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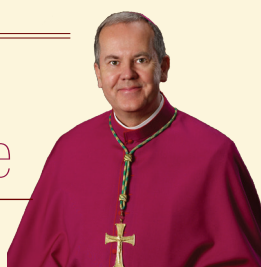
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THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2023

Turn to the Risen Jesus for hope and peace

Bishop Bambera's 2023 Easter Message

Dear Friends,



"Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said."

These words from Saint Matthew's gospel proclaimed during the great Vigil of Easter, confronted the first followers of Jesus on the day of His resurrection and boldly affirmed God's promise to save his people.

Despite such powerful words of faith that we read in the scriptures and proclaim whenever we gather for the celebration of the Eucharist, the reality of life at times can consume us with grief, pain and fear. These days are no exception.

From devastating earthquakes in Syria and Ecuador – to tornadoes that ravaged parts of Mississippi, Arkansas and far too many areas of our land – to once unimaginable school shootings that continue to shatter the security and peace that every child should enjoy – to a senseless war in Ukraine that has raged on for more than a year, leaving death, destruction and shattered dreams in its wake – to our own stories of loss – the scope of suffering and pain that has enveloped our world and our lives is difficult to comprehend.

And so as we have done countless times before in the face of such heartbreak, these sacred days of Holy Week and Easter beckon us to turn to the only place that enables our broken world and lives to find forgiveness, healing, hope and peace: the Paschal Mystery – the Easter miracle – the promise won for us through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus!

But how does a mystery fraught with suffering and death provide us with hope?

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Mary Magdalene is depicted with the resurrected Christ in this icon at the Haifa Melkite Cathedral in Israel. Easter, the chief feast in the liturgical calendars of all Christian churches, commemorates Christ's resurrection from the dead. (OSV News artwork/Haifa Melkite Cathedral, Bridgeman Images)



DIOCESE OF SCRANTON MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Catholic community of the Diocese of Scranton, are called through Baptism to imitate the servant leadership of Jesus Christ. In union with Our Holy Father, the Pope, we proclaim the Gospel faithfully, celebrate the sacraments joyfully, and boldly promote life, justice and peace in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Catholic Light is our official diocesan journal. The publication of notices, regulations and extra-synodical decrees in said paper constitute legal promulgation for all the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton, Clergy and Laity.

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Paschal Triduum Broadcasts on CTV

Thursday, April 6, 2023

Morning Prayer from the Cathedral of Saint Peter, 8:00 a.m.

Father Jeffrey D. Tudgay, Pastor of the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, celebrates Morning Prayer on Holy Thursday.

Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper from the Cathedral of Saint Peter, 5:30 p.m.

On Holy Thursday, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera celebrates the Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper live from the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

"The Last Days," 7:30 p.m.

"The Chosen's" Jonathan Roumie stars in the role of Jesus in this powerful dramatization that utilizes words from the Gospels.

Night Prayer from the Cathedral of Saint Peter, 9:00 p.m.

Father Jeffrey D. Tudgay, Pastor of the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, celebrates Night Prayer on Holy Thursday.

Friday, April 7, 2023

Morning Prayer from the Cathedral of Saint Peter, 8:00 a.m.

Father Jeffrey D. Tudgay, Pastor of the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, celebrates Morning Prayer on Good Friday.

Commemoration of the Lord's Passion from Rome, 11:00 a.m.

On Good Friday, His Holiness, Pope Francis, presides over the Solemn commemoration of the Lord's Passion, live from Vatican City in Rome.

Commemoration of the Lord's Passion from the Cathedral of Saint Peter, 12:10 p.m.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera presides over the Solemn commemoration of the Lord's Passion, live from the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

Commemoration of the Lord's Passion from Washington, D.C., 3:00 p.m.

From the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., join EWTN for a Solemn celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday.

Way of the Cross from the Cathedral of Saint Peter, 5:00 p.m.

From the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, follow along with the solemn recognition of Jesus' last day on Earth as a man.

Way of the Cross from Rome, 6:30 p.m.

From Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome, His Holiness, Pope Francis, presides over The Stations of the Cross.

Saturday, April 8, 2023

Morning Prayer from the Cathedral of Saint Peter, 8:00 a.m.

Father Jeffrey D. Tudgay, Pastor of the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, celebrates Morning Prayer on Holy Saturday.

Easter Vigil Mass from Rome, 1:30 p.m.

His Holiness, Pope Francis, presides over the Easter Vigil Mass, live from Vatican City.

Easter Vigil Mass from the Cathedral of Saint Peter, 8:00 p.m.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera serves as principal celebrant of the Solemn Easter Vigil Mass live from the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

Sunday, April 9, 2023

Solemn Mass of Easter Sunday from Rome, 4:00 a.m.

He is Risen! Pope Francis celebrates the Solemn Mass of Easter Sunday in Vatican City and gives a traditional address and blessing to the world.

Urbi et Orbi: Message and Blessing, 6:00 a.m. (Rebroadcast at 9 p.m.)

Urbi et Orbi, the traditional Easter message and blessing to the city of Rome and to the world, is given by Pope Francis in Rome.

Easter Sunday Mass from the Cathedral of Saint Peter, 10:00 a.m. (Rebroadcast at 5 p.m.)

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera serves as principal celebrant of the Easter Sunday Mass from the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

Easter Sunday Mass from Washington, D.C., Noon

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. is the setting for Easter Sunday services.

Chrism Mass symbolizes oneness of clergy, religious, faithful in Christ

SCRANTON — A brilliant spring afternoon was matched by the radiant joy emanating from the Cathedral of Saint Peter for the celebration of the Diocese of Scranton's Chrism Mass on April 4, 2023 - Tuesday of the holiest week of the Christian calendar year.

While the heavens provided a most comfortable day for the venerable gathering, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, as principal celebrant and homilist, warmly welcomed to the Mother Church of the Diocese the hundreds of worshippers of all ages who turned out for the annual Eucharistic liturgy concelebrated by the priests ministering in the 11-county local Church.

The traditional Holy Week observance and gathering of the priests of the Diocese — customarily the largest of its kind each year — celebrates their clerical brotherhood and shared divine vocation.

During the Mass, priests and deacons, along with lay representatives from Diocesan parishes, acknowledge the Bishop's role as the unifying symbol for Church governance and pastoral guidance.

All of the priests also recommit themselves to their office by renewing the promises they made on the day of their ordination to the priesthood, including their vow of obedience to the Bishop.

Father Paschal Mbagwu, who serves as administrator of Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Pocono Pines, said prior to the liturgical celebration, "The Chrism Mass is so important since it shows the unity and communion in the Church. It is very symbolic of the oneness Christ prayed for under one shepherd — our Bishop."

Holding to age-old tradition, the Mass is highlighted by the blessing of the Holy Oils used during the conferral of sacraments throughout the Church year. They include the Sacred Chrism, the Oil of the Sick, and the Oil of Catechumens, which are used in the celebration of Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders, the Anointing of the Sick, and the Rites of the Catechumenate.

As he joins Bishop Bambera in celebrating his 40th anniversary of ordination this year, Father Don Williams, pastor of Saint Matthew Parish, Stroudsburg, noted, "By being here today



The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, celebrates the Chrism Mass on April 4, 2023, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton with priests, deacons and laity from around the Diocese of Scranton. (Photos/Mike Melisky)

we bring everything together in this beautiful gathering of clergy, deacons, women and men religious, and laity."

Father Williams continued by emphasizing the importance of the renewal of priestly vows that the Chrism Mass affords the concelebrants.

"It is always very special how the blessed oils go out to the four corners of the Diocese with the priests, who are sent forth to return to their parishes for the Sacred Triduum and the celebration of Easter," he added.

In addressing the faithful during his homily, Bishop Bambera implored all to heed Jesus' words from Saint Luke's Gospel that had just been proclaimed: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; therefore he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, recovery of sight to the blind and release to prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the Lord."

"The good news for us, brothers and sisters, is that the same Spirit that set Jesus apart for mission during his inaugural address in the synagogue of Nazareth rests

upon us as well," the Bishop imparted. "We are not alone on this journey. Every experience, no matter how hopeful or challenging, is an opportunity for growth and a deepening of God's life within us."

Among the lay faithful in attendance was Jennifer Dunn, a member of Saint Robert Bellarmine Parish in Wilkes-Barre, who arrived early to participate in her first Chrism Mass.

"I am here to support the Diocese and our pastor, Father Richard Cirba, who has done so much for our parish and our community," she said. "I'm honored to be here to support our Bishop. It is really humbling to be in the presence of all these great priests."

Currently in his second year of formation for the Permanent Diaconate program, Frank Fanelli of Lackawaxen was invited, along with his wife Nancy, to be at their first Chrism Mass last year. "This Mass is just so impressive," he said. "Even if we weren't invited we would be coming back this year."

Nancy added, "We're just so honored and privileged to be here for such a great



Before saying the Prayer of Consecration of the Chrism Oil, Bishop Bambera breathes upon the opening of the vessel.

celebration, with all of the beautiful music."

Sara Jenkins of Larksville and a parishioner at All Saints Parish, Plymouth, remarked, "It is really impressive to be able to see all the priests of the Diocese come together as one. It's always great to experience the loud round of applause they receive on their way out of the Cathedral after Mass."

Cross of Christ is 'supreme proof' that God is love, bishop says on Palm Sunday

SCRANTON – The liturgies of Holy Week began with the celebration of Mass for Palm Sunday, April 2, in parishes around the Diocese of Scranton.

At the Cathedral of Saint Peter, hundreds gathered as the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant for the 12:15 p.m. liturgy.

“God is love, and the cross of Christ, which looms over the message of the scriptures this day, is the supreme proof, the historical demonstration of this reality,” Bishop Bambera said during his homily.

On Palm Sunday, the Church celebrates Christ’s triumphal entrance into Jerusalem to accomplish the Paschal Mystery of His death and resurrection. The Gospels record the arrival of Jesus riding into the city on a donkey, while the crowds spread their cloaks



The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, begins the blessing of the palms in the Cathedral Prayer Garden April 2, 2023.

and palm branches on the street and shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David” and “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.”

The bishop began the Mass by blessing palms in the Cathedral Prayer Garden and then processing down Wyoming Avenue to enter the Cathedral.

“We’re reminded in Saint Paul’s letter to the Philippians that although He was God, Jesus emptied Himself and took the form of a slave, a servant,” Bishop Bambera explained. “He sought, according to His Father’s plan, to embrace the brokenness and suffering of our world in order to

save us from ourselves and to give us a way forward in life.”

Bishop Bambera will also celebrate Masses for the Sacred Paschal Triduum at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

On Holy Thursday, April 6, the Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper, which marks the day on which Christ instituted the Holy Eucharist and the priestly Order, will be celebrated at 5:30 p.m.

On Good Friday, April 7, the Commemoration of the Passion and Death of the Lord will begin at 12:10 p.m.

Holy Saturday, April 8, is the day that the Church waits at the Lord’s tomb in prayer, meditating on His passion and death and awaiting His resurrection. Bishop Bambera will be the principal celebrant and homilist of the Easter Vigil Mass at the Cathedral beginning at 8 p.m.

On the Holy Night of Easter, many individuals who have participated in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) will become fully initiated Catholics by the celebration of their Baptism, Confirmation, and reception of the Eucharist for the first time. This year, 162 people are expected to celebrate in parishes throughout the Diocese. They join tens of thousands of other individuals throughout the world who will become members of the Church that night.

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord is the most joyous day in the Church year. This joy overflows into the 50 days of the Easter season, which concludes on Pentecost Sunday. On Easter Day, Bishop Bambera will celebrate a Pontifical Mass at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral.

Parishes may offer Precious Blood beginning Holy Thursday

SCRANTON – The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, has announced that parishes may once again resume the practice of distributing the Precious Blood to the faithful at Masses beginning with the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday, April 6, 2023.

For the last three years during the COVID-19 pandemic, the distribution of the Precious Blood at Mass had been suspended out of an abundance of caution to protect the health and safety of the faithful.

In making his announcement, Bishop Bambera stressed that resuming the practice of distributing the Precious Blood to the faithful is at the discretion of the pastor, administrator or parish life coordinator.

Not every parish may be ready to immediately resume this practice and Communion from the

chalice was optional even before the pandemic. Some parishes may feel it is better to reintroduce the Precious Blood from the chalice gradually or even wait until after flu season is completely over.

As always, it is the choice of each individual whether to receive under both forms or under one form only. Those who receive under only one species are not deprived in any way of the fullness of the Lord’s Presence.

The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown has also announced that its parishes may begin offering the Precious Blood at Masses beginning Holy Thursday as well.

Many other dioceses – including Pittsburgh, New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and Youngstown, Ohio – have already lifted this restriction and have not seen any significant increases in viral transmission.

