

The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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Prayer Service for an End to the War in Ukraine to be held Sept. 25 at Cathedral of Saint Peter

SCRANTON – It has now been more than six months since the Russian invasion of Ukraine began. As people of goodwill continue to pray for an end to the senseless conflict, everyone is being invited to participate in a special prayer service later this month.

A Prayer Service for an End to the War in Ukraine will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 25, 2022, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

Father Myron Myronyuk, Pastor, Saint Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church of Scranton, who has several family members still living in Ukraine and fighting in the Ukrainian military, will lead the Prayer Service along with the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton.

During the Prayer Service, everyone in attendance will be invited to offer prayers for peace in Ukraine and for the innocent people who continue to suffer in the country. A goodwill offering for those on the ground helping the Ukrainian people will be collected at the conclusion of the Prayer Service.

While in-person attendance is highly encouraged, the Prayer Service will also be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel and social media platforms.

WAR NEARS SEVEN MONTH MARK

On Monday, Sept. 12, 2022, Ukrainian troops announced they had retaken a large territory that Russian troops once occupied. They also claimed to have captured Russian soldiers.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said his troops had liberated more than 6,000 square kilometers over just the last few weeks.

The movements have not come without retribution from Russia. On his official Twitter page, President Zelenskyy confirmed a “total blackout” in the Kharkiv and Donetsk regions and partial blackouts in several other regions. He said the goal of the Russian forces was to “deprive people of light and heat.”

At his Angelus on Sept. 11, Pope Francis called on Christians to continue to pray for the people of Ukraine so that “the Lord may give them comfort and hope.”

He also confirmed that Polish Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, papal almoner, was in Ukraine “to visit various communities and to bear concrete witness to the closeness of the pope and the church.”

In a statement released Sept. 9, the Dicastery for the Service of Charity said Cardinal Krajewski would visit the cities of Odesa, Zhytomyr, Kharkiv and other locations in eastern Ukraine. However, most likely for security reasons, the dicastery did not specify how the cardinal would be traveling.

CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE AMID WAR

On Aug. 24, Ukraine celebrated the 31st anniversary of its independence even while embroiled in a bitter fight for its freedom.

Archbishop Borys Gudziak, head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the U.S., used the occasion to thank U.S. Catholics and other people of goodwill for material

Prayer Service for an End to the War in Ukraine



Sunday, September 25, 2022
2:30 p.m.
Cathedral of Saint Peter
(315 Wyoming Ave., Scranton)

Led by
FR. MYRON MYRONYUK
Pastor, St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church of Scranton

and
MOST REVEREND JOSEPH C. BAMBERA
Bishop of Scranton

*** A goodwill offering will be collected at the conclusion of the Prayer Service ***

and spiritual shows of solidarity as the nation fights to remain free from Russian control.

“I want to thank all of you for your solidarity: all Americans, all American Catholics, all people of goodwill. It is with your help that Ukraine is making this biblical stance (of) David against Goliath,” he said in a recorded video message.

“And Ukrainians are saying to you and to me and to everybody in the world,

‘We will not be a colony,’” he said. “(Just as) Algeria will not be a colony of France, like Peru and Uruguay will not be a colony of Spain, like the United States will not be a colony of Great Britain, so Ukraine will never again be a colony of Russia.”

“This is what independence means today for Ukraine,” added Archbishop Gudziak, who heads the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia.

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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.

POLICY STATEMENT

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Mass for Suicide Healing & Remembrance this Sunday

SCRANTON – Nearly two-percent of all deaths are from suicide. This has resulted in the tragic loss of many lives among our faithful and among our communities. It has also resulted in devastating grief for the loved ones mourning those losses.

Too many among our faithful and within our communities are unaware of current Church teaching about suicide. Many still believe the Church will not grant a Catholic funeral or burial of someone who has died by suicide.

To offer healing and comfort, and to increase awareness about the Church's mercy and care for those who have died by suicide, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate a Mass for Suicide Healing and Remembrance this Sunday, Sept. 18, 2022, at 12:15 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

During the Mass, those attending will be invited to bring forward to the altar a flower, in remembrance of those lost. Registrations are kindly requested, but not required. Anyone who would like to register can call the Diocesan Office for Parish Life at (570) 207-2213.

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.

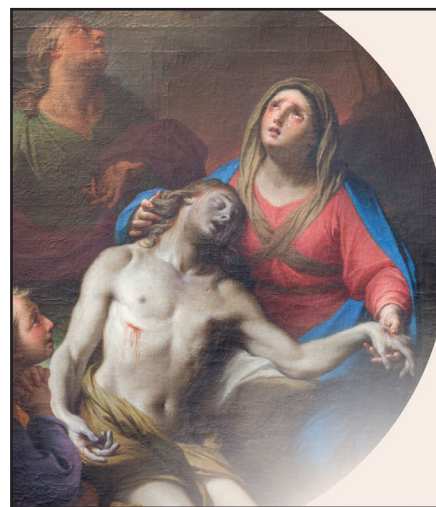
Suicide and suicide attempts affect the health and well-being of friends, loved ones, co-workers, and the community. When people die by suicide, their surviving family and friends may experience shock, anger, guilt, symptoms of depression or anxiety and may even experience thoughts of suicide themselves.

Suicide is 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 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



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.

In 2020:

45,979 people
died by suicide
in the United States.

That is 1 death
every 11 minutes.

- ➔ 12.2 million adults seriously thought about suicide
- ➔ 3.2 million adults made a plan
- ➔ 1.2 million adults attempted suicide

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 Service planned in Scranton as War in Ukraine wages on

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CONTINUED AID NEEDED

Catholic aid organizations such as Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the U.S. bishops' overseas relief and development agency, as well as Cross Catholic Outreach have distributed aid from donations by U.S. Catholics, not just in Ukraine, but in

neighboring Poland, Moldova, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro – nations that have taken in Ukrainian refugees.

Some of that help has included financial, spiritual and other material assistance to families, as well as securing ambulances, generators, clothing and food for those affected inside and outside of Ukraine. Some also

have been able to receive therapy through the organizations to deal with the trauma.

CRS said that "the war has created an extraordinary refugee and displacement crisis."

More than 11 million people have crossed the Ukrainian border since the invasion began but as some of the fighting has decreased, nearly five million people have returned to remake their lives, even as the future

is not certain, CRS said.

Archbishop Gudziak asked that, along with their prayers and help, people try to have a "correct understanding of what is happening" in Ukraine, saying it is a "struggle for the God-given right to be free, to live in dignity, to celebrate."

The story of Ukraine's fight for independence, he said, is "the story of the whole world."

Speakers for Pennsylvania March for Life announced

HARRISBURG — A best-selling author and movie producer will be one of the main speakers at the second annual Pennsylvania March for Life next week at the State Capitol.

Thousands of people are once again preparing to descend on Harrisburg on Monday, Sept. 19, to continue the fight for life and to advocate for pro-life policies.

Ann McElhinney, New York Times best-selling author and the director/producer of the movie, 'Gosnell, the Trial of America's Biggest Serial Killer,' will serve as one of the headliners. She will address the crowd at an 11 a.m. rally, which will be held directly before marchers take to the streets.

Powerful testimonies from Dr. Monique Ruberu, pro-life OBGYN and speaker, and Kathy Barnette, author, veteran and spokesperson for 1776 Action, are also expected.

The 2022 Pennsylvania March for Life is an incredible opportunity for pro-life Pennsylvanians to come together

to be a voice for the voiceless at the state legislature.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will attend the 2022 Pennsylvania March for Life. Several buses traveling from parishes and pro-life community groups within the territory of the Diocese of Scranton will join him.

Bishop Bambera will also join other bishops from throughout Pennsylvania in celebrating Mass directly following the March for Life at 1:30 p.m. at Saint Patrick's Cathedral (212 State Street, Harrisburg). The principal celebrant for the Mass will be Archbishop Nelson J. Perez of Philadelphia.

The second annual PA March for Life was specifically planned for Sept. 19 because it is the first day when both the Pennsylvania House and Senate will be back in session in Harrisburg.

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

PENNSYLVANIA MARCH FOR LIFE

Monday, September 19, 2022

PA State Capitol • Harrisburg, PA • 11 am: Rally • 12 noon: March



Ann McElhinney
Producer & Co-Writer,
Gosnell Movie



Amy Scheuring
Executive Director,
Women's Choice Network



Jeanne Mancini
President, March for Life



Michael Gaer
President, PA Family Institute



Dr. Monique Ruberu
OB/GYN



Most Reverend Nelson Perez
Archbishop of Philadelphia



Kathy Barnette
Author, Veteran



Bryan Cutler
Speaker of the PA House



Kim Ward
PA Senate Majority Leader



Judy Ward
PA State Senator



Pastor Charles Stock
Life Center Church

protecting the sanctity of life in Pennsylvania.

The 2022 Pennsylvania March for Life comes after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled June 24 that there is no constitutional right to abortion.

The ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* was a challenge to a Mississippi law banning abortion after 15 weeks. With a 6-3 majority, the court upheld the law, but the high court also voted 5-4 to overturn its 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision and 1992's *Casey v. Planned Parenthood* ruling, which affirmed *Roe*.

The court's reversal of *Roe* now puts abortion policy decisions in the hands of the states.

All are welcome to attend the Pennsylvania March for Life and no advanced registration is required.

The 11 a.m. 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.

For anyone planning to arrive early, there will also be Morning Mass at Saint Patrick's Cathedral at 9:30 a.m. At 10 a.m., there will

be prayer and a praise pre-rally on the main stage.

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 filling fast. To inquire about whether space is still available, please email/call Shannon Kowalski, Diocesan Director of Service and Mission, at SKowalski@dioceseofscranton.org or (570) 207-2213, x1155.

Other buses will be heading to the Pennsylvania March for Life from the Hazleton, Dallas, Pocono Pines and Towanda areas.

For more information on the 2022 Pennsylvania March for Life, visit marchforlife.org/Pennsylvania.

Importance of music highlighted as part of National Eucharistic Revival

CLARKS GREEN — The power of music can help people encounter Christ.

That was the main message that Rev. Ricky Manalo, CSP, Ph.D., tried to explain to dozens of people during a two-day event in late August at Saint Gregory Parish.

The multi-day event, "Encountering Christ: Music & Meditation," featured a free concert on Aug. 26 and a presentation and workshop the following day.

"I think music has always been a powerful tool to reach, to touch and to encounter God. Whenever we sing about the Body of Christ, we experience being members of the Body of Christ," Father Manalo said.

The Paulist priest, composer, theologian and author earned the 2020 Distinguished Catholic Music Composer of the Year Award by the Association of Catholic Publishers. He also received the 2018 Pastoral Musician of the Year Award by the National Association of Pastoral Musicians.

Father Manalo credits his family for his love of music.

"My parents brought music into our family. My mother said where there is music, there will also be harmony in our family," he added.

The Diocesan Office for Parish Life coordinated Father Manalo's visit to the Diocese of Scranton as part of the ongoing



Father Ricky Manalo, CSP, Ph.D., leads a concert at Saint Gregory Parish in Clarks Green on Aug. 26, 2022. The multi-day event, "Encountering Christ: Music & Meditation," also featured presentation and workshop the following day. (Photo/Mark Ignatovich)

National Eucharistic Revival, a three-year effort with the goal of awakening a desire among the faithful to encounter Jesus in the Eucharist.

As he works to compose music, Father Manalo said he often thinks about what part of the liturgy it would be used for and then a melody comes to mind.

"For me, it's all about the context. Once I get that in my mind, my imagination just goes crazy," he explained.

As opposed to looking at a beautiful piece of art, Father Manalo said music can go deep inside a person.

