



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

February 16, 2023

***Bishop Bambera's Lenten Message:
"Grow in faith - and be filled with awe -
this Lent"***



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Every year on Ash Wednesday, the prophet Joel sets the stage for the sacred season of Lent. "Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your

whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning. Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the Lord, your God. For gracious and merciful is he, slow to anger, rich in kindness, and relenting in punishment” (Joel 2:12-13)

The prophet challenges us to reflect upon the essence of our lives as Christians and as authentic disciples of Jesus. He reminds us that pious actions and rituals, from the ancient practice of rending garments to express sorrow for sin, to the imposition of ashes on our foreheads, provide little support for our lives of faith unless they are rooted in – and flow from – the depths of our hearts where God is found.

Rather, the humble acknowledgement of our need for God – the courage to set aside our own sense of righteousness in order to trust more deeply in God’s merciful presence – and the willingness to be used by God in building the Church and in caring for the suffering, broken world in which we live reflect the movements of our hearts that lead to true conversion....

[Read Bishop Bambera's Full Lenten Message](#)

[Where Can You Get Ashes on Wednesday? Click Here to View a Full Parish-By-Parish Schedule of Mass Times for Ash Wednesday](#)

Catholic Television to broadcast Evening Prayer on Sundays from Cathedral during Lent

New translation tweaks to Sacrament of Penance take effect this Lent



The experience of the sacrament of penance in the Roman rite will be slightly different this Lent, thanks to approved changes in the English translation set to take effect in a few weeks.

Starting Ash Wednesday – which takes place this year on Feb. 22 – the prayer of absolution will include three modifications, so that the revised version will read as follows:

“God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and poured out *[formerly “sent”]* the Holy Spirit for *[previously “Holy Spirit among us for”]* the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God grant *[instead of “give”]* you pardon and peace
And I absolve you from your sins in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

[Read the Full Story from Our Sunday Visitor](#)

Independent audit finds Diocese of Scranton in full compliance with Child Protection Guidelines for twentieth year

PROMISE TO PROTECT



For twenty consecutive years, independent audits have found the Diocese of Scranton to be in full compliance with U.S. bishops' policies to prevent sexual abuse of children by clergy and other church personnel.

The Diocese recently received its 2022 compliance certification from StoneBridge Business Partners, a private auditing firm based in New York, which has been contracted to conduct compliance audits of the nation's 195 dioceses.

The Diocese of Scranton has passed audits of its child protection procedures, policies and records every year since the policy was adopted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in 2002.

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

Will Rectory, Set, Cook! II break last year's anti-hunger fundraising threshold?

VOTE BY FAT TUESDAY!

All donors who cast at least one \$10 vote by noon on Tuesday Feb. 21 will be placed into a Fat Tuesday raffle for fun prizes that will be given away on Facebook Live! The more you vote, the more chances you'll have to win! All prizes awarded by random number generator.



With just five days left in the anti-hunger cook-off and fundraising marathon known as Rectory, Set, Cook! the 2023 fundraising total was hovering around \$150,000 at press time, with the goal of surpassing last year's total raised – \$171,000 – well within reach.

This year's all-digital event showcases 24 teams consisting of at least one – but up to five – collared chefs from across the Diocese cooking (or attempting to cook) a specially selected dish or dishes on video. Each \$10 donation for a video represents one vote for the participating pastor chef or chefs.

Each pastor chef has been working hard to get out the votes primarily for the purpose of fighting local hunger, given all sponsorship dollars and 50 percent of voting dollars raised will benefit Catholic Social Services' anti-hunger efforts. The other half of voting dollars raised will stay with the pastor chef's or chefs' parish and can be designated toward a priority project or a charitable cause of the pastor chef's choice.

[View All of this year's Rectory, Set, Cook! videos and Vote For Your Favorite](#)

From inclusion to belonging, Church must welcome people with disabilities



With big smiles on their faces, three men from the community programs of Saint Joseph's Center eagerly handed out programs as people arrived at the Cathedral of Saint Peter for the Diocese of Scranton's annual Mass for Persons with Disabilities Feb. 12, 2023.

The trio of hospitality ministers – Joe, John and Matt – jumped at the chance to be involved in the special Mass that recognizes and celebrates the gifts that every person contributes to the life of the Church.

“They’re here. They want to be here. They are so excited about getting out and experiencing this with the Church,” Sister Sandy Grieco, I.H.M., Pastoral Care Coordinator with Saint Joseph's Center, said.

[Read the Full Story from Our Sunday Visitor](#)

'Chosen' retreat participants say experience was "invaluable"



As a young mother and wife, Beth Powers had been asking God to bring new women into her life. The Holy Spirit answered her call during a retreat she attended in late January.

“I didn’t know what to expect. I didn’t know how many people were going to be involved and I didn’t know any other women coming into this. I knew that I wanted to strengthen relationships with the women I already had and feel that I could rest in the Lord and that is exactly what I got out of this retreat,” she explained.

Powers was one of nearly two dozen women between the ages of 21 and 40 who participated in the ‘Chosen’ retreat for young Catholic women Jan. 27-29 at Holy Family Center in Nanticoke.

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

**Save the Date and Register Now for the Next
Young Adult Retreat in March!**



YOUNG ADULT RETREAT:

MASTER, TO
WHOM SHALL
WE GO?

JOHN 6:68

HOW TO KNOW THE LORD AND BE
ROOTED IN HIS PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE

MARCH 3-4
HOLY FAMILY
RETREAT CENTER
NANTICOKE

RETREAT LEADER:
FATHER JOE EVANKO
ST. JUDE PARISH,
MOUNTAINTOP

REGISTRATION FEE: \$ 20

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