Bishop Joseph C. Bambera issues statement on U.S. Senate vote regarding the Women's Health Protection Act

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, issued a statement following the U.S. Senate vote taken May 11, 2022, on the Women's Health Protection Act, which failed with a final vote of 49-51.

The bill, which passed in the U.S. House passed in September 2021, was "far more extreme than Roe v. Wade," said Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops'
In response to the leak of a draft opinion in the U.S. Supreme Court case of Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization, some abortion advocates are calling for nationwide demonstrations, disruptions of church services, and the personal intimidation of specific Supreme Court justices.

Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and Archbishop William E. Lori
of Baltimore, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Pro-Life Activities, invited the faithful to unite in fasting and prayer on Friday, May 13.

“In the midst of current tensions, we invite Catholics around the country to join us in fasting and praying the Rosary on Friday, May 13, the Memorial of Our Lady of Fatima. Let us offer our prayers and fasting for these intentions:

• For our nation, for the integrity of our judicial system, and that all branches of government be dedicated to seeking the common good and protecting the dignity and rights of the human person, from conception to natural death.

• For the overturning of Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey in the Supreme Court’s final decision in Dobbs v. Jackson.

• For the conversion of the hearts and minds of those who advocate for abortion.

• For a new commitment to building an America where children are welcomed, cherished, and cared for; where mothers and fathers are encouraged and strengthened; and where marriage and the family are recognized and supported as the true foundations of a healthy and flourishing society.

• For Our Blessed Mother’s intercession and guidance as the Church continues to walk with mothers and families in need, and continues to promote alternatives to abortion, and seeks to create a culture of life. As Catholics, let us witness to the beautiful gift of life with civility and love, and with our peaceful prayers and our compassionate service to all those in need.

As Catholics, let us witness to the beautiful gift of life with civility and love, and with our peaceful prayers and our compassionate service to all those in need.

Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us.”

Read the Full Story from The Catholic Light
Bishop Bambera to celebrate Mass of Dedication for new Most Holy Trinity Church on Sunday, May 15

In the above video, Rev. Brian J.W. Clarke, pastor, Most Holy Trinity Parish, reflects on the blessing of three faith communities coming together as one in a beautiful new Church.

After years of dreaming and planning, a Mass of Dedication for the new Most Holy Trinity Church in Cresco will be celebrated on Sunday, May 15, 2022, at 2 p.m.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as principal celebrant and homilist for the Dedication Mass. The Mass will be concelebrated by Father Brian J.W. Clarke, pastor, Most Holy Trinity Parish, and other priests from the Diocese of Scranton.

When a new church opens, it is dedicated to the Lord with a solemn rite, in accordance with the ancient custom of the Church. During the Dedication Mass at Most Holy Trinity, Bishop Bambera will pray the Prayer of Dedication and participate in the Anointing of the Altar and Walls of the Church.

The community is invited and welcome to attend the Dedication Mass. Everyone is invited to stay after Mass for refreshments in the narthex.

Most Holy Trinity Parish was created upon the consolidation of Saint Ann Parish, Tobyhanna; Saint Mary of the Mount Parish, Mount Pocono; and Saint Bernadette Parish, Canadensis.
Families celebrate beauty of adoption at annual Diocesan Mother's Day Mass

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.

**Catholic Women's Conference 2022 now only one month away!**

If you are already planning a summer vacation or trip, now is also the time to reserve your tickets for the 2022 Catholic Women's Conference!

The conference will take place on Saturday, June 11 at Marywood University. The conference will begin with Mass, celebrated by the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, at 8:30 a.m.

Several featured speakers, including Father Jeffrey Kirby; author, journalist and former speech writer Colleen Carroll Campbell; and Deb Hadley will all focus their remarks around this year's theme, "Full of Grace."
The conference will also include Eucharistic Adoration, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the opportunity to shop at the Catholic Market which will feature numerous vendors.

The conference will end at approximately 4 p.m.

All women are invited to attend. Call your sister, mother, best friend or neighbor and participate in this special opportunity to deepen your faith and devotion to God!

Learn More About the 2022 Catholic Women’s Conference and Register for Your Tickets Online Right Now!

Registration is open for Quo Vadis Days 2022

Registration is now underway for the Diocese of Scranton's annual Quo Vadis Days, which will take place between June 19-21, at Marywood University in Lackawanna County.
Quo Vadis Days 2022 is a camp for Catholic men (who were in 9-12th grade during the 2021/2022 school year) to deepen their faith, learn more about all vocations and better discern God's call in their lives.

The camp will feature dynamic talks, prayer, games, sports, activities, music and more. Participants will have the opportunity to meet Bishop Bambera, priests and seminarians of the Diocese of Scranton.

God does not disown his children, pope tells LGBT Catholics

Pope Francis said he wants LGBT Catholics to know that God is a father who “does not disown any of his children.”

The pope’s comment was among the short answers to three questions posed in a letter by Jesuit Father James Martin, editor at large of America magazine and a driving force behind its new website, outreach.faith, which provides news and resources for LGBT Catholics, their families and the people who minister with them.
Pope Francis’ letter, in Spanish, is dated May 8; it was posted on Outreach the next day. And Vatican Media also published a translation in Italian.

Beatification near for founder of Society For the Propagation of the Faith

In 1822, a young and rich French woman, Pauline Jaricot, founded the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

In 2022, this international association that coordinates assistance for Catholic missionary priests, brothers, and nuns in mission areas, is still going strong and renewed attention has been given to its founder, who will be beatified May 22.
Born in Lyon, France, in 1799, Jaricot was the youngest of seven children. At age 17, while recuperating from a serious fall, her mother died. Jaricot then led a life of intense prayer, and on Christmas 1816, took a vow of perpetual virginity.

Jaricot first founded an association for pious servant girls, the Repairers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Christ. While her brother, Phileas, was studying to be a missionary priest, she felt an urge to help the missionary cause. So, in 1822, with the help of workers at the family’s silk factory, she established the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.