"Music allows us to experience something transcendent that actually goes all around us," the composer stated.

There was no charge to attend either the concert or workshop led by Father Manalo. The music from his concert will be featured on the September edition of "Our Faith, Our Diocese" which will premiere on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton later this month.

October is Respect Life Month

Bishop Bambera to celebrate Respect Life Sunday Mass Oct. 2

SCRANTON – October is Respect Life Month and the first Sunday in October is designated as Respect Life Sunday. The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate Respect Life Sunday Mass on Oct. 2 at 10 a.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Mass is open to the public. Faithful from across the Diocese of Scranton are invited to attend the Respect Life Sunday Mass and focus on God's precious gift of human life and our responsibility to care for, protect and defend the lives of our brothers and sisters.

As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the

beginning of life to its end, and at every point in between. During the month of October, the Church asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life.

During this special month, the faithful are encouraged to pray for the wisdom and courage to lovingly protect God's gift of human life at every stage, in sickness and in health.

The faithful are also asked to pray for women and men suffering after abortion. Through Christ's endless mercy, we ask that they find peace and healing, especially with the assistance of the Church's abortion healing ministry, Project Rachel.

The faithful are also asked to pray for those nearing the end

of life, that they receive care that respects their dignity and protects their lives as they place their hope in the promise of eternal life.

Students from the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System and parish youth ministries have been invited to participate in the Respect Life Mass on Oct. 2 as readers, gift bearers and altar servers.

For those unable to attend in-person, the Mass will be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and the Diocese of Scranton's YouTube Channel. The Mass will also be livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website with links provided on the Diocese of Scranton social media platforms.



A Prayer for Pregnant Mothers

O Blessed Mother, you received the good news of the incarnation of Christ, your Son, with faith and trust. Grant your protection to all pregnant mothers facing difficulties.



Guide us as we strive to make our parish communities places of welcome and assistance for mothers in need. Help us become instruments of God's love and compassion.

Mary, Mother of the Church, graciously help us build a culture of life and a civilization of love, together with all people of good will, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life. Amen.

2022 Respect Life Reflection: Called to Serve Moms in Need

Our Blessed Mother models a profound witness to love and life in the Gospel account of the Visitation. Luke's Gospel tells us that, when Mary learns that her cousin Elizabeth is pregnant, she travels to the hill country "in haste" (Lk 1:39). Despite being unexpectedly pregnant herself, Mary responds to this news with urgency.

She embarks on a long and perhaps difficult journey to be with her cousin during her time of need, bearing Christ to her as He lay quietly hidden in Mary's womb. And, although Jesus is veiled from view, when Mary first arrives John the Baptist leaps for joy in Elizabeth's womb, recognizing the presence of Christ (Lk 1:44). Mary, with Jesus, spends the next three months at Elizabeth's side.

The witness of our Blessed Mother invites us to become more aware of the needs of pregnant and parenting moms in our own parishes and communities. A woman with

an unexpected pregnancy may have any number of fears and challenges: facing judgment from her friends and family, losing her job or housing, or being abandoned by the father of her child.

Following Mary's example, we can ask ourselves how to better know these mothers, listen to them, seek understanding, and help them obtain the necessities of life for themselves and their children. How can we, like the Blessed Mother, lovingly support mothers in welcoming and caring for God's gift of life?

Throughout the whole of Scripture, Mary's words are few. Yet, in her sacred encounter with Elizabeth, a powerful declaration pours from her lips. Mary proclaims to all generations that the Lord lifts up the lowly, fills the hungry with good things, and remembers his promise of mercy from age to age (Lk 1:46-56). In both word and deed, Mary speaks a message of hope—not only

to Elizabeth, but also to every mother in need and to each of us.

Mary's witness is an invitation to step out in love and compassion. It is a summons to make haste to help vulnerable women who may be isolated and alone. By doing so, we too can bear Christ within us and help others experience His presence.

Inspired by the Blessed Mother's example and guided by the Holy Spirit, may we offer Christ's presence and love to mothers in their time of need through our faithful service and support.



A portrait of Rev. Fr. Thomas J. Schall, S.J. He is a middle-aged man with short, graying hair, smiling slightly. He is wearing a black cassock with a white clerical collar and a gold chain. The background is a soft, out-of-focus gray.

In the midst of the tension that this moment



Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Scranton

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage



SCRANTON – As the entrance hymn ‘Vienen Con Alegria’ began, some people in the crowd happily clapped along with the fast-moving beat. Others clutched their cell phones to record the moment.

With the sound of joyful music echoing outside of the Cathedral of Saint Peter, there was no denying the presence of the Holy Spirit as the 2022 Hispanic Heritage Mass for the Diocese of Scranton got underway shortly after noon on Sept. 10, 2022.

“This is great for the Spanish community. We all come from different countries,” Rufino Cano, a parishioner from the linked parishes of Saint John Neumann and Saint Paul of the Cross in Scranton, said.

An estimated 500 people attended the Mass, which was celebrated entirely in Spanish. The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant and homilist.

The Mass helps to kick off Hispanic Heritage Month that is a time to celebrate the history, culture and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

“It’s a way of acknowledging our culture,” Catalina Valladares, a parishioner of Most Holy Trinity Parish in Cresco, said. “I think this is a very big accomplishment for the Hispanic community in the diocese.”

Hispanic Heritage Month began on Sept. 15 and runs through Oct. 15 each year.

Brenda Bonilla, a parishioner of the linked parishes of Saint John Neumann and Saint Paul of the Cross in Scranton, was moved by the Eucharistic celebration.

“You feel alive. You always feel alive. It’s the music, it’s the people, it’s the prayers, it’s the



An estimated 500 people attended the Diocese of Scranton’s annual Hispanic Heritage Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on Saturday, Sept. 10, 2022.

hymns, it’s everything!” she said. “I was very humbled to see the whole Hispanic community from the whole diocese unified together in one place, in the Mass, which is the best place that we can be together.”

Michael Garcia, 19, and his brother Sebastien, 16, travelled nearly an hour from Saint Matthew Parish in East Stroudsburg specifically to attend the Eucharistic liturgy.

“It was amazing. It was breathtaking, seeing all the priests from all around the parishes and all these people gathered together to celebrate this beautiful Mass,” Michael said.

“It really means a lot to me, all these cultures are all together in one place,” Sebastien added.

During his homily, Bishop Bambera reminded the faithful of their true origins.

“No matter how justifiably proud we are of our countries of origin, the heritage that we cherish and seek to nurture and pass from one generation to the next – our origin is not Mexico, Ecuador, the Dominican Republic, the United States or any other land,” the bishop noted. “Our true origin –



Above: Eduin Medina leads the beautiful music ministry from Annunciation Parish in Hazleton in song during Mass.

Right: Mass attendees listen to Bishop Bambera’s homily.

the reason for our time together this day – and the source of our life, our hope and our salvation is Jesus Christ.”

The bishop encouraged unity among all people. He also encouraged the faithful to serve one another as brothers and sisters and to become credible witnesses of the Savior.

“Thank you for working together to build bridges, to make unity a reality in our communities and to serve those among us who are most in need,” Bishop Bambera said. “I am so grateful for



Following the celebration of the annual Hispanic Heritage Mass, everyone in attendance was invited to enjoy food and fellowship at the Diocesan Pastoral Center. (Photo/Eric Deabill)

you who represent the Hispanic community in our local Church. You are a blessing beyond words and our hope for the future.”

Following the Mass, a three-hour reception was held across the street from the Cathedral at the Diocesan Pastoral Center. The crowd enjoyed food and many musical and dance performances by parishioners from various parishes.

“That is important to create more community, to know other Spanish people from other corners of the diocese,” Cano said.

“It’s the only way that we



can get to know that we’re not by ourselves. It’s not my parish in a little corner, it’s not the next parish in a little corner, it’s all of us together – bringing the whole community together walking in our faith,” Valladares added.

The Hispanic Ministry Office of the Diocese of Scranton put the Hispanic Heritage Month Mass and the reception together. Funding for many programs like this comes from generous gifts to the Diocesan Annual Appeal. We also thank The Slocum Firm, PC, for their sponsorship of the event.

Celebrando la Herencia Hispana



SCRANTON — Cuando comenzó el himno de entrada ‘Vienen Con Alegría’, algunas personas entre la multitud aplaudieron felizmente junto con el avivado ritmo. Otros tomaron sus teléfonos celulares para capturar el momento.

Al ritmo de música alegre resonando fuera de la Catedral de San Pedro, no se podía negar la presencia del Espíritu Santo en aquel lugar. Mientras se daba inicio a la Misa de la Herencia Hispana 2022 de la Diócesis de Scranton poco después del mediodía del sábado 10 de septiembre de 2022.

“Esto es genial para la comunidad Hispana. Todos venimos de diferentes países”, dijo Rufino Cano, feligrés de las parroquias vinculadas de San Juan Neumann y San Pablo de la Cruz en Scranton.

Aproximadamente 500 personas asistieron a la Misa, que se celebró completamente en Español. El Reverendísimo Joseph C. Bambera, Obispo de Scranton, fue el celebrante principal y homilista.

La Misa conmemora el inicio al Mes de la Herencia Hispana, el cual es una oportunidad para celebrar la historia, la cultura y las contribuciones de los ciudadanos estadounidenses cuyos antepasados vinieron de España, México, el Caribe, Centroamérica y Sudamérica.

“Es una manera de reconocer nuestra cultura”, dijo Catalina Valladares, feligresa de la Parroquia Santísima Trinidad en Cresco. “Creo que este es un gran logro para la comunidad hispana de la diócesis”.

El Mes de la Herencia Hispana comienza el 15 de septiembre y termina el 15 de octubre de cada año.

Brenda Bonilla, feligresa de las parroquias vinculadas de San Juan Neumann y San Pablo de la Cruz en Scranton, se sintió conmovida por la celebración eucarística.



Antes del inicio de la Misa, se trajeron a la Catedral banderas de países de España, México, el Caribe y América Central y del Sur.

“Te sientes vivo. Siempre te sientes vivo. ¡Es la música, es la gente, son las oraciones, son los himnos, es todo!” ella dijo. “Me sentí muy honrada de ver a toda la comunidad hispana de toda la diócesis unificada en un solo lugar, en la Misa, que es el mejor lugar en el que podemos estar juntos”.

Michael García, de 19 años, y su hermano Sebastien, de 16, viajaron casi una hora desde la parroquia de San Mateo en East Stroudsburg específicamente para asistir a la Liturgia Eucarística.

“Fue increíble. Fue impresionante ver a todos los sacerdotes de todas las parroquias y todas estas personas reunidas para celebrar esta hermosa Misa”, dijo Michael.

“Realmente significa mucho para mí, todas estas culturas están juntas en un solo lugar”, agregó Sebastien.

Durante su homilía, el Obispo Bambera recordó a los fieles sus verdaderos orígenes.

“No importa cuán orgullosos estamos de nuestros países de origen y de la herencia que apreciamos y buscamos nutrir y transmitir de una generación a la siguiente: nuestro origen no



Arriba & Derecha: Aproximadamente 500 personas asistieron a la Misa anual de la Herencia Hispana de la Diócesis de Scranton.

es México, Ecuador, República Dominicana, Estados Unidos o cualquier otro país”, señaló el obispo. “Nuestro verdadero origen, la razón de nuestro tiempo juntos este día, y la fuente de nuestra vida, nuestra esperanza y nuestra salvación es Jesucristo”.

El obispo alentó la unidad entre todas las personas. También animó a los fieles a servirse unos a otros como hermanos y hermanas y convertirse en testigos creíbles del Salvador.

