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POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI

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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 Gospe faithfully, celebrate the sacraments joyfully, and boldly promote life, justice and peace in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania

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Pope Benedict: Eight years as pope capped long ministry as teacher of faith

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -Pope Benedict XVI, who had an impressive record as a teacher and defender of the basics of Catholic faith, is likely to go down in history books as the first pope in almost 600 years to resign.

He died Dec. 31, 2022, at the age of 95, nearly 10 years after leaving the papacy to retire to what he said would be a life of prayer and study.

A close collaborator of St. John Paul II and the theological expert behind many of his major teachings and gestures, Pope Benedict came to the papacy after 24 years heading the doctrinal congregation's work of safeguarding Catholic teaching on faith and morals, correcting the work of some Catholic theologians and ensuring the theological solidity of the documents issued by other Vatican offices.

As pope, he continued writing historically important gestures to Catholics who had difficulty accepting all of the teachings of the Second Vatican Council, particularly about the liturgy.

In 2007, he permission the to use "extraordinary" or pre-Vatican II form of the Mass and, a short time later, extended a hand to the traditionalist Society of St. Pius X. Besides lifting the excommunications of four of the society's bishops who were ordained illicitly in 1988, he launched a long and intense dialogue with the group. In the end, though, the talks broke down.

His papacy, which began when he was 78, was extremely busy for a man who already had a pacemaker and who had wanted to retire to study, write and pray when he turned 75. He used virtually every medium at his disposal books and Twitter, sermons and encyclicals - to catechize the faithful on the foundational beliefs



Pope Benedict XVI acknowledges pilgrims during his general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Nov. 4, 2009. Pope Benedict died Dec. 31, 2022, at his residence at the Vatican. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

and practices of Christianity, to six continents and three times

pope to meet with victims of Spain in 2011. clerical sexual abuse. He clarified norms against abuse.

ranging from the sermons of St. presided over World Youth Day Augustine to the sign of the cross. mega-gatherings: in Germany Pope Benedict was the first in 2005, Australia in 2008, and

as a theologian, but also made church laws to expedite cases served as an influential adviser to speak from the heart. and mandated that bishops' during the Second Vatican conferences put in place stringent Council, 1962-65, and as pope, he made it a priority to correct when he applied simple Gospel Although he did not expect what he saw as overly expansive values to social issues such as to travel much, he ended up interpretations of Vatican II in the protection of human life, the widened making more than two dozen trips favor of readings that stressed environment and economics.

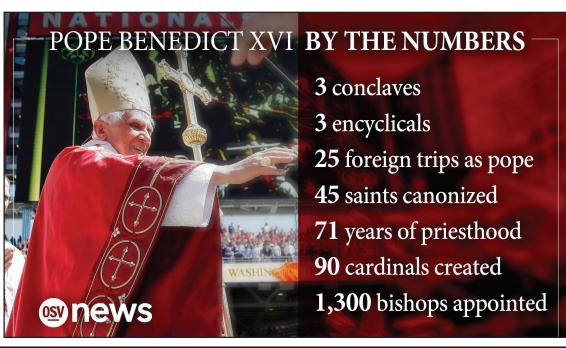
the council's continuity with the church's millennial traditions.

Under his oversight, the Vatican continued to highlight the church's moral boundaries on issues such as end-of-life medical care, marriage and homosexuality. But the pope's message to society at large focused less on single issues and more on the risk of losing the basic relationship between the human being and the Creator.

Surprising those who had expected a by-the-book pontificate from a man who had spent so many years as the Vatican's chief doctrinal official, Pope Benedict emphasized that Christianity was a religion of love and not a religion of rules.

The German-born pontiff did not try to match the popularity of St. John Paul, but the millions of people who came to see him in Rome and abroad came to appreciate his smile, While still in his 30s, he his frequent ad-libs and his ability

Some of Pope Benedict's most memorable statements came



At funeral, Pope Francis remembers Benedict's 'wisdom, tenderness, devotion'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -Pope Benedict XVI "spread and testified to" the Gospel his entire life, Pope Francis told tens of thousands of people gathered Jan. 5 for his predecessor's funeral Mass.

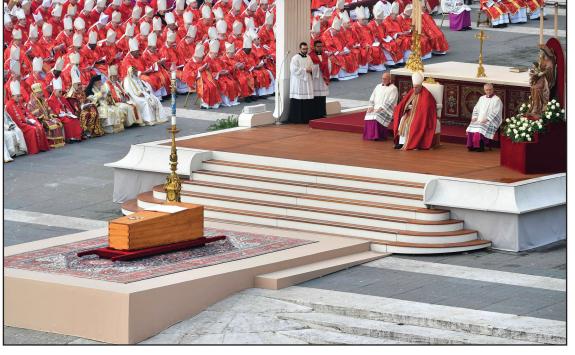
"Like the women at the tomb, we too have come with the fragrance of gratitude and the balm of hope, in order to show him once more the love that is undying. We want to do this with the same wisdom, tenderness and devotion that he bestowed upon us over the years," Pope Francis said in his homily.

The Mass in St. Peter's Square was the first time in more than 200 years that a pope celebrated the funeral of his predecessor. Pope Pius VII had celebrated the funeral of Pius VI in 1802 when his remains were returned to Rome after he died in exile in France in 1799.

Pope Benedict, who had retired in 2013, had requested his funeral be simple; the only heads of state invited to lead delegations Germany.

However, many dignitaries - including Queen Sofia of Spain and King Philippe of Belgium and presidents and government ministers representing more than a dozen nations were in attendance, as were most of the ambassadors filled the square for the Mass, and to the Holy See.

Cardinals sat on one side of the casket, while, on the other side, sat special guests, including the late pope's closest collaborators representatives of the and Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, Anglican, Protestant and U.S. evangelical communities. Jewish and Muslim organizations also sent delegations.



Pope Francis presides over the funeral Mass of Pope Benedict XVI in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Jan. 5, 2023. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)

celebrant at the altar. Some 120 cardinals, another 400 bishops and 3,700 priests concelebrated. The vestments and stoles were were those of Italy and his native red in keeping with the color of mourning for deceased popes.

More than 1,000 journalists, photographers and camera operators from around the world were accredited to cover the funeral in St. Peter's Square.

a number of visitors told *Catholic* Members of the College of News Service that banners and flags were being confiscated by security upon entrance. Of the few flags and banners that did make it past security was a white cloth with "Santo Subito" ("Sainthood Now") written in red and a "Thank you, Pope Benedict" written in light blue in German.

> Just as Pope Benedict

program of life that he quietly summary of his predecessor's life.

Pope Francis spoke of Jesus' grateful, prayerful and sustained devotion to God's will and how Jesus' final words on the cross, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit," summed up his entire An estimated 50,000 people into the hands of his Father."

> "His were hands forgiveness and compassion, healing and mercy, anointing and result. It is the source of an unseen blessing, which led him also to entrust himself into the hands of his brothers and sisters," he said.

> "Father into your hands I commend my spirit," the pope loving also means being ready said, is the plan for life that Jesus quietly invites and inspires people to follow.

dedicated his pontificate to requires sustained and prayerful his presence," Pope Francis said, Pope Francis presided over directing the faithful's focus to devotion that is "silently shaped quoting his predecessor's homily the Mass and Cardinal Giovanni the person of Christ, Pope Francis and refined amid the challenges and marking the start of his pontificate Battista Re, dean of the College dedicated his homily to Christ's resistance that every pastor must April 24, 2005.

of Cardinals, was the main loving devotion and suffering face in trusting obedience to the witness as the "invitation and the Lord's command to feed his flock."

"Like the Master, a shepherd inspires in us," rather than on a bears the burden of interceding and the strain of anointing his people, especially in situations where goodness must struggle to prevail and the dignity of our brothers and sisters is threatened," said the pope.

"The Lord quietly bestows life, "a ceaseless self-entrustment the spirit of meekness that is ready to understand, accept, hope of and risk, notwithstanding any misunderstandings that might and elusive fruitfulness, born of his knowing the One in whom he has placed his trust," he said.

"Feeding means loving, and to suffer. Loving means giving the sheep what is truly good, the nourishment of God's truth, of However, he said, the path God's word, the nourishment of

"Holding fast to the Lord's last words and to the witness of his entire life, we too, as an ecclesial community, want to follow in his steps and to commend our brother into the hands of the Father," he said of Pope Benedict. "May those merciful hands find his lamp alight with the oil of the Gospel that he spread and testified to for his entire life."

"God's faithful people. gathered here, now accompany and entrust to him the life of the one who was their pastor," the pope said. "Together, we want to say, 'Father, into your hands we commend his spirit.""

"Benedict, faithful friend of the Bridegroom, may your joy be complete as you hear his voice, now and forever!" he concluded, as the crowd prayed in silence.

The Bible readings at the Mass were in Spanish, English and Italian, and the prayers of the faithful at the Mass were recited German, French, Arabic, in Portuguese and Italian.

While the funeral was based on the model of a papal funeral, two key elements normally part of a papal funeral following the farewell prayer were missing: there were no prayers offered by representatives of the Diocese of Rome and of the Eastern Catholic churches, since those prayers are specific to the death of a reigning pope, who is bishop of the Diocese of Rome and is in communion with the leaders of the Eastern-rite churches.

A bell tolled solemnly and the assembly applauded for several minutes - with some chanting "Benedetto" - as the pallbearers carried the casket toward St. Peter's Basilica.

Pope Francis blessed the casket and laid his right hand on it in prayer, then bowed slightly in reverence before it was taken inside for a private burial in the grotto of St. Peter's Basilica.



visitors in a renovated monastery near the Vatican Gardens. With prompting from Pope Francis, he

dies at 9:34 a.m. Rome time His funeral is scheduled for Jan. 5, 2023.

appears in public for a number of significant church events at the Vatican

The saints' spot: Pope Benedict XVI laid to rest where two canonized popes were buried

ROME (OSV News) - In what looks like a continuation of pontifical legacy, Pope Benedict XVI was buried in the crypt where his Polish predecessor, St. John Paul II, was first buried. St. John XXIII also was buried there prior to his beatification.

A triple coffin - the first one made of cypress, the second of zinc and the third one of oak - was put into the grotto Jan. 5 following the funeral Mass with Pope Francis presiding.

The place of burial is unique for many who knew the fond relationship of St. John Paul II and Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the future pope who was the Vatican's chief doctrinal official under the Polish pontiff.

goes way beyond their earthly papal ceremonies under both St. renamed a dicastery. John Paul II and Pope Benedict.



Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re sprinkles holy water on the coffin of Pope Benedict XVI during its burial in the crypt of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Jan. 5, 2023. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)

Cross in Rome.

On Jan. 8, the crypt where Pope Benedict was laid to rest became ready for visits from the a secretary of St. John Paul II, faithful.

The two popes had a unique intellectual friendship throughout "It is a sign of friendship that St. John Paul's papacy. They also were close collaborators. In life," Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, 1981, the pontiff made Cardinal Ukraine, a city with deep Polish prefect of the Dicastery for the Ratzinger prefect of what was Service of Charity, told OSV then called the Congregation for News. The cardinal was master of the Doctrine of Faith and since were renovating the residence

"I think it truly symbolically April 2, 2005, newly elected Pope closes the earthly symbiosis of Benedict XVI often prayed at the the two popes - the Polish and tomb of his predecessor. On May German pontiff," added Yago 9, only a month after the Polish de la Cierva, professor at the pontiff's death, the new pope Pontifical University of the Holy began the beatification process

for Pope John Paul II. He was declared "blessed" May 1, 2011. Pope Francis canonized him and St. John XXIII in 2014.

Even if their characters seemed a world away, Pope Benedict was similar to St. John Paul in many aspects.

"Pope Benedict XVI would spend a lot of time in the chapel. He was a man of prayer and at the same time a titan of work," Archbishop Mieczyslaw Mokrzycki, the Latin Church metropolitan of Lviv, Ukraine, told OSV News.

Archbishop Mokrzycki was and Pope Benedict asked him to continue his mission for the first two years of his papacy. Then the German pope made him archbishop of Lviv in western roots.

"When I arrived there, we of the Lviv bishops, and I put a After St. John Paul's death stained-glass window with both John Paul and Benedict there," Archbishop Mokrzycki told OSV News. "I truly believe one day he will become a saint, I saw his everyday work, and I can tell this was a holv man."

Scroll in Benedict's casket summarizes his life and ministry

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Pope theologian, "recognized а of studies and research on the fundamental truths of the faith," and papacy.

as a "rogito," was rolled up, slipped same year. into a metal cylinder and placed with his body in a cypress casket late Jan. said, "he presided over the Holy 4 after an estimated 195,000 people Mass for the funeral of John Paul had passed by his body in St. Peter's II in St. Peter's Square." Square to pay their respects.

The text spoke of his Benedict XVI was a renowned childhood, ordination and his career as a professor of theology authority," who left "a rich legacy and noted his role as a "peritus" or theological adviser at the Second Vatican Council, his appointment Peter's Basilica. said the official summary of his life as archbishop of Munich and Freising in 1977 and his creation as theme of God and faith at the The 1,000-word text, known a cardinal by St. Paul VI later that

"On Friday, April 8, 2005," it

Elected St. John Paul's work 'Jesus of Nazareth.""

successor April 19, 2005, it said, "he presented himself as 'a humble worker in the vineyard of the Lord" when he greeted the crowds from the central balcony of St.

