



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

April 20, 2023

Funeral services held for the Most Reverend James C. Timlin, eighth Bishop of Scranton



Hundreds of people attended the Mass of Christian Burial for the Most Reverend James C. Timlin, eighth Bishop of the Diocese of Scranton, on Tuesday, April 18, 2023.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, tenth Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant for the 2 p.m. funeral Mass which was held at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. Concelebrating the Mass were three other Bishops: Bishop Jeffrey Walsh, Bishop of Gaylord, Mich.; Bishop Robert Cunningham, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Syracuse; and Bishop Michael Fitzgerald, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Monsignor Joseph G. Quinn, V.F., pastor, Our Lady of the Snows Parish, Clarks Summit, served as the homilist. During his homily, Monsignor Quinn said that Bishop Timlin had been a faithful mentor, friend and inspiration for more than 40 years.

"We all come together this day with saddened hearts, first to mourn the death of the Most Reverend James C. Timlin," Monsignor Quinn said in opening his homily. "We also come together in this great Cathedral of ours to reflect upon his life, to remember the fullness of Bishop Timlin's remarkable 95 year pilgrimage homeward, and lastly we're here this day to pray for his eternal peace."

Bishop Timlin passed away on Easter morning, April 9, at Marywood Heights after serving the Diocese of Scranton for more than 70 years as a priest and Bishop. Following the funeral Mass, Bishop Timlin was interred at Cathedral Cemetery in Scranton.

"Did he do it perfectly every day of his lifetime journey of faith? No. Who does? Who could?" Monsignor Quinn stated in his homily. "But with his genuine sense of humility he would be the first to tell you that he was far from perfect. He was always reminding all of us that we're not called to be perfect, we're called to be holy, so that we might be humble enough, human enough, and happy enough to live merciful lives rooted in Christ."

Additional coverage of Bishop Timlin's funeral Mass will be available in the May 11 edition of *The Catholic Light*.

Bishop Bambera releases pastoral video on day of funeral, addressing clergy sexual abuse



As Bishop Bambera welcomed the faithful to the Cathedral of Saint Peter for the funeral Mass of Bishop Timlin, he acknowledged that these have been "difficult and challenging days for us as a Church."

Bishop Bambera noted that while many people grieve the loss of a kind and compassionate leader who worked tirelessly for others, some people grieve the consequences of imperfect judgments and decisions that "led to the suffering of some who were most vulnerable."

In August 2018, then-Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro singled out Bishop Timlin for his mishandling of clergy sexual abuse cases which were highlighted in the Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report.

Shortly before the funeral Mass began, Bishop Bambera released a video on the Diocese of Scranton website and social media platforms directly addressing clergy sexual abuse.

Bishop Bambera celebrates Healing Mass for Survivors of Abuse



In recognition of the month of April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, celebrated a Healing Mass for Survivors of Abuse on Thursday, April 20, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

"It's not insignificant that our prayer today takes place at the conclusion of a week that in so many respects opened up a wound that, while hardly healed, has burdened so many of our brothers and sisters," Bishop Bambera said during his homily. "Two days ago, we buried Bishop Timlin, the eighth Bishop of the Diocese of Scranton. While Bishop Timlin never abused a child, it must be acknowledged that the consequences of decisions on his part led to the suffering of some of the most vulnerable among us."

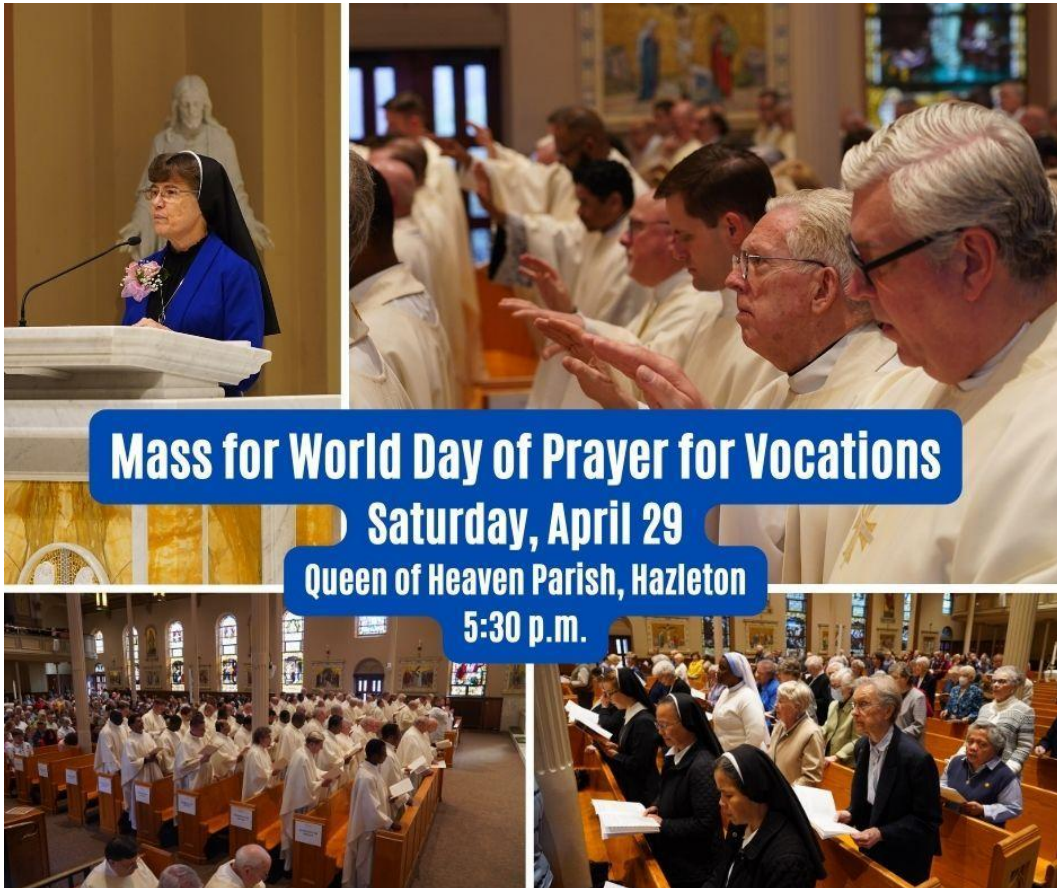
During the Mass, Bishop Bambera apologized to anyone who has had pain inflicted upon them at the hands of a priest, deacon or member of the church.

