

The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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— PASTORAL VISIT CONNECTS SCRANTON & SUNYANI —

Bishop describes experience in Ghana as “incredible”

SUNYANI, GHANA – While more than 5,000 miles may separate the Dioceses of Scranton and Sunyani geographically, the two communities continue to grow closer in learning about one another and sharing their culture and faith.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop Scranton, along with Father Gerald W. Shantillo, Vicar General, and Father Brian J.T. Clarke, Diocesan Director of Pontifical Mission Societies, just completed a week-long pastoral visit to Sunyani. The trio departed the United States on Aug. 10, 2022 and will be returning Friday, Aug. 19.

“It has been an incredible experience,” Bishop Bambera said in regards to the visit. “We were made to feel so welcome.”

Throughout the pastoral visit, Bishop Bambera has been documenting his experiences and sharing regular updates on the Diocese of Scranton’s social media platforms. An archive of photos and videos that the bishop has posted is also available on the Diocese of Scranton website.

“Pope Francis often says the church is most alive in Africa. That has been our experience and we in Scranton are so blessed to have experienced this and to have the good blessing of eight priests from the Diocese of Sunyani to serve in our parishes,” Bishop Bambera said during one of the videos he shared.

CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

Bishop Bambera’s pastoral visit to Sunyani was planned to coincide with the Diocese of Sunyani’s annual four-day celebration of the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The event

brings roughly 15,000 people to Mary Queen of Peace Grotto each year.

Every parish in the Diocese of Sunyani sends parishioners to participate in the pilgrimage. The faithful participate in Morning Devotions, listen to testimonies and talks, celebrate Mass, recite the Rosary and enjoy each other’s company.

Bishop Bambera presided at the Closing Mass of the four-day celebration on Sunday, Aug. 14, 2022.

“I was touched by the enthusiasm of the faithful, by their desire to express their faith, by the richness of their involvement in the liturgy and by their generous spirit and the beautiful procession of gifts when

they brought food for the poor,” Bishop Bambera said.

The Diocese of Sunyani is home to approximately 300,000 baptized Catholics. In 2023, the Diocese will celebrate its 50th anniversary.

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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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The Most Rev. Matthew Kwasi Gyamfi, who is currently serving as Bishop of Sunyani, is only the second bishop in the history of the Diocese. He was appointed bishop in 2003 after the death of Bishop James Kwadwo Owusu.

Bishop Matthew called the pastoral visit for Scranton's delegation "extraordinary."

"People are so excited to have them," Bishop Matthew said. "We thank the people of the Diocese of Scranton for permitting the bishop to come and join us. We are extremely grateful!"

SAYING THANK YOU

One of the many reasons why Bishop Bambera, Father Shantillo and Father Clarke wanted to travel to Sunyani is to express gratitude for the incredible generosity that Sunyani has provided Scranton in terms of its priestly resources.

Over the last four years, ten priests from the Diocese of Sunyani have travelled abroad to serve in the Diocese of Scranton. There are currently eight serving here right now.

"It really means a great deal for me, on behalf of the clergy and the faithful of our Diocese, to go to the Diocese of Sunyani and share with their bishop and with all of their people, our deep gratitude for their presence here," Bishop Bambera explained. "It is a sacrifice to travel halfway around the world and to live in a land that you don't necessarily understand and know as well as your own home."

While in Ghana, the Diocese of Scranton delegation was especially grateful to have dinner with the parents of the priests who are working in the Diocese of Scranton.

Throughout the course of the week-long visit, Bishop Matthew highlighted to his own people



Bishop Joseph C. Bambera presides over the Closing Mass for the four-day Feast of the Assumption at Mary Queen of Peace Grotto on Sunday, Aug. 14, 2022 in the Diocese of Sunyani, Ghana.

the good work that the Pontifical Mission Societies do. In reality, Bishop Matthew helped showcase the fact that as the People of God we all serve one another.

"Our churches and our faith is much, much bigger than simply our corner of the world that we know as the Diocese of Scranton," Bishop Bambera added. "We join with brothers and sisters around the world, hands across the Atlantic Ocean now, to the Diocese of Sunyani."

LEARNING AND SHARING

The Diocese of Sunyani is roughly 7,500 square miles. By size, that means it is a little smaller than the size of Scranton, which is roughly 8,800 square miles.

Throughout their week overseas, Bishop Bambera, Father Shantillo and Father Clarke had the opportunity to tour schools, a seminary, clinics and other various institutions.

On Monday, Aug. 15, the trio celebrated Mass at Saint James Seminary, a high school seminary, which has 900 students. Roughly 200 of those students are in the seminary formation program.

"It was a great opportunity to listen to their incredible voices

singing and praising God," Bishop Bambera noted.

The group also toured a sewing factory that makes religious vestments and school uniforms that is sponsored by the Diocese of Sunyani.

"What is so amazing about that is it started with a donation of three industrial sewing machines that were given to one of the priests of Sunyani several years ago and it has grown into an incredible industry," Bishop Bambera explained. "It trains women to learn the craft of sewing that enables them to find jobs in that factory and elsewhere to start their businesses."

While there was so much joy and inspiration on the pastoral visit, the Diocesan delegation also took time to mark a dark period in the history of Ghana.

On the second day of their visit, as they were traveling from Ghana's capital city of Accra to Sunyani, the group stopped at Cape Coast Castle. The castle is one of dozens of "slave castles" built on the Gold Coast of Africa



Bishop Bambera celebrates Mass at St. James High School Seminary, which has over 900 students.

by European traders. Originally established for the gold/mineral trade, they eventually became used to hold slaves before they were put on ships and sold in the Americas.

"It was a reminder to us of the need for us to work against injustice in any way that we can, to bring an end, finally, once and for all, to racism and discrimination," Bishop Bambera said following his visit.

The final Mass that Bishop Bambera celebrated in Ghana was with young people of Sunyani on Wednesday, Aug. 17. He encouraged the young people to continue bringing Jesus' message of love and forgiveness to the world in which they live.

"Stand up against intolerance and hatred, show the world by your example that we are all brothers and sisters," he said. "Break down barriers of selfishness, protect this wonderful creation that we've been given, respect it, treasure it, and serve the poorest in our midst!"

View More Photos and Videos from the Trip to Ghana at:
dioceseofscranton.org



Above: Father Gerald W. Shantillo distributes Communion during a Mass at Mary Queen of Peace Grotto on Saturday, Aug. 13, 2022.



Top Center: Bishop Bambara sprinkles large crowds of the faithful.



Top Right: Father Brian J.T. Clarke talks with the children of workers at a sewing factory that makes religious vestments and uniforms.



Middle Center: Women from the Diocese of Sunyani participate in an offertory procession that contained gifts for the poor.



Far Right: Bishop Bambara gathered for dinner on Aug. 15 with the parents/families of all eight priests from Sunyani who are currently serving in the Diocese of Scranton.

Below: Diocesan delegation poses with Sisters of the Incarnate Word, one of whom just moved to Scranton to study at a local university.



Middle Center: St. Stephen Preparatory School students answer questions on Aug. 16, 2022.



Bottom Right: Bishop Bambara and the Most Rev. Matthew Kwasi Gyamfi, Bishop of Sunyani, wave to the faithful during the Sign of Peace.



Bottom Center: Marian Procession at Mary Queen of Peace Grotto on Aug. 13, 2022.

Bottom Left: A mission church in Sunyani.

Bottom Right: Fr. Clement Amankwah Yeboah



Encountering Christ: Music & Meditation to take place Aug. 26-27

CLARKS GREEN – As the Diocese of Scranton continues to mark the National Eucharistic Revival, we are pleased to welcome Father Ricky Manalo, CSP, Ph.D., a Paulist priest, composer, theologian and author for a two-part event, “Encountering Christ: Music & Meditation,” on Aug. 26 and 27.

Both events are free and will be held at the Church of Saint Gregory, 330 North Abington Road, Clarks Green.

The first event, a concert entitled, ‘Tune, Text and Theology: Singing Our Praises to God,’ will take place on Friday, Aug. 26 at 7 p.m.

The second event, a presentation entitled, ‘A Eucharist of Encountering: Crossing Thresholds, Becoming Transformed,’ will take place on Saturday, Aug. 27 from 9 a.m. until noon.

Liturgy invites us to enter into “God’s space and time” where we become formed, re-formed, and transformed into the image and likeness of Christ. How do we respond during such privileged moments during our celebrations of the Mass? As part of the National Eucharistic Revival we invite

you to this presentation that will set a foundation for understanding how we come to encounter Christ in the sacred meal, in one another, and in the world around us.

Rev. Manalo is the recipient of the 2020 Distinguished Catholic Music Composer of the Year Award by the Association of Catholic Publishers and the 2018 Pastoral Musician of the Year Award by the National Association of Pastoral Musicians. He studied composition and piano at the Manhattan School of Music, theology at the Washington Theological Union and liturgy, culture and sociology at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California.

His music has been sung during the Papal Masses of John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Francis. Rev. Manalo has also written more than 30 articles, books and chapters on liturgy, culture, music and the intersection of sociology and religious practices.

For more information about the events, contact David Baloga, Diocesan Director for Worship at (570) 207-2213, x1158 or email david-baloga@dioceseofscranton.org.

Energy of evangelization ‘relit’ during training for parish leaders



Michael Dopp, founder of Mission of the Redeemer Ministries and the New Evangelization Summit, presents his ‘reli’ program at the Diocese of Scranton Pastoral Center in Scranton on Friday, July 29, 2022. (Photo/Dan Gallagher)

SCRANTON – Evangelization is all about spreading good news. As people of faith, when we evangelize, we share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others so that they may respond to His invitation as well.

Unfortunately, research has shown that on average, 95-percent of parishioners haven’t completely welcomed Christ into every aspect of their life.

As a way to help parish leaders find ways to help others give their “Yes” to God, the Diocese of Scranton Office for Parish Life sponsored a ‘reli’ training course July 29-30 at the Diocesan Pastoral Center. Several dozen people attended the program.

“What I really want them to see is what a beautiful thing it is to evangelize and then give them the basic tools to be able to do it,” presenter Michael Dopp said. Dopp is the founder of Mission of the Redeemer Ministries and the New Evangelization Summit.

During the interactive course, Dopp said simple gestures can make a big difference for a parish.

“It starts with the way that we think about our faith. Our faith isn’t just for us. Our faith is meant to be passed onto others,” he explained.

He urged those attending to speak about what God has done in their life, about who He is and His plan for each of us.

“The crucial thing for a parish is to understand what it exists to do. A parish is there to evangelize and therefore every ministry within the parish is there to serve

that mission,” Dopp added.

Father Mark J. DeCelles, Assistant Pastor of Our Lady of Fatima and Saint Nicholas Parishes in Wilkes-Barre, attended the ‘reli’ training.

“It’s about relighting that fire, that enthusiasm, to help us remember what we have to offer is Good News, what we have to offer is an invitation to what will truly satisfy us,” he said.

He appreciated the ‘reli’ program because it allowed him to take the good work his parish is already doing and discover ways to be even more effective.

“We all have gifts. We all have things that we can share,” Father DeCelles added.

Carla Preate, Pastoral Council President at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, also participated in the ‘reli’ program.

“You have friends and family that have fallen away from the church and you try to get them to come back but it doesn’t seem like you’re doing the right thing or you’re getting through to them,” she said.

Preate said she looks forward to taking what she learned back to her parish community.

“I would like to expand this course out to others in the parish, get more people involved in the process of this new evangelization to bring former Catholics back to church,” she added.

Programming and events coordinated through the Office for Parish Life are made possible, in part, due to gifts and donations made to the Diocesan Annual Appeal.

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

Father Stephen Krawontka, son of Poland who served in Diocese, buried from Mountain Top

MOUNTAIN TOP — Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant of a concelebrated Pontifical Mass of Christian Burial for Father Stephen A. Krawontka on July 26 at Saint Jude Church in Mountain Top.

A native of Poland who was serving as pastor of the parish communities of Ascension in Forest City and Saint Katharine Drexel in Pleasant Mount, Father Krawontka died July 19 at Wayne Memorial Hospital, Honesdale.

Born in Lapsze Nizne, Poland, on March 27, 1950, son of the late Jan and Julia Nowobilska Krawontka, Father Krawontka received his early education at local public schools and graduated from Zakopane High School in southern Poland.

He attended the Papal Faculty of Theology in Krakow, Poland, where he completed his theological studies and priestly preparation, and was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Krakow on May 22, 1977, by Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, the future Pope Saint John Paul II.

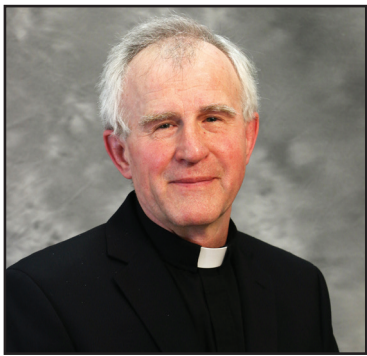
Following 13 years of ministering as a priest in his native country, Father Krawontka

came to the Diocese of Scranton in July 1990 and was appointed assistant pastor of Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Dickson City.

With the consent of the Krakow Archdiocese, Father Krawontka was incardinated in the Scranton Diocese on Nov. 23, 1993, and was eventually appointed in July 1997 as assistant pastor of Saint Joseph Parish, Hazleton, where he served for 11 years.

In July 2008, he was assigned as administrator of the churches of Saint Mary, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and Ascension of the Lord, both in Mocanaqua, and Saint Martha Church, Fairmount Springs. Two years later, he was appointed assistant pastor at Saint Patrick Parish, West Scranton, where he would also serve as administrator *pro tem* and Senior Priest.

Father Krawontka received his next assignment in November 2017 to serve as Senior Priest at the parishes of Our Lady Help of Christians, Dorrance, and Saint Jude, Mountain Top. In 2019, Father was appointed as pastor of Ascension Parish, Forest City, and Saint Katharine Drexel



Father Stephen A. Krawontka

Parish, Pleasant Mount, where he remained until his death.

“Did you know that Father Stephen skied with Pope Saint Paul II?” was the intriguing opening line of Father Joseph Evanko’s homily for the funeral Mass of his friend, Father Stephen Krawontka, referring to the Polish priest’s close relationship with the future Pope and Saint who ordained him to the priesthood 45 years ago.

“If I did not start this homily with acknowledging Father Stephen’s connection to Pope Saint John Paul, he would not be happy,” Father Evanko continued, as he recalled Father Krawontka’s treasured photo of then-Cardinal Karol Wojtyla of Krakow laying

his hands on the young priest during his ordination.

“Father Stephen had a strong sense of memory and identity when it came to being the shepherd...For him, being the shepherd, as a priest is called to be, very much comes from remembering the culture of our ethnic backgrounds and identifying with whom our parents taught us to be,” Father Evanko noted. “His Catholic Polish heritage trained him with the religious dimension of respect and veneration of not just his parents but all people of faith.”

The homilist remembered that at the time of his parent’s death, Father Krawontka “was a shepherd to my family by reminding us how our faith and tradition provide hope for us.”

Referring to the funeral reading of Saint Paul’s Letter to the Romans, Father Evanko remarked, “Father Stephen believed that we are all brothers and sisters in Christ and when we respect each other and venerate God, as the Commandments demand, we are never separated from the love of Christ.”

Father Evanko proceeded to quote parish Deacon Jim

Atherton, who said of the late priest upon his recent passing, “Imagine Father Stephen was ordained by a future Pope and Saint, then came to serve the Diocese of Scranton and went home to God serving the people of Forest City. He lived out the Gospel trying the best he could with the talents that God gave him.”