Pope says be close to those ‘abandoned’ like Christ: unborn, migrants

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The unborn, migrants, the elderly and the disabled are “living icons” of Jesus that call Christians to draw close to those who feel abandoned just as Christ did on the cross, Pope Francis said.

In his homily for Palm Sunday Mass in St. Peter’s Square April 2, the pope reflected on the phrase Jesus uttered on the cross in St. Matthew’s Gospel, and which echoed through the square when sung in the responsorial psalm: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

“Christ, in his abandonment, stirs us to seek him and to love him and those who are themselves abandoned, for in them we see not only people in need, but Jesus himself,” he said.

According to the Vatican gendarmes, some 60,000 people



Pope Francis gives his homily at Palm Sunday Mass in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican April 2, 2023. (CNS photo/Chris Warde-Jones)

were present in St. Peter’s Square for the Mass.

Fighting off coughs as he began his homily but otherwise speaking without difficulty, Pope Francis said that in his Passion, Jesus experienced the distance of God so he could be “completely and definitively one” with humanity.

The pope was released from the hospital April 1 after a four-day stay for treatment of bronchitis. He processed into St. Peter’s Square on the popemobile wearing his winter coat on an early spring day in Rome.

In his homily, Pope Francis highlighted the many “abandoned Christs” that exist in society: “the poor who live on our streets and that we don’t have the courage to look at, migrants who are no longer faces but numbers.”

He also recalled those who are “discarded with white gloves: unborn children, the elderly left alone, who could be your mom or dad,” as well as the “sick whom no one visits, the disabled who are ignored, and the young burdened by great interior emptiness with no one prepared to listen to their cry of pain and who don’t find another path but suicide.”

Acudir a Jesús Resucitado en busca de esperanza y paz

Mensaje de Pascua 2023 del obispo Bambara

Queridos amigos,

“¡No tengas miedo! Sé que buscas a Jesús el crucificado. No está aquí, porque ha resucitado tal como dijo.

Estas palabras del evangelio de San Mateo, proclamadas durante la gran Vigilia Pascual, confrontaron a los primeros seguidores de Jesús el día de su resurrección y afirmaron con audacia la promesa de Dios de salvar a su pueblo.

A pesar de las palabras de fe tan poderosas que leemos en las Escrituras y proclamamos cada vez que nos reunimos para la celebración de la Eucaristía, la realidad de la vida a veces puede consumirnos con pena, dolor y miedo. Estos días no son una excepción.

Desde devastadores terremotos en Siria y Ecuador, hasta tornados que asolaron partes de Mississippi, Arkansas y demasiadas áreas de nuestra tierra, pasando por tiroteos en escuelas que alguna vez fueron inimaginables y que continúan destruyendo la seguridad y la paz que todos los niños deberían disfrutar, hasta una guerra sin sentido en Ucrania, que ha durado más de un año, dejando muerte, destrucción y sueños destrozados a su paso, hasta nuestras propias historias de pérdida, el alcance del sufrimiento y el dolor que ha envuelto nuestro mundo y nuestras vidas es difícil de comprender.

Y así, como lo hemos hecho innumerables veces antes frente a tal angustia, estos días sagrados de Semana Santa y Pascua nos invitan a volvernos al único lugar que permite que nuestro mundo y nuestras vidas rotas encuentren perdón, sanación, esperanza y paz: el Misterio pascual – el milagro pascual – ¡la promesa ganada para nosotros por el sufrimiento, muerte y resurrección de Jesús!

Pero, ¿cómo un misterio cargado de sufrimiento y muerte nos da esperanza? En su obra recientemente publicada, *Touch the Wounds*, el teólogo y sacerdote checo Tomas Halik escribe: “no hay otro camino ni otra puerta a Dios que la que abre una mano herida y un corazón traspasado”. El autor continúa reflexionando sobre la profundidad del amor de Jesús que lo llevó a sufrir ya llevar los males de todos nosotros, hasta su muerte en la cruz. “Tal amor representa una fuerza, la única fuerza que sobrevive a la muerte misma y derriba sus puertas con manos traspasadas”. Halik concluye que al resucitar la fe del dudoso apóstol Tomás al permitirle tocar sus heridas, Jesús le estaba diciendo a él, y a nosotros, que “es donde tocas el sufrimiento humano, y tal vez solo allí, te darás cuenta de que estoy vivo, que ‘soy yo’. Me encontrarás dondequiera que la gente sufra. No te alejes de mí en ninguna de esas reuniones. No tengas miedo. No seas incrédulo, sino cree”.

Hermanos y hermanas, por todo lo que hemos experimentado a lo largo del camino de nuestras vidas, en alegría y alegría, y sí, incluso en el sufrimiento, la muerte y en las muchas heridas que hemos soportado, ¡la gracia de Dios no defrauda! ¡Jesús ha resucitado y vive entre nosotros, levantándonos de las cargas de este mundo y llevándonos a una nueva vida!

Como obispo de esta gran iglesia local de la Diócesis de Scranton, estoy profundamente conmovido por el ejemplo de sus vidas. En medio de todo lo que se desarrolla en la vida, seguís viviendo vuestra fe y cumpliendo las promesas de vuestro Bautismo. Continúas sirviendo a tus hermanos y hermanas. Sigues sacando esperanza de una relación viva con Jesús resucitado.

Durante esta Semana Santa, oro para que todos lleguemos a apreciar más profundamente que nunca el hecho de que somos bendecidos en más formas de las que creemos o imaginamos. Que tengamos en nuestros corazones a los 162 catecúmenos y candidatos de toda la Diócesis de Scranton que serán bautizados en la vida, muerte y resurrección de Jesús y presentados para la plena comunión en la Iglesia Católica. Que confiemos en la promesa de Dios de sostenernos y disipar nuestros miedos más profundos. Además, que abramos nuestros corazones a Jesús resucitado y permitamos que los llene con su amor y paz.

Este es el día que hizo el Señor. ¡Regocijémonos y alegrémonos!

Fielmente tuyo en Cristo Resucitado,

Reverendísimo Joseph C. Bambara, D.D., J.C.L., Obispo de Scranton



La Resurrección está representada en esta pintura del siglo XIV del Maestro de Santacroce. (Obras de arte de OSV News/Agnew's, Bridgeman Images)

Bishop Bambara's 2023 Easter Message

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In his recently published work, *Touch the Wounds*, the Czech theologian and priest Tomas Halik writes, “there is no other path or other gate to God than that which is opened by a wounded hand and pierced heart.” The author goes on to reflect upon the depth of Jesus’ love that led him to suffer and to bear the ills of us all, even unto his death on the cross. “Such love represents a force, the only force that survives death itself and overturns its gates with pierced hands.” Halik concludes that in resurrecting the doubting apostle Thomas’ faith by letting him touch his wounds, Jesus was telling him – and us – that “it is where you touch human suffering, and maybe only there, that you will realize that I am alive, that ‘it’s me.’ You will meet me wherever people suffer. Do not shy away from me in any of those meetings. Do not be afraid. Do not be unbelieving, but believe.”

Brothers and sisters, for all that we have experienced throughout the journey of our lives – in joy and gladness, and yes, even in suffering, death and in the many wounds that we have endured – the grace of God does not disappoint! Jesus is risen and lives among us, lifting us from the burdens of this world and carrying us to new life!

As bishop of this great local church of the Diocese of Scranton, I am profoundly touched by the example of your lives. In the midst of all that life unfolds, you continue to live your faith and fulfill the promises of your Baptism. You continue to serve your brothers and sisters. You continue to derive hope from a living relationship with the risen Jesus.

During this Holy Week, I pray that we will all come to appreciate more deeply than ever the fact that we are indeed blessed in more ways than we might believe or imagine. May we hold in our hearts the 162 catechumens and candidates from throughout the Diocese of Scranton who will be baptized into the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and presented for full communion in the Catholic Church. May we trust in God’s promise to sustain us and dispel our deepest fears. Moreover, may we open our hearts to the risen Jesus and allow him to fill them with his love and peace.

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad!

Faithfully yours in the Risen Christ,

+ Joseph C. Bambara

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambara
Bishop of Scranton

Faithful discover anew the life-giving strength of the Eucharist at Holy Hours

LARKSVILLE – As the month of March ended, so too did a series of 12 Lenten Holy Hours celebrated by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton.

Beginning at Saint Rose of Lima Parish in Carbondale Feb. 23 and ending at Saint John the Baptist Parish in Larksville March 29, Bishop Bambera joined the faithful of each deanery to proclaim and adore the presence of Jesus in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

Hundreds of faithful attended each of the Lenten Holy Hours – meaning overall that several thousand people experienced the love of Jesus poured forth from the Cross.

Organized to help highlight the National Eucharistic Revival that has been underway for nearly one year – the Lenten Holy Hours were a time for the Church to discover anew the life-giving strength of the Eucharist – the living presence of Jesus among us.

During his homily at each stop, Bishop Bambera emphasized three important realities that he hoped the faithful would take from each Holy Hour.

1. Through the Eucharist, we learn that we are incorporated into Christ's Paschal Mystery – His suffering, death and resurrection – through which we are saved.

Bishop Bambera stated, “For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup,” Saint Paul reminds us, ‘you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.’ What does that mean for us? It means that we do not suffer alone, for Christ suffers with us. It means that the deaths that we experience are known and grieved by Christ. It means that like Jesus who rose, despite our suffering and deaths, we have hope for new life in this world and the world to come.”

“But to make this mystery our mystery, Christ, in the Eucharist, first beckons us to remove the facades that we so often use to mask our troubles and disappointments, our suffering and pain, our failures, sins and

death and to come to him as we are to be forgiven, healed and created anew through the power of his resurrection. His death is our death. His rising to new life is our rising as well.”

2. Through the Eucharist, we are bound together as brothers and sisters.

Bishop Bambera continued, “Recall the words of Pope Benedict in this first encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est*, ‘I cannot possess Christ just for myself ... Communion draws me out of myself towards him and thus also towards unity with all Christians.’ That means that while the love of God given to us through Christ is without conditions, it is not without consequences. Communion with the Eucharistic body of Christ must be accompanied by our communion with the mystical body of Christ, which is the Church – our brothers and sisters.”

3. Through the Eucharist, we are sent forth on mission – to be the living presence of Jesus in our world today.

The bishop noted, “Saint Paul challenges the Corinthians, ‘You who share the same bread and cup receive the same Christ in the Eucharist, and as such, you become one with each other and with the Lord whom you receive.’ You become one with your husband, your wife; one with your child; one with the neighbor you find intolerable; one with the person of color or ethnic background or lifestyle that you’d rather not accept; one with the poor.”

“Eucharist compels us, brothers and sisters, to remember that we not only receive the risen Christ but also are called to something more. Early in his pontificate, Saint John Paul II wrote to the bishops of the world about the gift of the Eucharist. As he spoke of the sublime gift of God in the sacramental presence of Jesus that we

Diocesan faithful reflect on the importance of the Lenten Holy Hours



“We are a Eucharistic people and the whole pinnacle of Easter is realizing Jesus’ true presence in our life.”

Kim Marchese
SS Anthony and Rocco Parish, Dunmore

“It is only by being still and knowing that we just need to be here that God can speak to us more clearly or at least we can distinguish His voice.”

Jim Calvey
Saint Gregory Parish, Clarks Green



“No matter what we do, what kind of troubles or issues we have, our Lord is always with us!”

Mary Jo Wojtowicz
All Saint Parish, Plymouth

“You can’t experience this on the internet. You have to be here and when you’re here in the moment it is so special you become a little overwhelmed!”

Paul Rotella
BVM Queen of Peace Parish, Hawley



“A Holy Hour is my special time alone without the world. It is just me and the Lord and I can tell Him anything in that time without fear of repercussions.”

Cathy Getz
SS Cyril & Methodius Parish, Hazleton

honor and adore this night, he also said this: ‘The authentic sense of the Eucharist is that it becomes the school of active love for my neighbor. If authentically received, Eucharist must make us grow in awareness of one another.’”

As he concluded his remarks each evening, Bishop Bambera told the faithful there is nothing that cannot be forgiven and healed by Jesus.

“Allow his mercy and forgiveness

to envelop your lives and to recreate your spirits,” Bishop Bambera ended by saying. “Trust in His promise to save. Open your hearts and let His love fill you with peace. Receive Christ and then, filled with His life, become Christ for our broken world.”

To read Bishop Bambera’s full homily from the Lenten Holy Hours, visit the Diocese of Scranton website at dioceseofscranton.org.



WE CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT THE EUCHARIST

*- A Priesthood Perspective by Father Michael Quinnan -
Pastor, Saint Luke Parish, Stroudsburg*



At the conclusion of the 24th Italian Eucharistic Congress in 2005, Pope Benedict reflected on the chosen theme, *"Without Sunday, We Cannot Live,"* by telling the following story:

There were 49 Christians in Abitene, a small village in present-day Tunisia, who defied the Roman Emperor when he prohibited the celebration of the Sunday Eucharist. They were arrested and taken to Carthage and put on trial.

