

# The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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**Holding a monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, leads a Eucharistic Procession out of the Cathedral of Saint Peter onto Wyoming Avenue in downtown Scranton on June 11, 2023, launching the second year of the National Eucharistic Revival. (Photo/Mike Melisky)**

## “Become the mystery you celebrate” Second Year of National Eucharistic Revival begins

SCRANTON – This past weekend, the Church celebrated the Feast of Corpus Christi – a day that calls each of us to reflect upon the gift of God given to us in the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

It also marked the beginning of the second year of the National Eucharistic Revival, a year focused on parish renewal, which is expected to increase the Eucharist’s visibility in many communities through Eucharistic processions.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, celebrated an Opening Mass for the Parish Phase of the National Eucharistic Revival at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Sunday, June 11, 2023.

“We have been given the opportunity to contemplate and proclaim with a deeper resolve the doctrine of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, a belief that has sustained countless

numbers of Catholic Christians for two millennia,” Bishop Bambera said during his homily.

Recalling the words of Saint Augustine, the Bishop urged the faithful to “Become the mystery you celebrate.”

Bishop Bambera urged the faithful to not only “receive Christ” but to “become Christ” for one another.

“Become Christ for your husband or your wife. Become Christ for your mother, your father, your son or daughter. Become Christ for your neighbor and for the stranger,” Bishop Bambera said. “Become Christ for the unborn child. Become Christ for the hungry and poor. Become Christ for those whom we have relegated to the margins of our world because of our own self-righteousness. Become Christ for the immigrant. Become Christ for the forgotten. Become the Christ whom you adore and whom you worship.”

Following Communion, the faithful attending Mass participated in a Eucharistic Procession that left the Cathedral and proceeded down Wyoming Avenue to the steps of the Cathedral rectory where Eucharistic Benediction took place.

Just before the Eucharistic Blessing, Bishop Bambera prayed, “Lord our God, in this great sacrament we come into the presence of Jesus Christ, your Son, born of the Virgin Mary and crucified for our salvation. May we who declare our faith in this fountain of love and mercy drink from it the water of everlasting life.”

During the Eucharistic procession and Benediction, several people driving along Wyoming Avenue or walking on the sidewalk took notice of what was taking place outside the Cathedral.

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## Bishop to ordain Dallas native to the Priesthood on June 24

SCRANTON – The Cathedral of Saint Peter will be the setting on Saturday, June 24, 2023, as Reverend Mr. Michael J. Boris is ordained to the Order of the Priesthood for service in the Diocese of Scranton.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as ordaining prelate for the Mass that will be celebrated at 10 a.m.

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend the Ordination Mass.

CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton will broadcast the Mass live and provide livestreaming on the Diocese of Scranton’s website, YouTube channel and social media platforms.

Boris, a native of Dallas, was ordained a transitional deacon in

2022 and is now ready to take his final steps toward priestly ordination.

“I’m very excited, a little nervous, of course, but that is natural,” Boris said. “I feel a lot of peace about my discernment and all of the great work that the Diocese has done for me.”

Boris, 27, is the son of Joseph and Susan Boris. He is a graduate of Holy Redeemer High

School and King’s College where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Theology and Philosophy. Boris entered Saint Mary’s Seminary and University in the fall of 2018 and completed his studies this May.

“Saint Mary’s is a wonderful place. They helped me to pray and discern what God is calling me to do,” Boris explained.

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**Reverend Mr. Michael J. Boris**



## 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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SCRANTON – Fourteen priests – who have provided a total of 665 years of service to the priesthood – were honored during the 2023 Mass for Priest Jubilarians on Thursday, June 8, 2023, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

“I’m excited. It’s a great feeling,” Father Jackson Pinhero, O.S.J., Assistant Pastor of Saint John the Evangelist and Saint Joseph Marello Parishes in Pittston, said just before the liturgy began. “I came to this country in 2007 so it has been almost 16 years that I have been here working in the Diocese of Scranton. I also worked for nine years in India.”

Father Pinhero, who is an Oblate of Saint Joseph priest, was ordained on April 15, 1998. The Cathedral Mass is actually the third celebration he has taken part in this year.

“I had a beautiful celebration in my parishes in Pittston, and then I recently went home to India for my vacation so I also had another celebration with my family and friends in India, in my hometown parish where I was ordained a priest,” he said.

As he reflected on the service



**A Mass for Priest Jubilarians was held on June 8, 2023, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. Pictured after the Mass, front row, from left: Rev. Jackson Pinhero, O.S.J. (25 years); Rev. Mariusz Beczek, O.S.J. (25 years) Rev. Andrew Mensah Amankwaa (25 years); Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton; Rev. Thomas V. Banick (60 years); Rev. Paul M. Mullen (50 years); Msgr. John A. Esseff (70 years); and Rev. Anthony M. Urban (50 years). Second row, from left: Rev. Gerald W. Stantillo, V.G., S.T.L., Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia; Rev. John V. Polednak, V.E., Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; and Rev. James J. Walsh (50 years).**

of his fellow Jubilarians, he joked that he is actually the “young guy.”

“I see most of the other guys celebrating 50 years or more. It’s only my silver jubilee,” Father Pinhero said with a smile and laugh.



**Msgr. Esseff, who is celebrating 70 years of priestly service this year, is greeted by religious sisters and friends following the Jubilee Mass.**

The Mass celebrated the priestly ministry and service of Monsignor John A. Esseff, who has served the Church for 70 years; Father William D. Campbell, who has served for 65 years; Monsignor Thomas V. Banick and Fathers John P. Ryan and Eugene R. Carr, who have served for 60 years; Fathers William M. Petruska, Anthony M. Urban, Thomas R. Hudak, Paul M. Mullen and James J. Walsh, who have served for 50 years and Fathers Philip S. Rayappan, Jackson Pinhero, O.S.J., Mariusz Beczek, O.S.J., and Andrew Mensah Amankwaa, who have served the Church for 25 years.

“God’s strength is still moving us and that is the joy,” Father Mullen said at the conclusion of Mass. “Every day is a blessing.”

Reflecting on 50 years, Father Mullen admitted he was scared by the priestly vocation he first assumed, but now has realized what a “wonderful gift” it has been.

“Looking back, I know God has always been with me,” he explained.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant and homilist at the Priest Jubilarian Mass. The bishop thanked each man for his service to the Church and to the Lord Jesus. By patterning their lives after the life and love of Jesus, he said the Jubilarians have brought countless people to a deeper sense of meaning, life and peace.

“I thank you for your commitment in joyful moments and in challenging times. I thank you for leading us through change and upheaval to harmony and peace,” Bishop Bambera said. “And I thank you for always reminding us of God’s presence in our lives – in the great gift of the Eucharist – in the Word proclaimed – and in the Church, the People of God from among whom every priest is called and with whom every priest is privileged to journey in faith.”

# Honesdale native ordained transitional deacon, marking a milestone on the path to priesthood

SCRANTON – Just minutes before his Ordination Mass, William A. Asinari was so overwhelmed with gratitude he started to cry.

“It’s inexplicable. I was sitting up in the chapel and I was just in tears thanking God for the blessing of service,” Deacon Asinari said.

Less than an hour later, the 24 year old became a transitional deacon through the Rite of Ordination to the Diaconate, which includes the presentation of the candidate, election by the bishop, promise of the elect, litany of supplication and laying on of hands.

“I think one of the most beautiful moments was just hearing from the Church, we have found this man to be worthy,” Deacon Asinari explained. “I think every seminarian, to some degree, goes through the struggle that God is giving me this gift and I don’t deserve this. It is immensely beautiful and it’s beyond what I could ever deserve. You fight that feeling of unworthiness and when you finally get there in that moment and hear it, it hits home!”

Asinari, a native of Honesdale, is the son of Robert and Cathleen Asinari and is a parishioner of Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Honesdale. Several friends and fellow parishioners from Wayne County made the trip to the Cathedral for the Ordination Mass.

“These are the people that have seen me since I was one or two (years old). I remember them saying, ‘Have you thought about the priesthood’ or ‘You look like you’d make a good priest,’” Deacon Asinari added. “To have them sitting there as I’m ordained a deacon was beautiful.”

The Most Reverend Joseph



**Left: The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, says the Prayer of Ordination with his hands on the head of William A. Asinari on May 27, 2023. (Photos/ Mike Melisky)**

**Middle: Deacon Asinari receives the Book of Gospels from Bishop Bambera.**

**Right: Deacon Asinari receives a hug following the conclusion of the Ordination Mass.**

C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as ordaining prelate and principal celebrant for the Ordination Mass.

“What a blessing this day is for Bill and for his family, our Diocese and particularly for all those who have helped him to arrive at this faith-filled moment,” Bishop Bambera said during his homily.

Bishop Bambera reminded Asinari that service to the People of God must lie at the heart of his vocation.

“For as meaningful and significant as this moment may be for you personally, the ministry that you will embrace is not yours alone,” Bishop Bambera continued. “It comes from – and is rooted in the life of the Lord Jesus – who came to save us from sin and the brokenness of our world.”

Deacon Asinari will serve for the next year 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.

As a deacon, he 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.

“I think I’m most looking forward to baptisms,” Deacon Asinari said. “I know over my summer assignment there are a couple scheduled. There is just something so beautiful about getting a family together and by my hands, blessing the water and baptizing a child. It is overwhelming.”

This summer, Asinari will be serving Saint Rose of Lima and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parishes in the city of Carbondale.

“While you have been given tremendous gifts and talents, we pray that you will always rely upon the grace of God to fill up whatever may be lacking in you to carry out fully the ministry entrusted to you this day,” Bishop Bambera stated as he finished his homily.

## **Priesthood Ordination Mass scheduled for June 24**

*Continued from Page 1*

During his priestly formation, Boris served a summer assignment in 2019 in the parish communities of Holy Cross Parish, Olyphant, and Blessed Sacrament Parish, Throop. He also served a pastoral year (2020-2021) in the parish communities of Saint Rose of Lima Parish and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, both in Carbondale.

Boris said he never seriously considered the priesthood until he was a senior in high school

and Father Don Williams, Vocations Director for the Diocese of Scranton at the time, met with potential candidates recommended by teachers. Following that conversation, Boris began attending more discernment events, followed by a retreat and he ultimately made the decision to enter seminary.

As he prepares for this next step in his Christian journey, Boris has been thinking back to what one of his seminary professors said shortly before the end of classes.

“He said a lot of things are going to happen in the next few weeks and months, you’ll be ordained and it will be easy to get lost in the hustle and bustle,” Boris said. “But he said don’t forget the amazing gift and power of the priesthood and that you’re being ordained to serve Christ and His Church.”

Boris adds he is thankful to all those who have supported him on this journey.

“Thank you for your prayers and support over the years,” he explained.

# Parishes hold Eucharistic Processions to celebrate Feast of Corpus Christi

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“Processions have been a very public witness and display of faith,” Joel Stepanek, the National Eucharistic Revival’s chief mission officer, said.

## WHAT TO EXPECT IN EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL’S SECOND YEAR

Launched as an initiative of the U.S. Catholic bishops in June 2022, the National Eucharistic Revival is a three-year movement that aims to deepen Catholics’ love for Jesus through encountering him in the Eucharist. The revival’s second year leads up to a National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis.

The revival’s first year was titled “The Year of Diocesan Revival,” and efforts focused on formation for diocesan leadership and diocesan-wide events. The revival’s second year, “The Year of Parish Revival,” aims to reach Catholics in their parishes through renewed attention to the “art” of the Mass, Eucharistic devotions, and small-group faith sharing and formation.

Eucharistic processions put together by parishes will also take place in the coming year.

Processions have been visible signs of the National Eucharistic



Parishioners from Saint Michael Parish in Canton held a Eucharistic Procession on the streets of Bradford County on Sunday, June 11, 2023.

Revival, organizers say, with dioceses introducing new events or expanding long-standing ones. Among them was a two-hour Eucharistic procession in New York City, which on Pentecost May 28 brought more than 4,000 Catholics to Times Square and ended with Mass at St. Patrick’s Cathedral.

“Processions are a really unique opportunity for neighbors, for people who maybe don’t know anything about the faith to say, ‘Wow, what’s going on? Who is that passing by?’” David Spesia, executive director of the

Committee for Evangelization and Catechesis at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said.

Eucharistic processions also will be a key part of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, four routes pilgrims will travel with the Eucharist across the United States culminating in Indianapolis for the National Eucharistic Congress, July 17-21, 2024. Organizers expect the Congress to draw 80,000 people.

In contrast to the magnitude of the national event, revival organizers are encouraging parishes to organize small groups



More than 100 parishioners and liturgical ministers from Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Pocono Pines held a Eucharistic Procession on the streets of Monroe County on Sunday, June 11, 2023.

for formation and faith sharing, and are preparing online study resources to aid them.

While organizers expect “getting people back into the pews” to be a “fruit” of the revival, “the goal is really this encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist, and to understand that, when He promised He was with us always, the most unique and precious way that happens is with the gift of the Eucharist and the celebration of the Mass,” Spesia said.

Devotions and acts of popular piety such as Eucharistic processions and Eucharistic

adoration do not compete with the Mass, but rather continue its celebration, he added.

“We all know that the celebration of the Sunday Mass is the key experience of the church, worshipping the Father, with the Son, through the Holy Spirit,” he said. “Those devotions – that time of adoration – is the continuation of that celebration, that presence that comes from the sacrifice of the Mass. The Eucharistic processions flow from the Mass, and they’re designed to lead people back to the Sunday liturgy.”



Parishioners of Saint Gregory Parish in Clarks Green take Christ to the streets of Lackawanna County during a Eucharistic Procession on Sunday, June 11, 2023.



Parishioners of Saint Ann Parish in Williamsport hold a Eucharistic Procession on the streets of Lycoming County following the 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday, June 11, 2023.



The faithful of Saint Ann Basilica Parish in West Scranton hold a Eucharistic Procession on the grounds of the Monastery on Saturday, June 10, 2023.