"Benedict XVI placed the center of his pontificate in a continuous search for the face of the Lord Jesus Christ," the text said. He tried to help "everyone to know him, particularly through the publication of the three-volume

Pope Benedict's spiritual testament: 'Stand firm in the faith'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Retired Pope Benedict XVI's final message to Catholics around the world was: "Stand firm in the faith! Do not let yourselves be confused!"

Less than 10 hours after informing the world that the 95-year-old pope had died Dec. 31, the Vatican press office released his spiritual testament, a statement of faith and of thanksgiving.

any way, I ask forgiveness from my heart," I began to slip and always giving me the Pope Benedict wrote.

Written in German and dated Aug. 29, 2006 – in the second year of his almost even the dark and tiring stretches of this eight-year pontificate - Pope Benedict wrote with great affection of his parents, his sister and his brother, the beauty of Bavaria and his faith in God.

back over the decades I have been living, I first see how many reasons I have to give thanks," he wrote in the document when he parents, "who gave me life in a difficult time was 79 years old.

"First of all, I thank God himself, the giver of every good gift, who gave me life and guided me through various moments of



"To all those whom I have wronged in confusion; always picking me up whenever children to believe, and as a signpost it light of his countenance again," he said. "In retrospect I see and understand that path were for my salvation and that it was in them that he guided me well."

Born in 1927, Joseph Ratzinger was raised in a Germany struggling to recover "If at this late hour of my life I look from the first World War; Adolf Hitler came to power when the future pope was seven.

In his testament, he offered thanks to his and who, at the cost of great sacrifices, with their love prepared a magnificent home that like a clear light still enlightens my days."

"My father's lucid faith taught us

More than 170,000 people streamed through St. Peter's **Basilica at the** Vatican to pay their last respects to the **late Pope Benedict** XVI between Jan. 2-4, 2023. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

has always stood firm in the midst of all my academic achievements," he said. "My mother's profound devotion and great goodness are a legacy for which I cannot thank her enough."

Pope Benedict thanked God for the many friends, both men and women, he had had by his side, and for his teachers and students - many of whom he continued to meet with late in his life.

A pope known for his concern for the environment, he thanked God for the beauty of his Bavarian homeland, "in Creator himself shining through."

faith," he wrote before pleading with his fellow Germans to let nothing draw them from the faith.

"And, finally," he wrote, "I thank God for all the beauty I experienced at every stage of my journey, especially in Rome and in Italy, which became my second homeland."

Addressing the whole church, Pope Benedict urged Catholics to hold fast to their faith and to not let science or research shake the foundations of their belief.

"It often seems as if science - the natural sciences on the one hand and historical research, like the exegesis of Sacred Scripture, on the other - are able to offer irrefutable results at odds with the Catholic faith," he said.

But he assured those reading the document that throughout his life he had seen science offer "apparent certainties against the faith" only to see them vanish, "proving not to be science, but philosophical interpretations."

In the end, Pope Benedict wrote, "I which I always saw the splendor of the humbly ask: pray for me, so that the Lord, despite all my sins and inadequacies, may "I pray that our land remains a land of receive me into his eternal dwelling."

Bishop Bambera's statement remembering Pope Benedict XVI

Upon learning of the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI on Dec. 31, 2022, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, offered the following statement:

"On behalf of the clergy, religious and faithful of the Diocese of Scranton, I join people around the world in offering prayers and sympathy on the passing of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

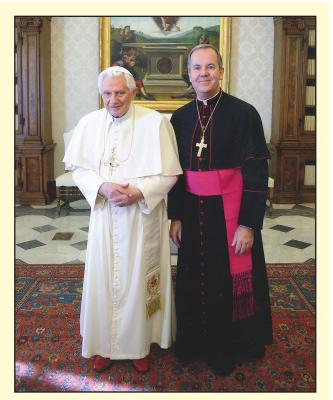
"Pope Emeritus Benedict will always be remembered as a great theologian-pope, not just because of the three encyclicals he wrote, but because of the intellectual precision he brought to all of his work, helping us to encounter God's love and truth. For example, in Spe Salvi, (In hope we were saved), he beautifully stated that God is our foundation of hope, and it is his love alone that gives us the possibility of soberly persevering day by day.

"In addition to being a strong supporter of the Church in America, Benedict truly believed in fostering Christian unity as a fundamental priority of the worldwide Church. From dialoging with Lutherans to his work with Anglicans, he made many efforts to see Christians fully united.

"We give thanks to the Father for the great gift of Benedict as a priest, bishop, cardinal and Successor to Saint Peter. While much has been written about his historic renunciation, Benedict's actions showed great humility, selflessness and courage as he determined he no longer had the physical strength for the demands of the papacy.

"On a personal level, I thank Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI for the trust and confidence he had in me when appointing me the tenth bishop of the Diocese of Scranton in February 2010. I will always treasure the opportunity to witness his humanity and devotion to Christ the following year during my first ad limina visit to the Vatican.

"I ask the people of the Diocese of Scranton to offer prayers for the peaceful repose of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI's soul. May God grant him the gift of eternal life and bring comfort to those who mourn his passing."



Pope Benedict XVI and Bishop Joseph C. Bambera during an ad limina visit in 2011 in Rome.

At Diocesan Memorial Mass, faithful praise Pope Benedict for placing Jesus at the heart of Church's mission

SCRANTON – Many of the people attending the Diocese of Scranton's Memorial Mass for Pope Benedict recalled the profound impact the late pontiff had on the Church's mission of evangelization.

As she entered the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Jan. 4, 2023, Kim Derbin said Pope Benedict's legacy will be placing Jesus Christ at the heart of any effort to share the Gospel.

That included his last words.

"I just heard the last words that he uttered were, 'Lord, I love you."" the Scranton native said. "I think it is something we can all live by, no matter how dark our days, or how bright they may be, I think it's something we all should take into consideration, 'Lord, I love you.""

Having lost her own mother three years ago, Derbin was inspired by the former pontiff.

"My parents brought me up with a love of God, a love of the Church and its foundational beliefs," she explained.

Many reflected on how Pope Benedict talked about Jesus as living, present and active in his life – and wanted to help others have that same encounter.

"He was a true father and he really cared for his sheep. He was a solid man of God," Mary Beth Roberts of Scranton explained. "He was a strong leader who upheld the traditions of our faith."

Zuly Kennedy of Brodheadsville, a parishioner of Our Lady Queen of Peace



Parish, drove more than an hour with her family to attend the Memorial Mass after her pastor announced it just days earlier.

"The Cathedral is beautiful and we wanted to bring the kids and have them go through the experience," she explained.

More than 100 people attended the Diocesan Memorial Mass for the Eternal Repose of Pope Benedict XVI. The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant and homilist of the Mass.

"It's humbling for me to lead



Above: Bishop Bambera delivers the homily during the Memorial Mass for Pope Benedict XVI on Jan. 4, 2023.

Left: Seminarian Harrison Rapp swings a censer during the entrance procession of the Memorial Mass. (Photos/Mike Melisky)

Right: A photograph of Pope Benedict XVI draped with purple bunting and surrounded by the Paschal candle and flowers sits on the right side of the sanctuary of the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

this liturgy, knowing that it was Pope Benedict who appointed me to serve this local church some 13 years ago," Bishop Bambera said in welcoming the faithful to the Cathedral. In beginning the Memorial Mass, the bishop said he had "gratitude for his life, his ministry and for his contribution to the Church and most especially for his service and his selfless love."

Bishop Bambera began his homily by quoting Pope Benedict's first encyclical, Deus Caritas Est. The letter was released



eight months following the pope's election and set the tone of his pontificate.

"Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction," the bishop quoted.

"It is quite fair to say that the essence of Pope Benedict is discovered elsewhere in those simple words ... words rooted in the love and compassion of the God to whom he entrusted his entire being," Bishop Bambera said.



Zuly Kennedy of Brodheadsville, right, prays along with her family during a Memorial Mass for Pope Benedict XVI on Jan. 4, 2023.



Mary Beth Roberts of Scranton sings during the Memorial Mass.



Students from Holy Cross High School in Dunmore attended the Memorial Mass for the Eternal Repose of Pope Benedict XVI.

Parishes across the Diocese pay tribute to Pope Benedict XVI



A candle burned in memory of Pope Benedict XVI on Dec. 31, 2022, inside the Church of Saint Ignatius Loyola in Kingston. With the tolling of steeple bells and the hanging of violet bunting around his image, Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Dupont mourned the passing of Pope Benedict XVI. Saint Joseph Marello Parish in Pittston displayed a photo of Pope Benedict XVI in its sanctuary and celebrated a Mass of Remembrance on Jan. 11 at 11:30 a.m.



The University of Scranton lit its four-story, Class of 2020 Gateway sign in memory of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI on the evenings of Jan. 3-5, 2023. The sign displayed a white cross with a gold background. White and gold are worn by the Pope during Christmas and Easter, symbolizing the birth and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

"As a true pastor and scholar, his writings and teachings will continue to inspire theologians for generations to come. More than that, as a great pastoral leader, he called us all to a deeper relationship with God, one grounded in love and fidelity," wrote Rev. Joseph G. Marina, S.J., president of the University, in a statement on the passing of Pope Benedict XVI.

PRAYER FOR THE SOUL OF POPE BENEDICT XVI

Father, eternal shepherd, hear the prayers of your people for your servant Benedict, who governed your Church with love.

In your mercy, bring him with the flock once entrusted to his care to the reward you have promised your faithful servants.

May he who faithfully administered the mysteries of your forgiveness and love on earth, rejoice with you forever in heaven.

In your wise and loving care, you made your servant teacher of all your Church. He did the work of Christ on earth.

May your Son welcome him into eternal glory. May your servant whom you appointed high priest of your flock be counted now among the priests in the life of your kingdom.

Give your servant the reward of eternal happiness and let your mercy win for us the gift of your life and love.

We entrust your servant to your mercy with faith and confidence. In the human family he was an instrument of your peace and love.

May he rejoice in those gifts forever with your saints. Amen.

Prayer Courtesy: Vatican News



Monsignor Kaschenbach, Diocesan priest for 71 years, dies at age 96

Burial for Monsignor Arthur J. Kaschenbach on Jan. 7 at Most Holy Trinity Parish in Cresco.

Saint Mary of Mount Parish in Mount Pocono, Monsignor he received his first pastoral Kaschenbach died Jan. 3.

Born in Wilkes-Barre on Oct. 18, 1926, the only child of the late Arthur and Kathleen Phillips Kaschenbach, Monsignor received his early education at Saint Mary's elementary and high schools, Wilkes-Barre.

He entered Saint Charles College, Catonsville, Md., and completed preparatory studies for the priesthood at Saint Mary's Seminary in Baltimore.

Monsignor Kaschenbach was ordained to the priesthood for the Scranton Diocese on May

CRESCO — Most Rev. 19, 1951, in the Cathedral of Saint Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Peter by Most Rev. William J. Scranton, was principal celebrant Hafey, fourth bishop of Scranton, of a Pontifical Mass of Christian after which he served as assistant pastor at the Scranton Cathedral for 17 years.

He served as administrator Pastor Emeritus of the former of Saint Patrick Parish, White Haven, from 1968 to 1973, when appointment, at Saint Ann Parish in Tobyhanna.

> In 1977, he was named pastor of Saint Mary of the Mount Parish, Mount Pocono, where he remained for nearly 30 years until his retirement and appointment as Pastor Emeritus in 2006.

During most of his retiring years, Monsignor resided in the Hazleton area where he was of great ministerial assistance to the local parishes. He was also well known as a gracious host and cook in his rectories over the years.



Monsignor Arthur Kaschenbach

was elevated to the rank of Prelate of Honor, with the title of Monsignor, by Pope Saint John Paul II on Nov. 2, 1978.

In addition to his parochial duties, he also served as director of the League of the Sacred Heart, from 1955 to 1991; Region V Chairman for the "Follow Christ" program; regional director for the Office of Religious Education; and Monsignor Kaschenbach Dean of Monroe County.

celebrated the 60th anniversary of his ordination in 2011 with a Pontifical Mass offered by Most good friend but also a spiritual Rev. Joseph F. Martino, Bishop Emeritus of Scranton.

In eulogizing his friend who he grew close to during Monsignor's twilight years in Hazleton, Father Peter O'Rourke expressed during the funeral homily, "The words we heard in the second reading of Saint Paul to Timothy speak well of Monsignor's life and ministry: 'I am already poured out like a libation, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.""

"And well you have Monsignor," remarked Father O'Rourke, who told of how the priests' friendship had developed to the point where Monsignor Saint Mary's Cemetery, Wilkes-Kaschenbach had become an Barre.

Monsignor Kaschenbach "adopted" member of Father's family.

"He became not only a mentor, brother and confessor," he continued.

