyphant, and Blessed Sacrament Parish, Throop. Boris also served a pastoral year (2020-2021) in the parish communities of Saint Rose of Lima Parish and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, both in Carbondale.

"It is hard to believe that it is time to make the official and full commitment but

I have experienced such grace in prayer over the past few months and a lot of peace, a sense that God has been journeying with me the whole time," Boris said when discussing his upcoming ordination with *The Catholic Light*.

While admitting a little nervousness and anxiousness, Boris feels spiritually ready for this next step.

"I think God made me ready over the past year," he said.

Boris said he never had any serious consideration about the priesthood until he was a senior in high school and Father Don Williams, Vocations Director for the Diocese of Scranton, met with potential candidates recommended by teachers.

Following that conversation, Boris began attending more discernment events, followed by a retreat and ultimately made the decision to enter seminary.

"Midway through high school, I was convinced I was going to work with cars in some way, either a mechanical engineer or race car driver," Boris explained. "But it felt like

I was forcing that interest. I wasn't asking God what he wanted me to do. I really didn't know what I wanted to do and that is when Father Don showed up at the school. It was good timing on God's part!"

Boris said his experience in seminary has been very formational and helped him to "listen to God."

"The seminary provides a really good environment for praying and discerning because you're with a bunch of brothers who are all discerning the same questions," he said.

During his time in seminary, Boris also developed a love of playing the drums. He discovered his new passion almost accidentally when he heard someone talking about a music room on campus.

"One day, I decided to watch a YouTube video about how to play your first drum beat and it was kind of contagious once you get the hang of it," he said. "Then you want to try something new and the next thing you know you're playing a lot."



**Michael Boris**

## APPOINTMENTS

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

**Reverend Michael E. Finn**, from Pastor, Saint Barbara Parish, Exeter, to Pastor Emeritus, Saint Barbara Parish, Exeter, effective May 1, 2022.

**Monsignor John J. Sempa**, to Administrator *pro tem*, Saint Barbara Parish, Exeter, effective May 1, 2022. Monsignor will remain Pastor, Corpus Christi Parish, West Pittston.



## BISHOP BAMBERA'S SCHEDULE

- May 19** - Confirmation for Saint Luke Parish  
Stroudsburg, 5:00 p.m.
- May 22** - King's College Commencement  
Mohegan Sun Arena, Wilkes-Barre Township, 2:00 p.m.
- May 23** - Confirmation for Our Lady of Victory Parish  
Tannersville, 5:00 p.m.
- May 24** - Confirmation for St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, St. Ignatius Parish and Holy Family Parish held in Kingston, 5:00 p.m.
- May 25** - Confirmation for Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Saint Mary of the Lake Parish, Our Lady of the Abingtons and Saint Patrick Parish, held in Tunkhannock, 5:00 p.m.
- May 28** - Transitional Diaconate Ordination Mass  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.
- June 1** - Holy Redeemer High School Graduation  
Kirby Center, Wilkes-Barre, 7:00 p.m.
- June 2** - Saint John Neumann High School Graduation  
Saint Boniface Church, Williamsport, 7:00 p.m.
- June 3** - Holy Cross High School Graduation  
Marywood University, 7:00 p.m.
- June 4** - Notre Dame High School Graduation  
Notre Dame High School, East Stroudsburg, 11:00 a.m.
- June 5** - Mass and Afternoon of Listening for Synod on Synodality  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:15 p.m.
- June 7** - Catechist Lay Ministry Award Commissioning & Mass  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 7:00 p.m.
- June 9** - Mass for Priest Jubilarians  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.
- June 11** - Mass for Catholic Women's Conference  
Marywood University, 8:30 a.m.
- June 11-17** - USCCB June 2022 Special Assembly  
San Diego, California



# Closing Mass celebrated for Saint Cecilia Church in Exeter

EXETER — As dozens of parishioners came together to celebrate the closing Mass for Saint Cecilia Church on April 24, 2022, the Rev. Michael E. Finn reminded them that the Church is much more than just a building.

“We belong to a Church that is universal,” he said. “We are part of a Body, the Body of Christ, and no one can take away from that.”

The closing Mass was a beautiful and fitting tribute to the Exeter church that served the community for 122 years.

“A total of 4,392 people were baptized in this church, or the previous church,” Father Finn said during his homily as he reflected on the history of Saint Cecilia’s.

The parish was founded on Nov. 17, 1900. It was formally dedicated on Sept. 29, 1901. Father Patrick F. Quinnan served as the first pastor. The church was rebuilt in the 1970s after a massive fire and became part of Saint Barbara Parish in 2008.

Father Finn is the sixteenth pastor or administrator to serve Saint Cecilia Church.

“This is a bittersweet moment. It’s always hard because we’ve had these experiences, these wonderful things have taken place, this was the church, the context in which I was raised, but now I’m called to belong to another community. The communities are all the same. They’re all Christians. We’re all the descendants of the Apostles that met in Jerusalem in that Upper Room,” he added.

Following the final Mass, Father Finn and Deacon Walter Janoski led the closing ritual for the church, which involved processing from the baptismal font, to the cross of the church, the Saint Cecilia statue, the ambo and finally the altar. At each place, the faithful raised their voices in song and the clergymen offered prayers.

At the church’s altar, the final stop, Deacon Janoski reminded



**Dozens of people attended the closing Mass for Saint Cecilia Church in Exeter on Sunday, April 24, 2022. (Photos/Eric Deabill)**

everyone that the altar is where Jesus allows us to join Him in the holy and perfect sacrifice of thanksgiving to God.

“You have handed over your life to us through this holy sacrament as we worshipped you at Sunday Mass, special feast days, Confirmations and First Communions, celebrations of the Sacrament of Marriage and anniversaries and funerals celebrated here in hope. You have quietly waited for us, as you remained present in the tabernacle to speak to us, and to receive our humble prayers and requests,” he said.

The final act of the ceremony involved parishioner Dolores Seman, 91, who locked the front door of the church. When asked to describe what it meant to be asked to perform that important act, she said it was a “special privilege.”

Following the Mass and the closing ritual, parishioners mingled outside the building with one another and took photographs.

“We were married here in 1990,” Mary Ellen Berry of Wyoming said. “We loved this church. We sat in our old pew today where we always sat.”



**Parishioner Dolores Seman, 91, with the help of Rev. Michael E. Finn, locks the door of Saint Cecilia Church following the closing Mass.**

Berry, who has been a parishioner at Saint Cecilia Church for 45 years echoed the words of Father Finn that a Church is its people, not the building.

“It has always been that way,” she said. She said the closing Mass and rituals were very fitting and will always have photographs to look back on when she gets nostalgic.

“We had beautiful wedding photos taken so we have some good views of the church, between my brother’s video and the professional photography that we had done. We still have the memories of the church in our album,” she explained.

The closure of Saint Cecilia Church finalizes a consolidation process that has been more than

a decade in the making. It was first recommended during the “Called to Holiness and Mission” initiative. In recent years, the parish community of Saint Cecilia Church continued to diminish in size. Only one Sunday morning Mass was held in the church and sustaining operational costs would negatively impact the finances of Saint Barbara Parish.

While saying the church closure is bittersweet, Bernardine Regis of West Wyoming understands.

“You don’t see children coming to the church anymore. They have other things to do. We were always taught that you always went to church,” she explained.

Just days after the closing Mass, Father Finn also retired,

taking on a new role of Pastor Emeritus, after many years of faithful service. As a result, Saint Barbara Parish entered into a new linkage with Corpus Christi Parish in West Pittston. The two parishes will share one pastor and have three worship sites: Saint Anthony Church in Exeter, Immaculate Conception Church in West Pittston and Church of the Holy Redeemer in Harding.

“Today we’ll be saying officially goodbye to Saint Cecilia’s and thank you for the 122 years of witness to the faith,” Father Finn said at the end of his homily. “May God give us the grace that we may continue and go on to give many more years to witness to the faith and allow his spirit to work in each and every one of us.”

## *Vision 2030 News Updates*

On May 1, 2022, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, announced that the parish communities of Holy Family, Luzerne, and Saint Ignatius Loyola, Kingston, would be brought together in a linkage, with a single Pastor, in July. The change comes after the current administrator of Holy Family Parish learned he will be leaving for a new ministry assignment within the Congregation of the Holy Cross and the Congregation is unable to provide another priest who could serve at Holy Family Parish.



# Celebrating the Easter season

The proclamation of Easter does not end with Easter Sunday: That is only the beginning! The Easter season, known as Eastertide, is celebrated for 50 days. It culminates with the celebration of Jesus's ascension into heaven, and Pentecost, which marks the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles and the birthday of the Church. The Solemnity of the Lord is Thursday, May 26, and Pentecost will be celebrated Sunday, June 5, 2022.

The word "Easter" comes from Old English, meaning the "East." The sun, which rises in the East, "bringing light, warmth and hope, is a symbol for the Christian of the rising Christ, who is the true light of the world." The greatest of all liturgical seasons, Easter is a time to rest in "the joy of glorified life and victory over death, expressed most fully in the great resounding cry of the Christian: Alleluia!" (Photos/Mike Melisky)

## Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper - April 14, 2022

"In John's Gospel, Jesus stands in the splendor of the Passover and communicates a continuation of God's plan, the fullness of God's revelation in His very self. How does he best communicate this in Scripture? It is in how he serves others, isn't it? Saint Paul reminds us in Corinthians that Jesus said, 'This is my body, this is my blood,' at the core of this mystery - food for the journey - is service. Jesus gives us his very self as nourishment so that we can follow and serve our neighbor by living the Gospel."



Rev. Gerald W. Shantillo, S.T.L.  
Vicar General and Moderator  
of the Curia



## Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord - April 15, 2022

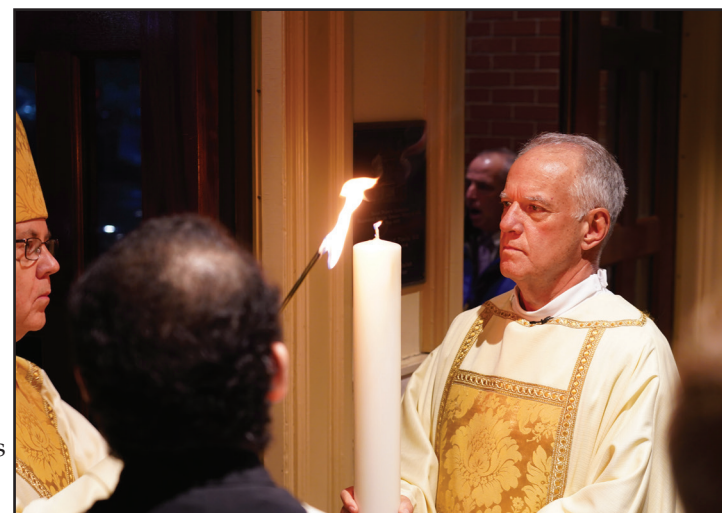
"Jesus comes where we are. That is important for us to remember on this Good Friday, that Jesus doesn't wait for us to be some place else, he comes to where we are, whatever is going on in our life, that is the true message of the Cross today. As we think about our lives, there are many times when we things go wrong - perhaps a bruised ego, perhaps a bruised knee, perhaps we cut ourselves or we stub our toe - those are small things. There are also, of course, much greater miseries that come into our lives. When we think about them, we very often want to pray for ourselves but we are reminded that we are to offer those up with Christ on the Cross."

Rev. John V. Polednak, V.E.  
Vicar for Clergy

## Easter - April 17, 2022

"The gift of Easter faith and the hope it brings, brothers and sisters, is nurtured not by an empty tomb that we've never seen but by countless numbers of encounters with the life and love of Jesus that we have all experienced. Such encounters are found in our families in the day-to-day blessings that we don't even recognize but are there. They are found in our service of the most vulnerable in our midst - the sick, the poor and the elderly. They are found in the rubble of war. And they are deepened through our experience of the sacramental life of the Church.