“In the end, Father Stephen battled cancer...but continued to serve as a shepherd modeled in the memory and identity developed through family, faith and ordination,” the homilist remarked, concluding further, “Pope Saint John Paul II stated, ‘Freedom is not only a gift but a task to be used for the common good.’ Father Stephen you have used your gift well and your task is complete. May you enjoy the slopes of eternal life!”

Surviving are two sisters, Teresa Klapacz and husband, Peter; and Maria Olszowska and husband, Wlodek; a brother, Emil Krawontka and wife, Marta; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Interment was conducted at Calvary Cemetery in Drums, Luzerne County.



HARRISBURG — The second annual Pennsylvania March for Life will take place on Monday, Sept. 19, 2022, at the State Capitol in Harrisburg.

The rally at 11 a.m. and march at noon will take place on that date because it is the first day when both the Pennsylvania House and Senate will be back in session in Harrisburg.

Second Pennsylvania March for Life to take place Sept. 19

After we have seen a wave of exciting pro-life legislation across the states, now is a great time to continue the momentum and show our state lawmakers support for protecting the sanctity of life in Pennsylvania.

The rally will take place on the front steps of the State Capitol Building. The address is 501 N. 3rd Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120. The front steps are on the corner of 3rd Street and State Street.

The march route will encircle the Capitol Complex, covering N. 3rd Street, North St., Commonwealth Avenue and Walnut Street. The length of the march route is approximately one mile.

All are welcome to attend and no advanced registration is required.

Besides the rally and march, other events will be taking place on the same day. There will be Morning Mass at Saint Patrick’s Cathedral, 212 State Street, Harrisburg at 9:30 a.m. At 10 a.m., there will be prayer and a praise pre-rally on the main stage.

Thousands of people are planning to attend the second annual Pennsylvania March for Life. Several organizations locally are organizing bus trips to help people attend the event.

The Diocese of Scranton is sponsoring a bus trip that will

depart from Scranton and will make a pick-up in Wilkes-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, x1155.

The Pennsylvanians for Human Life in Hazleton will have a bus heading to the rally and march. They will begin with 8 a.m. Mass at Saint John Bosco Church in Conyngham. The cost of the bus is \$15 which includes a beverage and snacks. To reserve a seat, contact Maryann Lawhon at (570) 788-5646.

Gate of Heaven Parish in Dallas is also planning a bus trip which will leave the church’s upper parking lot at 8:30 a.m. Organizers plan to pray the rosary on the trip to Harrisburg. The bus is limited to the first 50 people but if another 50 people express interest, and there is enough to fill it, they will have a second bus attend. To sign up, call Gate of Heaven Parish at (570) 675-2121.

A bus will also depart from Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Pocono Pines, on Sept. 19. Anyone that is interested in attending can contact Stephen Gilnane at sgilnane2013@yahoo.com or (570) 977-4617.

"It is such a Holy Place"

Solemn Novena to Saint Ann draws faithful to West Scranton

SCRANTON — Thousands of people made their way to the Basilica of the National Shrine of Saint Ann in West Scranton in late June for an annual pilgrimage that has been ongoing for 98 years.

The Solemn Novena in honor of Saint Ann, the mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary, began on Sunday, July 17, and culminated with the celebration of the Feast of Saint Ann on Tuesday, July 26.

"It is such a holy place. As soon as you walk on the grounds, you can feel it. It is inspiring and a time when you can reflect on your faith," Novena volunteer Debbie Coval said.

Coval and other volunteers were happy to see so many worshippers turn out for this year's event.

"With all of the bad stuff going on, it's good to see a lot of people practicing their faith," volunteer Noah Palauskas added. "Everybody is extremely friendly here. You can come and make new friends without even trying."

The guest preacher for this year's Novena was Passionist Father Paul Fagan.

"Each day is more energizing," Father Fagan said. Father Fagan preached about Saint Joseph, the son-in-law of Saint Ann, this year.

"We started with looking at Saint Joseph generally and for the rest of the Novena, we took a title of Saint Joseph each day and reflected on that," he explained.

Carol Ann McNulty of Laflin has been coming to the annual Novena for more than 25 years. She says Saint Ann has blessed her with health, happiness, holiness and prosperity.

"When I have asked Saint Ann to intercede for my family, if it were health problems or whatever it may be, she has come through for us," McNulty explained. "My brother who had cancer, we brought him here for the very first time when he was going through treatments. When he came, he was amazed at the size of the Saint Ann statue and he said he felt different after he left, it was like a special blessing he received."

This year, the tradition of blessing the faithful with a relic

of Saint Ann has returned after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"They tell you, 'Be careful what you pray for because you may get it but not in the way you think you're going to get it,'" Marion Kruska of West Wyoming said. "I've had a lot of things happen in my lifetime and I got what I wanted but it was a long haul of comfort and suffering to guide me through it."

Guy Pelosi has been attending the Novena for decades. His mother taught him to have a deep love and respect for Saint Ann.

"I was born and raised in West Scranton. I was a member of Saint Ann Monastery since birth. I was an altar boy, a choirboy, a boy scout, I was in the Vocation Club. I worked here years ago as a porter and also worked in the kitchen washing dishes. I literally grew up here. This is my life. Our community was based at Saint Ann's," he explained.

When asked to describe how the Novena itself has impacted his life, Pelosi responded simply, "It is beyond words!"



Crowds filled the lawn of the Basilica of the National Shrine of Saint Ann for the Closing Mass of the annual Novena on July 26, 2022.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, celebrated the Solemn Closing of the Novena on the Feast of Saint Ann.

During his homily, he discussed faith, family, gratitude.

"My sisters and brothers, open your ears and listen to the voice of God as he speaks to your heart and offers you a message of consolation and hope," Bishop Bambera said. "Look within yourselves. See God walking with you even and particularly amid all of the hurts, the wounds, the brokenness, the guilt, the grief and pain that are yours."

He continued, "See in the Eucharist - the Body and Blood

of Jesus - God's love poured forth for you, for me, as we are, with the gifts of life, salvation and peace."

As the Solemn Closing Mass of the Novena came to an end, Father Richard Burke, C.P., Rector of St. Ann's, thanked all those who made the 55 Masses and Novena services possible, including Bishop Bambera, who celebrated the final Mass.

"Your Excellency, Bishop Bambera, we are so pleased that you are here with us tonight to bring to a conclusion this week of marvelous prayer, marvelous hope and marvelous inspiration that we've had from the virtues of Saint Joseph throughout these nine days," Father Burke said.



The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, delivers the homily for the Solemn Closing Mass of the Novena on the Feast Day of Saint Ann, July 26, 2022. (Photos/Mike Melisky)



Father James O'Shea, C.P., Provincial of the Passionist Community, blesses the faithful with the relic of Saint Ann.

Mass in Italian to be celebrated Sept. 4 in Scranton

SCRANTON – The annual Mass in Italian will be celebrated on Sunday, Sept. 4, at 10 a.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter. All are welcome to attend.

The liturgy is celebrated in conjunction with La Festa Italiana, which occurs over the Labor Day weekend, Friday through Monday, Sept. 2-5, on Courthouse Square, one block away.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will preside. Father David P. Cappelloni, V.F., La Festa Chaplain and pastor of Saints Anthony and Rocco Parish in Dunmore, will be the principal celebrant. The guest homilist is Jesuit Father Joseph G. Marina, president of The University of Scranton.

Concelebrants will include Monsignor Constantine V. Siconolfi, La Festa Chaplain Emeritus, and priests from the Diocese of Scranton. Deacons from the Diocese will also participate.

The Mass will be broadcast live by CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and will be rebroadcast on Tuesday, September 6, at 8 p.m., and Wednesday, September 7, at 10:30 a.m. In addition to airing live on CTV, the Mass will also be livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel and a link will be provided across all Diocesan social media platforms. It will also be available at anytime after the live broadcast concludes.

Father Marina became the 29th president of The University of Scranton on June 14, 2021. Prior to assuming this position, he served as provost and vice president for academic affairs and professor of education at Le Moyne College from 2016 through the spring of 2021. Previously at Le Moyne he was associate provost, interim chair of the education department and special assistant to the president.

Earlier in his career, Father Marina served as the dean of the School of Continuing Education at Providence College, assistant

dean for the College of Science and Mathematics at Montclair State University, and assistant dean for Metropolitan College at Saint John's University. In addition, he taught religious studies at Providence College and mathematics at Saint John's University. He served as pastor of the Church of Saint Francis Xavier and as associate pastor of the Church of Saint Ignatius Loyola, both of which are in New York City.

Father Marina holds a Doctor of Philosophy in administration and supervision from Fordham University, a Master of Divinity and a Master of Theology from Boston College and a Master of Science in Secondary Education from Saint John's University. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Physical Sciences, with a theology minor, from Saint John's University.

Father Marina entered the Society of Jesus in 2004 and was ordained to the priesthood in 2012.

This year's Italian Mass is being offered in memory of all those members and friends of La Festa Italiana who passed away since the last Mass was celebrated, including Ed Balderson, Anthony J. Cali, Paul Casparro, Carole Coccodrilli, Rocco Damiano, Most Reverend John M. Dougherty, Rosemary Gallagher, John "Yogi" Jagodzinski, Jennifer Gregory Martin, Marilouise Agnone Ruane, Alice Vanston and Pasquale "Pat" Yanni.

Music ministry for the Italian Mass will be provided by the choir of Saints Anthony and Rocco Parish, Dunmore; accompanied by a brass quartet, all directed by Joseph Moffitt. Dominick DeNaples, mandolin; Patrick Loungo, Nicholas Luongo, Lou Cossa, guitar, and Monica Spishock, timpani, will also accompany.

Ashley Yando-DeFlice is the cantor and the leader of prayer. The featured soloist will be T. J. Capobianco from the New York City Metropolitan Opera.

The lectors are the Honorable Judge Robert Mazzoni and Sister

Catherine Iacouzze, MPF. The Prayer of the Faithful will be led by Diane Alberigi, Attorney Frank Castellano and Karen Clifford.

The offertory gifts will be presented by La Festa Founding

Member Robert W. Pettinato, Casparro Conaboy.

UNICO National President Dr. James Baress, Patrick Caramanno, Joshua Cillo, Jonathan Eboli, Stephen Eboli, Richard Garofalo and Joseph Wentline are the ushers.

COURTHOUSE SQUARE, LABOR DAY WEEKEND.

ENJOY ITALIAN FOOD, ENTERTAINMENT & MORE.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 2 THROUGH MONDAY, SEPT. 5



Celebrate Mass in Italian

SUNDAY, SEPT. 4TH, AT 10AM

ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL

LA FESTA
ITALIANA



For more info and complete daily schedule, visit: www.lafestaitaliana.org

Diocese to hold Mass for Suicide Healing & Remembrance on Sept. 18

SCRANTON – Suicide is a leading cause of death in the United States. It was responsible for nearly 46,000 deaths in 2020. This is about one death every 11 minutes.

In observance of Suicide Awareness Month in September, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate a Mass for Suicide Healing and Remembrance on Sunday, Sept. 18, 2022, at 12:15 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. All are welcome.

The Mass will serve to remember loved ones lost to suicide and to promote healing for those who grieve their passing. During the Mass, those attending will be invited to bring forward a flower to the altar in remembrance of those lost.

“This ritual is a way for all of us to acknowledge and remember those who have died by suicide and to symbolize our commending them to God’s love, mercy, and care,” Jennifer Housel, Executive Director for the Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers, said.

Suicide affects all ages. In 2020, suicide was among the top nine leading causes of death for people ages 10-64. Suicide was the second leading cause of death for people ages 10-14 and 25-34.

“This Mass is an important opportunity for our Church to offer particular comfort and healing for those who are grieving a loved one who has died by suicide. It is also important to have this Mass in order to reduce the stigma that still surrounds suicide and

to increase awareness,” Housel added. “Too often in my years of ministry I have encountered both Catholics and non-Catholics who do not know the Church’s current teaching about suicide.”

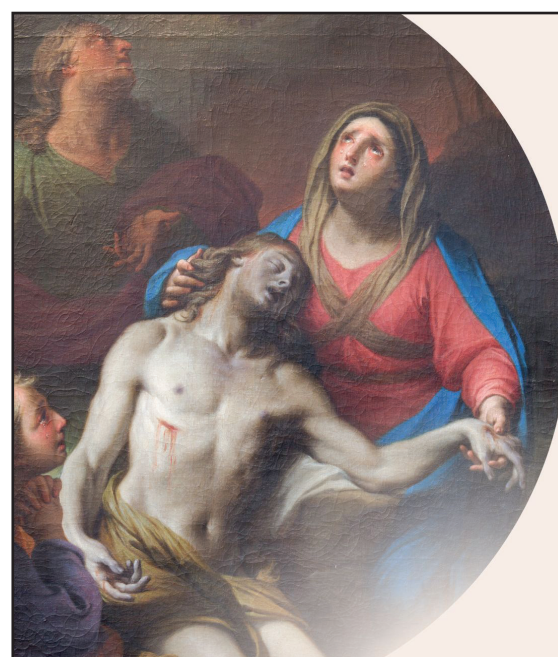
Suicide and suicide attempts affect the health and well-being of friends, loved ones, co-workers, and the community. When people die by suicide, their surviving family and friends may experience shock, anger, guilt, symptoms of depression or anxiety and may even experience thoughts of suicide themselves.

“Suicide is a tragic reality in the lives of our faithful and in our surrounding communities. Rather than remaining silent, it is important that we open our hearts and listen to the stories people want to tell, may need to tell, about the loved one they are grieving. Talking about suicide helps to reduce stigma and can allow the opportunity to share resources that may be helpful,” Housel explained.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, Second Edition, states the following, “We should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives. By ways known to him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The Church prays for persons who have taken their own lives.” (CCC 2283).

Suicide is preventable. All people are encouraged to recognize the warning signs and identify ways to talk to someone who may be at risk.

Mental Health is of great concern not only for our



DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

∞ Mass for ∞ Suicide Healing & Remembrance

Sunday, September 18, 2022 at 12:15 p.m.
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton

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

In observance of Suicide Awareness Month in September, the Diocese of Scranton will offer a Mass to remember loved ones lost to suicide and healing for those who still grieve their passing. All are welcome.

The Mass will be broadcast on CTV: Catholic Television and livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website, www.dioceseofscranton.org, YouTube channel, and social media.

faithful but also for those in our communities who we are called to serve. Numerous resources are available to everyone, no matter their circumstances.

First, the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is available by calling or texting “988.” The Lifeline is available 24/7, 365 days a year.

In addition, the Veterans Crisis Line and Military Crisis Line is also available to connect veterans and service members in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat or text. The number is 1-800-273-8255, Press 1.

The Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers website, located at catholicmhm.org, allows people to view resources

by topic, including resources related to suicide.

The Diocese of Scranton’s Mass for Suicide Healing & Remembrance will be broadcast by CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel and social media platforms.

For more information on the Mass, visit dioceseofscranton.org or call (570) 207-2213.

PRAYER AFTER SUICIDE

*Crucified Savior,
you know all things, and I do not.
Help me accept the reality that I may never fully understand why
my loved one died by suicide.*

*You suffered on the Cross, and cried out,
“My God, my God why have you abandoned me?”
My loved one must have experienced such intense, persistent
psychological pain.
Remove his/her suffering and bring him/her eternal peace.*

*I know that all things work for the good of those who love you,
and that we are called according to your purpose.
Help me to remember what my loved one loved
and to bring that love into the world.
Help me take his/her suffering
and transform it into loving service to those who suffer.*

*Guide me to find ways to honor my loved one’s memory
and to live gratefully and as he/she would have hoped.*

*Give me hope and confidence in your loving mercy.
Help me to survive the trauma of this suicide
and be healed.*

Deacon Ed Shoener, Diocese of Scranton

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH SECOND EDITION

2283 We should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives. By ways known to him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The Church prays for persons who have taken their own lives.

