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'Roll away the stone of sadness, encounter the Risen Lord,' Pope Francis says at Easter

VATICAN CITY – As the Church continues to celebrate the 50 days of Easter, Pope Francis says this is the most appropriate time “to roll away the stone of the tombs in which we often imprison our hope and to look with confidence to the future, for Christ is risen and has changed the direction of history.”

“The power of Easter summons you to roll away every stone of disappointment and mistrust,” the pope explained in his homily on April 8 at the Vigil Mass of Easter. “The Lord is an expert in rolling back the stones of sin and fear.”

During his homily, the pope focused on the Gospel story of the women going to Jesus’ tomb, “bewildered and dismayed, their hearts overwhelmed with grief at the death that took away their beloved.”

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A woman is overcome with emotion while venerating the cross on Good Friday, April 7, 2023, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. (Photo/Mike Melisky)



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.

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Hundreds take their faith to the streets for Good Friday procession

SCRANTON — More than 300 people participated in an annual Good Friday Way of the Cross procession, which took place on April 7 throughout the streets of South Scranton.

Parishioners of Saint John Neumann and Saint Paul of the Cross Parishes, many whom speak Spanish, organized the event.

The faithful gathered at Saint Paul of the Cross Parish on Prospect Avenue and began their procession as a way of showing love for Jesus and the sacrifice He made for us.

“This is Christ going through His passion and us reliving it and bringing it to the South Scranton community so members can see it,” parishioner Adriano Torres said. “We all worked so hard making this happen.”



Parishioners of Saint John Neumann and Saint Paul of the Cross Parishes mark Good Friday with the Way of the Cross procession in South Scranton.

Edward Rivera of Wilkes-Barre, who participated in the procession for the first time this year, said the event brought forth many emotions, ranging from pain, suffering, betrayal and abuse.

“It means that I can actually go through what Jesus Christ went through and see first-hand the things that He suffered. It makes me realize that without Him we wouldn’t be here right now. Faith is something that I carry deep in my heart,” Rivera explained. Dozens of actors spent months preparing for their roles. “It has been two or three months doing this, every single Sunday after church, coming together to practice for this event today,” Rivera added. One of the goals of the procession was to help evangelize and bring Jesus to people who might not know about the Church. “This is what we’re called to do. We’re called to evangelize,” Torres said. “Jesus said, ‘Go out and preach my word,’ and this is what we’re doing!”

“I want people who are wondering, ‘Can I be part of this community’ or ‘Is this faith for me,’ to see they have a place in our community,” Rivera added.

Rev. Alfredo Rosario Paulino, Assistant Pastor of Saint John Neumann and Saint Paul of the Cross Parishes, helped lead the Way of the Cross procession.

Share Easter joy with others, pope urges

Continued from Page 1

In the life of faith, he said, “sometimes we too may think that the joy of our encounter with Jesus is something belonging to the past, whereas the present consists mostly of sealed tombs: tombs of disappointment, bitterness and distrust” or of thinking “things will never change.”

People get weary or feel helpless when confronted with evil, or they see relationships torn apart, injustice or corruption go unchecked, he said. “Then too, we may have come face to face with death, because it robbed us of the presence of our loved ones or because we brushed up against it in illness or a serious setback.”

“In these or similar situations, our paths come to a halt before a row of tombs, and we stand there, filled with sorrow and regret, alone and powerless, repeating the question, ‘Why?’” the pope said.

But the Gospel says Jesus’ women disciples did not stand frozen before the tomb. Rather, he said, they run to the disciples “to proclaim a change of course: Jesus

is risen and awaits them in Galilee.”

Pope Francis often speaks of the post-Resurrection call to go to Galilee. At the Easter Vigil, he said it is a call to leave the “upper room” where the disciples were hiding in fear and to set out on a mission.

But, he said, it is also a call back to the origins of their relationship with Jesus because they met him in Galilee and began following him there.

The call to go back to Galilee, he said, “asks us to relive that moment, that situation, that experience in which we met the Lord, experienced his love and received a radiantly new way of seeing ourselves, the world around us and the mystery of life itself.”

For each person, he said, Galilee “is the ‘place’ where you came to know Jesus personally, where he stopped being just another personage from a distant past, but a living person: not some distant God but the God who is at your side, who more than anyone else knows you and loves you.”

As an Easter exercise, Pope Francis asked people to think back to a time when they experienced the



Pope Francis gives his homily during the Easter Vigil Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican April 8, 2023. As an Easter exercise, the pope asked people to think back to a time when they experienced the love of Jesus or when they felt “the great joy” of forgiveness after going to confession. (CNS photo/Chris Warde-Jones)

love of Jesus, when they heard God’s word speak to them or when they felt “the great joy” of forgiveness after going to confession.

“Each of us knows the place of his or her interior resurrection, that beginning and foundation, the place where things changed,” the pope said. “We cannot leave this in the past; the Risen Lord invites us to return there to celebrate

Easter. Remember your Galilee. Remind yourself.”

“Remember the emotions and sensations,” he suggested; “see the colors and savor the taste of it.”

Rolling away “every stone of disappointment and mistrust,” the pope said, “let each of us return to his or her own Galilee, to the place where we first encountered him. Let us rise to new life.”

'Go forth boldly' to encounter and proclaim the Risen Lord, Bishop Bambera says at Easter

SCRANTON – Ruiwen Su, a senior at Marywood University, has a lot to celebrate this Easter Season.

At the Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday, April 8, 2023, the 25 year old officially became a member of the Catholic Church, receiving the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

The native of Beijing, China, did it with his new fiancé by his side as his sponsor after becoming engaged on the Monday of Holy Week.

"I'm excited and nervous," Su said about the road ahead.

While studying at Marywood, Su got involved with the music ministry program and began feeling a deeper spiritual calling. He is one of 162 people received into full communion with the Catholic Church at Easter in parishes throughout the Diocese of Scranton.

"I was born and raised in an atheist country but I still always felt like there was something higher," Su explained. "I keep looking for the truth and try to dig into the knowledge."

While Su's fiancé, Naomi Doyle, grew up in a Catholic



Ruiwen Su is baptized by the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, during the Easter Vigil Mass on April 8, 2023, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. (Photos/Mike Melisky)

family, participating in the RCIA classes helped her grow deeper in her relationship with Jesus as well.

"I feel like God really gave me what I needed to help lead him through," Doyle said. "Through this entire process, I've learned a lot about my faith and have re-affirmed what I believe."

During his Easter homily, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, stressed Easter is a time to rejoice and be glad.

"The Risen Jesus is present, here and now! Receive the life and

hope that He promises," the Bishop told the crowd at Easter Sunday Mass. "Like the women who first encountered the empty tomb on the day of resurrection, we are not to linger in this sacred space, reluctant to confront the suffering of our world. Our mission is to go forth boldly from this Cathedral with hope, to both encounter and proclaim the Risen Lord, in our families and neighborhoods!"

Bishop Bambera admitted that amid devastating earthquakes, school shootings and the War



The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, lights the Paschal Candle in the Cathedral Prayer Garden on Wyoming Avenue at the start of the Easter Vigil Mass on April 8, 2023.

in Ukraine, some people might question exactly where the risen Jesus is to be found.

"The road to the resurrection always makes its way through the Cross," Bishop Bambera noted. "Where do we look to find the risen Jesus? We look to those who suffer, to see the risen Christ and to make His presence known."

To illustrate his point, the bishop focused on a television news report he had recently seen from the devastation left behind in Rolling Fork, Mississippi, after

tornadoes virtually wiped the little town off the map just days before. He quoted one of the survivors, a woman named Melinda, during his homily.

"She had been buried for hours under the debris from her home that was destroyed," the bishop stated, adding the woman so faithfully stated, "We have nothing left, no water, no car, no electricity, no house, no nothing. But by God's grace and mercy, I was pulled out of a tomb. He saved me for a reason so I'll trust in Him."



Bishop Bambera washes the feet of parishioners during the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday, April 6, 2023.



A woman prays during the Good Friday liturgy on April 7, 2023.



A man genuflects and touches the feet of Jesus during the Adoration of the Holy Cross on Good Friday, April 7, 2023.

First Holy Communions 2023

More photos submitted by parishes are located at www.dioceseofscranton.org



Immaculate Conception Parish, Bastress



Saint Maria Goretti Parish, Laffin



Ss. Peter & Paul Parish, Plains



Gate of Heaven Parish, Dallas



Saint Ann Parish, Shohola



Saint Patrick Parish, Milford



**Our Lady of the Abingtons Parish, Dalton
Saint Patrick Parish, Nicholson
Saint Mary of the Lake Parish, Lake Winola**



Saint Katharine Drexel Parish, Forest City



Most Holy Trinity Parish, Cresco



Our Lady of Victory Parish, Harveys Lake



Saint Thomas More Parish, Lake Ariel

Seminarian to be ordained as Transitional Deacon May 27

SCRANTON – William A. Asinari, a native of Honesdale, will be ordained a deacon for the Diocese of Scranton by the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, on Saturday, May 27, 2023, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. The ordination Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m.

The public is invited to attend the Ordination Mass, which is a very important event in the life of the Diocese. The Mass will be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website and across Diocesan social media platforms.

Asinari will be ordained for service as a transitional deacon, the ordination serving as the last major step before ordination to the priesthood, which typically occurs a year later after additional pastoral, liturgical and educational preparation.

Once ordained as a deacon, Asinari



William A. Asinari

will assist the bishop and his priests in ministries of the Word, Liturgy and Charity. This includes proclaiming the Gospel, leading intercessions, preaching, preparing the altar, celebrating baptisms, leading the faithful in prayer, distributing holy communion, witnessing marriages and conducting wake and funeral services. Deacons also identify the needs of poor and underserved, and shepherd the Church's resources to meet those needs.

Asinari, 24, is the son of Robert and Cathleen Asinari and is a parishioner of Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Honesdale.

Please plan to attend the Ordination Mass, to pray with Bishop Bambera, who will administer the Sacrament of Holy Orders in a rite that will be witnessed by friends, family, fellow seminarians, as well as many consecrated religious, deacons and priests.

Bishop Bambera to celebrate Mass for Priest Jubilarians June 8

SCRANTON – Twelve priests who are celebrating milestone anniversaries of their ordination year will be recognized during the 2023 Mass for Priest Jubilarians at 12:10 p.m. on Thursday, June 8, 2023, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as principal celebrant and homilist. During the Mass, the bishop will recognize a total of 545 years of service to the priesthood.

Monsignor John A. Esseff, M.S., D.Min., will be recognized for 70 years

of priestly service. Monsignor Esseff was ordained on May 30, 1953, by the late Bishop William J. Hafey and has served as a retreat director and confessor to Saint Mother Teresa.

In addition to Msgr. Esseff, priests who are celebrating 65, 60, 50 and 25 ordination year anniversaries will be honored.

The 2023 Mass for Priest Jubilarians will be broadcast live by CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and will be available for viewing on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel, and social media platforms.

Wedding Anniversary Mass set for June 4

SCRANTON – The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate this year's Wedding Anniversary 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.

Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton will provide a live broadcast of the Mass. The Mass will also be available via livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel and links will be provided on all Diocesan social media platforms.

Quo Vadis Days to be held June 26-28 at Marywood University



SCRANTON – The Diocesan Vocations Office invites high school men to register for this year's *Quo Vadis Days* which will be held June 26-28 at Marywood University in Lackawanna County.

Quo Vadis Days is a three-day summer camp for high school men that is designed to teach them about vocations and enrich their faith through prayer, speakers, and activities. Participants will also have the opportunity to connect with other faithful young men in the Diocese of Scranton through games, sports, music and small group discussion.

The event will include a visit from Bishop Bambera and the chance to meet the seminarians of the Diocese of Scranton.

Those interested need to have a letter from their pastor in order to participate. For more information, call (570) 207-1452 or visit vocations.dioceseofscranton.org.



Bishop James C. Timlin Remembered

The Most Reverend James C. Timlin, D.D., eighth Bishop of Scranton, died on Easter Sunday morning, April 9, 2023, at Marywood Heights in Scranton. He was 95.

The native son of Scranton was ordained a Bishop on Sept. 21, 1976, and on June 7, 1984, became the first man born within the Diocese of Scranton to serve as its shepherd.

Timlin was born in the High Works section of Scranton on Aug. 5, 1927, son of the late James C. and Helen Norton Timlin, members of Holy Rosary Parish in the Providence section of Scranton.

Bishop Timlin received his early education at Saint John the Evangelist Elementary School in South Scranton and graduated from Holy Rosary High School, North Scranton. He began his studies for the priesthood at Saint Charles College, Catonsville, Md., and Saint Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, before enrolling in the North American College in Rome.

Bishop Timlin was ordained to the priesthood in Rome by Scranton native Archbishop Martin J. O'Connor, then-rector of North American College, on July 16, 1951. Following his ordination, he continued his studies in theology in Rome before returning to his home Diocese, at which time he was appointed assistant pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Pittston, in 1952.

On June 12, 1953, the future Bishop was assigned to the Cathedral Parish of Saint Peter, Scranton, where he served

as assistant pastor until Sept. 12, 1966, when he was named assistant chancellor of the Diocese and secretary to the Most Rev. J. Carroll McCormick, sixth bishop of Scranton.

Bishop Timlin was elevated to the rank of Monsignor when he was named a Prelate of His Holiness by Pope Paul VI on April 23, 1972.

He served as chairman of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission and the Priests' Education Committee, as well as librarian and secretary at Saint Pius X Seminary in Dalton. On July 26, 1972, he was appointed to the Diocesan Board of Consultors, and on May 30, 1975, was elected president of the Board of Directors of *The Catholic Light* diocesan newspaper.

Named Auxiliary Bishop of Scranton on Aug. 3, 1976, Bishop Timlin received his episcopal ordination in the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Sept. 21, 1976, when he also began his duties as Vicar General of the Diocese. He would serve a five-year term as Episcopal Moderator of the National Association of Holy Name Societies and, as Auxiliary Bishop, was appointed as pastor of Nativity of Our Lord Parish, South Scranton, on Sept. 4, 1979.

