



GoodNewsNotes

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

This Issue

Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation	p. 2
Family Faith Formation Workshop with Tom East	p. 2
Mental Health First Aid Certification	p. 2
RCIA 101: Crash Course on Christian Initiation	p. 3
Encountering Christ: Music & Meditation with Fr. Ricky Manalo, CSP	p. 3
<i>Desiderio Desideravi</i> and Liturgical Formation	p. 3
Natural Family Planning Awareness Week	p. 4
Retroville Weekend	p. 4
Pennsylvania March for Life	p. 5
Up-and-Over Middle School Retreat	p. 5

**Solemnity of
the Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
Monday, August 15, 2022
NOT a Holy Day of
Obligation this year**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Over the last six months, people throughout the Diocese of Scranton willingly responded to the call of Pope Francis by sharing their hopes, concerns and dreams for the Catholic Church in preparation for the 2023 General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops.

Our diocese heard from thousands of individuals from every corner of the community, including young adults, long-time parishioners, those experiencing financial and health related challenges, survivors of clergy sexual abuse, prisoners and even those who are struggling with or have left the Catholic faith. Many shared that they had never been asked to reflect on the Church's mission before.

Whether these individuals participated at in-person parish or community listening sessions or through an online survey, many themes began to emerge from what they shared. I would now like to share with you the [Diocese of Scranton Synthesis of our Online Survey & Listening Sessions](#). This report has been submitted to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and will be analyzed with reports from all the other dioceses across the country and combine into one Synod report from the United States that is sent to Rome.

It is important for all readers to keep in mind the contents of this document only represent the opinions, insights, thoughts and hopes of our local Synod participants. Pope Francis has continually emphasized that a synodal process is one guided by the Holy Spirit with patience and not a "search for immediate results that generate quick and immediate consequences."

I am deeply grateful to all those who participated in the Synod process up to this point. While our synthesis has been submitted to the USCCB, this cannot be the "end" of our work. In fact, it is merely the beginning. I invite everyone to read and reflect on this synthesis and its content and look for ways that the Church of Scranton can continue to journey together in the months and years ahead.

Our diocese must strive to continue on a synodal path of bringing the faithful together to talk about their faith and the Church – and truly encounter and listen to one another. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to continue to bless, guide and inspire us!



For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.

Bishop of Scranton



WORD

"I CALL us to be servant leaders who are people of the WORD, preaching, teaching, evangelizing and cherishing the Gospel message throughout our entire lives."

Family Faith Formation Workshop

"Mary as Disciple and Companion for Prayer"
SAVE THE NEW DATES!

Announcing our third Family Faith Formation Program for Diocese of Scranton Parishes:

**Leading Families Home Through Faith Formation:
Mary As Disciple and Companion for Prayer**

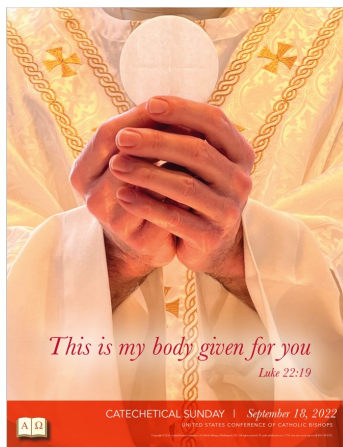
The third workshop designed for Catechetical Leaders presented by Tom East will be offered on **Sunday, August 28 from 1:00PM to 6:00PM and on Monday, August 29 from 9:00AM to 3:00PM** (a repeat opportunity for anyone who cannot make the weekend session) at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton. Tom will provide instruction for lifelong faith formation processes, an experience of a faith festival, and all the tools for implementing the faith festival in your parish. Cost for the day is \$30.00 and lunch and all necessary materials will be provided. Register online on the diocesan website at [this link](#).



Even if you have not been present for other workshops in the series, we look forward to you and your faith formation leaders joining us for this great day! For more information, contact Mary Hallman at mhallman@dioceseofscranton.org or 570-207-2213, x.1148.

Catechetical Sunday

The USCCB has posted the theme for Catechetical Sunday which is September 18, 2022—"This is my body given for you." Resources for this year's observance of Catechetical Sunday which will focus on the National Eucharist Revival can be found on the USCCB website, www.usccb.org.



Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation

Looking to learn more about your faith, or gain enrichment for your parish ministry? Members of the faithful across the Diocese of Scranton are invited to consider taking a course through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation! Registration for Cycle 6 of the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation from September 5 through October 9 is now open until August 31. Consider enriching your faith and ministry through study with courses found at [this link](#) through available in English and Spanish.



Mental Health First Aid Certification

The Scranton Mental Health Ministry at the Cathedral of Saint Peter is hosting a Mental Health First Aid training at the Diocesan Center in Scranton. The training will take place on Saturday, August 27th from 8:30am-3pm. Lunch will be provided.

**SCRANTON MENTAL
HEALTH MINISTRY**
at the CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PETER
SPIRITUAL SUPPORT GROUP

This training requires you to complete a self-paced online module before the in-person training that will take approx. 2.5 hours to complete. After completion of the online and in-person modules, you will receive a mental health first aid certification. (This training has a limit of 30 participants due to certification restrictions.)

For more information about the curriculum, please visit: <https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/take-a-course/what-you-learn/>. To register for the training please email Deacon Ed Shoener by August 10th: deaconed@stpeterscathedral.org.



In need of a fresh renewal of your spirit? Our Diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal is sponsoring its annual conference, at the University of Scranton, during the weekend of August 5-7. This year's theme is: **"O magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt His name together" Psalm 34:3.** The Conference will feature a variety of inspiring speakers and uplifting music. Mass is celebrated each day. A well-stocked book/gift store will be available. The full-weekend Registration Fee is \$65. Single and partial-day registrations are available during the weekend on-site. **For more information and Registration Forms, please go to ccrscranton.org/conference or call us at 570-344-2214.**

"I CALL us to be servant leaders who WORSHIP our God
and celebrate the Sacraments in union with the universal Church."

WORSHIP

Encountering Christ: Music & Meditation with Fr. Ricky Manalo, CSP

The Diocese of Scranton is pleased to welcome **Fr. Ricky Manalo, CSP, Ph.D.**, a Paulist priest, composer, theologian, and author who will be offering a **concert on Friday, August 26, 2022 at 7:00PM**, and a **presentation for our local observance of the National Eucharistic Revival on Saturday, August 27, 2022 from 9:00AM to 12 Noon**. The title of the two-part event is



"Encountering Christ: Music & Meditation" and will be held at the Saint Gregory Parish, 330 North Abington Road, Clarks Green, PA.

While all are welcome, we extend a special invitation to **parish musicians** as a "kickoff" to a new season of music ministry in your parish, and to your **extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion** as an opportunity to reflect on the Sacrament of the Eucharist and the importance of their ministry during the National Eucharistic Revival.

There is no charge for the event, but a free-will offering will be accepted. We are asking those who plan on attending to make a reservation at [this link](#) or by calling 570-207-2213. For more information about the event, please contact David Baloga at 570-207-2213 or at david-baloga@dioceseofscranton.org.

Online Liturgy Network Meeting

The next online liturgy network meeting will take place on **Monday, August 8 at 6:30PM**. Parishes will be sent a link to the monthly meeting. For more information, please contact David Baloga at david-baloga@dioceseofscranton.org or at 570-207-2213.

RCIA 101: A Crash Course on Christian Initiation

The Office for Parish Life will offer its annual online "crash" course day on the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults on **Saturday, August 13, 2022 from 9:00AM to 3:00PM**.

The goal of this offering for priests, deacons, parish life coordinators, RCIA coordinators, RCIA team members is to provide a overall sense of what the Church asks of parishes in responding to seekers and preparing them for Initiation. The session will also address what is new/not new in the new Order of Christian Initiation of Adults which is expected to be implemented next year. This course day would be ideal for anyone new to the RCIA as well as seasoned veterans who are looking to deepen their understanding of the process.

To register for the Zoom session, please complete the [online form](#). For more information, please contact David Baloga, Director for Worship, at 570-207-2213, ext. 1158 or at david-baloga@dioceseofscranton.org.