One of their number, a man by the name of Emeritus, who when questioned as to why the group disobeyed the order of the emperor, said simply, "We had to gather, we cannot live without joining together on Sunday to celebrate the Eucharist. We would lack the strength to face our daily problems and not to succumb."



As a result, they were tortured and all 49 were martyred.

What made these ordinary Christians so zealous for their faith? They were not remarkable or well-known people. We know of them because of their bold rejection of the emperor's mandate but what gave them such courage, such conviction? The simple answer is their faith in the Eucharist. It sustained them. It animated them. It strengthened them. Personally, I am awed by their courage and their conviction. The strength that they received in the Eucharist is something that I respect, admire, and desire for myself. They knew who they were as disciples of the Lord, and they knew that the Eucharist was essential in helping them live their vocation.

For us, in this new millennium of the Church, we have become somewhat accustomed to the celebration of the Eucharist. It is something that we have known all our lives. There has never been anyone who has prohibited us from this celebration. Normally, the only one who keeps us from the Eucharist is ourselves. We know the gift is there waiting for us. We can be sure of that. On any given Sunday morning (really any morning), we can go to a Catholic Church and receive this gift. It is a certainty. This was not so for Emeritus and his 48 companions. They couldn't take it for granted and, as such, they hungered for this Eucharistic gift that they knew was precious and a rare find.

We can take a lesson from these Christians and we can

be awed by the courage of their convictions but it won't necessarily convince us of the necessity of the Sunday Eucharist. That is something we have to experience for ourselves. How can we become so zealous, so convinced of the importance of receiving the Eucharist? It takes time and time isn't something we are always willing to give. However, when we give the time to this celebration, we give time to something that can certainly benefit us beyond all measure. We receive the food that keeps us from being hungry and the drink that satisfies our thirst. Not in the ordinary sense of hunger and thirst but in an existential sense. We find meaning and purpose and we receive the support we need to act upon our convictions. If we have this awareness, then we too could not live without the gift of the Eucharist.

Besides going to Mass and receiving the Eucharist in communion, Eucharistic Adoration is another way for us to become aware of the beauty of this sacrament. Eucharistic Adoration can be done by simply sitting quietly in church or by spending some time in the presence of the Eucharist that has been exposed in a monstrance on the altar. As we reflect on the Eucharist at times like this, we can begin to appreciate the gift of Christ's body broken for us in a

**"Without this
gift, we cannot
live. It is that
important."**

National Eucharistic Revival aims to form disciples on mission with new Easter series

WASHINGTON (OSV News) – The National Eucharistic Revival announced it will release what it called the "first-of-its-kind" mystagogy series of weekly catechetical reflections throughout the Easter season to "invite all Catholics deeper into the mysteries of Christ by reflecting on the truth, goodness and beauty of the Mass," a news release on the series said.

"Mystagogy" is an intentional deepening of a disciple of Jesus Christ's understanding of the faith following the reception of the sacraments – particularly in the period between Easter and Pentecost.

The series, titled "Beautiful Light: A Paschal Mystagogy," is being offered through the Heart of the Revival Newsletter, a weekly publication of the National Eucharistic Revival, which was established in June 2022 to provide resources to reaffirm and deepen the Eucharistic faith of Catholics across the country.

deeper way.

Pope Saint John Paul II describes prayer in front of the Eucharist as a "school of active love of neighbor." He tells us in "Dominicae Cenae," a letter he wrote to the Bishops on Holy Thursday in 1980: "The Eucharist educates us to this love in a deeper way; it shows us, in fact, what value each person, our brother or sister, has in God's eyes, if Christ offers Himself equally to each one, under the species of bread and wine. If our Eucharistic worship is authentic, it must make us grow in awareness of the dignity of each person. The awareness of that dignity becomes the deepest motive of our relationship with our neighbor." (Paragraph 6).

I think Saint John Paul tells us that the Eucharist makes us see others differently. We realize the significance of this gift, given to each of us, and it makes us act in a different way.

Next time you have time, spend some time in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament — the Eucharist. Open a Bible to *John 6:22-71* or *1 Corinthians 11:23-29* and reflect on those words. Ask God for the nourishment available to you in this gift. We believe the Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Christ. Further, we believe this Body and Blood is given to us to consume and ingest. We are incorporated into Christ's Body as we receive communion and we find a gift that satisfies, sustains, and strengthens us. Without this gift, we cannot live. It is that important.

It begins April 13, the Thursday before Divine Mercy Sunday, and runs through May 25, the Thursday before Pentecost.

Seven prominent Catholics will write articles for the series: Archbishop Charles C. Thompson of Indianapolis; Sister Maria Miguel Wright of the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist; biblical scholar and author Jeff Cavins; Archbishop J. Peter Sartain of Seattle; Canadian priest and author Father Harrison Ayre; Kately Javier, coordinator for Adult Formation and Hispanic catechesis for the Washington Archdiocese; and Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, who is president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

To access "Beautiful Light: A Paschal Mystagogy," subscribe to the Heart of the Revival Newsletter at eucharisticrevival.org/heart-of-the-revival-newsletter.

Bishop to celebrate World Day of Prayer for Vocations Mass in Hazleton April 29

HAZLETON – Queen of Heaven Parish, 750 North Vine Street, Hazleton, will be the location for the Diocese of Scranton’s annual World Day of Prayer for Vocations Mass on Saturday, April 29, 2023.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will be the principal celebrant for the 5:30 p.m. liturgy.

The purpose of World Day of Prayer for Vocations is to publicly fulfill the Lord’s instruction to, “Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest” (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2).

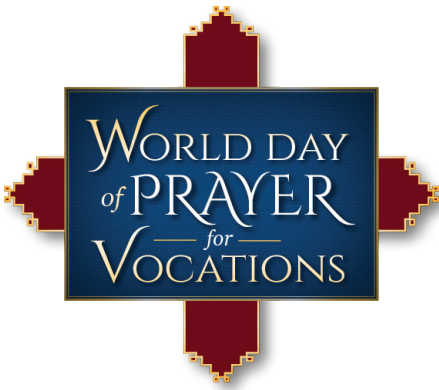
While those in attendance will pray for all those discerning and living out their vocation, on this weekend the Church concentrates its attention on

vocations to the ordained ministries (priesthood and diaconate), consecrated life in all its forms (male and female religious life, societies of apostolic life, consecrated virginity), secular institutes in their diversity of services and membership, and to the missionary life.

This year, 2023, marks the 60th anniversary of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

Every parish in the Diocese of Scranton will be celebrating World Day of Prayer for Vocations at their weekend Masses on April 29/30.

May Christ the Good Shepherd guide and protect us as we respond to our vocations in total surrender to Him!



APPOINTMENTS

His Excellency, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, announces the following appointments, effective as indicated

- Reverend Brian J.T. Clarke**, from Pastor, Christ the King Parish, Archbald to Leave of Absence for reasons of health, effective March 14, 2023.
- Reverend Binesh Joseph Kanjirakattu**, from Assistant Pastor, Holy Rosary Parish, Hazleton, and Holy Name of Jesus Parish, West Hazleton, to Administrator, Holy Rosary Parish, Hazleton, and Holy Name of Jesus Parish, West Hazleton, effective May 17, 2023.
- Reverend Siby John Padinjaredath, C.P.**, from Parochial Vicar, St. Ann Basilica Parish, Scranton to Ministry with the Passionist Congregation, effective March 3, 2023.
- Reverend Michael J. Piccola**, from Administrator, Holy Rosary Parish, Hazleton, and Holy Name of Jesus Parish, West Hazleton. Father will remain Pastor, SS Cyril and Methodius Parish, Hazleton, effective May 17, 2023.
- Reverend Kenneth M. Seegar**, from Pastor, Holy Rosary Parish, Hazleton, and Holy Name of Jesus Parish, West Hazleton, to Leave of Absence for reasons of health, effective March 30, 2023.
- Reverend Seth D. Wasnock**, to Administrator *pro tem*, Christ the King Parish, Archbald. He will remain Pastor, St. Rose of Lima Parish, Carbondale and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Carbondale, effective March 14, 2023.



BISHOP BAMBERA’S SCHEDULE

- April 6** - Mass of the Lord’s Supper
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 5:30 p.m.
- April 7** - Commemoration of the Lord’s Passion
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.
- April 8** - Easter Vigil Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 8:00 p.m.
- April 9** - Easter Sunday Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.
- April 11** - School Mass for Saint Jude School
Saint Jude Church, Mountain Top, 9:00 a.m.
- April 16** - Confirmation at The University of Scranton
Madonna della Strada Chapel, 11:00 a.m.
- April 17** - Confirmation for St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, St. John the Baptist Parish and All Saints Parish, taking place in Wilkes-Barre, 5:00 p.m.
- April 18** - Confirmation for St. Paul Parish and Mary, Mother of God Parish, taking place in Scranton, 5:00 p.m.
- April 19** - Marian Catholic School Mass
Tamaqua, 9:30 a.m.
- April 19** - Confirmation for Saint John Parish
East Stroudsburg, 5:00 p.m.
- April 20** - Healing Mass for Survivors of Abuse
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.
- April 23** - Scout Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.
- April 24** - Confirmation for St. Therese Parish and St. Frances Cabrini Parish, taking place in Shavertown, 5:00 p.m.
- April 25** - School Mass for Epiphany School
Sayre, 9:00 a.m.
- April 26** - Confirmation for St. John the Evangelist Parish, St. Joseph Marello Parish, Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish, Queen of the Apostles Parish and Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, taking place in Pittston, 5:00 p.m.
- April 27** - School Mass for All Saints Academy
St. Patrick Church, Scranton, 9:00
- April 27** - Confirmation for Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Queen of Angels Parish and St. John Vianney Parish, taking place in Peckville, 5:00 p.m.
- April 29** - World Day of Prayer for Vocations
Queen of Heaven Parish, Hazleton, 5:30 p.m.
- April 30 - May 2** - Pennsylvania Bishops’ Spring Meeting, Wynnewood
- May 3** - School Mass for Holy Family Academy
Hazleton, 9:00 a.m.
- May 8** - St. Mary’s Seminary Board Meeting, Baltimore
- May 9** - Confirmation for Our Lady of the Snows Parish
St. Benedict’s Church, Newton Ransom, 5:00 p.m.
- May 10** - Confirmation for St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, St. Rita Parish and Most Holy Trinity Parish, taking place in Pocono Pines, 5:00 p.m.
- May 11** - Confirmation for Immaculate Conception Parish, St. Patrick Parish and Good Shepherd Parish, taking place in Freeland, 5:00 p.m.



Diocese announces “Our Faith. Our Students. Our Future.” - a Strategic Growth Planning Process for its Catholic Schools



Students from Holy Cross High School in Dunmore helped their elementary school buddies at Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore celebrate “Read Across America Day.”



The eighth grade class of Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston prepares for their portrayal of the Living Stations of the Cross. The students will perform for the student body on the Wednesday before Easter as well as on Good Friday at Saint Ignatius Church.



St. Patrick and St. Brigid visited classrooms with their pot of “gold” to share with students at Epiphany School in Sayre.

this moment and be proactive, to reflect, to think, to pray and to plan for how we can be better – and how we can take where we are – and really carry it into the future,” he said.

Additional information and updates on “Our Faith. Our Students. Our Future.” will be available on the Diocese of Scranton website as the process progresses.

SCRANTON – Throughout the Diocese of Scranton’s 155-year history, teaching the Catholic faith to its young people has been one of its most fundamental missions.

To ensure Catholic school education will continue for decades to come, the Diocese of Scranton is launching “Our Faith. Our Students. Our Future.” – a new strategic growth planning process.

The process will build upon the many successes the 19 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Scranton have seen over the last few years and proactively address challenges along the way.

“As we examine our current state, we are poised and ready for this planning process and see it as an opportunity to make our extraordinary Catholic school education in the Diocese of Scranton available for generations to come,” Kristen Donohue, Diocesan Secretary of Catholic Education/Superintendent of Catholic Schools, said.

Over the last several years, Catholic schools in the Diocese of Scranton have distinguished themselves in several different ways. During the COVID-19 pandemic, students, families, educators, administrators and priests worked together to be innovative and became a benchmark for other schools to follow.

“In the safest learning environment possible, schools not only opened their doors for in-person education, but did so

with compassion,” Donohue continued. “We continued to focus on allowing each student the opportunities to grow to his/her God-given potential. We continued to monitor academic growth through regular assessments, using this data to provide responsive and appropriately rigorous, differentiated instruction.”

It is from this position of strength that Diocesan Catholic schools will plan for the future.