# OPEN YOUR HEARTS TO THE LOVE OF GOD

*- A Priesthood Perspective by Father Cyril Edwards, V.E. -  
Pastor, Mary, Mother of God Parish, Scranton*



As we approached the recent Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi), parishes were gearing up for special rituals to add greater emphasis to their Eucharistic life. Many devotions focused on processions that used canopies — it is a great feast day, to be sure! In this time of greater focus on the Eucharist, nationally and locally, it was surely well received.

At Mary, Mother of God Parish in North Scranton, we had our “big procession” on Pentecost Sunday to celebrate the “birth of the Church.” On that day, we carried flags from all the countries representing the Catholic churches that were merged to create this special parish. That procession involved a lot of flags!

Our focus on the Eucharist, of course, should begin at Sunday Mass. The documents of the great Second Vatican Council reminded us that we are called to **full, conscious and active participation**. The greatest way to show reverence for the Eucharist is to enter fully into Sunday Mass.



For me, there is no greater experience than hearing the people open their hearts — and voices — during the Eucharistic liturgy. When celebrating Mass, I am lifted up in joy when I hear the people praising God with gusto and enthusiasm.

It is true, we know, that some people are “shy” about such enthusiastic participation, and that is fine. Participation comes in many forms. But, perhaps, we all can be honest and say we

can do better when it comes to singing and responding at Mass. Catholics **can sing!**

Yes, the Mass is the “source and summit” of everything we do as Catholics. Everything flows to the Mass and from the Mass. One particular way the liturgy “flows out” is experienced in Eucharistic Adoration, as many parishes offer various forms of adoration — some even host perpetual adoration. Some people might

perceive adoration as a “waste of time,” but sitting in the presence of someone who loves us is **never** a waste of time.

When we open our hearts to the love of God, He, in turn, opens our hearts to other people and their needs. We are never alone at adoration: We bring with us all those who do not know God or who are far from Him, and we present them to the Lord. In a certain way, adoration prolongs the Eucharistic celebration. It intensifies all that has taken place sacramentally during the Mass.

Looking ahead, here at our parish we will offer four special evenings of Eucharistic Adoration in October. These will be called “Abundant Life Holy Hours” (see John 10:10), and will be based on the very successful Holy Hours Bishop Bambara celebrated throughout the Diocese during the season of Lent.

These will feature evening prayer, exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and a spiritual conference. More information will be available as these evenings approach, and all are warmly invited to attend!

## National Eucharistic Pilgrimage to connect Catholics across United States

ST. PAUL, Minn. (OSV News) - Mike Wavra thinks of the 2024 National Eucharistic Pilgrimage as “an opportunity to walk with the Lord.”

He and his wife, Cindi, both 65-year-old retirees, plan to join the pilgrimage at its northern launch point in Minnesota in May 2024, and then walk for about a week, before rejoining the pilgrims seven weeks later in Indianapolis for the 10th National Eucharistic Congress.

The Wavras are among thousands of Catholics from across the United States anticipated to participate in next year’s pilgrimage to the Congress, part of the U.S. bishops’ three-year National Eucharistic

Revival that began in 2021. The pilgrimage has four routes, with one beginning in the north, south, east and west of the country.

Pilgrims traveling in the “Eucharistic caravans” on all four routes will begin their journeys with Pentecost weekend celebrations May 17-18, 2024, leaving May 19. They will all converge on Indianapolis July 16, 2024, the day before the five-day Congress opens.

The northern “Marian Route” that the Wavras plan to take begins in northern Minnesota at Lake Itasca, the headwaters of the Mississippi River. The route follows the river to St. Paul and Minneapolis, its first weekend stop. Then the route heads

south to Rochester, Minnesota, and then east through La Crosse and Green Bay, Wisconsin. It continues through Milwaukee, Chicago and Notre Dame, Indiana, before arriving in Indianapolis.

The “Juan Diego Route” begins more than 1,600 miles south of Lake Itasca in Brownsville, Texas, at the U.S.-Mexico border. It will follow Texas’ eastern border through Corpus Christi and Houston, and continue through New Orleans; Mobile, Atlanta, Nashville and Louisville.

The “Seton Route” - named for St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first U.S.-born saint - begins in New Haven, Connecticut, and continues through New York,

Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Pittsburgh, and Steubenville, Columbus and Cincinnati, Ohio.

The “Junipero Serra Route” begins in San Francisco - with hope of walking over the Golden Gate Bridge - and continues through Reno, Salt Lake City, North Platte and Omaha, Nebraska, Kansas City, Kansas and St. Louis.

The routes include important Catholic sites in the United States, such as the Philadelphia tombs of St. John Neumann and St. Katharine Drexel, and in Wisconsin, the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion, the only approved Marian apparition in the United States.

# Four priests of the Diocese retiring from active ministry as longtime pastors

SCRANTON — Four current pastors in the Diocese of Scranton will retire this summer after nearly 200 years of combined priestly ministry since their ordinations for the Diocese in the mid-1970s.

The retiring priests who will be granted pastor emeritus status include: Father John A. Doris, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Dunmore; Father Samuel J. Ferretti, Saint Lucy and Saints Peter & Paul Parishes, Scranton; Father Patrick J. McLaughlin, Immaculate Conception Parish, Scranton; and Father Francis L. Pauselli, Divine Mercy Parish, Scranton.

## Father John Doris

Born Aug. 10, 1948, in Wilkes-Barre, to John and Theresa McCauley Doris, Father John Doris was ordained for the Diocese of Scranton on May 3, 1975.

Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish since 1995, Father Doris had the distinction of currently serving the longest (28 years) in the same pastoral assignment among his fellow priests of the Diocese.

He received his first pastorate on Sept. 5, 1989, at Saint Anthony Parish in Freeland, and served as a catechist at the former Bishop Hafey High School in Hazleton.

During his lengthy priestly ministry in Dunmore, he served as president of the Board of Pastors for Bishop O'Hara High School, now the home of Holy Cross High School, and as Dean of the Dunmore Deanery in 1998.

Father Doris said of his nearly 30 years of pastoral tenure at the venerable Parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, during which he oversaw the consolidation with two other parishes in the borough — Saint Casimir's and All Saints, "It was truly exciting as a priest to experience Our Lord work through, with, and among His people making manifest His Kingdom."

With a nod to his signature



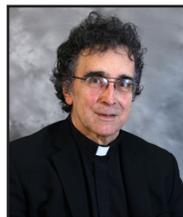
Father Doris



Father Ferretti



Father McLaughlin



Father Pauselli

saying — "I thank my God for you," taken from Saint Paul's Letter to the Corinthians — the retiring pastor reflected upon his nearly 50 years of priestly ministry with the words: gratitude, love and thanksgiving "for a call so precious...that would entail my whole life and the lives of so many precious people."

Recalling his service to God and His Church as an assistant pastor, teacher and pastor, Father Doris said, "What a gift to see Jesus in the lives of our youth, their parents and grandparents. I have found, after being a pastor for so many years, that I have not only shared Christ as a member of their families, but I have been given the privilege of seeing the very presence of God within and among those families."

"The people I have worked with have shown me Jesus in



**Father John Doris is all smiles as he offers Holy Communion to family and friends at his Mass of Thanksgiving celebrating his retirement as pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Dunmore, during last Sunday's Feast of the Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ.**

their sacrifice, joy and true care," he added, relating that his fellow priests continually manifest the Lord to him. "As I am about to retire, I now look to Jesus in the lives of my brother, my niece, her husband, and Serena, their 16-month-old daughter who constantly shows me Christ."

## Father Sam Ferretti

A product of the Pittston area, where he was born on May 10, 1947, to Samuel and Olga Poli Ferretti, Father Samuel Ferretti was raised in Hughestown, and his call to the priesthood was greatly influenced by the Oblates of Saint Joseph priests who staffed the family's parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Pittston.

"My vocation to the priesthood came early in life," Father Ferretti shared, as he will retire from active ministry as pastor of the West Scranton parish communities of Saint Lucy and Saints Peter & Paul. "In the eighth grade I was already thinking about being a priest. By high school graduation I was ready to begin my journey to ordination with the Oblates of Saint Joseph."

The priest of nearly 50 years recalled that after serving as a religious brother for three years with the OSJ congregation, he decided to begin seminary studies for the Diocese of Scranton, for which he was ordained to the priesthood on May 18, 1974.

After several assignments as a parish assistant pastor, Father Ferretti was appointed administrator of Saint Benedict Parish, Wilkes-Barre, and Catholic chaplain of the new NPW (now Geisinger Wyoming Valley) Hospital in Plains.

By 1984, the young priest began preparing to serve as chaplain in the United States Naval Reserve, and in September of 1985 he began active duty in the U.S. Navy. The military chaplaincy would prove to be a whirlwind experience, placing Father Ferretti in posts around the globe.

His first assignments with the 3rd Marine Air Wing in Iwakuni and Okinawa, Japan, were followed by a tour with the 6th Fleet in Naples, Italy, in support of Operation Desert Storm in 1991. He would remain in Italy at the U.S. Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily, until his next assignment aboard the aircraft carrier USS America.

Father Ferretti would subsequently serve with the Chaplain Resource Board in Norfolk, Va., then went back to Okinawa for ministry as a member of the General's Staff and Command Chaplain at the U.S. Naval Hospital Camp Lester. Following his term as Command Chaplain at the U.S. Coast Guard Boot Camp in Cape May, N.J., the well-traveled priest chaplain would retire from the Navy in 2005 and return to active ministry in his home Diocese.

"The journey since ordination has been full of wonderful experiences," Father Ferretti remarked. "Looking back on 49 years of service to God and country, I would do it all over in a heartbeat!"

Fondly looking back on a "happy priestly life," the pastor eyes his upcoming retirement by noting, "I finish now as pastor of two wonderful parishes in Scranton. It has been an honor and a pleasure to be their pastor for almost 18 years."

## Father Pat McLaughlin

Also ordained a priest for the Diocese of Scranton in the Cathedral of Saint Peter on May 18, 1974, Father Patrick McLaughlin retires as pastor emeritus of the Parish of the Immaculate Conception in the Hill section of Scranton.

A native of Hazleton, where he was born on his patron saint's feast day, March 17, 1948, to John and Claire McNertney McLaughlin, Father McLaughlin received his early education at Saint Gabriel Elementary and High schools in Hazleton.

*Continued on next page*

## 'Baptized' into the Priesthood

In the following, Father Pat McLaughlin reflects — in his own words — on a long-cherished and profound memory that came very early on in his priesthood. It was September 1974, and having been ordained mere months before, the young priest was beginning his new assignment as assistant pastor at Saint Ignatius Parish, Kingston:

*"The morning after my arrival there was an emergency call at (nearby) Nesbitt Hospital. After arriving there I would come to learn that the call was to the nursery. A little boy, about an hour old, was dying. His young mother and father asked for him to be baptized. The parents watched from the window as their precious little son received the Holy Sacrament of Baptism. I was standing there in the presence of holy innocence — a new 'Child of God' on his way to our Father in heaven. That little boy, that incubator — now a place of holiness — the presence of angels to accompany him in his journey to our Father's love.*

*Mother and father reached out to hold my hands, and I recall no spoken words, only the profound language of tears. As I left them, I prayed: 'Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us now, at this hour of Calvary.'"*

## Four Diocesan priests retiring from active ministry

Continued from previous page

In 1982, Father McLaughlin was named to serve as chaplain of his alma mater, Mount Saint Mary's University & Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., where he earned his master's degree in theology prior to ordination.

Father McLaughlin eventually returned to the city of his birth to serve as pastor of Holy Trinity (German) and Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Tyrolese) churches before his appointment as spiritual shepherd of Immaculate Conception in Scranton.

The retiring pastor describes his life, with his nearly half century of priesthood, as the "blessing of years."

"I was ordained a priest of the Diocese, and have spent the rest of my life learning how to become a priest," Father McLaughlin said with his signature wit and wisdom, "and now I intend to continue the experience."

In chronicling his priestly journey spanning two-thirds of his life, he noted, "My memory was awakened in a detail of so many parish life experiences and was an unexpected reflection on 'history (yesterday), mystery (tomorrow), and the gift of today (present).'"

"I will always continue to remain grateful for those special years as chaplain of Mount Saint Mary's," Father concluded. "Some 'students' of mine from those years are becoming grandparents. It's been a wonderful experience of life. I am completely grateful."

Father McLaughlin will be honored with a retirement "Amen Celebration" on Sunday, June 25, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Parish Hall, Taylor Avenue & Gibson Street. All are welcome; call the parish office at (570) 961-5211.

### Father Francis Pauselli

After faithfully shepherding his spiritual flock at Divine Mercy Parish in the Minooka section of Scranton for nearly 20 years, Father Francis Pauselli retires from active priestly ministry as pastor emeritus of the faith community that worships at the highly visible Saint Joseph Church on Davis Street.

A native of Jessup, where he received his early education, Father Pauselli was born to Frank and Mildred Mahalidge Pauselli on July 7, 1948, in Scranton.

Father Pauselli is a product of Saint Pius X Seminary in Dalton, and Christ the King Seminary, East Aurora, N.Y., where he completed his preparatory studies and theological training in anticipation of his ordination to the Scranton Diocesan

priesthood on May 3, 1975, in the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

During his years of priestly ministry as an assistant pastor at parishes in Dunmore and Williamsport, the young cleric would also serve as Catholic chaplain for the former Saint Joseph's Hospital in Carbondale.

As a pastor, Father Pauselli would become known as a "pioneer priest" of sorts, serving as the first pastor of the newly established Parish of Saint John in Bushkill (East Stroudsburg) in 1986. That would be followed by his second pastoral appointment, at Saint Lawrence Parish in South Williamsport in 1996, where he led the construction of a new parish worship site.

"I have been blessed by God to serve as pastor in three parishes over the past 38 years," the priest said of his upcoming retirement. "I was the founding pastor of Saint John's and had the unique opportunity to build a church at Saint Lawrence."

Father Pauselli feels blessed to have served "such wonderful people" and "vibrant, faith-filled communities" during his many years of priestly ministry. "The past 18 years at Divine Mercy in Scranton have been challenging and rewarding, bringing four parishes into one community," Father shared.

As he looks forward to less pastoral administrative responsibilities, Father Pauselli added that he will be retiring to the Clarks Summit area, available and willing to help any nearby parishes in need.