Extraordinary Minister of Communion Training

The Office for Parish Life will offer an Extraordinary Minister of Communion training on **Saturday, August 6 from 9:00AM to 2:30PM** at Saint John Parish, 5171 Milford Road, East Stroudsburg, PA 18302. To register your parishioners for this session, please contact Analia at stjohnre28@gmail.com or at 570-223-9144.

Desiderio Desideravi and Liturgical Formation in your Parish

On June 29, 2022, the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, released a new Apostolic Letter, *Desiderio Desideravi*, on the liturgical formation of the People of God. Pope Francis addresses the nature of sacramental encounter, of symbols and symbolic language, of ars celebrandi, and the need to engage all the baptized in the fruitful celebration of the Paschal Mystery. To read the Apostolic Letter, [click here](#).

Interested in formation or a day/evening of reflection for your liturgical ministers this fall? Please contact David Baloga at 570-207-2213 or at David-Baloga@dioceseofscranton.org to discuss an opportunity.

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON
NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

**ENCOUNTERING
CHRIST:
MUSIC & MEDITATION**
WITH
FR. RICKY MANALO, CSP

CONCERT
FRI., AUG. 26--7PM
"Tune, Text, and Theology: Singing Our Praises to God"

PRESENTATION
SAT., AUG. 27--9AM-NOON
"A Eucharist of Encountering: Crossing Thresholds, Becoming Transformed"

CHURCH OF SAINT GREGORY
330 NORTH ABINGTON RD., CLARKS GREEN, PA

A FREE-WILL OFFERING WILL BE ACCEPTED.
TO MAKE A RESERVATION, PLEASE CALL 570-207-2213,
OR VISIT WWW.DIOCESEOFSCRANTON.ORG.

COMMUNITY

"I CALL us to be servant leaders who build COMMUNITY through hospitality, respect, inclusion and holiness."

Jen Housel, Director for Community and Family Development, Moving to a New Role

Jen Housel will be leaving her role as Director for Community and Family Development in our Office for Parish Life as of August 15. If you have any questions or concerns you'd like to discuss with Jen before her departure, please reach out (jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org). In September, Jen will begin a new role as the Executive Director for [The Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers](http://TheAssociationofCatholicMentalHealthMinisters.org) (CMHM). Though Jen will miss many aspects of her current role in OPL, she looks forward to continuing to collaborate with our diocese and parishes in her role with CMHM. If your parish or you would like to learn more about the CMHM, or about Mental Health Ministry, please reach out to Jen (jhousel@catholicmhm.org) or to Deacon Ed Shoener, CMHM President (deaconed@catholicmhm.org).



Retrovaille Weekend Coming to Our Diocese This Summer—August 19-21

Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. Is it designed to provide the tools to help get your marriage back on track. It will give you the opportunity to rediscover each other and examine your lives together in a new and positive way. This program has helped 10s of 1000s of couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels including disillusionment and misery. For confidential information about, or to register for the August Weekend, please call 631-338-5413 or email philmilazzo2@gmail.com. You can also visit www.helpourmarriage.com.



FOCCUS™ Marriage Ministry

FOCCUS™ Marriage Ministries is moving into a modular training program effective July 20, 2022!

The new FOCCUS™ training experience is at the cutting edge of marriage formation and enrichment. In the new facilitator training, members will complete online, on-demand modules on topics such as Facilitation Tips and Techniques, Facilitating Difficult Conversations, and Introduction to the REFOCCUS® Inventory. Modules include videos with couples, facilitators, and experts in the field to illustrate important points. An accompanying Participant Guide includes exercises and information to complement the training. Once all modules are complete, members will register for a live, Zoom Capstone Experi-



ence where everyone is given time to practice their skills as a facilitator and receive feedback from their peers and trainer. We believe this is a truly unique training program providing many exciting and much-needed new features.

FOCCUS™ is a terrific way for parishes to serve couples, both for PreCana and for Marriage Enrichment. Additionally, these resources are available in both English and Spanish. Contact Jen Housel to learn more, 570-207-2213 x 1104, jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org.