“I am hopeful that when this process is complete, we won’t simply set goals and objectives for our 19 schools for the next five or 10 years,” the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, said. “Hopefully we’ll be able to continue to make Catholic education affordable and accessible to a new generation of students who we will welcome into our schools.”

Bishop Bambera is hopeful the strategic growth planning process will give everyone a voice in shaping the future. Whether it is through surveys, interviews, working groups or simply praying

for the planning process, the bishop is hopeful everyone will participate.

“I want to stress that we are not going into this process with some preconceived ideas or plans to change or to reorganize our system. We did that already,” Bishop Bambera added. “Instead, we need to assess the current reality, we need to define what our priorities are and we need to continue to do everything we can to develop a strong, financially sustainable vision for our Catholic schools allowing them to remain vibrant and strong.”

For the last two years, enrollment in many Catholic schools has increased, so one of the challenges ahead is examining best practices for recruitment and retention of students and school families in order to continue seeing increases in enrollment. Likewise, overall financial stability, addressing aging infrastructure, and recruiting and retaining dedicated teachers and administrators will be critical.

“We need to face our challenges with the same strength,

creativity and confidence seen throughout the past four years,” Donohue noted.

The areas of focus for the strategic growth planning process will align with the National Standards and Benchmarks of Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools: vibrant Catholic identity; academic excellence; governance, leadership and engagement; and operational vitality and financial stability.

The timeline for “Our Faith. Our Students. Our Future.” will be divided into phases and take between one and two years to complete. The first phase involves data collection and analysis. The second phase focuses on the development of the strategic plan itself and the third phase involves implementation.

Bishop Bambera said the planning process will allow our Catholic schools an opportunity to grow, learn, change, improve, and move closer to the vision that God has for us.

“It’s important for us to look at where we are, to take

Diocese of Scranton

CATHOLIC

SCHOOL SYSTEM

FAITH • ACADEMICS • SERVICE

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.



Bishop Bambera recently celebrated Mass with the students, faculty, staff, and community of Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School in Wilkes-Barre and Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter. During his homilies, the Bishop shared how God's love for us is at the heart of the Easter season: "He gave His only son to die for us and our sins."



Key Club members from Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School in Williamsport packed 200 boxes of food for local senior citizens.



Third graders at Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore enjoy a "shamrock shake" treat for Saint Patrick's Day.



The school community at Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton held a pink and blue dress down day in honor of the Zayac family/Jog for Jude.



Third grader Alsonso Carrasco Novo reacts as he hears the news that he is the "Pi Day" Pie Eating Contest Winner at Holy Family Academy in Hazleton.



Students and faculty at **Saint Jude School in Mountain Top** add their own twist to March Madness — a Penny War fundraiser for classroom teachers to purchase additional supplies.



Seventh and eighth grade students represented **Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green** at the regional PJAS competition where 29 students were awarded first place with two perfect scores and 12 students were awarded second place. The students placing first will compete at Penn State University in May.



Congratulations to all the students from **Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre** who competed in the PA Junior Academy of Science Regional competition. Twelve students earned first place (including five perfect scores) and four students earned second place.



Kindergarten students from **Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport** take a bus ride. Students traveled to the River Valley Transit office and bus garage, even getting the chance to go through the bus wash. On their way to the office, they went past the library, Penn College, Lycoming College and other parts of the community.



The cast of "Something Rotten," the spring musical at **Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg**, showcased their talents with three outstanding performances at the end of March.



Kindergarten students at **Holy Rosary School in Duryea** learned the importance of dental health with a visit and lesson from Mrs. Majewski of the Watkins Dental Group.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Diocese of Scranton Fiscal Year 2021-2022



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

With gratitude, I present to you the audited financial statements of the Administrative Offices of the Diocese of Scranton for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Because of your commitment to the Church, we are able to continue serving the Lord with gladness in the 11 counties in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

Through your generous stewardship – remembering that everything we have is a gift from God – we have been able to accomplish so many things both spiritually and materially. It is God's love that brings us together, knowing that His Son commanded us to "love one another as I love you" (Jn 15:12).

Each year, you sacrifice in order to give the Diocese of Scranton the financial resources needed to go out into the world to share the Good News of the Gospel. We are committed to being good stewards of those financial resources and are equally committed to transparency when it comes to their usage. Over the next several pages, we provide not only the accounting of the gifts that the Church has received, but also a sense of how we work together to do the work of the Lord.

During the online surveys and listening sessions that many of you participated in for the Synod on Synodality last year, I heard that greater transparency from church leadership, especially in financial matters, is important to many of you. That is why publishing this document and making the full text of our audited financial statements online is so critical.

I am happy to report that for the second consecutive year, Voice of the Faithful, a lay organization of faithful Catholics, has named the Diocese of Scranton as being one of the most financially transparent dioceses in the United States. The group's 2022 report identifies our diocese as one of only five nationwide to receive an overall score of 100% in regards to transparency. Our website was also highlighted for having one of the best finance pages with key information readily accessible.

As always, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to everyone supporting the Diocese of Scranton, from employees and volunteers to donors and parishioners. I am thankful for your generous support you have shown your parish community and our diocese and for your continued prayers as we work to fulfill our mission of imitating the servant leadership of Jesus Christ.

May our Risen Lord bless you and your families, fill you with his peace and continue to keep you safe.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Joseph C. Bambera

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



The financial information contained on the following pages is derived from the audited financial statements of the Administrative Offices of the Diocese of Scranton as of June 30, 2022 and 2021. The full report is available under the "Financial Services" page at www.dioceseofscranton.org



Dear Friends,

As the Chief Financial Officer of the Diocese of Scranton, it is my privilege to present the 2021-2022 audited financial report for the Diocese of Scranton Administrative Offices. This report provides an overview of the prudent use of funds that have been received for the period covering July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022.

As I prepare my second budget message as Diocesan Secretary for Financial Services/Chief Financial Officer, there is much to be proud of during this fiscal period, even after the recent economic challenges due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and decades-high inflation rates. Our Diocese continues to experience signs of vibrancy, while it also faces some challenges, and it is making continued progress in key areas, which are highlighted below.

Bishop Bambera continues to stress accountability and transparency regarding financial information. I share his feeling that it is critical to share with you the care and prudence with which we manage the resources that you, the faithful, entrust to the Diocese to make a positive impact in our 11-county region and beyond. I also want to highlight the new diocesan law instituted by Bishop Bambera last year that requires every parish to publish an annual financial report in its bulletin. Coupled with sharing parish life statistics, these are all important pieces of information for parishioners to have knowledge about.

The key points of the 2021-2022 fiscal report are:

- The Diocese had a net gain from operations in the amount of \$3,414,947. This came primarily from investment income of \$2,494,850 and net realized gain on the sale of investments of \$3,473,568. Part of these proceeds were used to make a \$2.3 million contribution to Catholic Social Services to help fund their pension plan. The prior year (2020-2021) included the sale of the Diocese's Educational Broadband Services (EBS) License for \$5 million and proceeds of \$843,000 from the sale of another property. The Diocese used the majority of the income to contribute approximately \$5 million to its Lay Pension Plan in fiscal 2020-2021.

- Funds raised by the 2021 Diocesan Annual Appeal totaled \$4,458,893. The Diocese returned \$205,567 directly to parishes that exceeded their goal for the campaign. This means the revenue from the Appeal to the Diocese totaled \$4,253,326. Funds raised by the 2020 Diocesan Annual Appeal totaled \$4,076,900. In that year, the Diocese returned \$98,200 directly to parishes that exceeded their goal for the campaign.

- The current fiscal year (2021-2022) included a transfer of \$7.2 million to the Lay Pension Plan and a \$2.1 million transfer back to the Diocese of Scranton Institute for a prior year pension contribution. These transfers were offset by a \$2.4 million positive net pension adjustment due to the effect of rising interest rates on the calculation of the pension obligation. The current year also included a \$9.9 million unrealized loss on investments to large, unfavorable market fluctuations during the 2021- 2022 year. The prior year (2020-2021) included \$10.4 million of unrealized gains on investments due to unusually strong market performance, a \$4.4 million positive net pension cost due to strong investment market returns, offset by a \$5 million contribution to the Lay Pension Plan.

- Additionally, as disclosed in the Statement of Financial Position, the Diocese transferred the funds on deposit held for Perpetual Care to the Diocese of Scranton Institute to better account for these monies and follow the mission of each organization.

- As in previous years, the financial statements of the Diocesan Administrative Offices have been independently audited by McGrail Merkel Quinn & Associates, P.C., Certified Public Accounts. The statements include activities related to the Diocesan Administrative Offices, not activities related to Catholic Social Services or the Catholic School System. These organizations are audited separately. The statements also do not include parish activities.

I invite you to view the complete audited financial statement for the 2021-2022 fiscal year on the Diocese of Scranton website at dioceseofscranton.org/directory/offices/financial-services.

I want to publicly thank the members of the Diocesan Finance Council for the support they provide to the Bishop and my staff and extend that appreciation to Catholics throughout the Diocese. The continuing generosity of the Catholic community and the sharing of time, talent and treasure make possible the good works of our Church in the Diocese of Scranton.

Sincerely in Christ,

Eileen Giombetti

Eileen Giombetti

Diocesan Secretary for Financial Services



Offices in Support of the Parishes and Diocese include:

Administrative Offices and Chancellor
Catholic Schools
Catholic Social Services
Child Protection/Victim Assistance
Communications
Development Office
Finance Office
Human Resources
Information Technology
Parish Life Office
Pontifical Mission Societies
Property and Risk Management
Tribunal
Vocations/Clergy Formation



REVENUE

- Sources of Revenue for 2021-22 Fiscal Year -

The Diocese of Scranton's operating revenue for the 2021-2022 fiscal year was \$34.9 million.

The Diocese's Self-Insurance Program (both medical and general) were two of the largest sources of revenue in the 2021-2022 fiscal year budget.

In total, the two self-insurance programs accounted for \$13,862,336 (or roughly 40%) of all revenue.

Under the self-insurance programs, the Diocese assumes responsibility for all claims. In effect, this means that every parish or agency is sharing in the payment of claims through its premiums.

Another large source of revenue for the support of programs and ministries continues to be from parish assessments, constituting \$4.95 million, or approximately 14% of the \$34.9 million in operations revenue in the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Assessments fund administration support services, financial services, human resources, information technology, the Diocesan Property and Risk Management and much more. They also help support the administrative offices of Catholic schools.

The Diocesan Annual Appeal continues to support the charitable, educational and pastoral services of the Diocese. Funds from the Appeal support Catholic Schools, Catholic Social Services, Office for Parish Life, Office of Communications, Vocations and Clergy Support and more.

Based on the terms of the Annual Appeal, each parish is assigned a "goal," which represents its portion of the overall Diocesan goal. Parishes share in

the success of the campaign to the extent that they receive seventy-five percent of the funds which are raised in excess of their goal.

Funds raised by the 2021 Diocesan Annual Appeal totaled \$4,458,893. The Diocese returned to parishes \$205,567 representing seventy-five percent of the funds raised in excess of any individual parish goals for the 2021 campaign. This means the overall revenue for the Diocese itself during this fiscal year is \$4,253,326.

When looking at the two previous fiscal years back-to-back, a person might notice that in the previous year there was a significant change in two of the reporting categories.

First, in 2022, the Diocese of Scranton saw a significant increase in revenue from investment income over the previous year.

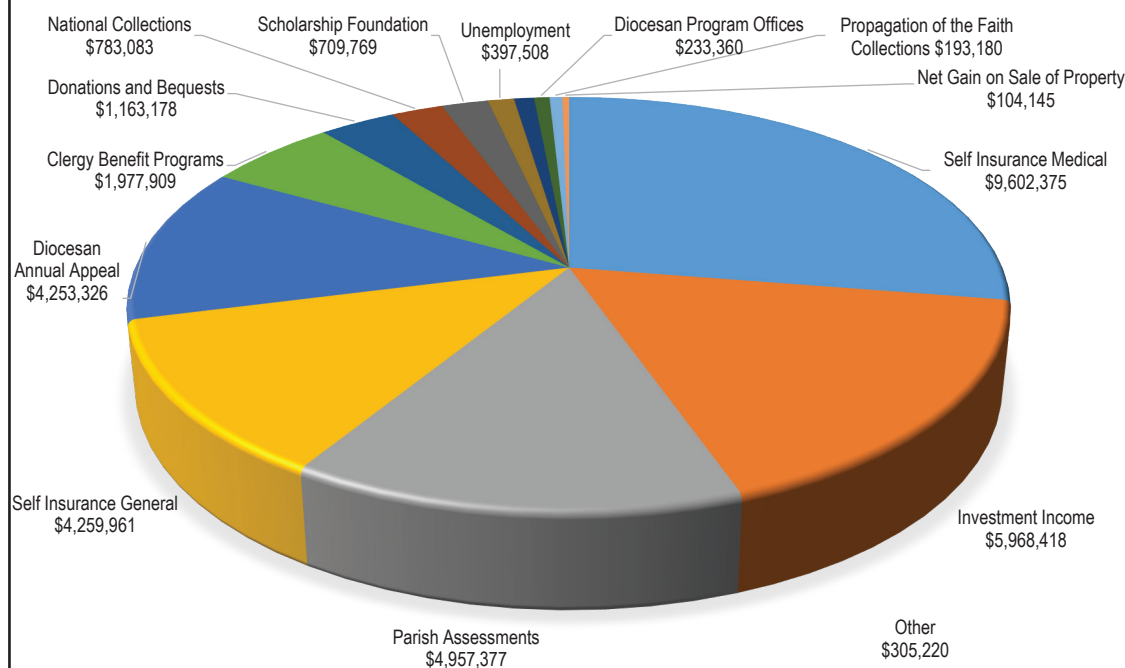
Nearly \$2.5 million of that was investment income and nearly \$3.5 million constituted net realized gains on the sale of investments.