"I pledge to continue to do all within my power to keep our Churches and schools safe for our children and for all of our people to worship, to pray, to learn and to grow in their faith."

[Read Bishop Bambera's Homily from the Healing Mass for Survivors of Abuse](#)

[Watch the Healing Mass for Survivors of Abuse from Catholic Television](#)

Hazleton Parish to host Mass for World Day of Prayer for Vocations April 29



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.

[Click Here for More Information on the Mass for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations](#)

Pope Francis: "Never tire of bearing witness to the Gospel, even in times of tribulation"



Martyrdom is primarily an act of love, not heroism, and while it often comes in the midst of persecution, it should motivate Christians to seek peace and reconciliation, Pope Francis said.

Persecution and martyrdom are not a thing of the past, he told people at his weekly general audience April 19. “Today there is persecution of Christians in the world. A lot. There are more martyrs today than there were” in the first centuries of Christianity.

As part of his series of talks about “zeal” for evangelization, Pope Francis spoke about the witness of “the host of martyrs – men and women of every age, language and nation – who have given their life for Christ.”

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

**U.S. Bishops' President and Pro-Life
Chairman respond to Senate vote on Veterans
Affairs Abortion rule**



On Wednesday, April 19, the U.S. Senate voted 51 to 48 to reject a Congressional Review Act resolution that would overturn an interim final rule from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) which added abortion to veterans' and dependents' health benefits packages.

In response, Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), and Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities, issued the following joint statement:

“It is a gross failure that the Senate did not pass this lifesaving resolution. Our heroes and their dependents deserve quality health care services, instead of policies to end the lives of their own children. Many veterans face tremendous life challenges, especially as the active duty experience too often involves significant mental health traumas and can be followed by a difficult readjustment to civilian life. It is inhumane to provide fully taxpayer-funded abortion (which itself can increase mental health risks) as a so-called solution to pregnancy, instead of resources needed to welcome a child and flourish as a family. We continue to urge Congress to prevent implementation of this harmful policy, and to provide instead real support for our military veterans and their loved ones.”

The USCCB, together with the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, submitted a joint regulatory comment letter to the Department of Veterans Affairs when the rule was announced in September.

[Click Here for More Information, including a link to read the USCCB Letter](#)

People wounded in life should find welcome in the Church, pope says



The wounds of Christ, still visible after his resurrection, are the greatest sign of God's love and mercy, Pope Francis said on Divine Mercy Sunday.

"Let us ask ourselves, however, if in the name of this love, in the name of Jesus' wounds, whether we are willing to open our arms to those who are wounded by life, excluding no one from God's mercy, but welcoming everyone – each person like a brother, like a sister, like God welcomes everyone. God welcomes everyone," he said April 16.

After reciting the midday "Regina Coeli" prayer with about 20,000 people gathered in St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis wished a happy Easter to Eastern Catholic and Orthodox Christians who follow the Julian calendar and were celebrating the Resurrection that day.

[Read More from Catholic News Service](#)

Dance concert to serve as fundraiser for World Youth Day 2023 participants



The Brown Initiative's
A TIME TO DANCE
LIVE MUSIC & DANCE CONCERT
In honor of the late Ann Marie and Steve Turi

MAY 6: SCRANTON, PA
DIOCESE OF SCRANTON PASTORAL CENTER / 7:00PM

MAY 13: COVINGTON TWP, PA
NORTH POCONO HIGH SCHOOL / 7:00PM

\$10 GENERAL ADMISSION
PURCHASE AT THE DOOR OR ONLINE
SALES BENEFIT DOS YOUTH MINISTRY AND NPHS MUSIC DEPT

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