Bishop John J. O'Connor, seventh bishop of Scranton and future Cardinal Archbishop of New York, appointed Bishop Timlin chairman of the Saint Pius X Seminary Board of Advisors and chairman of the Preparatory Commission for the Diocesan Synod on July 28, 1983.

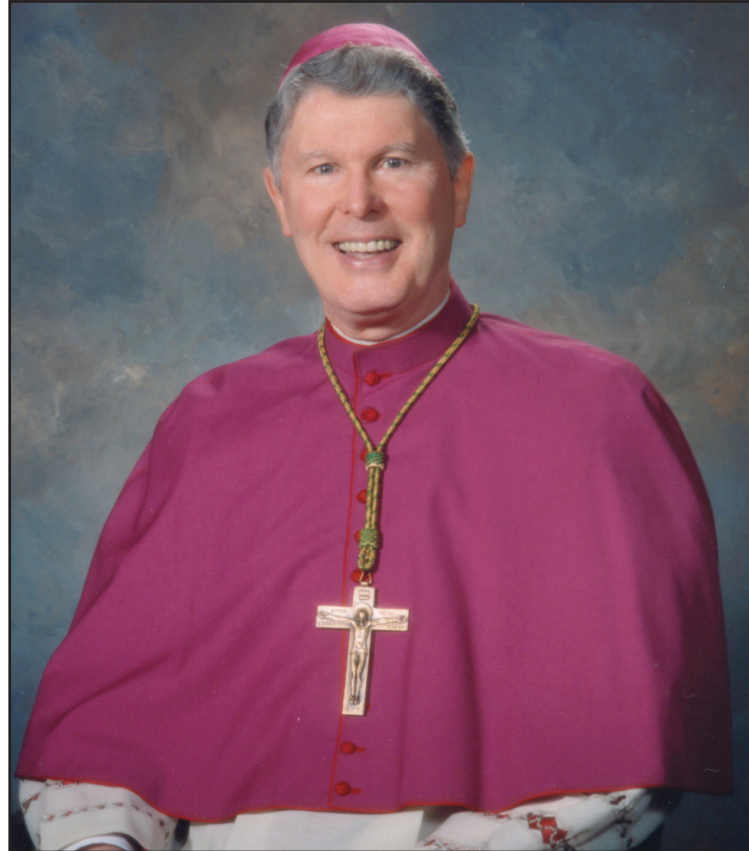
Upon Bishop O'Connor's transfer to the Archdiocese of New York in March of 1984, Bishop Timlin was elected Apostolic Administrator by the Diocesan Board of Consultors. He was appointed eighth bishop of Scranton by His Holiness, Pope Saint John Paul II, on April 24, 1984, and was installed on June 7 of that year.

Bishop Timlin's 19-year episcopacy as Shepherd of the Scranton See — the second-longest thus far in Diocesan history — saw the Scranton native son preside over the grand celebrations commemorating the 125th Anniversary of the Diocese of Scranton in 1993.

Bishop Timlin has served as a member of the National Advisory Council and the Administrative Committee of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, and Chairman of Region III of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. He also served a five-year term as President of the Institute for Religious Life, and was appointed by Pope Saint John Paul II to the Synod of Bishops on Consecrated Life in 1994.

Bishop Timlin served a ten-year term as Episcopal Liaison to the Civil Aviation Apostolate, and as a consultant to the Bishop's Committee on Migration. He also served as Chairman of the Roman Catholic-Polish National Catholic Dialogue and as a consultant to the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

With his 75th birthday looming on the horizon in 2002, Bishop Timlin, as required by Canon



Law, submitted his resignation to the Holy See. Publication of the acceptance of the resignation by the Holy Father occurred on July 25, 2002, and five days later, the Diocesan Board of Consultors elected the Bishop as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese.

He would fulfill the administrative duties until Sept. 30, 2003, the day before his successor, Bishop Joseph F. Martino, was installed as the ninth bishop of Scranton in the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

While holding the title of Bishop Emeritus, Bishop Timlin was appointed administrator of Saint Joseph Church in Wilkes-Barre on Feb. 4, 2004, and on July 6, 2004, he assumed new duties as rector of Villa Saint Joseph, the home for retired priests of the Diocese in Dunmore.

In addition to his parents, Bishop Timlin was preceded in death by his sisters, Patricia Timlin Duffy and Eleanor Timlin; aunts Margaret Timlin

McAndrew, Frances Timlin Walsh Langan and Catherine Timlin Jenkins; a niece, Mary Catherine Duffy Bell Lucker; and several cousins. Surviving are several great-nieces, great-nephews and cousins.

At Bishop Timlin's request, a private viewing for family members and the celebration of Vespers was held on Monday, April 17, 2023.

Public visitation for Bishop Timlin took place on Tuesday, April 18, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, 315 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, Pa., from 9 a.m. – 1:45 p.m. A Pontifical Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, directly following at 2 p.m.

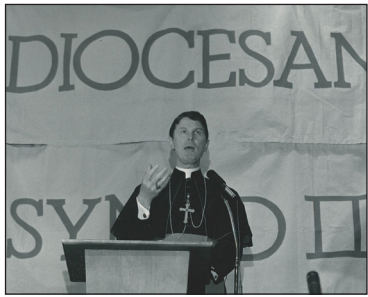
Interment is in Cathedral Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton or the Diocese of Scranton Catholic Schools Scholarship Foundation.

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS FROM BISHOP TIMLIN'S EPISCOPACY



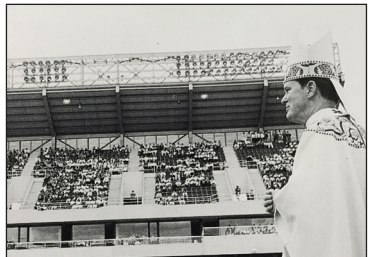
During one of the briefest papacies in history, Bishop Timlin is shown in this rare photo with Pope John Paul I while he was Pontiff for just 34 days before his sudden death in September of 1978.



Bishop Timlin addresses one of the gatherings for Diocesan Synod II.



Bishop Timlin at a press conference with Mother Teresa of Calcutta during the future saint's visit to Scranton on Aug. 16, 1987.



To celebrate the Diocese's 125th anniversary in 1993, Bishop Timlin presides at a Mass for Catholic school students before a capacity crowd at Lackawanna County Stadium in Moosic.

September 1984 — Bishop Timlin calls for a press conference to discuss the abortion issue and the pro-choice views of Geraldine Ferraro, the Democratic vice presidential candidate, following her campaign stop in downtown Scranton.

October 1984 — The Bishop issues a proclamation opening the Second Diocesan Synod.

May 1985 — Bishop Timlin announces he and former Bishop J. Carroll McCormick will lead a Scranton delegation to the May 25 consistory in Rome where Archbishop John J. O'Connor of New York, former Bishop of Scranton, is to be elevated to the rank of Cardinal.

November 1985 — The Bishop presides at the conclusion of Diocesan Synod II during historic ceremonies at The University of Scranton, where he culminated the two-year project by approving 24 Synodal study commission proposals.

January 1986 — Bishop Timlin delivers the invocation at the January 22 March for Life rally in Washington, D.C.

September 1986 — For the first time in the history of the Scranton Diocese, Bishop Timlin directs the publication of the Diocesan Financial Statement in *The Catholic Light* newspaper.

January 1987 — The Bishop announces 24-hour-a-day cable television operations for CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton — the first Catholic station in Pennsylvania to do so.

June 1987 — Bishop Timlin leads a Marian Year Pilgrimage to Poland where he concelebrates Mass with Pope John Paul II, who was making his third visit to his homeland since becoming Pontiff.

August 1987 — The Bishop announces "Faith in Action: Serving God's People," the inaugural Bishop's Annual Appeal (now the Diocesan Annual Appeal) to raise much-needed revenue for Catholic education and Diocesan programs aiding the religious, the needy and evangelization.

December 1990 — The complete text of Bishop Timlin's pastoral letter — *The Welcoming Church: A Pastoral Vision for the Diocese of Scranton* — is published in the Christmas edition of *The Catholic Light*.

February 1992 — Cardinal Edward Cassidy, head of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, meets with the Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church for a momentous ecumenical prayer service at Saint Stanislaus PNCC Cathedral in South Scranton.

April 1992 — Celebrating five centuries of evangelization in the New World, Bishop Timlin leads nearly 600 Diocesan faithful in a pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

May 1992 — Stating "The evil of abortion is very much present in our Diocese," Bishop Timlin leads more than 800 faithful to Monroe County for a peace vigil/march over Memorial Day weekend outside of an abortionist's office in Stroudsburg.

April 1993 — In observance of its 125th Anniversary, the Scranton Diocese launches "The Catholic Way of Life," a vigorous evangelization program developed by the Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association.

May 1993 — At one of the largest religious gatherings in the history of the Diocese, Bishop Timlin serves as principal celebrant for a special 125th Anniversary Mass at the Lackawanna County Stadium in Moosic, with 12,000 Catholic school students, teachers and guests in attendance.

August 1993 — Bishop Timlin leads more than 200 teens and young adults from the Diocese in an historic pilgrimage to Denver for World Youth Day, presided over by Pope John Paul II.

February 2000 — As part of a Scranton delegation of priests, deacons and laity, Bishop Timlin embarks on weeklong mission trip to Haiti coordinated by the Diocesan Pontifical Mission Societies office.

October 2000 — The First Union Arena at Casey Plaza in Wilkes-Barre Township becomes the setting for the largest assembly of faithful in the 132-year history of the Diocese as Bishop Timlin leads the celebration of an historic Eucharistic liturgy celebrating the Great Jubilee Year 2000.

January 2001 — As the Catholic Church's celebration of the Great Jubilee Year 2000 concludes, Bishop Timlin presides at a special Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, in imitation of the closing ceremonies celebrated at the Vatican in Rome by Pope John Paul II.

July 2001 — Bishop Timlin celebrates his Golden Jubilee (50th anniversary) of ordination to the priesthood, followed in September by the commemoration of the Silver Jubilee (25th anniversary) of his episcopal ordination as a Bishop.

Bishop Timlin remembered as mentor and friend

SCRANTON — Hundreds of people gathered to mourn the death of the Most Reverend James C. Timlin, eighth Bishop of Scranton, at a Mass of Christian Burial, which was held on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, tenth Bishop of Scranton, served as the principal celebrant. In addition to priests from the Diocese of Scranton and resident religious priests, three other bishops concelebrated the Mass.

During his introductory remarks at the beginning of the 2 p.m. liturgy, Bishop Bambera acknowledged the sensitive nature of planning the funeral Mass.

“Many of us grieve the loss of a kind and compassionate leader who worked tirelessly for others well into his nineties and some grieve the consequences of imperfect judgments and decisions that led to the suffering of some who were most vulnerable,” Bishop Bambera said. “But one thing is absolutely clear from what we do this day, at this Mass of Christian Burial, the reality that we are all desperately in need of a Savior. Saint John Paul II put it best a few years before he passed, ‘Apart from the mercy of God, there is no hope for mankind.’”

In releasing the Report of the 40th Statewide Investigating Grand Jury in August 2018, then-Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro publicly criticized Bishop Timlin for his handling of sexual abuse cases involving priests of the Diocese of Scranton. That same month, Bishop Timlin was barred from representing the Diocese in the wake of the Grand Jury Report’s release.



The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, uses incense at the casket of the Most Reverend James C. Timlin, Bishop Emeritus of Scranton, during a Mass of Christian Burial at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on April 18, 2023. (Photos/Mike Melisky)

During the Universal Prayer at the funeral Mass, mourners prayed intentionally for victims of sexual abuse.

“Many people live with the painful memories of sexual abuse by clergy,” Deacon Peter G. Smith said. “Give them healing for their pain, freedom from their fear, and hope for their future, and may all members of the Church commit themselves to protect children and the most vulnerable in our society.”

Bishop Timlin died on Easter Sunday morning, April 9, 2023, at the age of 95.

REMEMBERING A MENTOR AND FRIEND

“We 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,” Monsignor Joseph G. Quinn, V.F., pastor, Our Lady of the Snows Parish, Clarks Summit, said at the beginning of his homily.

For more than 40 years, Msgr. Quinn said that Bishop Timlin had “been a faithful mentor, friend and



Faithful attending the Mass of Christian Burial participate in the entrance hymn, “All Creatures of Our God and King.”



Monsignor Joseph G. Quinn, V.F., delivers the homily during the Mass of Christian Burial for Bishop James C. Timlin.

inspiration in my own life.”

Msgr. Quinn extended his sympathies to the extended family of Bishop Timlin, saying the late prelate had a special ability to remember every detail of his loved one’s lives.

“I think we have all marveled at his consistent thoughtfulness throughout his life, his ever humble and kind ways. To the very end, he was always handwriting notes, always notes of thanks, most of them forever expressing his gratitude for the thoughtfulness and kindness of others,” Msgr. Quinn said.

“You might have received a note simply because you remembered his birthday, an anniversary or a special event along the way but it was amazing how many notes he sent out in any day.”

Msgr. Quinn explained how he was privileged to witness Bishop Timlin’s great depth of faith and his hope to share and live the peace and joy of the Risen Christ.

“He understood well the truthfulness of the words of Scripture today as in the First Reading where it was said, God’s dwelling is with the human race and God will wipe away every tear from our eyes. There shall be no more weeping or pain for the old order has passed away,” Msgr. Quinn said.

In his 72 years as a priest, Msgr. Quinn said Bishop Timlin “joyfully counted each day” but did not do everything perfectly.

“With his genuine sense of humility he would be the first to tell you that he was far from perfect,” Msgr. Quinn explained. “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



Deacon Peter G. Smith reads a prayer petition for victims of sexual abuse during the Universal Prayer at Bishop Timlin's funeral Mass.

to live merciful lives rooted in Christ.”

As he concluded his homily, Msgr. Quinn said Bishop Timlin never lost sight of his primary role as a parish priest – “helping people come to know, love and serve God” – by always being available to console the grieving, visit the sick or care for the suffering.