The homilist shared that as he kept vigil with Monsignor on the morning of his death, he noticed that above the dying priest's bed was a Christmas card depicting Mary cradling the Infant Jesus.

"I imagined Mary sitting on Monsignor's bed cradling him just as she held her Son upon her lap after His death," Father O'Rourke said. "I imagined Mary presenting his soul to her Son and His response: 'Welcome my good and faithful servant. Take possession of the crown and place that I have prepared for you.""

Interment was conducted at

Ecumenical service on Jan. 19 to celebrate annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

SCRANTON — Faithful throughout the Diocese of Scranton will join with members of various Christian congregations of northeastern Pennsylvania for an Ecumenical Celebration of the Word of God on Thursday, Jan. 19, at 12:10 p.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

The event highlights the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - celebrated each January since its inception in 1908 — which will be observed this year during Jan. 18-25.

The theme for the 2023 celebration is: "Do Good; Seek Justice." (Isaiah 1:17)

Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as leader of prayer for the traditional ecumenical prayer service. Past chairman of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, Bishop Bambera was elected to reprise the role during the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops fall general environment.



assembly when he was voted chairman-elect of the interfaith arm School in Duryea will provide the of the Bishops' Conference.

Guest homilist for this year's prayer service is Protodeacon Sergei Kapral of the Orthodox attend the Jan. 19 Ecumenical Church in America. Well known for his involvement in ecumenical relations, Protodeacon Kapral attended the renowned Bossev Ecumenical Institute in Switzerland and holds membership in numerous organizations promoting ecumenism and concern for the

Students from Holy Rosary music for the religious gathering, under the direction of David Tighe.

All faithful are welcome to Prayer Service at the Scranton Cathedral, as well as encouraged to participate in local Christian unity observance.

broadcast live at 12:10 p.m. on

be made available on the Scranton more about various Christian Diocese website and across all churches and communities diocesan social media platforms.

Church, including local dioceses, immerses itself deeply into the call for a new evangelization and re-energize our commitment proclaimed by Pope Francis to Christian unity," Monsignor through the 2023 Synod on Grimalia said. "In a world Synodality, both ecumenism with so much disunity, there is and interreligious dialogue have a need to overcome divisions been given prominence in the and polarization and work to get discussion.

The Vademecum for the Synod on Synodality, the Official Handbook for Listening and Discernment in Local Churches, it is stated: "The dialogue between Christians of different confessions, united by one baptism, has a special February as "World Interfaith place in the synodal journey."

According to Monsignor Vince events throughout the weeklong Grimalia, Diocesan Coordinator for Ecumenical and Interreligious The prayer service will be Affairs, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity provides not only CTV: Catholic Television of the an opportunity for prayer for regardless of their religious Diocese of Scranton. It will also Christianity, but a time to learn

while offering motivation and As the universal Catholic commitment for participation in ecumenical activities.

> "It is an opportunity to renew nations and various ethnic, cultural and language groups to work together."

> In accord with such strong beliefs for religious unity, the United Nations since 2010 has celebrated the first week of Harmony Week."

> During the annual observance, an "International Day of Human Fraternity" has been designated by the U.N. for Feb. 4 to promote harmony between all peoples,

Bishop Bambera's March for Life Letter 2023

My Dear Friends,

In 1973, the United States Supreme Court issued its infamous *Roe v. Wade* decision, legalizing abortion throughout our land. For 50 years, committed Catholics, Protestants, Orthodox, those of other faith traditions and some with no religious affiliation have labored, marched and prayed to overturn this decision in an effort to protect the lives of the most vulnerable among us – unborn infants in the womb. On June 24, 2022, just seven months ago, these noble efforts of so many bore fruit as the Supreme Court overturned the constitutional right to abortion in its *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision.

This year has given us all hope. Yet, brothers and sisters, for as encouraging as the past year has been, more than ever, we need to cling to this hope! For the task that we have engaged to build a culture of life in our land remains unfinished.

On Friday, Jan. 20, 2023, marchers from throughout our country will converge on our nation's capital for the 50th annual March for Life. This year, however, rather than marching to the steps of the Supreme Court, where marchers have gone for decades to ask our highest Court's Justices to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, participants will march to a new front in our battle for life: the steps of the United States Capitol.

The theme for this year's march is *Next Steps: Marching in a Post-Roe America*. It reminds us of the shift and expansion of the focus of our cause that has occurred since the justices



overturned *Roe*. It is not only incumbent upon us who treasure life to advocate for federal prolife policies. Now, we must work for the establishment of life-saving protections for the unborn in our state legislatures as well. Given this new landscape in our work to preserve and cherish

A pro-life sign is displayed Jan. 21, 2022, during the annual March for Life
 rally in Washington. (CNS photos/Tyler Orsburn)

life, I was honored to join with so many of you from throughout our 11 counties in Harrisburg this past September – close to 6,000 pro-life Pennsylvanians in all – for the first state march since *Roe* was overturned.

Sadly, for all of the strides that have recently been achieved, the tension that is present in our land following the Supreme Court's decision is palpable. As such, it is vital that we not only continue our advocacy efforts in Pennsylvania and throughout our country, but that we especially continue to support mothers in need as an integral component of our next steps in building a culture of respect for all of human life.

We need to acknowledge with humility that the Church not only advocates for life in the womb but also works tirelessly to support life in all its forms from conception to natural death. In addition to serving the countless numbers of suffering lives that make their way into our midst, the Church in the United States and right here in our own diocese has developed scores of ministries dedicated to helping mothers facing challenging pregnancies and those who may struggle to care for their children after they are born. Through pregnancy care centers and parish-based ministries such as Walking with Moms in Need – to Shepherds Maternity House in East Stroudsburg that provides a safe home and assistance for pregnant woman and mothers and their newborn babies – to ministries like Project Rachel that offer hope, healing and spiritual renewal to women and couples who suffer after participating in abortion, our Church continues to offer a way forward to those who seek to live the Gospel of Life.

Yet, my friends, remember always that we engage this noble cause not for political reasons but as people of faith. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, who recently passed to his eternal reward, reminded all of us of what is foundational to the cause that we have engaged. "God's love does not differentiate between the newly conceived infant still in his or her mother's womb and the child or young person, or the adult and the elderly person. God does not distinguish between them because he sees an impression of his own image and likeness (*Gn* 1:26) in each one. ... Life is the first good received from God and is fundamental to all others; to guarantee the right to life for all and in an equal manner for all is the duty upon which the future of humanity depends."

Simply put, if we desire to live our lives as Christians with authenticity, we have no choice but to proclaim the sanctity of life. We cannot merely speak of our respect for human life or self-righteously criticize those whose beliefs may be different from our own. We must enliven our words with action. Yet, in the midst of all that we are charged to do as disciples of Jesus, his way must always be our way. We must engage a different kind of war – a different kind of battle – than that which has been engaged by many in our land, sadly on both sides of this cause. Jesus never addressed violence with violence. Nor can we! Recall the words of a contemporary prophet of nonviolence, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."

Brothers and sisters, ours is a noble cause rooted in faith and in the dignity of each human person – to bring to completion the unfinished work that has been engaged in our land for some 50 years so that the masterpiece of God's creative work – the human person – will be respected and treasured from the moment of conception to its natural end. May we be guided by words of Pope Francis, as he challenges us to give witness to our faith, "Being Catholic entails a great responsibility ... The Lord counts on you to spread the Gospel of Life."

Faithfully yours in Christ,

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



A young woman is seen with her child during the annual March for Life rally in Washington Jan. 24, 2020.

Diocese of Scranton to hold Mass for Life Jan. 19 in Scranton

annual March for Life is expected to take over 900,000 each year, and that number place in Washington, D.C., the faithful of is only expected to decrease by roughly the Diocese of Scranton will join together 200,000 each year in a post-*Roe* America. for a Mass for Life at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Peter in Scranton.

Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve expected to attend Thursday's Mass as a as principal celebrant and homilist at way to pray that every life is celebrated, the Mass, which is being celebrated for valued and protected. a greater respect of all human life, from moment in between.

the United States is not finished. Sadly, the mothers.

SCRANTON – Just hours before the number of abortions annually is still well

While some pro-life supporters from Jan. 19, 2023, at the Cathedral of Saint parishes and organizations in the Diocese of Scranton will be joining the March for The Most Reverend Joseph C. Life in Washington on Friday, others are

People attending the Vigil Mass for conception to natural death, and every Life are encouraged to bring a new pack of diapers to be donated to either Saint Even with Roe v. Wade being Joseph's Center Baby and Children's overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court Pantry or Shepherd's Maternity House, a in 2022, which allows more freedom at facility in East Stroudsburg run by Catholic the state level to enact pro-life laws, the Social Services that provides educational, necessary work to build a culture of life in emotional and material support to expectant

National March for Life steps into a post-*Roe* world

the March for Life prepares to hold its 50th annual event later this month, the national the human rights abuse of abortion is still organization is taking its first steps into a sadly wildly rampant in the United States, post-Roe landscape.

The March for Life first took place in Washington, D.C., in 1974 in response Roe, Mancini said, "the deeper foundation to the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion nationwide the previous year. Pro-life advocates human rights abuse of abortion and to have gathered in Washington to march each year since then to protest the ruling, with a smaller-in-scale event during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021.

But the Supreme Court's June 2022 ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization that overturned Roe led some to question whether the national march continue to march in January." would continue as a protest up Constitution Avenue ending at the high court itself.

president, told OSV News there was a "discernment process" about how the March would proceed, but it was clear they event, scheduled for Jan. 20, will include would continue the annual event.

"In a way, it was almost not a question because we have become the largest, longest running human rights We Are Messengers.

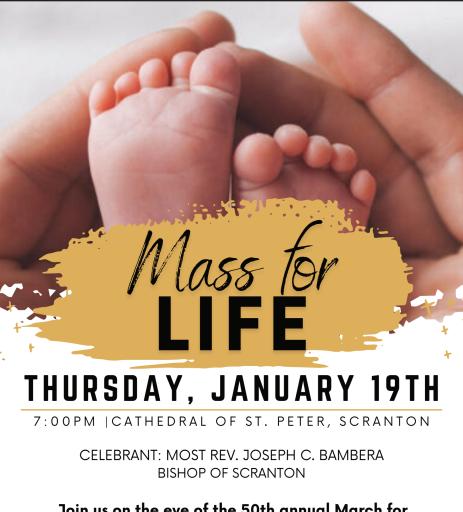
WASHINGTON (OSV News) - As demonstration worldwide," Mancini said. "And the idea of shutting that down, while just would make no sense."

> While the national event was tied to of the March for Life and its reason for being is to march in opposition to the witness to the beautiful, inherent dignity of unborn children and their mothers."

> While some changes were considered, Mancini said, such as potentially holding the March at a different time of year, March organizers "ultimately decided that we're right where we should be, and we will

The 2023 March for Life's theme is a nod to the pro-life movement's new Jeanne Mancini, March for Life landscape: "Next Steps: Marching in a legal abortion back to the U.S. states to Post-Roe America."

> Speakers at the 2023 March for Life actor Jonathan Roumie, known for his role as Jesus in the biblical television drama "The Chosen," as well as the musical group



Join us on the eve of the 50th annual March for Life to pray for a greater respect of all human life, from conception to natural death, and every moment in between.

include "the need to continue changing regulating abortion at the federal level. hearts and minds," as well as enacting legislation and other advocacy work at both the state and the federal levels, and "increasing the safety net for families that U.S. Capitol. are facing an unexpected pregnancy."

us," Mancini said.

The Dobbs ruling sent the issue of legislate upon – a possibility the March for Life prepared for prior to the Dobbs case by launching individual state marches. But they voted to codify abortion access. abortion remains a national issue as well, Mancini said.

'It's not just a state issue, it's bothand," Mancini said, indicating the U.S. said.

Mancini said the March's next steps Congress' and the White House's roles in

This year's March for Life underscores that point by physically switching its end point from the U.S. Supreme Court to the

While pro-life leaders have hailed the "We really have our work cut out for Dobbs decision for overturning Roe, they have seen a series of ballot losses for the pro-life cause in its wake. During the Nov. 8 midterm elections, voters in five U.S. states with ballot measures concerning abortion either rejected moves to restrict abortion, or

> Winning hearts and minds, and the ballot box, requires making the case for pro-life policies with compassion, Mancini

DIÓCESIS DE SCRANTON

JUEVES, 19 ENERO 2023

Misa

7:00PM |CATEDRAL DE SAN PEDRO, SCRANTON

CELEBRANTE: SU EXCELENCIA MONS. JOSEPH C. BAMBERA **OBISPO DE SCRANTON**

Únase a nosotros en la víspera de la Marcha por la Vida anual para orar por un mayor respeto por toda la vida humana, desde la concepción hasta la muerte natural, y en cada momento intermedio.

Looking to go to the March for Life in Washington?

HAZLETON - The Hazleton Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life will sponsor a bus trip to the annual March for Life on Friday, Jan. 20, in Washington D.C.

