



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

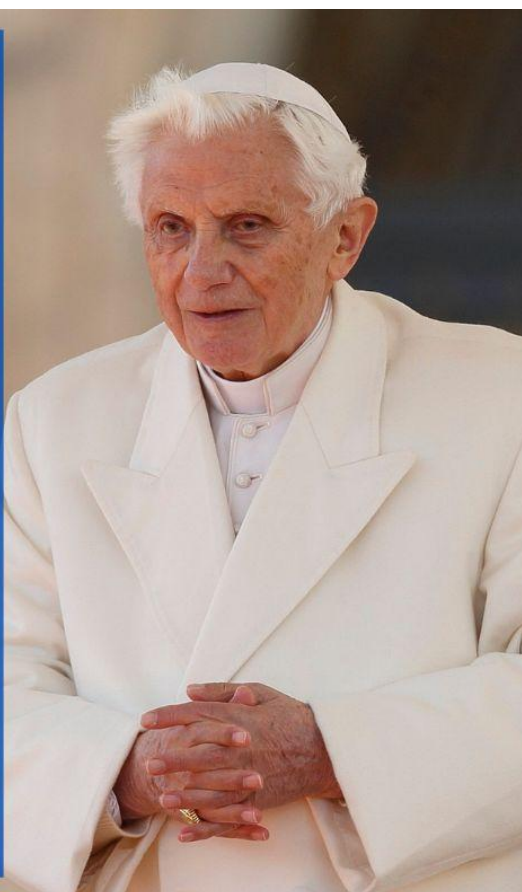
December 29, 2022

Pope Benedict had "restful night," prayers still requested for former pontiff

PRAY FOR POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI

LET US PRAY.
ALMIGHTY AND
ETERNAL GOD, YOU ARE
THE EVERLASTING
HEALTH OF THOSE WHO
BELIEVE IN YOU. HEAR
OUR PRAYERS FOR YOUR
SICK SERVANT
BENEDICT FOR WHOM
WE IMPLORE THE AID OF
YOUR TENDER MERCY,
THROUGH CHRIST OUR
LORD. AMEN.

Prayer shared by Vatican News



The day after Pope Francis told people retired Pope Benedict was “very sick” and in need of prayers, the Vatican said he had had a restful night and described him as being in serious, but stable condition.

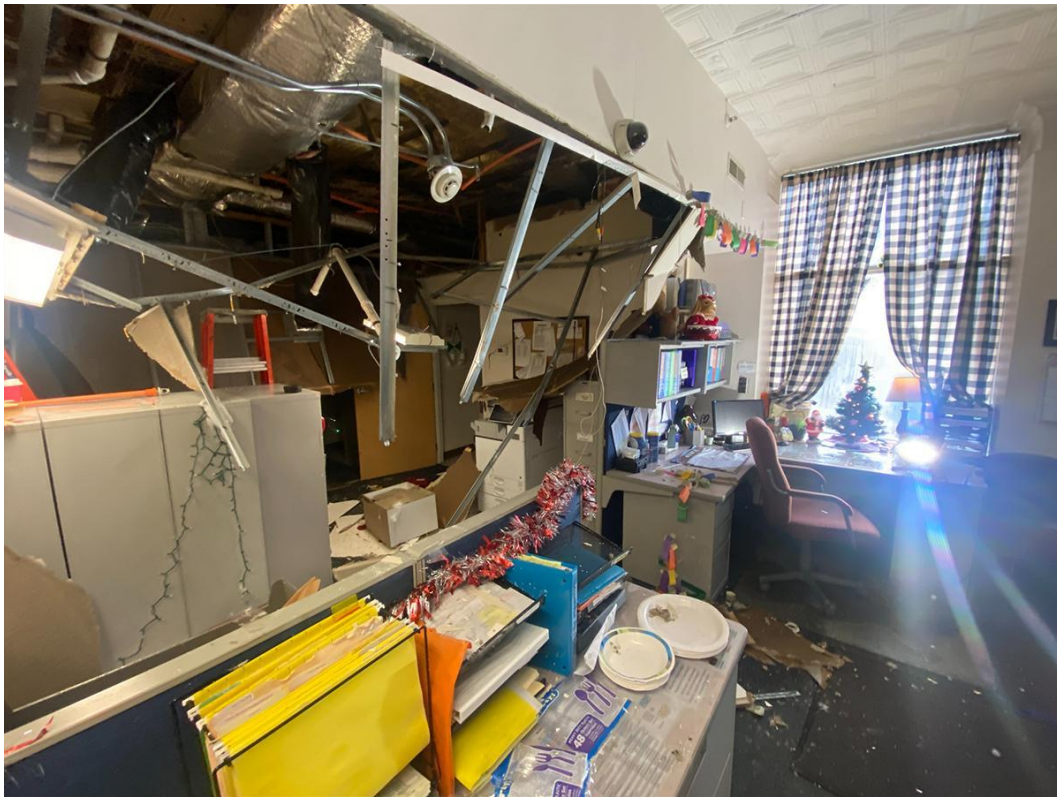
“I would like to ask all of you for a special prayer for emeritus Pope Benedict,” Pope Francis had said at the end of his weekly general audience Dec. 28.