The pastor emeritus will be feted at a farewell/retirement celebration on Sunday, July 9, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Divine Mercy Parish, 312 Davis St., Minooka, Scranton.



**As founding pastor of Saint John Parish in the Poconos, Father Francis Pauselli breaks ground for a new parish church in 1989.**

## APPOINTMENTS

**His Excellency, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, announces the following appointments:**

**Effective June 30, 2023**

**Reverend Stephen Amponsah Asomah**, from Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of the Snows Parish, Clarks Summit, to ministry in the Diocese of Sunyani, Ghana.

**Reverend Mariusz Beczek, O.S.J.**, from Pastor, Annunciation Parish, Hazleton, to ministry with the Oblates of Saint Joseph.

**Reverend Ryan P. Glenn**, from Parochial Vicar, St. Matthew Parish, East Stroudsburg, to Pastor, Christ the King Parish, Archbald.

**Reverend Victor Leon, O.S.J.**, from Parochial Vicar, Annunciation Parish, Hazleton, to ministry with the Oblates of Saint Joseph.

**Reverend Kevin M. Miller**, from Pastor, St. Brigid Parish, Friendsville, and Most Holy Trinity Parish, Susquehanna, to Pastor, Annunciation Parish, Hazleton.

**Reverend Neftali Feliz Sena**, from Parochial Vicar, Queen of Heaven Parish, Hazleton, and Most Precious Blood Parish, Hazleton, to Parochial Vicar, Annunciation Parish, Hazleton.

**Reverend Rawel Toppo**, to Administrator *pro tem*, St. Patrick Parish, White Haven. Father Toppo will continue to serve as Parochial Vicar, Immaculate Conception Parish, Freeland, and Good Shepherd Parish, Drums.

**Reverend Seth D. Wasnock**, from Administrator *pro tem*, Christ the King Parish, Archbald. Father Wasnock will continue to serve as Pastor, St. Rose of Lima Parish, Carbondale, and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Carbondale.

**Effective July 11, 2023**

**Reverend David P. Cappelloni**, to Pastor, St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Parish, Dunmore. Father Cappelloni will continue to serve as Pastor, Saints Anthony and Rocco Parish, Dunmore.

**Reverend John A. Doris**, from Pastor, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Dunmore, to Pastor Emeritus, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Dunmore.

**Reverend Paul McDonnell, O.S.J.**, from Sacramental Minister, Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish, Pittston, to Pastor, Divine Mercy Parish, Scranton.

**Reverend Patrick J. McLaughlin**, from Pastor, Immaculate Conception Parish, Scranton, to Pastor Emeritus, Immaculate Conception Parish, Scranton.

**Reverend Francis L. Pauselli**, from Pastor, Divine Mercy Parish, Scranton, to Pastor Emeritus, Divine Mercy Parish, Scranton.

**Reverend Jeffrey D. Tudgay, J.V., V.E., J.C.L.**, to Pastor, Immaculate Conception Parish, Scranton. Father Tudgay will continue to serve as Pastor, Cathedral of St. Peter, Scranton.

**Effective September 6, 2023**

**Reverend James J. Paisley**, from Pastor, St. Therese Parish, Shavertown, and St. Francis Cabrini Parish, Carverton, to Pastor, St. Ann Basilica Parish, Scranton.

**Very Reverend Richard Burke, C.P.**, from Pastor, St. Ann's Basilica Parish, Scranton. Father Burke will continue to serve as Rector, St. Ann's Passionist Monastery, Scranton.

# SOLEMN NOVENA

IN HONOR OF

*Saint Ann*

## JULY 17 TO 26, 2023

PREACHERS: FR. MELVIN SHORTER, C.P., AND BRO. ANDRE MATHIEU, C.P.

### NOVENA DEVOTIONS

After 8 & 11:45 A.M., & 5:30 & 7:30 P.M. Masses and at 3:30 P.M. (Novena only)

### DIVINE LITURGY - BYZANTINE RITE

Tuesday, July 18, 5:30 P.M.  
(No 7:30 P.M. Mass and Novena on this day)

### DAILY MASSES

7:00, 8:00 & 11:45 A.M. & 5:30 and 7:30 P.M.

### CONFESSIONS

Lower Basilica for 30 minutes prior to each Mass and the 3:30 P.M. Novena Service, and after all services

### MASS OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Thursday, July 20, 1:30 P.M.

### CHILDREN'S MASS & NOVENA PRAYERS

Saturday, July 22, 10:00 A.M.;  
Special Blessing for Families and Grandparents

## SUNDAY, JULY 23

### MASSES

7:00 A.M., 8:00 A.M., 11:45 A.M., 5:30 P.M. & 7:30 P.M.

### SUNDAY, JULY 23

Celebration of Grandparents & Elderly at Mass

### NOVENA DEVOTIONS

After 8:00 A.M. & 11:45 A.M. masses; after 5:30 & 7:30 P.M. masses; and at 3:30 P.M. (Novena Only)

## SAINT ANN'S FEAST DAY WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

### CONFESSIONS 4:00 AM

### MASSES & DEVOTIONS

4:30, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00 & 11:45 A.M.  
3:30 P.M. (Novena only) & 5:30 P.M.

### LANGUAGE SERVICE

1:30 PM - POLISH in Upper Basilica

**Individual Blessing with Relic of St. Ann After Each Devotion**

## SOLEMN CLOSING WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, AT 7:30 P.M.

Pontifical Mass celebrated by  
Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.

## BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF ST. ANN PASSIONIST MONASTERY

1239 SAINT ANN STREET

SCRANTON, PA 18504

For the convenience of the people attending the novena, refreshments will be available on the monastery grounds during the entire novena.



# Bishop Bambara to return to Ghana next month for two important reasons

SCRANTON – Less than one year after making a pastoral visit to the Diocese of Sunyani in Ghana, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambara, Bishop of Scranton, is planning to return to the African nation.

This time, the trip came about simply by coincidence.

“It was not my expectation that I would be traveling back to Ghana in 12 months from my original trip there last August,” Bishop Bambara said. “As providence would have it, the Catholic-Pentecostal Dialogue, which I’m very fortunate to co-chair, is being hosted this year by the Pentecostals.

This year, the Pentecostals are inviting us to Accra, the capital of Ghana.”

The primary goal of the International Catholic-Pentecostal Dialogue is to foster mutual respect and understanding between the Catholic Church and Classical Pentecostal leaders and churches in light of the prayer of Jesus that all may be one (Jn 17:21). Last year, the Dialogue, which was celebrating its 50th anniversary, was hosted by the Catholics in Rome.

Because Bishop Bambara will already be in Ghana to participate in the International Catholic-Pentecostal Dialogue from July 13-19, 2023, the Bishop of the Diocese of Sunyani has invited him to return to their diocese one week earlier (July 5-12) for a very special reason.

“When it was made known to the priests of the Diocese of Sunyani that the Dialogue would take place in Ghana, their bishop, Bishop Matthew, asked me if I would honor them by celebrating the Ordination Rite for 14 men who are being ordained to the priesthood for their 50th

anniversary year as a diocese,” Bishop Bambara explained.

Bishop Bambara said it was an honor to be asked to celebrate the Ordination Mass.

“I’m happily returning to Ghana both for ecumenical work and also to once again connect with the Diocese of Sunyani that has been so generous in providing for the needs of our people here in the United States,” Bishop Bambara said.

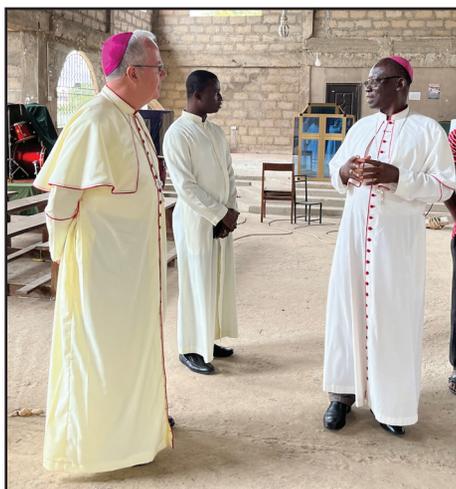
When Bishop Bambara last visited Ghana, Aug. 10-19, 2022, he celebrated the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary with more than 15,000 people, while also visiting a seminary, schools, parishes and health care facilities.

On that trip, Father Gerald Shantillo and Father Brian J.T. Clarke joined him, but this time, two seminarians from the Diocese of Scranton will accompany Bishop Bambara.

“On many occasions, the Bishop of Sunyani, Bishop Matthew, invited me to send seminarians over just to experience their country and the background from which many of the priests who are serving in our land come from,” he said. “I thought this would be a perfect opportunity to invite our seminarians.”

Thomas Dzwonczyk and Andrew McCarroll have agreed to accompany the Bishop to Ghana.

“I’m really thrilled to be able to have them, not only to travel with, but more importantly to experience the Diocese of Sunyani and the African people,” Bishop Bambara noted. “I will be with them half the time. I will leave Sunyani after about a week and then travel to Accra for the Dialogue and while I’m in Accra, the seminarians will be hosted by the priests of Sunyani and the Bishop as well.”



**Bishop Bambara, left, visits a church under construction in Tain, Ghana, on Aug. 16, 2022, as part of a pastoral visit to the Diocese of Sunyani. Bishop Bambara will be returning to Ghana this July.**

## Notice to the Christian Faithful of the Diocese of Scranton



**Mr. James Thomas Tracy**, formerly an incardinated priest of the Diocese of Scranton, has been removed from the clerical state effective April 5, 2023.

Mr. Tracy’s involuntary dismissal from the clerical state was a disciplinary response resulting from a canonical process executed in the Diocese of Scranton. Authorized and reviewed by the Vatican’s Dicastery for the Clergy, the dismissal was personally decided and executed by the Holy Father, Pope Francis.

Because Mr. Tracy has been removed from the clerical state, he is forbidden to function as a priest in the Catholic Church and should no longer present himself as a priest. Catholics should not, under any circumstance, approach Mr. Tracy for the celebration of any sacrament or for any priestly ministry.

Mr. Tracy lives privately and is no longer affiliated with the Diocese of Scranton in any official capacity.



## BISHOP BAMBARA’S SCHEDULE

- June 13-18** - United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Spring General Meeting, Orlando, Florida
- June 21** - Installation of the Most Reverend Timothy C. Senior, Bishop of Harrisburg, Harrisburg
- June 22** - Mass for International Student Leadership Conference (ISLI) Marywood University, Scranton, 3:15 p.m.
- June 24** - Ordination Mass of Reverend Mr. Michael J. Boris Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.
- June 24** - World Refugee Day Nay Aug Park, Scranton, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
- June 25** - 100th Anniversary Mass of Ss. Peter & Paul Church Plains, 10:30 a.m.
- June 28** - Mass of Candidacy celebrated as part of *Quo Vadis* Days Marywood University, Scranton, 11:00 a.m.
- July 5-12** - Ordination Diocese of Sunyani, Ghana
- July 13-19** - International Catholic-Pentecostal Dialogue Accra, Ghana

## 'Treasures' clothing ministry thriving in new location

WILKES-BARRE – One year after Saint Dominic Church held its final Mass, the building is still serving the needs of the community, albeit in a different way.

"We were glad that we were able to turn this beautiful structure into something that still is 'church,' it is still outreach, it is still ministry," Laura Rudloff, organizer of Treasures, a clothing closet ministry operated by volunteers of Saints Peter & Paul Parish in Plains, said.

Last fall, the former church building became the new location of Treasures, which supports hundreds of people in the community by providing clothes each year.

"We're excited to be here," Rudloff stated. "Individuals in any type of need can come. The community that we serve is vast. It is not just this immediate area. We help individuals from social services, Children & Youth, fire victims and police officers contact us when they find out people are in need of something. We have long arms."

All of the clothing items in Treasures clothing closet are free. The pieces are donated by members of the community and are passed on to those in need.

"It is all about helping the community by giving them things that they need – clothes, shoes, coats – to people that are having difficulty," volunteer Kathy Pilconis said.

Pilconis says the new space has been such a blessing for volunteers and the people being served.

"It is so much more open. We have areas where things can be divided the way they should be – men, women, adults, children. Shoppers are finding it a lot easier to shop. They can look around.



**The former Saint Dominic Church building in Wilkes-Barre has become the new home of 'Treasures,' a clothing closet ministry operated by volunteers of Saints Peter & Paul Parish in Plains. (Photos/Eric Deabill)**

We have more space. We have space where we can put shoes out that we didn't have before," she added.

"We're able to show the clothing in more of a boutique setting. People like it. They like to come and shop. They like the surroundings. It is a really beautiful space," Rudloff said.

After operating at Saints Peter & Paul Church in Plains for its first two years in existence, in 2020, the clothing closet moved to the former rectory of Saint Dominic Church on Austin Avenue in Wilkes-Barre because it needed more space. The ministry program has proven to be so necessary and vital to the community it quickly ran out of room again to sort, organize and display all of the clothing items donated.

By now being able to utilize the former church building itself, there is much more space available.

"It makes me teary," Pilconis admitted. "It just feels good in this space for some reason. This is just an extension of what we're supposed to do."

"We enjoy being in this space. It has brought a whole new life to the volunteers as well. It was a boost to all of us. Everyone loves our job and we're excited to come to volunteer every week," Rudloff said.

Treasures is currently open on Monday evenings from 5-7 p.m. and Friday mornings from 10 a.m. until noon. On average, at least 20 people visit the clothing closet each day that it is open.

"We're looking to be open on Wednesdays as well. That is how much need there is. That is in the works for the future," Rudloff said. "The word has gotten out and we work with a lot of other churches."

## Mothers help show us how to 'love selflessly,' Bishop Bambara says



**Charles and Beckie Samuel, with the help of their nine-month-old son, Sullivan, present the Gifts to the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambara, Bishop of Scranton, during the Diocese of Scranton's annual Mother's Day Adoption Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton in May 14, 2023. (Photo/Mike Melisky)**

SCRANTON – Mothers of all types were celebrated on Sunday, May 14, 2023, as the faithful came together for a special Mother's Day Adoption Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

During the Mass, the faithful prayed in an intentional way for all mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, stepmothers, adoptive mothers, foster mothers and all those who "mother" throughout their lives.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambara, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant and homilist.