“Gracias por trabajar juntos para construir puentes, hacer realidad la unidad en nuestras comunidades y servir a quienes más lo necesitan”, dijo el obispo



Después de la celebración de la Misa anual de la Herencia Hispana, todos los asistentes fueron invitados a disfrutar de la comida y el compañerismo en el Centro Pastoral Diocesano. (Foto/Eric Deabill)

Bambera. “Estoy muy agradecido por ustedes que representan a la comunidad hispana en nuestra Iglesia local. Son una bendición más allá de las palabras y nuestra esperanza para el futuro”.

Después de la Misa, se llevó a cabo una recepción de tres horas en el Centro Pastoral Diocesano. La multitud disfrutó de la comida y de las actuaciones musicales y folclóricas que prepararon feligreses de varias parroquias.

“Eso es importante para crear más comunidad, para conocer a otros hispanos de otros rincones de la diócesis”, dijo Cano.

“Es la única forma en que

podemos llegar a saber que no estamos solos. No es mi parroquia en un rincón, no es la próxima parroquia en un rincón, somos todos nosotros juntos, reuniendo a toda la comunidad caminando en nuestra fe”, agregó Valladares.

La Oficina del Ministerio Hispano de la Diócesis de Scranton con la colaboración de las distintas comunidades Hispanas coordinó la Misa del Mes de la Herencia Hispana y la recepción. La financiación de muchos programas como este proviene de donaciones generosas a la Campaña Anual Diocesana.

Agradecemos a nuestro patrocinador TheSlocumFirm, PC

Covered dish festival helps highlight success of Luzerne Co. parish linkage

Parishioners highlight success of coming together through Vision 2030

EXETER – Food is known to bring people together and a first-of-its-kind event for two parishes in Luzerne County proved that.

On Sunday, Aug. 21, 2022, the linked parishes of Saint Barbara in Exeter and Corpus Christi in West Pittston held an inaugural covered dish festival. More than 150 people gathered at the outdoor pavilion of Saint Anthony Church in Exeter to enjoy food, fellowship and fun.

After filling their plates with homemade meatballs, hamburgers, pasta salads and desserts, parishioners from both parishes quickly broke down any and all barriers and began socializing and interacting.

“We worship very, very hard. We’re exceptional believers in the faith,” Corpus Christi parishioner Michael Liberski said. “But we also socialize very, very hard too.”

Michael Steinberger, 17, enjoyed the covered dish festival for many reasons.

“It’s not too crowded like a church bazaar,” he explained. “It’s also nice getting to meet new people.”

On May 1, 2022, the two parishes were brought together in a linkage with a single Pastor, Monsignor John J. Sempa of Corpus Christi Parish, after Father Michael E. Finn, Pastor of Saint Barbara Parish retired after 45 years of dedicated and faithful service to the Church of Scranton.

When the linkage was first announced in late February, a small transition team consisting of members from both parishes was established to help guide the process of the two parishes coming together.

“As part of the transition team, we discussed certain ideas that we thought would bring the people together. This was an idea, kind of like a cookout on a Sunday afternoon, and it seems to have been very successful,” Corpus Christi parishioner Carmen Altavilla said.

Altavilla is one of the members of the small transition team.

“We got together and started from the basics, what was going to happen,” he explained.

One of the first topics that had to be tackled was creating a new Mass schedule that could be handled by just one pastor.



More than 150 parishioners of Saint Barbara Parish and Corpus Christi Parish participated in a covered dish festival on Aug. 21.



Monsignor John J. Sempa, pastor of both parishes, plays pitcher during a wiffleball game at the festival. (Photos/Eric Deabill)

“I’m not going to lie to you, there were things we initially disagreed on but I think everybody realized you can’t have it your own way, so we always came to a consensus. That was the big thing,” Altavilla continued. “We had great direction from two women who came from the diocese. They threw out ideas and let us run with things.”

Barbara Russo has been a parishioner at Saint Barbara Parish for 57 years. She currently serves on her parish’s Pastoral Council. Since she belonged to the parish whose pastor was retiring, she admits there was some initial concern about what a ‘linkage’ would entail but said any fear quickly disappeared.

“I think in the beginning there was a little trepidation. We were used to Father Finn who was here nine years,” she explained. “As we got to know Monsignor, he made us feel so comfortable and always, always welcomed us to anything that he had. He said, ‘Let’s come together, let’s come together!’”

Russo credits the welcoming nature of Monsignor Sempa for the two parishes being able to ‘link’ so quickly and effortlessly.

“He said, ‘Don’t worry about it. Everything is going to be okay. Just give it a chance,’ Russo added. “We’re giving it a

chance and it’s working beautifully.”

Deacon Walter Janoski, who used to be assigned only to Saint Barbara Parish, expanded his ministry to include Corpus Christi Parish when the linkage began.

“The members of the transition team that were picked were great. What they did is they sat down and informed everybody on what was going on. The first thing Monsignor wanted was a listing of church hours and a Mass schedule. That was probably the hardest thing to determine,” he explained.

Deacon Janoski thinks it is important to highlight the ongoing success of their linkage process so that others around the diocese can see that two parishes can come together with very few issues.

“Because of the transparency, people understood what it all meant,” the clergyman said.

“We talk, we discuss, and there is no fighting, no arguing. The transition team and the councils are working to keep this thing going,” he added.

When asked what he would say to people in other parishes that might soon need to come together in a linkage, Deacon Janoski would simply encourage everyone to “give change a chance.”

“Remember, you are a community. You are not a building. You are a

community. You’ve known each other for years,” he said.

From his point of view as a transition team member, Altavilla also answered.

“The problem that a lot of parishes face is they don’t know the other people. What I said from Day One, when we started having meetings, is you can go to any of the three churches that are a part of our parishes because we’re all neighbors. People know one another. It wasn’t like, are you a republican, democrat or independent. It was, we’re all from the same area and we’re going to make this thing work,” he explained. “Everything up until this point has really gone seamless – the interaction, the ministries, sharing the churches. Nobody says, ‘I don’t want to be a Eucharistic Minister at this church, I don’t want to be a lector at that church.’”

As People of God, parishioners also now see the benefit of partnership too.

“I think it means everything. It means now we can work together. We know one another. We’re in such close proximity with one another. Most of us grew up with one another. We went to school together. We had children together. They went to catechism together. Now, we’re coming back together again. It’s renewing our friendship, renewing our faith,” Russo ended by saying.

Saint Basil the Great Church to celebrate 150th anniversary

DUSHORE – Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as the principal celebrant for a Mass of Thanksgiving at Saint Basil’s Church, Dushore, at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 17, 2022.

The Mass will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the first Mass offered in the present church. While the actual anniversary took place in 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a decision was made to delay a public celebration until this year. Father Thomas J. Major, Pastor, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, will concelebrate the Mass. A dinner will be held in Saint Basil’s Hall following the Mass.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish has established a committee of volunteers to help prepare for the Sesquicentennial celebration. The committee is handling reservations, decorations and the dinner following Mass.

“As we prepare to gather in prayer to celebrate the Eucharist together, we will be celebrating the entire community of faithful Catholics who have made Saint Basil’s Church their home for 150 years,” Bishop Bambera said. “Over all of that time, the people of Sullivan County have done Christ’s work by celebrating life, teaching people about our faith, feeding families, clothing the poor and converting hearts to the Lord.”

The beginning of Catholic life within the present boundaries of the Diocese of Scranton can trace its roots back to the Dushore-area of Sullivan County. The first two Catholic settlements in northeastern Pennsylvania were near Silver Lake Township, Susquehanna County, and along the Loyalsock Creek in Sullivan County. Both settlements preceded anthracite mining and the logging, lumbering and tanning industries.

The history of Saint Basil’s Church itself dates back to the early 1800s.

In the 1830s, numerous Catholic settlers lived along the Loyalsock Creek but they did not know how to establish a Catholic Church. In 1836, one of the settlers contacted Rt. Rev. Francis Patrick Kenrick, then Bishop of Philadelphia, asking him to visit the people of Dushore.

When the visit took place, Bishop

Kenrick advised the people to buy enough land for a cemetery and clear a place for a small chapel. Two years later, the work was complete.

The first Church of Saint Basil’s was a small log chapel, which was dedicated on July 4, 1838. Priests would visit Dushore to celebrate Mass periodically until 1852 when Father James McNaughton was appointed the first resident pastor.

As the congregation continued to grow, the building of a new church was authorized.

The cornerstone of the present church was set by the Most Rev. William O’Hara, Bishop of Scranton, on Oct. 28, 1868. The first Mass was celebrated in the church on the Third Sunday of Lent, March 12, 1871. Bishop O’Hara celebrated a dedication Mass for the church on Sept. 7, 1873.

The church was built of native stone that was quarried about four miles from Dushore and hauled by the parishioners and their neighbors by teams of oxen. The lime was brought 40 miles via horses.

The church was not fully decorated and furnished until 1876 when the frescoes were completed and the pews were installed.

In 1878, the first Fourth of July parish picnic took place and in 1879, the church steeple was erected and the church bell installed.

Many improvements have been made to the physical properties of Saint Basil’s over the years, which include a church renovation in 1960 in which major improvements were also made to the rectory and the cemetery was reorganized. The church also sustained damaged when an EF-1 tornado, with maximum wind speeds of 110 mph, hit Dushore on April 15, 2019.

There have been many vocations to the religious life from Saint Basil’s Church over its history including numerous priests, several brothers and dozens of nuns.

“Our parishioners have so much to be proud of, just as their forefathers had when they attended that first Mass on that third Sunday of Lent in 1871,” Father Major said. “Without so many faithful people there would be no celebration. This anniversary celebration will remind us all that we are joined together by our Baptism into Christ and we continue to be bound together through His presence in the Eucharist.”

APPOINTMENTS

His Excellency, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, announces the following appointments, effective August 29, 2022:

Reverend Arun Lakra, from Administrator, Ascension Parish, Forest City, and Saint Katharine Drexel Parish, Pleasant Mount, to Pastor, Ascension Parish, Forest City, and Saint Katharine Drexel Parish, Pleasant Mount.

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



BISHOP BAMBERA’S SCHEDULE

September 15 - Mass of the Holy Spirit for Chancery Staff
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.

September 17 - Mass for the 150th Anniversary of Saint Basil Church
Saint Basil the Great Church, Dushore, 4:00 p.m.

September 18 - Mass for Suicide Healing & Remembrance
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.

September 19 - Pennsylvania March for Life in Harrisburg
March at Noon; Mass at 1:30 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral

September 25 - Prayer Service for an End to the War in Ukraine
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 2:30 p.m.

September 26 - Diocesan Teachers’ Institute Mass
Saint Nicholas Church, Wilkes-Barre, 9:00 a.m.

September 27-29 - Pennsylvania Catholic Conference
Board of Governors Executive Meeting, Harrisburg

October 1 - Rite of Candidacy Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.

October 1 - Mass for the Centenary Celebration of the Little Sisters of Saint Francis, Christ the King Parish, Archbald, 4:30 p.m.

October 2 - Respect Life Sunday Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.

October 3-6 - Convocation for Priests

October 7 - Holy Rosary School Mass
Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Duryea, 9:00 a.m.

Diocesan Annual Appeal underway with a goal of \$4.5 million

Diocese of Scranton DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

SCRANTON – Single mothers with newborns who have no place to live. Nine young men on their journey to priesthood. Young men and women on fire with the Holy Spirit.

These are just a few examples of the people and ministries supported by gifts to the 2022 Diocesan Annual Appeal, which kicks off this month. Appeal funds help support the most vulnerable in our community, while also focusing on evangelization and spreading the Good News of the Gospel.