"A year ago, Pope Francis proclaimed these words that are even more relevant to our lives today. 'If on this night you are experiencing an hour of darkness, a day that has not yet dawned, a light dimmed or a dream shattered, go, open your heart with amazement to the message of Easter: Do not be afraid, he has risen! ... Your expectations will not remain unfulfilled, your tears will be dried, your fears will be replaced by hope. For the Lord always goes ahead of you, he always walks before you. With him, life always begins anew.'"





# 'Small groups' making 'big difference' in Poconos parish

EAST STROUDSBURG – In a big parish, sometimes it is better to go small.

That is the lesson that the ministry team at the Church of Saint John is learning as they recently launched a pilot program known as “Small Groups.”

At the beginning of Lent, the parish began offering parishioners the opportunity to participate in small group discussions about their faith, spiritual growth and real life experiences.

“It is the power of sharing testimony and sharing your faith and making those connections matter,” Kathy Fisher, Small Groups Leader, said.

Fisher helps to coordinate a team of facilitators who run 11 different small group meetings each week. Participants range in age from people in their 20s to mid-80s.

“I believe that it has been inspiring, having other members of the group speak about their day to day struggles, faith sharing and how God plays a role in helping them through their struggles or questions,” Leslie Pettenati said.

Pettenati facilitates a small group of men and women that meets on Monday afternoon. Having moved to the Poconos only three years ago, she only knew one of the people who was initially in her group.

“So many people are hungry and thirsty to have connections and know more. The small groups are a safe space where everything you say is kept confidential and respected,” she added. “Everyone can speak freely and without judgment. It is a safe space to say, ‘I’m struggling with this or I have questions about that.’”

Reverend Gregory A. Reichlen, pastor, Church of Saint John, said the “Small Groups”



**Dozens of people came together on April 21, 2022, at the Church of Saint John in East Stroudsburg to celebrate the success of the ‘Small Groups’ program launched by the parish. More than 115 parishioners signed up to participate in small group discussions about their faith, spiritual growth and life experiences.**

initiative is part of the REBUILT network that consists of parishes all around the country that are striving to apply certain strategic priorities and ideas in their community.

“The small group becomes a school of discipleship, where people are learning from each other and their own life experiences and that is where the spiritual growth is happening. People who didn’t know each other previously are connecting, sharing, becoming vulnerable, opening up and trusting each other,” Father Reichlen said. “We have seen the immediate, very positive impact of all of this.”

As the parish was developing its “Small Groups” program, organizers said they would have been happy to have 50 people participate. Instead, more than 115 signed up.

“We were amazed,” Father Reichlen admitted.

“I was expecting a big response,” Fisher said. “Coming out of COVID, people need more opportunities to connect with each other than ever so I knew it was going to be big.”

Each week, the “Small Groups” conversation is rooted

in the previous weekend homily given by Father Reichlen. Questions are even included in each weekend bulletin to get participants thinking ahead.

“We are all called to be lifelong learners of the faith. It’s just a continual learning process and that is the beauty of it, learning from each other,” Pettenati said.

Participants in the “Small Groups” program recently came together for a Potluck dinner at the parish. They shared their thoughts on the program so far.

“It gives me so much hope about the Catholic Church,” Pettenati said following the first nine weeks of the program. “To me, it is inspiring. People take it very seriously when they’re in the group.”

Fisher said the power of the “Small Groups” was recently on display when a parishioner who is participating in a group suffered a medical emergency during a weekend Mass. While an EMT quickly attended to the man, all of the other individuals in the man’s group also quickly came to his aid.

“Every single group member was around him, supporting him,”



**Rev. Greg Reichlen, pastor, Church of Saint John, speaks during a celebration of ‘Small Groups’ held on April, 21, 2022.**

## *Divine Mercy celebration in Plains*



**Saint Joseph Oblate Father Paul McDonnell presides at the celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday on the Second Sunday of Easter, April 24, at Saints Peter & Paul Church in Plains. Shown in the background at right is Father John Lambert, pastor of Saints Peter & Paul Parish, who hosted the annual Divine Mercy devotions and Mass in Luzerne County.**

Stay up to date on news across the Diocese of Scranton at  
**dioceseofscranton.org**



# Celebrate generosity and 'vote' Diocese of Scranton on June 3

## All are invited to NEPA Gives Rally and Cause Fair in Scranton

SCRANTON – What do frozen hot chocolate, drones and kindergarten art have in common?

All three – and much more – will be featured at our first-ever First Friday fun rally and cause fair at the Diocesan Pastoral Center from 5 until 8 p.m. on Friday June 3.

Picture a telethon-turned-webathon with lots of in-person engagement. The event will include musical performances, comedy, games and a host of demonstrations, displays, exhibits, prizes and giveaways.

The fun is all part of NEPA Gives, the one-day online giving extravaganza and challenge spearheaded by five of the region's charitable foundations

The Diocese is participating for the third year in a row and hoping once again to top the leaderboards and secure some of the thousands of dollars in bonus prizes.

For 24 hours - from 12:00 a.m. to 11:59:59 p.m. - on June 3, donors may make secure donations to the Diocese through the [nepagives.org](http://nepagives.org) website, which features about 200 other nonprofit organizations.

The cause fair will highlight Catholic schools, Diocesan youth ministry, Saint Francis Kitchen and Saint Francis Commons.

Father Jim Paisley, winner of the Diocese's first-ever Rectory, Set, Cook! Lenten online cookoff fundraiser, will serve as master of ceremonies,

reprising musical favorites from the beloved Cathedral Capers shows of yore.

He'll be joined by his friend and fellow Rectory, Set, Cook! contestant Father Joseph Elston for a duet of "Anything You Can Do I Can Do Better," and he'll perform his original composition "The Bishop and I" (with Bishop Joseph Bambera in attendance to thank donors) at 5:30 p.m.

The cause fair also will include wine and frozen hot chocolate tastings, live painting on site, a pet presentation highlighting the dogs of Saint Francis Commons and presentations by at least four schools:

- All Saints Academy in

Scranton will offer artwork to donors and host a K'Nex exhibit.

- Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green will offer tile artwork to donors.

- Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton will host a creative kindergarten art show and butterfly art show.

- La Salle Academy in Jessup will offer science and STREAM displays plus a live drone demonstration.

Father Paisley's and Father Elston's performances will be livestream on the Diocese of Scranton Facebook page, as will live Leaderboard updates throughout the evening.

Sandra Snyder, Diocesan director of foundation relations and special events and organizer

of the Diocese's NEPA Gives efforts, said the rally/cause fair was planned to both raise money and thank donors.

"Our donors have always shown up in force virtually for this fun day," Snyder said. "We're thrilled we can offer a safe and socially distanced mini-event to allow them this year to actually 'come and see' where their dollars go."

Donations of checks or cash received by June 3 also will count toward the Diocese's tally. They can be mailed to:

Diocese of Scranton  
Attn: Sandra Snyder/NEPA Gives  
300 Wyoming Ave.  
Scranton, PA 18503

### HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- ➔ MINI-REPRISE OF "CATHEDRAL CAPERS" WITH SOLO, DUET AND INTERACTIVE PERFORMANCES BY FATHERS JIM PAISLEY AND JOSEPH ELSTON AND A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE OF THE ORIGINAL COMPOSITION "THE BISHOP AND I," WITH BISHOP BAMBERA PRESENT AT 5:30!
- ➔ WINE TASTINGS AND FROZEN HOT CHOCOLATE TASTINGS PLUS HOT CHOCOLATE PACKET AUTOGRAPHS BY FATHER PAISLEY!
- ➔ AT LEAST TWO ARTISTS PAINTING ON SITE! STUDENT ART + SCIENCE EXHIBITS + LIVE DRONE DEMONSTRATION!
- ➔ STRESS-RELIEF PEPPERMINT CANDY SMASHING WITH THE HAMMER MADE FAMOUS BY "RECTORY, SET, COOK!"
- ➔ GRATITUDE KARAOKE (SING A DUET WITH FR. PAISLEY!)
- ➔ PHOTO "BOOTHs" - SNAP A SELFIE WITH "POPE FRANCIS" OR FR. PAISLEY AND HIS PROPS. POSE-AND-POST TO WIN PRIZES!
- ➔ LIVE HAMILTON COLLECTION 'I LOVE LUCY' DOLL AUCTIONS!
- ➔ PARACHUTE PLAY IN THE GYM, PLUS CATHOLIC PLAYING CARDS, PUZZLE AND BOARD GAME TABLES!
- ➔ GIVEAWAYS AND PRIZES THROUGHOUT EVENING + BEAUTIFUL GRATITUDE COOKIES FOR THE FIRST 100 IN-PERSON DONORS!

## NEPA GIVES RALLY AND CAUSE FAIR!

BRING YOUR FAMILY  
TO MEET OUR FAMILY!

Join us for a fun, fast-paced FIRST FRIDAY evening that showcases the good work of Diocese of Scranton schools and organizations while celebrating the donors who make this work possible.

**WHEN:** 5 until 8 p.m. Friday June 3, 2022

**WHERE:** The Diocesan Pastoral Center (formerly Bishop Hannan High School)  
330 Wyoming Ave., Scranton

**COST:** Free! (All offerings free will.)

**NO RSVP necessary.** Come and go as you wish between 5 and 8! Or watch from home on Facebook Live while donating online:

<https://www.nepagives.org/organizations/diocese-of-scranton> (Donation link live from midnight until 11:59 p.m. June 3!)

**MORE INFO:** Call Sandra Snyder at 570-591-5004 or email [Sandra-Snyder@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:Sandra-Snyder@dioceseofscranton.org)

NEPA  
GIVES



# Leaked draft of Supreme Court opinion indicates overturn of Roe decision

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Supreme Court appears set to overturn its *Roe v. Wade* decision, which legalized abortion for nearly 50 years, according to a leaked initial draft of a court opinion obtained by Politico and published online the evening of May 2.

Just minutes after the leak was published, reactions were fast and furious on social media, and barricades were erected around the Supreme Court. Many people gathered at the court in protest and some, including students from The Catholic University of America, were there to pray the rosary.

The draft opinion, written by Justice Samuel Alito, said *Roe* “was egregiously wrong from the start” and that “*Roe and Casey* must be overruled.” *Casey v. Planned Parenthood* is the 1992 decision that affirmed *Roe*.

Alito’s opinion said the court’s 1973 *Roe* decision had exceptionally weak reasoning “and the decision has had damaging consequences. And far from bringing about a national settlement of the abortion issue, *Roe and Casey* have enflamed debate and deepened division,” he wrote.

He also said abortion policies should be determined on the state level.

Politico’s report says Alito’s opinion is supported by Justices Clarence Thomas, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett and that Justices Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan were working on dissents. It was not clear how Chief Justice John Roberts planned to vote.

The 98-page draft, which includes a 31-page appendix of historical state abortion laws, is an opinion in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* — a case about Mississippi’s ban on abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy with the potential to also overturn *Roe*.

The fact that the opinion was leaked also caused significant reaction, because this is unprecedented in the court’s recent history, especially with such a big case.

A May 3 statement by the Supreme Court verified that the draft opinion reported on “is authentic” but that it “does not represent a decision by the Court or the final position of any member on the issues in the case.”

Roberts, in his own statement,



**Demonstrators in Washington are seen outside the U.S. Supreme Court May 3, 2022, after the leak of a draft majority opinion written by Justice Samuel Alito preparing for a majority of the court to overturn the landmark *Roe v. Wade* abortion rights decision later this year. (CNS photo/Evelyn Hockstein, Reuters)**

emphasized the significance of the leaked document, which he said was a “singular and egregious breach of that trust that is an affront to the Court and the community of public servants who work here.”

He also said that if this action was “intended to undermine the integrity of our operations, it will not succeed. The work of the Court will not be affected in any way.” He said he has directed the Marshal of the Court to launch an investigation into the source of the leak.

