

Catholic educators receive Saint John Paul II Award for dedicated service

WILKES-BARRE – Three educators and two administrators in the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System are being recognized for their commitment to Catholic Education and sharing the love of Christ with young people.

During the Diocesan Teachers' Institute Mass, held Monday, Sept. 26, 2022, at Saint Nicholas Church, each honoree received the Saint John Paul II Award for 25 years or more of dedicated service to Catholic Education in the Diocese of Scranton.

The recipients include Diane Centrella of Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg; Alisia McNamee of Saint John Neumann Regional Academy in Williamsport; Jennifer Olmstead of Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg; Ann Marie Rogers of Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton; and Christopher Tigie of Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School in Wilkes-Barre.

Olmstead, who teaches French to students in seventh thru 12th grade, reflected on what her teaching profession has meant after accepting her award.

"My school is like a family. When we walk in the door, we know that our kids are part of our extended family. Their families are also a part of it," she said. "The teachers at my school are some of my dearest friends. The administration is supportive, so



Three educators and two administrators received the Saint John Paul II Award for 25 or more years of dedicated service to Catholic Education in the Diocese of Scranton on Sept. 26, 2022. Pictured, from left: Michele Long, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Ann Marie Rogers, Saint Clare/Saint Paul School, Scranton; Diane Centrella, Notre Dame Elementary School, East Stroudsburg; Alisia McNamee, Saint John Neumann Regional Academy, Williamsport; Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton; Christopher Tigie, Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School, Wilkes-Barre; Jennifer Olmstead, Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School; and Kristen Donohue, Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Education/Superintendent of Catholic Schools.

there is a lot that brings us back year after year."

Centrella is now in her 26th year teaching kindergarten.

"I'm always honored to teach the littlest ones. I've learned so much and they're great teachers," she explained. "Every day is different. It is creative and full of God."

Centrella said her students get excited to learn about God.

"It is their favorite subject. They want to hear about Jesus every day. They want to hear stories, they want to talk about what Jesus would do," she added.

After teaching at La Salle Academy in Jessup for nearly two decades, Rogers moved to Saint Clare/Saint Paul School six years ago. She has taught art, pre-school and first grade during all

that time. She also coached track and field and cross-country at Holy Cross High School for more than a decade.

"I have been able to combine my love for Jesus with my daily work," she said. "It's nice to see the kids that you've had grown up and all their accomplishments, getting married. I now have kids of kids that I've taught in school!"

After starting his teaching career in Hazleton, Tigie spent time in Scranton and Dunmore before ending up in Wilkes-Barre. He is currently the principal at Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School.

"We not only teach excellence, but we teach faith and passing that on is really what the mission is all about," he said.

While all the educators receiving the Saint John Paul II Award have seen changes in technology, instruction methods and security, Tigie said one thing has not changed.

"The core values that we have haven't changed," he said.

That is a sentiment that McNamee, the current principal at Saint John Neumann Regional Academy in Williamsport, agreed with wholeheartedly.

"I am a product of Catholic education, actually in the buildings I teach in and lead right now," she said. "The faith, morals and values are needed so much in today's world and society."

While she laughed while explaining that some of her former students are now part of her teaching staff, McNamee said one of the best parts of the job are when former students reach out and explain the lasting impact she has had on them.

"When they come up to you and tell you what you have meant in their life, it's really overwhelming," McNamee ended by saying.

Catholic educators focused on student growth this academic year

WILKES-BARRE – As a new academic year begins for the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System, educators and administrators are focusing on student growth.

"Every single day counts," Kristen Donohue, Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Education/Superintendent of Catholic Schools, said during the Diocesan

Teachers' Institute on Sept. 26, 2022, at Holy Redeemer High School.

Each year, hundreds of Catholic school educators and administrators from all 19 Diocesan schools gather for the Diocesan Teachers' Institute. The day-long Institute began with the celebration of Mass led by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera,

Bishop of Scranton, and continued with teachers learning from one another at breakout sessions.

Donohue provided the day's keynote presentation where she outlined growth goals that include attention to Catholic Identity, STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics), Differentiated Instruction and Social Emotional

Learning.

"Every student who comes to us, every single one, can grow," Donohue explained. "We have an incredible opportunity to promote growth for each of our students. We are their biggest cheerleaders."