Vacation Bible School offers opportunity for fun, learning

MOSCOW – While many parishes are busy preparing their religious education programs for the fall, students in many communities are still talking about the fun and learning that went on over the summer!

With concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic easing a little this year, many parishes hosted their normal Vacation Bible School programs.

At Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, dozens of students between the age of three up to fifth grade participated in a program from July 11-15. The theme of this year's event was "Rocky Railway" and featured an elaborate set of props including a moving train in the parish parking lot.

"We're celebrating the power of Jesus who has helped us through a difficult time," Sandy Czyzyk, Director of Religious Education at Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, said. "The train, in a sense, is Jesus' strength, power and energy."

The staff at the parish works several months to prepare an interactive program that features bible stories, music, dancing and crafts.

"I love working with the kids. I helped teach the kindergarteners this year and seeing the little kid's faces light up when they learn about Jesus just makes me so happy," volunteer Carly Bajor said.

"I've been doing Vacation



Students participating in Vacation Bible School at Saint Catherine of Siena Parish in Moscow participate in a bible lesson on July 15, 2022. (Photo/Eric Deabill)

Bible School for about ten years now. What keeps bringing me back is the kids. I love coming back every year and watching them grow up, grow in their faith, make friends and be so excited to be a part of this community," volunteer Marie LaRosa added.

Many of the students who participated say they loved the week so much, they're already looking forward to next year.

"I liked the music," student Nora Sullivan said.

"I learned some nice songs. At bible stories, I learned some pretty neat things," student Lucca Gabello added.

During the week of June 27-July 1, the parishes of Our Lady

of the Snows, Church of Saint Gregory and Saint John Vianney all came together to host a joint Vacation Bible School for all three communities in Clarks Green.

"On Monday, they (the students) came in all timid and shy. On Tuesday, they came running in. Mom and dad didn't even need to bring them in, they were singing and dancing," Sue Burke, Director of Faith Formation at Our Lady of the Snows Parish, said. "Knowing that they're growing in their faith every day just warms my heart."

The theme for the joint Vacation Bible School was "Spark."

"We focused on 'what's



Students from Our Lady of the Snows Parish, Saint John Vianney Parish and the Church of Saint Gregory participate in a joint Vacation Bible School in Clarks Green on July 1, 2022. (Photo/Sue Burke)

your spark!' The children were supposed to identify something that gives them purpose and how to use it for God's plan," Ruth Fried, Religious Formation Director at the Church of Saint Gregory, said.

The three parishes decided to host a joint Vacation Bible School because all of the parishes are located in the same deanery and their faith formation directors have been networking in an intentional way.

"God brought us together for a reason and we're here to change the lives of these kids," Kristin Travis, Director of Faith Formation at Saint John Vianney Parish in Montdale, said. "Saint

John Vianney hasn't had a lot of children attending Vacation Bible School the past several years and we really wanted to have them involved!"

Just like in Moscow, the students who participated say they learned a lot.

"I think it's fun how they are able to incorporate God into all the activities that we do," student Gretchen Duffy said.

"I think it's good that kids from other parishes are coming together as one. A lot of these kids go to school together and know each other so it's good for them to have a place that they can all come together at the same time," student Eddie Scavone added.

Catechetical Sunday to be celebrated on Sept. 18

Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel.

This year, the Church will celebrate Catechetical Sunday on Sept. 18, 2022, and the theme is: "This is my body given for you." Those who the parish community

has designated to serve as catechists are traditionally called forth to be commissioned for their ministry.

All are invited to join in the following "Prayer for Catechists" which was put together by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"Loving Father, we pray today for our catechists. We thank

you for their gift of ministry in your Church.

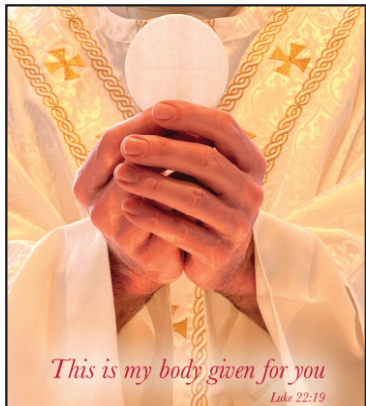
"Grant them your wisdom that they may grow in the understanding and teaching of your Word.

"Grant them also your love that they may be fruitful heralds of your Word and lead others to love you.

"Pour forth your Holy Spirit upon them to grant them wisdom about what is important; knowledge

of the truths of faith; understanding of their meaning; right judgment about how to apply them in life; courage to persevere even in the face of adversity; reverence before all that is sacred and holy; and that loving zeal which leads others to a transforming encounter with your Son.

"We pray this through Christ, our Lord. Amen."



Building Bonds of Friendship, Solidarity and Mutual Understanding

Reflections on the Catholic - Pentecostal International Dialogue

By Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Catholic Co-Chair

In 1964, the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council issued the Decree on Ecumenism, *Unitatis Redintegratio*, acknowledging that the restoration of unity among Christians was one of the Council's principle concerns, reflecting the very prayer of Jesus himself. "What has revealed the love of God among us is that the Father has sent into the world His only-begotten Son, so that, being made man, He might by His redemption give new life to the entire human race and unify it. Before offering Himself up as a spotless victim upon the altar, Christ prayed to His Father for all who believe in Him: 'that they all may be one; even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us, so that the world may believe that thou has sent me'"

Seven years after the publication of *Unitatis Redintegratio*, an agreement was reached between the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity of the Roman Catholic Church, some Pentecostal Churches and participants in the charismatic movement within the Protestant and Anglican Churches to enter into dialogue. This agreement set the stage for the first official meeting of the International Catholic - Pentecostal Dialogue that took place in Zurich, Switzerland in June 1972.

With its primary goal of fostering mutual respect and understanding between the Catholic Church and Classical Pentecostal leaders and churches in light of the prayer of Jesus that all may be one (Jn 17:21), the Dialogue has issued six reports throughout the course of the past fifty years, with each report reflecting a particular phase of discussion and prayer. Each phase, in turn, has generally consisted of six to seven years of dialogue on topics related to a particular theme of mutual interest and concern. Themes over the past five decades have ranged from "Evangelization, Proselytism and Common Witness" to "Becoming a Christian, Baptism and the Sacraments" to "Charisms in the Life and Mission of the Church," among other topics.

In 2020, I was asked to serve as the Catholic co-chair of the Dialogue, working alongside my counterpart from the Pentecostal movement, the Reverend Cecil M. Robeck, Jr., who has been a member of the Dialogue for decades. Meeting in Rome in July of this year to commemorate its 50th anniversary, the Dialogue continued its work in the early stages of its 7th Phase, with the overall theme, *Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi*, (translated: "the law of what is prayed is the law of what is believed"). Our specific focus for this year's Dialogue work was



Members of the Catholic - Pentecostal International Dialogue gather at the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls in Rome for prayer during their annual dialogue meeting that took place in July 2022.

"Kerygma, Proclamation and the Christian Life," with papers being prepared by both Catholic and Pentecostal participants that served as the basis for our discussion, prayer and reflection.

For me, in addition to being involved in a discipline of Church life and ministry that has great meaning personally, I felt privileged and blessed to have been given the opportunity to work with a team of outstanding academic scholars and church leaders. Not knowing what to expect as I prepared for my first experience of the Dialogue in person, following a two-year suspension of in-person meetings due to the coronavirus pandemic, the members of the Catholic team helped to make our time together both productive and meaningful through the expertise that they shared, the depth of their faith and their kind and generous spirits. My experience with the Catholic members of the Dialogue was mirrored by the Pentecostal members, each of whom approached

our time together with respect, reverence, openness and faith.

As noted in the title of my reflections, the Dialogue is truly international in its composition. Currently, it consists of seven Catholic members, who represent the United States, Columbia, Italy, Nigeria (by way of Switzerland), Hong Kong and Brazil, and eight Pentecostal members, from the United States, Canada, Australia, Ghana and Peru. Thankfully, our meetings were all conducted in English. The various cultures and lands that were represented, however, all served to provide a rich and varied perspective on Church life, worship and ministry.

Our Dialogue group spent six days working together from early morning until early evening, with a break for lunch – but no time for a siesta! Yet, despite the intense schedule, we were fortunate to participate in several notable experiences, from Sunday Mass in Saint Peter's Basilica, to Vespers at the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls, to a private tour of the Apostolic Palace, conducted by the Diocese of Scranton's own Monsignor Christopher Washington, who is assigned to the Secretariat of State in the Vatican, to an anniversary dinner hosted in the Vatican Gardens by His Eminence, Kurt Cardinal Koch, Prefect of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

By far, however, our most noteworthy experience was to receive a personal greeting from His Holiness, Pope Francis. His words capture best not only my own personal sentiments as I reflect upon my experience leading the Dialogue but also particularly its goal within the Christian Community. "Our the past fifty years, the Commission, through dialogue and reflection, has journeyed together in order to build bonds of friendship, solidarity and mutual understanding between Catholics and Pentecostals. It is my hope that this important anniversary will strengthen these bonds and renew your zeal to proclaim, as missionary disciples, the joy of the Gospel in the ecclesial community and in society as a whole. In this way, bearing witness to the Lord's prayer that all may be one (cf. Jn 17:21), you will be able to help our brothers and sisters experience in their hearts and lives the transforming power of God's love, mercy and grace."

May we as a Church continue to make the prayer of Jesus our own, that "all may be one," so that our struggling and divided world may come to believe in the power of Jesus' life, love and saving grace.

Charismatic Conference triumphantly returns to Scranton after three-year hiatus

SCRANTON — The University of Scranton was again alive with the sounds of joyful praise as the Holy Spirit consumed nearly one thousand devotees who descended on the Scranton campus during the Aug. 5-7 weekend. That is when the annual summer Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference of the Diocese of Scranton — a sight not witnessed since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic — took place.

Glory to God and gratitude for being able to once again gather in His Holy Name was palpable for the three-day spiritual pilgrimage, which traditionally attracts fervent faithful from across the country.

Fittingly, the 2022 Charismatic Conference theme — “O magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt His name together” — matched the prayerful, jubilant celebration of the masses, and it certainly was

not lost on Charismatic Renewal liaison and conference coordinator Karen McLain.

“We were so grateful and excited to have this in-person conference!” McLain exclaimed, stating approximately 900 souls gathered in the Diocese that weekend. “God inhabited the praises of His people and blessed us with His presence in challenging messages from our speakers.”

“All left encouraged to take the message home to their parishes,” she added.

Fellow conference organizer, Brian Hughes, was equally elated.

“It was great seeing so many faces, new as well as familiar ones after being apart for three years,” he said. “It was a great spiritual reunion, and I’m looking forward for a bigger reunion next year.”

The gathering was nothing less than “amazing” for Cindy Cox,

who proclaimed this year’s much-anticipated conference was truly “a blessing to so many people!”

Longtime Catholic Charismatic Renewal participant Cathy Best continued to be filled with a sense of joy and love throughout the weekend.

“Volunteer workers and people I didn’t know, who traveled here from out of state, greeted me with happy smiles,” Best commented, adding how the Holy Spirit touched each and every person in attendance. “I had walked in tired but the lively music ministry soon got me off my feet, giving me energy to praise.”

She concluded, “The (conference) teachings opened my mind to know Jesus and how He responds to our prayers and praise,” more than she ever realized before.

The weekend’s many inspiring speakers and uplifting music came to an all-encompassing celebratory conclusion at the conference closing Mass on Sunday, with Bishop Joseph C. Bambera as principal celebrant and homilist.

Bishop Bambera opened his homily by referring to his recent visit to Rome for the Vatican’s International Catholic-Pentecostal Dialogue.

Praise the Lord!



“What struck me more than anything else during my first experience leading the Dialogue was that while the differences between the Catholic Church and the Pentecostal movement are not insignificant in terms of our theological and ecclesiological understandings, our belief in the Eucharist and the sacramental life, and our style of worship, at the heart of our faith is a shared appreciation for and openness to the Spirit of God,” the bishop noted.

He added further, “It’s

also fair to say...that Catholics and Pentecostals share a deep appreciation for the Charismatic Renewal that has touched our lives so deeply and that we celebrate this weekend.”

One attendee from New York City commented at the end of the conference, “Let us continue to spread the message we heard at Scranton. Victory is our praise! God inhabits the praises of His people, so let us go forth into this day with a praise on our lips and a song in our heart...making joyful melodies unto the Lord.”



Karen McLain addresses the closing Mass congregation.



Father Gus Ricciardi, spiritual moderator of the Diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal, concelebrates the conference's closing Mass.

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.



A soon-to-be pre-kindergarten student at **Holy Family Academy in Hazleton** and her mom look at the logged gear available as part of the school's "Uniform Closet."



Just before graduation, seniors at **Holy Cross High School in Dunmore** proudly wore the shirts and sweatshirts of the college they will be attending in the fall.



During "Fun and Field Day" at **Epiphany School in Sayre**, fourth graders ran an Alex's Lemonade Stand to raise money for childhood cancer research.



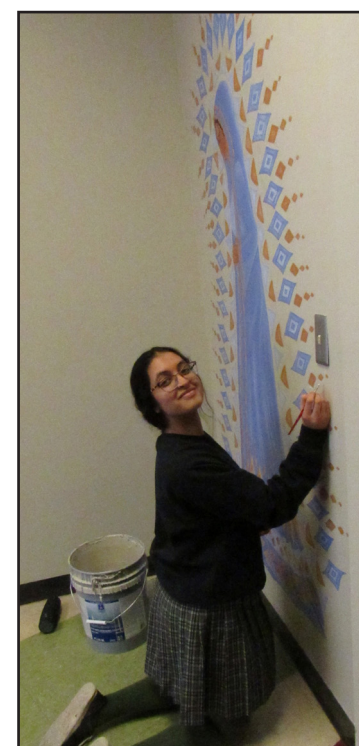
Gianna Galderi, Veronica Harm, Kinsleigh Zalepa and Sophia Zalepa, students at **Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter**, enjoy "Summer Fun Night" hosted by the WAC Booster Club at the Kingston Pool.



Students from **Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg** take a much-needed break after participating in the school's annual field day.



Paige Geurin and Madelyn Cox enjoy the activities of summer art camp at **Saint Agnes School in Towanda**.



Drishti Matta, a recent graduate of **Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg**, left a lasting impression on the school by working on a mural of Our Lady of Guadalupe.



Students from **All Saints Academy in Scranton** investigate different kinds of trees at "Christmas in July" summer camp.



Students from **Holy Rosary School in Durysa** made a splash as they enjoyed the day with family and friends at Montage Water Park, an outing sponsored by the school's PTO.



Students Chloe Mamera and Caroline Morgan have fun during "Skills and Drills" basketball camp at **Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green**.



Several teachers from **Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston** gathered during the summer months to familiarize themselves with the new reading series "Wonders" so they are ready when school resumes at the end of August.



Future stars practice ball handling during summer basketball camp at **Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School in Williamsport**.



Students from **Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore** harnessed the power of the sun to make crayon drip artwork at one of the school's summer activities.



Alivia Detweiler, Reagan Seiwel and Hope Gould work on their STREAM skills at a summer camp presented by **Saint Jude School in Mountain Top**.



Twelve students from **Saint Clare /Saint Paul School in Scranton** took the top three positions, not only in their region but also in the state, for the National Stock Market Game. The Stock Market Game is an online simulation of the global capital markets that engages students grades 4 through 12 in the world of economics investing and personal finance.



Students from **Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport** learned about Saint Francis by building bird houses, playing animal games and drawing pictures during the school's STREAM Camp.