As he reflected on the readings for the Sixth Sunday of Easter, Bishop Bambara said our mothers and grandmothers give us a great example of how to love each other as Jesus loved.

"We exist to love, to forgive and to work for peace," Bishop Bambara said. "Is it a tall order? Yes! Is it an expectation beyond our ability? Not at all! Just look at the women whose lives we honor this day and for whom we

give thanks: our mothers and grandmothers and all those who have so nurtured and cared for life – loving selflessly, without expectation or receiving love in return – in the spirit of the merciful and selfless love of Jesus."

Several families who have adopted children with the help of Saint Joseph's Center attended the Mass.

During the liturgy, those in attendance prayed that society would accept adoption as a viable means to provide abused, neglected and abandoned children with a safe home as well as for women who have had the courage to place their babies up for adoption.

On the same day at the Vatican, Pope Francis expressed his appreciation for women who have given birth to children and entrusted them to the protection of Our Lady.

"Let us recall with gratitude and affection all mothers, those who are still with us and those who have gone to Heaven," Pope Francis said. "Let us entrust them to Mary, the mother of Jesus."

# Pope Francis continues surgery recovery by working, resting, praying

ROME (CNS) – As Pope Francis continues to recover at Rome’s Gemelli hospital after undergoing abdominal surgery June 7, his days have been dedicated to working, reading, resting, praying and respiratory therapy, the Vatican said.

The pope has been sleeping well at night and his recovery was going smoothly, according to daily updates from Matteo Bruni, director of the Vatican press office.

“The morning was devoted to work activities alternating with reading texts,” he said June 13.

“Before lunch he went to the small chapel in the private apartment where he gathered in prayer and received the Eucharist,” Bruni added.

His blood tests were normal and “he is continuing respiratory physiotherapy,” he said.

In a statement June 12, Bruni said Pope Francis’ post-operative recovery “continues to be normal.”

“Pope Francis continues to feed himself normally,” Bruni wrote, adding that the pope received the Eucharist that morning and started the day “devoted to work.”

The day before, June 11, the pope “was able to walk a few steps,” Bruni wrote. He



**Pope Francis greets visitors in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican June 7, 2023. Hours later, the pope went to Rome’s Gemelli hospital for surgery. (CNS photo/Lola Gomez)**

spent a few hours working throughout the day, taking breaks to rest and to pray, he added.

The pope also had some “respiratory physiotherapy” and continued to move around, he added.

That Sunday morning, “he watched the Holy Mass live on television and received the Eucharist. He then went to the small chapel in the private apartment, where he gathered in prayer for the recitation of the Angelus,” Bruni had said June 11.

He then had lunch in the hospital’s papal apartment with some of the people assisting him during his recovery: doctors,

medical assistants, nurses, support staff and personnel from the Vatican gendarmes.

On the advice of his doctors, Pope Francis did not publicly pray the Sunday Angelus from the balcony of Rome’s Gemelli hospital. While his recovery was proceeding normally, the pope’s medical team had strongly advised him to skip the public event to reduce as much strain as possible on his abdominal wall.

The pope underwent a three-hour surgery under general anesthesia for a hernia June 7. The procedure included placing a surgical mesh to prevent the recurrence of a hernia and the removal of several adhesions, which were bands of scar tissue formed after previous surgeries decades ago, according to Dr. Sergio Alfieri, the chief surgeon operating on the pope.

He explained in a news conference at Gemelli hospital June 10 that too much strain on the muscles caused by excessive movement could tear the mesh, which would require another operation to repair.

“We’ve asked him to make this sacrifice; for him it is a sacrifice not to (publicly) recite the Angelus,” Alfieri had said.

Also speaking at the news conference,

Bruni had said that Catholics were invited to join the pope spiritually in prayer.

While the pope did not appear on the balcony, a small group of people gathered to pray outside the hospital June 11, according to Vatican News.

The Vatican also released a copy of a letter from Pope Francis in response to a note sent to him by nurses and staff who work in the hospital’s pediatric neuropsychiatry ward.

In the typewritten letter, dated June 10, the pope told them they were “saints next door” and an example of the church as “field hospital.” He recognized the trauma they experience – and wrote to him about – in seeing some of their young patients die and the suffering it causes the deceased child’s loved ones.

“You are witnesses of life as well as death, and so you are called to give comfort and consolation during those last minutes, accompanying these little ‘angels’ to the threshold of their encounter with the Lord,” he said.

The pope invited them to continue to be “good Samaritans,” who carry the burdens of life and the pain of others, and to “cultivate a culture of closeness and tenderness.”

## Quilt project at Pike County parish showcases ‘unity through diversity’

SHOHOLA – Pictures do not do it justice!

That is how parishioners of Saint Ann Parish in Pike County describe a family quilt just been completed after nearly one year of work.

“It’s awe-inspiring when you look at it,” parishioner Christine Cancemi said. “It was just a great project to do. It was a lot of fun.”

The quilt project began in September 2022 when the parish held a fall Intergenerational Session. The session focused on Church as family and concluded with each family being given a quilt square to decorate however they wished in a way that would represent them.

Squares were also given out after all Masses in an effort to include everyone in the parish. All of the squares were collected at the end of November.

“The individual squares were amazing. The artistry, the magic, it just all came together,” Cancemi explained.



**Parishioners of Saint Ann Parish in Shohola display their “family quilt” outside their church in May. The 7’ x 18’ quilt is made up of squares designed by each parish family.**

Cancemi led a group of eight women who spent the next five months planning, designing the layout, ironing, embroidering, quilting, sewing, binding, pinning, praying, and stitching the quilt together.

The other members of the Walker Lake Woman’s Club participating in the project are Karen Batalin, Linda Dubowski, Rita

Furno, Jean Gannon, Maryann Muschlite, Pat Sheppard and Kathy Weber.

Drawing on a shared belief in faith and community, they designed a quilt rich in sacred symbols and even included several blank squares that can be decorated by new parishioners or anyone who missed the first opportunity to create their square.

“It was stunning. There are no words to describe it. When I took it up to the rectory office, we laid it on the table and just stood there. It was absolutely amazing how the whole thing came together,” Cancemi added.

In May, the parish held its spring Intergenerational Session, where the faithful continued to focus on Church as family with more reflections and readings. The session concluded with the unveiling of the Saint Ann Family Quilt.

The quilt measures approximately seven feet by nearly 18 feet (84” x 215”). The bright, colorful squares, which are all so different, symbolize how the church family is composed of unique, dynamic, individual families coming together to make one beautiful union to glorify God.

The quilt now hangs in the church as a visible sign of the unity and diversity of the Saint Ann Parish family.

## Holy Redeemer High School



**Heidi Williams**

WILKES-BARRE — Holy Redeemer High School was the first Diocesan secondary school to hold spring commencement exercises when graduation ceremonies were staged on May 31 at the F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts in Wilkes-Barre.

A total of 133 Holy Redeemer seniors, led by Principal Doreen S. Dougherty, were conferred their diplomas by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, who also addressed the graduates and offered benediction.

The Baccalaureate Mass was celebrated May 30 at Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church, Wilkes-Barre, by Father J. Duane Gavitt, school chaplain.

The 2023 Holy Redeemer class valedictorian is Heidi Williams, daughter of Scott and Amy Williams of Shavertown. Earning salutatorian honors was Jillian DelBalso, daughter of Patrick and Leane DelBalso, who reside in Plains.

Of the total number of graduates, 125 will be enrolling in colleges or universities to further their education, including 45 who will be attending Catholic institutions of higher learning. The 2023 Holy Redeemer senior class merited a total of 788 scholarship awards worth \$41.6 million.

“At the center of all of (our) high school experiences has been our faith and spiritual development.

Holy Redeemer has stressed selfless servitude toward others, as our Catholic education has played a significant role in shaping who we are today. We have learned to value compassion, humility, kindness and forgiveness.”



— Heidi Williams  
 Valedictory Address  
 excerpt

“Take a moment to consider where you will go now. Remember we are called to do everything *Omnia per Christum*, or ‘All things through Christ.’ Our Holy Redeemer education has instilled in us the fundamental truths needed to serve our world, and it is our duty to go forth and do so. We are all called to a higher standard, to live in a way that spreads love in our communities.”

— Jillian DelBalso  
 Salutatory Address excerpt



**Jillian DelBalso**

## Saint John Neumann Regional Academy

WILLIAMSPORT — Graduation ceremonies were conducted for the Saint John Neumann Regional Academy Class of 2023 on June 1 in the George S. Klump Center at the Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport.

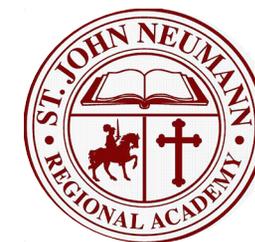
Saint John Neumann Principal Alisia McNamee presided over the presentation of diplomas to the 14 members of this year’s graduating class, which were conferred by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, who also offered remarks and the closing benediction.

The Baccalaureate Mass was celebrated May 30 at Saint Ann Church in Williamsport, where Father Bert Kozen, school chaplain, served as principal celebrant and homilist.

This year’s Saint John Neumann valedictorian is Lily Reid, daughter of Thomas and Sarah Reid, residents of Linden. Salutatorian honors were bestowed upon Jaden Nixon, daughter of Alicia Faulkner and Cleavon Nixon of Williamsport.

The entire Saint John Neumann 2023 graduating class will be pursuing further education on the university/college level, including six graduates who plan to attend Catholic institutions of higher learning. As a class, the Saint John Neumann seniors amassed 11 academic scholarships worth more than \$252,000.

“I know my classmates are going to go out into the world and do amazing things. I want you all to know how proud I am of each and every single one of you, and that I will be supporting you on the sidelines. Thank you for the endless memories and making my high school years worth every homework assignment.”



— Lily Reid  
 Valedictory Address  
 excerpt

“Over the past four years we have shared memories together and we have seen each other grow into the young adults we are now. We have made memories that we will carry with us throughout life. And though every one of us will leave here today and eventually go our separate ways, these last 1,371 days made a huge impression on our lives.”

— Jaden Nixon  
 Salutatory Address  
 excerpt



**Lily Reid**



**Jaden Nixon**

# 270

The total number of young men and women who graduated from the four Catholic High Schools in the Diocese

# \$76 million

Graduates merited more than 1,450 scholarships, cumulatively earning this much toward their future schooling

# 96%

The percentage of seniors who will continue their education in college. Nearly 100 graduates will attend Catholic institutions of learning



Janin Apreku



David Jankowski



Jacob Muth

## Notre Dame High School

EAST STROUDSBURG — Commencement exercises were held June 3 for Notre Dame High School, during which 39 graduates received their diplomas from Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, who also offered the principal address and closing benediction.

The high school theater set the stage for the graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2023 at Notre Dame, led by the school's longtime principal Jeffrey Lyons.

The Baccalaureate Mass was celebrated May 30 in the school's theater by Father Ryan Glenn, chaplain of Notre Dame High School.

This year's Notre Dame graduating class hailed a trio of valedictorians: Janin Apreku, daughter of Joe and Nana Apreku, East Stroudsburg; David Jankowski, son of Mariusz and Aleksandra Jankowski, Bushkill; and Jacob Muth, son of Michael and Margaret Muth, East Stroudsburg.

All 39 graduates of the 2023 Notre Dame senior class will continue their education at the university/college level, including ten students who will be attending Catholic institutions of higher learning. The class received a total of 73 scholarship awards valued at nearly \$4.5 million.

"We have learned to be individuals who value courage and perseverance. With these characteristics, I am fully confident that each and every one of you will build upon your current self and tackle every task which approaches you."



— Janin Apreku  
Valedictory Address  
excerpt

"We cannot discover new oceans unless we have the courage to lose sight of the shore. Congratulations to the Class of 2023. May God's grace be with us all as we embark on the next phase of our lives."

— David Jankowski, Valedictory Address excerpt

"We now must leave the friends with whom we have shared so many memories and good times. May we find friends like the ones we have now in our coming years and do what we love completely and fully."

— Jacob Muth, Valedictory Address excerpt

## Holy Cross High School



Carsyn Cole



Sarah Lyons

DUNMORE — The Sette La Vergetta Center for Performing Arts at Marywood University was the setting for the annual commencement of Holy Cross High School.

Graduation ceremonies for the 84 members of the 2023 Holy Cross senior class were held on June 2, led by school Principal Benjamin D. Tolerico.

Presiding over the commencement exercises and conferring the high school diplomas was Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, who addressed the Holy Cross graduates and offered the benediction.

The Baccalaureate Mass was celebrated June 1 at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, with Father Cyril D. Edwards, school chaplain, serving as principal celebrant and homilist.

The 2023 Holy Cross valedictorian is Carsyn Cole, daughter of Bob and Donna Cole of Duryea. Class salutatorian is Sarah Lyons, daughter of Mark and Eileen Lyons, Moosic.

Nearly 98 percent of the Holy Cross graduating class will be attending institutions of higher learning, with 32 graduates planning to enroll at Catholic colleges or universities. As a whole, the class earned 583 post-secondary scholarship awards totaling approximately \$30 million.

"I, along with my fellow graduates, embody a Catholic education's values and its impact on creating the next generation of leaders modeling Christ. We have exemplified what it means to serve those around us. So to my fellow graduates...you are always a Crusader and a member of the Holy Cross Family."



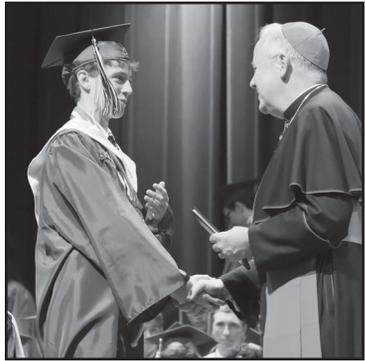
— Carsyn Cole,  
Valedictory Address  
excerpt

"If my years at Holy Cross have taught me anything, it is the meaningfulness of kind acts. The rest of the world needs to see the kindness of the Holy Cross Class of 2023... We need to take what we have experienced during our time at Holy Cross to the world, wherever we go. My fellow classmates, we are the ones who represent sparks of kindness. Let us come together to start a fiery inferno of compassion."