During her presentation, Donohue explained how students learn in different ways and at

different paces. She also challenged each educator in the audience to have a "growth mindset" instead of a "fixed mindset."

In a "growth mindset," a student's natural abilities are enhanced by a nurturing environment. Under a "fixed mindset," it is believed that a student is born with only a certain

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For questions or more information, contact Jim Bebla, Diocesan Secretary for Development at Jim-Bebbla@dioceseofscranton.org or call (570) 207-2250

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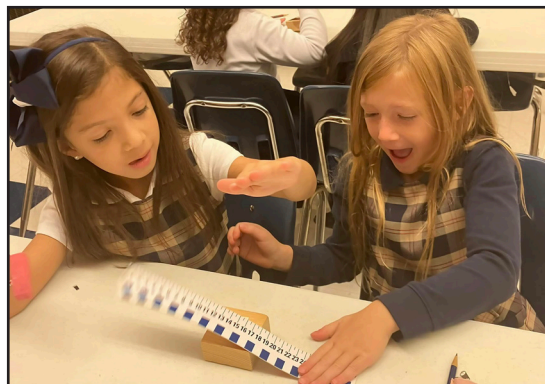
The Diocese of Scranton is committed to educating our students in an environment that is academically excellent and facilitates the development of moral judgment and Christian decision-making. We are proud to share the following successes of our students in the classroom and in their service to others.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



The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, celebrated Mass for students, faculty and families of **Holy Rosary School in Duryea** on Oct. 7, 2022. In his inspiring homily, the Bishop reminded everyone they should give thanks for God's love and give that love back by giving to others.



Pre-Kindergarten students at **Epiphany School in Sayre** practice making the sign of the cross and saying prayers every morning to start their school day.



There is excitement at **Holy Family Academy in Hazleton** as the first grade class learns about simple machines, levers and rollers.



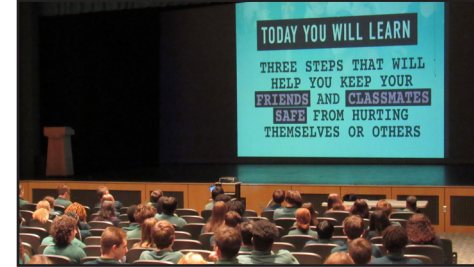
Eric Snarski, a kindergarten student at **Saint Jude School in Mountain Top**, blesses "Pigeon" with holy water for the feast of Saint Francis while classmate Catalina Shoff looks on.



Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton is pleased to announce their Student Council Officers for the 2022-23 school year: Kevin Hayes, President; Eddie James, Vice President; Chloe Mancuso, Treasurer; and Samantha Kelly, Secretary.



Grace Albert, Milania Curtis, Gianna Venditti and Alexandra Natkaniec, fifth grade students at **Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg**, work on friction and motion science experiments.



Students at **Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg** participated in a Mental Health Awareness Assembly which included Safe2Say training.



Jozef Savage, India Moss, Adelyn Dawes, and Malachi Coleman, 11th grade students at **Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School in Williamsport**, pose with Mark Stiller as they accept a donation from the Pennsylvania Skill Charitable Giving for the school's Neumann Angels Campaign.



Congratulations to the newly inducted Student Council Officers, Student Council Representatives and Class Officers at **Holy Cross High School in Dunmore**.



Olivia Wasp, Santino Roman, Colin Farrell and Kameryn Gale were recently named the 2022-23 Student Council Officers at **La Salle Academy in Jessup.**



Meet the newly elected Student Council officers at **Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green:** Sophie Boland, Recording Secretary; Catalina Campos, Corresponding Secretary; Keira Stofko, President; Nolan Moore, Treasurer; and Sarkis Hazzouri, Vice-President.



The Pre-Kindergarten Class at **Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston** celebrated the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi with the blessing of their stuffed animals by Monsignor David L. Tressler, pastor of Saint Ignatius Loyola Parish, Kingston, and Holy Family Parish, Luzerne. After the blessing, each child received a special prayer card from Monsignor.



Deacon Steven Frye blesses the stuffed animals of the Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students at **Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport** in memory of Saint Francis of Assisi.



Pre-Kindergarten students at **Saint Agnes School in Towanda** learn to use a 3D Doodler so they can make dinosaurs.