Processions celebrate faith and heritage, bring communities together

Procession of saints in Dunmore marks 116 years running

DUNMORE – A tradition that is more than a century old continued in Dunmore this year.

On Sunday, Aug. 14, 2022, Saints Anthony and Rocco Parish held its annual procession of the saints throughout the Bunker Hill section of the community.

Started in 1906, the procession has taken place every year, including during the COVID-19 pandemic, when the event was broadcast on social media.

“Saint Rocco’s actual Feast Day is Aug. 16, so we always have our procession the closest weekend prior to the Feast, unless the Feast falls on a Sunday,” parishioner Carlo Pisa said.

Pisa has been involved in the procession his entire life.

“It gets the community together. It gets the neighborhood together,” he said. “In today’s world, tradition is very, very important.”

Many families participate in the procession together. When they all come together, it symbolizes the strength of their parish family.

“This is definitely important for all of us to come together and share what we have,” parishioner Ivan Worobey said. “This bonds us forever, and the feeling, you don’t get this feeling too often.”

Reverend David Cappelloni, Pastor, Saints Anthony & Rocco Parish, who blessed the people with a relic of Saint Rocco at a special Mass before the procession said the event helps the parish



Parishioners of Saints Anthony & Rocco Parish held the annual procession of saints in Dunmore on Sunday, Aug. 14, 2022.

have an identity.

“We carry the statues of our patron saints, the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph throughout the neighborhood to remind people of who we are and who we’re called to be,” he explained.

Angelesa DeNaples of Moscow is grateful for the annual tradition.

“I love every moment of it. It is so nice to see everyone. The Lord has sent us here,” DeNaples said. “It’s an amazing tradition that we keep doing and I pray that we never stop doing it.”

In addition to the special Mass and procession, the community also celebrated its annual three-day festival the same weekend.

“These people walk in a procession of faith but if you talk to so many of them, as I do, 90 percent of them will tell you that their walk and their prayers are for someone that they are remembering,” Larry Spegar of Jessup added.

Bishop helps mark milestone celebration in Carbondale

CARBONDALE – This year marked a special milestone for the celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Lackawanna County’s Up-Valley.

The faithful of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Carbondale marked their 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Feast this year.

“It’s the 50th anniversary at our Farview Street location. Our original feast was on Green Street and we moved it once the church was moved to the Farview Street location, so we’re celebrating the 50th anniversary at the Farview Street location and honoring the men that have really kept this tradition alive,” parishioner Josefa Dombrosky said.

The four-day celebration in honor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Carbondale comes with a deep sense of pride.

“The Feast celebration is the heart and soul of this parish. It is a time where we showcase our delicious Italian recipes that have been passed on through generations. The Feast is a place where we come together to celebrate the heritage of the founding members of this beautiful, ethnic parish,” Dombrosky added. “The sense of pride that we carry for this church is deep in our hearts and showing it off makes us glow from inside-out.”

The celebration ended with a Mass celebrated by the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, on Sunday, July 17, 2022.

“It’s a real privilege for me to be a



Parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Carbondale take photos following a four-hour procession July 17, 2022.

part of this wonderful celebration,” Bishop Bambera said at the beginning of the special liturgy.

Following the Mass, a procession of the statue of Our Lady of Mount Carmel took place throughout the streets of Carbondale’s west side.

For several hours, the statue visited nursing homes and residences to bring the faith out into the community.

“It is very important to our church. It’s an Italian heritage church that we are so proud of,” parishioner Lori Lee explained. “It’s a pilgrimage that we make to honor Our Lady of Mount Carmel.”

After several difficult years dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, participants say the procession was not only a perfect way to live out their faith but build community and invite people in the community to return to church.

“We want people to get back into church,” Lee added.

Faith lived and shared on Scranton’s East Mountain



Parishioners gather outside Holy Name of Jesus Church in Scranton on July 17, 2022, following the closing Mass. (Photo Courtesy Bill White)

SCRANTON – On July 17, 2022, dozens of people gathered one final time for the celebration of Mass at Holy Name of Jesus Church on Scranton’s East Mountain.

Following the 8 a.m. liturgy, long-time parishioners Robert and Susan Barry locked the doors of the church. As parishioners looked on, gathering outside the building, they thanked God for the many wonderful, faith-filled experiences they had together.

Holy Name of Jesus has served as a secondary worship site for Saint John Neumann

Parish since 2010. For the last 15 years, it has been without a resident pastor.

In recent years, demographic changes resulted in a sustained decrease in Mass attendance. Following conversation and consultation with the Saint John Neumann parish community, which examined maintenance needs for the building and the overall financial condition of the parish itself, the difficult decision was made to close the church.

A special program made for the final Mass highlighted the history of Holy Name of Jesus Church.

Continued on Page 30

'I am sorry': Canadian Indigenous react to papal apology

MASKWACIS, Alberta (CNS) – The words “I am sorry” are powerful.

For Tammy Ward of the Samson First Nation, those words from Pope Francis brought tears as she listened on the Muskwa, or Bear Park, Powwow Grounds.

“It’s just very powerful,” Ward told *The Catholic Register*, Toronto-based newspaper, after Pope Francis finished delivering his historic apology in late July on Indigenous land for the Catholic Church’s role in residential schools and other wrongs done on the church’s behalf. “For me, it’s the healing.”

Ward leaned into her 21-year-old daughter, Alea Foureyes, for comfort as Pope Francis confessed the sins Catholics committed against Indigenous Canadians in residential schools.

“In the face of this deplorable evil, the church kneels before God and implores His forgiveness for the sins of her children,”

Pope Francis said, invoking St. John Paul II’s 1998 bull, *Incarnationis Mysteriorum*. “I myself wish to reaffirm this, with shame and unambiguously. I humbly beg forgiveness for the evil committed by so many Christians against the Indigenous peoples.”

Pope Francis delivered his apology on the treaty land of the Ermineskin and Samson Cree Nations, the Louis Bull Tribe and the Montana First Nation, as part of his “penitential pilgrimage” to Canada. The site was near one of Canada’s largest residential schools.

For 49-year-old Ward, it brought memories of her relationship with her parents.

“I always thought my parents didn’t love me. I was always wondering why they were silent,” she said.

Years later she understood how a childhood spent institutionalized in residential schools had left her parents unprepared for family life.

It was a day full of emotion as Indigenous people responded to Pope Francis’ presence among them.

Ted Quewezance, an elder from the Keeseekoose First Nation in Saskatchewan, had overseen the ground-penetrating radar search for unmarked graves that uncovered 42 possible graves near the Fort Pelly

residential school and another 12 at St. Philips residential school. He spoke to the crowd of about 5,000 about the long process of reconciliation.

“The pope’s apology is not asking for instant trust,” Quewezance said. “Today I am willing to extend my hand to the pope and to the bishops.”

APPOINTMENTS

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

Reverend Andrew Amankwaa, from Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of the Snows Parish, Clarks Summit, to Parochial Vicar, Most Holy Trinity Parish, Susquehanna and Saint Brigid Parish, Friendsville, effective August 16, 2022.

Reverend David W. Cramer, from Pastor, Most Holy Trinity Parish, Susquehanna, to Pastor, Saint Eulalia Parish, Roaring Brook Township, effective August 16, 2022.

Father Michael Amo Gyau, from the Diocese of Sunyani, Ghana, to Parochial Vicar, Christ the King Parish, Archbald, effective August 16, 2022.

Reverend Arun Lakra, from Parochial Vicar, Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Carbondale, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Carbondale, to Administrator, Ascension Parish, Forest City, and Saint Katharine Drexel Parish, Pleasant Mount, effective July 19, 2022.

Father Paschal Mbagwu, from Nigeria, to Administrator, Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Pocono Pines, effective August 16, 2022.

Reverend Kevin M. Miller, to Administrator, Most Holy Trinity Parish, Susquehanna. He will continue to serve as Pastor, Saint Brigid Parish, Friendsville, effective August 16, 2022.

Reverend Jeffrey D. Tudgay, J.C.L., to Administrator pro tem, Saint Eulalia Parish, Roaring Brook Township, for the time period July 26, 2022 to August 16, 2022. He will remain Pastor, Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton.

Reverend Shinu Vazhakkootthil John, from the Diocese of Kottapuram, India, to Parochial Vicar, Epiphany Parish, Sayre, effective July 26, 2022.

PERMANENT DEACONS

Deacon John C. Jorda, to diaconal ministry, Our Lady of Victory Parish, Harveys Lake. He will continue in diaconal ministry, Gate of Heaven, Dallas.

Deacon Ronald D. Maida, to diaconal ministry, Saint Brigid Parish, Friendsville. He will remain in diaconal ministry at Most Holy Trinity Parish, Susquehanna.



BISHOP BAMBERA'S SCHEDULE

August 10-19	Pastoral Visit, Diocese of Sunyani, Ghana
August 28	Mass at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Swoyersville, 11:00 a.m.
September 4	La Festa Italiana Mass Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.
September 8	Mass at The University of Scranton Byron Center, 11:30 a.m.
September 10	Hispanic Heritage Mass Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.
September 15	Mass of the Holy Spirit for Chancery Staff Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.
September 17	150th Anniversary Celebration Mass Saint Basil Church, Dushore, 4:00 p.m.



Synod on Synodality Synthesis of Online Survey & Listening Sessions

October 2021 - June 2022

On June 30, 2022, the Diocese of Scranton submitted its local synthesis for the Synod on Synodality to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in preparation for the 2023 General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops.

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.

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. Bishop Joseph C. Bambera promised to share the Diocese of Scranton Synthesis with the faithful and the full report is contained on the following pages. Our report 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."

Bishop Bambera expresses gratitude 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," the bishop noted. "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!"

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In October 2021, Pope Francis launched the 'Synod on Synodality,' a two-year process of prayer, listening, dialogue and discernment regarding how the Church can better engage and evangelize all the People of God. The Diocese of Scranton, under the direction of Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, responded to the Holy Father's request to participate in the first phase of the Synodal Process by conducting a listening phase in local churches. The Diocese's three-prong approach to the Synodal Process included:

1. All people in the Diocese were invited to participate in an online Synod survey from November 2021 - April 2022. Respondents were asked a series of questions regarding ten themes of journeying together in synodality. The invitation was made known in parish bulletins, through the Diocesan website and newspaper, Catholic Television and social media. A total of 3,265 individuals participated in the online survey and contributed 9,943 written comments to the various questions asked.
2. All parishes in the Diocese were strongly encouraged to hold in-person or virtual listening sessions. In addition, community groups and organizations were also invited to participate. In total, 87 listening sessions were held with 1,551 individuals participating. Furthermore, all Catholic School students in the Diocese (between Grades 6-12) participated – adding the voice of hundreds of area youth into the overall analysis.
3. On Pentecost Sunday, June 5, 2022, Bishop Bambera convened a Pre-Synodal gathering, known as an "Afternoon of Listening," with parish and community representatives. Every parish and multiple community organizations were invited to send a representative to have their community's voice heard directly by the Bishop.

There were a wide variety of opinions and ideas expressed throughout this local Synod process. While many expressed their joy and love of the Church, others voiced their concerns, pains and frustrations. In all, 49 themes emerged after analyzing all in-person listening reports and all online survey comments. These themes are now being presented back to the Diocesan community.

In our best effort to make this report understandable and actionable, the Diocese of Scranton's report is organized around the ten different themes of synodality that were the centerpiece of both in-person listening sessions and the online survey. In addition to highlighting the responses that emerged most consistently, many participants offered suggestions for the future, which are also included under 'Possibilities for Action.' All responses and 'Possibilities for Action' are taken directly from respondents and we hope this allows for appropriate levels of follow-up, learning and action.

Throughout this Synod process, the goal of the Diocesan Synod team was simple: to offer opportunities for all people to be heard. We hope this process has been an opportunity for people to learn from one another and to see things from other points of view – especially as it relates to God's plan for the Church here and now and going forward in the future.

Respectfully submitted by the Diocesan Synodal Team, June 30, 2022,

Jennifer Housel, Director for Community and Family Development

Rev. Jeffrey D. Tudgay, J.C.L., Judicial Vicar and Episcopal Vicar for Canonical Affairs & Pastor, Saint Eulalia Parish

Eric M. Deabill, Diocesan Secretary for Communications

Mary Hallman, Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life

David Baloga, Director for Worship

Ann Marie Cawley, Consultant for Pastoral Council Development

Through its online survey, 70-percent of respondents either agree or strongly agree that the Diocese of Scranton is inclusive, meaning every person has the ability to participate as equals. Through its parish and community listening sessions and 1,280 written comments on this theme, the following have been identified:

1. The Diocese of Scranton must continually work to offer support and outreach to youth and young adults, including young families.
2. The Church (globally and locally) must work at welcoming **ALL** people including:
 - **Women:** Numerous respondents expressed they do not feel women have an equal voice in the Church because they cannot become priests or deacons. In contrast, a small number of respondents indicated that the priesthood and diaconate should remain open only to men.
 - **LGBTQIA+:** Numerous LGBTQIA+ Catholics expressed feeling excluded, marginalized and made to feel less-worthy of Christ's love. Many heterosexual respondents expressed a desire to make sure persons with same-sex attraction and gender identity issues feel included in the Church.
 - **Divorced and Remarried Catholics:** Many expressed pain at not being allowed to receive the Eucharist. The need for more education about annulments was expressed as well as ministry for those impacted by divorce.
 - **Seniors:** Numerous seniors expressed feelings of exclusion and indicated challenges with transportation as an obstacle to participating in parish life. They indicated a desire to use their talents and wisdom to help others.
3. Numerous traditional Catholics, who find connection to God strongest at the Latin Mass, expressed feelings that they are being pushed to the margins without any dialogue, undermining the notion of synodality.
4. Our church, our parishes and our people need to reach out into the communities in which they are located to a greater degree. We need to get out of our pews and move out past our church walls to serve and engage people – particularly the unchurched and the growing number of “nones” (people who do not identify with a religion).
5. The Diocese, parishes, priests and parish leadership must make intentional efforts to disband any “cliquish” atmospheres where there could be perceptions of “insiders” vs. “outsiders.”



POSSIBILITIES FOR ACTION

Many people, including Catholic school students and young adults, feel strongly that the church should engage in more service projects and fun activities to build a sense of community and connection to a parish family. Many others expressed a desire for more fellowship before and/or after Mass. Social activities, such as Theology on Tap, were suggested many times as a way to engage the faithful.

Respondents expressed a need to address a “chasm” between the Diocesan Chancery and the people. They offered suggestions that include the Bishop celebrating Mass each weekend in a different county or community so that he can “get the smell of the sheep.” Some people suggested a special liturgy welcoming those that feel excluded (specifically the LGBTQIA+ community) while others encouraged parishes to be thoughtful of working professionals and overbooked families when scheduling daily Masses and other events.

Other possible action items include needing more priests/parish leaders who speak the languages of those in our Diocese, when churches consolidate making intentional efforts (via phone calls and personal contact) to make sure all parishioners join a new church, considering disability training for parish leaders and not overlooking single individuals in the pews when inviting someone to bring up the gifts at Mass.