— Sarah Lyons, Salutatory Address excerpt

# Congratulations Catholic High School Graduates!

## Class of 2023



### HOLY CROSS

Michael Cavanaugh Allardyce  
 Dhiraj Baniya  
 Julianne Marie Barrett  
 Alicia Rose Bellagamba  
 Alix P. Benjamin  
 Anna Marie Brundage  
 Ryan Matthew Burda  
 Samera Paige Burrier  
 Nicholas C. Calciano  
 Nicholas George Carpentier  
 Kaeden Thomas Carr  
 Alec Gregory Cherundolo  
 Corey Cicci  
 Carsyn Leigh Cole \*  
 Mia Catherine Cornall  
 Christian Cutrona  
 Kiaya Louise Daubee  
 Spencer M. Decker  
 Margaret Lee Dolphin  
 Kayleigh Rose Farrell  
 Nora Elizabeth Flannery  
 Kylie Gallagher  
 Ashley Anne Gentile  
 Emma Rose George  
 Gabriel Max Gonzales  
 Jake Grodack  
 Daniel Ryan Haikes  
 Sydney Marie Hartland  
 Rylie Margaret Heusner  
 Evan Joseph Hofsommer  
 Hayden Daniel Hosie  
 Johnathan Paul Jones, Jr.

Owen Matthew Jumper  
 Jacque André Kakareka  
 Norah Elisabeth Kennedy  
 Maura Elizabeth Kosek  
 Aidan Matthew Krieger  
 Manpreet Kaur Lahl  
 Sarah Ann Lyons †  
 Anthony James Mack  
 Karli Marissa Mahasky  
 Grace E. Mangan  
 Alina Margaret Marcinkus  
 Olivia Ann Marinelli

### \* Valedictorians

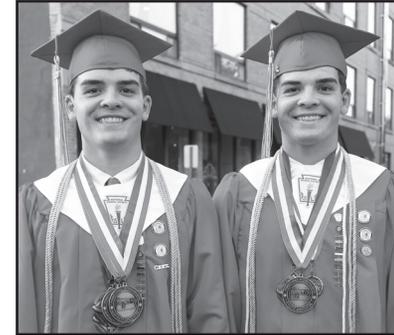
Kaitlyn Prynkiewicz  
 Connor Joseph Rasimovich  
 Aidan Joseph Romanchick  
 Katie Elizabeth Romanski  
 Logan Matthew Rotell-Tierney  
 Keith Anthony Rowlands  
 Shannon M. Ryan  
 Brielle Avery Scheland  
 Cody Schoonover  
 Gabriel Lawrence Sczesniak  
 Sadie Shedlauskas  
 Andrew William Smith

### † Salutatorians

#### HOLY REDEEMER

Connor Michael Albert  
 Mia Alexandra Ashton  
 Hunter John Austra  
 Andrew Michael Bender  
 Haider Zia Bhatti  
 Hallie Ellen Block  
 Anna Catherine Brennan  
 Mackenzie Lyric-Marie Burk  
 Gianna Rose Carone  
 Dylan Robert Cassetori  
 Michael Andrew Cicon  
 Avery Cole  
 Christopher Robert Coyne  
 Morgan Alyssa Crake  
 Abigayle Ann Cryan  
 Claire Elizabeth Cunningham  
 Abigail Maria Davitt  
 Jillian Leane DelBalso †  
 Elizabeth A. Derolf  
 Olivia Pellegrina DeSena  
 Dino Joseph Di Mauro  
 Kaitlyn Dotzel  
 Jessica Rose English  
 Jaden James Evanoski  
 John Joseph Evans  
 Jenessa Alexandra Ferro  
 Marcus Christian Fiedorczyk  
 Kristen Marie Finnegan

Mia Grace Fino  
 Michael Fino  
 Nicholas Franchetti  
 Cassandra Rose Gdovin  
 John James Gillespie  
 Brooklyn Marjorie Giovinazzo  
 Julia Kay Girman



Lauren Ann Granteed  
 Ethan E. Gribble  
 James Kevin Griffin  
 Kevin John Gryboski, Jr.  
 Steven M. Ha  
 Hailey Lynn Halagarda  
 Ayden S. Harfoush  
 NyAsha Aiyanna Heckstall  
 Hillary Anne Hoda  
 Jacob Ollie Hunter  
 Mary Johns  
 Emily Marie Kane  
 Irelyn Karnes  
 Maxx Thomas Kebles  
 Jacob William Koons  
 Kayla Rae Kovaleski  
 Sydney Angelina Kozden  
 Jeffrey John Kozerski  
 John Wayne Anthony Kravitz  
 Paige Jordan Kroptavich  
 Ayden Langdon  
 Phillip Blase Latinski, III  
 Natalie Lynn Legge  
 Emily Anne Lehman



Christopher James Martinez  
 Giuliana Marie Mazza  
 Aiden Gaetano McCoy  
 Mary Aniyah McHugh  
 Joshua D. Mease  
 Mary Katherine Melody  
 Mary Kathryn Melnikoff  
 Andrew Josef Naim  
 Theodore Francis Dominic Novak  
 Shannon Elizabeth O'Malley  
 Cecelia Erin Otis  
 Jessica Lea Pavlowski  
 Alexis Ashleigh Phillips  
 Ronald Michael Prislupski

Douglas Joseph Smith  
 Robert James Staples, II  
 Frederick Alfonso Strein  
 Cassandra J. Suchecki  
 Shamus Connor Sullivan  
 Marie Dolores Takach  
 Vincent Pio Tanana  
 Joseph Brandon Trichilo  
 Dominick Franko Verdugo  
 Avianna Mercedes Voglino  
 Dante Lorenzo Warhola  
 Tyler Jeffrey Williams  
 Katie Elizabeth Wywoda  
 Alexander Joseph Yankowski





Ethan David Licari  
 Luke James Litchkofski  
 Louis E. Lussi  
 Tim Ly  
 Christopher William Maciejczyk  
 Matthew Joseph Maciejczyk  
 Matthew J. Magda  
 Kendall Makowski  
 Yansheng Mao  
 Lexie Kristine Marcinkowski  
 Christopher J. Taylor Marriott  
 Ryan R. Martinelli  
 John Vincent Matlock  
 Jayla Alexis Noel McCloe  
 Talia Lynn McHugh  
 Nathan Menent-Quinonez  
 Evelyn Ann Migatulski  
 Aiden Michael Morgan  
 Cody H. Nguyen  
 Madeline Michele Nguyen  
 Aiden Michael O'Haire  
 Payton Victoria Parker  
 Dominic Augustino Pasone  
 Olivia Rhea Paulukonis  
 Nicholas Pawlowski  
 Zachary Alexander Perta  
 Jessica Marie Phares  
 Cassandra Nicole Cloyadale Pinkowski

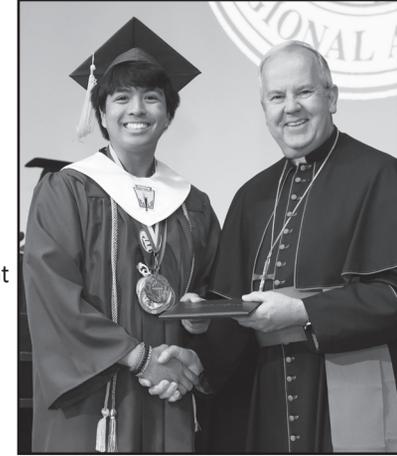
Sarah Rose Pugliese  
 Kathryn Camille Quinn  
 Jay Zhongjie Ren  
 Joyce Judith Renfer  
 Charles William Revitt III  
 Sorrenta Anne Riley  
 Isabella Rose Roback  
 Cody Daniel Rood  
 Henry Michael Rosen  
 Coltin Carl Rosencrance  
 Owen Charles Sack  
 Jillian Faye Sando  
 Kendra Santuk  
 Kathryn Schell  
 Antonette Scotto D'Abusco  
 Brendan Thomas Shubzda  
 Paige Lauren Skibitsky  
 Lily Catherine Smith  
 Nathan David Smith  
 Samantha P. Smith  
 Caden Richard Sparich  
 Nickolas John Spiccioli  
 Bailey Stavridis  
 Nina E. Stillarty  
 Nathan John Stilp  
 Donovan Joseph Stone  
 Khushi Syed  
 Ryan Michael Tarreto, II  
 Aryan Tolani

John Paul Tondora III  
 Joshua David Van Pelt  
 Ryan James Walton  
 Stan Charles Wateski, Jr.  
 Joshua Wesneski  
 Kenneth John White  
 Cole Patrick Whitman  
 Colin Jeffrey Whitman  
 Lauren Catherine Whitman  
 Cally Dalys Williams  
 Heidi Anne Williams \*  
 Lakota Williams  
 Darryl Tamond Wright  
 Ariela Yolie Wyand  
 Madison Morgan Wylie  
 Paige Elizabeth Yastremski  
 Matthew R. Zekus



**NOTRE DAME**  
 Antonia Bella Antonucci  
 Janin A. Apreku \*  
 Lizzette Badillo  
 Dominique Simone Bridgeforth  
 Jake Brett Chamberlain  
 Naomi Naigwe Wankiiri Craig  
 Rodolph S. Fils-Aime  
 Dina Marie Florentino  
 Gina Marie Florentino  
 Meagan Christine Fornataro  
 Anastasia Sativa Gonzalez

Michael O. Horan  
 Mena Jo Horvath  
 David Mariusz Jankowski \*  
 Julianna Elizabeth Kirk  
 Paraskevi Matté Kourakos  
 Ethan David Loncki  
 Jeremy Roger Ealdama Manabat  
 Rocco Martincic  
 Andrew Steven Matrisciano  
 Owen Q. Mc Grath  
 Brianna E. Melchor  
 Jacob Wallace Muth \*  
 Malcolm Marshall Naughton  
 Olivia Anne Niestepski  
 Taylor Nicole Pansy  
 Roman Sebastian Parris  
 Natalie Kayla Pompeo  
 Nikolas Mikel Porter  
 Omar Khalid Qureshey  
 Michael Francis Rodriguez  
 Jakob M. Schroder  
 Jayden Anthony Silver  
 Andrew G. Smith  
 Joshua Romel Tineo  
 Brian Juergen Van de Loecht  
 Diana Lydia Vergara  
 Lynnea Elizabeth Vitaletti  
 Olivia Marlene Vojtash



**ST. JOHN NEUMANN  
 REGIONAL ACADEMY**  
 Corey Kendel Agnew  
 John Matthew Brann  
 Diego Cuevas Murillo  
 Angelo Ray Fernandez  
 Davion Nasif Hassan Hill  
 Brianna Maureen Lisi  
 Elliott Caldwell McKelvey  
 Andrew David Mitchell  
 Jaden Denae Nixon †  
 Lily Grace Reid \*  
 Mark Christopher Roman  
 Sheiana Nicole Tutler  
 Romee Marlo Woodring  
 Kane Sterling Wright



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

Mrs. Kristen Donohue, M.Ed. • Diocesan Secretary of Catholic Education/Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Ms. Charlene Krushinsky, M.S. • Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Mrs. Michele Long, M.Ed. • Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Mr. Michael Slesinski, M.S. • Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Schools

OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS • DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

# Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Award

The Diocese of Scranton Catholic Schools Office recognizes these Seton Award recipients. The Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Award is recognition of 8th grade students who are enrolled in one of our Catholic high schools for the 2023-24 school year and exemplify the traits of Saint Seton: devoutness to faith, compassion, and desire to help others. This award is also given to students in 5th Grade at St. John Neumann Elementary School, and students in 6th Grade at Notre Dame Elementary, Epiphany and St. Agnes Schools, who meet criteria determined by their principal. Families of these individuals are commended for their commitment to Catholic education, and the students are congratulated for this distinguished honor. For these students and for all young people in our Catholic schools, Catholic education impacts their formation by incorporating a strong emphasis on the spiritual that is evident in all components of the learning process. Our vision for these students is to provide them an educational experience that promotes a lifelong learning in the faith, and one that prepared them to be responsible, competent, and confident persons as citizens of our country and world. In addition, our schools are dedicated to providing a loving, safe and nurturing environment where the young learn respect for themselves and for all persons.



Thomas Gavin  
All Saints Academy



Joshua Trichilo  
La Salle Academy



Monica Shattuck  
St. Agnes School



Antonina Myronyuk  
St. Clare/St. Paul School



Ella Valentine  
St. Mary of Mount Carmel School



Charles Schaffer  
Good Shepherd Academy



Claire Helring  
All Saints Academy



Liza Froncek  
La Salle Academy



Evan Griffin  
St. Agnes School



Cartrick Thompson  
St. Clare/St. Paul School



Riley Brady  
Good Shepherd Academy



Gavin Zola  
Holy Family Academy



Lylah Carissa Foley  
Epiphany School



Gage Moran  
Our Lady of Peace School



Elijah Keating  
St. Clare/St. Paul School



Anna Polishan  
St. Mary of Mount Carmel School



Alan Stout  
Good Shepherd Academy



Derek Yurkanin  
Holy Family Academy



Michael Sutryk  
Epiphany School



James Kennedy  
St. Clare/St. Paul School



Adam Pokrifka  
Good Shepherd Academy



To the students who have benefited from a Catholic education, and to those who continue their educational journey in a Catholic environment, we salute you and pray that God, through the intercession of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, guides you in

*Faith, Hope and Love.*



Leesha Chludzinski  
Holy Rosary School



Benjamin Shupp  
Holy Rosary School



Emily Conway  
St. Jude School



Steven Rowlands  
St. Jude School



Lina Ho  
St. Nicholas/St. Mary School



Katie Genovese  
St. Nicholas/St. Mary School



Austin Rood  
St. Nicholas/St. Mary School



Emma Grochal  
St. Nicholas/St. Mary School



Connor Pribula  
Wyoming Area Catholic School



Samantha Renfer  
Wyoming Area Catholic School



Sarah Angelucci  
Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School



Heber Lopez-Morales  
Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School



Naiandra Lorenzo  
Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School



Rory Malone  
Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School



Nicholas Angelucci  
Notre Dame Elementary School



Charles Nugent  
Notre Dame Elementary School



Justin Crosby  
St. John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School



Alivia Shadd  
St. John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School



Madelyn Weigle  
St. John Neumann Elementary School



Quillen McPherson  
St. John Neumann Elementary School

# Pro-life activists to mark Dobbs' first anniversary, advocate for more pregnancy support

WASHINGTON (OSV News)—Prior to the first anniversary of a landmark decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn its prior abortion precedent, pro-life activists lauded legislation passed in multiple states while advocating for additional support services for women and families facing unplanned pregnancies.