“As we gather today to mourn Bishop Timlin’s death, to truly remember the fullness of his life and to pray for his eternal peace, let us remember all that he did throughout his 95 year journey homeward,” Msgr. Quinn stated. “All he did to come and know and live out God’s will in his life in humble and selfless fashion and let us pray for the same merciful graces we need to do the same in our own.”

PARISHIONERS MOURN LOSS

In the five hours leading up to the funeral Mass, the public was invited to pay their respects to the late Bishop Emeritus of Scranton.

“He was a good man,” former Scranton mayor Jimmy Connors said as he entered the Cathedral shortly after the public visitation began at 9 a.m. Connors worked with Bishop Timlin during his entire tenure as mayor which lasted from 1990 to 2002.

“He was very kind to me before I was mayor, while I was mayor and after I was mayor,” Connors explained. “He had a good heart, totally dedicated to God and the people. He loved every neighborhood here.”

William Nolan, who has been a member of the Cathedral parish since 1974, remembered the day Timlin was ordained a Bishop and thousands filled the streets.

“I thought the world of him,” Nolan said. “He was a very, very holy man. He loved people.”

Patrick Williams, President of Pennsylvanians for Human Life in Scranton, remembered Bishop Timlin as being unapologetically pro-life.

“We would always go to Bishop Timlin or Bishop Dougherty when we had issues that needed attention. Both of them were fantastic,” Williams explained.

While he didn’t know Bishop Timlin personally, Mike Stevens of Dallas, said it was clear that Bishop Timlin was humble.

“He cared deeply about the Church and deeply about the parishioners and I think that example of humility is terrific especially in this crazy world that we live in,” Stevens said.

OUR NEED FOR MERCY

With the funeral services



Rev. J. Duane Gavitt, Rev. John J. Chmil, Msgr. Joseph G. Quinn, V.F., Rev. Joseph P. Elston, Msgr. Neil J. Van Loon, V.F., Rev. Cyril D. Edwards, and Rev. Patrick L. Albert, serve as pallbearers.

taking place shortly after the Second Sunday of Easter, also known as Divine Mercy Sunday, the theme of “mercy” played a significant role in the reflection of Monsignor Vincent Grimalia, who offered reflections during a private Vespers service on Monday, April 17, 2023, at Villa Saint Joseph in Dunmore.

At Bishop Timlin’s request, a private viewing for family members was held the day before his burial Mass.

“After celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday yesterday, during these 50 days of Easter, we have a context for our gathering, that reminds us of the loving mercy of God, that challenges each of us to live a life of mercy,” Monsignor Grimalia said.

Msgr. Grimalia said Bishop Timlin lived a “spirituality of mercy.”

“I think one of his favorite

parables was the parable of the Good Samaritan,” Msgr. Grimalia related. “He regularly visited local hospitals and hospice units when able. He also would read the obituary column and visit funeral homes, to pray for the deceased and console their family and friends.”

During the private Vespers service, Msgr. Grimalia asked the crowd of roughly 50 to pray for Bishop Timlin and the good that he did.

“Let us also pray for all who touched his life and all the lives he touched,” Msgr. Grimalia ended.

Before being taken to his final resting place at Cathedral cemetery, Bishop Bambera echoed those same sentiments.

Bishop Bambera also reflected on a conversation he had with the late Bishop Emeritus of Scranton just hours before his passing.

“On Holy Saturday afternoon about 2 p.m., I visited with Bishop Timlin to wish him a Happy Easter. Although I have visited him regularly during his stay at Marywood Heights, I found him during this particular visit to be far more buoyant than he had been for quite some time. He told me that he had a plan to return toward his residence,” Bishop Bambera said. “He said, ‘I’m feeling pretty good right now, I think I can live to be 100,’ and he said, ‘But whatever God wants is what I’ll do.’” A few hours later, in the early morning hours of Easter, God wanted him home so we give thanks for Bishop Timlin. We give thanks for the good that he did. We give thanks for the lives that touched him and the lives that he was able to touch and we pray that God’s mercy envelop him now and give him peace.”

Bishop Bambera releases pastoral message before funeral Mass

SCRANTON - Prior to announcing funeral arrangements for the Most Reverend James C. Timlin, the Diocese of Scranton acknowledged the “sensitive circumstances” of planning the funeral, which needed to balance Bishop Timlin’s full life of service to the Church with a clear understanding of imperfect judgements related to clergy sexual abuse.

Just prior to the funeral Mass beginning on April 18, 2023, Bishop Bambera released a video on Catholic Television as well as on Diocesan social media platforms.

In his message, Bishop Bambera prayed for all sexual abuse survivors and said he hopes they find healing and peace.

Bishop Bambera’s full comments are included below:

My friends,

In just a few moments, we will begin the celebration of a Mass of Christian Burial for Bishop James Timlin – who willingly gave more than 70 years of his life in service to our local Church as a priest and bishop.

I have heard from many of you over the last few days since the bishop passed in his sleep in the early morning hours of Easter Sunday.

Many of you have shared recollections of the bishop’s kindness, visiting sick family members in hospitals and hospice units, consoling those grieving at the loss of loved ones and expressing his deep faith and conviction in the mercy of God – a blessing that was nurtured right here in Scranton where the bishop spent his entire life which spanned close to 96 years.

But I have also heard from many of you who have been deeply wounded by the emergence of other realities over the last several years – imperfect judgments – regarding clergy sexual abuse.

While one person cannot be blamed in totality for what has transpired, the impact is clear. The Church of Scranton has been deeply wounded by the sins of some of her members – and those wounds are most deeply experienced by the victims and survivors of child sexual abuse.

These failings have destroyed the lives of innocent children – eroded trust and good will – and, sadly, have led many to leave the faith.

A funeral is neither the time nor the place to delve further into the details of these revelations – but I would be remiss if I let this day pass without acknowledging the past wrongs and failures that have come to light.

For all that we remember this day, my friends, one thing is abundantly clear. None of us can save ourselves. We are all imperfect, broken souls in need of God’s mercy, forgiveness and healing grace.

During today’s Mass – in the Universal Prayer – we will be praying in an intentional way for survivors of clergy sexual abuse, acknowledging their suffering and seeking their continued healing and peace.

These are not hollow words. We cannot – and will not – forget their pain.

As we begin this funeral liturgy – we give thanks and praise to God for the blessing of Easter and Jesus’ victory over sin and death – and we commend Bishop Timlin to God’s tender mercy and compassion, won for us all through Jesus’ suffering, death and resurrection.

Offering Mass for survivors of abuse, Bishop Bambera says we ‘must never forget’ grief and suffering many have endured

SCRANTON – Just two days after the funeral Mass of Bishop Emeritus James C. Timlin, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, confronted the pain and grief felt by many survivors of child sexual abuse.

Bishop Bambera presided at an April 20 Mass for survivors of abuse suffered at the hands of Church officials, and he again apologized for the pain they and their family members have suffered.

“It is not insignificant that our prayer today takes place at the conclusion of a week that in so many respects opened up a wound that has burdened so many of our brothers and sisters,” Bishop Bambera said. “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 imperfect judgments and decision on his part led to the suffering of some of the most vulnerable among us.”

Bishop Bambera was the principal celebrant of the Mass – sponsored by the Diocese of Scranton’s Office of Child Protection & Safe Environment – that was offered at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month and the Healing Mass for Survivors of Abuse has now been celebrated for six years.

“The painful recollection of such realities for survivors of sexual abuse – even five years out from the release of the Pennsylvania Grand Jury report investigating child sexual abuse by members of the clergy in the



The Diocese of Scranton held its sixth annual Healing Mass for Survivors of Abuse on April 20, 2023. (Photo/Eric Deabill)

Catholic Church and its cover-up by some Church leaders - is a stark reminder to us all of the grief and suffering that so many innocents have endured,” Bishop Bambera added.

Bishop Bambera acknowledged he has learned many things from courageous survivors who have spoken with him over the years – the most important of which is that we “must never forget or allow time to numb us to the pain that was so willfully inflicted on innocent lives.”

“An authentic recognition of the pain of that cross is the only thing that can truly prompt us to change and to create a Church deserving of people’s trust,” Bishop Bambera noted.

Erin McGrady, LPC, who serves as Safe Environment Coordinator for the Diocese of Scranton, said the Healing Mass for Survivors of Abuse is an important moment of prayer for many people.

“We remember the history of the Church and remember each and every survivor so we can pray and support them however we can on their journey to healing and recovery,”

McGrady said. “It also reminds us how important it is to continue doing the things we have in place to protect all those in our diocese and promote the safest environments possible to allow for everyone to grow in their faith.”

McGrady said the Diocese of Scranton has a zero tolerance policy for anyone who abuses a child.

“Five years post Grand Jury Report being released and it is still so important to highlight the work that our Safe Environment Office does daily to make sure this issue is in the front of everyone’s minds,” McGrady added. “As Safe Environment Coordinator, I assist and oversee Local Safe Environment Administrators at every location to ensure that compliance on USCCB guidelines and Pennsylvania state laws are met. We provide Safe Environment training for children and adults throughout the diocese, require that background checks are completed and renewed on time for clergy, employees and volunteers and provide support and assistance to any questions, concerns or situations that arise.”



O LORD, SEND FORTH YOUR SPIRIT, AND THEY ARE CREATED AND YOU RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

PSALM 104: 30

*- A Priesthood Perspective by Father Brian F. Van Fossen, V.F. -
Pastor, Saint Faustina Kowalska Parish & Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish*



I was ordained to the Holy Priesthood in 2005 for the Diocese of Scranton. Through my years of formation and even in my years of being a priest, I have heard the consistent attacks on the priesthood by the world. However, instead of giving these attacks credence by even mentioning them in this article, I want to focus on my experience of priesthood in the Holy Eucharist.

I was first assigned to Saint Jude Parish in Mountain Top. Saint Jude's has a long history of Eucharistic Adoration. In the old church, they had a small unassuming door leading to the parking lot. Day and night, at every hour, and in all sorts of weather, people would walk in and out of the door. They would spend an hour, more or less, in a small but comfortable room with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Most of the time it would only be one person; however, there were times when families would come together filling the room. The strength of prayer and connection with Jesus because of this time formed that parish and called others to join in their love and service. So much so, that now, through the work of the parish, the priesthood and the Holy Spirit, they have a new church, a vibrant community, and several new priests. That small chapel has grown but is still the heart of the parish as people continue to offer prayers and come to know a God who is always waiting for them in the Blessed Sacrament.

I was assigned next to Saint John Neumann Regional Academy in Williamsport. There were five sites for educational instruction, including the high school. One of the sites only taught preschool to second grade. This was a small school in Bastress connected to Immaculate Conception Parish. The Sisters of Christian Charity were present at the school and the Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth were present in the community. These Brides of Christ were powerful in prayer and witness.

Because the students were so young, we did not offer the Holy Mass with them but offered a Holy Hour on First Fridays. The best month was February. This was when the preschoolers were able to lead the school in prayer, the Holy Rosary of our Blessed Mother. Before the Blessed Sacrament, with full voice and even fuller hearts, they prayed the prayers and offered a meditation on the love of Jesus and the Father. It was the voices of angels and the angelic choir responding as the rest of the student body followed their lead. The Holy Sisters, along with the students' families, taught them by their prayer life and their lived example of the Blessed Mother's fiat.

From there I was assigned to Marywood University in Scranton. Here the beautiful Sister Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary served as an example of justice and service to the students and community. The chapel for the university was connected to Campus Ministry. Throughout the day, students and the community would come for a visit. After daily Mass, the alumnae and students would interact, share stories, and listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. On many occasions, but a couple particularly, the chapel would be filled for Sunday and other Holy Day Masses. However, Wednesday nights were special. Marywood is known for its music program, along with many other fields of study. On Wednesday nights, the students would come together and offer praise and worship to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. They would sing, listen to Sacred Scripture, spend time in silence and open their hearts before the Lord. Several of the students entered into religious discernment; many have children of their own. All are reminded on how these special nights with Jesus led them to become the men and women they are today.

I was next assigned to Saint Joseph the Worker in Williamsport. The parish was a consolidated parish of Annunciation,

Ascension, Holy Rosary and Mater Dolorosa parishes. The church is in an area of the city known as "Millionaires Row," but the area can be a little rough at times. After a couple of concerns in the area, the parish council, in collaboration with Saint John Neumann Regional Academy, decided to take their faith to the streets. A procession of Our Lady of Fatima was planned to process from the high school to the church right through the downtown area. This public display of faith was accompanied by the Holy Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and ended with the Holy Mass. While this procession was moving through the streets, those who could not walk were praying before the Blessed Sacrament in the church and at the Adoration chapel at St. Ann Parish. These prayers were offered for protection and witness of the Gospel. The day was absolutely beautiful, and the conversion of hearts was even more so. As the community gathered to offer the Holy Mass, God placed upon their hearts an apostolic spirit. Since then, the Catholic Community answered the world's violence and division, with prayer, service, and public displays of power rooted in their faith in the Blessed Sacrament.

Currently I am assigned to Saint Faustina Parish in Nanticoke and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Lake Silkworth. This linkage happened during the troubling time of the pandemic. Both parishes are vibrant in faith and service. They are working together in many efforts; but the most recent was offering retreats for both Faith Formation programs. During this retreat, our young adults, headed by one of our Notre Dame Echo Apprentices, led our First Holy Communion students to understanding Jesus' connection to them in the Blessed Sacrament. These second graders were filled with energy and excitement. Through the retreat, they did a variety of activities. After lunch, and a little recess, the young adults brought the

students to the church. They spoke to them about this special time of talking with Jesus called Adoration. After a brief explanation on how to talk with Jesus, Father Richard Gyansah-Tabiri exposed the Blessed Sacrament on the altar. For the next 30 minutes, these students, along with their Guardian Angels, prayed in the presence of Jesus. The experience of silence, the angelic children, and the palpable love harkened back to how children understand the Real Presence.