Through its online survey, 56-percent of respondents said the Diocese of Scranton does a good job of listening to all people. While many comments from the first theme reemerged in answers here (including how the Church and Diocese listens to women, traditional Catholics and LGBTQIA+ individuals most frequently), through its parish and community listening sessions and 1,079 written comments on this theme, the following have also been identified:

1. Members of the faithful expressed skepticism that their voices are truly heard, particularly at the Diocesan level, in regards to mergers or closures that may be needed in schools or parishes. Specifically citing the Called to Holiness and Mission process prior to 2010, but also changes that have taken place since, many feel decisions are made without significant consultation with impacted individuals.
2. In parish communities, numerous individuals indicated a feeling that some members are listened to “more” if they have money, influence or status in the community. Oftentimes, those respondents used phrases like the parish having an “inner circle” that has the attention of the pastor or priest.
3. While many individual pastors were lauded for their openness and willingness to listen, synod respondents viewed other pastors as an obstacle in helping a parish to flourish. When this is the case, parishioners feel they have no recourse. Additionally, synod participants indicated the feeling that the Diocese doesn’t listen to what people want or need in pastoral changes. People who have left the Church indicated this is a significant reason that drove them away.
4. Some respondents expressed thoughts that the Church (from the Diocese to its parishes) makes decisions based only on financial issues, not on parishioner needs. One respondent indicated they feel “more like an envelope number than a person.”



POSSIBILITIES FOR ACTION

Listening is one of the most powerful and deeply human experiences we can have. The act of listening respects and validates the voice that is being heard. As one synod participant explained it, “the church has a microphone but not a headset.”

A large number of respondents (via both online survey and in-person meetings) indicated the Synod process is a good first step and needs to continue. Many expressed an eagerness to continue to participate in the process at either the parish or Diocesan level. Many expressed a desire for forums for discussion, general meetings or other opportunities to provide feedback to both their parish and the Diocese. Many said they would like to see the Bishop take part in these efforts. Many said that is especially important on decisions affecting the closure of churches and schools.

Other respondents encouraged the Diocese to work on implementing changes in policy and tone. They are encouraging the Church to reach out and listen beyond the aging, conservative white male demographic that runs the church, by listening to women, non-white, young, LGBTQ community and others. As one respondent put it, “the church bemoans declining attendance but doesn’t really try to understand why, it just closes more churches.”

Through its online survey, only 25-percent of respondents felt they did not have the opportunity to speak candidly with their parish priest or bishop. Through its parish and community listening sessions and 1,111 written comments on this theme, the following have been identified:

1. Many respondents feel they can speak honestly and dialogue with their pastor. Many used the word “approachable” in describing their pastor. Some clergy were acknowledged for actively encouraging parishioners to reach out with comments and questions, even providing their cell phone numbers to the faithful. In contrast, respondents did indicate feelings that some priests are not approachable and open-minded. There was also a general feeling of disappointment expressed when questions, calls or emails were not responded to or acknowledged.
2. With a declining number of clergy in the Diocese of Scranton, many faithful acknowledged that priests are busier than ever. With some leading two, three or four parishes, in addition to funeral Masses, hospital visits and other responsibilities, respondents expressed a general concern that their priest or pastor is “too busy.” They feel “direct interactions” with parishioners may be an ongoing casualty of this situation.
3. While many people feel they can speak openly with their parish priest, many did not feel they could speak openly with the Diocesan bishop. Many people said they would appreciate an easily accessible way to speak with the Bishop, even if the opportunity was virtual. Synod respondents in parishes outside of the greater-Scranton area expressed a desire to have the Bishop visit their communities more, not just for the celebration of Mass, but other community events.
4. A number of individuals indicated apprehension about speaking out/speaking freely on issues if they opposed church teaching. These individuals have the perception that their priest or bishop would not want to hear their candid responses to hot-button topics. Within that same regard, multiple people expressed the need to stick with the tradition and truth of our Catholic faith.
5. Distressingly, a number of people provided examples of being treated rudely when they did speak out regarding issues or concerns in the Church. Some parishioners described being yelled at, disrespected, discriminated against, or even threatened by a priest or pastor. Many indicated that made them leave a specific church in search of another place to worship.



POSSIBILITIES FOR ACTION

While acknowledging this Synod process is the first time many have been asked about their concerns and hopes, many expressed a desire for different outlets for casual questions to be answered by either their pastor or bishop. Some suggestions included a box to submit compliments or concerns on the parish level as well as publication of how to contact the Bishop on a regular basis.

Even though his responsibilities are numerous and his time is limited, numerous people encouraged the bishop to visit rural communities more frequently to have face-to-face discussions. They also wanted these opportunities to be publicized well in advance via bulletins and other communication methods.

Synod participants also encouraged the bishop to utilize all communication methods available – virtual meetings, televised call-in shows, social media – to connect with the faithful. While one-way communication efforts are always appreciated, many stressed the importance of getting to know and have a personal connection with their Diocesan shepherd.

Through its online survey, an overwhelming 90-percent of respondents feel that the celebration of the Mass inspires them toward a more joyful and holier life. In fact, the largest majority, 57% of survey participants, said they “strongly agree” with that statement. Through its parish and community listening sessions and 1,094 written comments on this theme, the following have been identified:

1. Many people describe the celebration of the Eucharist as foundational and critically important to their lives. Individuals say the reception of the Eucharist sustains them through the week while caring for others. They describe the Mass as a source of strength and joy. In addition, many expressed a deep love for the Rosary as a powerful way to grow closer to our Blessed Mother and see the face of Jesus in all His sorrows. Just like in responses to prior questions, there were individuals who expressed a wish for more Latin Mass opportunities.
2. Many respondents expressed a desire for homilies to be more inspiring and relevant to daily life. Individuals say when a homily is from the heart, well prepared and connected to the Gospel message, they are able to take that message beyond the walls of the church.
3. When asked to discuss the active participation in the Mass, some individuals, including children and young adults, indicated they felt the Mass was repetitive and/or boring. Some dreamed of modernizing the Mass while others said it might help if the meaning behind the different Mass parts was better explained to all. Oftentimes, those who described the Mass as repetitive or boring, often did so in connection with comments regarding poorly planned/delivered homilies.
4. Many Synod participants said it was painful to have churches closed at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Many others acknowledged the difficulties of mask wearing, temporary limitations on singing and other health protocols. In contrast, others praised the diocese for working to protect the safety of all. Individuals critical of the health and safety efforts instituted feel the message that was sent is that Christ, the Church and the Sacraments are “non-essential.”
5. Synod participants expressed a sincere appreciation for the efforts that parishes made to begin livestreaming Mass during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many also praised CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton for its Daily Mass broadcasts. While acknowledging that the continuation of livestream Masses may cause attendance numbers to not fully rebound, many who are homebound, elderly or disabled say the services are a blessing for them.



POSSIBILITIES FOR ACTION

Those who recognize the importance of every single Holy Mass suggest utilizing members of the laity to hold “Evangelization Events” where they (not just priests) speak on how they have been enlivened by their faith. In addition, people expressed a desire for greater publicity on Reconciliation, Eucharistic Adoration and other spiritual opportunities.

People of all ages appreciated when their parish would hold a Children’s Mass/Family Mass, and hope that pastors consider that idea to draw in younger families. Many individuals also acknowledge that after Confirmation and/or graduation from high school or college, many young adults stop attending Mass. Many would like to see this issue addressed in some way.

Through its online survey, respondents were asked to reflect on ten ways the Diocese and its parishes serve the faithful and the community. The areas of mission where the lowest scores were received were “Educating People of All Ages in the Faith” (30-percent disagree or strongly disagree the Diocese is doing a good job) and “Caring for the Environment” (20-percent disagree or strongly disagree the Diocese is doing a good job). Through its parish and community listening sessions and 1,219 written comments on this theme, many of which were positive, the following have been identified:

1. Many expressed the need for more and better quality faith formation for all ages. This also includes re-educating adult Catholics who don’t know the basics of their faith. Many believe the formation of parishioners must be life-long and adult faith formation should be the core of parish efforts. Respondents say many Catholics don’t have the knowledge needed to talk about (or in some cases defend) their faith because they don’t know and understand the Catechism of the Catholic Church. One respondent noted that if the Church was succeeding in leading people into a deeper relationship with Christ, “attendance at Masses would be skyrocketing.”
2. Additional communication is needed on many levels – including on what the Diocese and its parishes do and what activities are happening across the parishes/diocese. This became apparent as many synod participants acknowledged they do not fully understand how our Diocese welcomes immigrants, refugees and newcomers or shows compassion to those in prison. Participants also expressed a need for more effective marketing to tell the Church’s story in the greater community since many old media options mainly address those already in the pews. They also stressed using new, emerging forms of media.
3. About promoting Pro-Life issues, 86-percent of online survey respondents believe the Diocese does a good job. Many comments on this topic centered around two themes. First, the Church should talk and advocate more for the unborn. Second, others feel that too much emphasis is placed on the unborn and not on pro-life issues like the death penalty or gun control.
4. There is a critical need to actively and directly invite all to serve – including youth and young adults specifically – which must be addressed in a better way. Clergy/parish leaders should embrace those looking to serve to the greatest extent. Many pointed to the success Evangelical and some Protestant denominations have in this area as compared to the Catholic Church. Parish life needs to expand more into communities, especially in service to those in need.
5. Some synod participants expressed the Diocese should work harder to make more financial aid available to families who want to send their children to a Catholic School.



POSSIBILITIES FOR ACTION

As baptized Catholics, we are all called to be missionary disciples. Many synod respondents provided areas of opportunity for mission: offering rides to seniors to get to Mass, mental health and grief ministries, outreach programs to non-Catholics, helping those who are battling addictions or living in long-term care facilities.

Respondents acknowledged when there is a lack of “community” in a parish, there is often a lack of outward engagement that does not allow the faithful to fulfill Christ’s command of service to others.

Through its online survey, respondents were asked if Catholics in the Diocese of Scranton are provided opportunities to discuss, debate and dialogue about the future direction of the church. Forty-nine percent of respondents agree, 36-percent disagree and 15-percent had no opinion. Through its parish and community listening sessions and 966 comments on this theme, the following have been identified:

1. Many survey participants willingly acknowledged that the Church has never sought their opinions prior to this Synod undertaking. Several individuals in their 80s, including priests, were appreciative for the synod process, which they described as the first time they can remember having the opportunity to be a part of the future of the Diocese and the Church.
2. Calling the synod process a “good start,” many participants acknowledged the need to continue the dialogue and synodality process. Many expressed skepticism that their comments (especially if critical) would be read and thoughtfully analyzed. Responses indicated a hopefulness that the laity, priests and bishops would become even more engaged over the next decade.
3. The hierarchical model of the Church was described several times as being “top-down.” Many feel top level decisions are made more and more by men with no families. Many believe these older single men cannot be properly empathetic to the realities of life for people with other experiences.
4. Many participants expressed seeing the value in Parish Pastoral Councils that exist in the Diocese as an opportunity for dialogue. People stress that all members of a parish community should have the ability to discern if a role on a Parish Pastoral Council is appropriate for them (instead of being simply being selected by a pastor). Parish Pastoral Councils should seek and reflect diversity and a broad representation among the faithful.
5. There was an acknowledgment that too often the combination of the church and politics causes rancor. Some people want more separation of church and state, others want the church to be more vocal on moral and social issues. This issue was highlighted numerous times by the difference of opinions expressed by many United States Bishops in regards to giving the Holy Eucharist to politicians who openly support abortion rights.



POSSIBILITIES FOR ACTION

Many of those responding to the synod process that took place acknowledged they are already involved in their parish and/or Diocese. They stressed the need to continue to dialogue with the “Nones” (people who do not identify with a specific religion) and those people who have left the Catholic Church. Further, they acknowledge the need to continue dialoguing with fringe and marginalized groups. While individuals believe doctrine should remain constant, the Church must develop a better approach of engagement.

Numerous comments were heard about holding more in-person gatherings in each county of the Diocese, including open forums where church issues could be discussed. Younger participants encouraged the Diocese to use all emerging forms of technology – including Tik Tok – to reach people where they are.

During the synod process, the Diocese released a booklet to all parishes regarding its Vision 2030 Pastoral Planning Process, which highlights a declining number of parishioners and clergy throughout the Diocese. Most people, with a few detractors, said the document was important to explain the realities our local Diocese is facing when it comes to priest retirements and more.

Through its online survey, 65-percent of respondents said it was a priority of the Catholic Church to work with other faith communities in promoting the well-being of all. It is also notable that 17 percent of those participating said they had no opinion, mostly because they were unaware of activities that may be taking place. Through its parish and community listening sessions and 745 comments on this theme, the following have been identified:

1. There was a sharp divide among synod participants regarding the topic of Ecumenism. Many responded that the Catholic faith should be promoted as the only, one true faith that originated from Jesus and the Apostles – and we need not interact with other denominations - other than to lead them to the Church itself. In contrast, many others stressed the need for more interaction with other faith traditions, noting we should be open to speaking about Christ and His teaching in a way that promotes love, not division. This group believes the Church needs to do better in seeking cooperation and building relationships with other faith communities, particularly in providing service to those in need.
2. Many synod participants expressed that they do not know anything that parishes in the Diocese are doing to work with other faith traditions. Others indicated that in the past, their parishes had participated in ecumenical activities but that was no longer the case – whether because of the COVID-19 pandemic or other unknown reasons.
3. Of those familiar with ecumenical activities ongoing in the Diocese, many lauded the partnerships underway in many communities to tackle social issues, like Ecumenical food pantries helping those who are in need of food or assistance.
4. Some synod participants noted that interfaith collaboration only seems to be highlighted after a tragedy, such as the synagogue attack in Pittsburgh. The individuals believe faith leaders should strive to build bridges by promoting interfaith activities on a regular basis. Many noted activities held in January for the “Week of Prayer for Christian Unity,” but expressed thoughts that there should be more than just one week to focus on Christian Unity.



POSSIBILITIES FOR ACTION

As noted above, there is no consensus among respondents regarding Ecumenism. Greater communication on this topic would help since many are uncertain of activities on both a local and/or Diocesan level. As noted in an earlier theme, many believe the Church should be doing a better job of leading all people to a deeper relationship with Christ. That is why many believe the Church of Scranton should focus more on the Catholic teachings of faith before worrying about working with other faith-based groups.

Others provided numerous ideas on how they would like to see interfaith study and collaboration, which they believe could enrich our own faith and highlight common beliefs. These ideas include, but are not limited to interfaith discussion groups, bible study groups, vacation bible school activities, community gatherings, public open houses, joint community service projects, music ministries, joint meals, holiday events, clothing drives or book/food sales.

Some synod participants expressed the belief that many people have left the Catholic Church to join other non-denominational churches. They suggest the Church be more actively engaged through media to reemphasize Catholic teaching and/or determine why they left – in an effort to determine what might need improvement.

Through its online survey, nearly 75 percent of respondents feel that all Catholics, including young people, lay men and lay women, are challenged to use their gifts and talents in the life of the Church. Through its parish and community listening sessions and 799 comments on this theme, the following have been identified:

1. While many acknowledge the Church extends an invitation to participate, many people, particularly young people, are not responding. Synod participants note that young adults are drifting to other start-up churches because they fail to see how engaging Catholic parish life can be for people of any age.
2. People are willing to serve the church but desire a sincere feeling of being “welcome.” Many participants note that pastors/parish leadership can be a hindrance in this regard because of “cliques” that exist in a parish community. One individual noted, “I personally have felt invisible in my parish despite attempts at joining different activities.”
3. While some respondents acknowledge that announcements in bulletins and other media sources are enough to spread information regarding participation, many people say they prefer to be personally asked to be involved. Participants feel this person-to-person outreach helps others understand their neighbors more.
4. Noting a declining number of clergy locally, numerous participants expressed the need for more training to develop lay leadership within the church. Participants say in the future these individuals may need to take on more administrative functions of the church. While the notion of ordaining women and married men again surfaced here, there was more concern in these discussions of empowering lay leaders to govern the church with those who are ordained.
5. Many expressed a hesitation or unwillingness to participate in the synod process because they feel certain it will be a waste of their time and nothing will come from it. These individuals believe the hierarchy of the church does not ‘truly’ care and is not listening. Sadly, many offered personal commentary on how they offered their time or talent to their parish community but were rejected or never received a response to their inquiry.