The Supreme Court issued its historic decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* June 24, 2022, little more than a month after Politico leaked an earlier draft of Justice Samuel Alito's opinion. The leak caused a public firestorm before the court issued its official ruling and is seen as the most significant breach of the court's confidentiality in its history.

The *Dobbs* case involved a Mississippi law banning abortion after 15 weeks, in which the state directly challenged the high court's previous abortion-related precedents in *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. The Supreme Court ultimately overturned its own prior rulings, undoing nearly a half-century of its own precedent on the issue.

Under *Roe* and its ensuing precedents, states were generally barred from restricting abortion prior to viability, or the point at which a child could survive outside the womb. When *Roe* was issued in 1973, fetal viability was considered to be 28 weeks' gestation, but 50 years later, estimates now are generally considered to be 23-24 weeks, with some estimates as low as 22 weeks.

While supporters often described *Roe* as settled law, opponents argued the court in 1973 improperly legalized abortion nationwide, a matter that should have been left to legislators in Congress or state governments. Many, including the Catholic Church, also argued that abortion is murder and its legalization should be opposed on moral grounds. Opponents of the ruling challenged it for decades, both in courts and in the public square, such as the national March for Life held annually in Washington.

In a June 6 statement marking the first anniversary of *Dobbs*, Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Virginia, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, said, "We have much to celebrate."

"By the grace of God, the nearly fifty-year reign of national abortion on demand has been put to an end. *Roe v. Wade* – a seemingly insurmountable blight on our nation – is no more!" Bishop Burbidge said. "Over the past year, while some states have acted to protect preborn children, others have tragically moved to enshrine abortion in law – enacting extreme abortion policies that leave children vulnerable to abortion, even until the moment of birth ... The work that lies ahead continues to be not just changing laws but also helping to change hearts, with steadfast faith in the power of God to do so."

Bishop Burbidge said the "task before us begins with the knowledge of the truth and our courage to speak it and to live it with

compassion," calling for the faithful to show "radical solidarity" with women facing an unexpected or challenging pregnancy.

Since the *Dobbs* decision, more than 20 states have moved to ban or restrict abortion. Some states like Texas implemented a near-total ban on the procedure at any point in pregnancy, while others, such as Georgia, banned the procedure after six weeks, effectively before many women know they are pregnant and thus banning most abortions in practice. Other states, including North Carolina, have approved restrictions at later gestational points in an unborn child's development, such as North Carolina, where a 12-week abortion ban is scheduled to go into effect in July.

Bans or other limitations are blocked pending legal challenges in South Carolina, Arizona, Indiana, North Dakota, Ohio, Utah and Wyoming. South Carolina's bill, for example, would ban abortion after six weeks if it remains in effect; a judge put a temporary hold on it one day after Gov. Henry McMaster signed it into law, asking the state Supreme Court to review the law. The state's high court previously struck down similar legislation.

Meanwhile, some other states have moved to keep or expand abortion access within their borders, including Oregon, which allocated about \$15 million dollars to pay for travel expenses for women who come to the state seeking abortions.

## Parishes collecting diapers and wipes to help Catholic Social Services



SCOTT TOWNSHIP - As part of the *Walking with Moms in Need* initiative launched by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, all parishes in the Diocese of Scranton were invited to help local pregnant and parenting women in need.

Between Mother's Day and Father's Day, several parishes collected diapers and wipes that will be used to support Pregnancy and Maternal Health Programs of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton. Counselors provide educational, emotional and

material support to individuals and families in both English and Spanish.

Catholic Social Services is currently experiencing an increased need for diapers and wipes as part of its programming. Statistics show that one in three parents struggle to provide diapers for their child or children.

While many collection drives are still taking place, Saint John Vianney Parish in Scott Township collected more than 4,000 diapers and 5,000 wipes during May and June!

Thank you for your support!

## Notice to the Christian Faithful of the Diocese of Scranton



On Sunday, May 14, 2023, the Saints Francis & Clare Progressive Catholic Community reopened the former Saint Mary of Czestochowa Church building in Moosic for worship. The Diocese of Scranton sold the church property in September 2014 during a previous parish consolidation process.

In response to questions that have been received, we wish to remind the faithful that the Progressive Catholic Church is neither affiliated with the Diocese of Scranton nor in communion with the universal Catholic Church.

The faithful of the Diocese of Scranton should not attend Masses nor receive the sacraments provided by the Progressive Catholic Church community. Particularly regarding the sacraments of Confession and Marriage, these celebrations would not only be illicit, but also invalid.



**Saint Maria Goretti Parish, Laflin**



**Saint Eulalia Parish, Roaring Brook Twp.**



**Saint Joseph Mareello Parish, Pittston**



**Immaculate Conception Parish, Freeland,  
Good Shepherd Parish, Drums; and Saint  
Patrick Parish, White Haven**



**Most Holy Trinity Parish, Cresco; and  
Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Pocono Pines**



**Our Lady of Victory Parish, Tannersville**



**Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Dupont**



**Saint Patrick Parish, Milford**



**Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, Hanover  
Township; Saint Robert Bellarmine Parish,  
Wilkes-Barre; Saint John the Baptist Parish,  
Larksville; and All Saints Parish, Plymouth**



**Epiphany Parish, Sayre; Holy Child Parish,  
Mansfield; Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish,  
Dushore; Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish,  
Wyalusing; Saint Michael Parish, Canton;  
and Ss. Peter & Paul Parish, Towanda**



**Blessed Sacrament Parish, Throop; and Holy  
Cross Parish, Olyphant**

# Holy Spirit reinvigorates hundreds at 2023 Catholic Women's Conference

SCRANTON – A sold-out, energized crowd of 400 women filled Nazareth Hall on the campus of Marywood University June 10 for the 2023 “Refresh Your Faith” Catholic Women's Conference.

Gathering under the theme of “With the Holy Spirit,” attendees participated in Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary meditations and more.

“It is wonderful to be in the presence of so many women who have such great faith. It encourages me to grow,” Lois Rinaldi of Archbald, a parishioner of Queen of Angels Parish in Jessup, said.

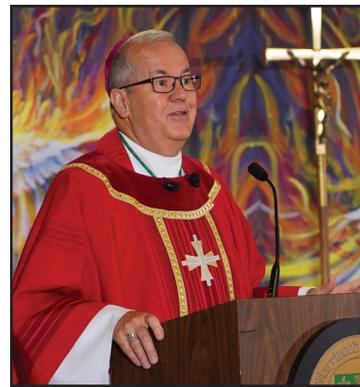
Evie Rafalko McNulty of Scranton, a parishioner of Immaculate Conception Parish, first attended the Catholic Women's Conference last year, and had been looking forward to returning this year.

“I need to be reinvigorated and just reminded about how much I depend on my faith to get me through the difficult times and the struggles of daily life,” Rafalko McNulty explained.

Johnnette Benkovic Williams, founder and president of Women of Grace, a Catholic apostolate for women, and founder and president of Living His Life Abundantly International, Inc., served as the main conference speaker. Due to illness, the keynote speaker, Kathleen McCarthy, was unable to attend.

Gladly accepting conference organizers invitation to speak for extra time, Williams told the conference attendees that each one of them is essential to God's plan.

“I want you to know how important you are to God's plan. There is nothing that God will not take and use for the good when we surrender it and give it to Him,” she said.



As she ended the daylong conference, Williams had just as much energy and excitement as when the day began, raising her voice in praise to God, calling each woman to mission. The crowd responded by standing in boisterous applause.

“You have such a marvelous future as the daughters of the Most High God. He is calling us into this great and glorious mission. He is suiting us up with all the gifts of the Holy Spirit and setting us on fire, sending us into the highways and byways of life to bring the word of God to everybody,” Williams said to constant applause.

“Johnnette is an energizing speaker. I don't know if I've seen such a dynamic speaker before and it's been incredible to sit here and listen to her. I don't think I've ever been so engaged listening to

a speaker before,” Maura Kettel, a parishioner of Saint Gregory Parish in Clarks Green, said.

The conference began with the celebration of Mass with the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, who focused on the theme of “With the Holy Spirit” during his homily.

“The real miracle of the Spirit's presence within our Church is that in spite of the brokenness of its members, the Church has always been blessed by the presence of God within it – not because we are righteous and have earned that presence – but because God is rich in mercy and faithful to His covenant,” Bishop Bambera said.

Dara Dirhan, a native of Luzerne County who now lives in the West Chester area, returned home for the conference so that she could be filled by the grace of



**Above Left:** A sold-out crowd of 400 women attended the 2023 Catholic Women's Conference which was held June 10 at Marywood University.

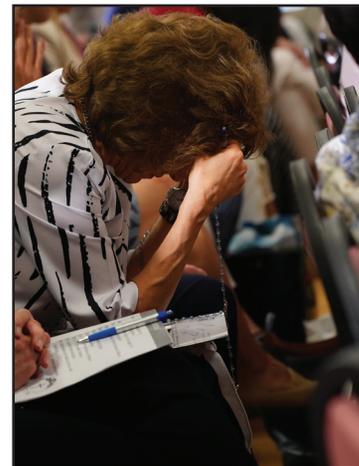
**Above Right:** Geri Featherby of Covington Township prays during Mass.

**Far Left:** Johnnette Benkovic Williams delivers one of her speeches during the 2023 Catholic Women's Conference.

**Near Left:** The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, speaks about the Holy Spirit while delivering his homily at Mass.

**Below Left:** A woman prays with her Rosary beads during Mass.

**Below Right:** Prayer intentions were collected from Conference attendees.



the Holy Spirit.

“This is a testimony to women of great faith. We need to support one another as women and uplift one another in our faith,” Dirhan said. “We are all walking different journeys at this point in our lives and it is so valuable to share with one another our stories

of faith and continue together on this faith-filled journey.”

As the day concluded, women were encouraged to save the date for next year's Catholic Women's Conference, which will be June 8, 2024, when the theme will center on the ongoing Eucharistic Revival and the Real Presence of Jesus.

# Community invited to participate in World Refugee Day celebration June 24 in Scranton

SCRANTON – The public is invited to celebrate and honor World Refugee Day!

On Saturday, June 24, 2023, everyone is invited to join local Scranton refugee communities for a time of sharing, learning, fellowship and celebration that honors global refugees. This year's theme is 'Hope Away from Home,' which focuses on the power of inclusion and solutions for refugees.

The event will be held from 2-4 p.m. at Nay Aug Park in Scranton (on the Greenhouse side of Nay Aug Park). The celebration will include cultural songs and music, refreshments, games and activities for kids.

"World Refugee Day is an opportunity to recognize the resilience and courage of refugees around the world. As a community, we must promote empathy and compassion towards those who have been forced to leave their

homes and seek safety in a new country," Fikile Ryder, Director of Community for Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton said. "We acknowledge the challenges that refugees face and recognize the need for support and solidarity towards their integration and well-being. It's crucial that we come together to ensure that refugees have access to the resources and support they need to rebuild their lives and contribute to our society."

World Refugee Day is an annual international day, designated by the United Nations, to celebrate the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home countries to escape conflict or persecution.

"I came to the United States from a refugee camp in Uganda and am so excited about this coming World Refugee Day," Ushu Mukelo of the Congolese

Community of Scranton said. "As a refugee who lived in a refugee camp for more than 12 years, it reminds me of the sense of togetherness. Scranton has been a very hospitable city and your presence just reinforces that."

Several community agencies are working together to put together the 2023 World Refugee Celebration, including Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton, The University of Scranton, United Neighborhood Centers of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Ignatian Volunteer Corps, Islamic Center of Scranton, Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit, Congolese Community of Scranton, Bhutanese Cultural Foundation Scranton Association, Saigon Corner Vietnamese Restaurant and Pennsylvania Department of Education – Migrant Education Program.

## WORLD REFUGEE DAY 2023

HOPE AWAY FROM HOME

A WORLD WHERE REFUGEES ARE ALWAYS INCLUDED



SATURDAY

JUNE 24, 2023

2:00-4:00PM

Location:

Nay Aug Park

(Mulberry Street entrance, across from GCMC Hospital and Everhart Museum)

### COME CELEBRATE

World Refugee Day honors the strength, resilience, and courage of millions of refugees throughout the world. Everyone is welcome to come to this free event to share in the rich cultural heritage of the refugee communities in Northeast Pennsylvania.

Free Family Event - Cultural Music & Dance - Giveaways

Games & Activities for Kids - Light Refreshments

Questions? Contact contact Tim at 484-645-0867 or email [community@scranton.edu](mailto:community@scranton.edu)



## Wilkes-Barre homeless shelter to receive new, permanent home

WILKES-BARRE – Mother Teresa's Haven, a shelter for homeless men operated by Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton, will soon have a new, permanent home.

In late April, the Wilkes-Barre zoning hearing board unanimously approved an application for a special exception to establish a homeless shelter above Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen at 39 E. Jackson Street.

"The shelter has been nomadic since its inception in the 1980s. When Catholic Social Services took over more than a decade ago, we started talking about a permanent location," Harry Lyons, program director

for Mother Teresa's Haven, said. "You need a permanent location so you have the ability to offer these men showers and somewhere they can send their mail."

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mother Teresa's Haven had been located in the basement of Saint Mary's Church of the Immaculate Conception at 134 S. Washington Street. Prior to that, the shelter had rotated between several churches in Wilkes-Barre.

"We're grateful to the churches that have supported us all these years but it is time for us to take the next step and provide better services to the men," Lyons added. "Saint Mary's was not meant to be a long-term solution.