“A gift to the Diocesan Annual Appeal is a gift that keeps giving to the thousands of people our ministries serve each year,” Luciana C. Musto, Interim Director of Development, said. “Without our generous donors, our ministries cannot continue to do God’s good work in our communities.”

This year, parishioners will have the opportunity to see their dollars at work and to learn more about the people they positively affect with their donations. Featurettes about each area of support will help donors feel more connected to the important work



being done across northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

While the past few years have been particularly challenging for everyone, the

overwhelming support of the Diocesan Annual Appeal proves that even in difficult times, our Catholic community remains committed to helping others.

“What inspires me the most is how much people want to make a difference and how much they trust the Diocese of Scranton to support those ministries that mean the most to them,” Musto added.

The 2021 Diocesan Annual Appeal raised more than \$4.5 million dollars, meeting goal for the first time since 2018.

The Diocesan Annual Appeal is a major source of revenue for many ministries and agencies of the Diocese of Scranton. Gifts made to the Appeal support Catholic Social Services, Catholic Education, Catholic Communications, Parish Life, Vocations and Retired Priests and Social Justice Grants.

Gifts of all sizes are welcomed and appreciated. If you wish to make a gift to the 2022 Diocesan Annual Appeal, kindly donate online at www.AnnualAppeal.org, call the Diocesan Development Office at (570) 207-2250 or return the donation card below and send it to: “Diocesan Annual Appeal, c/o Development Office, Diocese of Scranton, 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503.



Yes! Bishop Bambera can count on me to support Catholic ministries and programs (check one):

☐ \$10

☐ \$25

☐ \$50

☐ \$100

Other \$ _____

Total Amount Pledged \$ _____

☐ Gift Enclosed ☐ Bill Me Later ☐ Single Payment in Full

☐ Credit Card (see below)

☐ Online: **AnnualAppeal.org**



SCAN ME

☐ Monthly ____ # of Payments

☐ Parish _____

Enclosed Amount \$ _____

Balance to be Paid \$ _____

Please make checks payable to:
Diocesan Annual Appeal

You may pay using your credit card by carefully completing the following:

Name on Credit Card (please print) _____ Daytime Phone _____

Check One ☐ ☐ Number _____ CVV _____ Exp. Date _____

One-Time Payment:

Amount \$ _____



Monthly Payments:

Amount to be deducted each month \$ _____ for _____ months, starting in _____
(number of months) (month)

Your Name _____ Spouse's Name _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____ E-mail _____

Please credit my gift to (Parish Name) _____ (Parish City) _____

"You have to make God your first priority"

Hundreds celebrate Italian heritage during annual La Festa Italiana Mass

SCRANTON – "Buona Festa!"

As hundreds gathered inside the Cathedral of Saint Peter for the 46th annual Italian Mass on Sept. 4, 2022, the phrase, which can mean "good party" or "happy feast," was heard multiple times.

The liturgy is celebrated in conjunction with La Festa Italiana, which always occurs over Labor Day weekend.

"It really is an honor to be here this morning," said Jesuit Father Joseph G. Marina, president of The University of Scranton, as he began his homily.

While explaining he is half-Italian and half-Irish, Father Marina joked, "I have that proverbial combination of Gaelic and garlic."

Father Marina then dove right into his reflections on the Gospel reading, Luke 14:25-33, which includes the following: "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple."

"What self-respecting, authentic Italian would want to hear about hating their families, especially during La Festa Italiana, and from Jesus no less," Father Marina asked.

In order to understand what Jesus is saying, Father Marina told the crowd you have to understand the original Greek from which the New Testament is written.

"When the Bible uses words like



Jesuit Father Joseph G. Marina, president of The University of Scranton, delivers the homily. (Photos/Mike Melisky)

'love' and 'hate,' the Greek version of those words, almost always refers to actions, not emotions and that is really important to take into account," he said. "What Jesus is saying, according to Luke, and in the original Greek, is that you have to make God your first priority if you want to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Everything else, everything, must be secondary."

Father Marina ended his homily by saying each day is a perfect opportunity for people to reflect on their priorities and ask themselves if Jesus Christ and His Gospel



Josh Cillo, left, and Jonathan Eboli carry banners representing the regions of Italy into the Cathedral of Saint Peter before the opening procession at the 46th Mass in Italian.

are what they truly value.

The principal celebrant for the Italian Mass was Father David P. Cappelloni, V.F., La Festa Chaplain and pastor of Saints Anthony and Rocco Parish in Dunmore. The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, presided.

As the Mass concluded, Bishop Bambera thanked all those in attendance, saying their ancestors would be proud.

"Thank you for your presence here today, for this celebration of our faith," the bishop noted. "It is so good, refreshing and exciting to see La Festa back in full force

with thousands and thousands of visitors celebrating our great city of Scranton and the great tradition of our Italian heritage."

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



Father David P. Cappelloni, V.F., La Festa Chaplain, and pastor of Saints Anthony and Rocco Parish in Dunmore, recites the opening prayer in Italian.



Those attending the annual Mass in Italian at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Sept. 4, 2022, recite the Profession of Faith in Italian.

Diocese opens new Catholic school year

SCRANTON — The Diocese of Scranton heralded in the new 2022-23 academic year two weeks ago when it enthusiastically welcomed back 4,430 students enrolled in 19 Catholic schools. There are four high schools and 15 elementary schools in the Diocesan educational system.

“Each school year we look forward to the excitement of new beginnings. This is especially true this year as we are able to enjoy more activities and celebrate the many successes of our students together,” Diocesan Secretary of Catholic Education/Superintendent of Schools Kristen Donohue expressed. “We are looking forward to sharing these positive experiences with our school families.

With the start of a new school year, Donohue said, there is a renewed focus on the spiritual, academic and emotional growth of students. On a daily basis, Diocesan schools strive to strengthen their connection with Christ, as well as provide ways for students to collaborate, think critically and demonstrate their creativity.

“As we work with our students on these 21st-century skills, we do so as Christ would, with kind hearts and an awareness of the social and emotional needs of all involved,” the superintendent remarked. “We are blessed to have the most dedicated and compassionate administrators, teachers and staff.”

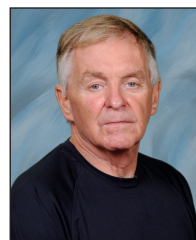
New Principal at Holy Family

On the administrative level, the Diocese welcomed a new principal to the helm of Holy Family Academy elementary school in Hazleton.

Thomas Kostic, a U.S. Air Force veteran with extensive experience in Catholic education, was recently appointed to the position after serving as a longtime faculty member at the former Bishop Hafey High School in Hazleton, where he was also director of religious formation.

Since then, Kostic, who is on track to be ordained a Permanent Deacon for the Diocese in November, has filled the roles of DRE and athletic director at Holy Family Academy. He has also served as acting principal on three occasions during his 32 years with Diocesan schools.

“Catholic education is different than public education, (and) that difference makes all the difference,” Kostic noted. “I would not be in the school



Tom Kostic



business if I was not in the Catholic system.”

The new principal envisions a steady progression toward normalcy since the COVID-19 outbreak.

“We just celebrated our opening school liturgy with all grades in attendance. This was the first time in three years,” he said.

Social, Emotional Skills Learning

One of the many initiatives Scranton Diocesan schools are extremely proud of as the new academic year begins is the implementation of Social Emotional Learning (SEL) programs in Catholic schools.

According to Kara Kennedy Ware, principal of Saint Clare/Saint Paul School, Scranton, SEL is the process by which young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills

and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals.

“SEL emphasizes empathy for others, while establishing and maintaining supportive relationships and making responsible and caring decisions,” Ware explained.

She continued by highlighting four major points to cite why SEL is a crucial part of a school’s curriculum: relationships provide a foundation for learning; emotions affect how and what we learn; social and emotional skills can be taught; and SEL has a positive impact on academic performance, health, relationships and citizenship.

“SEL programming has truly become a focal point at Saint Clare/Saint Paul School,” Ware said. “We know that if we address the SEL pieces first, then true learning can occur with all of our students at every grade level.”



Holy Rosary School in Duryea



One of the many images capturing the first days of classes at Catholic schools around the Scranton Diocese is the above photo from Notre Dame High School in East Stroudsburg.



Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston

All Saints Academy new vending machine dispenses 'food for thought'

SCRANTON — Vending machines in schools are nothing new, but how about one that provides refreshment and sustenance for the mind?

Brittany Haynos-Krupski, principal of All Saints Academy in West Scranton, was effusive in discussing the Catholic elementary school's new, creative concept of a vending machine that rewards student patrons with knowledge.

She was even more excited about detailing how there is no money required for the educational treats — just service to others, teamwork, personal accomplishments and even some random acts of kindness.

During the first days of the new academic year at All Saints, Haynos-Krupski explained, the Knights school community implemented a "House System"

to help promote positive behavior and provide a little friendly competition.

After faculty and staff were assigned to one of the four "houses" — each named for one of the four Gospel writers (Matthew, Mark, Luke & John) — all students in grades pre-K thru eight discovered which "household" they would become part of.

"The energy in the gym was amazing," Haynos-Krupski said. "The students were so excited to pick their house. As the houses grew, so did the energy. We want the students to feel that sense of community at All Saints Academy."

Each student was given a wristband to signify their house color and pennants were created to decorate the houses, as the four

separate "families" within the All Saints family afforded students an even deeper sense of identity and inclusion.

"The houses spent the entire day together," the principal related. "They ate lunch together, enjoyed a special ice cream treat and bonded with students on all grade levels."

During the presentations, faculty and staff stressed to the students the importance of kindness toward all and striving to be the best they can be — which led to the idea behind the book vending machine.

According to Haynos-Krupski, "house points" will be awarded throughout the year for helping others, community service, academic achievement, teamwork and other positive accomplishments.

"Faculty, staff and students will have monthly meetings to nominate students who have gone above and beyond during the month in their house," she explained.

Those students who are chosen will be recognized at

school Masses and receive tokens for the unique vending machine stocked with books for all grades.

"Students will keep the books that they receive. We need to keep books in the hands of students in all grades," Haynos-Krupski noted.

All Saints Academy students gather around the school's new book vending machine.



Royal Treatment: Holy Redeemer athletes 'play it forward' for community causes

WILKES-BARRE — Holy Redeemer High School athletic teams and cheerleaders are playing and performing as hard off the field, as well as on, to be champions in every respect as the 2022-23 academic year kicks off.

The "Play Like A Royal!" service-project initiative at the Wilkes-Barre Catholic secondary school has team members uniting to address the social causes of the day, with the same competitive edge as taking on opponents on

the opposite sidelines.

Cody Opalka, the school's newly appointed vice principal, spearheads the project by echoing the "Play Like A Royal" mission that permeates the concept: "Holy Redeemer High School athletics is committed to educating ethically responsible student-athletes who uphold the pillar of servant-leadership as they put faith in action in their school, in athletic arenas and within the community at large."

Team requirements that instill diligence in conditioning the athlete's spirit state that at least one group service project is to be completed within the team's season, along with a Catholic-identity faith component requiring prayer during every practice and competition and one seasonal Mass attended by the team.

Thus far, the Holy Redeemer girls volleyball team has led the way by organizing a donation drive to help offset the needs of the Blue Chip Farm Animal Refuge in the Back Mountain area, which has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The junior high golfers will participate in the "Adopt-a-Highway" project on Sept. 24, as team members do their part in collecting trash along the entrance and exit ramps of Interstate 81 near the Mohegan Sun Arena in Wilkes-Barre Township.

According to Opalka, the Royal cheerleading squads are volunteering at the third annual Drive-thru Trunk-or-Treat Supporting Autism Awareness NEPA on Oct. 9. As the

cheerleaders lend their helping hands to the effort for a second time, they hope it becomes a yearly tradition.