Politico acknowledged that

“deliberations on controversial cases have in the past been fluid. Justices can and sometimes do change their votes as draft opinions circulate and major decisions can be subject to multiple drafts and vote-trading, sometimes until just days before a decision is unveiled.”

“The court’s holding will not be final until it is published, likely in the next two months,” it added.

But that does not stop the firestorm of speculation and discussion.

Pro-life groups praised the court’s

potential decision but some also questioned the motivation behind the leak and wondered if the court was being manipulated by this action.

A May 2 tweet by Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund, said her organization would “not be providing comment on an official decision of #scotus possible leak until a decision is officially announced.”

“We also believe that given the leak the court should issue a ruling as soon as possible. This leak was meant to corrupt the process. It is heartbreaking that some abortion advocates will stoop to any level to intimidate the court no matter what the consequences,” she added.

“This leak is an act of desperation from rabid abortion supporters,” said Kristan Hawkins, president, Students for Life, in an email to Catholic News Service. She noted that although she didn’t know if rumors about ending *Roe* were accurate she stressed that “ending *Roe* is the right decision.”

Those on the other side of the issue were similarly taken aback by the leak but also by the potential impact of the decision if it ultimately echoes the draft opinion.

During oral arguments in this case last December, a majority of the justices indicate that they would uphold Mississippi’s abortion ban after 15 weeks of pregnancy, which was struck down by a federal District Court in Mississippi in 2018 and upheld a year later by the New Orleans-based U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit.

A 15-week ban is not a “dramatic departure from viability,” Roberts said.

The point of viability — when a fetus is said to be able to survive on its own — was key to the discussion because the Supreme Court has consistently ruled that states cannot restrict abortion before 24 weeks or when a fetus is said to be able to survive on its own.

In the draft opinion, Alito said *Roe*’s viability distinction “makes no sense.”

If this draft is adopted by the court, it means a ruling in favor of the Mississippi abortion ban. If it goes further to overturn *Roe*, there would be stricter limits to abortion in parts of the U.S., particularly the South and Midwest, with several states set to immediately impose broad abortion bans.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Catholic Church has a long history of service to those who are most vulnerable and remains the largest private provider of social services in the United States. Through the sacrificial efforts of faithful Catholics, the Church serves millions through diocesan ministries and agencies, Catholic hospitals and healthcare systems, immigration clinics, shelters, and Catholic schools and parishes. From religious communities to pregnancy care centers, from refugee resettlement services to foster care and adoption agencies, and from maternity homes to parish-based ministries, the Church consistently bears witness in word and deed to the beauty and dignity of every human life - including both mother and child.



# Bishop issues statement on failed U.S. Senate vote on Women's Health Protection Act

SCRANTON — After the U.S. Senate failed May 11 to advance a “radical” abortion bill, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, issued a statement regarding the Women’s Health Protection Act, or S. 4132.

The legislation did not get the 60 votes needed to end debate on the bill and advance to a vote on the substance of the measure. The vote to end debate was 51-49.

The bill, which passed in the U.S. House in Sept. 2021, also failed in the Senate earlier this year.

Like Bishop Bambera’s statement, the chairmen of two U.S. bishops’ committees urged Congress to “stop pushing abortion as the solution to needs of women and young girls” and “embrace” public policy initiatives that protect “both mother and child.”

## *Bishop Bambera’s Statement*

“Today, I express my deep disappointment in the U.S. Senate’s attempt to advance the cause of a proposed law that would threaten the lives of countless unborn children. Senator Pat Toomey (R-Pa.) voted against the measure and Senator Bob Casey (D-Pa.) voted for the legislation.

“It is particularly distressing that Senator Casey chose to support the most radical, pro-abortion bill ever before Congress. I urge him in the strongest possible terms to take efforts to protect the rights of the unborn.

“The deceptively titled ‘Women’s Health Protection Act,’ (S.4132) would impose abortion on demand nationwide at any stage of pregnancy through federal statute and eliminate pro-life laws at every level of government – including parental notification of scheduled abortions for young women under the age of 18, informed consent, and health and safety protections specific to abortion facilities.

“If adopted, the legislation would compel all Americans to support abortions performed domestically and internationally with their tax dollars. It would also likely force health care providers and professionals to perform, assist in, and/or refer for abortion against their deeply held religious beliefs and rights of conscience. Finally, it would force employers and insurers to cover or pay for abortions and abortifacient drugs in violation of their deeply held religious beliefs and rights of conscience.

“Today, I reaffirm the stance that all human life deserves respect, protection, and dignity from conception to natural death. In addition to defending the rights of the unborn, that means providing for the needs of the poor, the elderly, the disabled, and the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters.”

# Bishops express sorrow, condemn racially motivated shooting in Buffalo

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Several U.S. Catholic bishops expressed sorrow and called out racism and gun violence after reports of a May 14 mass shooting in Buffalo, New York, that left at least three injured and 10 dead – a crime authorities categorized as likely motivated by hatred for Black people.

In a separate shooting at a Presbyterian church in Laguna Woods, California, May 15, a gunman killed one person and wounded five. The suspect in that shooting was targeting members of the Taiwanese community, Orange County officials said.

In one of the most powerful statements condemning the violence that took place when a gunman opened fire on a Saturday afternoon at a supermarket in Buffalo, Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas, said May 15, “Faith compels us to say no to the rotten forces of racism, no to terror, and no to the mortal silencing of Black and brown voices.”

Bishop Mark E. Brennan of Wheeling-Charleston, West Virginia, also spoke up against what has been categorized not just as violence but one colored with chilling racism.

“The tragedy in Buffalo is hardly the first such violence against African Americans,” he wrote shortly after the attack. “From the crossing of the ocean in slave ships, in which many Africans died, to their violent treatment by slave masters to the thousands of lynching of Blacks in the South to more recent killings of unarmed African Americans by police and civilians, even in their churches, this racism has claimed an inordinate number of Black lives simply because they were Black. When and how will it stop?”

Responding to both incidents, Chieko Noguchi, director of public affairs for the U.S. Conference of



**Mourners in Buffalo, N.Y., gather two days after a May 14, 2022, shooting at a Tops supermarket that authorities said was motivated by racism. (CNS photo/Jeffrey T. Barnes, Reuters)**

Catholic Bishops, said the U.S. bishops were calling for an honest dialogue “addressing the persistent evil of racism in our country.”

“The Catholic Church has been a consistent voice for rational yet effective forms of regulation of dangerous weapons, and the USCCB continues to advocate for an end to violence, and for the respect and dignity of all lives,” she said. “We pray for and support the healing of the communities impacted and for all the victims of violence and that Christ’s peace be upon all affected.”

In Buffalo, Erie County District Attorney John J. Flynn said in a May 14 statement that 18-year-old suspect Payton S. Gendron, of Conklin, New York, “who was allegedly wearing tactical gear and armed with an assault weapon” when he entered the supermarket at around 2:30 p.m., has been charged with first-degree murder and remains in custody without bail.

Some of those fatally wounded include a retired Buffalo police officer working security at the store, an 85-year-old grandmother of eight who cared

for her husband and a 72-year-old civil rights advocate.

“My office is working closely with the U.S. Attorney’s Office and our partners in law enforcement into potential terrorism and hate crimes,” Flynn said. “This is an active investigation and additional charges may be filed.”

News reports said authorities have pointed to a 180-page online document the suspect is alleged to have left behind, filled with racist views and details of his plan of attack. There also are reports that he strapped equipment to the top of a tactical helmet he was wearing so he could livestream the shooting. He also allegedly wrote about conspiracy theories, saying some groups are trying to replace white people in the U.S. with people of color.

“The scourge of senseless gun violence that has taken the lives of so many across our nation and changed the lives of countless innocent men, women and children must come to an end,” Bishop Michael W. Fisher of Buffalo said in a statement posted on Twitter shortly after the attack.



Diocese of Scranton

# CATHOLIC

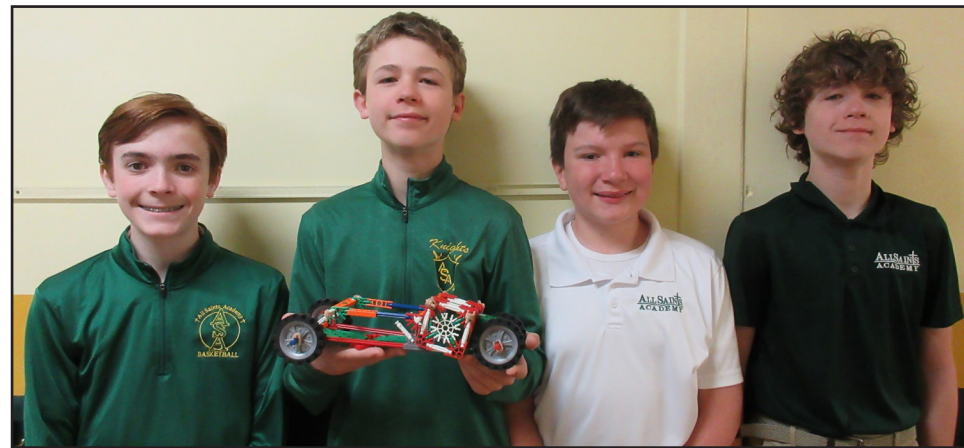
SCHOOL SYSTEM

FAITH • ACADEMICS • SERVICE

*The Diocese of Scranton is committed to educating our students in an environment that is academically excellent and facilitates the development of moral judgment and Christian decision-making. We are proud to share the following successes of our students in the classroom and in their service to others. Each day, our schools are fulfilling their mission of preparing today's youth and young adults to become tomorrow's faith-filled leaders.*



Fourth, fifth and sixth grade students from **Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg** recently entertained state lawmakers and visitors at the State Capitol in Harrisburg. The students sang, danced and played musical instruments before enjoying a tour and lunch.



Students in grades 4–8 at **All Saints Academy in Scranton** recently competed in the K'nex Challenge through the Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit (NEIU).



Three teams from **Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston** competed at the National History Day State Competition at The University of Scranton. The team of Avery Gilroy, Olivia Dutko and Riley Brady finished second in the Performance Category and will compete in the National Competition in June. Pictured are competitors Martina Gilchrist, Natalie Smith, Lindsey Donlick, Hailey Pius, Avery Gilroy, Olivia Dutko and Riley Brady.



The Senior Class at **Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre** recently gathered for one of the last times before graduation during their May Crowning liturgy. Female students served as a court of honor for the Blessed Mother as Our Lady was crowned with flowers.



Kindergarten students at **Holy Family Academy in Hazleton** are learning about the solar system and how the tilting of the Earth influences our seasons.



Ready, Set, Go! Students at **Epiphany School in Sayre** held their 19th Annual Race for Education to raise money for the school's technology and STREAM programs. The students ran a total of 1,690 laps around the school, earning \$15,000 in donations.





Third grade students at **La Salle Academy in Jessup** learn about Divine Mercy Sunday and how to pray the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy.



The National Junior Honor Society at **Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton** held its annual Induction Ceremony. The students were not only recognized for their academic accomplishments, but their dedication to service, character, leadership and citizenship as well.



Students in the Spanish classes at **Saint John Neumann High School in Williamsport** recently celebrated "Cinco de Mayo," a commemoration of Mexican culture and heritage.



Sixth graders at **Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School in Wilkes-Barre** are helping first graders develop reading skills by reading to each other.



Students at **Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg** elected their 2022-2023 Student Council Officers: President Drew Smith, Vice President Romeo Dorosz, Secretary Joseph Nguyen and Treasurer Sean Thompson.



Guitar players from **Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport** shared their talents on the guitar during the Spring Arts Festival.

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Michael Biagi, a sixth grade student at **Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore**, proudly shows his miniature garden, which he created after he and his classmates completed a lesson about China and learning about their famous gardens.

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The Alumni Association of **Holy Cross High School in Dunmore** welcomed their newest members – the Class of 2022 – at a special Alumni Luncheon.