The experience of the Holy Priesthood and the Blessed Sacrament is not rooted in the person of the priest. Our faith teaches us that Jesus is present in the priesthood, the baptized community, the Sacred Scripture and the Blessed Sacrament. The priesthood and the baptized community are all sinners in need of a Savior, until we enter into Heavenly glory. The Sacred Scriptures can be misinterpreted and manipulated (even Satan quoted Scripture). It is only the Blessed Sacrament where Jesus is fully present without pretense or error. In the sixth chapter of Saint John's Gospel we are reminded of our need for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. When asked what we can do to accomplish the works of God, Jesus answers with the Holy Eucharist, the Living Bread. When people refused to follow Jesus because of the idea of the Holy Eucharist was too much, Jesus turned to His disciples and asked if they would also leave. Saint Peter, the first Pope and one of the first priests, answered, "Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God." (John 6: 68-69) What would be your answer? How do our lives reflect to our children the importance of the Blessed Sacrament? If we want renewal, we need to believe in Jesus, present to us in the Blessed Sacrament. May the Holy Spirit renew us, renew our faith, and renew the face of the earth. God's Peace!

Brodheadsville priest builds LEGO replica of Notre Dame's Golden Dome

BRODHEADSVILLE – Eight years after grabbing headlines around the world for building a model Vatican out of 500,000 Lego bricks, Father Bob Simon is back at it.

This time, the pastor of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Brodheadsville just completed a replica of the University of Notre Dame's iconic Main Building and Golden Dome on April 26, 2023.

"To be invited by the University and by the Notre Dame family to do this is something that my heart is really all in on and was a delight to work on," Father Simon said.

Father Simon initially received the request from the University in January 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic curtailed his ability to get the project done quickly but still estimates spending roughly eight months working on it overall.

While Father Simon admits he didn't keep an exact count, he estimates using around 300,000 Lego bricks this time.

"In the windows alone, the blinds and the windows and the glass in it, there are 60-some bricks in each of the 300-plus windows," he explained. "There's a total in the windows, just inside them, over 25,000 bricks for that and over 70,000 tan bricks around the exterior of the building."

'GOLDEN' OPPORTUNITY TO HONOR MARY

As a Notre Dame alumnus, Father Simon immediately recognized the challenge of creating the iconic Golden Dome.

"That is the part I was afraid of," Father Simon joked. "Unlike the dome I did for Saint Peter's Basilica, it doesn't have ribbing and I was very afraid of it because it is 1800s architecture that I'm not so familiar with but I'm really happy with the way it turned out."

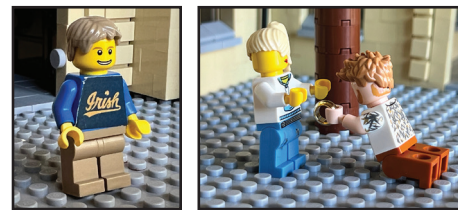
After being afraid of building the dome for a long time, Father Simon admits it came together in just a couple of days.

The University of Notre Dame also helped to ensure that Mary was honored properly in the display.

"Notre Dame created her statue on a 3D printer. It is an exact replica of the statue on the top. I gave them the size that I wanted and it fits perfectly right on top,



Father Bob Simon, pastor, Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Brodheadsville, poses with the LEGO replica of the University of Notre Dame's iconic Main Building and Golden Dome on April 21, 2023. (Photos/Eric Deabill)



Above: In addition to the building itself, the LEGO replica also features many characters that depict life on campus.

Left: Father Bob Simon works on the LEGO replica in his parish rectory.

because I gave them the scale," Father Simon explained.

While many might assume creating the Golden Dome was the hardest part of the project, Father Simon says that is not the case.

"The math was definitely the problem, making sure everything was proportional," he said. "In particular, what really gave me trouble was the roof. The roof is quite elaborate and trying to make sure the math was all right with the roof and the structure itself was probably the most difficult part."

CAPTURING THE 'ESSENCE' OF THE BUILDING

While Father Simon is dwarfed by the

size of his massive Lego creation, he smiles when admitting the building itself is not often what most people make comments about.

"As much as the structure is impressive, what people probably spend more time looking at are the human interest details," he explained. "The people wearing Notre Dame attire which the university helped me out with some graphics. If students don't tie their bicycle up, it gets placed in a tree, people delighted at seeing that. The 'ring at spring' proposals happening on campus, I have one of those represented, and the squirrels and golf carts that are on campus. There are even little robots that deliver food from the cafeteria and the restaurants

on campus now so I'm going to make sure there is one of those in the scene as well, just to be very current."

While Father Simon's love of Lego sets started around the age of five, as a priest, he believes there is a deep connection between the playful and prayerful parts of this project.

"I've realized that building something like this with Lego is a real invitation to contemplation, to mediation, to prayer, it is sort of like the Rosary," Father Simon explained. "While your hands are busy, your mind and your heart can be elsewhere ... I realized the building is in the shape of a Cross with the longest arm of any Cross I've ever seen, which seems to represent Father (Edward) Sorin's vision for the university."

The Poconos pastor continued, "Just like when praying the Rosary, one contemplates the mysteries and there is really the beauty of the architecture and the vision of the founder that comes alive and is something to really mediate on."

UNIVERSITY TO SHOWCASE MASTERPIECE

While much of the Lego construction took place in the living room of Father Simon's rectory, the final construction took place on the University of Notre Dame campus in conjunction with 'Notre Dame Day' on April 26, 2023. On that day, the campus community comes together to celebrate the University and raise money by telling stories of students, professors and alumni.

Father Simon was featured in seven live broadcasts as the Lego creation came to completion.

"I feel great about the fact that it is finished, I feel great about the fact that it will be here at the University of Notre Dame," Father Simon said in his final television segment.

The Lego creation will be permanently located in McKenna Hall, which hosts conferences and special events and is used to welcome prospective students and visitors.

"I'm grateful for the University and the impact it has made in my life," Father Simon ended by saying.

Young adults reflect on importance of World Day of Prayer for Vocations



The song, “Que Te Puedo Dar” played during the Presentation of the Gifts at the World Day of Prayer for Vocations Mass at Queen of Heaven Parish in Hazleton on April 29, 2023.

HAZLETON – The 60th anniversary of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations was marked in grand style this year with a special Mass celebrated by the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, at Queen of Heaven Parish.

Young people from parishes around the Diocese of Scranton attended the Mass and served in various liturgical roles.

“It was a special day because it was the first time I got to lector,” Joseph Tranguch of Hazleton said. “I was a little bit nervous but I did pretty good because the Holy Spirit led me!”

Matthew Sanchez, a youth group member from Saint Matthew Parish in East Stroudsburg, called the celebration “beautiful.”

“I like how the choir was bilingual, both English and Spanish, and there were a lot of priests,” Sanchez explained. “Father Alex’s homily was really nice.”

Father Alex J. Roche, Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians, served as homilist for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations Mass.

“Every vocation is important and vital in the life of the Church but sometimes we need to spend a little bit more time on explaining what the vocations to religious life, to the priesthood, to the diaconate are,” Father Roche said. “Explaining that they’re good and holy things and they will

lead to fulfillment and happiness and like Saint Catherine of Siena says, ‘setting the world on fire.’”

The purpose of the 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). As a climax to a prayer that is continually offered throughout the Church, it affirms the primacy of faith and grace in all that concerns vocations to the priesthood and to the consecrated life.

“I think God is calling me personally to serve the Church in multiple ways. I think it’s being a leader in my hometown, being a leader at my local college and even being a leader in the church community that I’m a parishioner of,” Matthew Kelly, a parishioner of Saint Gregory Parish in Clarks Green, said. “He calls us, so importantly, to be disciples of the faith, to teach it to everybody around us and to bring people into the church because the whole mission of the church is to evangelize.”

In addition to the Mass in Hazleton, parishes around the Diocese of Scranton were asked to highlight the need for vocations and share vocation stories from pastors, religious education teachers, deacons and married couples.

“It is a day when, in every parish, we want people really reflecting on where God is calling them to be,” Father Roche said.



BISHOP BAMBERA’S SCHEDULE

- May 11** - Confirmation for Immaculate Conception Parish, St. Patrick Parish and Good Shepherd Parish, taking place in Freeland, 5:00 p.m.
- May 13** - Commencement - Misericordia University
Misericordia University, Dallas, 2:00 p.m.
- May 14** - Mother’s Day Adoption Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.
- May 15** - Confirmation for Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Resurrection Parish and St. Ann Parish, taking place in Montoursville, 6:30 p.m.
- May 16** - Vespers Service
King’s College, Wilkes-Barre, 5:00 p.m.
- May 19** - Commencement - King’s College
Mohegan Sun Arena, Wilkes-Barre Township, 1:00 p.m.
- May 20** - Commencement - Marywood University
Mohegan Sun Arena, Wilkes-Barre Township, 1:00 p.m.
- May 21** - Commencement - The University of Scranton
Mohegan Sun Arena, Wilkes-Barre Township, 11:00 a.m.
- May 22** - Confirmation for St. John Bosco Parish
Conyngham, 6:30 p.m.
- May 24** - School Mass for Epiphany School
Epiphany Church, Sayre, 10:00 a.m.
- May 24** - School Mass for Saint Agnes School
Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Towanda, 12:30 p.m.
- May 24** - Confirmation for Ss. Peter & Paul Parish, Epiphany Parish, St. Michael Parish, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish and Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, taking place in Towanda, 5:00 p.m.
- May 25** - Confirmation for Ss. Anthony and Rocco Parish, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and Immaculate Conception Parish, taking place in Dunmore, 5:00 p.m.
- May 27** - Transitional Diaconate Ordination
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.
- May 31** - Holy Redeemer High School Commencement
F.M. Kirby Center, Wilkes-Barre, 7:00 p.m.
- June 1** - St. John Neumann High School Commencement
Penn College at the Klump Center, Williamsport, 7 p.m.
- June 2** - Holy Cross High School Commencement
Marywood University, Scranton, 7:00 p.m.
- June 3** - Notre Dame High School Commencement
Notre Dame High School, East Stroudsburg, 11:00 a.m.
- June 4** - Wedding Anniversary Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 2:30 p.m.
- June 8** - Mass for Priest Jubilarians
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.
- June 10** - Mass for Catholic Women’s Conference
Marywood University, Scranton, 8:45 a.m.
- June 11** - Mass for the Feast of Corpus Christi
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:15 p.m.
- June 13-18** - USCCB Spring General Meeting
Orlando, Florida

Scouting programs help empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus

SCRANTON – For Sean Rodgers, scouting is much more than just spending time outdoors.

“Scouting is the best part of my life. I started way back in first grade and now I’m a junior in high school,” he explained. “I’ve learned so much more than tying knots and building fires. I’ve learned leadership skills. I’ve learned public speaking skills. I’ve learned what it means to have good character, to be a good person.”

His friend, Simon Basham, agrees.

“Scouting is an amazing program,” Basham added. “You get team building skills. You just learn so many things that you can use in life.”

Rodgers and Basham, both members of Boy Scout Troop 106 in Mountain Top, were among 33 young people from parishes around the Diocese of Scranton recognized during the Diocese of Scranton’s annual Scout Mass on April 23, 2023. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this is the first time since 2019 the Scout Mass has been celebrated in person.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant and homilist for the Scout Mass. Reverend Jonathan Kuhar, Diocesan Scout Chaplain, concelebrated the 10 a.m. liturgy, which coincided with the Third Sunday of Easter.

“My brothers and sisters in scouting, never underestimate the power that you are given as baptized Christians, as you serve and as you build up the communities in which you live,” Bishop Bambera said during his homily. “You have the ability to impart the very love and mercy of God to people who are in need. What a treasure that is – thank you for embracing it!”

The goals of Catholic youth ministry align very well with the goals of scouting: character development, citizenship training, personal fitness and leadership development.

Allison Van Pelt, who has served as an altar server and sacristan at Saint Jude Parish, believes the morals and values taught in scouting help to empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today.

“In scouting, I have the Scout oath and the Scout law and in the church we have



The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, laughs with several young adults who received awards at the Diocesan Scout Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on April 23, 2023. (Photos/Mike Melisky)

all of the teachings from the bible and the scriptures and all of these give me a very good point of view to follow and they really help guide me throughout my life,” Van Pelt said.

At the end of the Mass, the Ad Altare Dei Emblem and Pope Pius XII Emblem were presented to the young adults who had fulfilled the requirements for the award. The Ad Altare Dei program centers on the Sacraments and the program for the Pope Pius XII emblem helps scouts explore vocations (single, married, religious, ordained) and ministries in the Church as calls from God. It includes youth-led discussions on current issues facing the Church and society.

“I’ve worked so hard for these over the past two or three years and just to get them, it is definitely a big accomplishment for me,” Michael Grandzol of Saint Jude Parish said.

Since this was the first time in four years that the Scout Mass has been celebrated, four individuals were also presented with the Saint George Emblem, which honors a member of the laity or clergy, scout or non-scout alike, who have made significant and outstanding contributions to the spiritual development of Catholic youths through scouting.



Rev. Jonathan P. Kuhar, Diocesan Scout Chaplain, presents an award during Mass to Sean Rodgers of Saint Jude Parish.

honored who have committed themselves to service and living as faithful disciples.

“We are very proud to have you with us and most especially to have you all engaged in the good work that you do on behalf of our church and on behalf of our society and our world. We need more young men and women like yourself. We are so blessed to have all of you,” Bishop Bambera said.

COME FLY WITH US! NEPA GIVES

ALL ARE INVITED TO OUR 2nd ANNUAL NEPA GIVES RALLY!

Join us for a **FREE** night of fun and games, music and merriment, arts and sciences, tailgate food (both wacky and traditional), adult and all-ages beverages and more.

Who: Two-time Rectory, Set, Cook! champion and Cathedral Capers all-star alumnus Fr. Jim Paisley, the evening's emcee, will sing Sinatra et al while also challenging anyone to cornhole!

When: 6-9 p.m. Thursday, June 1, 2023

Where: The Catholic Youth Center (celebrating its 75th anniversary!), 36 S. Washington St, Wilkes-Barre, PA (**Free parking at CYC or nearby Holy Redeemer High School.**)

Why: To move the Diocese of Scranton and its many ministries up the leaderboards in the annual 24-hours-only **2023 NEPA Gives charitable challenge! DONATIONS WELCOME!**



Strategic Growth Planning Process for Catholic Schools taking shape

SCRANTON – Just weeks after launching its Strategic Growth Planning Process, the Diocese of Scranton Catholic Schools Office has committed itself to providing ongoing communication updates to families and the rest of the Diocesan community.