It is a beautiful space and we're absolutely grateful for it but it was never meant to be a long-term solution."

In 2022, Mother Teresa's Haven provided 5,838 individual nights of shelter to men in the community who are experiencing homelessness. That is the highest number of clients served in more than six years.

When the emergency shelter moves into its new location, it will be able to house 20 to 24 men each night. It would be open 5 p.m. to 7 a.m. daily and would be fully staffed. Security will be provided. Men are able to stay at the shelter a maximum of 30 days and can be granted a 15-day extension if

they are taking steps to improve their condition.

"We're optimistic about the future. The better services we can provide, hopefully the quicker somebody can get through a bout of homelessness. That is the ultimate goal, to get people to self-sufficiency, getting them into a place that is safe, stable and affordable," Lyons explained.

The new, permanent location will allow Catholic Social Services to offer beds to clients instead of cots and will be beneficial for integrating services in one location.

"It makes sense to have the shelter and Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen right next to each other so people don't have to wander

around downtown as much," Joe Mahoney, Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Social Services, said during the Wilkes-Barre zoning board meeting. "The more we can provide services in that one location, the better off we're going to be, the better off our clients are going to be, and the better off the community is going to be."

Renovation work is expected to begin on the new, permanent location for Mother Teresa's Haven by late summer or early fall. An expected completion date is not yet known but Catholic Social Services does not anticipate any interruption of services for the men they serve during the transition process.

# Celebrating the many blessings of life together

## Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass celebrates 6,528 years of marriage

SCRANTON – When Cindy Korus looked into her husband John’s eyes while renewing her wedding vows, tears of joy started to form after being together 50 years.

“I had tears in my eyes, saying what the wife is supposed to say, that ‘I take you, John, to be my husband,’ because it has been a long time,” the Larksville woman explained. “You think 50 years is never going to come but it doesn’t take long to get here.”

John and Cindy Korus, parishioners of All Saints Parish in Plymouth, were one of 148 couples that participated in the Diocese of Scranton’s annual Wedding Anniversary Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on June 4, 2023.

The Mass recognizes married couples who are celebrating their 25th and 50th anniversaries this year. In all, the couples participating in the Mass have been married a total of 6,528 years combine.

“It reminds you of the first day we got married,” John Korus said, describing the emotions he felt during the renewal commitment ceremony.

The couple married at Saint Stephen of Hungary Church in Plymouth in 1973, shortly after the Agnes flood one year earlier. The



**At the conclusion of his homily during the 2023 Wedding Anniversary Mass, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, asked couples to look into each other’s eyes to discover the face of God abiding within the heart of the one they love. (Photos/Mike Melisky)**

impact of the devastation was still very clear and evident as Msgr. Vincent Grimalia celebrated their wedding Mass.

“Saint Stephen’s was our church. They were still renovating after the flood. There were no pews. It was all folding chairs. There was no carpet back in yet. Everything was simply ‘cleaned up’ and that was it,” Cindy explained.

As the couple reflected on their life together, they say faith has played a central role.

“We have two beautiful children and three beautiful grandchildren. We are very thankful. The Lord has been very, very good to us,” Cindy said.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant and homilist for the Wedding Anniversary Mass. During his homily, the bishop reflected on how every marriage is filled with moments of joy, struggle, challenge and disappointment.



**Denise Curry and her husband, Sean, who are parishioners of Divine Mercy Parish in Scranton, participate in the 2023 Wedding Anniversary Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on June 4, 2023. The couple is celebrating 25 years of marriage this year.**

“Your marriage has endured because you have come to see it as part of something much bigger than yourselves. You have come to see your marriage as something of a mystery, the mystery of God’s love woven into creation, embraced in your lives, and lived through God’s grace, in your relationship with each other,” Bishop Bambera said.

“The bishop’s homily was beautiful,” Paula Matthews of Swoyersville said.

Paula and her husband, Frank, who are parishioners of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, are celebrating their 50th anniversary this year.

“God has always been an important part of our lives,” Frank added.

When asked what the secret is for a long and happy marriage, many of the couples participating in the Wedding Anniversary Mass had similar answers.

“I think communication is key. You just have to talk things

out; you have to talk things over. We raised four children. It wasn’t always easy but it was always joyful,” Jean Pilch said.

Jean and her husband, Lou, who live in Moosic and are parishioners of Divine Mercy Parish, emphasized working together as a team.

“Don’t give up. You have to fight and persevere. Just because something goes wrong, you can’t just throw it away. Our children sometimes wonder how we lasted this long. You just have to keep persevering,” Lou added.

Donald and Janice Fedorchak of Carbondale, who are parishioners of Saint Rose of Lima Parish, shared those same sentiments.

“Don’t go to bed angry at one another. Always make up before you go to bed and stay in love with one another,” Janice said.

“Give and take,” Donald added, when talking about the secret of their success. “Sometimes you’ve got to give and sometimes you take!”



**Rachel and Ferrol Lee of Athens participate in the Wedding Anniversary Mass on June 4, 2023.**



**Ceneida Perdomo and Domingo Morales, parishioners of Saint Nicholas Parish, Wilkes-Barre, present the gifts to Bishop Bambera.**

# Wayne County church celebrating 185th anniversary

## Community invited to participate in celebration of Mass with Bishop Bambera August 19

ROCK LAKE – The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will help Saint Juliana Church in Wayne County commemorate its 185th anniversary by celebrating Mass with the faithful on Saturday, August 19, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

As parishioners celebrate the historic milestone of their beloved church, the community is recalling its heritage and the many traditions that have been bestowed upon them.

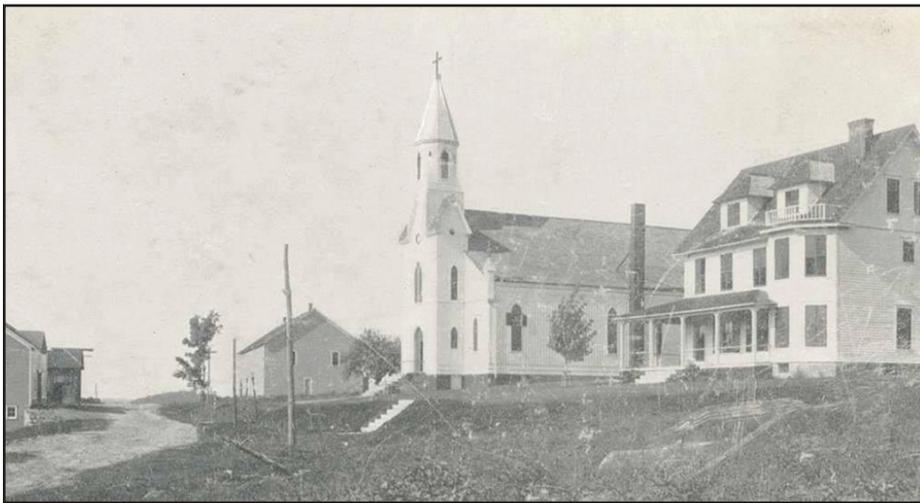
In 1988, the year of the 150th Anniversary of Saint Juliana Church, a publication, “The Sesquicentennial History of Saint Juliana’s Catholic Church” was compiled by Harry and Patricia Kilpatrick of Syracuse, N.Y., extensively spanning the years of 1838-1988. Their tireless dedication, travel and research created a grand gift of captured history for the church. Since that time, Saint Juliana Church has known another 35 years of faithful longevity.

The following is a brief history of Saint Juliana Church, as printed in several annual booklets over the past years.

The Parish church is the visible symbol of God’s Kingdom on earth, a house of prayer and the place of sacrifice for the entire congregation. Parishioners take rightful pride in their church edifice as the one building intimately associated with all aspects of their lives: their birth, their growth, and their death. As a church building ages, it is not only a constant reminder of its member’s faith, but also a link to parents and past generations who worshipped there.

On June 20, 1838, Bishop Francis P. Kendrick of Philadelphia offered Mass in a frame building 24-feet wide by 40-feet long, resting on the rocky terrain of Northern Wayne County, and dedicated it to Saint Juliana Falconieri. This was the beginning of Saint Juliana Parish, the oldest Catholic Church in the County. The Kelly family donated the acre of ground for the church and cemetery.

The history of the parish really began when Paul McAvoy and Patrick Connor left their native parish in Ireland to seek a new life in America and they settled on



**Saint Juliana Church, as seen in this historic photo from 1907, from the Wayne County Historical Society.**



**The Saint Juliana Church property, as it currently exists in 2023, in Wayne County.**

a shared 200-acre grant of land. This was the beginning of the “Irish settlement,” for soon, many of their friends and relatives found their way to Wayne County.

For nearly 15 years, long before the Diocese of Scranton itself was established, these early settlers were deprived of the consolation of their faith, since Philadelphia was the nearest place to attend Mass. From the diary of Bishop Kenrick, we learn that he visited the “Irish Settlement” in 1834 and 1836 to say Mass and administer the Sacraments, prior to the dedication in 1838.

In 1859, an addition was made to the cemetery after Mary Kelly and Patrick Reynolds donated land. The cemetery is the resting place of many veterans of the Civil and World Wars. Many monuments of the old settlers are still standing and their inscriptions readable.

It is one of these inscriptions that gives an insight into the growth of Saint Juliana’s and the erection of the present church in 1866. The tombstone of Philip Brady notes that it was he who walked to Philadelphia to record the deed of 77 acres of ground donated to the church by Thomas

Cadwalder. The same Mr. Brady was given the privilege of renaming the territory.

Mr. Brady chose the name “Rock Lake” due to the presence of so many rocks in the lake one mile and a half from the church.

The church’s first resident pastor, Rev. John Shields, arrived in 1855.

Our current pastor, Rev. Arun Lakra, is the 28th pastor.

Rev. Thomas Brehony served as pastor from 1864 to 1871, and was the architect of the new church completed in 1866.

Rev. John M. Smolter was pastor in 1899. In a few short years, he built the present rectory and hall and decorated the interior of the church.

Rev. Bernard Shepuliski was the last to live in the rectory from 1984 to 1989. Over the years, each pastor subsequently devoted their faithful shepherding, visions, and talents to the church and its parishioners.

In 1989, Saint Juliana’s, Rock Lake, and Saint James, Pleasant Mount, were consolidated under the direction of Rev. Patrick Albert, establishing the current parish of St. Katharine Drexel.

Another important chapter in the history of Saint Juliana Church will be written on August 19, 2023, when Bishop Bambera celebrates Mass at the annual Rock Lake Picnic, as the church joyfully celebrates 185 years of sharing the Catholic faith and mission of the Gospel.

All are welcome to join in the festivities that begin at 10 a.m. with a Finder’s Market, followed by a traditional turkey dinner at noon, games, music, an amazing country bake sale, and raffles.

Saint Juliana Falconieri prayer cards, a slide show of years gone by, and souvenir beverage mugs, will commemorate this important day.

A 185th Anniversary Booklet, which will include photographs and commentary of the day, will be available for pre-order purchase.

The Saint Juliana Church community looks forward to celebrating this milestone with its community and prays for continued success in building the Kingdom of God in northern Wayne County.

# Summer Guide to Church Festivals & Picnics

The parish summer festival season has finally arrived and is set to kick off this weekend. A plethora of church picnics are scheduled throughout the Scranton Diocese. The full list can also be found at [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org).

**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.

beginning each night at 6 p.m. Featured attractions include toy box and plant stands, kids’ fun stand, theme basket auction & raffle, craft beers, bottles of cheer, bingo games (air-conditioned), games of chance, homemade foods & bake sale. Live musical entertainment nightly: Friday, Strawberry Jam; Saturday, Uncle Sam’s American Band.

Saturday, from 4 to 10 p.m., and Sunday, 2 to 9 p.m. Event features homemade foods, games, hay rides and theme baskets. Musical entertainment provided by Flaxy Morgan (Friday, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.) and The Legends Band (Saturday, 5 to 9 p.m.).

*Rain or Shine!* **OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE** *Rain or Shine!*  
**Annual Flea Market**  
**June 23 ■ 24 ■ 25**  
**Friday & Saturday: 8 AM-3 PM • Sunday: 12:30-4PM**  
 Something for everyone – Collectibles, furniture, jewelry, handbags, tools, shoes, toys, holiday, books, crafts, frames, prints, lawn & garden, and much more.  
*Stop in and purchase your lunch while you check out the basket raffle!*  
 Sausages & Peppers, Hamburgers & Hotdogs, and so many more tasty treats!  
[www.qopchurch.org](http://www.qopchurch.org) or 610-681-6137. • Our Lady Queen of Peace Church  
 Route 209 & Weir Lake Road. Brodheadsville, PA.

**Divine Mercy in Scranton — June 22-24.** Annual Parish Picnic will be held on the parish church grounds, located at 312 Davis St. in the Minooka section of Scranton. Three-day summer festival will feature fresh homemade foods, games and entertainment for all ages.

**Saint Leo the Great in Ashley — June 23 & 24.** The Summer Festival will be held on the parish grounds, 33 Manhattan St., Ashley, on Friday and Saturday,

**Saint Faustina Kowalska in Nanticoke — June 23 & 24, from 5 to 11 p.m.** Parish’s Annual Homecoming Festival will be held on the grounds of Saint Faustina Grove, located on Old Newport Street in the Sheatown section. Two-night event features bake sale & ice cream stand and traditional picnic foods, including pierogi, potato pancakes and halushki; theme basket raffle, games for all ages and children’s face-painting, pony rides and bounce house. Live musical entertainment features the Lance Thomas Band (Friday) and Idol Kings (Saturday). Weekend vigil Mass will be celebrated at 4 p.m. in the grove, with music provided by Joe Stanky & The Cadets.

**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 from church parking lot.

**Queen of Angels in Jessup — July 5.** Independence Day celebration sponsored by Jessup 21st Century Association will be held at the Jessup Veterans Memorial Field on Hill Street, Jessup. Events commemorating the Fourth of July holiday begin at 4 p.m.; festivities include the Queen of Angels Parish Basket Raffle and fireworks display at dusk. For more information, contact Father Gerard McGlone, host pastor, at (570) 878-3912.