The National Junior Honor Society at **Saint Jude School in Mountain Top** recently inducted new members.



The National Junior Honor Society of **Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green** recently inducted new members at a ceremony at the Church of Saint Gregory.



The eighth grade class at **Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter** honored our Mother Mary at their May Crowning Mass. Madeleine Reynolds was the May Queen, and Gianna Welby was her attendant.



On the recent National Day of Prayer, students from **Saint Agnes School in Towanda** recited prayers on the steps of the Bradford County Courthouse.



# Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen campaign to assist thousands of people

2022 "Sponsor for a Day" campaign is now underway

WILKES-BARRE – "Go to the poor: You will find God."

Those words, written by Saint Vincent de Paul, a tireless servant of the poor and marginalized, come to life each day at the Wilkes-Barre kitchen that bears his name.

Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen, located at 39 East Jackson Street, serves hot, nutritious meals to anyone in the community every day of the week, including weekends and holidays. Besides providing nutrition, the daily meals also provide an opportunity for socialization for many in the community.

In 2021, Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen served 67,616 meals and assisted 4,051 households through the Saint Vincent de Paul Food Pantry.

Generous individuals,

businesses and community groups help to keep the mission of Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen going each day. On

May 2, the Kitchen launched its main fundraiser of the year, "Sponsor for a Day."

For a donation of \$125, people in the community can become a "Sponsor for a Day." Monies raised from the fundraising campaign will continue to provide nourishing meals to everyone who needs one.

Andy Reno, a member of the Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen Advisory Board, is serving as chairperson for this year's event. He recently sent a letter to past

donors and community members looking for them to renew their commitment to the Kitchen. Reno is also now extending the invitation to new donors and people interested in helping those in need.

"Today more than ever, many folks in our community need clothing, shelter and most importantly, food. Food is often something we take for granted," Reno wrote. "We grocery shop, plan meals or make reservations at a restaurant for dinner with family

and friends. Unfortunately, many in our community do not have this luxury. They don't know where or when they'll have their next meal and sadly, so many of those who go hungry are children."

Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton operates Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen. For nearly 40 years, the kitchen has served countless meals to the community. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, the mission of the kitchen continued as meals were served daily in take-out containers until the kitchen's dining room reopened to guests.

Anyone who donates to the

Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen gets their name, or the name of a loved one, prominently displayed on the Sponsor board at the kitchen with recognition also provided on the Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen Facebook page as one of the providers of the meal on that day.

Individuals can select a date that is special to them or their loved one by including the request with the donation.

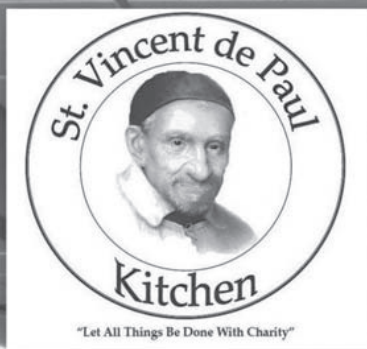
Anyone who would like to become a "Sponsor for a Day" can send a donation to Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen, P.O. Box 1088, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703. While the community is asked to consider becoming a "Sponsor for a Day," any gift that you can make is always greatly appreciated and will help feed those in need.

**Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen served**

**67,616**

**meals to the community in 2021**

## Sponsor for a Day at St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen



Since 1983, St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen at 39 E Jackson St. in Wilkes-Barre has served meals 365 days a year. This is only made possible by your continued generosity and help from our volunteers. Our guests come to us for a delicious hot meal and we treat them like family. You can be a daily Sponsor with your donation of \$125 or more. Our sponsors, or the loved ones who are being remembered or honored with your donation, are listed on our board at the Kitchen and on Facebook each day. You can also request dates that are important to you. Just include any special requests with your donation. Please know that any amount you can donate is greatly appreciated and helps us to feed those in need.

Daily Lunch, 11-12:30    Clothing and Pantry, Tuesday & Thursday - 9-11

*We thank you for helping us to fulfill our mission of Feeding the Hungry*

**Donations can be mailed to SVDP Kitchen, P.O. Box 1088, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703**



## Facing challenges in your marriage? *Retrouvaille Weekend scheduled for Aug. 19-21*



DRUMS – After 17 years of marriage, Phil and Sue Milazzo both began to realize something was missing. Between work, family life and children, both started to realize that they were unhappy.

“It was a culmination of little things that built up,” Phil Milazzo said.

That unhappiness led to Phil’s poor choice of becoming emotionally and physically involved with another woman. It seemed like the couple, who married on Long Island at the age of 19, was headed for separation and divorce.

“It was very shocking for me when I heard that there was someone else,” Sue Milazzo said. “I ran in circles trying to find something to help us, to try and turn things around, trying to make some sense of what was happening and try to work on our marriage. I had no help at all. No matter where I went, people were helping me get divorced, no one was helping me stay married!”

That is when the Milazzo’s discovered Retrouvaille.

Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vi) is a marriage program for couples facing challenges in their relationship. The program is peer-facilitated by other couples that have gone through difficult times in their own marriages. Retrouvaille is Christian-based, and Catholic in origin, but welcomes couples of all faiths as well as non-religious couples.

“It is basically for people who are suffering a crisis in their marriage, whether they are in the middle of the crisis or they may even be separated or divorced,” Phil said.

The Retrouvaille program is broken down into three phases.

The first phase involves a weekend retreat where three presenting couples share the breakdown of their own personal

marriage stories and teach tools they have learned to improve communication.

The second phase of the program includes six follow-up sessions which help the couples in healing and rebuilding a new foundation based on love, respect and communication.

The third phase consists of ongoing monthly small group meetings, called CORE (Continuing Our Retrouvaille Experience), to keep marriages on track.

Overall, the Retrouvaille experience is focused on improving a couple’s communication through the sharing of feelings.

“Feelings are a large part of the program because feelings cannot be judged as right or wrong,” Phil said.

While several couples attend a weekend retreat at the same time, there is no large group sharing in Retrouvaille, which puts many people at ease. Privacy is also a priority.

“There is no group sharing unless you want to,” Phil added. “No one is ever forced to say anything about their relationship. You can go through the entire weekend and not even say why you were there!”

Sue Milazzo is very blunt about the impact Retrouvaille has had on her marriage.

“We would not be sitting here today together if it wasn’t for Retrouvaille,” she admitted.

The program left such an impact on the couple that they have now spent more than three decades presenting it to other couples in need of assistance.

“We’ve been gifted to see

people get back together after being divorced,” Sue said.

After moving to Luzerne County several years ago, Phil and Sue Milazzo are now working to bring the Retrouvaille program back to the Diocese of Scranton in coordination with the Diocesan Office for Parish Life.

A Retrouvaille Weekend has been scheduled for Aug. 19-21 at the Townplace Suites in Moosic. In addition to explaining the program and looking for couples that might benefit, Phil and Sue are also in need of help to get everything off the ground.

“We need people to do prayer letters, people to do hosting, people to just get supplies and get set-up for the weekend,” Sue said.

Over the last 37 years, the Milazzo’s have presented a total of 94 Retrouvaille weekend retreats. With an average of 20 couples attending each one, they’ve already helped roughly 2,000 people improve their marriages. They want to keep going.

“We’ve heard the phrase that it’s the best kept secret in the Catholic Church and I don’t know why that is!” Phil joked.

To learn more about attending the Retrouvaille weekend in August, or to learn more about helping to bring this weekend to life, please contact: Phil & Sue Milazzo, philmilazzo2@gmail.com or call (631) 338-5413. Additional information is also available by contacting Jen Housel, Director for Community and Family Development in the Diocesan Office for Parish Life, jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org, (570) 207-2213, x1104.

## Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Celebration to be held June 26

SCRANTON - Every summer, the Diocese of Scranton holds a Wedding Anniversary Celebration for couples who are celebrating their 25 and 50 year anniversaries.

This year’s celebration will be held on Sunday, June 26 at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. Attendance requires advance reservation and there will be a reception following the Mass.

If your 25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary has occurred or will occur in 2022, please register for the celebration on the Diocese of Scranton website (dioceseofscranton.org)

The registration deadline is Sunday, May 29, 2022.

For questions or concerns, or if there are issues registering

online, please reach out to Jen Housel, Director for Community and Family Development, at jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org, 570-207-2213 x 1104.

The Mass will air live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and will be livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website and social media platforms. Family members and those anniversary couples not attending in-person are invited to participate in the Mass from home.

Considering the stresses of the COVID-19 pandemic, this is a valuable opportunity for all married couples to pause and reflect upon the beauty of the vocation of marriage in our lives and in the life of our church.

## More than 1,100 years of marriage celebrated at Bradford Co. parish

TOWANDA – 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.



**Pat and Carol Beirne are celebrating their 70th Wedding Anniversary.**



# *Celebrating the beauty of adoption*

## *Families convey love is at the heart of adoption process at annual Mother's Day Mass*

SCRANTON – The beauty and importance of adoption once again became the focal point of the Diocese of Scranton's annual Mother's Day Mass – thanks to dozens of families who attended the liturgy with their adopted children.

The Mass, celebrated May 8 at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, brought together dozens of families and their adopted children.

Many, like Karen Trently of Throop, were joyful in discussing their adoption stories following Mass.

"It will almost be nine years in July that we got the call about Addison. My husband and I tried about ten years to get pregnant and unfortunately it didn't happen for us," Trently explained.

That is when the couple decided to adopt.

"The day that we got the call about Addison was one of the happiest days of our lives. Every day with her is a blessing and she really completed our family," she added.

The Trently family makes it an annual tradition to attend the Mother's Day Adoption Mass at the Cathedral.

"She didn't grow inside me but she grew in our hearts," Trently said. "She knows about her adoption and we thank her mother for being so brave and putting her up for adoption."

This was the first year Dan and Sarah Wilson attended the Mother's Day Adoption Mass. The Milford couple has an eight-year-old son, Luke, and recently adopted their two-year-old son, Jude.

"We knew our family wasn't complete with Luke and we knew that he needed to have a sibling so we went through the adoption



**The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant and homilist for the annual Mother's Day Adoption Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on May 8. (Photos/Eric Deabill)**

process and adopted Jude. He is from Atlanta, Georgia. We have a completely open adoption with his birth family and it is the most happy and joyous relationship in our life and our family is complete," Sarah Wilson said.

"He is an absolute miracle. Our lives are so much richer, I don't know how we existed without him," Dan Wilson added. "Luke is amazing as well but Jude really completes our whole family."

When asked to describe his thoughts on having a brother, Luke responded it was "probably the happiest time of my life."

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, was principal celebrant and homilist for the Mother's Day Adoption Mass. During the liturgy, the bishop not only acknowledged adoptive and foster mothers, but all mothers, grandmothers and godmothers.

"For all of the commercialization and hype that

can cause us at times to lose touch with the heart of its real meaning, doesn't this day cause us to reflect upon the essence of the gospel message for the Fourth Sunday of Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday?" the bishop asked. "Selfless love, forgiveness, unconditional

acceptance and hope are all qualities that a mother seeks to impact to her child whom she knows and loves so well."

Mothers, the bishop added, remind us that we are all given the power and responsibility to become vehicles for God's

presence in the world.

"May we especially give thanks for those women who have nurtured and cared for us, their children, and have taught us that it is possible to love as Jesus, the Good Shepherd," Bishop Bambera noted.



**Dan and Sarah Wilson, along with their children, Luke, 8, and Jude, 2, attended the Mother's Day Adoption Mass for the first time. Jude recently joined the Wilson family through the adoption process.**

## **Diocese of Scranton Scout Mass to be held June 21**

**Calling all Scouts!**

Please mark your calendars for the return of the Diocese of Scranton's annual Scout Mass on Tuesday, June 21, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

All Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Venturing and Campfire Girls and their troops, packs and families from all Scout Councils across the 11 counties of the Diocese are invited to attend. Please wear your Class A dress uniform, no hats please.