Part of these proceeds were used to make a \$2.3 million contribution to Catholic Social Services to help fund its pension plan.

Second, in 2021, the Diocese released more than \$5.6 million from the sale of property. As a reminder, that significant sum came primarily through the sale of the Diocese's Educational Broadband Services (EBS) License for \$5 million. In 2019, the Federal Communications Commission adopted new rules governing the EBS spectrum that allowed current licensees the ability to sell their licenses. Prior to that sale, the Diocese had a long-term lease with a company to utilize their license. That money was used for the Diocese's Lay Pension Plan.

DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES SUPPORT AND REVENUE

\$34,908,809



Support and Revenue

	2022	2021
Self Insurance Medical	\$9,602,375	\$9,477,855
Investment Income	\$5,968,418	\$1,889,087
Parish Assessments	\$4,957,377	\$5,170,212
Self Insurance General	\$4,259,961	\$4,176,672
Diocesan Annual Appeal	\$4,253,326	\$3,978,691
Clergy Benefit Programs	\$1,977,909	\$2,031,350
Donations and Bequests	\$1,163,178	\$1,179,071
National Collections	\$783,083	\$321,457
Scholarship Foundation	\$709,769	\$523,336
Unemployment	\$397,508	\$446,452
Other	\$305,220	\$341,004
Diocesan Program Offices	\$233,360	\$237,169
Propagation of the Faith Collections	\$193,180	\$144,300
Net Gain on Sale of Property	\$104,145	\$5,690,475
Total	\$34,908,809	\$35,607,131

EXPENSES

- Embracing the Challenges of the 2021-22 Fiscal Year -

The Diocese of Scranton’s expenses for the 2021-2022 fiscal year were \$31.5 million.

During the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the Diocese of Scranton continued to spread the Good News of Jesus throughout the 11 counties in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania while continuing to address the lingering issues associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The mission of the Diocesan Finance Office is to faithfully administer the temporal goods entrusted to the Diocese of Scranton, exercising prudence in all decisions related to financial and administrative operations. The office consists of a dedicated team of motivated professionals who efficiently and effectively service the needs of the diocese, while also providing help, guidance and assistance to pastors, business managers, parishes, schools and other diocesan organizations and agencies.

The office is committed to the highest standards of integrity and accountability. It is responsible for ensuring that financial policies and procedures are adhered to, internal controls are in place and operating to safeguard assets, and that all financial activities and transactions are properly accounted for.

The many ministries and services provided by the diocese impact people of all ages, circumstances, and walks of life.

With 114 parishes and 19 Catholic schools, there is no shortage of needs and an abundance of opportunities to provide services and assistance.

We are so thankful for the generosity of the Catholic community in the Diocese of Scranton. They have blessed the ministries in their parishes and schools with gifts that have in turn blessed the whole Diocese.

Throughout the year, numerous special liturgical celebrations occurred in addition to the many Lenten, Easter and Christmas traditions that are so integral to our faith. The Diocese continued to celebrate its annual Wedding Anniversary Mass, Respect Life Sunday Mass, World Mission Sunday Mass, Bishop’s Youth Award Masses and the Leave a Mark Mass for youth and young adults.

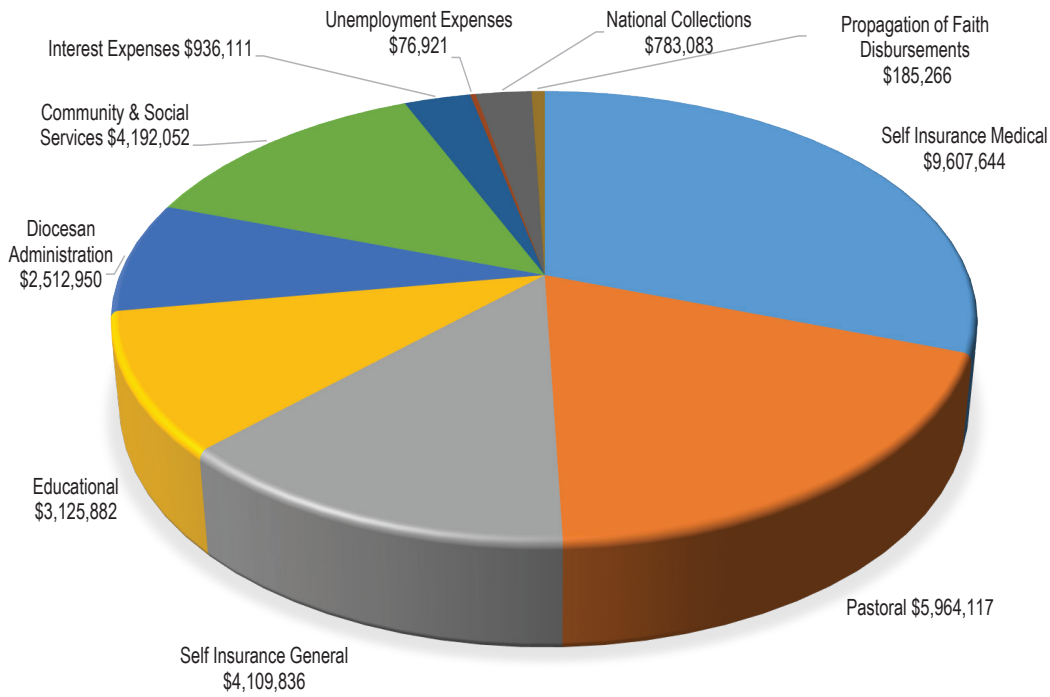
The Diocesan Catholic Schools Office continued to fulfill its mission of educating more than 4,400 students and their families in the Catholic faith. An analysis of student assessment data from our 19 Catholic schools over the last three years showed that despite the many challenges and obstacles of the pandemic, there was no significant “learning loss” in the Diocesan School System.

Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton continued to provide food, housing and assistance to the poor, needy and vulnerable each day of the year. A total of 67,661 of our brothers and sisters received a warm, nutritious meal at Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre last year. More than 25,000 households received food assistance between the agencies’ offices in Carbondale, Hazleton, Scranton and Wilkes-Barre and its emergency shelters provided 16,172 individual nights of rest to individuals in need of a safe space to sleep.

The staff of the Diocese of Scranton extends its special appreciation to all Catholics for their support, dedication and stewardship during the last fiscal year. The sharing of your time, talent and treasure forms the foundation of success for our parishes, schools and our diocesan church as a whole. Your efforts are instrumental in helping carry out the mission of the Church of Jesus Christ.

DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES EXPENSES

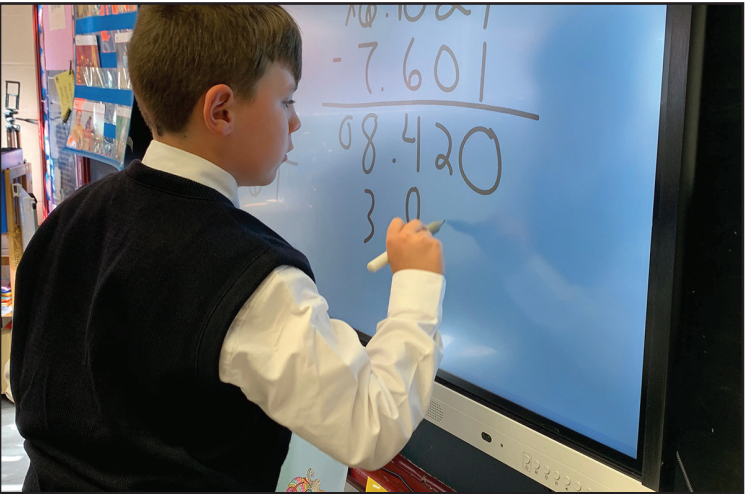
\$31,493,862



Expenses	2022	2021
Self Insurance Medical	\$9,607,644	\$9,418,097
Pastoral	\$5,964,117	\$5,527,917
Community & Social Services	\$4,192,052	\$2,144,863
Self Insurance General	\$4,109,836	\$3,908,263
Educational	\$3,125,882	\$2,574,638
Diocesan Administration	\$2,512,950	\$2,426,797
Interest Expenses	\$936,111	\$998,695
National Collections	\$783,083	\$321,457
Propagation of Faith Disbursements	\$185,266	\$174,202
Unemployment Expenses	\$76,921	\$631,916
Total	\$31,493,862	\$28,126,845

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES (Years Ending June 30, 2022 and 2021)

	2022			2021		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Revenues, gains and other support						
Parish assessments						
Diocesan	\$ 4,000,982	\$ -	\$ 4,000,982	\$ 4,210,209	\$ -	\$ 4,210,209
Clergy Care and Wellness	956,395	-	956,395	960,003	-	960,003
Intra-Diocesan billings						
Self-insurance premiums - General	4,259,961	-	4,259,961	4,176,672	-	4,176,672
Self-insurance premiums - Medical	9,602,375	-	9,602,375	9,477,855	-	9,477,855
Clergy benefit programs	1,977,909	-	1,977,909	2,031,350	-	2,031,350
Diocesan Program Revenues -						
Schedule 1	233,360	-	233,360	237,169	-	237,169
Diocesan Annual Appeal	-	4,253,326	4,253,326	-	3,978,691	3,978,691
Special collections	-	27,068	27,068	-	20,614	20,614
Donations and bequests	418,529	744,649	1,163,178	770,062	409,009	1,179,071
Scholarship Foundation contributions	-	709,769	709,769	-	523,336	523,336
Custodial receipts						
National collections	-	783,083	783,083	-	321,457	321,457
Unemployment	397,508	-	397,508	446,452	-	446,452
Propagation collections	193,180	-	193,180	144,300	-	144,300
Other revenue	278,152	-	278,152	297,289	-	297,289
Paycheck Protection Program loan funds	-	-	-	23,101	-	23,101
Investment income, net	2,251,259	243,591	2,494,850	1,136,187	121,629	1,257,816
Net realized gain on sale of investments	3,424,248	49,320	3,473,568	599,766	31,505	631,271
Net realized gain on sale of property	104,145	-	104,145	5,690,475	-	5,690,475
Net assets released from restrictions (Note 6):						
Satisfaction of program restrictions	5,890,016	(5,890,016)	-	4,933,921	(4,933,921)	-
Total revenues, gains and other support	\$ 33,988,019	\$ 920,790	\$ 34,908,809	\$ 35,134,811	\$ 472,320	\$ 35,607,131



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES (Years Ending June 30, 2022 and 2021)

	2022			2021		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Total revenues, gains and other support - carried forward	\$ 33,988,019	\$ 920,790	\$ 34,908,809	\$ 35,134,811	\$ 472,320	\$ 35,607,131
Expenses						
Pastoral - Schedule 2	5,964,117	-	5,964,117	5,527,917	-	5,527,917
Educational - Schedule 3	3,125,882	-	3,125,882	2,574,638	-	2,574,638
Community and Social Service - Schedule 4	4,377,318	-	4,377,318	2,319,065	-	2,319,065
Administrative - Schedule 5	16,230,430	-	16,230,430	15,753,157	-	15,753,157
Custodial disbursements						
National collections	783,083	-	783,083	321,457	-	321,457
Unemployment	76,921	-	76,921	631,916	-	631,916
Interest expense	936,111	-	936,111	998,695	-	998,695
Total expenses	31,493,862	-	31,493,862	28,126,845	-	28,126,845
Excess of revenues over expenses	2,494,157	920,790	3,414,947	7,007,966	472,320	7,480,286
Other changes						
Change in value of beneficial interest in perpetual trust	-	(45,773)	(45,773)	-	-	-
Provision for bad debt	(555,424)	-	(555,424)	(723,625)	-	(723,625)
Other components of net periodic pension cost	104,930	-	104,930	(420,000)	-	(420,000)
Pension-related changes other than net periodic pension cost	2,420,319	-	2,420,319	4,413,804	-	4,413,804
Transfer to lay pension plan	(7,184,731)	-	(7,184,731)	(5,119,910)	-	(5,119,910)
Transfer to Diocese of Scranton Institute	(2,150,000)	-	(2,150,000)	-	-	-
Change in net unrealized gains and losses on investments	(9,037,746)	(856,847)	(9,894,593)	10,158,351	635,767	10,794,118
(Decrease) increase in net assets	(13,908,495)	18,170	(13,890,325)	15,316,586	1,108,087	16,424,673
Net assets, beginning	16,805,336	9,469,723	26,275,059	1,488,750	8,361,636	9,850,386
Net assets, ending	\$ 2,896,841	\$ 9,487,893	\$ 12,384,734	\$ 16,805,336	\$ 9,469,723	\$ 26,275,059