A natural for the school's cross country teams will be their participation in the "Walk to End Epilepsy" on Saturday, Oct. 15, at PNC Field in Moosic. All proceeds raised will benefit the Epilepsy Foundation of Eastern PA and the opening of a Wilkes-Barre community center serving those afflicted by the medical condition.

"This project resonates with the athletes," Opalka noted, "as one of their own will benefit from the local community center."

Also on Oct. 15, Holy Redeemer's girls soccer program will host a "Pink Game," with money raised from shirt sales and raffle baskets benefitting the "Paint Pittston Pink" annual crusade marking October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month in the battle against all cancers.

Girls on the field hockey team will volunteer at the annual "Pink Game" to fight breast cancer on Tuesday, Oct. 18.

Players will be selling "Fight for a Cure" t-shirts to benefit the Saint John Paul II Cancer Research Institute, a non-profit medical research facility devoted to finding cures for various medical diseases. The event will also include a 50/50 drawing and gift basket raffles.

The boys soccer team at Holy Redeemer has already given of their time and efforts to the Weinberg Northeast Regional Food Bank, as their day was spent packaging food boxes for distribution to various food banks and senior centers in the area.

Upcoming service projects planned by the school's athletic programs include the football team visiting the Graham Academy School in Kingston to assist students with autism and behavioral challenges, and varsity golfers volunteering at local nursing homes.

The Holy Redeemer girls tennis squad and junior high school soccer team are also preparing to participate in clean-up projects at Coal Street Park and Kirby Park in the Wilkes-Barre area.



Members of the Holy Redeemer girls volleyball team pose with donations collected for the Blue Chip Farm Animal Refuge.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL



All Saints Academy, Scranton



Epiphany School, Sayre



La Salle Academy, Jessup



Notre Dame Elementary School
in East Stroudsburg



Holy Family Academy, Hazleton



Holy Cross High School, Dunmore



Holy Redeemer High School, Wilkes-Barre



Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green



Saint Jude School, Mountain Top



Saint John Neumann Elementary School,
Williamsport



Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School, Wilkes-Barre



Saint Agnes School, Towanda



Wyoming Area Catholic School, Exeter



Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School, Dunmore



Saint John
Neumann High
School,
Williamsport

University students urged to seek guidance of Holy Spirit as new academic year begins

SCRANTON — Nearly one thousand students, faculty and staff from The University of Scranton gathered in prayer on Sept. 8, 2022, as a new academic year got underway. The Byron Recreation Complex served as the setting for the college's annual Mass of the Holy Spirit.

"There really is no better way to start off our academic year than by celebrating the Eucharist and inviting everyone to come together as a community at a university whose mission is Catholic and Jesuit to the core," the Rev. Joseph G. Marina, S.J., President of The University of Scranton, said.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, served as the principal celebrant and the Rev. James F. Duffy, S.J., M.D., the new superior for the Scranton Jesuit Community delivered the homily.

Father Duffy encouraged students to "let the spirit work" in their lives and to see the relationship between a greater intimacy with God and a greater reverence for their neighbor.

"The gifts that we've been given are for the benefit, not only of ourselves, but also that of our neighbor," Rev. Duffy explained.

"The gifts that we've been given are for the benefit, not only of ourselves, but also that of our neighbor."

Rev. James F. Duffy, S.J., M.D.

The Mass of the Holy Spirit is a tradition among Jesuit academic institutions dating back to the 16th century, in which the community gathers to thank God for the gifts of creation and salvation and to seek the guidance and wisdom of the Holy Spirit in the coming school year.

Fall semester classes began at The University of Scranton on Aug. 29. The incoming Class of 2026 is the most diverse in the history of the school with 285 members identifying as a student of color, representing nearly 27 percent of the incoming class. More than 30 percent of the incoming class identify as first generation college students.

As she enters her senior year, Kathleen Wallace of Maryland, says her time in Scranton has

helped her learn more about her faith.

"To me, my Scranton journey faith-wise, has involved expanding my view of who God is and what God means to me and how much God really loves each one of us," she said.

Wallace served as lector at the Mass of the Holy Spirit. She has been involved in campus ministry and many other service projects.

"Service is really what matters at the end of the day," Wallace added. "What matters is making other people feel known and loved and cared for."

Matthew Simms, a senior environmental science and philosophy major from Bucks County, says his experiences at The University of Scranton have opened his eyes in many ways.



The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, leads the Liturgy of the Eucharist at the Mass of the Holy Spirit at The University of Scranton on Sept. 8, 2022. (Photos/Dan Gallagher)

"One of the most rewarding things that I've done here at the university is around Thanksgiving-time and Easter-time, when we go out to the Friends of the Poor and pack up different meals and bring them out to the low-income housing projects on the North Side. It is just a really rewarding experience," he said.

With only two semesters until he graduates, Simms is thankful for getting to know more about his faith while serving as an altar server, Eucharistic minister and sacristan on campus.

"I'm a different man than when I came in four years ago," he added.

As he closed the Mass of the Holy Spirit, Bishop Bambera welcomed all of the students to Scranton.

"We're very, very happy to have you here in Scranton," he said. "Enjoy your time here in Scranton. Use this time well and wisely."

The bishop also quoted Pope Francis in encouraging them to get involved and make the most of the time they are given.

"Don't be observers of life, get involved," the Bishop said, referring to the words of the Holy Father. "Never be afraid to dream great things."



Members of The University of Scranton lacrosse team stand during the Mass of the Holy Spirit on Sept. 8, 2022.



Choir members sing the Entrance Hymn at the beginning of Mass.



Approximately 1,000 students attended Mass to begin the new academic year inside the Byron Recreation Complex on campus.

Parish faith formation programs beginning for Fall 2022

Many parishes held "Backpack Blessings" to start the new year



Our Lady Queen of Peace, Brodheadsville
August 28, 2022



Our Lady of Victory Parish, Tannersville
September 11, 2022



Saint Eulalia Parish, Roaring Brook Township
September 11, 2022

Lycoming County parishes helped "Welcome the World" to the Little League World Series



Parishioners from Saint Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport participated in the Little League Parade which took over the downtown streets on Monday, Aug. 15, 2022.

The parish represented our Catholic faith to the community and those visiting the Williamsport-area from around the world!

In addition to having parishioners participate in the parade itself, the parish also had a food stand at the parade.

The local Knights of Columbus Assembly #942 helped escort Saint Joseph the Worker in the parade.



Members and friends of Saint Ann Catholic Church in Williamsport served up thousands of burgers, hot dogs, soft pretzels, and refreshments during the Little League World Series held in Williamsport August 17th through 28th.

This is the third year Saint Ann has "welcomed the world" by serving spectators and players from around the globe as part of the concessions team during the series, fundraising thousands of dollars for the parish.

Pictured above, left to right: Caroline Cipriani, Becky Goonan, Susie Heilmann and Tim Heilmann.

Knights of Columbus present donation to Diocese of Scranton seminarian



Knights of Columbus Abington Council 6611 recently presented Seminarian Bill Asinari with a \$500 check to further his vocational studies toward the priesthood.

Pictured above, left to right: Grand Knight Tony Dalasio, Financial secretary Duane Valance, Bill and Deputy Grand Knight Steve Guza.

Pope creates 20 new cardinals, including San Diego bishop

New cardinals feel honored, humbled, ready to promote renewal of church



Pope Francis leads a consistory for the creation of 20 new cardinals in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Aug. 27, 2022. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Becoming a member of the broad, unique body of the College of Cardinals is both a great honor and an invitation to help promote a renewal of the Catholic Church's mission of evangelization, some new cardinals said.

With 20 newly created cardinals representing 16 countries, and with the entire college of 226 members representing more than 90 countries, some also said they see their elevation as a way to help their home dioceses better comprehend the universality of the Catholic Church.

Hours before the ceremony for the creation of new cardinals at the Vatican Aug. 27, a handful of those named by Pope Francis spoke to Catholic News Service about how they see their new role as a cardinal.

U.S. Cardinal Robert W. McElroy of San Diego said it gives him a chance to “build up unity within the universal church” and to point to the global nature of the church, “that we are not simply parochial, local churches, but we are part of a communion” that is worldwide.

When asked why he thought Pope Francis wanted the bishop of San Diego to become a cardinal, he said, on the one hand, “we are a border diocese. Fundamentally, our identity is a diocese of immigrants and on the border between Latin America and the United States, and those are issues that are greatly dear to the pope.”

On the other hand, he said, it may

also be because the diocese has long been working to “plant some of the seeds of the pastoral renewal that Pope Francis has brought into the life of the church.”

For example, Cardinal McElroy said, the diocese has already held synods on marriage and family life, and on young adults; now, it is carrying out a three-year process on synodality.

“There is a great emphasis on inclusion and on understanding the work of the church as a field hospital,” that everyone “is wounded in various ways, everyone needs healing.” This image does not divide people into different groups, he said; instead, “it’s a journey in which we help one another and help one another to heal with God’s grace.”

The cardinal said it would be wrong to believe a pastoral approach of inclusion and a position of doctrinal rigor were in opposition to each other.

“Inclusion is part of Catholic doctrine” and the Gospel, he said. “This emphasis on reaching out to people at the margins is not something that people just came up with after the Second Vatican Council. It is in the call of Christ, it’s in the continuing work of the church and the message of the church.”

English Cardinal Arthur Roche, prefect of the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, told CNS it was “an enormous honor” to be named cardinal.

Part of a cardinal’s role is to help advise the pope, he said. Working in the Roman Curia the past 10 years has given him “a very special insight into the work of the church,” which will be very important in offering the pope a broader view, he said.

With his work at the dicastery, first as secretary, then as prefect, “I have met every episcopal conference in the world, and you begin to build up a picture of what is important, what is problematic, where ... there’s a need for greater assistance on our part to the bishops,” he said.

New cardinals who also work in the

curia will “bring a different perspective, I think, which will be important,” Cardinal Roche said.

Another prefect, South Korean Cardinal Lazarus You Heung-sik of the Dicastery for Clergy, said he is not worthy of the elevation, but he said he feels it is an invitation for him “to love more” and increase that love specifically for the pope, the church, priests and laity.

Cardinal Leonardo Ulrich Steiner of Manaus, Brazil, said his elevation is a sign of Pope Francis’ tender concern for the Amazon and that he wants the “dreams” and guidance he outlined following the Synod of Bishops for the Amazon to become a reality.

The youngest new cardinal, Italian Cardinal Giorgio Marengo, apostolic prefect of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, told CNS that even though he plans on learning from the more experienced members, he would like to share his perspective of serving a tiny Catholic minority.

There is a “strength and genuinity of the faith” in the men and women who are Catholic in parts of the world where the majority are Buddhist or follow another religious tradition, he said.

“It means that you are always asked to be able to answer, to give reasons for your faith. If you are in a country where being a Catholic is normal, maybe you are not so challenged,” he said.

Pope Francis pays tribute to Queen Elizabeth II

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) – Catholics in the U.K. paid tribute to Queen Elizabeth II following her death Sept. 8 and the end of a reign that lasted more than 70 years.

Pope Francis sent a telegram addressed “To His Majesty the King, Charles III,” her son who immediately ascended to the throne.

“I willingly join all who mourn her loss in praying for the late queen’s eternal rest and in paying tribute to her life of unstinting service to the good of the nation and the Commonwealth, her example of devotion to duty, her steadfast witness of faith in Jesus Christ and her firm hope in his promises,” Pope Francis said.

The British sovereign died “peacefully” at Balmoral, the royal residence in Scotland, surrounded by members of her family. She was 96.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols of Westminster, president of the Bishops’ Conference of England and

Wales, paid tribute using many of the queen’s own words.