Rachel's Vineyard Post-Abortion Healing

November 4-6, 2022

This weekend retreat provides a compassionate and confidential opportunity to those suffering from the impact of abortion to encounter our God of Mercy on a journey of spiritual and psychological healing. To learn more, please visit www.rachelsvineyard.org or contact denise-mengaklcsw@gmail.com, or at 570-239-6173.



Schedule a "Night of Hope and Healing" for Your Parish!

Our Diocesan Rachel's Vineyard Post-Abortion Healing Ministry Team is available to host a "Night of Hope and Healing" event in your parish. Speakers who have personally encountered God in their healing journey from loss through abortion, stillbirth and miscarriage share messages of hope and reconciliation. Music and Prayer conclude with an opportunity to write their children's name in the Book of Life. For information contact denise-mengaklcsw@gmail.com or call 570-239-6173.

"I CALL us to be servant leaders who engage in SERVICE to our neighbors near and far and who work for justice and stewardship to hasten the Reign of God."

SERVICE



PROGRAMA SEMANAL
Del Ministerio Hispano de la Diócesis de Scranton

**CRECIENDO & FORTALECIENDO
NUESTRA FE CATÓLICA**
CONOCE, AMA & VIVE TU FE

SÁBADOS
11 AM - 12 PM

LA MEGA
95.3 FM WILKES BARRE
94.9 FM SCRANTON

DIÓCESIS DE SCRANTON
MINISTERIO HISPANO

DESCARGA LA APLICACIÓN

Ministerio Hispano - Diócesis de Scranton

LA MEGA
94.9FM - 95.3FM

CONOCE, AMA & VIVE TU FE
CRECIENDO
FORTALECIENDO NUESTRA
FE CATÓLICA
MINISTERIO HISPANO - DIÓCESIS DE SCRANTON

Diocese of Scranton

UP & OVER

Middle School Retreat

September
23rd to 25th

at Camp Orchard Hill
in Dallas, Pa.

Visit Dioceseofscranton.org
for more information or
to register

Pennsylvania March for Life

The Diocese of Scranton is sponsoring a bus to the 2nd Annual Pa March for Life in Harrisburg on September 19th. The bus will depart from Scranton making a pickup in Wilke-Barre – seating is limited and preference will be given to college students, young adults, and young families. For more information, contact Shannon at skowalski@dioceseofscranton.org or 570-207-2213, x. 1155.



Monday, September 19, 2022



**PENNSYLVANIA
MARCH FOR LIFE**



OPL Month-At-A-Glance

August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Extraordinary Minister of Communion Training 9AM-2:30PM St. John's, East Stroudsburg Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference
7 CCR Conference	8 Online Liturgy Network 6:30PM	9	10	11	12	13 RCIA 101: Crash Course on the RCIA Process 9AM-3PM (virtual) PreCana St. Patrick's, White Haven, 8AM-4:30PM
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Retrovaille Weekend
21 Retrovaille Weekend	22	23	24	25	26 Encountering Christ: Concert with Fr. Ricky Manalo—St. Gregory's, Clarks Green 7PM	27 Encountering Christ: Presentation with Fr. Ricky Manalo—St. Gregory's, Clarks Green 9AM—Noon Mental Health First Aid Certification, DPC 8:30AM-3PM
28 Family Faith Formation Workshop with Tom East 1PM-6PM, DPC	29 Family Faith Formation Workshop with Tom East 9AM-3PM, DPC	30	31 Last Day to Register for VLCFF Cycle 6			

OPL TEAM MEMBERS

Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life: **Mary Hallman**

Director for WORD and Lifelong Faith Formation:

Director for WORSHIP: **David Baloga**

Director for SERVICE and Mission: **Shannon Kowalski**

Coordinator for Pilgrimages: **Fr. Andrew Hvozdovic**

Director for COMMUNITY and Family Development: **Jen Housel**

Coordinator for Ecumenical/Interfaith Relations: **Msgr. Vincent Grimalia**

Coordinator for Lay Ministry Formation: **Kitty Scanlan**

Coordinator for Hispanic Ministry: **José Flores**

Consultant for Pastoral Council Development: **Ann Marie Cawley**

Diocesan Pastoral Center Manager: **Kitty Scanlan**

Administrative Assistant: **Jennifer Andres**



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