Diocese of Scranton 2022

Parish Life Statistics



Catholic Population	317,429
Total Population	1,114,999
Infant Baptisms	1,972
Minor Baptisms	134
Adult Baptisms	74
First Communions	1,797
Confirmations	1,917
Marriages (Catholic & Interfaith)	526
Funerals	4,139

Students in Catholic Schools

Elementary (Pre-K to 8)	3,337
High School	1,083

Children in Religious Education Programs

Elementary:	9,723
High School:	632

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

June 30, 2022 and 2021

	<u>ASSETS</u>	
	2022	2021
Cash and equivalents	\$ 9,806,124	\$ 8,474,047
Accounts receivable, less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$5,172,043 in 2022 and \$4,726,135 in 2021	6,724,937	6,290,399
Accrued interest receivable	73,826	219,879
Contributions receivable	440,388	546,796
Due from Catholic Cemeteries	94,744	161,538
Prepaid expense	236,721	138,340
Cash subject to program restrictions	7,650,398	6,718,515
Notes and loans receivable	2,824,184	3,005,736
Investments	16,952,499	66,151,133
Land, buildings and equipment, net	5,630,300	5,738,323
Other assets	762,806	599,340
Beneficial interest in charitable trust	236,604	282,377
Total assets	\$ 51,433,531	\$ 98,326,423
	<u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u>	
	2022	2021
Accounts payable	\$ 747,812	\$ 846,517
Custodial funds payable	277,934	249,732
Contributions payable	1,296,533	1,140,223
Scholarships payable	723,343	595,328
Liability for pension benefits	5,962,339	7,553,892
Accrued claim expense	2,696,199	3,230,829
Accrued postretirement benefit obligation	8,150,832	10,120,732
Refundable advances	130,194	-
Loans payable	2,824,184	3,005,736
Due to Diocese of Scranton Institute	16,239,427	13,239,623
Funds on deposit	-	18,825,933
Catholic Cemeteries Perpetual Care and other funds	-	13,242,819
Other Diocesan organizations Perpetual Care	-	-
Total liabilities	39,048,797	72,051,364
Net assets		
Without donor restrictions	2,896,841	16,805,336
With donor restrictions	9,487,893	9,469,723
Total net assets	12,384,734	26,275,059
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 51,433,531	\$ 98,326,423

Mission Statement of the Diocese of Scranton

"We, the Catholic community of the Diocese of Scranton, are called through Baptism to imitate the servant leadership of Jesus Christ. In union with Our Holy Father, the Pope, we proclaim the Gospel faithfully, celebrate the sacraments joyfully, and boldly promote life, justice and peace in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania."

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

June 30, 2022 and 2021

	2022	2021
Operating activities		
(Decrease) increase in net assets	\$ (13,890,325)	\$ 16,424,673
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash used in operating activities:		
Net realized gain on sale of investments	(3,473,568)	(631,271)
Net unrealized loss (gain) on investments	9,894,593	(10,794,118)
Net realized gain on sale of property	(104,145)	(5,690,475)
(Accretion) amortization on investments	(61,192)	116,563
Depreciation expense	350,701	367,035
Provision for bad debt	555,424	723,625
Change in beneficial interest in charitable trust	45,773	(282,377)
Increase in accounts receivable	(989,962)	(602,918)
Decrease (increase) in accrued interest receivable	146,053	(85,951)
Decrease in contributions receivable	106,408	678,724
Decrease in due from Catholic Cemeteries	66,794	162,521
Increase in prepaid expense	(98,381)	(15,070)
Increase in other assets	(163,466)	(110,264)
Decrease in accounts payable	(98,705)	(116,990)
Increase (decrease) in custodial funds payable	28,202	(269,338)
Decrease in accrued interest expense	-	(205,159)
Increase in contributions and scholarships payable	284,325	74,391
Decrease in liability for pension benefits	(1,591,553)	(4,238,794)
Decrease in accrued claim expense	(534,630)	(209,820)
Decrease in accrued Independent Survivors Compensation Program	-	(4,740,027)
Decrease in accrued postretirement benefit obligation	(1,969,900)	(610,696)
Increase (decrease) in refundable advances	130,194	(23,101)
Increase in due to Diocese of Scranton Institute	2,999,804	357,252
Contributions and interest restricted for long-term investment	-	(10,724)
Net cash used in operating activities	(8,367,556)	(9,732,309)
Investing activities		
Purchase of fixed assets	\$ (242,678)	\$ (213,615)
Proceeds from sale of property	104,145	5,690,475
Principal collected-loans receivable	181,552	176,120
Purchase of investments	(35,067,982)	(29,205,293)
Proceeds from sale of investments	48,978,269	29,083,751
Net cash provided by investing activities	13,953,306	5,531,438
Financing activities		
Principal payments on loan	(181,552)	(176,120)
Funds on deposit		
Additions	1,268,071	1,244,535
Withdrawals	(4,408,309)	(36,000)
Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities	(3,321,790)	1,032,415
Net increase (decrease) in cash	2,263,960	(3,168,456)
Cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash, beginning	15,192,562	18,361,018
Cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash, ending	\$ 17,456,522	\$ 15,192,562

Ordained Priests & Deacons

2022 Statistics



Bishops	1
Retired Bishops	2
Priests Assigned in the Diocese	87
Priests Assigned Outside the Diocese	4
Retired or Ill Priests	101
Total Number of Diocesan Priests	192
Religious Order Priests	41
Religious Order Brothers	6
Religious Order Sisters	329
Permanent Deacons	93
Seminarians	8
Number of Parishes	114

Financial Accountability

Transparency and accountability are important parts of our stewardship responsibilities. Each year, the Diocese subjects itself to an independent audit. Diocesan leadership has established and regularly confers with the Diocesan Finance Council. The council, whose existence is required by Canon Law, focuses on financial policies, procedures and activities of the Church of Scranton.

Current members of the Diocesan Finance Council are: Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, John Devine, John Graham, Barbara Maculloch, Sister Therese O'Rourke, Carlon Preate, Rev. Gerald Shantillo and Paul Woelkers.

Diocesan finances are audited by McGrail Merkel Quinn & Associates, P.C., Certified Public Accountants & Consultants. The full audited financial statements for the Fiscal Year 2022-21 are published on the Diocesan website at: www.dioceseofscranton.org/directory/offices/financial-services

Catholic Women's Conference "With the Holy Spirit" slated for June 10

SCRANTON - In Hebrew, the words for Spirit, wind, and breath are nearly all the same. This year, the Catholic Women's Conference will explore the mystery and the gift of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives and how, if we listen, we will hear and feel the presence of the Holy Spirit and be

transformed into who He meant us to be.

Each of the featured speakers at this year's conference have experienced tragedy in their lives that might lead others to abandon God but, for each of these women, the opposite is true.

Kathleen McCarthy had just delivered

her twelfth child when she lost her husband to cancer. The persistence of God in her life, even when she wasn't receptive to it, led her on a remarkable path of renewal and even a new career as an author, Catholic radio broadcaster and lay evangelist.

At one point, after the passing of her

husband, she found her five-year-old son weeping and he asked her when his father would come home. Kathleen did her best to comfort him, but it is hard to explain "never" to someone so young. After getting him back to bed, her power went out plunging her into darkness.

In sadness and frustration, she spoke out loud to God, telling Him that if she could only hear her husband's voice one more time, she would know that everything would be okay. She grabbed a flashlight and picked her way through the basement of her home to the breaker, flipping switches on and off until amazingly, the power returned. As she turned away from the breaker box, she stepped on a cassette player.

Picking it up, she carried it upstairs, plugged it in, and heard her husband's voice talking to her and leaving messages for each of their twelve children. Kathleen's explanation for this is transformative, "God stepped out of His world and into mine - He met me in darkness and led me into light."

Johnette Benkovic Williams suffered the loss of her son and husband within a short time of each other. Through these tragedies, Johnnette was strengthened by her faith, family, friends and the prayers of the supporters of the organizations she founded, Living His Life Abundantly and Women of Grace. Johnnette is also a popular conference speaker, published author, retreat director, and seminar presenter. She will lead the rosary in the morning and in the afternoon she will give a talk on the gifts of the Holy Spirit with heartfelt and inspiring stories.

The conference will feature a celebration of Mass with the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, the divinely inspired music of Maria Salamida, and the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The day will come to a conclusion with a Eucharistic Healing Service, led by Kathleen McCarthy where women will experience tremendous healing from the awesome touch of the Heavenly Father. Participants will also enjoy a continental breakfast, seated buffet lunch and the opportunity for shopping in the Catholic vendor marketplace.

The cost to attend the conference is \$55. Student tickets are \$20, and women religious are welcome free of charge. For more information and to register, www.cwcnepa.com.



Catholic Women's Conference
Saturday, June 10, 2023
Marywood University

www.cwcnepa.com
570-430-2735

With the Holy Spirit



Johnnette
Benkovic Williams



Kathleen
McCarthy



Maria
Salamida



Mary Clare
Hallman

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Diocese of Scranton to celebrate annual Mother's Day Adoption Mass May 14

SCRANTON – The Diocese of Scranton will celebrate its annual Mother's Day Adoption Mass on Sunday, May 14, at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. This liturgy prayerfully recognizes all mothers, with a special emphasis on adoptive and foster mothers. Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will be the principal celebrant and homilist.

The Mother's Day Adoption Mass is open to the public and all faithful are invited to attend.

CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton will broadcast the Mass live. A livestream will also be provided on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel and across all Diocesan social media platforms.



"A life without challenges doesn't exist," and that is one reason a child needs a mother, Pope Francis suggested in a recent speech.

Mothers fulfill a vital role by helping children "look realistically at life's problems," without getting "lost in them," the pope said. A mother helps her children "to tackle" problems courageously and to become strong enough to overcome the problems they inevitably confront.

Of course, in this role, a mother walks a fine line, seeking a "healthy balance" for a child, Pope Francis said. That means a mother "does not always take the child along the safe road, because in that way the child cannot develop, but neither does she leave the child only on the risky path, because that is dangerous."

A mother, said the pope, "knows how to balance things."

Pope Francis talked about mothers' roles during a visit to the Basilica of St. Mary Major, the oldest church in the West dedicated to Jesus' mother. May is observed in the church as a month of Mary.

Mark your calendars for May 14 and join us for the Mother's Day Adoption Mass as we pray for mothers, near and far, including Mary, Mother of the Church.

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46th ANNUAL



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12 & THURSDAY, APRIL 13

SERVING: 5:00–8:00 P.M.

TAKE-OUTS: 3:00–5:00 P.M.

(CONTAINERS PROVIDED)

Cost: \$14.00 per person

Includes spaghetti, meatballs, salad, bread & dessert

Tickets may be purchased at the rectory during business hours or at the door on the days of the event.

St. Lucy's Rectory (570) 347-9421

Prayers & Devotions

to Our Lady of Fatima, Queen of Peace

SATURDAY, MAY 13TH, 7 P.M.

OUR LADY OF VICTORY CHURCH, HARVEYS LAKE



"The Most Holy Virgin in these last times in which we live has given a new efficacy to the recitation of the Rosary to such an extent that there is no problem, no matter how difficult it is, whether temporal or above all spiritual in the personal life of each one of us, of our families....of the life of peoples and nations that cannot be solved by the Rosary. There is no problem. I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot resolve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary."

– Sister Maria Lucia of Fatima

DEVOTIONS TO OUR LADY OF FATIMA WILL BE HELD THE 13TH OF EACH MONTH THROUGH OCTOBER.

JOIN OUR PRAYERS FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD!

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MISSION MESSAGE

Today's Martyrs

By **Deacon Edward Kelly**
Interim Director,
Pontifical Mission Societies



Today is Holy Thursday, the beginning of the Sacred Triduum and the end of Lent. As we enter the Sacred Triduum — the high point of the entire Liturgical year — we might remember how Holy Week began this past Palm Sunday with the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, with the waving of palm branches and cheers of Hosanna. But just a few days later on Good Friday, those cheers turned to angry shouts: Crucify Him! Crucify Him! Human nature can be very fickle, can't it? But the reality is the scene at Calvary continues today.