The 95-year-old retired pope “is sustaining the church in silence,” Pope Francis said. “Remember him. He is very sick.”

“Ask the Lord to console him and sustain him in his witness of love for the church until the very end,” Pope Francis said.

[Read More from Catholic News Service](#)

Saint Anthony's Haven emergency shelter in Scranton to reopen Thursday night following pipe burst



Catholic Social Services is happy to announce that Saint Anthony's Haven in Scranton will reopen for individuals needing emergency shelter this evening (Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022) at 7 p.m. and resume its normal hours of operation assisting our brothers and sisters experiencing homelessness.

Furthermore, the 15 residents from Saint James Manor, who were also displaced on Monday evening when a sprinkler pipe burst, are also being allowed to return to their apartments today.

While some clean-up work in the building at the intersection of Wyoming Avenue and Olive Street remains ongoing, the building has been deemed safe for normal operations to resume.

The administration of Catholic Social Services would like to thank all of the contractors and repair crews that have been working virtually non-stop for the last three days to allow us to reopen so quickly and continue our critical mission of serving the community.

Staff would also like to once again thank the residents and individuals who rely on Saint Anthony's Shelter for their patience and understanding this week.

[Click Here for More Information](#)

Vandalism discovered at Cathedral of Saint Peter on Christmas Evening



The administration of the Cathedral of Saint Peter is deeply saddened to report an act of vandalism to parish property discovered on Christmas evening, Dec. 25, 2022.

During an evening inspection of Cathedral grounds, Father Jeffrey Tudgay, pastor, discovered the numbers “666” carved separately into three front doors of the Cathedral church.

Scranton police have been notified of the vandalism and Cathedral staff will cooperate with the law enforcement investigation. Officers will be working to determine if surveillance cameras on Cathedral property might provide any information on who is responsible for the damage.

[Read the Full Story from The Catholic Light](#)

During Christmas homily, Bishop Bambera shares wisdom of second grader from Ghana



The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, was principal celebrant for two Pontifical Masses celebrating the Nativity of Our Lord this Christmas at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The bishop celebrated the 4 p.m. Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve and the Midnight Mass of Christmas. Hundreds of people attended the celebrations of Christmas at the Cathedral.

During his homily, Bishop Bambera shared a story of his trip to Ghana, Africa, in August and a lesson that he learned from visiting a second grade classroom at St. Stephen's Preparatory School.

When one young girl was called upon to share what she knew about God, Bishop Bambera said her response could be something for all of us to reflect upon during the Christmas season.

[Read Bishop Bambera's Christmas 2022 Homily](#)

[View a Photo Album from the Christmas Eve Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter](#)

Continue contemplating the mystery of Christmas, pope urges



The birth of Jesus in a stable “shows us God’s ‘style,’ which is closeness, compassion, and tenderness,” Pope Francis told visitors and pilgrims at his weekly general audience.

On the church’s calendar Christmas was not over when the pope held his audience Dec. 28, and he insisted it is important for Christians to use the season to contemplate the meaning of Jesus becoming human and being born into the poverty and simplicity of the manger.

“With this style of his, God draws us to himself,” the pope said. “He does not take us by force, He does not impose his truth and justice on us. He wants to draw us with love, with tenderness.”

[Read the Full Story from Catholic News Service](#)

Listen to the cries of the newborn Prince of Peace, pope says on Christmas



With the birth of Jesus, God became flesh to share the joys and sorrows, hopes and fears of all people, especially the poor and those living daily amid danger, Pope Francis said in his Christmas message.

“He comes as a helpless child. He is born in the cold night, poor among the poor. In need of everything, he knocks at the door of our heart to find warmth and shelter,” the pope said Dec. 25 before giving his blessing “urbi et orbi” (to the city and the world).

Tens of thousands of people gathered in St. Peter’s Square under warm, sunny skies for the blessing and for the pope’s message inviting people to pay less attention to presents and more to prayer, particularly for Ukraine and other places where war and strife challenge the angels’ proclamation of “peace on earth.”