“On 21 April 1947, on her 21st birthday, Princess Elizabeth said, ‘I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service,’” Cardinal Nichols said. “Now, 75 years later, we are heartbroken in our loss at her death and so full of admiration for the unfailing way in which she fulfilled that declaration.”

“Even in my sorrow, shared with so many around the world, I am filled with an immense sense of gratitude for the gift to the world that has been the life of Queen Elizabeth II. At this time, we pray for the repose of the soul of Her Majesty. We do so with confidence, because the Christian faith marked every day of her life and activity.”

“Today, I join with millions of people around the world to mourn Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and celebrate her remarkable life and legacy.

“During her 70-year-reign, Queen Elizabeth, as head of the Church of England, provided great witness to her strong Christian faith, served as a vocal proponent of interfaith harmony and provided an example of how to be of service to others.

“I ask you to join me in praying for the repose of the soul of Queen Elizabeth and for His Majesty King Charles III, the entire Royal Family and all those whose lives have been impacted by her loss.

“Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in eternal peace.”



Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera
Bishop of Scranton



Mother Teresa filmmaker says new documentary is ‘work of the Holy Spirit’

WASHINGTON (CNS) – A new documentary about St. Teresa of Kolkata, produced by the Knights of Columbus, aims to show how her mission and spirit continues in the work of her order, the Missionaries of Charity.

“Mother Teresa: No Greater Love,” directed by Emmy award-winning filmmaker, David Naglieri, was shown at the Vatican Sept. 2.

It had its American premiere Sept. 11 at the St. John Paul II National Shrine in Washington.

On Oct. 3-4, the film will be shown in about 900 theaters as part of Fathom Events’ Saints series.

Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly told the audience that the film intends to reach a younger audience that might not be as familiar with the work of the saint who died 25 years ago. He also said Pope Francis praised the film in a letter.

The papal letter of Aug. 25 says: “Thank you for promoting this type of initiative that helps, in a creative manner, to make accessible the zeal for

evangelization, especially for the young generations promoting the desire to follow the Lord who loved us first.”

The Washington screening capped a weekend of events dedicated to the saint, including a special Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and the dedication of the Mother Teresa Institute in Washington, designed “to preserve, protect, promote, and develop the authentic legacy of St. Teresa of Kolkata to the church and to the world.”



Supreme Knight Patrick E. Kelly, CEO of the Knights of Columbus, is seen with members of the Missionaries of Charity at the Sept. 11, 2022. (CNS photo/Matthew Barrick)

Parishes in Wayne and Bradford counties welcome new pastors



Father Stephen Kow Bosomafi
Saint Thomas More Parish, Lake Ariel

LAKE ARIEL - On Sunday, Aug. 14, 2022, Father Stephen Kow Bosomafi was installed as the 13th Pastor of Saint Thomas More Parish in Lake Ariel.

Father John Polednak, Diocesan Vicar for Clergy, attended the Mass and oversaw the installation ceremony.

Upon taking over as pastor, Father Bosomafi immediately paid tribute to all of the previous pastors and priests who have worked so hard over the years to make Saint Thomas More Church, Lake Ariel, and Saint Mary’s Church, Ledgedale, a spiritual home for the many residents and visitors in Wayne County.

“Counting on the support and cooperation of everyone, I trust that by God’s grace and the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we would be able to do our best to serve the needs of the Church and our community,” Father Bosomafi wrote in his parish bulletin.



Father Jose Joseph Kuriapilly
Ss. Peter & Paul Parish, Towanda & Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Wyalusing

TOWANDA - The parishioners of Saints Peter & Paul Parish, Towanda, and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Wyalusing, have welcomed Father Jose Joseph Kuriapilly as their new pastor.

Moving from Kerala, India, Father Jose has been in the United States for four years and was first assigned to Epiphany Parish in Sayre as an Assistant Pastor. He recently received his new assignment to take over as pastor of the new linkage of the Catholic parishes in Towanda and Wyalusing.

Father Jose is in the process of reaching out to the Lord’s sheep and is meeting the parishioners in the churches and out in the community.

Father’s interests are gardening, fishing, hunting, bicycling and soccer.

The Mass schedules of the two churches in Towanda and Wyalusing have been adjusted to give Father enough time to travel back-and-forth to each church.

Happy 109th Birthday Sister Romaine Krug!



SCRANTON - On Monday, Sept. 12, 2022, Sister Romaine Krug, I.H.M., celebrated her 109th birthday.

She was born in 1913 in Ashville, Pa, to parents Matilda and Herman Krug, and given the name Verna. Sister Romaine and her sister, Franceline, joined the convent at Marywood in Scranton, on Sept. 8, 1940. Their sister, Hermine, joined two years later.

An educator and dietitian, she earned a master's degree from New York University and served many years on the faculty of Marywood College and as dietitian at the IHM Motherhouse and Marian Convent.

For the Diocese of Scranton, Sister Romaine was moderator of the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart Guild. Today, Sister serves joyfully as a prayer minister at Our Lady of Peace Residence in Scranton.

Happy Birthday, Sister Romaine!

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

Catholic school teacher renews vows



The Vigil of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Aug. 14 saw six Sisters of Christian Charity renew their Holy Vows in the Chapel of Mary Immaculate at Mallinckrodt Convent in Mendham, N.J.

Among the SCC women religious renewing their vows into the hands of Sister Maria del Rosario Castro, general superior of the congregation, was Sister Chiara Marie Stimpfle, who teaches grades 6-8 at Saint Jude School in Mountain Top.

Christian Charity Sisters who renew their vows have completed their pre-novitiate and novitiate years and have professed first vows, in preparation for their perpetual profession.

Sister Chiara Marie is pictured, foreground right, with the newly professed SCC nuns.

Sisters make Perpetual Profession



On Aug. 15, three Sisters of Christian Charity - including one Sister with a connection to Scranton - made their perpetual profession of vows during a Eucharistic Liturgy at the Chapel of Mary Immaculate, Mallinckrodt Convent, Mendham, N.J.

Sister Regina Bathalon, second from the right, currently teaches fifth grade at Nativity Miguel School in Scranton. She was born in Fort Sam Houston, Texas and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from the University of Vermont in Burlington, Vt.

The other Sisters making their perpetual profession of vows were Sister Monique Eloizard and Sister Luiza Simon.

"Be a Catholic Man Conference" Speakers

Dr. Ralph Martin

Ralph Martin is the president of Renewal Ministries, an organization devoted to Catholic renewal and evangelization. Renewal Ministries is the sponsor of EWTN's *The Choices We Face*.



Ralph also is the director of Graduate Theology Programs and a professor of theology at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in the Archdiocese of Detroit.

Pope Benedict XVI appointed Ralph as a consultor to the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization; he continues to serve in this capacity. Ralph is married and has six children and 19 grandchildren.

Kevin Wells

Kevin Wells is a former sports reporter with the Tampa Tribune, where he covered Major League Baseball and other sports. He is the author of *Burst, A Story of God's Grace When Life Falls Apart* and *The Priests We Need to Save the Church*. His most recent best-selling book, *Priest and Beggar*, tells the story of the heroic life of Venerable Aloysius Schwartz, a priest from Washington, D.C. who went on to serve the poor in South Korea.



Wells is currently the president of the Monsignor Thomas Wells Society for Vocations. He also serves as Director of Public Relations for World Villages of Children, which supports the works of Fr. Al Schwartz.

Fr. Stan Fortuna, C.F.R.

Fr. Stan Fortuna C.F.R., is one of the eight founding members of the Community of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. Prior to his conversion, Fr. Stan was a professional jazz musician. He played gigs alongside some of Jazz's greatest artists. Fr. Stan has released over twenty-one compact discs in various genres as well as DVDs and books. Assigned to the work of preaching full-time, Fr. Stan travels around the world celebrating Mass, giving talks, and performing concerts with proceeds going directly towards work with poor families in his neighborhood of the South Bronx.



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

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Adoration, Reconciliation, Mass- Bishop Bambera, Exhibitors

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

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— I make house calls —



It is now four weeks since our return from Ghana as Bishop Bambara, Father Shantillo and I visited the bishop, priests and people of Sunyani. We went to thank them for the blessings of their priests who serve our diocese so faithfully; we came home with their thanks and their many blessings.

As I mentioned in last month's *Go Forth*, this experience was formative, enlightening and spiritually life-changing for me. I am grateful to our bishop and for all that made this pilgrimage possible. One blessing which I did not necessarily anticipate — yet, because of my work, I should have — was to see projects and ministries that are moving forward or are completed, because of the generosity of people just like you.

So often, I find that when I donate money to a certain cause — or even to the parish or diocese — I feel removed or passive about it. I know that I

have an obligation to do so, and that someone, somewhere, counts on my “mite” as part of a greater pool of funds for their well-being and sustenance. My passivity is not a lack of care or concern, but often is a result of my good-natured expectation that those in charge will be sure that this money gets to where it needs to go.

I'm not worried about the proverbial plaque or a bust of yours truly being erected because I have given to a certain cause. Let's face it, my contributions are not the type that are worthy of a sculpture. What really does matter, though, is that funds are directed to where they need to go; furthermore, I now appreciate much more that it's okay — in fact, it's prudent — to ask how such donations are spent and to seek out opportunities to *see*, quite literally, projects, buildings and ministries that have benefited from my contributions, meager as they may be.

I hope that you will have confidence that your financial gifts are well used and make a difference. To borrow from Job in the Old Testament “my own eyes, not another's will see.” And I have seen. I saw hospitals, schools, churches, and much more that have been built because of you, and because of the work of The Pontifical Mission Societies. Even better and more heart-warming, I saw the people who rely on these schools and churches as part of their spiritual and material sustenance. What a grace to see with my own eyes how these blessings are being extended to those most in need.

Lest we forget, we have priests and religious within our diocese who are from countries and experiences all over the world. They, too, have experienced so much good from the generosity of so many in our diocese and beyond who help fund vital projects and ministries in places in

so much need. As we approach the missionary month of October and prepare to welcome and hear messages from missionaries in our parishes in November, please prayerfully consider how you can make a difference in the lives of others, especially those who rely on your goodness.

Please give generously to both collections in October and November. I assure you, even if you will not *see* its fruits, those who benefit will. Again and again, they will thank you even if they don't know you. They pray for you and they love you.

Often, when Bishop Matthew Gyamfi introduced me to his people, his words were extensive — even after he introduced Bishop Bambara and Father Shantillo. Since he was speaking in his native language, I had no clue what he was saying, but he was saying a lot. I figured he was warning folks to steer clear of the crazy American with red hair and pasty skin. In reality, he was pointing out the work that I direct here in Scranton and how that benefits them in Sunyani and other places throughout the world. Instantly, I was like a rockstar, because people made a personal connection to The Pontifical Mission Societies.

That said, clearly I'm just a figurehead. The real rockstars are the actual missionaries and generous men and women like you. Thank you for all you do and for so selflessly supporting the work of the Missions. Please be generous to the World Mission Sunday Collection and to the Missionary Cooperation Plan Appeal in November.

My eyes have seen and my heart leaped to know that what you give builds not just physical structures, but also helps build communities for people to thrive spiritually and practically each day. On their behalf, I say, thank you.



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Bishop blesses new stairs at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish



On Sunday, Aug. 28, 2022, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop Bambera, celebrated Mass with the faithful of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Swoyersville, in honor of the saint's birthday on Aug. 28, 1774.

The bishop also blessed the new granite staircase at the parish. The extensive staircase work took place over the last few months and included new railings, lanterns and porch ceiling.

The bishop is pictured above with Father Joseph Pisaneschi, Pastor, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish.