“Our Faith. Our Students. Our Future” started in early April and the first communication covered what has taken place so far in the planning process.

With the help of the Meitler team, which is serving as one of our partners in this process, the Diocese held introductory “kickoff meetings” with school principals, clergy and members of the Diocesan Steering Committee and Planning Task Force. The meetings helped to explain the strategic growth process objectives, planning steps, timeframes and more.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera and Kristen Donohue, Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Education/Superintendent, set the tone for these meetings emphasizing the overall goal is to help ensure Catholic education is affordable and accessible for a new generation of students in the decades ahead.

At the kickoff meetings, each group reflected on the following three questions relating to the strategic planning process:

- What expectations do you have of the planning process? What do you hope will be the result(s)?

- What are the key issues and challenges that need to be addressed through the strategic planning process?

- What is your vision for Catholic school education in the Diocese of Scranton for the long-term future?

Input from principals, clergy and steering and planning committee members included, but was not limited to:

- Providing students and staff with the safest learning environment possible

- Strengthening Catholic Identity while focusing on each student’s opportunity to grow to his/her God-given potential

- Making Catholic Schools centers

of evangelization to help families and all of the faithful come to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ

- Monitoring academic growth through regular use of various assessments and data

to provide responsive and appropriately rigorous, differentiated instruction

- Continuing to make Catholic education affordable and accessible to new generations of students

- Trusting that the strategic growth planning process will give everyone

a voice in shaping the future of Catholic School education throughout the Diocese of Scranton

- Providing financial stability for each school by addressing aging infrastructure, recruiting and retaining dedicated teachers and administrators, all while staying competitive within the local educational markets

- Creating engaging opportunities with alumni to garner their participation in each school’s future growth

- Better succession planning for each school and the Diocesan school system overall

- Doing a better job marketing the strengths of the Catholic School System: evangelization and academic excellence

The communication also covered what comes next in the Strategic Growth Planning Process.

The planning process will begin with the collection and analysis of community and Catholic demographics, school enrollment trends, staffing information and school financial information. Site visits to each school will be planned for the fall to help members of the Meitler team understand the unique experience of each school.

The Diocese asked for prayers and cooperative support as the process will continue to unfold over the next year.

More information on the Catholic Schools Strategic Growth Planning Process is available on dioceseofscranton.org.



Catholic school students create ‘birthday bags’ for local children in need

SCRANTON – For many young people, their birthday is cause for celebration. Due to high inflation and financial challenges, however, not every family is able to afford the ‘extras’ associated with a big bash.

Catholic school students from five elementary schools in Lackawanna County recently came together to make sure no local child will be without a proper celebration for their big day.

During different retreat days held in Lent, students at each school brought in items to create 188 “birthday bags” filled with boxed cake mix, icing, sprinkles, candles, balloons and a disposable cake pan.

“Each grade brought in something small to contribute and created the completed bags that we then donated to local food pantries,” Liz Devine, elementary school guidance counselor, explained. “The students also created personalized birthday cards to go in the bags.”

Second through eighth grade students, 811 in all, participated in the Lenten retreats and help to create the birthday bags. The schools involved in the project are Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore, La Salle Academy in Jessup, Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green, All Saints Academy in Scranton and St. Clare/St. Paul School in Scranton.

“Our retreat was based on the passage from the Bible of Jesus feeding



During Lenten retreats, students from five Catholic Schools in Lackawanna County created 188 ‘birthday bags’ for local children in need.

the 5,000,” Devine said. “We read the Bible passage and reflected on it. It was pointed out to the students how the boy in the story only gave a meager little meal to Jesus and Jesus created His miracle and even had extra left over.”

The day also included small group team building activities, prayerful introspection and guided imagery reflection.

Devine says many of the students recognize

who do not have enough money for regular meals, never mind a special birthday celebration.

“Catholic schools in the Diocese of Scranton distinguish themselves not only by their academic excellence but by how they incorporate a faith-filled duty to serve others,” she added.

Each school selected the local food pantry in which to donate the birthday bags created.

The recipients include Catherine McAuley Center in Scranton, Saint Ann Parish food pantry in Scranton, Saint Patrick Parish food pantry in Scranton, NEPA Youth Center in Scranton, Queen of Angels Parish in Jessup, and the Montdale food pantry.

In reflecting on the project, Devine considers it a big success because it “challenged the students to give of themselves to others, even in the smallest way!”

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 Jude School in Mountain Top**, **Holy Family Academy in Hazleton**, and **All Saints Academy in Scranton**. During his homilies, the Bishop recounted stories from his trip to Ghana last summer and shared how he learned valuable lessons by speaking with school children in the African nation. He also explained as we draw near to the end of the Easter season, we should be reminded of God's great love for us and the sacrifices of His only son, Jesus. While we might look different, speak differently, and come from different parts of the world ... God loves us all and that is why we are made in His own image. To show God our love, we must love others in return and we do that by showing kindness and compassion in our schools, in our homes, and in our communities.



Saint Jude School in Mountain Top



All Saints Academy in Scranton



Holy Family Academy in Hazleton



The eighth grade class at **Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School in Wilkes-Barre** honored our Blessed Mother at their annual May Crowning.



The National Junior Honor Society at **Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore** selected the "Jared Box" program as their Lenten service project. Started in 2001 by the children of Our Lady of Victory School in State College to honor their classmate, Jared, who battled cancer with courage and faith, a box is packed to bring a smile to the face of a child who is in the hospital. A total of 41 boxes were filled with toys, games, crayons, coloring books and fun activities by the NJHS members and distributed to patients at Geisinger-CMC.



Katie Apolinario, Lillie Kochis, Charlie O'Malley, Ben Mulvey, Geno Musto, Gavin Brennan, Giuseppe Pilone, Kevin Vincent and Nick Tunis, members of TRU at **Holy Cross High School in Dunmore**, gather outside during the "2023 Day at the Capitol" in Harrisburg. TRU stands for Tobacco Resistance Unit and is a movement to protect PA youth from all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes.



Fourth graders read to their first grade buddies during “Read Across America Week” at **Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green**.



Fifth grade students at **Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg** test their homemade filters to try to purify water.



The fourth grade class of **Holy Rosary School in Duryea** dissected owl pellets cumulating their studies on the ecosystem and the food chain.



Students from **Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre** recently attended the 72nd annual PA FBLA State Leadership Conference in Hershey. Future Business Leaders of America is designed for students preparing for careers in business or just wanting to learn more about the free enterprise system. The conference allows members to participate in numerous competitive events, attend leadership development seminars, and “campaign” for state office.



Seventh and eighth grade students at **Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg** performed “Polkadots: The Cool Kid Musical JV” earlier this year.



Pre-kindergarten students at **Epiphany School in Sayre** start every school day with prayers.



Kindergarten through sixth grade students from **Saint Agnes School in Towanda** joined the celebration of National Day of Prayer at the Bradford County Courthouse on May 4, 2023. Their presentation included singing, dancing and praying. The Day is designed to remind people about the power of prayer.

Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen undergoing ‘once in a generation renovation’

SCRANTON – Nearly 40 years after Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen opened its doors in its current location, the facility is getting a “once in a generation renovation” to ensure its mission continues for decades to come.

The work, which is already underway, will be completed over a ten-week period. It should be finished by the end of July.

“This renovation will not only allow us to serve our brothers and sisters in need in a dignified way for another generation but will prepare us for future expansion,” Rob Williams, Executive Director of Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen, said. “This organization is primed and ready to serve God and His people in ways that we cannot yet imagine. We were founded by and through God’s inspiration and we will continue to serve Him and His beloved people in every way possible.”

The Kitchen currently serves ten meals to the community each week and that service will continue uninterrupted – but the meals will be prepared and served in different locations while renovations are underway.

IMPACT ON MEAL SERVICE

Starting May 19, all weekday meals (11 a.m. midday meal on weekdays and 5 p.m. dinner on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) will be served at ‘The



Exterior work is underway at Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen in Scranton for its “once in a generation renovation.” In addition to a new entrance and walkways, the interior of the Kitchen will also be upgraded. (Photo/ Eric Deabill)

Space at Olive’ at 541 Wyoming Avenue in Scranton. ‘The Space at Olive’ is only one block away from Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen’s current location.

“Part of what we provide for the community is the ability for our brothers and sisters to sit around the table together and enjoy comradery with one another,” Williams explained. “We want to keep that sense of community as much as we can through this renovation process and the dining room at ‘The Space at Olive’ will allow us to do that.”

The 11 a.m. midday meal on Saturday and Sunday will be served in ‘grab and go’ containers

from Saint Francis food pantry at 504 Penn Avenue in Scranton.

During the renovation project, all of the Kitchen’s meals will be prepared at Lackawanna College.

“Lackawanna College is gifting us with the use of its commercial kitchen for the ten weeks. They have been amazing to us. They are also letting us put two Road Scholar trucks on campus for dry storage and freezer space,” Williams added.

While unexpected challenges may arise during this process, Williams has been working to ensure a smooth transition of services for the last several months.

“The idea is to keep everything as close to normal as possible,” Williams said. “Since 1978, we have only missed four meals and we won’t miss a meal because of this project. There will be ten meals a week straight through.”

PREPARING FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

When Williams took over as Executive Director of Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen in August 2019, he quickly realized renovations were needed after fixing leaks in the facility’s roof several times.

In June 2022, the roof was completely fixed and new vents and rain gutters added, paving the way to the rest of the renovation work to begin both inside and outside the Kitchen.

Visible signs of the renovation work are always underway – front walkways are already being fixed and a glass enclosure in the front of the building has been taken down.

“There was a glass enclosure in the front that was always damp and musty. We will have a new entrance but the roof will hang over another eight feet. It will have a stucco-look like the rest of the building with stone accents,” Williams said. “The façade is going to be really beautiful.”

Inside the Kitchen is where most of the changes will be taking place.

Throughout the building

there will be new ceilings, LED lighting and paint and all of the appliances in the Kitchen will either be replaced or rebuilt. All of the Kitchen’s public bathrooms will become handicap accessible, a new distinct laundry room will be created and the Kitchen will get new refrigeration and freezer spaces.

“There are times when people offer us 850 boxes of meat and we either have to say no to that donation or we have to borrow space in Pittston. Increasing the freezer space in this building will gear us up for another generation of service,” Williams explained.

While the Kitchen is being renovated, a local artist will also restore a statue of Saint Francis of Assisi, which has a broken hand and several cracks, as well as a statue of Saint Anthony.

Monsignor Constantine V. Siconolfi founded Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen in 1978. Its current building was dedicated in 1986.

Williams, who refers to himself simply as the “current keeper of the vision” of Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen, says the renovation project is an exciting opportunity. He said it would not be possible without community support.

“I am deeply grateful to our board members, our benefactors, our staff members and volunteers, who partnering with us are animating this extraordinary mission that we share,” Williams explained.

Catholic Communication Campaign collection to take place May 20-21



SCRANTON – Parishes in the Diocese of Scranton will take up a second collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign on the weekend of May 20-21, 2023.

If you enjoy reading *The Catholic Light* or watching CTV: Catholic Television of

the Diocese of Scranton, half of all the money raised from this collection stays within the Diocese of Scranton to promote communication and evangelization efforts.

The other half supports national and international initiatives to aid the Church

in communicating the Gospel message through print, radio, television, websites and social media.

The Catholic Communication Campaign distributed more than \$3.62 million in national and international grants in 2022.

We hope you will consider

giving generously when your parish takes up the collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign.

Your gift will spread the faith, hope and love of Jesus Christ, and of his Church, to people and places where the word of God is needed most.

Oberto honored for work with Catholic Social Services



Neil Oberto, the long-time director of Catholic Social Services' Hazleton Office, left, is recognized by the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, on April 29 at the Hazleton Art League.

HAZLETON – Caring. Compassionate. Loving. Those are just a few of the adjectives used to describe Neil Oberto as the Hazleton community came together to honor and celebrate the long-time director of Catholic Social Services' Hazleton Office last month.

Hundreds of family, friends and people who have been touched by Oberto's dedication gathered April 29 at the Hazleton Art League for a "Celebration of Service." Oberto worked for Catholic Social Services for nearly 35 years, including 28 years as Hazleton office director, before retiring at the end of January.

"It truly has been a joy and a privilege to work for the agency all these years," Oberto said. "It was not only responding to emergency needs of food, clothing and shelter, which are so important, but it was also going beyond that with the numerous programs throughout the years, the mentoring programs, counseling programs, parenting services, programs that truly uplifted individuals and families on their road to self-sufficiency."

Terry Moran Bauder, who serves on the Catholic Social Services Advisory Board and is the retired director of Luzerne County Community College's center in Hazleton, said Oberto brought hope to many in the Mountain City.

"Neil's deep walk of faith and his conviction that every person we meet is an image bearer of Christ has led him to treat each person that he served during his more than 30 years at Catholic Social Services with dignity and respect," she explained. "That helped them to work through hard times and to have hope for their future."

Timothy Trently, Division Manager for Service Electric, said if he could have one-tenth of Oberto's humility and compassion he would be happy.

"Everyone that touches Catholic Social Services, whether it be the food bank or needing clothing or the shelter, is part of Neil's extended family and Neil treated them with love, respect, humility and kindness," Trently explained.

All of the guests who came out to celebrate Oberto's retirement say there is no direct way to quantify how many thousands of people he touched over the years.

"Neil is truly the face of Jesus in our community. He has unconditionally loved everyone. He does whatever it takes to get something done to help whoever he can in any condition," George Hayden, President, Hayden Power Group, said. "He's the type of guy that doesn't ask, he just does it, he goes out and does what needs to be done in our community."