The details are as follows: 7 a.m. Mass at Saint Gabriel Church, 212 South Wyoming St., Hazleton, for those wishing to attend. The bus will leave from Saint Gabriel's promptly at 7:30 a.m. Parking is P.O. Box 83, Harleigh, PA 18225. available in the church parking lot.

National Mall in Washington between 11 and 11:30 a.m., where attendees will listen to the rally speakers. The March for Life begins at 1 p.m. Bus pickup for return home will be at 4:15 p.m. at the Indian Museum, located on Jefferson Drive SW between 3rd and 4th streets.

Cost is \$50 for adults and \$30 for students/children. Fee includes water and snacks on the bus and a buffet dinner stop at Mountain Gate Restaurant.

To reserve a seat, call Carol Matz at (570) 956-0817. Payment is needed to confirm all reservations. Payment may be mailed to: Pennsylvanians for Human Life, criticism from Catholic and pro-life groups.

A limited amount of scholarships are The bus is expected to arrive at the available for anyone with financial hardship who wishes to attend.

> Anyone wishing to participate but who may be physically unable to march is welcome to join the trip and spend the day in prayer at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Pennsylvania abortion totals rise in 2021

2021, according to recent figures released and York. by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

of 1,083 abortions over the 2020 total of more than the 239 reported in 2020. 32,123. Pennsylvania has been monitoring and reporting on abortion data since 1975.

In 2021, the largest age group having abortions was 25-29, accounting for 9,771 (29.4%). Individuals under age 20 accounted for 7.7 percent of all abortions and individuals under age 18 accounted to Life, said. for 2.1 percent. Comparatively, in 2020, individuals under age 20 accounted for is a grassroots right-to-life organization 7.9 percent and individuals under age 18 accounted for 2.4 percent.

on Pennsylvania residents. Residents of other states, territories and other countries accounted for 2,352 abortions in 2021.

Pennsylvania, more than 92 percent were performed in nine counties: Allegheny, mother's face," Gallagher added.

HARRISBURG - The number of Bucks, Dauphin, Delaware, Lehigh, abortions in Pennsylvania rose during Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia

In 2021, there were 322 reports of Statistics show 33,206 abortions took complications from abortions that were place in Pennsylvania in 2021, an increase submitted by physicians; 34.7 percent

> "Every abortion is a tragedy, but the increase in the number of abortions in Pennsylvania is particularly disturbing," Maria Gallagher, legislative director for the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation, the Keystone State affiliate of National Right

The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation with members statewide. The agency is committed to promoting the dignity Similar to 2020, 92.9 percent of and value of human life from conception the abortions performed in 2021 were to natural death and to restoring legal protection for preborn children.

"Imagine how many kindergarten classes the number 1,083 represents. We Of the abortions performed in 2021 in mourn the loss of these precious children, who never got the chance to see their

Induced Abortions Performed in Pennsylvania in 2021 by County

PIKE 35

FDA permits pharmacies to dispense abortion drugs

WASHINGTON (OSV News) - The U.S. Food and Drug Administration will allow retail pharmacies to offer abortion pills in the United States for the first time, the agency announced Jan. 3, prompting

The Biden administration's rule change comes in the wake of the Supreme Court's decision last year in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization that struck down its previous ruling in Roe v. Wade, prompting many states to either attempt to restrict or expand access to abortion.

The regulatory change will permit the retail sale of mifepristone, the first of two

drugs used in a medication or chemical abortion. The drug could previously only be dispensed only by some mail-order pharmacies, doctors, or clinics.

The new FDA rules will still require a prescription, but will permit a wider range of pharmacies to sell the drugs.

"We decry the continuing push for the destruction of innocent human lives and the loosening of vital safety standards for vulnerable women," Bishop Michael Burbidge of Arlington, Va., chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, said in a statement.

Eucharistic Revival's upcoming parish year aims for Catholics to experience a life-changing 'personal encounter' with Christ

experience of the Eucharist deepen their friendship with Jesus Christ and then Revival, begins June 11. While diocesan inspire them to share that friendship with year efforts have focused on forming priests, others? That question lies at the heart diocesan staff and other church leaders, of the National Eucharistic Revival's efforts in the parish year will turn to Catholics upcoming Year of Parish Revival, said in the pew, Glemkowski said. Tim Glemkowski, executive director of the National Eucharistic Congress.

conversion of every parish, every school, every university, every apostolate, every religious order in the United States," he told OSV News.

Bishop Bambera to celebrate Lenten Holy Hours in each **Diocesan deanery**

SCRANTON - In conjunction with the National Eucharistic Revival that has been taking place in our country since Corpus Christi Sunday in 2022, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will visit each of the 12 deaneries in the Diocese of Scranton to celebrate a Holy Hour during Lent.

Each Holy Hour will feature exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Vespers and a homily on the Most Holy Eucharist.

The Lenten Holy Hours will begin in the Carbondale deanery on Thursday, Feb. 23 and will end in the Kingston deanery on Wednesday, March 29, 2023.

The three-year National Eucharistic Revival is a movement for Catholics to have a deeper encounter with the reality of our Eucharistic Lord and fall more deeply in love with him.

By his Real Presence in the Eucharist, Christ fulfills his promise to be with us "always, until the end of the age" (*Mt* 28:20).

All people of goodwill are invited to attend the Lenten Holy Hours with Bishop Bambera. Look for additional information in your parish bulletins in the coming weeks and plan to join us for this special prayer opportunity!

(OSV News) - How can Catholics' currently in its first year, the Year of Diocesan Eucharist. The Diocese of Scranton marked National Eucharistic Revival's website Revival. The second year, the Year of Parish

"The full process of evangelization is about a personal encounter that changes our "We're trying to be part of missionary life... the invitation to a depth of discipleship," he said. "What we're inviting parishes to do is healed, unified and sent on mission." to follow a similar trajectory."

on the solemnity of Corpus Christi, a feast e-newsletter (available in English and The three-year Eucharistic Revival is that celebrates Jesus' real presence in the Spanish), expanded content on the is expected to open in February.

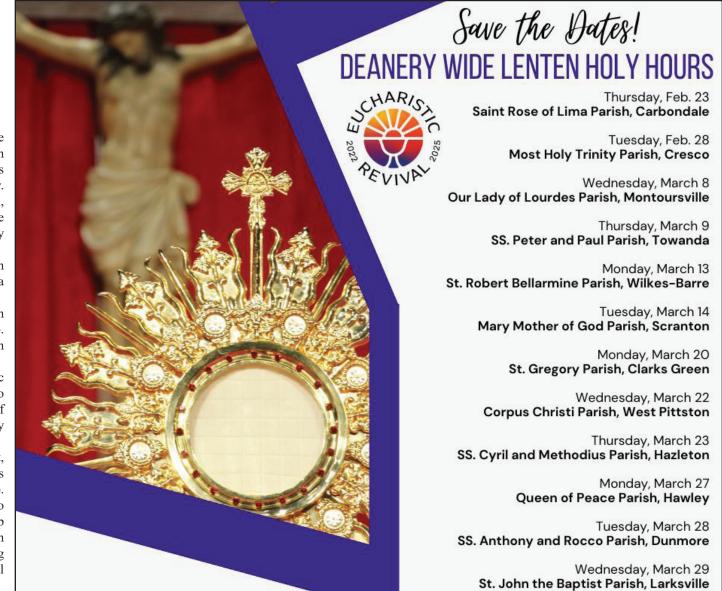
the day last year with Eucharistic processions.

about the revival, Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota, said the beauty and diversity expressed in those processions "capture what is at the heart of this movement, Cozzens told OSV News Dec. 30. which is a movement that we seek to invite

The revival opened June 19, 2022, launch of Heart of the Revival weekly

(eucharisticrevival.org) and the training of Speaking to the media in November more than 50 priests from around the U.S. to be Eucharistic preachers. Those priests have been primarily preaching at events for priests and diocesan leaders, Bishop

Following the parish year, the people to a transformative encounter with Eucharistic Revival's third and final year, Christ in the Eucharist that they might be 2024-2025, is the Year of the National Eucharistic Congress and Missionary The diocesan year has included the Sending. A National Eucharistic Congress is expected to draw more than 80,000 people to Indianapolis July 17-21, 2024. Registration





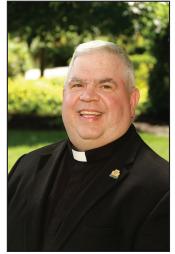
"ADORO TE DEVOTE" HUMBLY WE ADORE THEE

-Saint Thomas Aquinas

- A Priesthood Perspective by Fr. Kevin Miller -Pastor, Saint Brigid Parish, Friendsville & Most Holy Trinity Parish, Susquehanna

If someone were to ask me when I fell in love with the Blessed Sacrament, it had to be hearing Saint Thomas Aquinas' poignant hymn *Adoro Te Devote* on Holy Thursday at Holy Savior Church in the Irish East End section of Wilkes-Barre about 50 years ago. One of the five Eucharistic hymns composed by the Angelic Doctor himself in 1264 for the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, this beautiful hymn captures what Holy Eucharist means to Catholics. I cannot hear it played or sung and not be moved to tears, even after hearing it more times than I could ever count.

Growing up post-Vatican II, I had a close friend Neil whose father was the pastor of the East End Primitive Methodist (EE PM) Church. East Enders love sports, and Neil certainly did too. We East End boys all played little league baseball together and Neil and I were on the Five Points L.L. champion Pirates a few years together. The EE PM church had a large (in a young boy's mind at least) asphalt parking lot that was fenced in, perfect for wiffle ball games in the spring and football games in the fall or winter. When snow fell and we had a day off from school, it was not uncommon for us boys to gather in the EE PM church parking lot to play tackle football (no one ever said we were the brightest kids in Wilkes Barre obviously-tackle football on asphalt!). We all got along so well, even at the height of competition.



As we got older, most of us East Enders, being Catholic, began to serve as altar boys at Holy Savior. The boys who went to Holy Savior parochial school constituted the majority of the altar boys - they had the "home field advantage" so to speak - but a few of us public school boys found our way into a cassock and surplice and onto the altar. Our parish priests and the nuns who taught religious education at Holy Savior reminded us regularly of the great privilege it was to serve on the altar: "Next to the priest, you are the closest to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament." I believed that was true.

As I grew in age and faith, so did my friendship with Neil. Interestingly I had never been inside the EE PM church; there was never a need or occasion to do so. One day Neil asked me to help him move boxes into the church; I'm not even sure what was in them. We must have been around 11 or 12 years old at the time. After we placed the items down, I took my first look around the church. It wasn't all that different from Holy Savior - quite a bit smaller, but nicely adorned in shiny wood and richly colored carpeting. There was one thing missing however - I didn't see either a lit sanctuary candle or the golden gleam of Jesus' home within His house, the tabernacle. I asked Neil, 'Where's Jesus?' 'What do you mean?' he said. I asked, 'Where do you keep the Blessed Sacrament?' 'Do you mean communion?' he said quizzically. I replied, 'Yes, the Body of Christ.' Neil responded, 'We don't save communion after a service.' He then said something that has always stuck with me, 'Communion for us is more spiritual and less physical. We don't worship the "wafer God" like you Catholics.' It was our first theological dialogue, after which, things were never quite the same between us. We remained friends to be sure, but his comment led me deeper into my own beliefs, and it wasn't long thereafter that I first felt the call to priesthood. Neil and I lost touch after his father received a new assignment, in Hawaii I believe, if memory serves me correct. I think of our days together fondly.

The Catholic novelist and essayist of the middle of the last century Flannery O'Connor once famously remarked about Holy Eucharist: 'if it's only a symbol, then to hell with it." There's no irreverence in what she said, only a deep abiding faith and love in Christ's True and Real Presence in the world today, here and now. Jesus calls us all to this same deep love in Holy Eucharist, and the words of *Adoro Te Devote* have helped me to see how. Here are those with most profound meaning to me.

Credo quidquid dixit Dei Filius; Nil hoc verbo Veritatis verius ("Nothing is more certain: Christ has told me so; What the Truth has uttered, I believe and know.")

We can't count the number of times at Holy Mass we've heard the words of Christ from the Last Supper: "This is my Body ... This is the chalice of my Blood ... Do this in memory of me." We hold as undeniably true these words of the Word made Flesh Himself, the One who reminded His Apostles and us at the Last Supper: "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life" (*John* 14:6). The Eternal Truth can only speak truth, and if we can't believe Jesus, we can't believe anyone.

In cruce latebat sola Deitas, at hic latet simul et Humanitas ("Only God was hidden when you came to die. Human nature also here escapes the eye.")

The fullness of God's Divinity in Jesus was hidden in His Humanity. When it broke through in the miracles He worked or afflictions He healed, the demons he drove out or the glory of His Transfiguration, the authority of His teachings or the wisdom of His words, we are lead forward in faith, in the faith that leads us to believe fully that Jesus is fully present in His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity under the appearance of unleavened bread and grape wine, the veils of not only His Divinity, but His Humanity as well.

Cujus una stilla salvum facere totum mundum quit ab omni scelere ("Now heal me with Your Blood, take away my guilt. All the world is ransomed if one Drop is spilt.")