Before blessing the new steps, Bishop Bambera told the parish faithful, "Look at them as more than steps, look at them as an entranceway that welcomes more and more people to experience the goodness of this community of faith."

Eucharistic Adoration

Sponsored by the Diocesan Offices for Parish Life and Vocations

The First Thursday of Every Month

7:00 PM

St. Maria Goretti Church
42 Redwood Drive - Laflin

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Everyone is invited to Eucharistic Adoration, sponsored by the Diocese of Scranton Vocations Office and Office for Parish Life.

The next Adoration event will be held on Thursday, Oct. 6, at 7 p.m. at Saint Maria Goretti Parish in Laflin.

We hope to see you there!



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SEPTEMBER 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	EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Encore)								
2:00 AM	LIVING DIVINE MERCY		EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY				
2:30 AM	PARABLE	SPECIALS		GOSPEL GLIMPSES	LIFE ON THE ROCK	PHILOSOPHER'S BENCH	SETTING CAPTIVES FREE				
3:00 AM	SPECIALS		EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOG	PAPAL AUDIENCE(3:15)	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY (Call in thurs)		AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY				
3:30AM		DEFENDING LIFE									
4:00 AM	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	CHURCH UNIVERSAL	THE CREED	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	THE HERESIES	ROSARY IN THE HOLY LAND	BATTLE READY	ICONS				
5:00 AM	THE REFORMATION	EWTN BOOKMARK	THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL	DOMINICAN SISTERS	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY	EWTN SPECIALS	FROM THE HEART WITH MOTHER ANGELICA				
5:30 AM	AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED	CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN	LIFE IS WORTH LIVING	BEHOLD THE MAN			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										
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	THE HOLY ROSARY				
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		LIVE WITH PASSION	FOCUS	CATHOLIC CLASSICS	THE FRIAR				
10:30 AM		CHOICES WE FACE	MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE				MY CATHOLIC FAMILY				
11:00 AM	EWTN NEWS IN-DEPTH	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	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY				
11:30 AM		GOSPEL OF MARK					THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS	GOSPEL OF JOHN	MATTHEW'S TESTIMONY TO JESUS	LUKE: MEEK SCRIBE OF CHRIST	BOB & PENNY LORD PRESENT
12:00 PM	SUNDAY MASS (Encore)	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, LIVE AT 12:10 p.m.					EWTN DAILY MASS (Encore)				
12:30PM	(1:20PM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	"DIOCESAN DATEBOOK" airs before and after Mass.					EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE				
1:00 PM		WOMEN OF GRACE					DOMINICAN SISTERS OF MERCY				
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	EWTN ON LOCATION				
2:00 PM		CALLED TO COMMUNION	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION	FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	THE JOURNEY HOME	LIFE ON THE ROCK	STATIONS OF CROSS				
2:30 PM											
3:00 PM	THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY IN SONG										
3:20 PM	LIVE ADORATION FROM EWTN CHAPEL										
3:30 PM	THE ROSARY FROM LOURDES	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, (Encore)					ROSARY FROM LOURDES				
4:00 PM	VATICANO	THE HOLY ROSARY					SUNDAY VIGIL MASS ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL				
4:30 PM	SAVORING OUR FAITH	DIOCESAN DATEBOOK									
5:00 PM	THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL	LUCY & FRIENDS	ADVENTURE CATECHISM	TRUTH IN THE HEART	CAT CHAT	THE ROAMIN' CATHOLIC	GRAB YOUR CATECHISM				
5:30 PM	SUNDAY PASSIONIST MASS	EWTN BOOKMARK	THE CHOICES WE FACE	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE	WEB OF FAITH 2.0	THEY MIGHT BE SAINTS	THE CREED				
6:00 PM	SUNDAY MASS FROM ST. PETERS CATHEDRAL	SPECIALS					THE MIRACLE HUNTER				
6:30 PM		EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Live)					EWTN GREAT BRITAIN ON LOCATION				
7:00 PM		LIFE IS WORTH LIVING	THE HERESIES	LIVING DIVINE MERCY	VATICANO	SETTING CAPTIVES FREE					
7:30PM	SUNDAY MASS	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, (Encore)					DAILY MASS				
8:00 PM	(8:20) LITANY OF SACRED HEART	THE HOLY ROSARY					EWTN CINEMA				
8:30 PM	CATHOLICS COME HOME	DIOCESAN DATEBOOK									
9:00 PM		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					
9:30 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					CATHOLIC SPHERE	ICONS SPOTLIGHT					
11:00PM	THE PHILOSOPHER'S BENCH	WOMEN OF GRACE				WOMEN OF GRACE HOUR LONG	DEFENDING LIFE				
11:30PM	CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN	BATTLE READY	LONG RIDE HOME	CROSSING THE GOAL	REAL LIFE CATHOLIC		EWTN BOOKMARK				

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Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement.

It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the *Code of Canon Law* and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator, Mary Beth Pacuska at (570) 862-7551.

Aviso al Respecto 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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Hazleton PHL announces annual Christmas Card Contest

HAZLETON — John Frank, chairperson of the 2022 pro-life Christmas Card Contest sponsored by the “Voice of John” initiative of the Hazleton Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life, announces this year’s contest is open to all students in grades 7 thru 12.

The Christmas card cover features the engaging artwork of artist Jenn Witner, depicting the Blessed Mother lovingly looking upon the face of the Child Jesus. Local parishes and schools will receive a copy of the card’s art to inspire the written text to accompany the Christmas greeting.

All entries must be received by Oct. 11, and the winner will be announced on Oct. 14. The student author of this year’s winning verse will receive a \$100 prize.

Maryann Lawhon, president of the Hazleton PHL and director of the Voice of John, encourages participation from CCD, homeschool, public and private school students in the 2022 Christmas Card Contest.

According to Lawhon, Witner has gifted the pro-life ministry with her artistic talent, designing last year’s first-ever Christmas card.

“Once again this year, she has created the magnificent portrayal of Mary, holding the Baby Jesus



Jenn Witner and John Frank display the cover artwork for this year’s pro-life Christmas Card Contest open to area students.

as the flow of her veil resembles the child in a rose, the theme of the pro-life movement,” Lawhon said.

Contest entries should be mailed by Oct. 11 to: Maryann Lawhon, Voice of John, 103 John’s Jog, Drums, PA 18222.

A member of the PHL who serves the Voice of John as spokesman for Down syndrome, John Frank is featured in a video podcast on the Voice of John

website and will be a guest on an upcoming JMJ Catholic Radio program with Lawhon. He will be joined by his sister Amanda during the month of October, which is designated as Down Syndrome Awareness Month.

‘Tomb of Unborn’ 26th anniversary commemoration slated Oct. 2

Prayerful commemoration of the 26th anniversary of the Knights of Columbus “Tomb of the Unborn,” located at the top of Mount Olivet Cemetery in Carverton, will be held on Sunday, Oct. 2, beginning at 2 p.m.

Father Thomas Petro, chaplain of Pittston Knights of Columbus Council 372, will serve as leader for the celebration, during which Rosary prayers will be recited.

All Wyoming Valley Knights and area faithful are welcome to attend. For more information, call (570) 654-3713.



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Study: Christianity may lose majority, plurality status in U.S. by 2070

WASHINGTON (CNS) – If trends of the past 30 years continue for the next 50, Christianity will lose its majority status in the United States by 2070, according to a new demographic study by the Pew Research Center.

If those trends, first identified in 1990, accelerate over the next half-century, Christianity will have fewer adherents than Americans who are not affiliated with any church, according to the study, “Modeling the Future of Religion in America.”

Even with the demographic modeling used by Pew, the numbers vary widely. Christians, put by Pew currently at 64% of the U.S. population, could slide to 54% - or plunge to 35% - by 2070.

By the same token, the religiously unaffiliated – called “nones” in some circles – currently at 29%, could rise to 34% of the population in the next half-century, or soar to 52%.

Pew used four different scenarios in making its projections. One was “no switching,” meaning that Americans would not switch from religious affiliation to disaffiliation, or vice versa. Its counterpart was “steady switching,” in which 31% of Christians become unaffiliated, while 21% of the unaffiliated become Christian.

The other two models are “rising disaffiliation.” One model put limits on the share of Christians who leave the faith at 50%. The other model set no limits on disaffiliation. Under the “rising disaffiliation” scenarios, nones outpace Christians sometime between 2050 and 2060.

Only the no-switching model, which Pew called “counterfactual,” allowed Christianity to retain its U.S. majority. The steady-switching scenario gave Christians a 46%-41% plurality. Under the rising-disaffiliation models, Christianity

was relegated to minority status, with with less than 40% of all Americans.

Pew did four alternative scenarios, in which every mother transmitted their faith to each of her children; if religious groups had equal birthrates; if immigration stopped after 2030; and if older Christians stopped switching from belief to unaffiliated status. Christianity would lose its majority status but retain plurality status through 2070 under all four scenarios.

“It is possible that events outside the study’s model – such as war, economic depression, climate crisis, changing immigration patterns or religious innovations – could reverse current religious switching trends, leading to a revival of Christianity in the United States,” the report said.

Pew said that the U.S. experience could model what’s happened in Europe. “In Great Britain, for example, nones surpassed Christians to become the largest group in 2009, according to the British Social Attitudes Survey,” it noted. “In the Netherlands, disaffiliation accelerated in the 1970s, and 47% of adults now say they are Christian.” The study noted that most disaffiliation ends by the age of 30.

The report focused on sociological trends that played into its projections.

“In this study, transmission rates are calculated based on the share of children who inherit their mother’s religion -- or their mother’s unaffiliated identity -- because mothers tend to successfully transmit their religious identities more often than fathers do. Also, roughly a quarter of children under 18 live in single-parent households, which are overwhelmingly headed by mothers,” Pew said.

“The four main scenarios presented here vary primarily in their assumptions about the future of religious switching among Americans between the ages of 15 and 29 -- which are the years when most religious change happens,” it added. “Only a modest amount of switching is modeled among older adults.”

Pew suggested at reasons behind the growing move over the past generation to disaffiliate from Christian denominations.

“In the U.S., an association of Christianity with conservative politics has driven many liberals away from the faith. Still other theories involve declining trust in religious institutions, clergy scandals, rising rates of religious intermarriage, smaller families, and so on. When asked, Americans give a wide range of reasons for leaving religion behind.”

Men bear some responsibility for the shrinking numbers of Christians, according to the report.

“Americans who have moved away from Christianity are more likely to be men, while women are more likely to retain their Christian identity,” Pew said. “A slight majority of U.S. adults who were raised Christian and are now unaffiliated (54%) are male. Among people who have remained Christian, 57% are women.”

Immigration was once seen as adding more Christians to the U.S. population. “In the 1990s and early 2000s, the largest number of recent arrivals to the U.S. were from Mexico and other Christian-majority countries in Central and South America,” the report said.

“Today, new arrivals are more likely to come from Asia. In 2018, the top country of origin for new immigrants was China (which is majority unaffiliated), followed by India (which is majority Hindu).”

Father Cizek Day celebration October 16

SHENANDOAH — The Father Walter Cizek Prayer League announces the annual Father Cizek Day celebration will be held on Sunday, Oct. 16, in Shenandoah, Schuylkill County.

The Prayer League is dedicated to promoting the canonization cause for Father Cizek, who has been revered and venerated for his extraordinary faith and devotion to his priestly vocation.

The centerpiece of the daylong celebration will be a Divine Liturgy offered at 2 p.m. at Saint Casimir Church, 229 North Jardin St., Shenandoah.

Monsignor Ronald Bocian, president of the Father Walter Cizek Prayer League, will serve as principal celebrant for the Eucharistic liturgy, with Jesuit Father Richard Malloy as the homilist.