[Read the Full Story from Catholic News Service](#)

Papal Message for World Peace Day: War, hunger, turmoil are connected



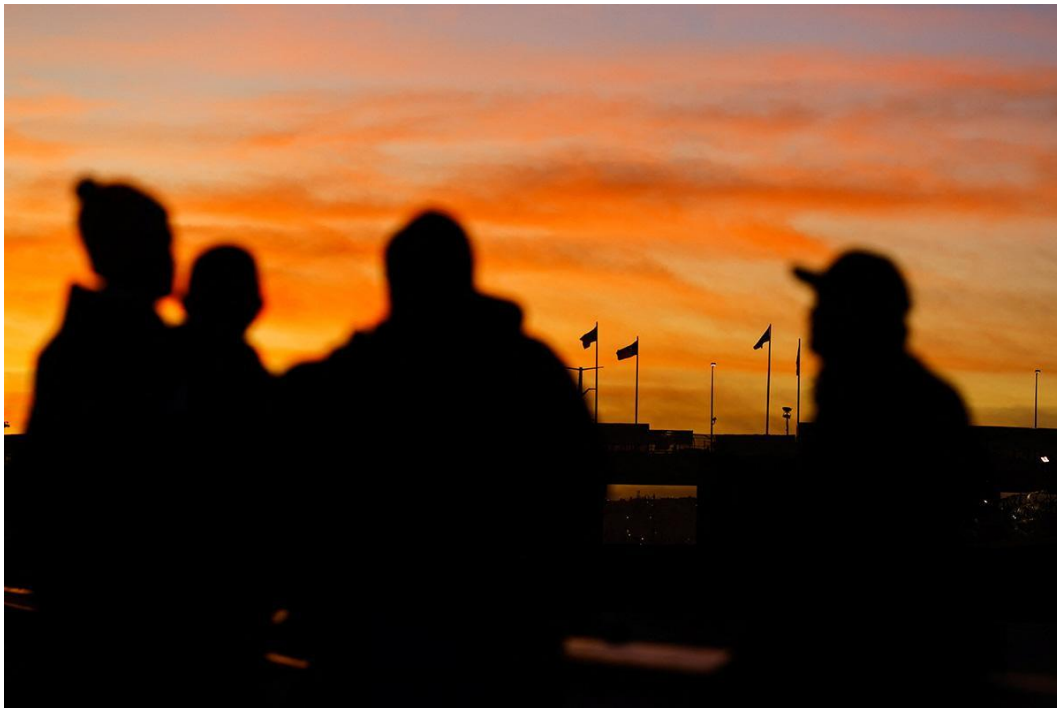
The interconnected “moral, social, political and economic crises” facing the world cannot be solved if individuals and nations continue to focus only on their own, immediate interests, Pope Francis said in his message for World Peace Day 2023.

“The time has come for all of us to endeavor to heal our society and our planet, to lay the foundations for a more just and peaceful world, and to commit ourselves seriously to pursuing a good that is truly common,” the pope wrote in the message, which was released at the Vatican Dec. 16.

The Catholic Church celebrates World Peace Day Jan. 1 and distributes the pope’s message to heads of state and government around the world. Pope Francis personally gives signed copies of it to visiting leaders throughout the year.

[Read More from Catholic News Service](#)

Supreme Court keeps Title 42 restriction on border entry in place for now



In an end-of-the year decision, the Supreme Court said Dec. 27 that a federal public health rule that allows immigration officials at the border to quickly turn away migrants seeking asylum could stay in place while legal challenges to the policy played out.

In a 5-4 decision, the justices stopped a trial judge's ruling that would have lifted the measure, known as Title 42 of the Public Health Services Act, on Dec. 21.

Chief Justice John Roberts had already put that order on pause Dec. 19 responding to an emergency request filed by 19 states asking the justices to keep Title 42 in place.

[Read the Full Story from Catholic News Service](#)

Registration opens for ISLI (International Student Leadership Institute)



The International Student Leadership Institute (ISLI) is a peer-facilitated faith-based leadership retreat designed by Fr. Thomas Chambers C.S.C. at the University of Notre Dame. The organization began when a group of Notre Dame students met with a group of young, potential leaders from a Midwestern high school in order to enhance and expand their leadership aptitude.

The ISLI retreat is designed to provide the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in both the leadership and membership roles of task oriented groups. During the retreat, participants take part in small group tasks that allow the student to do the following:

- Make decisions
- Observe the growth of the group
- Examine leadership styles
- Practice leadership behavior
- Brainstorm about group dynamics and leadership
- Learn about positive communication
- Develop self-motivational skills and learn problem solving
- Action planning techniques

ISLI 2023 will be held Feb. 17 - 19 at Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center in Dalton. The retreat is open to students in 9th-12th grade.

[Click Here For More Information or to Register for ISLI 2023](#)

Follow Us



Diocese of Scranton
300 Wyoming Avenue,
Scranton, PA 18503-1279
(570) 207-2238
www.dioceseofscranton.org