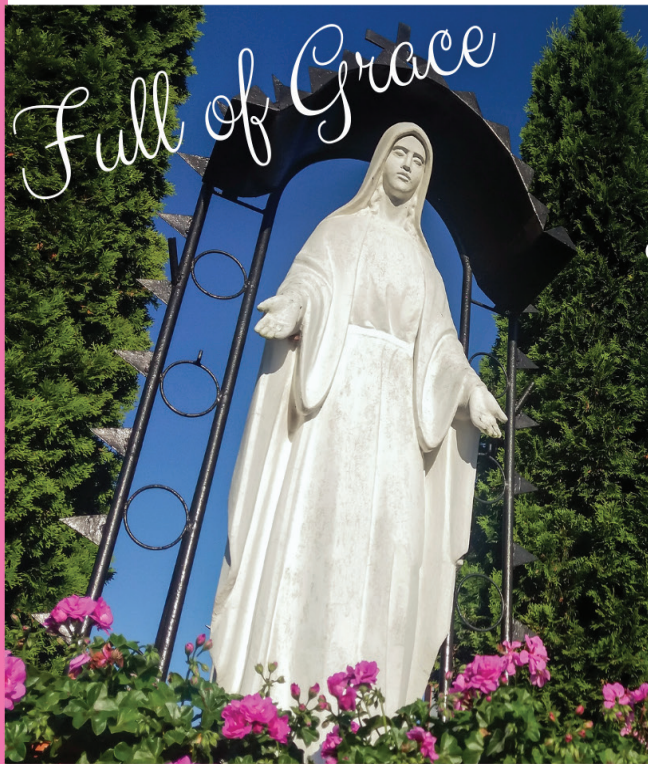
Scouts receiving religious badges and their Scout Leaders will meet at the Diocesan Pastoral Center at 6:15 p.m. for the entrance procession. Other troop members and families should proceed directly to the Cathedral. To confirm your award or for any other questions, please email Amy Huntington, Diocesan Scouting Committee Chair, at [dccs@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:dccs@dioceseofscranton.org).







# Catholic Women's Conference Saturday, June 11, 2022 Marywood University\*



Colleen Campbell



Fr. Jeffrey Kirby



Debra Hadley



Molly McManus



Megan Murphy



Natalie Magdon

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\*CDC protocols will be in place

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## Early bird ticket deadline soon for Catholic Women's Conference *Purchase by May 29 for discounted rate*

SCRANTON – All women of the Diocese of Scranton are invited to experience this year's Catholic Women's Conference, "Full of Grace." The focus of this year's event is the special relationship all women have with Mary, the Mother of God. The event takes place Saturday, June 11, 2022, at Marywood University.

The day will begin with opening remarks at 8 a.m. followed by Mass with the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, at 8:30 a.m. After a short break, featured speaker Father Jeffrey Kirby with talk about Catholic devotion to Mary, our Mother, as our powerful intercessor and as a model of discipleship.

Without missing a beat, Keynote Speaker Colleen Carroll Campbell will take the stage and share her journey from successful author, journalist and former speechwriter to President George W. Bush to a frazzled, sleep deprived mother of twins who discovered God's vision for her was quite different from her own visions of perfection. Her path of enlightenment and discovery will inspire women to trust in God's perfect love for them.

When attendees break at noon for lunch, they will be entertained by a musical concert from Molly McManus while they dine. Listening to Ms. McManus sing, "Take my heart, have my soul...perfect love" you will know without a doubt that such a voice could only have come from God. The twenty-four-year-old worship artist from Steubenville, Ohio sings of her past, her sadness, shame, and her encounter with the Holy Spirit and now, experiencing His Perfect Love.

Following the lunch break, featured speaker Deb Hadley will share how the trajectory of her life changed when unimaginable

tragedy struck her family, not once, but twice. The loss of two children in separate accidents only nine months apart sent her spiraling into despair. Her journey of faith and restoration led her on a new path as a bereavement manager; helping people who have lost a loved one rediscover joy in a world so defined by loss.

Dunmore native and acclaimed Catholic speaker, Megan Murphy, will also speak to those in attendance. Ms. Murphy had a father who struggled with addictions resulting in a turbulent childhood. Megan's journey from a misspent youth to her ultimate conversion to the beauty and forgiveness of God's love was aided by her special relationship with the Blessed Mother. Attendees will accompany Ms. Murphy on the scriptural journey with Mary to discover the profound depth of Our Lady's role in each woman's own personal search for joy. Meghan will then lead the audience in saying the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary.

After a brief break, the day will conclude with Father Kirby leading Eucharistic Adoration, with musical accompaniment by Molly McManus. The conference concludes at 4 p.m. with the announcement of raffle winners and a musical finale.

Olyphant resident and radio personality Natalie Gubala-Magden will moderate the day and keep the program flowing. Participants will enjoy a continental breakfast, lunch and shopping at the Catholic Vendor Marketplace. Cost to attend the conference is \$45 for in person (\$50 after May 29). Student tickets are \$20, and women religious are welcome free of charge. Volunteers are always needed and those who sign up for four hours at the conference will receive a free ticket.

For more information and to register, visit [cwcnepa.com](http://cwcnepa.com).



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September 17-23 • 10 meals \$1,799

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October 1-7 \$1,349

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November 6-7 • \$65 slot/\$30 food \$289

**Christmas Show, Hunterdon Hills  
Playhouse & Wind Creek Casino**  
November 20 \$179

## Curative Companions Program making a difference for veterans

SCRANTON – Rosey, who just turned 14 years old last month, can be described in many ways. The Jack Russell/Pug mix is both a confidant and family member to her human companion, Douglas Howe, but he describes her in one additional way.

"She has been my protector," he said.

As a veteran, Howe does not use those words lightly.

"She has been around me from birth ... I take her everywhere. I take her to the store, I take her to the hospital when I have my appointments. She gets more attention than I think I'll ever get," he joked.

When Howe moved into Saint Francis Commons, an affordable, transitional housing facility for veterans experiencing homelessness last August, he was initially concerned he wouldn't be able to bring Rosey.

"It was a huge concern. We stick to each other like glue. I take care of her all the time and she



**Douglas Howe, a veteran living at Saint Francis Commons in Scranton, snuggles with his dog, Rosey, who is able to live with him because of the Curative Companions Program. (Photo/Dan Gallagher)**

takes care of me," Howe said.

It turns out Howe's fears would be unfounded.

Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton operates Saint Francis Commons. In 2019, the agency launched its Curative Companions Program that allows

veterans and other traumatized persons who are living in Catholic Social Services housing and shelters to have the opportunity to heal and thrive through the love of a therapeutic pet.

"We noticed almost immediately how much of an impact the animals made on the veterans, Ryan Pollock, Program Director of Saint Francis Commons, said. "We had veterans that would be coming out of their rooms to interact with the animals that didn't typically interact with the other veterans."

Scott Pence has been living at Saint Francis Commons for eight months. Four months ago, he got a newborn German shepherd named Sasha.

"She is my best friend. She's a companion and she just means the world to me," Pence said. "I'm with her 24 hours a day. We play together all the time and she's just adorable."

Pence believes Sasha has helped him 'break the ice' and get to know many of the other veterans staying at Saint Francis Commons.

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*Continued on Page 29*



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— I make house calls —



As we continue to remember the beautiful legacy left by Bishop Dougherty, I hope that you might join me in reflecting on his role as a former director of The Society of the Propagation of the Faith.

Talk about big shoes to fill as I started my own ministry with the Society several years ago!

I have mentioned before how Bishop Dougherty intimidated me, not because of his tall, imposing stature — though being 5'4" everybody is tall and imposing to me — nor his impressive wit and intelligence, but his holiness and his concern for the poor and the sick was always a trait of his that I felt I could never live up to.

**MISSION MESSAGE**

*Go Forth*

BY FATHER BRIAN J.T. CLARKE  
DIOCESAN DIRECTOR,  
PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES



Sir Isaac Newton once commented that he stood on the shoulders of giants whose own laboring in the field of science paved the way for his own discoveries. As we stand on the shoulders of the likes of Bishop Dougherty, I worry that there are fewer and fewer giants in the mission field.

Many of our ardent and vocal supporters have gone to their eternal reward, and our children are missing opportunities to appreciate the value of knowing about — and reacting to — the plight of children in the developing world, not to mention the apathy that sometimes washes over us when we say, “We have our own problems at home and can’t be focused on places thousands of miles away.”

Here’s the problem: But who will stand for and evangelize to that soul thousands of miles away if we don’t? We are our brothers’ and sisters’ keeper (cf. Gen. 4:9), no matter where they are or who they are. We are responsible for, at the very least, getting to know the challenges of sisters and brothers at

home and abroad. Once we know those challenges, we need to be poised to respond generously.

Responding generously does not mean financially alone. There are many efforts that can be undertaken to address the challenges of others. For example, get involved in The Pontifical Mission Societies. Visit us at [onefamilyinmission.org](http://onefamilyinmission.org) and learn more about who and what we are. Above all, pray for missionaries and for the structures that support them.

Literally to his dying day, Bishop Dougherty generously supported the Missions. I cannot recall whether he ever visited mission fields abroad, but his heart was there. His resources were there; his prayers and his fasting were there. He made a difference to bring the joy of the Gospel to a beautifully landscaped and splendidly diverse world.

Stand on his shoulders, and make a difference for the mother, father, brother, sister or child you do not yet know who desperately needs you.

***Apostleship of Prayer***

Papal Intention for May 2022

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Bishop attends Knights of Columbus Statewide Convocation



On Saturday, May 14, 2022, Bishop Bambera celebrated Mass and attended the Knights of Columbus Statewide Convocation which was held at Kalahari Resort in Monroe County. (Photo/V.I.P. Studios)

Pets help vets on a daily basis

Continued from Page 27

“They all love her. She’s just a pup and easily excited,” he explained.

John Lipscomb, who cares for Angel, a two-year-old black lab, agrees.

“We have a couple other vets here who even will take her for walks because I can’t walk very far,” Lipscomb explained.

He says the love and companionship Angel provides him is extremely important since he recently left rehab.

“She’s the reason I want to keep living and want to do better ... It gives me a purpose in life. I lost everything and she gives me good reason to get out of bed in the morning,” he added.

The Curative Companions Program is in need of financial assistance to stay in operation and provide services to even more veterans.

Pollock says several other veterans have asked about getting an animal.

“All of our veterans are low income and anybody that wants to have an emotional support dog,

we don’t want finances to be a barrier,” he explained.

On average, it costs \$2,000 annually for a pet between food, supplies, vet visits and other expenses.

The Curative Companions Program was made possible through the generosity of its initial funder The Robert H. Spitz Foundation, and then a later sustaining contribution by the PNC Foundation. Through its administration of the Spitz Foundation, the Scranton Area Community Foundation, which additionally has supported other Catholic Social Services programs, also has been an instrumental partner.

Dr. Paws of Scranton has also made substantial in-kind contributions and has provided some no-charge veterinary and follow-up care to some animals.

Anyone looking to support the Curative Companions Program can contact Ryan Pollock at (570) 209-9200, x2302. People will also be able to support the program on NEPA Gives Day, Friday June, 3, 2022, at nepagives.org.