POSSIBILITIES FOR ACTION

Synod participants recognized that we are all called to play an active role in the Church and each have gifts and talents given to us by God. While there are opportunities for participation, many feel a more direct invitation is required. Individuals stress the need for this invitation from pastors is extremely important.

In regards to young adults, there was common consensus of the need to make sure young adults remain a part of the church community past the age of 14 or Confirmation. Many expressed the need for open and honest dialogue and listening to young people about their concerns. Some feel that the church should stress its community service as a way to focus on the youth – because through service projects they can be shown the benefits to their community of faith. Other participants noted that their parishes do not even have an active youth group. In regards to ways that the church can be more active in reaching out to those who are not involved, some participants noted success in ministry fairs held in parishes. Others noted that some parishes have sign-up sheets for various ministries and service groups in the pews of their parish on a regular basis.

The Christian faith is accessible to everyone. Because the mission of the Catholic Church belongs to the Church's members, every voice has a right to be heard. Through its online survey, respondents were almost evenly split when asked if the Diocese is transparent and accountable in its decision-making processes. Forty-five percent of participants strongly agree or agree, 39 percent strongly disagree or disagree and 16 percent had no opinion. Through its parish and community listening sessions and 834 comments on this theme, many of which were positive, the following have been identified:

1. There is a broad demand for greater transparency from our church leadership, in all matters of importance and especially in financial matters.
2. Synod participants acknowledged the painful reality of closing parishes and schools both in the past and up to the current time. Overwhelmingly, respondents said there was insufficient dialogue with the faithful regarding these situations. The vast majority feel that parishioners find out only after a decision is made at the diocesan level.
3. The sexual abuse scandal involving clergy locally – as well as internationally – has eroded public trust in the Church enormously. While some might consider this an issue dictated to the past, many respondents feel strongly that the church must continue to confront realities in the present. One survivor of clerical abuse said, “I was left in the dark as to any accountability.”
4. Respondents feel strongly that there needs to be more transparency regarding clergy assignments. Respondents described the process as a “mystery.” They note that a priest leads his flock in a direction and when the leadership changes, that can take either a positive or negative turn.
5. There needs to be a regular/constant communication avenue for the laity to express their hopes and concerns to the diocese and/or bishop. The Diocese needs to be responsive when engaged with questions and/or concerns.
6. Parish Pastoral Councils were seen as a possible vehicle for engagement but synod respondents stressed that information from those meetings should be made available to the entire church population in a timely matter. This also applies to financial information.



POSSIBILITIES FOR ACTION

While noting many suggestions on how the Diocese and Church can be more transparent and accountable, it must be noted that many respondents expressed a belief that the situation is improving, especially following the release of the 2018 Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report. While a deeply painful and troubling time, people said the situation has led many to demand more from their church leaders.

Noting the lack of easy communication with the diocese itself, synod participants said there is a lack of a representative body of faithful at the diocesan level (to their knowledge) – where the lay faithful can have a regular and constant voice in the decision-making process. If such a body ever is developed, those in rural regions of the diocese pleaded for representation to be broader than the Scranton area. They also stressed the need for town hall or parish meetings prior to considering any parish/school closures.

While many see the importance of information printed in *The Catholic Light* (diocesan newspaper), some participants noted that not everyone receives that publication because it is primarily sent to those who contribute to the Diocesan Annual Appeal. Furthermore, others indicated a need to have standards on how financial information is distributed at both the parish and diocesan levels.

The Church's tradition, received from the Apostles, carries the Christian faith through history. A Synod is meant to identify the needs, challenges and opportunities of the present moment. Through its online survey, 58 percent of respondents believe the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Scranton is responsive to the needs, challenges and opportunities at the current time. Through its parish and community listening sessions and 816 comments on this theme, the following have been identified:

1. There was a significant divide among synod participants regarding whether the church reflects (or even should reflect) modern times. While respecting tradition, a significant number of individuals believe the church is slow to change and must adapt more quickly to remain relevant, especially with youth and young people. An equally significant number of individuals expressed a deep love for the traditional aspects of the Catholic faith and believe focusing solely on those will help the church become stronger.
2. Respondents expressed a desire for the church and its leaders to speak boldly – and with consistency and clarity – regarding hot button moral issues even if the truth is difficult to hear.
3. Noting that the conversations and survey opportunities are a good starting point, many participants stressed the need to continue surveys, consultations and dialogue regarding all issues important to parish life.
4. The church must continue to offer welcoming opportunities to be involved. Many children and young families stressed the need for “fun activities” to draw them in and encourage them to be Catholic. Furthermore, many respondents said the church needs to meet today's youth and young adults “where they are,” whether it be online/social media or at community activities.
5. Church leaders must recognize the demands of society on young people and young families and should offer more flexible opportunities for Mass and other events to better meet modern scheduling needs.



POSSIBILITIES FOR ACTION

One millennial synod participant said, “The Church is an amazing thing and the youth need to hear about it!” This individual noted that they see few young people attending Mass and expressed a desire for the church to continuously reach out to young adults outside the four walls of the church building.

While this synod process was conducted on the diocesan level, numerous participants hope that pastors and parishes will continue the process of synodality on the local level. Many believe this could be another avenue of communication and dialogue between parish leaders and the laity.

In addition to focusing on youth and young adults, many expressed a desire to see greater instruction and assistance for parents with school age children regarding the rich tradition of our faith that has been handed down through the ages. These individuals stress that if parents cannot live the faith through being an example for their children, then the children are likely to not understand the love of Jesus.

Throughout several themes, synod participants also expressed a desire to see greater collaboration between the diocese and its parishes, especially smaller parishes. As the Diocese continues to face a declining number of clergy, respondents feel this relationship will only need to grow stronger. In some cases, where parish leaders still have a “top down” ministry mentality, some feel training on listening/dialoguing would be helpful.

Catholic Men's Conference to take place Oct. 8 in Wilkes-Barre



SOUTH ABINGTON TOWNSHIP – Members of “Be A Catholic Man” recently participated in a retreat in preparation for the upcoming Catholic Men’s Conference which is scheduled to take place this fall.

This year will be the seventh year for the Catholic Men’s Conference.

Rev. Brian VanFossen served as spiritual moderator for the retreat. Joseph Adcroft arranged the retreat, which was held at Saint Gabriel Retreat Center near Clarks Summit.

On Oct. 8, 2022, The Catholic Men’s Conference will be held at Holy Redeemer High School, 159 S. Pennsylvania Blvd., Wilkes-Barre.

This year’s theme is “Be Not Afraid” under the patronage of Saint Joseph.

The conference will take place from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will feature nationally known Catholic speakers Mark Houck, Dr. Ralph Martin and Kevin Wells.

All of us are challenged to live virtuous lives in this secular world, whether single, married, or clergy. Men are encouraged to set this date aside and attend.

There will be Recitation of the Rosary, Eucharistic Adoration, Sacramental Confession and a lunch break. Mass will be offered by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton.

For reservations make checks to ‘Be A Catholic Man’ and mail \$40.00 (early bird price \$30.00 till Sept. 9th) to: Bill Leandri, 239 Hayfield Road, Shavertown, Pa. 18708; or register online at BeACatholicMan.com .

Anyone with question can contact Michael Kilmer, Conference Chairman, at (570) 746-0100 or michaelkilmer71@gmail.com.

BE NOT AFRAID

7th Annual Diocese of Scranton

Be a Catholic Man Conference Oct. 8, 2022

Sat. 8 AM - 3:00 PM

Holy Redeemer High School

159 South Pennsylvania Ave., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

Fear works and the devil knows it. Today we face storms like the one on the Sea of Galilee. We ask the Lord, as the Apostles did, "Do you not care if we perish?" Christ's reply to them is the same He would give to us: "Why are you afraid? [i.e., cowardly] Have you no faith?" So, in times of crisis, Jesus challenges us not to be cowards but instead to face our fears with confidence, knowing that He has already won the victory over evil.



Christ in the Storm on the Sea of Galilee

Adoration, Reconciliation, Mass- Bishop Bambera, Exhibitors

Speakers: Dr. Ralph Martin • Fr. Stan Fortuna • Kevin Wells

Register Online: **BeACatholicMan.com**



Registration by Mail

First name _____ Last Name _____

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Parish _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Guest name _____

Guest Name _____

☐ Registration Fee: \$40 each ☐ Student \$15

☐ Early Bird \$30 until 9-9-22 ☐ Priest/Deacon/Seminarian FREE

☐ Amount enclosed \$ _____ (Registration Fee includes morning coffee & lunch)

Mail the completed form with your check or money order to:

Be a Catholic Man
c/oBill Leandri, Treasurer,
239 Hayfield Rd.
Shavertown, PA 18708

Make check payable to:
"Be A Catholic Man" with
"Men's Conference" on memo
line of the check.

If registering more than one person, please provide the additional information on a separate sheet.

Contact:
Mike Kilmer 570-746-0100 michaelkilmer71@gmail.com

Consider becoming a Conference Sponsor!

A \$100 sponsorship includes your name acknowledged in the Conference program and 1 complimentary admission pass.

Deadline for Sponsorship is Sept. 9, 2022

SPONSORSHIP ONLY: Please make check payable to Diocese of Scranton with "Men's Conference SPONSOR" on the memo line of the check. Return form with check to Kurt Kushner, 137 Maria Blvd., Archbald, PA 18403

Sponsorships can also be made online at www.BeACatholicMan.com

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— I make house calls —



Do not be afraid! Dozens of times throughout Sacred Scriptures God and His prophetic saints have called us to be disposed to fearlessness. It's a message spoken through salvation history and, indeed, popes and others have enjoined the people of God to be fearless. Pope John Paul II famously urged the Church in the inaugural homily of his pontificate *non abbiate paura* — do not be afraid!

When we are told not to be afraid, we likely are facing a looming danger, or a force outside of us, or near us to contended with. There may be something or someone approaching us that

will demand us to have courage to protect ourselves or those we love from some imminent physical danger. As children, when being pressured to do something daring with friends or siblings, we may be told “don’t be afraid.” That may be in the face of engaging in some daredevil activity that prudence would otherwise tell us to avoid. Nevertheless, we’re told, “C’m on, don’t be afraid; just do it; jump!” And, typically, we did. We jumped.

Our Blessed Lord, and the echoes of His powerful rallying cry in the voices of popes and saints for centuries thereafter, lovingly exhort “do not be afraid” to be His, to lovingly accept His will, to be a voice for Him in the world, to worship Him in season and out of season.

To use the words of Pope John Paul II, “do not be afraid to welcome Christ and accept his power.” Jesus — and the saints who preach His Gospel — do not merely inspire us to be courageous in the face of danger, but they inspire confidence and fearlessness in us to unshackle ourselves from the chains that hold us back from freely and wholeheartedly worshipping and adoring Him.

As I write now, I am comfortably resting in the residence of Bishop Matthew Gyamfi of the Diocese of Sunyani, Ghana. Along with Bishop Bambara and Father Shantillo, I have been privileged to travel throughout the Diocese of Sunyani, visiting the homes of

many of our international priests. The encounters we have had here with the people of God have been astounding, life-giving, soul-stirring, and will leave an indelible mark upon me. You will hear about this experience for many years to come as I continue to unpack the blessings.

That said, one blessing I have already unpacked and have reflected upon in prayer is that the people of Ghana, and particularly of Sunyani, have no fear. I’m not speaking about a fear in the face of danger or impending trouble (though they are a strong lot, for sure). Rather, they have no fear of allowing the Spirit of God to overshadow them and to permit such an overshadowing to move their bodies, souls, and voices in praise of God. I have never encountered such joy, such freedom, such fearlessness to be who they are in the face of God, and to do so willingly and freely, even as others look on.

In fact, I was blessed today to concelebrate Mass with our bishop — and Bishop Matthew — at Saint James Seminary in Sunyani. Saint James is a preparatory seminary which has the mission of training future priests and also preparing young men for work in the secular world. It is a stellar institution of learning and has the distinction of being one of the top secondary schools in the country, with enrollment more than 1,000.

Continued on Page 35



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Summer Guide to Church Festivals & Picnics

Saint Juliana's Rock Lake Picnic — Aug. 20. Sponsored by Saint Katherine Drexel Parish, the time-honored summer festival will be held from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on the grounds of Saint Juliana

Church, 2048 Creamton Drive (Route 247), Rock Lake. The church picnic includes a chicken barbecue dinner, with tickets sold in advance and dinner pick-up from noon to 3 p.m. Event also features pierogi, pie and bake sales, a finder's market, games and prizes. For more information, call (570) 798-2539.

children's and festival games, and a big indoor flea market/country store. Live nightly music provided by Vine Street (Saturday) and Al White and Friends (Sunday). Weekend Masses celebrated on Saturday, at 4 p.m., and Sunday, 9:45 a.m.

for children (ages 4-12). Event includes refreshments, games & summer kitchen menu items. For more information, call (570) 745-3301.

Saint Boniface in Williamsport — Sept. 8-10. Annual parish carnival will be held on the grounds of Saint Boniface Church, 326 Washington Blvd., Williamsport, with sit-down dinners served in the school gym Thursday thru Saturday from 4 to 7 p.m. (take-outs available). Outdoor picnic foods, including roast beef, hot sausage and meatball sandwiches, homemade pierogi, pizza, funnel cakes and ice cream, will be available on Thursday and Friday beginning at 6 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Sunday. Carnival attractions also include children's rides, games, bingo and white elephant sale. Annual raffle drawing culminates the event on Sunday at 10 p.m. For more information, contact Deb Wheeler at (570) 326-1544.

*Continued on
Page 30*

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Saint Martha's in Fairmount Springs — Sept. 3 & 4. Sponsored by Holy Spirit Parish in Mocanaqua, the annual Saint Martha's Festival during Labor Day Weekend will be held on Saturday, 5 to 11 p.m., and Sunday, 2 to 10 p.m., on the grounds of Saint Martha Church, 260 Bonnieville Road, Fairmount Springs (Stillwater). Featuring homemade Polish and American picnic foods, including halushki, potato pancakes and pierogi. A new addition to this year's event is an outdoor chicken barbecue dinner served on Sunday afternoon, beginning at 2 p.m. Coffee, cake and pie by the slice will be available at the "Sidewalk Café," and other attractions include basket & cash raffles,

Saint Mary's in Mocanaqua — Sept. 3 & 4. Annual Labor Day Weekend Homecoming Picnic will be hosted at Saint Mary Park, Lee Road, Mocanaqua, on Saturday, Sept. 3, from 5 to 9:30 p.m., and Sunday, Sept. 4, from 1 to 9:30 p.m. Festival attractions include homemade ethnic foods, basket raffles, various game & prize stands, and live entertainment both days.

Immaculate Conception in Bastress Township — Sept. 5. Parish's Labor Day family-style turkey & ham dinner with all the trimmings will be served for sit-down or take-out service from noon to 6 p.m. in the parish hall at Immaculate Conception Church, 5973 Jacks Hollow Road. Dinner tickets cost \$12 for adults; \$5

ANNUAL FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2022 - 5PM - 10PM
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2022 - NOON - 6PM

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Summer Guide to Church Festivals

Saint Thomas the Apostle in Elkland/Westfield — Sept. 10. Saturday “Fall Fest” event benefitting the parish will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Knoxville Firemen’s Field in Knoxville, featuring a chicken barbecue (halves & dinners) beginning at noon; dinners include salad, baked beans, roll & dessert. Autumn-themed festival will also offer various foods, Chinese basket auction, music, vendors, and fun & games for all ages; blessing of the animals service at 11 a.m. Cow Pie Bingo held during the day, with tickets on sale in advance or on site for \$10. For more information, call (814) 258-5121.