Nothing in the world is more powerful than the Eucharist. A single crumb or the tiniest drop of the Precious Body and Blood of Christ has the power to save the eternal soul of every person who has lived, lives now, and ever will live for all eternity. Ponder over that.

Ut te revelata cernens facie, visu sim beatus tuae gloriae ("Let me see your glory in a blaze of Light, and instead of blindness, give me Lord my sight.")

During my third year at the seminary I had a pastoral assignment one day a week at a Stoughton, Mass. parish. Once a month I went on communion calls with one of the parishioners, a man named Jack, with whom I am still in touch. We went to visit a woman who was suffering from dementia named Peg (she died a few years ago). Jack pulled out his prayer book and the pyx containing the Blessed Sacrament and he gave the pyx to Peg to hold as was his custom. Peg held the pyx close to her heart as Jack asked her "Who are you holding Peg?" Without hesitation, Peg replied, "Jesus" and smiled. Jack told me Peg likes to hold the pyx up to the point when it's time to receive Holy Communion. Peg's husband, Walter, smiled looking at his wife holding the pyx. It was obvious how much they both love the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Jack proceeded through the rite and at the appropriate time, he invited me to administer the Sacrament. I gratefully accepted the pyx from Peg, who seemed fully cognizant of all that was happening. Holding the Blessed Sacrament up, Peg looked at our Lord intently as I professed in words that which we hold fast in our hearts: "Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him Who takes away the sin of the world, Happy are those called to the supper of the Lamb." Without hesitation, all replied in the words of the centurion, "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed."

The Divine Physician made a house call that day and healed Peg and me of our blindness, and filled us with His Divine Light, even if only for a moment.

"For those with faith no explanation is necessary; for those without, no explanation is possible." - Saint Thomas Aquinas

May the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar be praised, adored, and loved with grateful devotion at every moment in all the tabernacles of the world, now and until the end of time. Amen.

On Christmas, Bishop Bambera shared wisdom of second grader from Ghana

SCRANTON – As hundreds of people filled the Cathedral of Saint Peter to celebrate Christmas Eve Mass on Dec. 24, 2022, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, shared the wisdom of a young girl he met in Ghana to explain how to find peace in our lives.

The bishop set the stage for his message by first explaining how he traveled to Ghana, Africa, in August to meet the Bishop, faithful and families of the eight priests and one religious sister of the Diocese of Sunyani who are currently serving in our parishes.

"For all of the memorable places and people that we encountered, for me, the me that the love of God that those children experience of visiting one small school located in the countryside miles from the believed it not because of what they had, city where we were staying will not soon they had nothing, but because of who they be forgotten," Bishop Bambera said. "This were. They are simple souls entrusted with school had no main entrance or hallway a deep belief and respect for the power of where trophies and artwork were displayed God in their lives and the recognition of ... yet the children were excited to meet God's presence in the world and in one are powerless to save ourselves and so love him in return by the love we have for us."

In a second grade classroom, Bishop Bambera recalled how the Bishop of help but compare that school and its Sunyani asked the students to tell him children to Bethlehem not only because about God.

called out, 'God loves us very much and we also there was awareness of the miracle love him in return by loving one another," of God's love. Bishop Bambera explained.

day!" Bishop Bambera continued. "My things that cause us to miss where God's experiences in that school and with so presence and peace is found," the bishop many of the people of Ghana suggested to said.



professed was real and authentic. They another."

Bishop Bambera said he couldn't there were animals roaming around "Hands went up and one little girl freely and no material comforts - but

"They weren't distracted by the things "What a lesson I learned that with which we often consume ourselves -



Linda Phillips Orseck, center, Director of Liturgical Music, along with the Cathedral of Saint Peter Choir and instrumentalists provide music during the Christmas Vigil Mass.

Left: Bishop Bambera, assisted by seminarian Cody Yarnall, blesses the Christmas creche at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton during the Dec. 24 Vigil Mass for the Nativity of the Lord.

Right: A young boy participates in the Vigil Mass. (Photos/ Mike Melisky)

On the eve of Christmas, the bishop our lives. May we not be too proud to allow reminded the faithful that God continually those simple words spoken by a little girl enters our lives in the most unlikely of in Ghana to teach us how to best navigate ways: in the birth of a child, in the poor our complicated lives and find peace, wandering our streets or immigrants come what may," Bishop Bambera ended seeking a better life for themselves.

"Despite all of our abilities, we words? 'God loves us very much and we desperately need the presence of Jesus in one another.""



BISHOP BAMBERA'S SCHEDULE

his homily by saying. "Do you recall her

- January 14 Mass for the Filipino Community Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 6:00 p.m.
- January 18 School Mass for Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Dunmore, 9:00 a.m.
- January 19 Christian Unity Week Prayer Service Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.
- January 19 Mass for Life Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 7:00 p.m.
- January 22 Mass for Our Lady of Altagracia Queen of Heaven Parish, Hazleton, 10:00 a.m.
- January 22 Mass for Our Lady of Altagracia Annunciation Parish, Hazleton, Noon
- February 10 World Day of the Sick Mass Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.
- February 12 Mass for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.

Scranton police identify individual in Cathedral of Saint Peter vandalism

SCRANTON - Only an hour after releasing surveillance images on Dec. 29 of an individual wanted for questioning in the vandalism of three exterior doors at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton police were able to identify the person in question.

During inspection an of Cathedral grounds on Christmas evening, Father Jeffrey Tudgay, pastor, discovered the numbers "666" carved separately into three front doors of the Cathedral church. Tudgay, each released statements

After examining surveillance regarding the vandalism. it determined video. was vandalism occurred the approximately 6 p.m. on Dec. 20.

the law enforcement investigation Cathedral have been used countless message of Christ's Church is one Federation and that led to police being able times to bring people closer to God of forgiveness and reconciliation," Pennsylvania for their kind words. to retrieve numerous photos of the and it is my hope that the person Father Tudgay added. "While we for the vandalism.

the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, did this and for their reconciliation Bishop of Scranton, and Father to God."



In response to the vandalism, am offering my prayers for whoever to forgive and be forgiven."

of the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton was deeply saddened to report an act of vandalism to parish property that took place on Dec. 20, 2022, and was discovered on Christmas evening, Dec. 25, 2022. The numbers "666" were carved separately into three front doors of the Cathedral church. (Photo/Eric Deabill)

responsible for the vandalism will practicing his or her own religious "The vandalism discovered at come forward and allow me to have beliefs." at our Cathedral, especially as we a conversation with them. We are a

vandalism at the Cathedral went goodwill in our midst," he said.

public, the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania strongly condemned the vandalism as well.

"No religious institution or symbols should ever be desecrated or disrespect tolerated," Daniel Chejfec of the Community Relations Committee stated.

"We see an attack against any group in Scranton as an attack on us all," the statement continued. "No American person of faith should be "I am hoping the individual intimidated from or discomforted in

On behalf of the parishioners, celebrated the Nativity of Our Lord, people of prayer who minister in a friends and visitors of the Cathedral, Cathedral staff cooperated with saddens me greatly. The doors of our troubled world but the mission and Father Tudgay thanked the Jewish Northeastern of

"I take personal comfort in individual believed to be responsible who did this will regret his or her are upset at the actions that took knowing that our Jewish sisters actions," Bishop Bambera said. "I place, we also understand the need and brothers are steadfast in their support not only for our Cathedral Shortly after news of the and her faithful but for all people of

Community thankful emergency shelter reopened quickly after burst pipe

SCRANTON - Just three days after a burst sprinkler pipe caused significant damage to a downtown building operated by Catholic Social Services on Dec. 26, 2022, the facility was able to reopen to residents and individuals needing emergency shelter.

"If it wasn't for you, I wouldn't have a place to go," Deborah Chandler said as Saint Anthony's Haven reopened on the evening of Dec. 29, 2022. "I am relieved."

Saint Anthony's Haven is an overnight emergency shelter for those individuals experiencing homelessness.

the building housing the shelter, the facility was forced to temporarily close its doors for clean up and repairs. Because a "Code Blue" was in effect in Lackawanna County at the time, Keystone Mission had opened Field, so no people were left out in the cold. Secretary for Catholic Human Services and dioceseofscranton.org.



When the sprinkler pipe burst inside A burst water pipe caused significant damage inside a building operated by Catholic Social Services on Dec. 26, 2022. Three days later, the facility was able to reopen.

situation. While many stayed week." with family and friends, others

"The of Catholic Social Services reopened. would like to thank all of the contractors and repair help us," he stated. crews that have been working

last three days to allow us to reopen so quickly and continue it," Chandler added. our critical mission of serving

Fifteen residents of Saint Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Social James Manor, a transitional Services, said. "We would also like to once housing facility, were also again thank the residents and individuals forced to temporarily relocate who rely on Saint Anthony's Shelter for because of the emergency their patience and understanding this

Blaine Houck, who has recently were assisted with hotel rooms. been relying on Saint Anthony's Haven, administration was very appreciative when the shelter

"We appreciate all the people who

"If I ever won the lottery, I would give virtually non-stop for the Saint Anthony's the money to fund them because they helped us and we appreciate

For more information on the an additional overnight shelter at Weston the community," Joe Mahoney, Diocesan programs of Catholic Social Services, visit

A FOOD FIGHT VS. HUNGER!

Move your favorite pastor chefs up the "collar-nary" leaderboards **TODAY!**

WHO: 32 brave Diocese of Scranton priests, or, as we like to call them, PASTOR CHEFS, on 24 teams!

WHAT: Rectory, Set, Cook! II: Turning Up The Heat!

WHEN: "Polls" open now through noon on Fat Tuesday, Feb. 21. (Winners announced by 5 p.m. Fat Tuesday!)

WHERE: Any desktop, laptop or mobile device/cell phone

WHY: To feed the hungry within the Diocese of Scranton while also supporting our parishes.

HOW:

Visit dioceseofscranton.org and click on the OUR CHEFS tab to view this year's pastor chefs. On mobile devices, find this tab by scrolling down to the bottom of the page, past the sponsor logos, to see the pastor chef pages and view the video entries.

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR THOSE USING PHONES:

If you cannot see the videos, click VIEW, then "Read More" (under the small rectangular image beneath "Donate to Vote") to uncover the PLAY key.

Click on a chef's (or team of chefs) page, select DONATE NOW and make at least a \$10 gift to cast one vote. Cast as many votes as you wish as often as you wish for as many chefs as you wish!

Watch your name appear on our donor walls and your pastor chef's/chef's page! (Or check the anonymous option when donating.) Special thanks to our 2023 sponsors! RECTORY, SET, COOK! IS PRESENTED BY: HawkFamy FOUNDATION

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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.

- Come Experience Academic Excellence -

Join us at our 2023 Open Houses or Call to schedule a Private Tour



All Saints Academy Grades PK – 8 and Individualized Instruction 1425 Jackson Street in Scranton • 570-343-8114 Open House: March 19, Time TBA



Holy Cross High School Grades 9 – 12 and Individualized Instruction 501 East Drinker Street in Dunmore • 570-346-7541 Call to schedule a private tour



Holy Rosary School • Grades PK – 8 125 Stephenson Street in Duryea • 570-457-2553 Open House: January 29, 12 pm – 2 pm (Snow date: February 5 12 pm – 2 pm)



La Salle Academy • Grades PK – 8 309 First Avenue in Jessup • 570-489-2010 Open House: March 19, 1 pm – 3 pm



 St. Agnes School • Grades PK – 6

 102 Third Avenue in Towanda • 570-265-6803

 Open House: January 29, 10 am – 11:30 am



St. John Neumann Elementary School • Grades PK – 5
 710 Franklin Street in Williamsport • 570-326-3738
 Open House: March 2023 (date & time TBA)



St. Mary of Mount Carmel School Grades PK – 8
325 Chestnut Street in Dunmore 570-346-4429
Open House: March 19
12:30 pm – 2:30 pm



St. John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School Grades 6 – 12 901 Penn Street in Williamsport • 570-323-9953 Open House: March 2023 (date & time TBA)



Good Shepherd Academy Grades PK – 8 and Individualized Instruction 316 North Maple Street in Kingston • 570-718-4724 Open House: January 29, 1:30 pm – 3 pm

Holy Family Academy Grades PK – 8 601 North Laurel Street in Hazleton 570-455-9431 Open House: January 29 1 pm – 3 pm (Snow date: February 5 1 pm – 3 pm)





St. Jude School • Grades PK – 8
422 South Mountain Boulevard in Mountain Top 570-474-5803
Open House: January 29, 12 pm – 2 pm



St. Nicholas/St. Mary School • Grades PK – 8 242 South Washington Street in Wilkes-Barre • 570-823-8089 Open House: January 29, 1 pm – 3 pm



Holy Redeemer High School Grades 9 – 12 and Individualized Instruction 159 South Pennsylvania Boulevard in Wilkes-Barre • 570-829-2424 Call to schedule a tour



Epiphany School • Grades PK – 6 627 Stevenson Street in Sayre • 570-888-5802 Open House: January 29, 12 pm – 2 pm



Our Lady of Peace School • Grades PK – 8 410 North Abington Road in Clarks Green • 570-587-4152 Open House: March 19, 12 pm – 2 pm



Wyoming Area Catholic School • Grades PK – 8 1690 Wyoming Avenue in Exeter • 570-654-7982 Open House: January 29, 12 pm – 2 pm



St. Clare/St. Paul School • Grades PK – 2 2215 North Washington Avenue in Scranton • 570-343-2790 Grades 3 – 8 – 1527 Penn Avenue in Scranton • 570-343-7880 Open House: March 12, 11 am – 1 pm



Notre Dame Elementary School • Grades PK – 6 60 Spangenburg Avenue in East Stroudsburg • 570-421-3651 Open House: January 29, 1 pm – 3 pm



Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School Grades 7 - 12 60 Spangenburg Avenue in East Stroudsburg 570-421-0466 Open House: January 29, 1 pm – 3 pm

Bishop Bambera to celebrate Mass for World Day of the Sick on Feb. 10

SCRANTON - The Most Reverend followed the Master's teaching: heal the Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, wounds of body and soul; pray and act for will celebrate Mass for the 31st World Day physical and spiritual healing together." of the Sick on Friday, Feb. 10, 2023, at 12:10 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter the Cathedral of Saint Peter will feature in Scranton.