Dylan and Brandon Kroll, twin brothers in first grade, and all of the students at **Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter**, celebrated International Peace Day 2022 with a prayer service and peace inspired activities, including hat making.



In honor of Saint Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals, students at **Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School in Wilkes-Barre** invited their pets (real and stuffed) to join them for the annual Blessing of the Animals.



Second grade students at **All Saints Academy in Scranton** enjoy some independent reading time during the school day.




The school community at **Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore** go GOLD for pediatric cancer research in support of Gemma, an eighth grade student at the school who is currently undergoing cancer treatments.

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Catholic School educators set priorities for academic year

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amount of intelligence and/or talent that is unchangeable.

"It takes intentional planning and making sure that that you're thinking about what is really going

to challenge a student in order to give them that rigorous education that they need," she explained.

Following the keynote presentation, the educators were able to choose between breakout sessions that focused on one of the identified growth goals.

Father Ryan Glenn, Assistant Pastor of Saint Matthew Parish in East Stroudsburg, presented one of the breakout sessions focused on Catholic Identity.

Father Ryan, Chaplain of Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School for the last three years, emphasized the teachings of Popes Benedict and Francis who said we need to be people who pray, people who serve and people who proclaim Jesus.

"That happens in our classrooms, that happens when we

gather for Mass, it happens on our sports teams but it is always going back to those three fundamentals," he explained.

He also said it is vital for parishes and schools to see each other as partners in mission.

"We need our students to come to our parish and to join us for the Sunday Eucharist and to be a part of the community and likewise, we need our parishioners to support our schools, whether it is financially or whether it is in support of the values of Catholic education. I think there is just a great harmony between our parishes and our schools and hopefully that keeps going," Father Ryan said.

Geralyn Durham, a first grade teacher at Notre Dame Elementary School focused on the Catholic School System's STREAM initiative.

Her interactive presentation focused on how to use "3D Doodle" pens to enhance lessons.

"It's almost like a glue gun that heats up, but doesn't get too hot to touch and we have plastic filament sticks that go in the end and melt and they come out as a liquid and dry immediately," Durham said.

Describing the pens as an early version of a 3D printer, she explained how she uses the pens in many different lessons, including explaining the life cycle of a butterfly.

"They love it. It takes learning to the next level. I can stand up there and talk about the life cycles of a butterfly but when they're actually doing it, hands on, in front of them, tracing and welding the parts together, they love it," the educator emphasized.

Father Horanzy buried from Nanticoke parish

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"He suggested I should speak just a few simple words from my heart. He then proceeded to tell me what I should say," Father Simon continued. "Just tell everyone that I was ready to go home to the Lord.

Tell everyone that I have always, throughout my life, placed myself in God's hands. Tell everyone I was at peace with dying and have trust in God's goodness and mercy."

The homilist shared that Father Horanzy's "sole goal to be a good priest" had been achieved. "I thanked him for the gift of his priesthood and assured him that I and so many others found in him a good, faithful and holy priest."

Father Simon then told of how two years after his own ordination, Father Horanzy was assigned to his home parish of Saint Stanislaus in Wilkes-Barre, admitting that as his family soon came to know and love the seasoned pastor, he "got a little jealous."

"When I asked my Mom when I should come to bless our home, she told me, 'Father Horanzy will take care of it.'"

"Father Joe found simple ways to make connections and develop relationships with parishioners," Father Simon noted. "His infectious laughter, his love of tradition, his reverence at Mass and his love of life led the people

of (Saint Catherine of Siena Parish) Moscow, where he would gladly cover for me after his retirement, to call him 'the priest we love.'"

Stating that Father Horanzy had the "heart of a pastor of souls," the homilist went on to say, "He has always been the kind of priest Pope Francis calls us to be — a priest who gets his shoes dirty and is comfortable being close to his sheep."

"This beautiful priestly heart beat for more than 63 years with love and zeal. May Christ, gentle and humble of heart, welcome him to the Father's house and grant rest to his soul," Father Simon concluded.

Surviving are two nephews, David Horanzy and his children; Eugene Horanzy and his wife, Lisa; a niece, Kathy Ann Wilkes and her husband, Rick; cousins; and dear friends, Gerald and Margaret McGinnis.

He was also preceded in death by two brothers, Michael and Eugene Sr.; and sister-in-law, Regina.

Interment was held at Saint Stanislaus Cemetery in Nanticoke.



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