Prior to the celebration, a video presentation featuring Father Cizek will be available for viewing from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. A social reception immediately follows the Mass in the church hall.

Father Cizek served the Society of Jesus (Jesuits)



Father Walter Cizek

congregation as a teacher and missionary in Eastern Europe during the mid-20th century.

It was during his missionary ministry that the Catholic priest was arrested by Soviet authorities and held in confinement for 15 years in a Siberian labor camp.

Upon his release, Father Cizek wrote two well-known defining books, *With God in Russia* and *He Leadeth Me*, offered as meditations on his acceptance and forgiveness after surviving horrific conditions as a prisoner of the Communists.

Marian Devotion Rosary services

Marian Devotion Ministries 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:

Third Monday Marian Devotions — Sept. 19 & Oct. 17, from 6 to 7 p.m., at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laflin.

Fourth Monday Marian Devotions — Sept. 26 & Oct. 24, from 6 to 7 p.m., at Our Lady of the Abingtons Parish in Dalton.

Sunday Afternoon Rosary Rallies — Oct. 16: at the Prayer Garden on the grounds of Saint Lucy Church in West Scranton; and at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laflin, beginning at 6 p.m. and followed by Sunday Mass.

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Prayer Requests for Priests

The Daily Prayer Request for Priests schedule is as follows:

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; September 21, Holy Cross Father Brogan Ryan; September 22, Father Dominic Sabi; September 23, Father Thomas Sarnacki; September 24, Father Arbogaste Satoun; September 25, Father Kenneth Seegar; September 26, Monsignor John Sempa; September 27, Father Gerald Shantillo, V.G.; September 28, Saint Joseph Oblate Father Joseph Sibilano; September 29, Monsignor Constantine Siconolfi; September 30, Father Shawn Simchock; October 1, Pope Francis; October 2, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI; October 3, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; October 4, Father Robert Simon; October 5, Father Andrew Sinnott; October 6, Father Joseph Sitko; October 7, Father Phillip Sladicka; October 8, Father Stephen Stavoy; October 9, Father Scott Sterowski; October 10, Jesuit Father Daniel Sweeney; October 11, Saint Joseph Oblate Father Raymond Tabon; October 12, Father Philbert Takyi-Nketiah; October 13, Father John Terry; October 14, Father Fidel Ticonia; October 15, Bishop Emeritus James C. Timlin; October 16, Father Peter Tomczak; October 17, Father Daniel Toomey; October 18, Father Rawel Toppo; October 19, Father Sudhir Toppo.

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*Pittston parish
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Saint John the Evangelist Parish, 35 William St., Pittston, will host an organ recital by renowned concert organist Greg Zelek on Friday, Oct. 21, at 7 p.m. in Saint John the Evangelist Church. The event is offered as part of the concert series presented by Saint John Church and the neighboring parish community of Saint Joseph Marelo. Principal organist of the Madison (Wisc.) Symphony Orchestra and curator of the Overture Concert Organ, Zelek will perform on the parish's recently refurbished pipe organ, originally built in 1930 by George Kilgen and Son. A free-will offering will be accepted.

Who makes house calls?

As of October 2015, I will now meet clients either at their home, or at a location they choose and no longer require clients to meet at my office. I have decided that I would change the way I meet with people so it will be as easy and as convenient as possible for the client.

Based on my practice, which consists of estate planning and administration along with elder law, I find that clients are more comfortable discussing such matters in familiar surroundings.

While I know this may seem unconventional to some, I believe I will be able to serve clients much better in this fashion.

If anyone is uncomfortable with home visits, I have a few locations where I can meet in an office setting. I look forward to meeting with my existing clients and especially meeting new clients that are looking for any assistance in estate or elder law matters.



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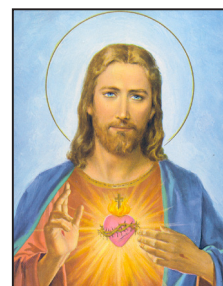
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Blue Army Reparation Vigil



The next monthly First Friday of the Blessed Sacrament and Reparation Vigil, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary and sponsored by the Blue Army, will be held **Oct. 7** at Saint Joseph's Oblate Chapel, 1880 Highway 315, Laffin (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.

'Christian Unity' focus of Charismatic Prayer Meeting Sept. 19

AVOCA — The Diocese of Scranton Catholic Charismatic Renewal announces it will host the next Diocesan Charismatic Prayer Meeting on Monday, Sept. 19.

The prayer meeting will begin

at 7:30 p.m. at the parish center of Queen of the Apostles Parish, 715 Hawthorne St., Avoca.

Special guest speaker for the event will be Pastor Pat Colladay of Freedom Hill Church and co-

director of the Hope Center in Luzerne, who will discuss the topic of "Christian Unity."

All faithful are welcome to attend the meeting, which will conclude with refreshments.

Eucharistic Miracle Exhibition coming to Ashley in November

ASHLEY — In response to the United States Catholic Bishops' call for a National Eucharistic Revival, Saint Leo Parish will host a "Eucharistic Miracle Exhibition" in its parish hall, 33 Manhattan St., Ashley, on Saturday, Nov. 5, from 1 to 6 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 6, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Presented to bolster the U.S. bishops' effort

to enkindle belief and a living relationship with Jesus — truly present in the Blessed Sacrament — the exhibit will feature some of the principal Eucharistic miracles authenticated throughout the ages around the world that have been recognized by the Catholic Church.

The event is open to the public free of charge.

Scranton parish to host gatherings on Synod responses

SCRANTON — Mary, Mother of God Parish will host a series of discussions in response to the feedback to the Diocese of Scranton questionnaire for the Synod on Synodality.

The series gatherings will be held on Monday evenings, Oct. 17 & 24 and Nov. 7, at 7 p.m. at the parish's Holy Rosary Church, 316 William St., North Scranton.

Organizers hope these discussions will help develop the historic Synod effort and enable the Church of Scranton to move forward in its efforts to evangelize.

As indicated, each session during the series will focus on a specific issue raised by diocesan faithful:

Monday, Oct. 17 — Role of women in the Church.

Monday, Oct. 24 — LGBTQIA+ community.

Monday, Nov. 7 — Divorced and remarried Catholics.

All are welcome to attend and share their insights on these important topics.

For more information, contact the parish office at (570) 342-4881, or email questions to: mmog.secretary@gmail.com.

Secular Franciscan retreat planned for Oct. 2 in Hazleton area

HAZLETON — The Secular Franciscan Order fraternity of Holy Dormition/Saint Clare will host an afternoon spiritual retreat on Sunday, Oct. 2, at Saint John Bosco Church in Conyngham, near Hazleton.

Offered from 1 to 4 p.m., the retreat will serve as a reflection on Pope Francis' encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti* ("All Brothers").

Franciscan Father Jerome Wolbert, national director for spiritual assistants for the Secular Franciscan Order, will conduct the retreat. All faithful are welcome free of charge.

The third encyclical of Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti* is subtitled, "on fraternity and social

friendship." The Pontiff views fraternity and social friendship as the keys to build a better, more just and peaceful world, with the contribution of all individuals and institutions.

The Secular Franciscan Order is the third branch of the Franciscan family and is comprised of lay men and women who seek to observe the Gospel of Jesus by following the example of Saint Francis of Assisi.

Holy Dormition/Saint Clare is one of the few Secular Franciscan fraternities in the world worshipping in the Byzantine traditions.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Secular Franciscan Order or the papal encyclical is

encouraged to attend the retreat experience. For more information, email: ofs.franciscan@gmail.com.

Catholic Choral Society opens new season

The Catholic Choral Society of northeastern Pennsylvania announces its first concert of the 74th season will be the annual Fall Generations Concert on Sunday, Nov. 13, at 3 p.m.

The performance will be hosted by Mary, Mother of God Parish in North Scranton at Holy Rosary Church.

Additional choral concerts are also scheduled for the Advent, Christmas and Lenten seasons.



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Parishes Announce Fall Festivals

Our Lady of Lourdes in Montoursville — Sept. 16 & 17. Parish's annual two-day "Fall Fun Festival" event will feature traditional & seasonal foods, games & amusements, and entertainment throughout the two days. 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 spretzle, schnitzel, frikadellen, bratwurst, pulled pork and German pretzels.

Saints Anthony & Rocco in Dunmore — Oct. 5 & 6. Italian "Fall Food Festival" is take-out only on Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 5 to 7 p.m. on the parish grounds of Saint Rocco Church, 122 Kurtz St., Bunker Hill section of Dunmore. Menu offerings include pizza frita, hot or sweet sausage & pepper sandwiches, and pasta & meatballs. Tables will be available for outdoor dining. Drive-up orders accepted until food items are sold out. Pre-order deadline is Friday, Sept. 30; orders may be placed by calling the parish office (570) 344-1209.

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Parish Cash Bingo — meetings on Wednesdays from **SEPT. 18**, to benefit Prince of Peace Parish in Old Forge; hosted at the Eagle McClure Fire Department, 375 Milwaukee Ave., Old Forge. Doors open at 11 a.m.; bingo games start at 1 p.m. Event includes 20 games with \$100 cash prizes each, plus four specials. Admission cost: \$20, in advance; \$25, at the door. Advance tickets may be purchased at weekend Masses or by contacting the parish rectory office at (570) 457-5900.

Grief Journey Ministry: "God's Compassionate Face" — **SEPT. 19, 26, OCT. 3 & 10**, hosted by Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish at Lake Silkworth; weekly grief support sessions for those suffering the loss of a loved one held on four consecutive Mondays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Registration recommended but not required. For more information, call the parish office at (570) 477-5040.

Bereavement Support Group Sessions — **SEPT. 21 & 28**, series of weekly gatherings addressing topics dealing with the grief process to enable participants to 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.

Spaghetti Dinner — **SEPT. 24**, sponsored by St. John the Evangelist Parish in Honesdale; held from 5 to 7:30 p.m. in the Catholic Family Community Center, 329 Cliff St., Honesdale. Event includes bountiful baskets raffle. Dinner cost: \$10 per person; children age seven and younger admitted free of charge. Tickets available after all Masses or by contacting the parish office.

"40 Days for Life" Pro-Life Rosary Gathering — **SEPT. 28-NOV. 4**, offered for the special intentions of an end to abortion and closure of the Planned Parenthood location in Wilkes-Barre; Rosary is prayed each weekday, Monday thru Friday, at 10 a.m. in front of the offices of Planned Parenthood, 101 North Main St., Wilkes-Barre. The pro-life campaign draws attention to the evil of abortion through prayer & fasting, constant vigil, and community outreach.

Cathedral Cash Bingo — **OCT. 2**, hosted by and benefitting the Cathedral of Saint Peter Parish in downtown Scranton; games party will be held at the Diocese of Scranton Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave., Scranton. Doors open at 1 p.m. and bingo begins at 2 p.m.; event includes 20 games, four specials, and \$100 prize per game. Fundraiser will also feature food items, variety basket raffle, and cash raffle. Admission cost: \$25; tickets may be obtained by contacting the Cathedral Parish office at (570) 344-7231, or online at: www.stpeterscathedral.org. Free and handicap parking available.

Bingo Bonanza — **OCT. 23**, hosted by Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Dickson City; doors open at noon and games begin at 2 p.m. Prizes include a desktop computer, flat screen smart TV, gift cards, appliances, home security system, lawnmower, pre-lit Christmas tree, Roomba vacuum, Lenovo tablet, Versace sunglasses, and more. Admission cost: \$25, in advance; \$30, at door. Event includes 17 bingo games, each with a minimum prize value of \$300. For advance tickets and more information, contact the parish office at (570) 489-2091.

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