Perhaps for you and me it may be easy to spiritualize Good Friday, thinking of it as a one-time event, long ago — until we are jolted from our complacency by accounts of human communities awash in corruption, intimidation, war, and torture and what that means for millions of our brothers and sisters throughout the world. Like Jesus, they, too, are innocent. Oppressed

and condemned, they are bound and taken away, cut off from the land of the living.

On most of my missionary experiences, whether it be in Africa, Haiti, the West Indies, and even here in America, I always joined ranks with Mother Teresa's Sisters, the Missionaries of Charity. They always locate themselves in the poorest part of the area where they are. They have Mass and a Holy Hour every day. In their chapels, behind the altar on the wall, is a crucifix and next to the crucifix are two words - "I Thirst" - two of the last words that Jesus spoke on the cross before he died.

It is the mission of the Missionaries of Charity to quench the physical and spiritual thirst of the world. The Sisters never ask why. They see a hunger and they feed it. They see a thirst and they quench it. They see a need and they fill it. They do this every single day. In the end, they are feeding souls.

During her lifelong ministry, Mother Teresa established over 600 Mission Houses in over 130 countries throughout the world. In every one of her Mission Houses, above the doorway or on one of the walls, there is a prayer that goes like this:

"The fruit of silence is prayer. The fruit of prayer is faith. The fruit of faith is love. The fruit of love is service. The fruit of service is peace."

On March 4, 2016, that peace was shattered when four Sisters

were murdered in a terrorist attack at Mother Teresa's nursing home in Aden, the main city on the coast of Southern Yemen. The Sisters had been separated from the patients and tied up or handcuffed before they were brutally shot in the head.

These Sisters ended up surrendering their lives to pursue the pledge of their order. Experiencing suffering all over the world, they saw their assignments in Yemen as no more than a new chapter in their commitment to serve the least among us — the forgotten, the abandoned, those on the margins.

In response to these murders, Holy Father Pope Francis declared, "These are the martyrs of today! They are not on the front page of newspapers; they are not news. They are the people who give blood for the Church."

These Missionaries of Charity in Yemen died as martyrs: martyrs of charity, martyrs because they gave witness to Christ and shared the suffering of Jesus on the cross. I can still remember one of the prayers they recite every morning during Holy Hour: "Lord, teach me to be generous. Teach me to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward."

This was probably the last prayer the Sisters would have prayed before being martyred.

It would be a mistake for us if we thought that Calvary and its Victim and its cast of characters appeared only once in human history and that was a long, long time ago. Calvary repeats itself in one form or another in every generation, including our own.

This Good Friday let us remember that Jesus still hangs on the cross with the "martyrs of today."

Apostleship of Prayer

Papal Intention for April 2023

For a Culture of Peace & Non-Violence —

We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.

Scranton church holds collection for individuals experiencing homelessness

SCRANTON – The faithful of Mary, Mother of God Parish are showing love and compassion to men and women in the Scranton area who are experiencing homelessness.

During the six weeks of Lent – starting on Ash Wednesday and ending on Palm Sunday – parishioners filled two tents with umbrellas, backpacks, tarps, more tents, plastic cutlery and disposable coffee cups.

Organizers started what they called a “Fill the Tent” campaign and could not be happier with the results.

“For Lent, we wanted to do a special project to help those in need. We have worked with Keystone Mission in the past providing meals. We’ve done underwear and boxer drives for them,” Jennifer Pitts, a member of the church’s Community and Service Committee, said. “We had a great idea about getting tents and filling them with items that homeless people need right now.”

To help raising awareness about the collection – and the issue of homelessness in general – the parish put two green tents in the entranceway of the Holy Rosary Church building.

“Whatever we ask for here, people are very generous,” Donna Zupp, Community and Service Committee member, added. “They are just wonderful and people love to give, especially at this time of year.”

Ruth Ann Jones, who has grown up attending the parish, says many people know the important work that Keystone



Members of the Mary, Mother of God Parish Community and Service Committee held a “Fill the Tent” collection during Lent for Keystone Mission. Pictured, from left: Ruth Ann Jones; Rev. Cyril Edwards, V.E., pastor, Mary, Mother of God; Donna Zupp; Cole Wheaton; Jean Shields; Brandy Wheaton; Jennifer Pitts; and Roman Wheaton. (Photo/Eric Deabill)

Mission does and they feel the items collected will be given out to those most in need.

“There are many nights it could be pouring rain and you just think of all those people that are out there that don’t have a roof over their head and count on a tent or a sleeping bag, anything you can give them, to make their lives just a little more comfortable,” Jones explained.

Similar to the work done by Catholic Social Services, Keystone Mission helps provide individuals experiencing homelessness with food and shelter during the daytime hours.

“One of the other things they asked for were bus passes, which is really a great idea, so we’ve had a large donation of those also,”

Zupp said.

This Lent, Mary, Mother of God Parish has focused its work around the theme of being “ambassadors of Christ,” and members of the church’s Community and Service Committee feel the collection for the area’s homeless fit in perfectly with that.

“We’re all disciples of Jesus and we’re doing His work and we’re doing a great job here in North Scranton,” Pitts said.


“Our parish is wonderful. We’ve always had such a giving parish and not that we have a parish that comes from a lot of money but they do give from their heart and they give whatever they can, which is quite a bit,” Jones added.

Hazleton church to host Easter dinner for community

HAZLETON – Holy Rosary Parish, 240 South Poplar Street, will hold a Community Easter Dinner on Sunday, April 9, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton has once again partnered with several community organizations to sponsor the dinner. Everyone is

welcome. If you plan to eat at the church, please call 211 to make a reservation. Homebound deliveries are also available in the Hazleton area by calling 211.



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Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

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

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

Aviso al Respetto 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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Wilkes-Barre parish collects hygiene products for young people in its community

WILKES-BARRE – During the Season of Lent, the faithful of Our Lady of Hope Parish have not only been focusing on prayer and fasting – but also almsgiving – and young people in their community will directly benefit.

As Holy Week approached, dozens of bags filled with soap, shampoo, toothbrushes and more filled the side of the Park Avenue church as parishioners continued donating hygiene products for those in need.

“Every Lenten Season, we always have some encouragement for our people to be able to show some form of almsgiving, the sharing of what they have,” Father John Terry, pastor, said. “Over the years, we’ve always tried to figure out who is in need in our area.”

The parish’s Social Concerns Committee helped spearhead the collection – which will benefit local teenagers.

“As we went along, it went from basic things like toothpaste and shampoo and underarm deodorant to other things as well, like items for young boys and girls going through the change of life,” Father Terry added. “Our parishioners were most responsive. This is a very fine community of people and they respond to all charitable outreach.”

Deacon Joseph DeViza is happy that so many people were generous in responding to the call to help.

“Our Social Concerns Committee has really come alive with all of this and it has been



Father John Terry, pastor, Our Lady of Hope Parish, Wilkes-Barre, looks over hygiene items donated by parishioners during the Lenten Season. The items will all be distributed to local young people in the community. (Photo/Eric Deabill)

wonderful,” Deacon DeViza said. “It is one person caring for another.”

Deacon DeViza knows firsthand the needs that many local teenagers face having previously worked at the Children’s Service Center in Wilkes-Barre.

“When kids are being supported by community structures, such as this parish community, it makes a big difference,” he added. “The more support that teenagers and families can get, the better off they’re going to be in the long run.”

While Our Lady of Hope Parish is no stranger to helping its community, its leadership is encouraging other religious and charitable groups to join them in

providing a helping hand to young people.

“We’ve planted a seed and it is beginning to grow and flower and blossom. It is something really nice and beautiful for our children,” Father Terry said.



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Wedding Anniversary Mass to take place June 4

Registration deadline is May 7

SCRANTON — The registration deadline for the 2023 Wedding Anniversary Mass is Sunday, May 7, 2023.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate this year's Mass on Sunday, June 4, 2023, at 2:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Wedding Anniversary Mass recognizes couples who are

celebrating their 25th and 50th wedding anniversaries during the 2023 calendar year.

Following the Mass, a reception with light refreshments will be held across the street at the Diocesan Pastoral Center.

Any couples celebrating their 25th or 50th anniversaries are encouraged to register for this special Mass as soon as possible.

Registrations can be completed online at dioceseofscranton.org or by calling the Diocesan Office for Parish Life at (570) 207-2213.

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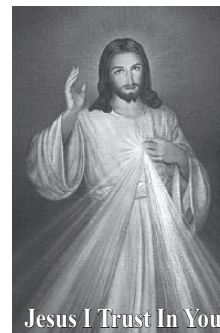
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2:00 PM – Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

3:00 PM – Chaplet of Divine Mercy - Solemn Benediction
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Pope issues updated 'Vos Estis' text for abuse cases

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The original text spoke of the crime of "sexual acts with a minor or a vulnerable person." Pope Francis has updated the procedures for investigating allegations of sexual abuse or the cover up of abuse, specifying that the leaders of Vatican-recognized international Catholic lay associations and movements have the same responsibilities over their members that a bishop has over the priests of his diocese.

The updated version of "Vos Estis Lux Mundi" (You are the light of the world), published March 25, also expanded the categories of victims covered by the regulations to include vulnerable adults.

The original text spoke of the crime of "sexual acts with a minor or a vulnerable person."

The updated text read, "a crime against the Sixth Commandment of the Decalogue committed with a minor, or with a person who habitually has an imperfect use of reason, or with a vulnerable adult."

Oblate Father Andrew Small, secretary of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, told Catholic News Service March 25, "Anything that expands the categories of those who should be protected is to be welcomed."

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AVOCA — Ann Jakes came away very inspired from the Eucharistic Day of Revival hosted at Queen of the Apostles Parish in Avoca on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord on March 25. She was joined by fellow participant Erin Burke, who offered, “People need to hear more about the Eucharist.”

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Cardinal John O’Connor Council 12967, the daylong retreat focusing on the Real Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament attracted more than 50 area faithful, who joined the participating Knights and clergy, including guest retreat leader and presenter Vincentian Father Sy Peterka.

The Eucharistic Day held at the Avoca parish, where Father Phil Sladicka serves as pastor, was offered to celebrate the National

Eucharistic Revival movement and spiritual journey currently underway.

Following an opening talk on “Eucharistic Presence” by Father Peterka, program retreatants participated in two Holy Hours — with exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament — and recitation of the Rosary, and were offered the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

“I really felt the joy of the Holy Spirit and realized the true goodness of God,” attendee Christine Shuleski said. “The Spirit was alive in this space!”

Echoing her sentiments was Council Grand Knight Philip Rodney, who remarked, “The joy of God, the fellowship and the love of God came alive in Avoca on that Saturday. If this joy could be spread every day, the world would be a much happier place.”

Who makes house calls?

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

Based on my practice, which consists of estate planning and administration along with elder law, I find that clients are more comfortable discussing such matters in familiar surroundings. While I know this may seem unconventional to some, I believe I will be able to serve clients much better in this fashion.

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



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Two parishes hosting Suicide Grief Support series

SCRANTON — The Catholic Mental Health Ministry in the Diocese of Scranton announces a series of monthly suicide grief support meetings will be offered at two parish locations in the Diocese beginning this month.

Based on the eight-part film series, "When a Loved One Dies by Suicide," one of the grief

support gatherings will be hosted at Saint Ann Monastery Basilica Parish in West Scranton, starting on Thursday, April 20.

The meetings, which will be held at 6:30 p.m., will continue on the third Thursday of each month through November.

For more information, contact deaconed@stpeterscathedral.org.

The Catholic parishes of Ascension, Forest City, and Saint Katharine Drexel, Pleasant Mount, will co-host the suicide grief support series beginning on Tuesday, April 18.

The series gatherings will continue at 6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month through November.

For more information, contact carl.albright49@gmail.com.

Mental Health Ministry Retreat May 20 at Saint Ann's

The Catholic Mental Health Ministry in the Scranton Diocese will host a Mental Health Ministry Retreat in May for all interested individuals.

Commemorating the observance of the Feast of Saint Dymphna, patron saint of mental afflictions, and Mental Health Awareness Month, the special retreat event will be held on Saturday, May 20, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Saint Ann Monastery Basilica Parish, 1250 Saint Ann St., West Scranton.

The day's program will offer prayer, formation, reflection and celebration of Mass. Breakfast and lunch will be included.

For more information, contact Deacon Ed Shoener at deaconed@stpeterscathedral.org.

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Call 570-821-3892 for more information.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat for abortion healing May 19-21

Rachel's Vineyard Ministries will host a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat for Healing after Abortion during the weekend of May 19-21.

Registration is required by Friday, May 12.

Rachel's Vineyard offers an excellent opportunity for any person

who struggles with emotional and spiritual pain associated with past abortion(s).