Day of the Sick not only provides opportunity an to devote special attention to those who are ill, but is also a celebration of God's works of mercy, especially through those who tirelessly work in the healthcare field.

In his

message for the World Day of the Sick in Scranton will provide a live broadcast of 2022, Pope Francis said caring for the sick the Mass. It will also be livestream on the means not only healing the wounds of the Diocese of Scranton website and YouTube body but also those that afflict the soul.

human being cannot be divided. We could platforms. - paradoxically - save the body and lose humanity," Pope Francis said in 2022. the Mass for the World Day of the Sick on "The saints who cared for the sick always Feb. 10, 2023.



The World Day of the Sick Mass at the Liturgy of the Anointing. Any infirmed The commemoration of the World person who wishes to receive the Sacrament

> of Anointing of the Sick will be invited to approach the bishop/priest with their hands open and palms facing up. The bishop/ priest will anoint both the forehead and hands of the sick person.

CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of

channel and links for the Mass will be "Care cannot be divided because the provided on all Diocesan social media

All faithful are invited to participate in

Mass for Developmental & Intellectual Disabilities Awareness to be held Feb. 12

SCRANTON - All people, including Television of the Diocese of Scranton. those with special abilities, have gifts The Mass will also be livestream on the to contribute to the life of the Church. Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube The Diocese of Scranton embraces and channel and links will be provided on all welcomes the talents of all individuals in Diocesan social media platforms. building up the Kingdom of God.

Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve Mass include Saint Joseph's Center in as principal celebrant for a Mass for Scranton, the Diocesan SPRED community Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (Special Religious Education), The Arc Awareness on Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023, at of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Order 10 a.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in of the Alhambra and the Catholic Deaf Scranton.

The Mass is open to everyone. It will be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic us on Feb. 12 for this special celebration.

Partners in the annual Developmental The Most Reverend Joseph C. and Intellectual Disabilities Awareness Community of the Diocese of Scranton.

Mark your calendars and plan to join

Seminarians gather with Bishop for **Project Andrew Dinner & Prayer**



On Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022, seminarians from the Diocese of Scranton gathered with Bishop Bambera and other young men for Project Andrew Evening Prayer followed by a reception at the Cathedral Rectory. The event gives priests from around the Diocese of Scranton the opportunity to invite individuals whom they might think have a priestly vocation or the qualities needed in a good priest to have dinner with Bishop Bambera in a relaxed, "no pressure" atmosphere of discussion and dialogue about the life of a priest.

Pictured above, first row, from left: Father Alex Roche, Diocesan Director of Vocations & Seminarians; Bishop Bambera; Monsignor David Bohr, Diocesan Secretary for Clergy Formation. Second row: Seminarians Cody Yarnall and Jeremy Barket. Third row: Seminarian Harry Rapp and Rev. Mr. Michael Boris. Fourth Row: Seminarians Andrew McCarroll and Jacob Mutchler. Fifth Row: Seminarians Thomas Dzwonczyk and William Asinari. (Photo/Mike Melisky)

Child Protection Tip of the Month January 2023

Did you know...

Child abuse comes in many forms.



Most people identify child abuse as physically hitting a child. Neglect is also a form of abuse. Failing to provide a child with proper nutrition, housing and supervision can also cause irreparable harm.

Expectations that a child be an active participant in the care of home and family, or even age-appropriate jobs is a part of healthy development. But excessive demands can cross into a form of servitude that is beyond the societal norms.

Child pornography is also a form of sexual abuse, with real victims in every image. The viewing of these images is an offense against their human dignity.

Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen launches annual campaign to feed the needy

SCRANTON - Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen in Scranton has begun the 45th annual Host-fora-Day campaign to support its mission of providing a free daily meal and other services to needy men, women and children in the area.

For a donation of \$100 or more, an individual, family, business, community organization or faith-based group can help sponsor the day's meal. to Recognized sponsorships begin at the \$500 contribution level.

In effect, each contributor becomes a "host" for a day. Contributors may then select a date on which they, or someone they designate or memorialize, will be recognized as the provider for that meal.

Financial contributions to the Kitchen also help to fund other programs such as a Client-Choice Food Pantry and Free Clothing Store, and weekly meals at parish locations and high-rise apartment buildings in Carbondale and Olyphant.

"These services benefit greater than ever," Rob Williams, Kitchen Executive Director, said. He noted that in 2022 the Kitchen provided 75,000 nutritious meals. the Free Clothing Store.



Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen has launched its 2023 Host-for-a-Day campaign, which is the primary means of financial support for the Kitchen's mission to provide a free daily meal and other services to area needy. Pictured are **Kitchen Executive Director Rob** Williams and Kitchen Advisory Board member Dr. Tania Stoker, campaign chair.

In addition, the number of people of all ages, and the need is family servings in the Food Pantry grew from 300 to nearly 800 per month and there were more than 400 individual visits per month at

Also, the weekly meal service said. currently provided in Olyphant Roaring Brook Township.

of the Kitchen's Advisory Board, by members of the Kitchen's is chairing the 2023 Host-for- Advisory Board. a-Day campaign and leading members.

the Kitchen, we have received 5556 or sending a check to Saint to call the Kitchen at (570) 342-

Mr. Williams announced that community and we are thankful Penn Avenue, Scranton PA 18509. this year the Kitchen will launch that so many people recognize Donations can also be made a free mobile clothing trailer to the need to help others. We are online at stfranciskitchen.org or bring clothing items to those in hopeful they will continue to facebook.com/stfranciskitchen. need in surrounding communities. participate in this campaign," she

and Carbondale will expand to campaign are receiving an appeal be held at Fiorelli's in Peckville directly from the Kitchen through Dr. Tania Stoker, a member the mail or will be contacted at 6 p.m. Each contributor and a

the effort with her fellow board an appeal through the mail can count. make a Host-for-a-Day gift by "Throughout the history of calling the Kitchen at (570) 342- sponsor the reception are asked such generous support from the Francis of Assisi Kitchen, 500 5556.

This year the celebration that concludes the campaign will Past contributors to the return to an in-person gathering to on Wednesday, May 3, beginning guest is invited to attend. RSVPs are required by April 3 to confirm Anyone who does not receive attendance and an accurate meal

Those who would like to

YOU Can Feed and Clothe People In Need!

More than 250 men, women and children rely on Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen for a daily meal, food for their household, and clothing to keep warm.

These services include the daily midday meal and three evening suppers at the Kitchen in Scranton as well as weekly meals in Carbondale and Olyphant at parish locations and high-rise housing buildings. The Kitchen also operates a Client-Choice Food Pantry and a Free Clothing Store. In 2023 the Kitchen will launch a free mobile clothing trailer to bring clothing items to those in need in surrounding communities. Also, the weekly meal service will expand to Elmhurst.

All of this is only possible through the dedicated service of our staff and volunteers, and your generous financial support for the annual Host-for-a-Day campaign. For a donation of \$100 or more, an



individual, a family, a business, a community organization or faith-based group can help sponsor a day's meal at the Kitchen and be recognized as a "host" of that meal.

Now more than ever, our brothers and sisters in need are relying on us for help. Thanks to the generosity of individuals and organizations in our community, Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen continues to serve the most needy among us with hot, nutritious meals and other services each day.

All past contributors to the campaign are receiving an appeal directly from the Kitchen through the mail. Donations can also be made by: CIS of ASSIS

Calling the Kitchen at 570-342-5556, online at stfranciskitchen.org or sending a check to: Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen, 500 Penn Avenue, Scranton, PA 18509.

would like to sponsor the reception are asked to call the Kitchen at 570-342-5556.

Host for a Day Thank You For Your Support! AL CAMP The culmination of the campaign will return to an in-person celebration at Fiorelli's in Peckville on Wednesday, May 3, at 6 p.m. RSVPs are required by April 3. Those who





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MISSION MESSAGE

jo Torth

By Father Brian J.T. Clarke DIOCESAN DIRECTOR, PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES

Theologian, Priest, Cardinal, poor. That is an accurate definition from his message for World Professor, Churchman, Pope. for sure.

Each of these monikers describes That said, isn't Pope Benedict

Benedict was a missionary would recently appointed archbishop. be a stretch in the traditional usage leaves the comfort and familiarity land to minister and evangelize.

Missionary.



well the late Pope Benedict XVI one who left the comfort and -Joseph Ratzinger. They capture familiarity of his home and the prolific life and singular journeyed to a foreign land to mark of the ministry of Pope minister to others? Sources say Benedict as a priest, bishop, pope that then-Joseph Ratzinger in Benedict inspired him to do just and theologian. One descriptor, 1978, shortly after the election though, has seemed to elude of Pope John Paul II, was commentators who have eulogized summoned to Rome to work in our beloved pope emeritus: the administration of the newly minted pope. He is said to have Admittedly, to say that Pope declined because he was only

Pope John Paul II apparently of the word in church circles. In agreed to let him stay but renewed general, a missionary is one who his invitation in 1981, and Ratzinger accepted and moved to of home to journey to a foreign Rome. It is further reported that on a few other occasions, Ratzinger Typically, we see missionaries would ask Pope John Paul for consecrated and sent, perhaps not as those who go to developing permission to return to Germany countries to serve the needs of the so that he could write, teach and minister. He was denied each of those times.

> the unique missionary spirit that inspired the life and action of more comfortable place, we may the priest, the cardinal, the pope, Benedict. Echoing the words of Jesus Himself in John's Gospel — "as the Father has sent me, even so I send you" (John 20:21) — Pope Benedict spoke of the need to embrace the will of God the Father who consecrates and sends His people *ad gentes*, to the nations: "This objective is continually revived by the celebration of If we are called to go and to stay the Liturgy, especially of the He will not abandon us, so long Eucharist which always concludes as we trust in Him and cooperate by re-echoing the mandate the with His Will: "For surely I know Risen Jesus gave to the Apostles: the plans I have for you, says the 'Go...' (Mt 28:19)."

the message of Pope Benedict with hope." (Jeremiah 29:11)



Mission Sunday in 2011, I don't think I was ever so moved by a quote from Sacred Scripture that was so simple, yet so profound. One word and one action — Go.

The missionary zeal of Pope that, to go - as Joseph Ratzinger - to Rome and never to leave, even when he desired to go home and lead a much quieter and private life. Part of that missionary spirit also made him face another potential one-word demand of God the Father: Stay. Indeed, he did. He stayed to serve in a place far from home, far from the comfort and quiet of his former intellectual and spiritual solitude in Germany.

It is evident that we are far from home, but often enough to situations and circumstances which may take us out of our comfort zone. We are told to go, Such examples demonstrate and we must go. When we get there and want to go back to that be told to stay.

Ultimately, what Pope Benedict has witnessed by his life is that trusting in the Providence of God, we will be cared for when we go in His name and, yes, when we stay in His name. God's plan for us to be sent (to go) and perhaps to "stay" are designed for us to do good works in His name. Lord, plans for your welfare and Go. Simply go. In rereading not for harm, to give you a future

Calling all young adults! **Registration for ISLI is open**



DALTON - Registration is leadership behavior, learn about now open for the International positive communication and learn Student Leadership Institute problem solving. (ISLI), which is a peer-facilitated, Scranton.

Friday, Feb. 17 through Sunday, Feb. 19, at Holy Transfiguration room and a t-shirt. Retreat Center in Dalton. The 9th-12th grade.

necessary for students to excel in encouraged to apply both the leadership and membership roles of task-oriented groups.

During the to make

The cost for the ISLI retreat faith-based retreat for high is \$200 before Jan. 30, after school students in the Diocese of which time the cost increases to \$225. Second-or-third time ISLI This year's ISLI will run from attendees cost is \$215. The fee covers program materials, meals,

А \$100 non-refundable program is open to all students in deposit and reservation are required. There are only a limited The ISLI retreat is designed to number of spaces available provide the knowledge and skills so interested participants are early. Registration will close on Feb. 10.