Our Lady of the Abingtons in Dalton — Sept. 10 & 11. Annual Fall Festival held on Saturday, from 5 to 10 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 6 p.m., on the rustic church grounds, located off Seminary Road (behind the parish office). Festival attractions include pork barbecue and DJ Eric Petersen (Saturday) and chicken barbecue and live music by The

Quiet Men (Sunday); various picnic foods, pizza, homemade baked goods, bountiful baskets, silent auction, white elephant sale, children’s games, and antique cars provided by Car Cruisers. For more information, call (570) 351-6842.

Our Lady of Lourdes in Montoursville — Sept. 16. Parish’s annual “Fall Fun Festival” event will feature traditional & seasonal foods, games & amusements, and entertainment throughout the day. For more information, call the parish office (570) 368-8598.

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton in Swoyersville — Sept. 16 & 17. Two-night Fall Festival held on Friday & Saturday from 5 to 11 p.m. on the parish grounds, 116 Hughes St., Swoyersville. Event features homemade festival foods, games, prizes and picnic refreshments. Nightly live musical entertainment provided by Picture Perfect (Friday) and Daddy-O & The Sax Maniax (Saturday).

Church of the Resurrection in Muncy — Sept. 23 & 24. Annual Parish Festival will be held on Friday, from 4 to 7 p.m., and Saturday, 1 to 7 p.m., on the Resurrection Church grounds, 75 Musser Lane, Muncy. Event

includes live music, silent auction, bake sale, various festival foods, Kid Zone attractions, and basket, prize, quilt & cheer raffle drawings. For more information, call (570) 546-3900.

Blessed Sacrament in Throop — Sept. 24 & 25. Parish’s 15th Annual Family Festival features pigs-in-blanket dinner on Saturday from noon to 7 p.m. Outside food stands open from 3 to 9 p.m. and include potato pancakes, pizza frita, French fries, hot dogs & hamburgers, ethnic favorites & bake sale. Bingo games offered on Sunday, along with basket raffles and big cash raffle. Youth wiffle ball event held on Saturday at 9 a.m. on the parish grounds. For more information, call Karen Doyle (570) 489-2552.

Saint Barbara’s in Exeter — Oct. 1. The Second Annual Oktoberfest will be held on Saturday from 4 to 10 p.m. in the pavilion area on the grounds of the parish worship site of Saint Anthony of Padua Church (entrance from Erie Street, Exeter). Ethnic festival features homemade German foods and specialty items, including spreitzle, schnitzel, frikadellen, bratwurst, pulled pork and German pretzels.

Faith lived and shared in Scranton

Continued from Page 14

The church community began when residents of East Mountain approached the Diocese of Scranton with a request for a church in their neighborhood in 1938. The church, which cost \$35,853, was dedicated in Nov. 1939.

During his homily at the closing Mass, Monsignor Joseph G. Quinn displayed a sign which he found in the church which gave him inspiration. The sign was a quote from Pope Francis which said, “We must not let

hope abandon us ... Optimism disappoints but hope does not.”

Monsignor Quinn continued to express hope for the future standing outside the church following the recessionary hymn.

“We go forward together in faith. I pray that we all understand that,” Monsignor Quinn explained. “Things change. When your family home was sold and closed, was that the end of your family? No. You found new ways to go forward. We’re called to do the same here.”

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Happy Retirement Fr. Michelini!



On Wednesday, July 27, 2022, Reverend Edward Michelini celebrated his final morning Mass as pastor of Saints Peter & Paul Church in Towanda.

Faithful members of his Daily Mass congregation gathered to wish him well in his retirement following the liturgy. They thanked Father Michelini for his selfless service and devotion to their parish community in Bradford County for many years.



Rachel's VINEYARD

Healing the pain of abortion - one weekend at a time

RACHEL'S VINEYARD POST-ABORTION HEALING RETREAT TO TAKE PLACE NOV. 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.

For information contact denisemengaklcsw@gmail.com or leave a message 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 denisemengaklcsw@gmail.com or call (570) 239-6173

Stay up to date with the latest Diocesan News at dioceseofscranton.org

CTV: CATHOLIC TELEVISION								330 Wyoming Ave. Scranton, PA 18503 (570) 207-2219				
AUGUST 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	LIVING DIVINE MERCY		EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Encore)									
2:30 AM	THEY MIGHT BE SAINTS		EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY					
3:00 AM	SPECIALS	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOG	SPECIALS	GOSPEL GLIMPSES	LIFE ON THE ROCK	BATTLE READY	THE WILL OF GOD					
3:30AM		DEFENDING LIFE		PAPAL AUDIENCE(3:15)	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY (Call in thurs)		AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY					
4:00 AM	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	METANOIA	SIGNS OF LIFE	REFLECTIONS (4:15)	BOB AND PENNY LORD	WEB OF FAITH 2.0	SAVORING OUR FAITH					
4:30 AM		SUNDAY BEST WITH FR GROESCHEL	JOURNEY THROUGH SCRIPTURE	REAL LIFE CATHOLIC	MATTHEW'S TESTIMONY TO JESUS	METANOIA	ICONS					
5:00 AM	THE REFORMATION	EWTN BOOKMARK	THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL	DOMINICAN SISTERS	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY	EWTN SPECIALS	CATHOLIC BEGINNINGS					
5:30 AM	WHERE GOD WEEPS	CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN	LIFE IS WORTH LIVING	CATHOLIC SPHERE			CATHOLICS COME HOME					
6:00 AM	ANGELUS WITH POPE FRANCIS	EWTN ORIGINAL PRODUCTIONS										
6:30 AM	THE HERESIES	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	HOLY LAND ROSARY								THE HOLY ROSARY			
7:50 AM	THE HOLY LAND ROSARY	LITANY OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	LITANY OF THE HOLY NAME	LITANY OF ST. JOSEPH	LITANY OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD	LITANY OF SACRED HEART	LITANY OF DIVINE CHILD					
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)	LUKAS / CATECHISM					
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	OFOD/LIVE WITH PASSION/SPECIALS	ST ANN'S WEEKLY NOVENA	MUSIC AND THE SPOKEN WORD	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY					
11:00 AM	EWTN NEWS IN-DEPTH	EUCCHARISTIC JOURNEY		THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS	THE EUCCHARIST	SACRAMENTS THROUGH THE AGES	PRIESTHOOD OF JESUS CHRIST	BOB & PENNY LORD PRESENT				
11:30 AM												
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												
1:00 PM	(1:20PM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	WOMEN OF GRACE						EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE				
1:30 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					
2:00 PM		CALLED TO COMMUNION	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION	FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	THE JOURNEY HOME	LIFE ON THE ROCK	EWTN ON LOCATION					
2:30 PM												
3:00 PM												
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 DIOCESAN DATEBOOK						SUNDAY VIGIL MASS ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL				
4:30 PM	SAVORING OUR FAITH	IMAGE OF GOD	MY CATHOLIC FAMILY	LUKAS STORYTELLER ADVENTURE CATECHISM	CAT CHAT	MY TIME WITH JESUS						
5:00 PM	THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL	EWTN BOOKMARK	THE CHOICES WE FACE	ADVE	THE HERESIES	THEY MIGHT BE SAINTS	GRAB YOUR CATECHISM					
5:30 PM	SUNDAY PASSIONIST MASS	SPECIALS						SIGNS OF LIFE				
6:00 PM	SUNDAY MASS FROM ST. PETERS CATHEDRAL	EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Live)						THE MIRACLE HUNTER				
6:30 PM		LIFE IS WORTH LIVING	CATHOLIC SPHERE	LIVING DIVINE MERCY	VATICANO	THE WILL OF GOD	WALSINGHAM STORIES					
7:00 PM	SUNDAY MASS	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, (Encore)						DAILY MASS				
7:30PM		THE HOLY ROSARY DIOCESAN DATEBOOK										
8:00 PM												
8:00 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					
8:30 PM	CATHOLICS COME HOME											
9:00 PM	LIFE ON THE ROCK	EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Encore)										
9:30 PM	HOLY ROSARY W MOTHER ANGELICA	WEEKLY NOVENA TO ST. ANN	THE CHOICES WE FACE	FOCUS	LIVE WITH PASSION	WEEKLY NOVENA TO ST. ANN	MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE CLASSICS					
10:00PM	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					
10:30 PM					DEFENDING LIFE	ICONS SPOTLIGHT						
11:00PM	CATHOLIC BEGINNINGS	BATTLE READY	LONG RIDE HOME	CROSSING THE GOAL	REAL LIFE CATHOLIC	WOMEN OF GRACE HOUR LONG	WEB OF FAITH					
11:30PM	CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN	WOMEN OF GRACE						EWTN BOOKMARK				

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'For Kids, By Kids' food program benefits children, community in multiple ways

WILKES-BARRE — Every Wednesday this summer, young adults have been coming together inside the Wyoming Valley Catholic Youth Center to “cook up” something special.

On a recent week, the kids made Italian Chicken, stuffing and green beans to share with other kids in their community who might be less fortunate.

The preparation and cooking is new to many of them.

“First, we had to cut the chicken and make sure there was no excess skin. Then we had to season it and cook it,” Jackie Barba, 14, of Wilkes-Barre said.

This effort is known as the “For Kids, By Kids” Food Program.

It was an idea developed from youth involved in community service through the Luzerne County Juvenile Wellness Court.

Other kids, like John Prater, who attends the Catholic Youth Center on a regular basis, wanted to participate in the effort.



John Prater, left, and Fox Barba, package meals of Italian chicken in take-out containers at the Wyoming Valley Catholic Youth Center in Wilkes-Barre on Aug. 3, 2022. (Photo/Eric Deabill)

“I’ve always had a passion for cooking. I’ve always liked cooking. I’ve always liked the idea of cooking for other people,” the 16 year old said.

Each week, the kids prepare and package up 150 meals that are donated to the community outside Kistler Elementary School.

“They may depend on our meals to help them through the day because you never know what is going on in somebody’s life. They may really need that meal,” Prater said. “They may want to give it to somebody else that they know who really needs it. Just the knowledge that you may be helping someone is enough to keep me going and keep cooking.”

With inflation at its highest level in decades, the students know their efforts are making a difference.

“It is kind of hard right now,” Fox Barba, 12, of Wilkes-Barre said. “Now with gas prices that are high, they can’t really afford much food because they need to get to work and that is a lot of money for gas.”

Besides helping the hungry

in the community, the program is also teaching the young adults life-long culinary skills.

The kids taking part range in age from 12 to 18.

While this is the first year for the “For Kids, By Kids” food program, Mark Soprano, executive director of the Wyoming Valley Catholic Youth Center, hopes it will not be the last.

“This is a pilot program. We have funding for this summer. We don’t know what next summer is going to bring and it’s certainly something we want to do again next summer and even expand on the program so we’re always looking for other funding sources to help support the program and more volunteers. We hope to grow this program. We’re serving 150 meals today. We hope we can double that for next year,” Soprano explained.

For more information on the “For Kids, By Kids” program, contact Soprano at the Wyoming Valley Catholic Youth Center, 36 South Washington Street, Wilkes-Barre, or call (570) 823-6121.

Desire for eternal youth is 'delusional,' pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The passing of time in one's life is meant to be lived as a God-given grace and not a meaningless pursuit to preserve one's youthfulness, Pope Francis said.

Men and women are "apprentices of life" who amid trials and tribulations "learn to appreciate God's gift, honoring the responsibility of sharing it and making it bear fruit for everyone," the pope said Aug. 10 during his weekly general audience.

"The conceit of stopping time -- of wanting eternal youth, unlimited well-being, absolute power -- is not only impossible, it is delusional," he said.

The pope continued his series of talks on old age and reflected on Jesus' farewell to his disciples during the Last Supper, in which he promised to "prepare a place"

for them.

The time of life that remains for the disciples, the pope said, mirrors that of old age, which is "the fitting time for the moving and joyful witness of expectation" for one's true destination: "a place at the table with God, in the world of God."

Old age, he continued, should not be lived "in the dejection of missed opportunities" but in seeing that "the time of aging that God grants us is already in itself" one of God's great works.

"Our life is not made to be wrapped up in itself, in an imaginary earthly perfection," the pope said. "It is destined to go beyond, through the passage of death -- because death is a passage. Indeed, our stable place, our destination is not here, it is beside the Lord, where he dwells forever."

True fulfillment in one's life, he added, can only be found in God, and "old age brings closer the hope of this fulfillment."

Old age, the pope said, departing from his prepared remarks, does not need to beautify itself to show its nobility. Instead, it serves as a reminder of one's mortality and is an invitation "to rejoice in the passing of time" which "is not a threat, it is a promise," the pope said.

Pope Francis encouraged Christians, especially the elderly, to live their final years of life "in the expectation of the Lord" because in old age, Jesus' promise becomes "transparent, projecting toward the Holy City of which the Book of Revelation speaks."

"The elderly are a promise, a witness of promise," the pope

said. "And the best is yet to come. The best is yet to come: It is like the message of elderly believers: the best is yet to come. May God grant us all an old age capable of this!"

Cardinal Tomko dies at 98

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The oldest member of the College of Cardinals, Cardinal Jozef Tomko, died in Rome at the age of 98.

The late cardinal had been hospitalized since the end of June after a fall, and he suffered further complications from COVID-19. He returned to his Vatican apartment Aug. 6 for continued care and died early Aug. 8.

In a telegram with his condolences published by the Vatican later the same day, Pope Francis praised "this esteemed and wise brother who, sustained by deep faith and great foresight, served the Gospel and the church with humility and self-sacrifice."



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Kingston 'Faith Sharing' to resume in September

Saint Ignatius Loyola Parish in Kingston announces its small-group Faith Sharing session offered on the second Friday of each month will not be held in August.

The monthly gatherings will resume on Friday, Sept. 9, in the parish's Conlan Hall. For more information, call (570) 690-7732.



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Parish Life Office announces upcoming events

Family Faith Formation Workshop

The Office for Parish Life in the Diocese of Scranton announces its third Family Faith Formation Program for Diocesan parishes.

"Leading Families Home Through Faith Formation: Mary As Disciple and Companion for Prayer," the third workshop for catechetical leaders presented by Tom East, will be offered on Sunday, Aug. 28, from 1 to 6 p.m.

at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave., Scranton.

The program will be offered again on Monday, Aug. 29, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Pastoral Center for those unable to attend the first session.

The workshop will provide instruction for lifelong faith formation processes — an experience of a faith festival

— and all the tools needed for implementing the "faith festival" in one's parish.

Cost for the day is \$30, including lunch and the necessary materials. Participation in the first two series programs is not required.

For more information, contact Mary Hallman at mhallman@dioceseofscranton.org or (570) 207-2213 ext. 1148.

Mental Health First Aid Certification

The Scranton Mental Health Ministry at the Cathedral of Saint Peter is hosting a Mental Health First Aid training on Saturday, Aug. 27, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Diocesan Center, 330 Wyoming Ave., Scranton. Lunch will be provided.

This training requires

participants to complete a self-paced online module prior to the in-person training that takes approximately 2½ hours to complete.

Upon completion of the online and in-person modules, a mental health first aid certification is granted. Due to certification

restrictions, the training is limited to 30 participants.

For more information about the curriculum, visit: <https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/take-a-course/what-you-learn/>.

To register for the training, email Deacon Ed Shoener at: deaconed@stpeterscathedral.org

Remembrance Day slated September 10

The Diocese of Scranton will participate in the 10th annual National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children on Saturday, Sept. 10, when pro-life Americans will honor the memory of the nearly 65 million unborn victims of abortion since its legalization in 1973.