CTV: CATHOLIC TELEVISION								330 Wyoming Ave. Scranton, PA 18503 (570) 207-2219													
MAY SCHEDULE																					
	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY														
12:00: AM	DAILY MASS	SUNDAY MASS (Encore)	DAILY MASS (Encore)																		
1:00 AM	FR SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	(1:10AM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	THE JOURNEY HOME (Encore)	MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE CLASSICS	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	THE WORLD OVER (Encore)	EWTN NEWS IN DEPTH														
1:30 AM		EWTN GALLERY																			
2:00 AM								EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Encore)													
2:30 AM	LIVING DIVINE MERCY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY														
2:30 AM	THEY MIGHT BE SAINTS							SPECIALS	GOSPEL GLIMPSES	LIFE ON THE ROCK	BATTLE READY	THE WILL OF GOD									
3:00 AM	SPECIALS												PAPAL AUDIENCE(3:15)	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY (Call in thurs)	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY						
3:30AM																DEFENDING LIFE	REFLECTIONS (4:15)	BOB AND PENNY LORD	WEB OF FAITH 2.0	SAVORING OUR FAITH	
4:00 AM	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	METANOIA	SIGNS OF LIFE	REAL LIFE CATHOLIC	MATTHEW'S TESTIMONY TO JESUS	METANOIA	ICONS														
4:30 AM		SUNDAY BEST WITH FR GROESCHEL	JOURNEY THROUGH THE SCRIPTURES	DOMINICAN SISTERS	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY	EWTN SPECIALS	CATHOLIC BEGINNINGS														
5:00 AM	THE REFORMATION	EWTN BOOKMARK	THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL	CATHOLIC SPHERE				CATHOLICS COME HOME													
5:30 AM	WHERE GOD WEEPS	CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN	LIFE IS WORTH LIVING																		
6:00 AM	REGINA CAELI WITH POPE FRANCIS	EWTN ORIGINAL PRODUCTIONS																			
6:30 AM	THE HERESISIES	G.K. CHESTERTON	CHURCH AND THE POOR	THE MIRACLE HUNTER	SAINTS VS SCOUNDRELS	THE CHOICES WE FACE	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE														
7:00 AM	THE CHAPLET OF ST. MICHAEL					STATIONS OF THE CROSS	CHAPLET OF ST. MICHAEL														
7:30 AM	THE HOLY ROSARY	HOLY LAND ROSARY					THE HOLY ROSARY														
7:50 AM		LITANY OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	LITANY OF THE HOLY NAME	LITANY OF ST. JOSEPH	LITANY OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD	LITANY OF SACRED HEART															
8:00 AM		SUNDAY MASS (Live)	DAILY MASS (Live)																		
9:00 AM	(9:20AM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	HOLY ROSARY WITH THE FRANCISCAN MISSIONARIES OF THE ETERNAL WORD																			
9:30 AM	EWTN ROSARY FRANCISCANS	SUNDAY BEST WITH FR. GROESCHEL	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION (ENCORE)	EWTN LIVE (ENCORE)	THE WORLD OVER (Encore)	THE ROAMIN' CATHOLIC														
10:00 AM	SUNDAY MASS ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL	RELIGIOUS CATALOG						MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE	LIVE WITH PASSION	FOCUS	CATHOLIC CLASSICS	IMAGE OF GOD									
10:30 AM		CHOICES WE FACE											ST ANN'S WEEKLY NOVENA	MUSIC AND THE SPOKEN WORD	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY						
11:00 AM		OFOD/LIVE WITH PASSION/SPECIALS	EUCCHARISTIC JOURNEY	THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS	THE EUCCHARIST	SACRAMENTS THROUGH THE AGES	PRIESTHOOD OF JESUS CHRIST									BOB & PENNY LORD PRESENT					
11:30 AM	EWTN NEWS IN-DEPTH																				
12:00 PM	SUNDAY MASS (Encore)	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, LIVE AT 12:10 p.m. "DIOCESAN DATEBOOK" airs before and after Mass.						EWTN DAILY MASS (Encore)													
12:30PM	(1:20PM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	WOMEN OF GRACE					EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE														
1:00 PM	IN CONCERT	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	PRO LIFE WEEKLY	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	CHOICES WE FACE/OFOD	WOMEN OF GRACE HOUR LONG	DOMINICAN SISTERS OF MERCY														
1:30 PM		CALLED TO COMMUNION	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION	FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	THE JOURNEY HOME	LIFE ON THE ROCK	EWTN ON LOCATION														
2:00 PM																					
2:30 PM	STATIONS OF CROSS																				
3:00 PM	THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY IN SONG																				
3:20 PM	LIVE ADORATION FROM EWTN CHAPEL																				
3:30 PM	THE ROSARY FROM LOURDES	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, (Encore)					ROSARY FROM LOURDES														
4:00 PM	VATICANO	THE HOLY ROSARY					SUNDAY VIGIL MASS ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL														
4:30 PM	SAVORING OUR FAITH	DIOCESAN DATEBOOK																			
5:00 PM	THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL	IMAGE OF GOD	MY CATHOLIC FAMILY	TRUTH IN THE HEART	CAT CHAT	MY TIME WITH JESUS															
5:30 PM	SUNDAY PASSIONIST MASS	EWTN BOOKMARK	THE CHOICES WE FACE	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE	THE HERESIES	THEY MIGHT BE SAINTS	GRAB YOUR CATECHISM														
6:00 PM	SUNDAY MASS FROM ST. PETERS CATHEDRAL	SPECIALS					SIGNS OF LIFE														
6:30 PM		EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Live)					THE MIRACLE HUNTER														
7:00 PM		LIFE IS WORTH LIVING	CATHOLIC SPHERE	LIVING DIVINE MERCY	VATICANO	THE WILL OF GOD	WALSINGHAM STORIES														
7:30PM	SUNDAY MASS	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, (Encore)					DAILY MASS														
8:00 PM		THE HOLY ROSARY																			
8:30 PM		DIOCESAN DATEBOOK																			
8:30 PM	(8:20) LITANY OF SACRED HEART	THE JOURNEY HOME (Live)	OFOD OR SPECIALS (CAN BE 90 MINUTES) MUSIC AND THE SPOKEN WORD	EWTN LIVE	THE WORLD OVER (Live)	EWTN NEWS IN DEPTH	EWTN CINEMA														
9:00 PM	CATHOLICS COME HOME																				
9:30 PM	LIFE ON THE ROCK																				
10:00PM	HOLY ROSARY W MOTHER ANGELICA	WEEKLY NOVENA TO ST. ANN	THE CHOICES WE FACE	FOCUS	LIVE WITH PASSION	WEEKLY NOVENA TO ST. ANN															
10:30 PM	EWTN SPECIALS	THE WORLD OVER LIVE (ENCORE)	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION (ENCORE)	FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	PRO-LIFE WEEKLY	LIFE ON THE ROCK	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY														
11:00PM		CATHOLIC BEGINNINGS	BATTLE READY	LONG RIDE HOME	CROSSING THE GOAL	REAL LIFE CATHOLIC		WEB OF FAITH													
11:30PM	CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN	WOMEN OF GRACE					EWTN BOOKMARK														





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## Eucharistic revival called a 'movement' that gets to core of Catholic faith

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Catholic Church's three-year eucharistic revival about to get underway "is not a program but a movement" that is an invitation to the faithful from God to go on mission and be compelling witnesses of our faith, said Tim Glemkowski, the newly named executive director of the National Eucharistic Congress.

"We the church have to be clear about telling our story, getting to the core" of our faith, that "God is not just some distant someone who is not engaged," he told Catholic News Service. "He's alive and real and can be encountered in the Eucharist, source and summit of the faith. ... This is where God is with us."

The National Eucharistic Revival begins June 19, the feast of Corpus Christi, and culminates with the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis in 2024. Along the way, there will be parish, diocesan and regional events to increase Catholics' understanding of the Real Presence in the Eucharist.

### *Eucharistic Revival Kickoff in Diocese of Scranton*

The Diocese of Scranton will begin its local observance of the Eucharistic Revival with a Pontifical Mass followed by a Eucharistic Procession celebrated by Bishop Bambera on **Sunday, June 19, 2022, at 12:15 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton.**

Details regarding the Mass as well as additional resources, events, and programming for the Eucharistic Revival will be made available on the Diocese of Scranton website.

The first year will get underway at the parish and diocesan levels with initiatives such as eucharistic adoration and processions, the development of parish teams of revival leaders and conferences on the Eucharist.

The following year there will be regional revival events, leading to the eucharistic congress in Indianapolis in 2024, the first to be held since one took place in 1976 in Philadelphia. It is expected to draw at least 80,000 from across the country.

The U.S. bishops approved plans for the revival and the congress last November during their fall general assembly in Baltimore. Both are being spearheaded by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, chaired by Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota.

As chairman of the board of the National Eucharistic Congress Inc., Bishop Cozzens announced Glemkowski's appointment April 4.

"Tim is a real leader with a heart on fire for Jesus Christ and a desire to invite people to encounter his love in the Eucharist," Bishop Cozzens said in a statement.

"He brings a unique blend of skill sets to this important

role — from strategic vision and operational excellence to theological insight and a missionary mindset ... He lives and breathes the call of Pope Francis for a pastoral and missionary conversion of the church," the bishop added.

National Eucharistic Congress Inc. was instituted earlier this year, and a national search was conducted for an executive director to lead the newly established entity.

"God is doing something important in his church through this multiyear national eucharistic revival," Glemkowski said in a statement after his appointment was announced. "At its core, I believe the congress is a critical moment for how we fulfill Pope Francis' vision of becoming a more missionary church."

He added, "It is the fire of charity, born in our hearts from the reception of Jesus in the Eucharist, which impels us on mission. This is a phenomenal opportunity for our church to draw closer to Christ and to be prepared to better share him with our postmodern world."

Until he was chosen for his new position, Glemkowski had been working for the Archdiocese of Denver in evangelization and strategy.

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## IHM Sisters hold General Chapter, elect new leaders



Nearly 90 delegates from the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary elected a new leadership team during their Chapter of Elections held April 21-23 at the IHM Center in Scranton. Congregation leaders who will serve four-year terms are, pictured from left: Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters Susan Therese Armbruster, councilor; Theresa Jordan, vice president; Kathryn Clauss, president; Grace Elizabeth Surdovel, councilor; and Judith O'Brien, councilor.

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## Prayer Requests for Priests

The Daily Prayer Request  
for Priests schedule is as follows:

May 19, Monsignor Vincent Grimalia; May 20, Father Louis Grippe; May 21, Father Eugene Gunning; May 22, Father Gerald Gurka; May 23, Passionist Father Lee Havey; May 24, Father Robert Hochreiter; May 25, Father Joseph Horanzy; May 26, Father Thomas Hudak; May 27, Father Andrew Hvozdovic; May 28, Holy Cross Father Daniel Issing; May 29, Father George Jeffrey; May 30, Monsignor John Jordan; May 31, Father Joseph Kakareka; June 1, Pope Francis; June 2, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI; June 3, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; June 4, Father Louis Kaminski; June 5, Father William Karle; June 6, Monsignor Arthur Kaschenbach; June 7, Father Joseph Kearney; June 8, Jesuit Father Herbert Keller; June 9, Father Brian Kelly; June 10, Father E. Francis Kelly; June 11, Father John Kilpatrick; June 12, Father Shane Kirby; June 13, Father Michael Kirwin; June 14, Father Kenneth Kizis; June 15, Father Michael Kloton; June 16, Holy Cross Father Charles Kociolek; June 17, Father Bert Kozen; June 18, Father Stephen Krawontka; June 19, Father Jonathan Kuhar.

## IN MEMORIAM

### Christian Charity Sister Mara Beadle

*Entered Life:*  
June 13, 1928

*Entered Eternal Life:*  
April 21, 2022



### Sister of Mercy Mary Bride Pollard

*Entered Life:*  
July 12, 1928

*Entered Eternal Life:*  
April 22, 2022



### Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Ann Newell

*Entered Life:*  
March 30, 1936

*Entered Eternal Life:*  
May 3, 2022





## University of Scranton, King's commencements planned

SCRANTON — Jesuit Father Herbert Keller, vice president for Mission and Ministry at The University of Scranton, will serve as principal speaker at the University's undergraduate commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 21.

The graduation exercises will begin at noon at the Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza in Wilkes-Barre Township.

Father Keller, who serves as the rector of the Scranton Jesuit Community, will step down from his position at the University at end of the current academic year. He previously served as interim president at Scranton during the 2017-18 academic year and also as special assistant to the president.