CTV: CATHOLIC TELEVISION								330 Wyoming Ave. Scranton, PA 18503 (570) 207-2219		
MAY SCHEDULE										
	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY			
12:00: AM	DAILY MASS	SUNDAY MASS (Encore)	DAILY MASS (Encore)							
1:00 AM	FR SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	(1:10AM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	THE JOURNEY HOME (Encore)	MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE CLASSICS	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	THE WORLD OVER (Encore)	EWTN NEWS IN DEPTH			
1:30 AM		EWTN GALLERY	EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Encore)							
2:00 AM	LIVING DIVINE MERCY		EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY		
2:30 AM	DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOG		SPECIALS	GOSPEL GLIMPSES	LIFE ON THE ROCK	PHILOSOPHER'S BENCH	FINDING GOD IN ALL THINGS		
3:00 AM	EWTN SPECIALS		DEFENDING LIFE		PAPAL AUDIENCE(3:15)	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY (Call in thurs)			AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY	
3:30AM		CHURCH UNIVERSAL		LORD HAVE MERCY		REFLECTIONS (4:15)	BOB AND PENNY LORD	THE CHURCH AND THE POOR	SAVORING OUR FAITH	
4:00 AM	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	SUNDAY BEST WITH FR GROESCHEL	WORK OUT YOUR SALVATION	THE HERESIES	THEY MIGHT BE SAINTS	BATTLE READY	ICONS			
4:30 AM		EWTN BOOKMARK	THE PHILOSOPHER'S BENCH	DOMINICAN SISTERS	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY	DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH	FROM THE HEART WITH MOTHER ANGELICA			
5:00 AM	AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED	CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN	LIFE IS WORTH LIVING	TURLEY TALKS		WORK OUT YOUR SALVATION	CATHOLICS COME HOME			
5:30 AM	REGINA CAELI WITH POPE FRANCIS	EWTN ORIGINAL PRODUCTIONS								
6:00 AM	YOU ARE BLESSED	G.K. CHESTERTON	CHURCH AND THE POOR	THE MIRACLE HUNTER	SAINTS VS SCOUNDRELS	THE CHOICES WE FACE	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE			
6:30 AM	THE CHAPLET OF ST. MICHAEL					STATIONS OF THE CROSS	CHAPLET OF ST. MICHAEL			
7:00 AM	THE HOLY LAND ROSARY							THE HOLY ROSARY		
7:30 AM	THE HOLY LAND ROSARY	LITANY OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	LITANY OF THE HOLY NAME	LITANY OF ST JOSEPH	LITANY OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD	LITANY OF SACRED HEART	LITANY OF DIVINE CHILD			
7:50 AM	SUNDAY MASS (Live)	DAILY MASS (Live)								
8:00 AM	(9:20AM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	HOLY ROSARY WITH THE FRANCISCAN MISSIONARIES OF THE ETERNAL WORD								
9:00 AM	EWTN ROSARY FRANCISCANS	SUNDAY BEST WITH FR. GROESCHEL	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION (ENCORE)	EWTN LIVE (ENCORE)	THE WORLD OVER (Encore)	ADVENTURE CATECHISM/ LUKAS STORYTELLER			
9:30 AM	SUNDAY MASS ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL(ENCORE)	RELIGIOUS CATALOG	MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE	LIVE WITH PASSION	FOCUS	CATHOLIC CLASSICS	CAT CHAT			
10:00 AM	CHOICES WE FACE	OFOD/LIVE WITH PASSION/SPECIALS		ST ANN'S WEEKLY NOVENA	MUSIC AND THE SPOKEN WORD	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY			
10:30 AM	EWTN NEWS IN-DEPTH	MUSIC AND SPOKEN WORD	INSIDE THE BIBLE	ST. LUKE'S GOSPEL	WEEKLY NOVENA	VOICE OF THE BRIDEGROOM	BOB & PENNY LORD PRESENT			
11:00 AM		SUNDAY MASS (Encore)	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, LIVE AT 12:10 p.m.							
11:30 AM	(1:20PM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	"DIOCESAN DATEBOOK" airs before and after Mass.								
12:00 PM	SUNDAY MASS (Encore)	WOMEN OF GRACE								
12:30PM	IN CONCERT	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	PRO LIFE WEEKLY	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	CHOICES WE FACE/OFOD	THE PROMISE...WE SAID I DO FOREVER	DOMINICAN SISTERS OF MERCY			
1:00 PM		CALLED TO COMMUNION	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION	FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	THE JOURNEY HOME	LIFE ON THE ROCK	EWTN ON LOCATION			
1:30 PM	THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY IN SONG									
2:00 PM	LIVE ADORATION FROM EWTN CHAPEL									
2:30 PM	HOLY ROSARY FROM LOURDES	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, (Encore)							ROSARY FROM LOURDES	
3:00 PM	VATICANO	THE HOLY ROSARY							SUNDAY VIGIL MASS ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL	
3:30 PM	DIOCESAN DATEBOOK									
4:00 PM	SAVORING OUR FAITH	IMAGE OF GOD	ADVENTURE CATECHISM/ LUKAS STORYTELLER	TRUTH IN THE HEART	CAT CHAT	WE ARE CATHOLIC				
4:30 PM	STONES AND PEARLS	EWTN BOOKMARK	THE CHOICES WE FACE	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE	WEB OF FAITH 2.0	DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH	GRAB YOUR CATECHISM			
5:00 PM	SUNDAY PASSIONIST MASS	SPECIALS							LORD HAVE MERCY	
5:30 PM	SUNDAY MASS ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL(ENCORE)	EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Live)							THE MIRACLE HUNTER	
6:00 PM		LIFE IS WORTH LIVING	THE HERESIES	LIVING DIVINE MERCY	VATICANO	FINDING GOD IN ALL THINGS	WORK OUT YOUR SALVATION			
6:30 PM	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, (Encore)									
7:00 PM	SUNDAY MASS ENCORE (EWTN)	THE HOLY ROSARY								
7:30PM		DIOCESAN DATEBOOK								
8:00 PM	(8:20) LITANY OF SACRED HEART	THE JOURNEY HOME (Live)	OFOD OR EVENING PRAYER	EWTN LIVE	THE WORLD OVER (Live)	EWTN NEWS IN DEPTH	EWTN CINEMA			
8:30 PM	CATHOLICS COME HOME	THE JOURNEY HOME (Live)	MUSIC AND THE SPOKEN WORD	CATHOLIC SPHERE	ICONS SPOTLIGHT	DEFENDING LIFE				
9:00 PM	LIFE ON THE ROCK		EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Encore)							
9:30 PM	HOLY ROSARY W MOTHER ANGELICA	WEEKLY NOVENA TO ST. ANN	CHOICES WE FACE	FOCUS	LIVE WITH PASSION	WEEKLY NOVENA TO ST. ANN	HOLY ROSARY WITH MOTHER ANGELICA			
10:00PM	EWTN SPECIALS	THE WORLD OVER LIVE (ENCORE)	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION (ENCORE)	FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	PRO-LIFE WEEKLY	LIFE ON THE ROCK	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY			
10:30 PM		WOMEN OF GRACE								
11:00PM	THE PHILOSOPHER'S BENCH	DEFENDING LIFE								
11:30PM	CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN	REAL LIFE CATHOLIC	BE A MAN	CROSSING THE GOAL	BATTLE READY	LONG RIDE HOME	EWTN BOOKMARK			

"With the Holy Spirit" is focus of Catholic Women's Conference June 10

Jesus said, "I have come to cast fire upon the earth; and how I wish it were already kindled!"

That "fire" is the fire of the Holy Spirit, the love of God poured into our hearts, enabling us to be healed and transformed and to be used by the Lord.

This year, the Catholic Women's Conference, "With the Holy Spirit," will delve into the gift we receive when we open our hearts and souls to the Holy Spirit and the transformative power of healing and spirituality the Holy Spirit brings to us.

Featured speakers Johnette Benkovic Williams and Kathleen McCarthy will share their journey from devastating loss to spiritual rebirth after accepting the healing gift of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

Johnette Benkovic Williams was having difficulty sleeping in the early hours of the morning of March 20, 2004, when she heard a knock at the door.

Being already awake, she opened the door to find two Florida State Highway Patrolmen on her doorstep. She invited them in and woke her husband, knowing in her mother's heart that this was not good news.

Her son Simon had been killed in an automobile crash, an irony not lost on Johnette as Simon had served in Korea and Afghanistan and was a decorated Army veteran. She left her husband and the patrolmen in her family room and went to her bedroom, prostrating herself on the floor in grief.

Suddenly, in the midst of her heartbreak, she saw and felt the loss that Mary, the Blessed Mother, would have suffered at the foot of the cross while her Son suffered and ultimately died. She felt the pain of that loss as acutely as her own, embracing her pain and her loss.

She felt God's word in her heart, telling her that she had labored to bring her son into this world, and her pain and suffering were her labor to give Simon spiritual life. Pain was grace, there was merit in suffering, and that suffering was union with Christ.

One year later, at the Christening of their first grandchild, her husband suffered a Grand Mal seizure, ultimately leading to his diagnosis of terminal brain cancer. Johnette survived another terrible loss and 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.

Johnette is 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.

Featured speaker Kathleen McCarthy was a mother of twelve when her husband died of cancer. It was through divine intervention that Kathleen discovered and accepted the presence of the Holy Spirit in her life and began her ministry to share the gift of the Holy Spirit with others.

Kathleen went on to become a published author, Catholic radio broadcaster and a Catholic lay evangelist for more than 40 years.

Her message of the Father's merciful love, the Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist and the power of the Holy Spirit will inspire others to embrace the healing power and love of the Holy Spirit.

The conference will feature a celebration of Mass with the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, the divinely inspired music of Maria Salamida, and the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The day will conclude 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, 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.

register for conference tickets

For more information or to online, please visit cwcnepa.com.

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With the Holy Spirit




 Johnette Benkovic Williams


 Kathleen McCarthy


 Maria Salamida


 Mary Clare Hallman

SPA DAY FOR YOUR SOUL!

Pope accepts resignation of Harrisburg bishop, names successor

WASHINGTON (OSV News)—Pope Francis has accepted the resignation of Bishop Ronald W. Gainer of Harrisburg, who is 75, and has appointed Auxiliary Bishop Timothy C. Senior of Philadelphia to succeed him.

Bishop Gainer, who has headed the Harrisburg Diocese since 2014, turned 75 last August, the age at which canon requires bishops to submit their resignation to the pope.

Bishop Senior, who turned 63 March 22, has been a Philadelphia auxiliary since 2009. He is regional bishop of Montgomery County and chancellor of the archdiocese’s St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. Bishop Senior was the seminary’s rector from 2012 to 2022.

The resignation and appointment were publicized in Washington April 25 by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Bishop Senior will be installed

as the 12th bishop of Harrisburg by Philadelphia Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez during a June 21 Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg.

“Trusting in God’s will and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, I pray that I may be a faithful, holy and worthy shepherd for the people of central Pennsylvania in service of Jesus Christ and for the good of his church,” Bishop Senior said.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, celebrated the announcement for one of our neighboring diocese.

“As Bishop of the Diocese of Scranton, I am delighted to extend congratulations, best wishes and prayers to Bishop-designate Timothy C. Senior, who has been appointed by our Holy Father, Pope Francis, to become the twelfth Bishop of the Diocese of Harrisburg.

“Bishop-designate Senior brings wide ranging pastoral and administrative experience

to his new position, which will undoubtedly help him to shepherd the faithful of the 15-counties that make up the Harrisburg Diocese. Having known Bishop Senior well and having worked with him on issues facing the Church here in Pennsylvania for many years, I have no doubt that he will dedicate himself tirelessly to promoting the Gospel message and the mission of Jesus Christ.

“I ask the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton to join me in praying for Bishop-designate Senior as he prepares to accept this new assignment.

“On behalf of the priests, deacons, religious, and lay faithful of the Diocese of Scranton, I also extend heartfelt congratulations to Bishop Ronald W. Gainer who has led the Diocese of Harrisburg since 2014 and now will become Bishop Emeritus.”



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Catholic Men’s Conference slated for October



The eighth annual “Be A Man” Catholic Men’s Conference for the Diocese of Scranton will be held on Saturday, Oct. 7, at Holy Redeemer High School, 159 South Pennsylvania Ave., Wilkes-Barre. The theme for this year’s gathering is “Stand Fast in the Faith.”

The daylong event opens with registration and coffee at 7 a.m., followed by praying of the Rosary at 7:15. The conference program will continue throughout the day, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and includes dynamic Catholic speakers, Eucharistic Adoration, the opportunity for sacramental confessions, and a closing Mass celebrated by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera.

Standard registration fee is \$40 (early bird, \$30); cost for students is \$15, and priests and deacons may attend free of charge.

For more information on the conference and ways to register, contact Mike Kilmer at (570) 746-0100 or michaelkilmer71@gmail.com.

Committee members pictured are, first row from left: John Witkosky, Raphael Micca, Dr. Chris Carr, Dr. Lou Guarnieri, Tony DePaola, Bill Leandri, Kevin Burleigh and Father Brian Van Fossen, conference chaplain. Second row: Dennis Shovlin, Conference Chairman Mike Kilmer, Henry Pospieszalski, Jim Gerichten, Ralph Marino, Joe Adcroft, Joe Alinosky and Gerard Schmidt.

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MISSION MESSAGE

‘Living Water’

By Deacon Edward Kelly
Interim Director,
Pontifical Mission Societies



One of my most vivid memories from my mission experience in Africa is the throngs of people I saw walking. Men, women and children filled the streets walking to school or work or to shop. In Nairobi, Kenya, the average walk for an adult to and from work is nine miles. Most of them start before sunrise and don't return home until after sunset. Looking through American eyes, I can remember thinking what a hard life they must have. Then I heard this story from a Maryknoll missionary priest about his first mission assignment.

In a village in the mountains outside Nairobi, the women had to make a seemingly hard daily journey to a well for fresh water. Before sunrise they would set out with their empty buckets on the two-mile long walk. Once there, they would wait in line for their turn to draw the water up by hand from the deep well. After filling their

buckets they made the long walk back home with their arms straining from the weight of the fresh water. The young missionary priest felt a need to help them. He took it upon himself to hire an engineer from the city who was able to install a mechanical pump that would allow water to be drawn to several faucets right in the village. The young missionary priest was very happy with the success of his project.