Diocesan observances on Sept. 10 will include a Memorial Service for Victims of Abortion to be held at 11 a.m. at Mount Olivet Cemetery, 612 Mount Olivet Road, Carverton.

The pro-life gathering will take place at Mount Olivet's Wyoming Valley Knights of Columbus "Tomb for the Unborn," located at the top of the hill on the cemetery grounds.

During the memorial observance, the Rosary will be recited in remembrance of all aborted babies.



Diocese of Scranton

UP & OVER

Middle School Retreat

September 23rd to 25th

at Camp Orchard Hill in Dallas, Pa.

Go Forth: Propagation of the Faith director writes from Ghana, West Africa

Continued from Page 28

Surely, academic excellence is paramount and to be lauded; however, the freedom with which the boys of the school sang, moved, and praised God was breathtaking. There was no show being put on for bishops and delegations from the U.S. This was real; they were being themselves.

They sang and gave praise unto the Lord as themselves, as sons of God, our Father. They were fearless, worrying not whether their bold spiritual actions would result in a strange look, a smirk, or a cross word from an onlooker.

Do not be afraid! Indeed, do not be afraid. I suppose that's my initial takeaway from these days of pilgrimage. As Americans, we are woefully reserved in our worship and in our other forms of prayer, perhaps even subdued. What we are doing is not wrong or imperfect. Our parishes and the liturgies celebrated here are often beautifully reverent, dignified in their musical accompaniment, and filled with the faith of disciples desiring deeply to grow closer to Christ

and do His work in the world.

That said, I can't help but think of a not-so-flattering moniker that has been put upon some of us: "We are God's frozen chosen." Perhaps we are a bit chilled by the fear of letting out what is within us spiritually. It takes guts to pick up the hymnal and sing out with full voice, especially if that full-voiced singing isn't so "pleasing." It takes guts to allow the fire of the Spirit to thaw that frozen shell that surrounds the core of our spiritual guts. What we need to confront in our daily lives is the fear of being judged, ridiculed, or goodness knows, what else because we sing, we pray, we move with the Spirit when we are at Mass.

No, we're not a dancing church in America; no, we are not necessarily a congregation that dialogues with the presider during a homily; and no, we are not necessarily a group of worshippers that is used to 4½ hour Masses (Yep, we concelebrated such a Mass in Ghana — and it was heavenly, for sure). What we are, though — and what we share with our brothers and sisters in Ghana and other cultures — is the Body

of Christ, called to worship Him reverently, devoutly, daily, and with great love and joy.

So, we have no need to mimic or mirror the movements of the Liturgy in Ghana. We have our own beautiful, revered, and unique culture which we breathe through our own Mass and other acts of prayer. What we can do, though, is learn from the freedom by which our brothers and sisters pray — to not be afraid. Pick up that hymnal and sing aloud; don't be afraid.

Seek to approach the Mass in a way that you will surrender the worry of wandering eyes, or discerning or critical ears, and sing to the glory of God. Sing to him in word and song with the voice that He has given to you. Since it is your voice — and you are his son, his daughter — it is beautiful to Him. Sing to Him, the One who has given you life, blessed you, and given you a voice to praise Him. Sing unto the Lord. *Non abbiate paura* — do not be afraid!

Apostleship of Prayer

Papal Intention for September 2022

For the Abolition of the Death Penalty —
We pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person, may be legally abolished in every country.

Prayer Requests for Priests

The Daily Prayer Request for Priests schedule is as follows:

August 18, Father Peter O'Rourke; August 19, Passionist Father Sibi Padinjaredath; August 20, Father James Paisley; August 21, Father Francis Pauselli; August 22, Father Jaime Perez Restrepo; August 23, Father Carmen Perry; August 24, Father Thomas Petro; August 25, Father William Petruska; August 26, Father Michael Piccola; August 27, Father William Pickard; August 28, Saint Joseph Oblate Father Jackson Pinhero; August 29, Father Joseph Pisaneschi; August 30, Father John Polednak, V.E.; August 31, Father Richard Polmouter; September 1, Pope Francis; September 2, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI; September 3, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; September 4, Father John Poplawski; September 5, Monsignor Patrick Pratico; September 6, Monsignor Joseph Quinn; September 7, Father Michael Quinlan; September 8, Father Michael Rafferty; September 9, Father Philip Rayappan; September 10, Jesuit Father James Redington; September 11, Father Gregory Reichlen; September 12, Father August Ricciardi; September 13, Saint Peter Priestly Fraternity Father John Rickert; September 14, Father Frederick Riegler; September 15, Jesuit Father Angelo Rizzo; September 16, Father Alex Roche; September 17, Jesuit Father Patrick Rogers; September 18, Monsignor Walter Rossi; September 19, Monsignor Dale Rupert; September 20, Father John Ruth.

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Rosary Rally around Saint Ann's Basilica



Hosted by Knights of Columbus Assembly 938 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Saint Ann in Scranton, a Rosary Rally was recently held through the streets surrounding the venerable Basilica in the city's West Side. The outdoor Marian devotion began with a prayer service presided over by Father Gus Ricciardi of Old Forge, and the rally procession continued around Saint Ann's with Rosary prayers led by Deacon Peter Lemoncelli. The Rosary Rally was offered for the special intentions of the victims of the recent spate of violence in our country and the war in Ukraine.

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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Oblates to host Labor Day Triduum, Mass honoring Saint Joseph the Worker

LAFLIN — The Congregation of the Oblates of Saint Joseph will host their 40th Annual Labor Day Triduum and Labor Day Mass in honor of Saint Joseph the Worker during the upcoming Labor Day Weekend, Sept. 2-5, at the Oblates chapel, located on Route 315 in Laflin.

Masses during the Triduum — Friday, Sept. 2, through Sunday, Sept. 4 — will be celebrated each evening at 7 p.m., followed by devotional prayers to Saint Joseph as the patron saint of laborers. Confessions and recitation of the Rosary will precede each Mass.

Guest celebrant and preacher for this year's Labor Day Triduum will be Saint Joseph Oblate



Father Paul McDonnell, rector of the local Oblate community, who also serves as Sacramental Minister at Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish in North Pittston.

Following the liturgies, devotional prayers will be offered to Saint Joseph, particularly for all workers and the unemployed.

The Triduum will conclude with a special Labor Day Mass honoring Saint Joseph the Worker on Monday, Sept. 5, at 11 a.m., with Saint Joseph Oblate Father Joseph Sibilano serving as

principal celebrant and homilist. Father Sibilano founded the annual spiritual event in 1983 when he served as rector of the Oblates Seminary.

At the conclusion of the Mass, bread will be blessed and distributed to the faithful as a symbol of the “fruit of our labor.”

Masses celebrated during the Triduum and on Labor Day morning will livestream on the Oblates Seminary Facebook page and broadcast live on Catholic Radio 98.3 FM.

All are welcome to attend the Triduum services and Labor Day Mass. For more information, call the OSJ main office at (570) 654-7542.

Marian Devotion Rosary prayer 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, which will culminate in October — the Month of the Holy Rosary.

Prayer rallies and Rosary evenings are hosted throughout

the Diocese and include the Rosary with chanted Scriptural mysteries, Fatima prayers and hymns.

Upcoming Marian Devotion events are scheduled as follows:

Fourth Monday Marian Devotion — Aug. 22, from 6 to 7 p.m., at Saint Mary of the Lake Church at Lake Winola.

Tuesday Evening Marian Devotion — Aug. 23, from 6 to 7

p.m., at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laflin.

Sunday Afternoon Rosary Rally — Sept. 11, beginning at 1 p.m. at the Prayer Garden on the grounds of Saint Lucy Church in West Scranton.

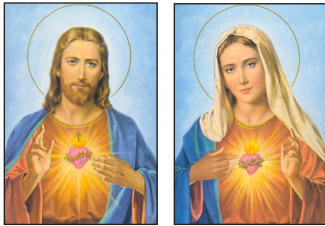
For more information, call Ernie Pappa at (570) 241-8171.

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 **Sept. 2** 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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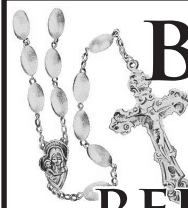


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*Remembering
the victims
of human
trafficking*

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.



Elder Law

- Guardianships
- Asset Protection Planning
- Medicaid Application Assistance

Estate Administration

Probate :

Settle all estate matters and distribute inheritances.

Inheritance Tax :

Utilize all discounts and proper deductions.
Meet all requirements and deadlines.

- Powers of Attorney • Living Wills • Wills
- Trusts Guardianships • Asset Protection Planning
- Medicaid Application Assistance

Estate Planning

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



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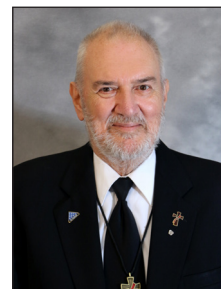
The Social Justice Committee at Saint Therese Parish in Shavertown held "Red Sand Project" ceremonies following each weekend Mass during July 30-31, in recognition of the United Nations World Day Against Trafficking Persons observed on that Saturday. Led by the liturgies' celebrants — Father Jim Paisley (above), pastor of Saint Therese, and Father Jim Alco — parishioners poured red sand into the cracks of a sidewalk to acknowledge the millions of victims of human trafficking around the world and also to remember those individuals who "fall through the cracks" of society every day.

IN MEMORIAM

**Immaculate Heart
of Mary Sister
Charlene Templeton**

Entered Life:
November 22, 1922

Entered Eternal Life:
July 16, 2022



**Deacon
George Mochin**

Entered Life:
December 28, 1940

Entered Eternal Life:
July 19, 2022

Catholic Happenings

Bereavement Support Group Sessions — SEPT. 7, 14, 21 & 28, series of weekly gatherings addressing topics dealing with the grief process to enable participants find healing; Bereavement Support Group hosts seasonal meetings on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave., Scranton (across from St. Peter's Cathedral). Anyone interested in attending is asked to contact the Cathedral Parish office at (570) 344-7231.

30th Annual Parish Golf Tournament — SEPT. 16,

sponsored by Our Lady of Victory Parish, Harveys Lake; hosted at Stone Hedge Golf Course in Tunkhannock. Tournament begins with registration luncheon at 11 a.m., followed by shotgun golf start at noon. Awards dinner & prizes follow tournament play at the Stone Hedge country club. Cost: \$110 per player, includes green fees, golf cart, lunch, dinner & beverages. Dinner guests welcome for \$25 per person; hole sponsorships available. For registration information, contact Mike & Merry Ann at (570) 639-5426, or Helen at (570) 639-1535.

Centralia's Ukrainian Church to host 'Call to Prayer' pilgrimage August 21

CENTRALIA—Assumption of the BVM Ukrainian Catholic Church in Centralia, Columbia County, will host the annual Call to Prayer pilgrimage on Sunday, Aug. 21.

Dedicated to the patronage of "Mary, Protectress and Refuge of All," the religious gathering opens at 11 a.m. with Prayers of the Third Hour and Traditional Marian Hymns performed by the choir of the National Shrine of the Holy Family in Washington, D.C.

The Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and Procession will be celebrated at noon, with Metropolitan Archbishop Borys Guziak of the Ukrainian Archeparchy of Philadelphia serving as principal celebrant. Bishops of the Ukrainian and Roman Catholic Churches, assisted by visiting clergy, will concelebrate.

A Living Rosary will be prayed at 2:30 p.m., led by Bishop Ronald Gainer of Harrisburg, followed by the celebration of Akafist Prayer to the Dormition of the Most Holy Mother of God at 3:30 p.m.

All will gather at 5 p.m. at the outdoor chapel for a candlelight procession with the Icon of Our Lady of Pochaiv for the celebration of a Moleben prayer service to the Blessed Mother.

At the conclusion of the Moleben, prayers for healing and anointing of all pilgrims will be offered.

Additional activities scheduled for the day of pilgrimage include: "Discussion on the War in Ukraine, the Refugee Crisis, and the Role of the Church," at 2 p.m.; sacramental confessions, available from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and blessing of all religious items, at 4:30 p.m.

Apostleship of Prayer

Papal Intention for August 2022

For Small Businesses —

We pray for small and medium-sized businesses. In the midst of economic and social crisis, may they find ways to continue operating and serving their communities.



OUR GROUP CRUISES & CRUISE TOURS

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NASHVILLE SHOW TOUR OCTOBER 30-NOV 5, 2022

INCLUDED FEATURES: Motorcoach Transportation, 6 nights lodging with 4 nights in Nashville, 6 breakfasts and 4 dinners, 2 GREAT SHOWS 1) THE GRAND OLE OPRY 2) NASHVILLE NIGHTLIFE DINNER THEATRE, Guided tours of NASHVILLE and BELLE MEADE HISTORIC SITE AND WINERY, Admission to the COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME, Admission to the GRAND OLD OPRY BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR AND MORE!

BRANSON CHRISTMAS - DECEMBER 4-8, 2022

Our Shows: Dolly Parton's Stampede Christmas Show
Amazing Acrobats of Shanghai, Miracle of Christmas Show
Included in the price:

Airfare and transportation from home city. All transportation in Branson
4 nights hotel accommodations 4 breakfasts, 2 dinners, 4 shows

2023 TOURS

TUCSON, ARIZONA & THE OLD WEST TOUR

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SPAIN & PORTUGAL DELUXE TOUR - APRIL 16-27, 2023

Highlights: Madrid, Granada, the Alhambra, Seville, Portuguese Riviera, Lisbon, Fatima, Oporto and much more! ONLY \$3695.00

2023 CARIBBEAN

Punta Cana All Inclusive from \$1495.00

January 16-23, 2023 or January 23-30, 2023

Included in the pricing:

Bus transportation from Scranton, Wilkes Barre, Allentown and Harrisburg to Philadelphia Airport. Flights from Philadelphia to Punta Cana roundtrip.

All Inclusive of meals, drinks, non motorized water sports, tips and all taxes.*Golf green fees included as noted.

2023 CRUISES

11 NIGHT SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN ANTHEM OF THE SEAS

January 2-13, 2023

Departing from: Cape Liberty (Bayonne), New Jersey with transportation to the pier included! ONLY \$1195.00

Ports of Call: San Juan, St Maarten, Antigua, St Lucia, & St Kitts!

12 NIGHT SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN NORWEGIAN GETAWAY

Jan 20-Feb 1, 2023 - OPEN BAR! ONLY \$1699.00

Ports of Call: San Juan, Puerto Rico • Basseterre, St. Kitts • Bridgetown, Barbados • Castries, St. Lucia • St. Johns, Antigua • Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, U.S.V.I. • Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic

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You will find clear answers to the who, what, where, when, why, and how of the Bible.

A Carolina native who was raised as a Southern Baptist, Corbitt converted to Catholicism and served as director of religious education at St. John Vianney Catholic Church in Gallatin, Tenn., and as executive director of Risen Radio in Lebanon, Tenn.

She is the riveting weekly host of *Evangelista Bible Study* on radio and CatholicTV. Corbitt studies at Holy Apostles College and Seminary. She is in formation as a Third Order Carmelite, a columnist at *The Great Adventure Bible Study* blog, a Telly Award winning broadcaster, a regular contributor to *Magnificat*, and a best-selling author who also wrote for the *Gallatin News Examiner* and *Oremus*, the Westminster Cathedral magazine.

When: Sunday, Oct. 16, 2022, 10 a.m. Mass; 11 a.m. Brunch & Presentation

Where: 10 a.m. Mass at Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton
11 a.m. Brunch/Presentation at Diocesan Pastoral Center

Tickets: \$15/person; \$25/couple

Visit www.dioceseofscranton.org for tickets and information.



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