То register, visit retreat, dioceseofscranton.org call or participants take part in small Shannon Kowalski, Diocesan group tasks that allow students Director of Service & Mission, at decisions, practice (570) 207-2213, ext. 1155.

National Marriage Week is Feb. 7-14

SCRANTON The observances of National Marriage Week are an opportunity to focus on building a culture of life and love that begins with supporting and promoting marriage and the family.

This year's theme, "Marriage ... one flesh, given and received" highlights the one-flesh union of husband and wife that is willed by God. It also indicates the



personal self-gift of each spouse, one to another. These concepts point to Christ who gives Himself as real flesh and blood.

- * M.	<u>CT</u>	/: <u>CAT</u>	HOLIC	IELE	<u>/ISION</u>	Scrantc (570)	/oming Ave. on, PA 18503 207-2219
	l l		JANUAR	Y SCHEDU	JLE	/	
	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
12:00: AM	DAILY MASS	SUNDAY MASS (Encore)			DAILY MASS (Encore)		
1:00 AM 1:30 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
2:00 AM	LIVING DIVINE MERCY	EWTN GALLERY EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Encore)					
2:30 AM	PARABLE		EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY
3:00 AM	PARABLE	EWTN RELIGIOUS	EW IN GALLERY	-		PHILOSPHER'S	SETTING CAPTIVES
3:30AM	SPECIALS	CATALOG	SPECIALS	GOSPEL GLIMPSES	LIFE ON THE ROCK	BENCH	FREE
0.007 447		DEFENDING LIFE		PAPAL AUDIENCE(3:15)	AT HOME WITH JIM	AND JOY (Call in thurs)	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY
4:00 AM	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	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	THEY MIGHT BE SAINTS	THE HERESIES	STONES AND PEARLS	BATTLE READY	ICONS
5:00 AM	THE REFORMATION AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED	EWTN BOOKMARK	THE PHILOSOPHER'S BENCH	DOMINICAN SISTERS			FROM THE HEART WITH MOTHER ANGELICA
5:30 AM		CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN	LIFE IS WORTH LIVING	BEHOLD THE MAN	DR. RAY		CATHOLICS COME HOME
6:00 AM	ANGELUS WITH POPE FRANCIS	EWTN ORIGINAL PRODUCTIONS					
6:30 AM	THE HERESIES	G.K. CHESTERTON	CHURCH AND THE	THE MIRACLE	SAINTS VS	THE CHOICES WE	EWTN RELIGIOUS
7:00 AM			POOR CHAPLET OF ST. MICHA	HUNTER	SCOUNDRELS	FACE STATIONS OF THE CROSS	CATALOGUE CHAPLET OF ST. MICHAEL
7:30 AM 7:50 AM	THE HOLY LAND ROSARY	LITANY OF BLESSED	LITANY OF THE HOLY	HOLY LAND ROSARY	LITANY OF THE	LITANY OF SACRED	THE HOLY ROSARY LITANY OF DIVINE
8:00 AM		VIRGIN MARY	NAME	JOSEPH	PRECIOUS BLOOD	HEART	CHILD
9:00 AM	SUNDAY MASS (Live)			DAILY MA	SS (Live)		
5.00 AW	(9:20AM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART		HOLY ROSARY W	ITH THE FRANCISCAN N	MISSIONARIES OF THE	ETERNAL WORD	
9:30 AM	EWTN ROSARY FRANCISCANS	SUNDAY BEST WITH FR. GROESCHEL	LIVING RIGHT WITH	SCRIPTURE AND		THE WORLD OVER	ADV. CATECHISM/LUKAS
10:00 AM	SUNDAY MASS ST.	RELIGIOUS CATALOG	DR. RAY	TRADITION (ENCORE)	EWTN LIVE (ENCORE)	(Encore)	THE FRIAR
10:30 AM	PETER'S CATHEDRAL	CHOICES WE FACE		LIVE WITH PASSION	500110	CATHOLIC CLASSICS	MY CATHOLIC
11:00 AM		OFOD/LIVE WITH	MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE	ST ANN'S WEEKLY	FOCUS MUSIC AND THE	AT HOME WITH JIM	FAMILY AT HOME WITH
11:30 AM	EWTN NEWS IN-DEPTH	PASSION/SPECIALS	KNOWING MARY	NOVENA	SPOKEN WORD	AND JOY LUKE: MEEK SCRIBE	JIM AND JOY BOB & PENNY LORD
12:00 PM		GOSPEL OF MARK	THROUGH THE BIBLE	GOSPEL OF JOHN	JESUS	OF CHRIST	PRESENT
12:30PM	SUNDAY MASS (Encore)	THE DAIL		T. PETER'S CATH DATEBOOK" airs before a		Г 12:10 р.т.	EWTN DAILY MASS (Encore)
1:00 PM	(1:20PM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART			WOMEN OF GRACE			EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE
1:30 PM	THE OAGRED HEART	AT HOME		ATUONE		MARRIAGEFOR	OATALOGOL
	1	WITH JIM & JOY	PRO LIFE WEEKLY	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	CHOICES WE FACE/OFOD	BETTER FOREVER	DOMINICAN SISTERS OF MERCY
2:00 PM	IN CONCERT			WITH JIM & JOY	FACE/OFOD		
2:00 PM 2:30 PM	IN CONCERT	WITH JIM & JOY CALLED TO COMMUNION	PRO LIFE WEEKLY SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION			BETTER FOREVER	
2:30 PM 3:00 PM	IN CONCERT	CALLED TO	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION THE CHAPL	WITH JIM & JOY FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE ET OF DIVINE MERCY IN	THE JOURNEY HOME	BETTER FOREVER	SISTERS OF MERCY
	IN CONCERT	CALLED TO COMMUNION	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION THE CHAPL LIVE ADO	WITH JIM & JOY FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE ET OF DIVINE MERCY IN RATION FROM EWTN C	FACE/OFOD THE JOURNEY HOME N SONG HAPEL	BETTER FOREVER	SISTERS OF MERCY
2:30 PM 3:00 PM 3:20 PM	THE ROSARY FROM LOURDES	CALLED TO COMMUNION	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION THE CHAPL LIVE ADO	WITH JIM & JOY FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE ET OF DIVINE MERCY IN	FACE/OFOD THE JOURNEY HOME N SONG HAPEL	BETTER FOREVER	SISTERS OF MERCY EWTN ON LOCATION ROSARY FROM LOURDES
2:30 PM 3:00 PM 3:20 PM 3:30 PM 4:00 PM	THE ROSARY FROM	CALLED TO COMMUNION	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION THE CHAPL LIVE ADO DAILY MASS FR(WITH JIM & JOY FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE ET OF DIVINE MERCY IN RATION FROM EWTN C OM ST. PETER'S	FACE/OFOD THE JOURNEY HOME N SONG HAPEL	BETTER FOREVER	SISTERS OF MERCY EWTN ON LOCATION ROSARY FROM LOURDES SUNDAY VIGIL MASS ST. PETER'S
2:30 PM 3:00 PM 3:20 PM 3:30 PM	THE ROSARY FROM LOURDES VATICANO SAVORING OUR FAITH	CALLED TO COMMUNION THE LUCY & FRIENDS	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION THE CHAPL LIVE ADO DAILY MASS FRO ADVENTURE CATECHISM/ LUKAS STORYTELLER	WITH JIM & JOY FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE ET OF DIVINE MERCY IN RATION FROM EWTN C DM ST. PETER'S THE HOLY ROSARY DIOCESAN DATEBOOK TRUTH IN THE HEART	FACE/OFOD THE JOURNEY HOME IN SONG HAPEL CATHEDRAL, (EX CAT CHAT	BETTER FOREVER LIFE ON THE ROCK STATIONS OF CROSS ACOTE) THE ROAMIN' CATHOLIC	SISTERS OF MERCY EWTN ON LOCATION ROSARY FROM LOURDES SUNDAY VIGIL MASS ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL
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CLOSE TO ALL AMENITIES

Collection for the Church in Latin America to take place Jan. 21 & 22

SCRANTON - On Jan. hold a second collection in all to America.

programs, from evangelization churches to the South. programs to pregnancy centers Catholic Social Teaching.

21 & 22, 2023, all parishes in States decided in 1965, at the end \$68.5 million contributed over the the Diocese of Scranton will of the Second Vatican Council establish this collection, parishes for the Church in Latin recognizing that the church in the exception of some very small Latin America needed help and Caribbean island nations, has The collection funds a wide it was important to establish range of pastoral activities and a relationship with our sister

to leadership development of more than \$185 million has been countries like Peru and Colombia. community leaders based on donated by U.S. Catholics. The Cuba has also received significant collection has been increasing amounts of funding.

The Bishops of the United through the years, with about past decade.

Almost every country, with received assistance throughout the years. In the last few years, Haiti has been among the top Since the collection began, five recipients along with larger

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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24 The Catholic Light • JANUARY 12, 2023

Hazleton PHL to host pro-life celebration on Jan. 22

life ecumenical event to coincide with the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion 50 years ago.

Through prayer and music, a celebration commemorating the recent overturning of Roe and honoring the memory of the 64 million children who have succumbed to abortion will be held on the 50th anniversary of the infamous decision on Sunday, Jan. 22, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Saint John Bosco Church in Conyngham.

Chapter of Pennsylvanians for writer, presenter and musician of her son's brief life. Human Life and its "Voice of from Ashburn, Va., who authored



Elizabeth Born to Leon

husband Ralph, the parents of nine Light refreshments will be served. other children, John Paul Raphael For more information, contact Featured speaker for the event into the world. Leon will share or Carol Matz (570) 956-0817.

HAZLETON — The Hazleton will be Elizabeth Leon, noted memories and the holy mysteries

Event chairperson Nancy Zola John" apostolate will host a pro- Let Yourself Be Loved: Big Lessons said, "The program is intended to inspire, educate and motivate us as we move forward in a world 'post-Roe.""

> Dr. Frank Polidora will preside her baby to as master of ceremonies, and music will be provided by Shannon Marsyada and Colleen Cavallo. A prayerful offering of the pro-life Rosary will conclude the event.

All are welcome free of Leon and her charge: donations will be accepted. lived only 28 hours after coming Maryann Lawhon (570) 788-5646,

Pro-Life podcast pays tribute to the Holy Eucharist

Chapter of Pennsylvanians for and Father Toppo Rawel advocating for the elderly, disabled Human Life, through its "Voice celebrating the consecration of the and marginalized, and to honor and of John" pro-life apostolate, has Mass at parish churches in lower respect life at every stage." produced a video podcast in tribute Luzerne County. to the Holy Eucharist in response to the National Eucharistic Revival known musician from Holy Name share," she said. initiative recently launched by U.S. of Jesus Parish in West Hazleton, bishops.

to the great gift of life offered in Holy Communion," PHL Chapter President Maryann Lawhon said. Conyngham. "We chose to produce it during the Advent season as we reflect on the way God entered our world, knowing that through the Eucharist He never leaves us."

inspiring images of the late facing a crisis pregnancy, reaching

"We wanted to pay homage for the video presentation, which was produced by Sam Lesante Jr. of Saint John Bosco Parish in

Noting that the collaborative effort is "clearly a call to come home to Christ," Lawhon stated, "We recognize our responsibility to become the voice for the voiceless, The podcast opens with standing by men and women

HAZLETON—The Hazleton Monsignor Arthur Kaschenbach out to post-abortive families,

"This is a gift to our Diocese Shannon Marsyado, well- that we hope all will enjoy and

The podcast, entitled "A Proprovided musical accompaniment Life Tribute to the Eucharist," is available on The Voice of John website.



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Marian Devotion Rosary service planned

Fostering prayerful devotion to Jesus and Mary through Devotion event is scheduled as recitation of the Rosary, Marian follows: Devotion Ministries in the Diocese Fatima Rosary Journey.

Prayer rallies and Rosary Chapel, Route 315, Laflin. evenings are hosted throughout the Diocese and include the Rosary with chanted Scriptural mysteries, Fatima prayers and hymns.

An upcoming Marian

Third Monday Marian of Scranton continues to lead its **Devotion** — Jan. 16, from 6 to 7 p.m., at the Oblates of Saint Joseph

To host an event or for more information, contact Ernie Pappa at (570) 241-8171 or email: singtomary@aol.com.