A few months later, the pump developed a mechanical problem which required the engineer to come back from the city to fix it. He did fix it, but within days it broke again which required a return visit. Weeks later, the pump broke a third time. The young missionary priest became greatly frustrated with his project. However, to his surprise, the village women didn't seem to share his frustration; rather, they simply resumed their early morning two-mile trek to the well outside the village.

After speaking with the women, he made a surprising discovery. The women preferred the demands of drawing water by hand from the well outside the village to the convenience of filling their buckets from the faucets inside the village. They missed walking together, waiting in line, and walking back home because it gave them an opportunity to be with one another, to share experiences, tell their stories, share

advice about family matters, and grow in friendship and love with one another. While the installation of the pump and faucets provided them with easy access to water, it deprived them of the “living water” of daily encounters that nurtured and fed their spirits, their friendship, their love.

Hearing this story by a now-seasoned missionary opened my mind and heart to the complexity of the missionary life before me. It helped me to understand the importance of walking in another's shoes and trying to understand another's culture and way of doing things. It made me realize I didn't go to the people of Africa to change them, but to be changed. It opened my eyes that while we have a thirst for water, we have a deeper thirst for friendship and love and God. In our pursuit of things that make our lives convenient, we can easily miss those things that are life giving.

Maybe you can remember, as I do as a youngster, visiting family and friends and hearing their stories. It seems nowadays that we have all the conveniences of a modern society. But do we really know one another? We e-mail and text, but talk less to each other. We live in bigger houses but smaller worlds. We have more stuff but fewer friends. We don't know our neighbors and we seldom share our stories.

Pope Francis continues to urge us to not only reach out to the poorest of the poor, but to learn the lessons they have to offer. The poor teach us that as we hurry to fill ourselves with all the things that make life convenient, not to forget to take time to walk with one another and share our stories so that we can drink the living water that satisfies our souls.

Apostleship of Prayer

Papal Intention for May 2023

For Church Movements & Groups —

We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.

Catholic colleges to stage Spring Commencement ceremonies

Marywood speaker former Poet Laureate

SCRANTON — A native of West Africa who served as the fifth poet laureate for the city of Philadelphia will offer the main address when Marywood University hosts its 105th Commencement on Saturday, May 20, at Mohegan Sun Arena in Wilkes-Barre Township.

Trapeta Mayson will also receive an honorary doctorate from Marywood during the graduation ceremonies, which commence at 1 p.m.

Born in Liberia, Mayson immigrated with her family to the United States as a young girl and was raised in Philadelphia. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Bryn Mawr Graduate School of Social Work and received a master's degree in social services and business from Villanova University School of Business.

Mayson is also a licensed clinical social worker and chief program officer for a community mental health agency in the city.

Alumnus, who headed Secret Service, at U of S

SCRANTON — University of Scranton alumnus James M. Murray II, Ph.D., chief security officer for Snap, Inc., and former director of the United States Secret Service, will serve as the principal speaker at the University undergraduate commencement exercises on Sunday, May 21.

Dr. Murray will also receive an honorary degree from the University at the ceremony, which will begin at 11 a.m. at the Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza in Wilkes-Barre Twp.

Prior to assuming his current position, he served as the 26th director of the U.S. Secret Service from May 2019 to September

2022, during which time he led more than 8,000 special agents.

A native of Point Pleasant, N.J., Dr. Murray earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from The University of Scranton, where he also completed the Reserve Officer Training Corps program and earned a commission as a U.S. Army Officer.

Misericordia plans 97th Spring Commencement

DALLAS — Misericordia University will celebrate its 97th annual Spring Commencement for undergraduate and graduate students this weekend.

Graduation activities for the Class of 2023 open on Friday, May 12, with a Baccalaureate Mass at 4 p.m. in the Lemmond Theater on campus.

The graduate student Commencement ceremony will be held on Saturday morning, May 13, at 10 a.m. in Misericordia's Anderson Sports and Health Center.

Later on Saturday afternoon, Commencement for the Misericordia undergraduate students will be staged at 2 p.m. in the Anderson Sports and Health Center.

The 246 graduates who will be conferred their bachelor's degrees during the ceremony will be addressed by the Commencement's keynote speaker, R. Scott Appleby, Ph.D., Professor of History and the Marilyn Keough Dean of the Keough School of Global Affairs at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.

King's slates nonprofit CEO whose work aids area needy

WILKES-BARRE — Tracey Selingo, founder and CEO of Fork Over Love — a local nonprofit that has generated more than \$430,000 of independently owned restaurants and helped distribute

more than 43,000 free meals to struggling residents — will deliver the address for the 74th annual King's College Commencement ceremonies on Friday, May 19, at the Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza.

The procession of King's graduates will begin at 12:30 p.m., followed by the graduation exercises when more than 400 students will receive their bachelor's or master's degrees. In addition to serving as the Commencement's keynote speaker, Selingo will be awarded an honorary doctor of humanities degree.

Operating in Luzerne County, Fork Over Love was founded in January 2021 by Selingo, who serves as volunteer CEO. The nonprofit agency connects two groups of people severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic: small,

local restaurants that are under pressure from staffing shortages and price increases, and people who struggle to find quality meals for their families.

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Memorial Day Masses will be celebrated at each Diocesan Cemetery on Monday, May 29, 2023. All are welcome to participate in these liturgies to pray for and remember the faithfully departed, especially our veterans.



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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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Mental health ministry a dire need across the U.S. church

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

(OSV News) – During the six months following the national 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline launch in July, more than 2 million calls, texts and chat messages have streamed into its 200 call centers coast-to-coast, the Associated Press recently reported. As suicide continues to be a leading cause of American deaths, Catholics may also turn to their church for spiritual support in the midst of a mental health episode – but dioceses are discovering they need to sprint to catch up and keep pace with this deadly epidemic.

“This is a brand new ministry in the church,” Deacon Ed Shoener, president and founding member of The Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers and Permanent Deacon for the Cathedral of Saint Peter, told OSV News. “And I think it’s growing fairly rapidly for a new ministry like this, in a very ancient institution.”

While some dioceses have staff therapists and counselors that

are mental health professionals, through organizations such as Catholic Charities or Catholic Social Services, Deacon Shoener categorized those services as “professional mental health care” as opposed to “mental health ministry.”

An essential distinction, according to The Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers, is that mental health ministry is not the same as mental health treatment, but it is complementary to the work of mental health professionals. Ministry takes the form of faith-based, God-centered and trained volunteer-led journeying with those experiencing mental wellbeing challenges, “without direct implementation of psychological interventions.”

Mental health ministry is spiritual and social support – not medical diagnosis or care – for those suffering in their mental health. And it’s a field that’s growing.

“I would say about 40 dioceses or so across the U.S. have some level of mental health ministry,” Deacon Shoener said, adding these efforts are generally “either being organized at a diocesan level out of one of the offices of the chancery, or a couple of parishes on their own have started to offer a mental health ministry.”

The need for mental health ministry is acute. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide was responsible for nearly 46,000 American deaths – one about every 11 minutes – in 2020. Another 12.2 million American adults seriously thought about suicide, 3.2 million made a plan, and 1.2 million attempted suicide. The National Alliance on Mental Illness indicates that one in five U.S. adults experience mental illness each year, while 17% of youth (6-17 years) annually experience a mental health disorder.

Parishes hosting Suicide Grief Support series

SCRANTON — The Catholic Mental Health Ministry in the Diocese of Scranton is holding a series of monthly suicide grief support meetings in two parish locations.

Based on the eight-part film series, “When a Loved One Dies by Suicide,” one gathering is being hosted at Saint Ann Monastery Basilica Parish in West Scranton at 6:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month through November.

The Catholic parishes of Ascension, Forest City, and Saint Katharine Drexel, Pleasant Mount, are co-hosting the other gathering at 6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month through November.

Bereavement/Grief Support Groups

Bereavement Support Group Sessions — MAY 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 (across from St. Peter’s Cathedral). Anyone interested in attending is asked to contact the Cathedral Parish office at (570) 344-7231.

Grief Journey Ministry: “God’s Compassionate Face” — MAY 22, 31, JUNE 5 & 12, hosted by Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Lake Silkworth; four evening gatherings will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The parish grief ministry offerings encourage and assist participants through their grief journey toward healing after suffering the loss of a loved one. Registration is encouraged; contact the parish office at (570) 477-5040.

Bereavement Support Group — JULY, for the Milford/Lords Valley area; hosted by St. John Neumann Parish in Lords Valley. Bereavement ministry offers a series of faith-based topics to help understand the grief process and to find healing; four-week program will be held in July from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the parish hall of St. John Neumann Church, 705 Route 739, Lords Valley.

MAY 20, 2023

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This event is offered in collaboration with the Northeast and Central PA Chapter of the Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers.

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Oblates of Saint Joseph to celebrate founder's feast on May 31

LAFLIN — The religious community of the Oblates of Saint Joseph will honor their founder, Saint Joseph Marello, with a special Mass commemorating the saint's upcoming feast day.

The annual Eucharistic celebration will be offered on Wednesday, May 31, at 7 p.m. in the Chapel of Saint Joseph, 1880 Route 315, Laflin.

Guest celebrant and homilist for the Mass will be Father Joseph Elston, pastor of Saint Joseph Marello Parish and Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Pittston.

Saint Joseph Oblate Fathers will concelebrate the feast day liturgy being held in conjunction with the weekly Novena to Saint Joseph on Wednesday evenings.

All area faithful are invited to participate in the Mass and attend a social that will follow in the Oblates' community room.



Saint Joseph Marello (1844–1895) was a priest of the Diocese of Asti in the Piedmont region of Italy. Ten years after his ordination in 1868, he founded the Congregation of the Oblates of Saint Joseph — originally a small group of priests dedicated to humble Church ministry in the imitation of Saint Joseph.

The future Saint Joseph Marello was eventually appointed to serve as bishop of the nearby Diocese of Acqui.

After spending his life in

tireless pastoral service, he died canonized him a saint in 2001 at unexpectedly in Savona, Italy, on Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome. May 30, 1895, at the age of 50.

The Oblates of Saint Joseph have been serving in the Diocese of Scranton since 1929, as well as in his native city of Asti and in 18 countries worldwide.

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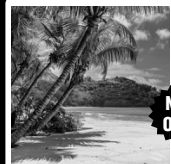


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Prayer Requests for Priests

The Daily Prayer Request for Priests schedule is as follows:

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; May 17, Jesuit Father Patrick Rogers; May 18, Father Alfredo Rosario Paulino; May 19, Monsignor Walter Rossi; May 20, Monsignor Dale Rupert; May 21, Father John Ruth; May 22, Holy Cross Father Brogan Ryan; May 23, Father Dominic Sabi; May 24, Father Thomas Sarnecki; May 25, Father Arbogaste Satoun; May 26, Father Kenneth Seegar; May 27, Monsignor John Sempa; May 28, Father Gerald Shantillo, V.G.; May 29, Saint Joseph Oblate Father Joseph Sibilano; May 30, Monsignor Constantine Siconolfi; May 31, Father Shawn Simchock; June 1, Pope Francis; June 2, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; June 3, Father Robert Simon; June 4, Father Andrew Sinnott; June 5, Father Joseph Sitko; June 6, Father Phillip Sladicka; June 7, Father Stephen Stavoy; June 8, Father Scott Sterowski; June 9, Jesuit Father Daniel Sweeney; June 10, Saint Joseph Oblate Father Raymond Tabon; June 11, Father Philbert Takyi-Nketiah; June 12, Father John Terry; June 13, Father Fidel Ticona; June 14, Father Peter Tomczak; June 15, Father Daniel Toomey; June 16, Father Rawel Toppo; June 17, Father Sudhir Toppo; June 18, Father Peter Tran; June 19, Monsignor David Tressler; June 20, Father Jeffrey Tudgay, J.V., V.E.

Enthronement Mass to celebrate Sacred Heart Solemnity

PITSTON — The Sacred Heart Enthronement Guild of the Scranton Diocese will host a Mass celebrating the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus on Friday, June 16, at 4 p.m. at Saint Joseph Marelllo Parish in Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, William Street, Pittston.

Father Dan Toomey, spiritual moderator of the Diocesan Enthronement Guild, will serve as principal celebrant of the feast day Mass. Concelebrants will include Saint



Father Dan Toomey

Joseph Oblate Father Joseph Sibilano, Oblates of Saint Joseph, Laflin, and Passionist Father Lee Havey of the Basilica of Saint Ann, Scranton, who will serve as homilist.

The Eucharistic liturgy will include prayers for those seeking to enthrone their homes to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary and renewals for Enthronements previously received.

Music ministry will be provided by Ernie Pappa and the Sacred Heart Singers. A prelude of contemporary selections will begin at 3:45 p.m.

Following the Mass, a dinner reception will be held in the parish center, with Patrick Williams, board president of the

Enthronement Guild, serving as master of ceremonies.

The Enthronement Guild has been at the forefront of spreading the apostolate throughout the Diocese for more than 75 years, providing families and individuals with the opportunity to offer special devotion to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary in their homes.

For reservations and more information, contact Maria Pappa, Guild coordinator, at (570) 241-8172, or email: sacredheartenthronement@yahoo.com.

Marian Devotion to host Rosary prayer services

Fostering prayerful devotion to Jesus and Mary through recitation of the Rosary, Marian Devotion Ministries in the Diocese of Scranton will host its 2023 Fatima Journey beginning on the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, May 13, and continuing through October, the Month of the Holy Rosary.

Marian Devotion events are scheduled as follows:

Lady of Fatima Feast Day Rosary Rally — May 13, at 1 p.m. in the Prayer Garden on the grounds of Saint Lucy Church, West Scranton.

Sunday Afternoon Rosary Rally — May 14, at 5:30 p.m. at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laflin, followed by celebration of Mass.

Monday Evening Marian Devotion — May 15, from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Grotto of Our Lady of the Abingtons Parish, Dalton.

Marian Day of Reflection: "Blessed is She" — May 20, hosted from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Saint Patrick Parish, Milford.

For more information, contact Ernie Pappa at (570) 241-8171 or email: singtomary@aol.com.