Having led for 18 years Scranton Preparatory School, where he is the longest-serving president in the Jesuit school's history, Father Keller will return

to Scranton Prep for the start of the new academic year as a teacher and pastoral minister.

During the Scranton undergraduate commencement, Sister of Charity Margaret Mary Fitzpatrick, Ph.D., congregation leader for her religious order in Halifax, Canada, and Lawrence Lynch, recently retired assurance partner with PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP, and former chair of The University of Scranton Board of Trustees, will receive honorary degrees.

### King's Graduates to Hear Irish Author, Humanitarian

Don Mullan, best-selling author, journalist, filmmaker and humanitarian from Ireland, will deliver the keynote address for the 73rd annual King's College undergraduate and graduate commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 22, at the Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza.

Approximately 430 King's graduates will receive their respective bachelor's and master's degrees during the graduation event, to begin with the opening procession at 1:30 p.m. Official

ceremonies will follow at 2 p.m.

The King's Baccalaureate Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, May 21, at 4 p.m. in the college's William S. Scandlon Physical Education Center.

Born in Derry, Northern Ireland, at a time of political turmoil, Mullan has been a witness to some of the seminal events in modern Irish history, including the birth of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Movement and Bloody Sunday. Despite being surrounded by growing conflict, he chose the path of non-violence and dedicated his life to humanitarian and educational causes.

He shared a 40-year friendship with Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, and upon the death of the Nobel Peace Prize recipient in December, Mullan served as a pallbearer for the late archbishop at Saint George Cathedral in Cape Town.

Founding CEO of Hope Initiatives International, the Dublin resident is currently executive producer for a slate of environmental documentaries under the heading "Dare to Invent the Future."

## Oblates of Saint Joseph to celebrate founder's feast

LAFLIN — The religious community of the Oblates of Saint Joseph will honor their founder, Saint Joseph Mareello, with a three-day triduum of Masses and devotions in anticipation of the celebration of the congregation founder's feast day later this month.

The annual celebration honoring Saint Joseph Mareello will be held daily Wednesday thru Friday, May 25-27, in the Chapel of Saint Joseph, 1880 Route 315 Highway, Laflin.

Eucharistic liturgies will be celebrated each day at noon and 7 p.m., followed by novena devotions to Saint Joseph Mareello

and general blessing of his first-class relic.

The feast day will be celebrated on Saturday, May 28, with Masses offered at 8 a.m. and noon.



*Saint Joseph Mareello*

Saint Joseph Mareello (1844-1895) was a priest of the Diocese of Asti in the Piedmont region of Italy, and founded the Congregation of the Oblates of Saint Joseph in 1878. Ten years later he was appointed

to serve as bishop of the nearby Diocese of Acqui.

After spending his life in tireless pastoral service, he died unexpectedly in Savona, Italy, on May 30, 1895, at the age of 50.

Pope Saint John Paul II beatified Bishop Mareello in 1993 in his native city of Asti and canonized him a saint in 2001 at Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome.

The Oblates of Saint Joseph have been serving in the Diocese of Scranton since 1929, currently in Pittston and Hazleton, as well as in 15 countries throughout the world.

All faithful are invited to attend the feast day celebration.

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## Catholic Happenings

**Drive-Thru Potato Pancake Fest — MAY 21 & 22**, sponsored by the Men's Club of Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, 420 Main Road, Hanover Township; drive-thru sale held on Saturday and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. Cost: eight potato pancakes for \$10; patrons are limited to 40 pancakes per vehicle. Entrance from the Sans Souci Highway. For more information, call (570) 823-6242, or visit: [www.exhc.org](http://www.exhc.org).

**Annual Parish Golf Tournament — MAY 22**, sponsored by Queen of the Apostles Parish in Avoca; tournament will be held in memory of Tony "Cooper" Blaskiewicz at Pine Hills Country Club, 140 S. Keyser Ave., Taylor. Registration opens at 7:30 a.m.; shotgun start with captain & crew format follows at 8:30 a.m. Cost: \$90 per golfer, includes prizes and post-tournament dinner at Pine Hills. Various sponsorships available. For more information, contact the parish office at (570) 457-3412.

**Parish Spring Dinner — MAY 22**, sponsored by Immaculate Conception Parish, 5973 Jacks Hollow Road, Bastress; featuring take-out turkey & ham dinner for pick-up from noon to 6 p.m. (no dine-in service available). Dinner includes stuffing, mashed potatoes, noodles, gravy, corn, salad & homemade bread. All take-out dinners cost \$11 each.

**Bereavement Support Group Session — MAY 23**, sponsored by St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Milford; series of weekly support meetings addressing the grief process from 2 to 3:30 p.m. will conclude in the parish hall of St. John Neumann, 705 Route 739, Lords Valley. All are welcome. Registration required by contacting the parish office

at (570) 686-4545 or online at: [stvgriefgroup@att.net](mailto:stvgriefgroup@att.net).

**Weekly Charismatic Prayer Group Gathering — MAY 23**, hosted by the Burning Bush Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group, which is resuming their regular Monday night prayer meetings; gatherings are held each week at 7 p.m. in the Immaculate Conception Church Hall, 801 Taylor Ave., in the Hill section of Scranton (entrance in the rear of the church). All are welcome.

**Grief Journey Ministry — MAY 23, JUNE 6, 13 & 20**, hosted by the Grief Support Ministry at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Lake Silkworth; those suffering the loss of a loved one are welcome to journey with Jesus toward healing. The four-week grief support session will be held on Monday evenings from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. For more information and registration, call the parish office at (570) 477-5040.

**Weekly Novena Devotion to Saint Anthony of Padua — MAY 24-JUNE 7**, hosted by Our Lady of Hope Parish, 40 Park Ave., Wilkes-Barre; 13-week Saint Anthony Novena devotion held on consecutive Tuesday evenings, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the parish church. Novena theme: "Life & Spirituality of Father Walter Ciszek, S.J., Servant of God." All faithful are welcome; for more information, call (570) 824-7832.

**Parish Flea Market — JUNE 3 & 4**, sponsored by St. Robert Bellarmine Parish at St. Aloysius Church, corner of Barney & Division streets, Wilkes-Barre. Market hours: Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Public is welcome.

Continued on page 37

## DIOCESAN CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

The Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Scranton offer complete and compassionate service and are prepared to provide for all your burial needs. It is our privilege to assist you in planning the final resting place for your loved ones.

Memorial Day Masses will be celebrated at each Diocesan Cemetery on Monday, May 30, 2022. All are welcome to participate in these liturgies to pray for and remember the faithfully departed, especially our veterans.



## MEMORIAL DAY MASSES, MONDAY, MAY 30, 2022

### CATHEDRAL CEMETERY • 10AM

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### HOLY CROSS CEMETERY • 9AM

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Prince of Peace Parish, Old Forge  
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### ST. CATHERINE'S CEMETERY • 10AM

Main St., Route 435, Moscow  
570-842-8411 • Outside Altar  
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at St. Catherine of Siena Church)

### ST. MARY'S CEMETERY • 10AM

1594 S. Main St., Wilkes-Barre  
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### CALVARY CEMETERY • 10AM

Route 309, Drums  
570-788-2150  
at Good Shepherd Church





## Enthronement Mass to celebrate Sacred Heart Solemnity

LAFLIN — A Mass celebrating the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus will be offered on Friday, June 24, at 6 p.m. in the chapel of Saint Joseph's Oblate Seminary, Route 315, Laflin.

Father Dan Toomey, spiritual moderator of the Diocesan Enthronement Guild, will serve as principal celebrant of the feast day Mass, concelebrated by Saint Joseph Oblate Father Joseph Sibilano.

The Eucharistic liturgy will include prayers for those seeking to enthrone their homes to

the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary and renewals for Enthronements previously received.

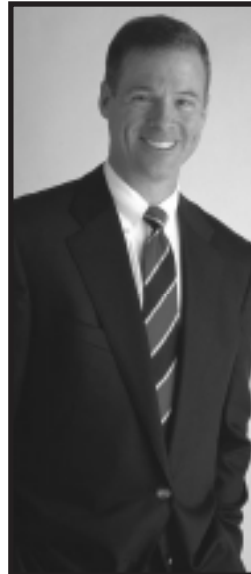
Music ministry will be provided by Ernie Pappa and the Sacred Heart Singers. A prelude of contemporary selections will begin at 5:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be available following the Mass.

Anyone desiring a Sacred Hearts Home Enthronement is asked to contact Maria Pappa, Guild coordinator, at (570) 241-8172 to arrange for

informational materials that will be provided prior to the Mass at the registration desk. A religious articles table will also be available.

The Enthronement Guild has been at the forefront of spreading the apostolate throughout the Diocese of Scranton for more than 75 years, providing families and individuals with the opportunity to offer special devotion to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary in their homes.

All are welcome to participate in the Sacred Heart Solemnity liturgy.



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## Saint John Vianney plans Parish Mission

SCOTT TOWNSHIP — Saint John Vianney Parish at Corpus Christi Church, 704 Montdale Road, Scott Township, invites all faithful to a two-night parish mission it will host beginning this weekend.

The mission experience, titled "Surge of the Heart," will feature guest presentations by

international Catholic speaker and author Jon Leonetti on Sunday, May 22, and Monday, May 23, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the parish church.

Leonetti's talk on Sunday will focus on "God's Dream for Your Life." His Monday presentation is themed "Who is God and Why that Matters."

## Catholic Choral Society spring concerts

SCRANTON — The annual spring concerts of the Catholic Choral Society will be presented on Friday, May 20, at 7:30 p.m. at Saint Ignatius Church, 339 North Maple Ave., Kingston, and Sunday, May 22, at 7 p.m. at Holy Rosary Church, 316 William St., Scranton, the worship site of Mary Mother of God Parish.

For the Friday evening performance in Kingston, the Choral Society will host the chorus from Wyoming Valley

West Middle School, under the direction of Scott Coates.

Sunday's concert in North Scranton will feature the Choral Society collaborating with the Western Wayne Middle School Select Chorus, directed by Joyce Covalleski with accompanist Marty Ort.

Celebrating its 73rd season, the Catholic Choral Society is comprised of members from Luzerne, Lackawanna, Wayne, Susquehanna and Wyoming counties. Ann Manganiello serves as musical director; Kim Gnall is accompanist.

Both concerts are open to the public free of charge; however, a free-will offering will be accepted.

Choral Society board members assisting Brenda Grunza, president, with concert arrangements include Nancy Flannery, Sheila O'Brien, Lois Ostrowski, Kate Conaboy, Chris Koster and Rich Gibbons.

## Parish food sale June 5

Saint Jude Parish in Mountain Top will host a food sale on Sunday, June 5, from noon to 3 p.m.

Menu items include: pig roast dinner (\$15), jambalaya (\$15/quart) and beef empanadas (3/\$10).

Sale is pre-order only until sold out.

To place advance orders, visit the parish website: [www.stjc.org](http://www.stjc.org).

## 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 any assistance in estate or elder law matters.



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- Trusts Guardianships • Asset Protection Planning
- Medicaid Application Assistance

## Estate Planning

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



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## 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 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 Respeto 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.



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## Parish Bazaar, Picnic & Festivals Listing

**Mary, Mother of God in Scranton — June 17 & 18.** Parish "Block Party" will be held on Friday, from 6 to 11 p.m., and Saturday, 5 to 11 p.m., on the grounds of Holy Rosary Center, corner of Wayne & West Market streets, North Scranton. Live entertainment: Friday, 6 p.m., Veterans' Ceremony, followed by Picture Perfect, 7 to 11 p.m.; Saturday, 5 p.m., Jim Cerminaro, followed by The Chatter, 7 to 11 p.m. Festival includes ethnic foods, games, raffle baskets and refreshments for all ages.