JANUARY 12, 2023 • The Catholic Light 25



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Entered Life: November 17, 1935 Entered Eternal Life: December 13, 2022



Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister M. Daria McGinn

Entered Life: December 11, 1918

Entered Eternal Life: December 27, 2022

Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister **Mary Barbara Campbell**

Entered Life: October 20, 1927 Entered Eternal Life: December 29, 2022

Prayer Requests for Priests

The Daily Prayer Request for Priests schedule is as follows: January 12, Father Samuel Ferretti; January 13, Father Michael Finn; January 14, Father Richard Fox; January 15, Saint Peter Priestly Fraternity Father Thomas Fritschen; January 16, Father Martin Gaiardo; January 17, Father J. Duane Gavitt; January 18, Father Anthony Generose, J.V.; January 19, Father Richard Ghezzi; January 20, Father Ryan Glenn; January 21, Father Joseph Greskiewicz; January 22, Monsignor Vincent Grimalia; January 23, Father Louis Grippe; January 24, Father Eugene Gunning; January 25, Father Gerald Gurka; January 26, Father Richard Gyansah-Tabiri; January 27, Passionist Father Lee Havey; January 28, Father Robert Hochreiter; January 29, Father Thomas Hudak; January 30, Father Andrew Hvozdovic; January 31, Holy Cross Father Daniel Issing; February 1, Pope Francis; February 2, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI (memorial); February 3, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; February 4, Father George Jeffrey; February 5, Monsignor John Jordan; February 6, Father Joseph Kakareka; February 7, Father Louis Kaminski; February 8, Father Binesh Joseph Kanjirakattu; February 9, Father William Karle; February 10, Father Joseph Kearney; February 11, Jesuit Father Herbert Keller; February 12, Father Brian Kelly; February 13, Father E. Francis Kelly; February 14, Father John Kilpatrick; February 15, Father Shane Kirby; February 16, Father Michael Kirwin; February 17, Father Michael Kloton; February 18, Holy Cross Father Charles Kociolek; February 19, Father Bert Kozen; February 20, Father Jonathan Kuhar; February 21, Father James Alco.



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SICILY & THE AMALFI COAST

October 2-13, 2023 - \$3750.00 Visit Palermo, Erice, Valley of Temples, Siracusa, Taormina, Mt Etna, Amalfi, Sorrento, Capri



Oblates of Saint Joseph to celebrate Feast of the Holy Spouses

LAFLIN — The Feast of the Holy Spouses will celebrated at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laflin, on Sunday, Jan. 22, with a special Eucharistic liturgy at 3 p.m.

Guest celebrant and homilist for this year's feast day Mass will be Father Jeffrey Tudgay, Judicial Vicar of the Diocese of Scranton,



who also serves as pastor of the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

Pittston parishes to host Catholic composer

PITTSTON — The concert performance. neighboring parishes of Saint composer Sarah Hart for a two-part presentation on Feb. 4 & 5.

Walk," a moving spiritual retreat Peace," a staple song of farewell. centered on the Eight Beatitudes, on the morning of Saturday, Feb. 4, at the Saint Joseph Marello parish worship site of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 237 William St., prayer for all. Pittston.

will host Hart for a special evening at brandon@sjmparish.org.

The composer of many newly John the Evangelist and Saint beloved hymns, Harthas endeared Joseph Marello in Pittston will herself with Catholic congregations welcome renowned Catholic with her musical pieces featured during weekend liturgies, evening prayer and, most notably, funeral Hart will present a "Beatitude rites. Such works include "Go in

Her compositions blend soothing and distinct melodies with profound, moving lyrics to create a unique and accessible

For more information on both The following day, Sunday, events, contact the parish office at Feb. 5, Saint Joseph Marello Parish (570) 654-6902, or email Brandon

Blue Army Reparation Vigil

The next monthly First Friday Reparation Vigil, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary and sponsored by the Blue Army, will be held Feb. 3 at Saint Joseph's Oblate Chapel, 1880 Highway 315, Laflin (Pittston).

Devotions begin Friday evening at 8 p.m. with recitation of the Rosary, during which time confessions are heard. Mass of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is celebrated at 8:55 p.m., followed by benediction and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and consecration to the Sacred Heart.

The vigil continues with the crowning of the Blue Army



Pilgrim Virgin Statue, the Blue Army Pledge, Fatima prayers and Marian hymns, followed by litany and consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The vigil concludes with scapular enrollment at 10:15 p.m.

Music for the First Friday devotion is provided by Marian Devotion Ministries, led by Ernie Pappa.

The annual celebration of the Holv Spouses honors the spousal role of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph, exalting the sanctity of marriage and family life within our modern world.

The special feast was approved by the Vatican for the Congregation for the Oblates of the Saint Joseph in 1989.

All faithful are invited to attend Holy Spouses celebration, which will conclude with a social.

For more information, contact the OSJ seminary office at (570) 654-7542.



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Who makes house calls?

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

Based on my practice, which consists of estate planning and administration along with elder law, I find that clients are more comfortable discussing such matters in familiar surroundings. While I know this may seem unconventional to some, I believe I will be able to serve clients much better in this fashion. If anyone is uncomfortable with home visits, I have a few locations where I can meet in an office setting. I look forward to meeting with my existing clients and especially meeting new clients that are looking for any assistance in estate or elder law matters.

Elder Law

- Guardianships
- Asset Protection Planning
- Medicaid Application Assistance

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Inheritance Tax :

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

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

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- Wills Trusts Guardianships



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Continued on Page 29

Alhambra offering scholarship program for those pursuing careers in special education

increasing importance of with disabilities. education for those with special Alhambra announces its annual scholarship program providing financial aid to students pursuing

In recognition of the careers in education for persons college undergraduate junior and

The Alhambra Scholarship needs, the International Order of awards assist college students studying to teach intellectually and developmentally disabled persons. Eligibility guidelines include

Hibernians mark milestone anniversary



Bishop Joseph C. Bambera served as principal guest speaker when the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH), Division No. 1 of Lycoming County in Williamsport, celebrated its 25th anniversary with a formal dinner at Saint Joseph the Worker parish hall in the city. Addressing the AOH members, guests and clergy in attendance, Bishop Bambera extolled the mission of all eight Hibernian divisions in the Diocese of Scranton. The Bishop referenced how the Irish Catholic ancestry of the AOH fraternity and its strong traditions of friendship, unity and true Christian charity have positively impacted society and local faith communities. During the program, Tom Gilbride, legal counsel for the AOH, read a congratulatory letter from AOH State President Ed Dougherty recognizing the milestone year of the Lycoming County Hibernians. Bishop Bambera is pictured with AOH Division President Christopher Norris, who offered his salutations to those present in both the English and Gaelic languages.

Catholic Happenings

56th Annual "German Nite" Dinner & Social — FEB. 18, sponsored by the Holy Name Society of St. Nicholas Parish, Wilkes-Barre; doors open at 6 p.m. at St. Nicholas School Auditorium, 240 S. Washington St., Wilkes-Barre. German-style dinner served at 6:15 p.m., featuring pork & sauerkraut, chicken francaise, bratwurst, mashed potatoes, haluski & green beans, beer and soda. Cost: \$30 (adults only). Reserved seating for groups of eight or more. For more information and tickets, call the parish office (570) 823-7736.

Mardi Gras Celebration — FEB. 18, sponsored by Prince of Peace Parish in Old Forge; begins 6:30 p.m. at the Arcaro & Genell Banquet Room, Main St., Old Forge. Cost: \$40 person (adults only), includes appetizers and full course dinner of beef/chicken combo or fish. Beer, wine, soda, coffee and tea included; entertainment by The Dynamic Duo. Reservations close Feb. 11; seating limited to 125 persons. For reservations, call the parish rectory at (570) 457-5900. Tickets will also be sold at all weekend Masses.

seniors enrolled in qualifying programs, and master's degree and community college students in special education studies who have accrued half of the required graduation credits.

For information on requirements and to obtain an application, contact Ada Magni at amagni@earthlink.net. Application deadline is Feb. 23.

Alhamar Holy Hour

WILKES-BARRE — Local caravan Alhamar No. 4 of the Order of Alhambra will host a Holy Hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Sunday, Jan. 29, at 2 p.m. in Christ the King Chapel, located at 31 W. North St. on the campus of King's College.



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Migrant pleas, border realities confront President Biden in El Paso

(OSV News) - "Lord, I ask other contraband. that you take me out of here soon ... I want to be with my mom and sister soon. Amen."

in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, neatly written on the back of a card with the image of the Sacred Heart, was one of the mementos President Joe Biden acquired from his time at the U.S.-Mexico border. Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas, handed the president this prayer card toward the County Migrant Services Center, end of his visit to El Paso.

back in Spanish, which I translated for the president," Bishop Seitz said at a Jan. 8 news briefing organized by U.S. Rep. Veronica Escobar, a Democrat whose congressional district includes all of El Paso and most of its suburbs.

bishop of this border city, who Missionaries of Jesus, who heads the smuggling organizations," is the new chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration, as well as other local officials and

to "assess border enforcement operations" and talk to those helping to manage "the historic number of migrants fleeing political oppression and gang violence in Venezuela, Haiti, Nicaragua and Cuba," according to the White House.

few hours - came amid criticism over how he is handling the humanitarian crisis at the southern border.

of Jan. 8, Biden greeted local officials, Bishop Seitz and Texas Gov. Greg Abbott. Abbott further actions." presented Biden with a letter condemning the approach to immigration.

Bridge of the Americas - which Trump administration during the connects El Paso and Ciudad COVID-19 pandemic that permits Juarez, Mexico-where he observed immigration officials to block border officers demonstrate how migrants at the border seeking they search vehicles for drugs and asylum from entry. Set to end

stop to walk along a metal border 27 decided to keep Title 42 in The prayer of a migrant girl from Ciudad Juárez and to speak render a final ruling later this year; that time, Biden was asked by matter in February. journalists what he had learned resources, and we're going to get it bars migrants from Cuba, Haiti, for them," he answered.

His last stop was the El Paso where workers greet people "She wrote a little prayer on the released from Border Patrol and help them find transportation and other needed services.

He greeted local elected officials, activists and community leaders there. including Bishop Seitz, Ruben Garcia of Annunciation House, and is broadly incentivize a safe The president met with the Sister Norma Pimentel of the Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley in the Diocese of Brownsville, Texas.

Sister Pimentel said the community leaders earlier that day. president's presence at the border In his first trip to the border was significant. The sister stressed since he took office, Biden sought the need to come together as a community - including the city government, Border Patrol and faith-based communities - to safeguard people's dignity while creating policies to face the issue of migration.

"One of the things that we as church, especially people of faith, Biden's visit - which lasted a want to make sure not to ever lose sight of is the fact that they're people, they're human beings, they're families, they're children, Upon his arrival the afternoon and we cannot lose sight of that," she said at the news briefing. "I hope this is the beginning of

This trip took place amid president's the newly announced expansion of Title 42, a federal public The president then went to the health rule enforced by the

last December, the U.S. Supreme Alejandro Mayorkas said during Next, he made an unscheduled Court in an emergency order Dec. the flight to El Paso.

> Under an expansion of Nicaragua, and Venezuela from seek entry to this country. These country, arriving by air at their they go?" own expense with a valid passport, them in the U.S. economically.

"What we're trying to do president and his aides. Homeland Security Secretary

However, migration advocates, fence that separates the U.S. city effect indefinitely. The court will including U.S. bishops, have argued that many people fleeing violence with Border Patrol agents. At it will hear oral arguments on the and persecution would not qualify for the program. At the Jan. 8 news conference, Bishop Seitz said he at the border. "They need a lot of Title 42 under Biden, the rule worries about those already on their way to the U.S.

> "They've sold everything they entering the U.S. while providing own just to be able to make the trip some legal paths for them to and made this perilous 3,000-mile journey," Bishop Seitz said. "They requirements include applying finally arrive in Ciudad Juárez, for for entry or "parole" in their own instance, and then what? Where do

The bishop said that he and and having a sponsor to support other advocates for migrants shared their concerns with the

During his nearly four-hour and orderly way, and cut out visit to El Paso, Biden did not meet with migrants or deliver public remarks.



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The reason for the season

Continuing an annual tradition that began in 2003, Knights of Columbus Council 7622 in Jermyn once again served as the sponsor for a billboard in Lackawanna County celebrating the true meaning of Christmas. The large signage depicting the Nativity of Our Lord was made possible this year through the generous contributions from the following: Christ the King Parish in Archbald; Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary Parish in Jermyn; Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Peckville; Community Bank, N.A.; Harrison Funeral Home; Battenberg Furniture; Bernardi-Wilson Insurance, Inc.; T & **R** Service Station; Yeselavage Rugs; Louis J. Rapoch Funeral Home; Johnson's Fixit Shoppe; Joseph W. Arcadipane, DMD; Calabro Floor Coverings, Inc.; Mario Fitzgerald.



Vladika Insurance Agency; Convenient Food Mart; Mark Bednash Enterprises; KRTS Associates; Kevin and Margaret Ryczak; and Mrs. Lynn Ryczak. Pictured in front of the "Keep Christ in Christmas" billboard prominently displayed at the south entrance to the borough of Jermyn are, from left: K of C Council 7622 Knight Tony Spataro; Father John Ruth, pastor, Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary Parish; Kevin Ryczak and Council Deputy Grand Knight Mario Fitzgerald.





Parish provides Christmas cheer



For the fifth year, members of the parish community of Saint Thomas More and Saint Mary in Lake Ariel made Christmas a special celebration for residents of the Julia Ribaudo Extended Care Facility in the community. From toys and stuffed animals to sweaters and snacks, parishioners provided Christmas gifts requested specifically by residents of the facility. The presents were distributed by the Lake Ariel parish pastor, Father Stephen Bosomafi; the parish Santa, Bill Wagner; and Santa's helper, Pat Goldman. The smiles on the residents' faces was their gift in return.



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