The post-abortion healing retreat weekend is a unique and effective spiritual and psychological offering designed specifically to help one experience the mercy and compassion of God in a safe, supportive environment that aids the healing process.

The Rachel's Vineyard Retreat is also offered in the Spanish language.

For more information and registration, contact Carol at (610) 435-1541 ext. 373, or email: carolswavely@ptd.net. All requests are strictly confidential.

PHL 'Sing for Life' Concert April 18

SCRANTON — The Scranton Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life will sponsor its second annual "Sing for Life" concert and lecture on Tuesday, April 18, at 6 p.m. at Saint Mary's Center in downtown Scranton.

Ernie Pappa and Vanessa James of the Sacred Heart Singers in the Scranton Diocese will perform for the musical portion of the pro-life event, providing a selection of upbeat contemporary Christian songs and other popular favorites.

Featured speaker for the evening will be Very Rev. Archpriest John Kowalczyk, rector of Saint Michael Orthodox Church, Jermyn. Following his brief talk, Father Kowalczyk will lead an open dialogue session that will include Dr. Kenneth Lilik and Dr. Frank Schell.

Admission cost for the concert program is \$20 per person, including desserts and beverages.

For reservations, contact (570) 343-5099 or pahumanlife@yahoo.com.

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RSM McGlynn Center seeking volunteers for youth services

WILKES-BARRE —

Sponsored by the Religious Sisters of Mercy, the McGlynn Center is seeking volunteers for a year-round program that provides educational, recreational and social outreach services to children residing in Boulevard Townhomes and Mineral Springs Village in Wilkes-Barre.

The Center is supported by grants and donations. For more information on opportunities to volunteer or donate, call (570) 824-8891 or email: info@mcglynncenter.org.

Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese of Scranton

Weekly Bereavement Support Group Sessions — APRIL 10-MAY 15, sponsored by St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Milford, and St. John Neumann Parish, Hawley; bereavement support group will meet on six consecutive Mondays from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the parish hall of St. John Neumann, 705 Route 739, Lords Valley. Weekly gatherings address topics dealing with the grief process to enable participants to find healing following the loss of a loved one. All are welcome; advance

registration required by contacting the St. Vincent Parish office at (570) 686-4545 or stvgriefgroup@att.net.

Tuesday Novena Devotion to Saint Anthony of Padua — APRIL 11-JUNE 13, hosted by Our Lady of Hope Parish, 40 Park Ave., Wilkes-Barre; Saint Anthony Novena devotion held on Tuesday evenings, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the parish church. Novena theme: "Reflections on Life After Death." All faithful are welcome; for more information, call (570) 824-7832.

Evangelization series begins April 13 at Saint Monica Parish

WEST WYOMING — The Saint Monica Prayer Group at Saint Monica Parish in West Wyoming announces it will begin to offer the ChristLife Catholic evangelization series, "Discovering Christ," during the Easter season.

ChristLife is a parish-based ministry that fosters missionary disciples who, by discovering Jesus Christ more personally and following him more intimately in their daily lives, are dedicated

to sharing and spreading their Catholic faith.

A weekly experience held over the course of approximately two months, the "Discovering Christ" series enables participants to "enter into," or "renew," a personal relationship with the Lord, experience the love of the Father, and be empowered by the Holy Spirit to live as Children of God.

The series will be hosted at

Charismatic Renewal Prayer Breakfast — APRIL 15, sponsored by the Diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal; begins at 9 a.m. in the church hall at Queen of the Apostles Parish, 715 Hawthorne St., Avoca. Guest presenter: Father Joseph Mosley, senior priest at St. Rose of Lima and Our Lady of Mount Carmel parishes, Carbondale. Cost: \$10 per person; first-time attendees admitted free. Music ministry of songs of praise and prayer led by Jim Gialanella.

Saint Monica's every Thursday evening for nine weeks, beginning on April 13, from 6 to 7 p.m. in Our Lady of Sorrows Church, 363 West Eighth St., West Wyoming. Light refreshments will follow each weekly program.

Throughout the series, the parish team provides "relational support" necessary to begin and continue to live for Christ.

For more information, contact Ted Mike at (570) 406-6163.

Rummage Sale — APRIL 17 & 18, sponsored by the Christian Mothers of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, 116 Hughes St., Swoyersville; sale held on Monday & Tuesday (Bag Day) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the school gymnasium. Event also includes bake sale, refreshments, homemade haluski and wimpies.

Cash Bingo — APRIL 23, sponsored by the Social Concerns Committee at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, 116 Hughes St., Swoyersville; doors open at noon and bingo games start at 1 p.m. Admission fee: \$25 per person. Cash prizes include: regular

Continued on Page 31

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CAMINEMOS CON JESÚS: Incarnating Hispanic/Latinx Theology in Song

Join scholar and composer **Tony Alonso** for a theological and musical reflection on how Hispanic/Latinx theology shapes his own compositional craft through the prism of *Caminemos con Jesús*, his Latin Grammy-nominated album of sacred music that celebrates the beauty, passion, and vitality of Cuban music. Tony will invite a deeper discernment of the relationship between theology, culture, and the arts in a range of pastoral contexts, with a particular focus on ministry in Hispanic/Latinx communities.

This program will include bilingual live musical offerings. Free & open to the public.

Wednesday, April 19 at 7 pm • The University of Scranton
Madonna Della Strada Chapel • 420 Monroe Ave., Scranton



← **For event information please RSVP at:**
www.surveymonkey.com/r/Alonso2023

"Scranton's Story, Our Nation's Story" has been made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy demands wisdom. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this project do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities

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Next Blue Army Reparation Vigil to be held May 5

Due to the First Friday of April falling on Good Friday this year, 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 **May 5** 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.

Marian Devotion Rosary

Fostering prayerful devotion to Jesus and Mary through recitation of the Rosary, Marian Devotion Ministries in the Diocese of Scranton continues to lead its Fatima Rosary Journey.

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

The next Marian Devotion event is scheduled as follows:

Easter Rosary/Third Monday Marian Devotion — April 17, from 6 to 7 p.m., at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laflin.

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

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Prayer Requests for Priests

The Daily Prayer Request for Priests schedule is as follows:

April 6, Father Patrick McLaughlin; April 7, Father Edward Michelini; April 8, Father Kevin Miller; April 9, Jesuit Father J. Patrick Mohr; April 10, Father Joseph Mosley; April 11, Father Joseph Motsay; April 12, Father Thomas Muldowney; April 13, Father Kevin Mulhern; April 14, Father Paul Mullen; April 15, Father James Nash; April 16, Jesuit Father Eugene Nolan; April 17, Father Theodore Obaza; April 18, Holy Cross Father Thomas O'Hara; April 19, Father Peter O'Rourke; April 20, Father James Paisley; April 21, Father Francis Pauselli; April 22, Father Jaime Perez Restrepo; April 23, Father Carmen Perry; April 24, Father Thomas Petro; April 25, Father William Petruska; April 26, Father Michael Piccola, V.F.; April 27, Father William Pickard; April 28, Saint Joseph Oblate Father Jackson Pinhero; April 29, Father Joseph Pisaneschi; April 30, Father John Polednak, V.E.; May 1, Pope Francis; May 2, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; May 3, Father Richard Polmounter; May 4, Father John Poplawski; May 5, Monsignor Patrick Pratico; May 6, Monsignor Joseph Quinn; May 7, Father Michael Quinnan, V.F.; May 8, Father Michael Rafferty; May 9, Father Philip Rayappan; May 10, Jesuit Father James Redington; May 11, Father Gregory Reichlen; May 12, Father August Ricciardi; May 13, Saint Peter Priestly Fraternity Father John Rickert; May 14, Father Frederick Riegler; May 15, Jesuit Father Angelo Rizzo; May 16, Father Alex Roche.

St. Lucy's Church
Tony Zanghi Memorial

2023

A Night at the Races

**St. Lucy's
Holy Name Society
Presents the
"Tony Zanghi Memorial"
Night at the Races**

**Saturday
May 20, 2023
5PM to 10PM**

Must be 21 years of age.
Expires on Date of Event

No. 001

Donation: \$10.00

Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese

Continued from Page 29

games (15), \$100 each; special games (4), \$200 each; and \$500 coverall. Event includes bake sale, door prizes, 50/50 cash drawing, basket raffles and lunch. Seating limited to 250.

Night at the Races — APRIL 29, sponsored by St. Ann Basilica Parish in West Scranton; hosted at St. Stanislaus PNCC Youth Center, 530 East Elm St., Scranton. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; races begin at 7 p.m. Admission fee: \$10, includes buffet foods, soft drinks and door prize entry. Horse sponsorships available for \$10 each. Event also features basket raffle and beer & wine for sale. For tickets or to purchase a horse, call Dennis Yanchik (570) 604-2199.

Grief Support Journey: "Loss of Spouse" — APRIL 30, hosted by St. Faustina Kowalska Parish in Nanticoke; grief support session held from 2 to 4 p.m. Seminar offered to encourage and assist those mourning the loss of a spouse through the grief journey. Reservations requested; call Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish (570) 477-5040, or St. Faustina Parish (570) 735-4833.

Bereavement Support Group Sessions — MAY 3, 10, 17 & 24, series of weekly gatherings addressing topics dealing with the grief process to enable participants find healing; Bereavement Support Group hosts seasonal meetings on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:20 p.m. in the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave., Scranton. Anyone

interested in attending is asked to contact the Cathedral Parish office at (570) 344-7231.

Mother's Day May Tea Party — MAY 6, hosted by the Catherine McAuley Center for mothers and children in crisis; celebration of all mothers and women held from noon to 2 p.m. at The Space at Olive, 541 Wyoming Ave., Scranton. Refreshments, including finger sandwiches and dessert, will be served; event also features children's activities, family photo station, door prizes and raffle drawings. Cost: \$25 per adult, including four children up to age 18; open to the community. For more information and to purchase tickets, contact Mary-Pat Ward, development director, at the McAuley Center: (570) 342-1342 or mpward@catherinemcauleycenter.org.

"Nazareth Group" Day for High School Girls — MAY 13, hosted by the Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth in Tunkhannock and Williamsport; Saturday program is presented by the Nazareth Group for young women interested in learning about the faith and growing in their relationship with Jesus Christ. Open to all girls in grades 8-12; the experience is offered from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Capuchin Sisters' two convent locations: Mother of God Convent, 215 Wellwood Drive, Tunkhannock; and Mother of the Eucharist Convent, 6100 Jacks Hollow Road, Williamsport. Reservations are required. For Tunkhannock, contact Sister Angela of the Capuchin Sisters

at (570) 836-2737; for Williamsport, contact Sister Clare at (570) 745-3334.

Second Annual Charity Golf Tournament — JUNE 12, annual Deacon Cliff Memorial Golf Outing honoring late businessman and Permanent Deacon Cliff Jorgenson, who served at St. Patrick Parish in Milford, will benefit the parish; tournament will be hosted at Lords Valley Country Club. Outing begins with 7:30 a.m. registration and continental breakfast and 9 a.m. shotgun start (scramble format); followed by tournament prizes and buffet awards dinner at the Dimmick Inn, Milford. Cost: \$125 per golfer, including golf cart snacks. For more information/registration and sponsorship opportunities, contact Jack Boyle at (908) 451-1206.

New York Yankees Baseball Trip — AUG. 24, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 8224 and Gate of Heaven Parish in Dallas; Cost: \$120 per person. For details, call Deacon Tom Cesarini at (570) 675-4890.

Alhamar slates dinner for Special Olympians

WILKES-BARRE — Local caravan Alhamar No. 4, Order of Alhambra, will host an "End of COVID" dinner-dance for Special Olympics bowlers and their families on Thursday, May 11, at Fox Hill Country Club, 454 Tunkhannock Ave., Exeter.

All are invited to attend the gala, which will be held from 5 to 8 p.m.

Dinner entrée includes breaded chicken, mashed potatoes and green beans, with salad and penne pasta, appetizers and an ice cream dessert. Coffee, tea and soft drinks will be provided.

Musical entertainment will feature DJ Jester.

Tickets cost \$25 each. Reservations, including guests' names and check payable to Alhamar Caravan 4, are required by April 28. Remit to: Alhamar Caravan 4, 17 English St., West Wyoming, PA 18644.

Founded in 1904, the Order of Alhambra is Catholic fraternal organization dedicated to assisting those with intellectual disabilities. Alhamar members meet on the second Wednesday of the month on the campus of King's College in Wilkes-Barre.

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Holy Week/Easter Services Schedule

CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton, will broadcast the following Holy Week and Easter services from the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, celebrated by the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton.

Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, April 6, at 5:30 p.m.

Good Friday Commemoration of the Lord's Passion, April 7 at 12:10 p.m.

Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday, April 8 at 8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday Mass, April 9 at 10:00 a.m.; encore at 5:30 p.m.



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