PA diocese announces parish renewal event

JOHNSTOWN — The Altoona-Johnstown Diocese is partnering with Divine Renovation Ministries to present an upcoming all-day event, titled "Unlocked Pennsylvania," to explore the keys to parish renewal.

Parish leaders throughout the state are invited to attend conference on Tuesday, June 20, at Our Mother of Sorrows Parish in Johnstown.

All pastors and staff are welcome to participate in the

informative experience to help "unlock parishes" in the areas from maintenance to mission.

The day begins with Mass at 9 a.m. celebrated by Altoona-Johnstown Bishop Mark Barchak and will include several keynote speakers. The program schedule will conclude at 5 p.m.

Cost to attend is \$50 per person (\$45 each for groups of four or more). For more information and registration, visit: divinerenovation.org/unlocked.



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Who makes house calls?

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

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

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



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Sisters of IHM Foundation announces new members

SCRANTON — The Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary announce the recent election of new board members to the Sisters of IHM Foundation, which strives to support the needs of retired Immaculate Heart of Mary religious sisters through the implementation of various special events and fundraising.

The IHM Leadership team is proud to appoint the following board members for service in support of the women religious congregation: Mary Ann LaPorta, executive director, Children's Advocacy Alliance; Lisa Moran, human resource professional; and Ann K. Rink, teacher and community advocate.

The creation of the Sisters of IHM Foundation was set in motion after friends of the IHM community expressed interest in helping to support the retired religious sisters.

This year's Foundation virtual Heart of Mary Sister Ann Monica Bubser, executive director, at the

To assist the work of the IHM Center in Scranton (570) Foundation, contact Immaculate 346-5431.

IHM Sister professes perpetual vows



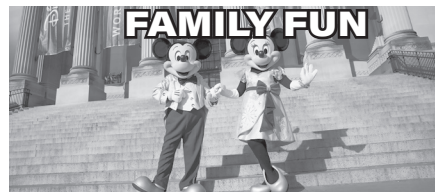
During a special liturgy of religious profession on April 15, Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Elizabeth Ann DeMerchant made her life-long commitment as a Sister, Servant of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In the presence of more than 150 IHM Sisters, students, family members and friends, Sister Elizabeth publicly professed her perpetual vows of chastity, poverty and obedience according to the Constitutions of the Immaculate Heart of Mary religious congregation. Accepting Sister Elizabeth's vows and receiving her as a perpetually professed member of the IHM community was Sister Kathryn Clauss, president of the IHM Sisters. Sister Elizabeth, who is pictured at right with Sister Kathryn, currently serves as a teacher at All Saints Academy in Scranton.

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May 28: Crayola Factory w/Puppet Show, \$65-\$110
 July 11: Disney Exhibit at Franklin Institute, \$80-\$140
 July 22: Lehigh Valley Zoo & Canal Boat Ride, \$75-\$125
 Oct. 24 & 25: Great Jack-o'-Lantern Blaze, \$55-\$125

NEW YORK CITY

Aug. 9: Broadway - Sweeney Todd, A Beautiful Noise: The Neil Diamond Story, Hadestown, New York, New York. See website or call for prices.
 Aug. 9 & Dec. 16: New York City on Your Own, \$70-\$99
 Dec. 8, 16 & 27: Radio City Music Spectacular, price TBA.

MORE DAY TRIPS

May 29: Gettysburg Battlefield, Museums, \$185-\$199
 July 7: Kutztown Folk Festival, \$55-\$80
 Aug. 19: American Dream Mall, \$77-\$89
 Nov. 28: "Miracle of Christmas," Sight & Sound, and Shady Maple \$199
 Nov. 30: Pa. Christmas & Gift Show, \$50-\$85



MULTI-DAY TOURS

Aug. 23-25: 3 days/2 nights, Niagara Falls & Buffalo Botanical Gardens, \$698-\$884 pp, based on occupancy
 Oct. 11-12: Wellsboro w/Covered Wagon Ride through Grand Canyon, price TBA
 Nov. 29-30: Rockefeller Center Tree Lighting, price TBA
 Dec. 19-21: A Victorian Christmas in Cape May, price TBA

MUSIC

May 20: NY Craft Beer & Music Festival w/The Wailers & more, \$155
 Sept. 19: John Denver Tribute at Penn's Peak w/Jim Thorpe trolley ride, \$153
 Oct. 24: Simon & Garfunkel Tribute,
 1981 Concert in the Park w/fall foliage train ride, \$165

A DAY AT THE BEACH

June 17: Ocean City, NJ, \$85-\$108
 June 28 & Aug. 19: Cape May, NJ, \$92-\$127
 July 15 & Aug. 7: Wildwood, NJ, \$92-\$127
 Aug. 5: Seaside Heights, NJ, \$88-\$111

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OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND • Sept. 4-7 \$679

WILDWOOD CREST, NJ • Sept. 10-13 \$629
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 • Nov. 9 \$189 • Nov. 18 \$209

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Drums parish to host Scripture series presentations

DRUMS — Father Connell McHugh, retired priest of the Scranton Diocese, will present a three-part series in the Greater Hazleton area on the study of Sacred Scriptures focusing on a particular document shared in the biblical Gospel accounts of Saint Luke and Saint Mark.

Father McHugh will explore

the topic of “Q” in the field of Scripture. “Q” is the abbreviation for the German word “Quelle,” meaning source, and is the title of a document referring to “The Saying Sources” that contains the many teachings spoken by Jesus.

An examination of the “Q” document will be presented in three consecutive weekly sessions

on Wednesdays, May 24, 31 and June 7, at 9 a.m. in the social hall of Good Shepherd Parish, 87 South Hunter Highway, Drums.

Detailed notes will be provided for all participants.

Anyone interested in attending is requested to secure reservations by contacting the Good Shepherd parish office at (570) 788-3141.

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.

Parish continues Evangelization series

WEST WYOMING — The Saint Monica Prayer Group at Saint Monica Parish in West Wyoming will continue to offer the ChristLife Catholic evangelization series, “Discovering Christ,” through June 8.

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.

The series is hosted at Saint Monica’s every Thursday evening from 6 to 7 p.m. in Our Lady of Sorrows Church, 363 West Eighth St., West Wyoming.

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.



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Catholic Happenings Around Diocese

“Nazareth Group” Days for High School Girls — MAY 13 & JUNE 10, hosted by the Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth in Tunkhannock and Williamsport; Saturday programs are 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.

potatoes, noodles, gravy, corn, salad & homemade bread. Cost: \$11 in advance; \$12 on event day. Advance tickets available at the parish office.

“Tastings & Tapas” Event — MAY 26, hosted by St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Moscow; held from 7 to 10 p.m. in the parish's Kelly Hall at St. Catherine Church, 220 Church St., Moscow. Evening offering of music, tastings of a variety of fine food and wines, craft & domestic beers, and a live auction hosted by event emcee Kevin Duffy; featuring a wide variety of luxury gift items and attractions. Live music provided by The Brown Initiative. Must be at least 21 years of age to attend. Admission cost: \$30 per person in advance (\$40 at door). Limited number of reserved tables for eight are available. For more information and to purchase tickets, call (570) 842-4561.

Tuesday Novena Devotion to Saint Anthony of Padua — MAY 16-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.

Spring Dinner — MAY 21, sponsored by Immaculate Conception Parish, 5973 Jacks Hollow Road, Bastress; featuring a take-out turkey & ham dinner for pick-up from noon to 6 p.m. (no dine-in service available). Dinners include stuffing, mashed

Annual Pentecost Celebration — MAY 27, hosted by the Scranton Diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal; held from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Oblates of St. Joseph

Continued on next page

PENTECOST CELEBRATION

of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the
Diocese of Scranton

May 27, 2023

8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Oblates of St. Joseph: 1880 Highway 315
Pittston, Pennsylvania, 18640



REGISTRATION AT 9:00 A.M. — PROGRAM STARTS AT 9:30 A.M.
Doors Open at 8:30 A.M. Coffee and Donuts available at 9:00 A.M.

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HIGHLIGHTS



Presentation by Monsignor
Vincent J. Grimalia,
Diocesan Coordinator for
Ecumenical and Interfaith
Relations



Presentation by Reverend
David W. Cramer, Pastor
of Saint Eulalia Parish



Presentation by Bob
Valiante,
a frequent speaker at
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link below: <https://www.ccrscranton.org/pentecost-2023>

Questions? Unable to register online? Please use a phone number
shown below or the email at bottom:

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Joyce Hudak 570-735-1068

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To Serve

Catholic Choral Spring Concerts set

SCRANTON — The annual spring concerts of the Catholic Choral Society of Scranton will begin on Friday, May 19, at 7 p.m. at Holy Rosary Church, Mary, Mother of God Parish, 316 William St., North Scranton.

During the performance, the Catholic Choral singers will be joined by the Valley View Middle School Choir, directed by Gina Pascolini.

A second spring concert event will be held on Sunday, May 21, at 7 p.m. at Saint Ignatius Church, Saint Ignatius Loyola Parish, 339 North Maple Ave., Kingston.

The Choral Society will host

as guest performers the Holy Redeemer High School Concert Choir from Wilkes-Barre, under the direction of Ann Manganiello, who also serves as director of the Catholic Choral Society.

Currently celebrating its 74th season, the Catholic Choral Society is composed of members from Luzerne, Lackawanna, Wayne, Susquehanna and Wyoming counties.

Admission cost for each concert performance is \$10 for adults; \$8 for seniors and students. Singers and children 12 years of age and younger are free of charge.

Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese

Continued from previous page
seminary facility & chapel, 1880 Highway 315, Laflin. Program speakers include Father David Cramer, Monsignor Vincent Grimalia, Bob Valiante and a personal faith-witness testimonial. Event is open to all faithful free of charge and includes a continental breakfast and complimentary lunch/refreshments; free-will offering will be accepted. Registration is required by contacting the CCR office at (570) 344-2214, or Joyce Hudak at (570) 735-1068.

Parish Rummage Sale Extravaganza — **JUNE 9 & 10**, sponsored by St. Lawrence Parish in South Williamsport; sale will be held Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the St. Lawrence church hall, 800 West Central Ave., South Williamsport. Event includes an extensive food stand with a variety of menu items. Public is welcome free of charge; for information & rummage sale registration, visit the parish website: www.stlawrencecatholic.com.

Holy Cross High School Crusader Classic 5K Run — **JUNE 10**, fundraising event to benefit the

track & field and cross country teams at Holy Cross High School in Dunmore; race begins at 8:30 a.m. at Holy Cross High School, 501 E. Drinker St., Dunmore. Course starts and finishes on the high school grounds. For more information on race participation/awards and sponsorship, call (570) 383-0961.

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.

Annual Flea Market — **JUNE 23-25**, hosted at Our Lady Queen

of Peace Church, Route 209 & Weir Lake Road, Brodheads ville; market hours: Friday & Saturday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday, 12:30 to 4 p.m. Numerous sale items at bargain prices include a wide array of selections. Basket raffle and lunch food menu also available. For more information, visit www.qopchurch.org or call (610) 681-6137.

Vacation Bible Camp: "Camping in God's Creation" — **JUNE 26-30**, hosted by Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Dickson City; the summer Bible Camp is open to all children ages four to 10. Camp activities will be held each day from 9 a.m. to noon in St. Mary's Visitation parish center. Registration is required by May 26; for more information and to register, call (570) 489-2091.



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Parish Bazaar, Picnic & Festivals Listing

Mary, Mother of God in Scranton — **June 16 & 17**. Parish "Block Party" will be held on Friday, from 6 to 11 p.m., and Saturday, 5 to 11 p.m., on the grounds of Holy Rosary Center, corner of Wayne & West Market streets, North Scranton. Live entertainment: Friday, 6 p.m., Veterans' Ceremony, followed by Picture Perfect, 7 to 11 p.m.; Saturday, 5 p.m., Jim Cerminaro, followed by The Luongo Brothers, 7 to 10 p.m. Festival includes ethnic foods, games, raffle baskets and refreshments for all ages.

Immaculate Heart of Mary in Dushore — **July 2, from noon to 5 p.m.** Annual picnic will be tent-covered on the grounds above Saint Basil Church; festival includes chicken dinner (eat-in or takeout for \$12) with homemade side dishes and pies. Light fare, ethnic foods and refreshments also available. Attractions include games, cash & whiskey raffle drawings, plush toy drawing, bountiful theme baskets and children's book bingo. Shuttle service provided to and from the church parking lot.

You can make a difference.

If you have not yet pledged, please help us reach our Diocesan Annual Appeal Goal!



On behalf of all of those who benefit, we convey our gratitude to all of our parishioners who have made a gift to the 2022 Diocesan Annual Appeal. Each donation, no matter how great or small, truly matters. If you have not yet made a pledge and wish to help our parish reach goal, you can do the following:

Send a check to the Diocesan Appeal Office, 300 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA 18503

Visit www.annualappeal.org to make a gift online

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Diocese of Scranton
DIOCESAN
ANNUAL APPEAL



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*Mother's Day
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Sunday, May 14, 2023
10 a.m.

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EXTERIOR

- ✦ Steeple Work
(Restoration and New)
- ✦ Painting
- ✦ High Pressure Cleaning
- ✦ Masonry Restoration
- ✦ Water Proofing/Caulking
- ✦ Roofing and Flashing
- ✦ Metal Fabrication
- ✦ Fiberglass Work

*Providing church restoration
services for 75 years.*

★★★★★ WWII ★★★★★ MILITARY SOUVENIRS WANTED

*** **TWO DAY EVENT** ***

FRIDAY, MAY 26TH & SATURDAY, MAY 27TH - 9AM-5PM

BRING IN YOUR ITEMS! LIVE IN PERSON BUYING!

Hilton Garden Inn (next to Wal-Mart in Wilkes-Barre) Exit 168, off I-81
242 Highland Park Blvd., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

Paying CASH on the spot for U.S. / German / Japanese:
Medals • Uniforms • Helmets • Hats • Armbands • Flags • Daggers • Swords
Bayonets • Knives • Equipment • Pictures • Letters • Currency • Coins, etc.



If you can't attend, call Sam directly at **570-814-8287** to schedule a personal meeting.
Leave message if needed. Private collector, not a dealer.