**Saint Faustina Kowalska in Nanticoke — June 24 & 25.** Parish festival will be held on Friday and Saturday evenings on the grounds of Saint Faustina Grove, located on Old Newport Street in the Sheatown section.

**Our Lady Help of Christians (Saint Mary's) in Dorrance — June 25, from noon to 10 p.m.** Sunday vigil Mass will be celebrated at 4 p.m. in Saint Mary Church, 3529 St. Mary's Road, Dorrance. One-day festival features musical entertainment provided by The Legends from 6 to 10 p.m. and includes homemade foods, games, silent auction with theme baskets, and covered seating area. For more information, call the parish office (570) 868-5855.

**Immaculate Heart of Mary in Dushore — July 3, from noon to 5 p.m.** Annual picnic will be tent-covered on the grounds above Saint Basil Church; festival includes chicken dinner with homemade side dishes and pies. Light fare, ethnic foods and refreshments also available. Attractions include games, cash & whiskey raffle drawings, and bountiful theme baskets. Shuttle service provided to and from the church parking lot.

## Catholic Happenings

**Parish Memorial Golf Tournament — JUNE 13,** inaugural Deacon Cliff Memorial Golf Outing honoring late businessman and Permanent Deacon Cliff Jorgenson, who served at St. Patrick Parish in Milford, will benefit the parish; tournament will be hosted at Lords Valley Country Club. Outing begins with 7:30 a.m. registration and continental breakfast, 9 a.m. shotgun start (scramble format), tournament prizes and buffet awards dinner at the Dimmick Inn, Milford. Cost: \$125 per golfer. For more information and registration, contact Jack Boyle at (908) 451-1206 or at: jackb18337@gmail.com.

**Nazareth Day: A Day with the Sisters — JUNE 14,** offered by the Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth for young women, in grades eight

thru 12, to experience the joy and life of the Capuchin Sisters in their convent setting. Retreat day experience held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Mother of God Convent, 215 Wellwood Drive, Tunkhannock. Contact Sister Margaret at (570) 836-2737 for more information & registration.

**Parish Flea Market — JUNE 24-26,** hosted at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Brodheadsville; market hours: Friday & Saturday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. Flea market includes a huge assortment of sale items and a bargain tent. Basket raffle, bake sale, and lunch food menu will also be available. Donation of flea market items will be accepted two days only on June 3, from noon to 6 p.m., and June 4, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.



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**ALASKA CRUISE TOUR** - August 30-Sept. 12, 2022

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October 3-13, 2022\*3 nights post cruise in Hawaii! ONLY \$2995.00



## Pittston parish to host flea market event



Saint John the Evangelist Parish, 35 William St., Pittston, will sponsor a flea market fundraiser on Thursday, May 26, and Friday, May 27, from 5 to 8 p.m., and Saturday, May 28, 9 a.m. to noon, in the parish's Monsignor Bendik Pastoral Center (auditorium of the former Seton Catholic High School). Hot dogs and other refreshments will also be available for purchase.

## Fr. Bert Kozen and the parishioners of IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

5973 Jacks Hollow Road, Bastress, Pa.

Invite You To Attend Their Annual

# SPRING DINNER

## SUNDAY, MAY 22<sup>ND</sup>

### Turkey & Ham Dinner

Dinner from Noon until 6 P.M. • NO DINE IN - Curb side pick up ONLY

*Dinner includes stuffing, mashed potatoes, noodles, gravy, corn, salad, homemade bread.*

• **ALL TAKE-OUTS ARE \$11 •**

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## Diocesan schools represented at prestigious 'Bandfest'



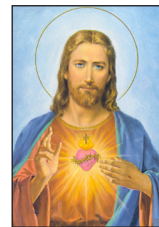
Eight students from Catholic elementary schools in the Diocese of Scranton performed May 6 at "Bandfest," an honors band sponsored at Hazleton High School by District 9 of the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association. The diocesan school musicians performed as members of one of two bands for the event — one comprised of students in fifth and sixth grades and another featuring seventh and eighth graders. After a full day of rehearsal that began early in the morning, the students performed their musical concert before a full house later in the evening. Catholic school student instrumentalists who joined their counterparts from 30 different schools for "Bandfest" are, pictured from left: Michael Grandzol and Collin Brenner, Saint Jude School, Mountain Top; Bridget Fay, Our Lady of Peace School, Clarks Green; Robbie Stanchak, Wyoming Area Catholic School, Exeter; Raymond Mozdian, Our Lady of Peace; Patrick Smith and Clare Grandzol, Saint Jude's; and Raphael Thomas, Our Lady of Peace. Mark Stransky served as director.

## Blue Army Reparation Vigil

The next monthly First Friday Reparation Vigil, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary and sponsored by the Blue Army, will be held **June 3** at Saint Joseph's Oblate Chapel, 1880 Highway 315, Laflin (Pittston).

Devotions begin Friday evening at 8 p.m. with recitation of the Rosary, during which time confessions are heard. Mass of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is celebrated at 8:55 p.m., followed by benediction and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and consecration to the Sacred Heart.

The vigil continues with the crowning of the Blue Army



Pilgrim Virgin Statue, the Blue Army Pledge, Fatima prayers and Marian hymns, followed by litany and consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The vigil concludes with scapular enrollment at 10:15 p.m.

Music for the First Friday devotion is provided by Marian Devotion Ministries, led by Ernie Pappa.

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## Marian Rosary services listed

Dedicated to promoting prayerful devotion to Jesus and Mary through recitation of the Holy Rosary, Marian Devotion Ministries in the Diocese of Scranton continues to lead its 2022 Fatima Rosary Journey.

Upcoming Marian Devotion events are scheduled as follows:

### Saturday Rosary Rally —

June 18, beginning at noon at Saint Thomas More Parish at Saint Joseph Church, Main Avenue, North Scranton (Theodore Street side).

### Third Monday of the Month

**Rosary** — June 20, from 6 to 7 p.m., at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laflin. Devotion also includes Fatima prayers, hymns, litany and Chaplet of Divine Mercy.



## Charismatic Renewal welcomes new leadership, salutes Bob Valiante

SCRANTON — After nearly 40 years of Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) leadership service in the Diocese of Scranton, Robert “Bob” Valiante retired from his post as CCR Liaison and Coordinator in October 2021.

During a celebration at Queen of Apostles Parish in Avoca, Valiante was honored by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, along with many priests from the diocese, all of whom expressed their deepest gratitude for his untiring efforts and dedication on behalf of the Scranton Charismatic movement.

Karen McLain, a long-time volunteer, has graciously accepted the challenging position and will continue to serve as Conference Coordinator.

A member of Saint Catherine of Siena Parish in Moscow and graduate of Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where she received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, McLain returned to her native roots in 1991 and became active in the Scranton CCR. She has served as a leader for the Burning Bush Prayer Group, coordinator of the Service Team, teacher and, for the past several years, coordinator of the Annual Scranton Charismatic Conference.

Following a varied professional career, McLain most recently served for 13 years as office manager for Holy Cross High School in Dunmore. She and her husband, Allan, reside in rural Madison Township in Lackawanna County.

“We are the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and we have been active in the Diocese of Scranton for more than 50 years,” McLain said. “We encourage people in their personal relationship with Jesus Christ as their Lord and

Savior and we believe that the Holy Spirit is active and working in our lives every day!”

She further stated that, outside of the sacred liturgy, Charismatic Renewal events are marked with contemporary music and demonstrative worship.

“We sing, stand, clap, and raise our hands! We pray for healing, discernment, and any needs,” she explained, emphasizing that the movement works in partnership with diocesan offices, along with Catholic parishes and



**Bob Valiante**

organizations, under the authority of the Bishop to “stir into flame” the graces of the Holy Spirit in people’s lives.

“Our Holy Fathers, from Pope John XXIII through our current Pope Francis, have all spoken of the important role the Renewal plays within the Church,” McLain noted.

One of the Scranton Charismatic Renewal’s most notable and defining characteristics is on grand display every year during the first weekend of August, when they welcome to The University of Scranton some 1,800 guests for the Annual Catholic Charismatic Conference.

Having been hosted by the Scranton CCR for four decades, the Charismatic Conference is one of the largest and longest running in the nation. This year’s conference will be held Aug. 5-7.

The Renewal also hosts many other events during the year, including Nights of Adoration, prayer breakfasts, weekly prayer meetings, Mass with prayers for healing, Life in the Spirit seminars, retreats, and Days of Renewal.

A Charismatic Pentecost Celebration will be held on Saturday, June 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Scranton’s Diocesan

Pastoral Center (see accompanying ad on this page for details).

For more information about CCR, visit: [www.ccrscranton.org](http://www.ccrscranton.org) or via Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/CCRScrantonDiocese>); call (570) 344-2214 or email: [office@ccrscranton.org](mailto:office@ccrscranton.org).



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## PENTECOST CELEBRATION

**of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal  
in the Diocese of Scranton**



**Witness by  
Rev. Jonathan P. Kuhar**



**Presentation by  
Cathy Best**



**MC and Presenter  
Jeffrey (Jeff) Shields**

**Date: 6-4-2022 (Saturday)**

**Time: 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

### Diocesan Pastoral Center

330 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503

REGISTRATION AT 9:00 A.M. — PROGRAM STARTS AT 9:30 A.M.

Doors Open at 8:30 A.M. Coffee and Donuts available at 9:00 A.M.

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Cut-off date for ordering lunch is Monday 5-30-22

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### HIGHLIGHTS ...

- Spirit-filled Prayer & Praise
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- Challenging Teaching
- Prayers for Healing

The Rev. Jonathan P. Kuhar is the Assistant Pastor at Saint John Neumann Parish & Saint Paul of the Cross Parish in Scranton PA.

Jeff Shields, has held numerous positions ministering to young adults and is Director of Campus Ministry at Roman Catholic High School, Philadelphia, PA.

Cathy Best is the mother of 4 children and a leader in the Burning Bush Prayer Group. She serves as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist and a Lector at St John Neumann Parish in Scranton.

### CONTACTS

PLEASE HELP US WITH REGISTRATION BY REGISTERING ONLINE AT THE LINK BELOW:  
<https://ccrscranton.org/pentecost-2022>

Questions? Unable to register online? Please use a phone number shown below or the email at bottom:

Cathy Best 570-406-3015

Joyce Hudak 570-735-1068

CCR Office 570-344-2214

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL  
OF THE DIOCESE OF SCRANTON  
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570-344-2214  
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**TO LEAD  
TO UNIFY  
TO SERVE**



## Registration is open for Quo Vadis Days 2022



The Diocesan Vocations Office is gearing up for their annual Quo Vadis Days at Marywood University in Scranton, which will be held June 19-21, 2022.

The camp is designed for Catholic men in high school to:

- Deepen their faith
- Learn more about all vocations
- Better discern God's call in their lives.

It will once again feature dynamic talks, prayer, games, sports, activities and music. Participants will have the opportunity to meet Bishop Bambera, priests, college students and young adults serving on the leadership team, and seminarians of the Diocese of Scranton.

For more information and/or to register visit vocations.  
dioceseofscranton.org or call (570) 207-1452.

## Support the Catholic Communication Campaign May 28-29

Parishes in the Diocese of Scranton will take up a second collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign on the weekend of May 28-29, 2022.

If you enjoy reading *The Catholic Light* or watching CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton, half of all the money raised from this collection stays within the Diocese of Scranton to promote communication and evangelization efforts.

The other half supports national and international initiatives to aid the Church in communicating the Gospel message.

The Catholic Communication Campaign distributed more than \$3 million in national and international grants in 2021. In addition to traditional media, the Catholic Communication Campaign works to share the good news through digital media and other communications initiatives.

We hope you will consider giving generously when your parish takes up the collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign. Your gift will spread the faith, hope and love of Jesus Christ, and of his Church, to people and places where the word of God is needed most.

## The Catholic Light

MAILING LABEL - Please be sure to enclose this label with any address changes and mail to The Catholic Light, 330 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503

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