**Our Lady Queen of Peace in Brodheadsville — June 23-25,** Annual Parish Flea Market hosted at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Route 209 & Weir Lake Road, Brodheadsville; market hours: Friday & Saturday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday, 12:30 to 4 p.m. Sale items at bargain prices include collectibles, furniture, arts & crafts, jewelry, fashion accessories, tools, toys, books, frames/prints, lawn & garden and more. Basket raffle and lunch food menu also available. For more information, call (610) 681-6137.

**Saint Patrick’s in Scranton — July 9.** Parish “Summer Social” event begins on the Saint Patrick Church grounds, 1403 Jackson St., West Scranton, following the 11 a.m. Mass and continues until 5 p.m. Event includes food trucks, basket raffle, games, bake sale, Bounce house for kids, and musical entertainment. For more information, contact Mari Carr at (570) 344-2679.

**Our Lady Help of Christians (Saint Mary’s) in Dorrance — June 24 & 25.** Saint Mary Church, 3529 Saint Mary’s Road, Dorrance, will host its Annual Bazaar on

**Saint Joseph Marello in Pittston — July 13-15.** Annual three-day summer picnic held  
*Continued on next page*

**Saint Joseph Marello Parish**  
 237 William Street ~ Pittston, PA  
**Annual Summer Picnic**  
 July 13, 14, 15 from 5pm to 10pm

<b>Live Entertainment</b>	<b>Picnic Favorites</b>
Thursday - The Taxmen	Ethnic Foods, Pizza Fritta,
Friday - The Luongo Bros.	Potato Pancakes, Indoor Flea
Saturday - Flaxy Morgan	Market, Basket Raffles, Kid Games and more!

# Summer Guide to Church Festivals & Picnics

Continued from previous page

on Thursday, Friday & Saturday from 5 to 10 p.m. on the grounds of the parish worship site at Our

Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 237 William St., Pittston. Festival features ethnic and traditional food favorites, including pizza

fritta and potato pancakes; children's games, basket raffle and large indoor flea market. Live nightly musical entertainment provided by The Taxmen (Thursday), The Luongo Brothers (Friday), and Flaxy Morgan (Saturday).

foods, games for all ages, bingo, and raffle drawings. Nightly entertainment provided by: John Stevens Polka Band (Thursday), Sweet Peppers & The Long Hots (Friday), and Picture Perfect (Saturday). For more information, call (570) 287-6624.

dipped ice cream & bake sale, cash raffle & games of chance, and live nightly entertainment. For more information, contact Helen Negvesky (570) 457-3502.

Mary, Mother of God Parish  
**Block Party**  
**HOLY ROSARY CENTER**  
 Ethnic Foods ♦ Games ♦ Raffle Baskets ♦ Wine & Spirits  
 ☆ Friday & Saturday • June 16 & 17 ☆  
 ☆ Fri. 6 pm-11pm • Sat. 5pm-11pm ☆  
 ☆ Fri: 6-7pm Veterans Ceremony; 7-11pm Music by Picture Perfect ☆  
 Sat: 5-6:30pm Music by Jim Cerminaro; 7-10pm Music by The Luongo Brothers  
 CORNER OF WAYNE & WEST MARKET STS., NORTH SCRANTON  
 Rev. Cyril D. Edwards Invites All To Attend!

**Saint Nicholas in Wilkes-Barre — July 13-15.** Annual Parish Bazaar will be held on the Saint Nicholas Church grounds, 226 South Washington St., Wilkes-Barre, beginning at 6 p.m. on Thursday ad Friday, and following the 5 p.m. Vigil Mass on Saturday. Event will feature Mexican & Caribbean foods and traditional American and ethnic fare. Nightly musical entertainment from 7 to 10:30 p.m. provided by Flaxy Morgan, Kartune, and Strawberry Jam, respectively. For more information, call (570) 823-7736.

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Carbondale — July 13-15.** The parish festival celebrating the annual Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel will be held Thursday, Friday & Saturday beginning at 5 p.m. Featuring homemade Italian food favorites, nightly entertainment, and fireworks display. Cash raffle drawing includes top prize of \$5,000; tickets cost \$50 each.

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Hunlock Creek — July 14 & 15, from 5 to 11 p.m.** Parish "Summer Fest 2023" will be held on the church grounds at Lake Silkworth, 2011 State Route 29. Tent-covered two-day event to feature a huge indoor flea market, theme baskets, festival games and homemade foods. Musical entertainment provided by Flaxy Morgan (Friday) and Lance Thomas Band (Saturday).

**Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton in Swoyersville — July 13-15, from 5 to 11 p.m.** Summer Festival held on the parish grounds, 116 Hughes St., Swoyersville. Three-day event features homemade

**Nativity of Our Lord in Duryea — July 14 & 15, from 5:30 to 10 p.m.** Hosted each night on the parish picnic grounds at Holy Rosary Church, 127 Stephenson St., Duryea. Annual Summer Picnic attractions include bingo games, variety stands, kids' games, indoor flea market, ethnic & picnic foods including homemade potato pancakes, hand-

**Saint Patrick's in White Haven — July 14 & 15.** Parish Summer Festival held on Friday & Saturday features bountiful homemade ethnic foods, including piggies, pierogi, potato pancakes and desserts; large rummage sale and more than 70 tricky trays.

  
**Saint Eulalia**  
 — PARISH —  
**SUMMER FESTIVAL** | **JULY 21-22**  
**5-10 p.m.**  
 Homemade Food, Grandma's Attic, & more...  
**WEEKEND ENTERTAINMENT:**  
**FRI., JULY 21** 6-7 PM  
 » Electric City Steel Drum Project  
 7-10 PM  
 » Between the Velvet Lies (classic rock)  
**SAT., JULY 22** 5-6:30 PM  
 » Alex the Crooner  
 7-10 PM  
 » Electric Rewind (classic rock)  
**214 Blue Shutters Road, Roaring Brook Township**  
**sainteulalias.com**

**St. Faustina Parish, Nanticoke**  
**Annual Homecoming Festival**  
 on the grounds of St. Faustina Grove,  
 Old Newport Street, Sheatown  
**Friday, June 23 • 5pm - 11pm ♦ LANCE THOMAS BAND**  
**Saturday, June 24 • 5pm - 11pm ♦ IDOL KINGS**  
  
**Pierogies, Potato Pancakes, Halushki, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, French Fries.**  
**BAKE SALE & ICE CREAM STAND**  
 Fun & Games for All Ages, Including Basket Raffle, Bingo, Instant Bingo, Children's Games, Face Painting, Pony Rides, Bounce House and Much More!  
**SATURDAY MASS AT GROVE**  
**4pm with music by JOE STANKY & THE CADETS**

**Good Shepherd in Drums — July 14-16.** Summer Festival held on the parish church grounds, 87 South Hunter Highway, Drums, on Friday, 5 to 10 p.m.; Saturday, 1 to 10 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 to 7 p.m. Event features a wide variety of traditional and ethnic food favorites, including chicken fingers, halushki, halupki, pierogie, potato pancakes, pulled pork and sausage/peppers & steak hoagies; beer, wine coolers and soft beverages. Activities and games for all ages include bounce house, face-painting, tricky trays and raffles. Daily live entertainment: North of 40 (Friday, 6 to 9 p.m.); Autumn Falls Entertainment (Saturday, 1 to 2:30 p.m.), Late Arrivals (Saturday, 3 to 6 p.m.) & Kartune (Saturday, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.), followed by a concluding fireworks display; and Alibi (Sunday, 2 to 6 p.m.).

Continued on page 26

# Summer Guide to Church Festivals & Picnics

All ages are welcome! Come celebrate the 4th!

IHM Parish, Dushore

## ANNUAL PICNIC

July 2nd • Noon til 5

Under the tent in Dushore above St Basil's Church on the Hill  
Shuttle service to & from church parking lot

**Chicken Dinner \$12 with all the fixins & homemade pies**  
— EAT IN OR TAKEOUT —

### Finger and Ethnic Foods • Refreshments

Cash & Whiskey Raffles, Theme Baskets Galore, Big 6, Instant Bingo, Plush Toy Raffle, Children's Book Bingo - Preschool through 6th grade (1p.m. to 2p.m.)

*Don't feel like cooking?*

KOC Chicken Barbecue, Friday, June 23rd • 11am til sold out - at the Red light in Dushore, Pa

## ST. LEO THE GREAT

### Summer Festival!

PARISH GROUNDS  
33 Manhattan Street, Ashley



**June 23 & 24**

Friday & Saturday  
Starts nightly at 6pm

Live Entertainment!

- Friday: Strawberry Jam
- Saturday: Uncle Sam's American Band

### STANDS INCLUDE:

Toy Box Stand • Barbie Stand • Fun for Kids Stand  
Plant Stand • Certificates • Funko Pop Stand  
Basket Auction • Craft Beer Stand • Bottles of Cheer  
Instant Bingo • Surprise Stand  
Big Six Wheel • Basket Raffle • Groceries & More

## AIR CONDITIONED BINGO

~ HOMEMADE FOOD ~  
~ BAKE SALE ~  
~ FREE PARKING! ~

Continued from page 25

**Exaltation of the Holy Cross in Hanover Township — July 14-16.** “Big Tent Bazaar” will be held on the church grounds, 420 Main Road, Buttonwood section, on Friday, 6 to 11 p.m.; Saturday (following the 4 p.m. Vigil Mass), 5 to midnight; and Sunday, 5 to 11 p.m. Featuring homemade foods, potato pancake express, full-service Tiki Bar, theme baskets and raffles. Live nightly entertainment: Friday, Souled Out; Saturday, Oz and Sweet Peppers & the Long Hots; and Sunday, 3rd Degree and Pop Star Drive.

**Saint Eulalia's in Roaring Brook Township — July 21 & 22, from 5 to 10 p.m.** Summer Festival, to be held on the church picnic grounds at 214 Blue Shutters Road, will

feature homemade ethnic foods, Grandma's Attic flea market, and games & attractions for all ages. Friday musical entertainment features the Electric City Steel Drum Project from 6 to 7 p.m., followed by the classic rock band Between the Velvet Lies. Saturday's music will be provided by Alex the Crooner, from 5 to 6:30 p.m., and Electric Rewind (classic rock), 7 to 10 p.m.

**Christ the King in Archbald/Eynon — July 28-30.** Summer picnic will be held on the grounds of Saint Mary of Czestochowa Church, Betty & Main streets, Eynon, on Friday & Saturday from 5 to 10 p.m., and Sunday, 1 to 7 p.m. Festival to include ethnic & American food favorites, beer & wine tent, children's games, basket & cash raffle drawings, and a “Hidden Treasures Market.” Live entertainment features

Inside-Out (Friday) and Tommy Guns (Saturday), from 6 to 10 p.m. each night; the Wanabees Duo on Sunday from 3 to 7 p.m., preceded by Sarah Marie & Joseph from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

**Saint Aloysius in Wilkes-Barre — Aug. 3-5.** The “St. Al's Church Bazaar” held Thursday & Friday, from 6 to 10 p.m.; Saturday, 5 to 11 p.m., on the church grounds, 143 West Division St. Picnic food, bingo, and games for all ages. Nightly music: Thursday, Triple Fret; Friday, Flaxy Morgan; Saturday, Strawberry Jam.

**Holy Cross in Olyphant — Aug. 6.** Parish Chicken Barbecue Dinner hosted from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., featuring complete chicken entree with potato and green beans for adults (\$12 per person) and children's dinner with chicken nuggets & fries (\$5 each). Sunday

Continued on page 27

## SAINT NICHOLAS CHURCH

226 S. WASHINGTON ST., WILKES-BARRE (570-823-7736)

Fr. Joseph Verespy, Fr. Fidel Ticona, Fr. Mark DeCelles,  
Deacon Michael Golubiewski, Deacon Joseph Sudano, & the Parishioners  
Invite Everyone to their

## PARISH BAZAAR

Thursday, Friday, Saturday  
**JULY 13, 14, 15**

Opens 6PM Thursday & Friday • Opens after 5PM Mass on Saturday

Live Music 7:00 PM to 10:30 PM: Thursday: Flaxy Morgan  
Friday: Kartune • Saturday: Strawberry Jam

Games • Bingo • Fun for All Ages • Giant Flea Market (Opens at 1 PM Thurs.)

Ethnic Food\* • Bountiful Baskets • Raffle (1st prize 50-50) + 49 prizes

\*Bratwurst, Haluski, Pierogies, Potato Pancakes, Piggies, Pizza, Chicken Wings,  
Mexican/Caribbean Food, Fried Dough, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, French Fries



2023

Divine Mercy Parish  
**PICNIC**

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY  
**JUNE 22, 23, 24**

to be held on parish grounds  
(312 DAVIS STREET)

Featuring Fresh Food,  
Games and Entertainment

Fun for the entire family!

**ST. MARY'S DORRANCE  
BAZZAR**

gps: 3529 St. Mary's Road, Wapwallopen • 868-5855

**Sat, June 24**  
4:00-10:00 PM

**Sun, June 25**  
2:00-9:00 PM

**Sat: "Flaxy Morgan"**  
6:30-9:30 PM

**Sun: "The Legends Band"**  
5:00-9:00 PM

• homemade food • games •  
• hay ride, and theme baskets •

COVERED SEATING AREA

**Thank you to Our Sponsors!**

Chiverella's Auto Service, C-K Alarm Systems, Dotzel Trucking & Topsoil  
Blue Ridge Polaris, Steinebrenner Auto Sales & Service, Heller Funeral Home,  
Riverview Block, Desiderio-Lehman Funeral & Cremation,  
Edward Lukashewski & Sons Trucking, Lehman Monument,  
Country Kennels, and George Strish Funeral Home

*Church Festivals  
& Picnics*

Continued from page 26

afternoon event will also include theme basket & cash raffles, bake sale, children's games, musical entertainment and picnic menu treats for purchase, including hot dogs, ice cream, chicken nuggets/fries, ice cream sodas and soft beverages. For more information, call Judith Novak at (570) 489-0752.

**Saint John the Evangelist in Pittston — Aug. 10-12.** "Summer Fest '23," the three-night parish picnic, will be held Thursday thru Saturday from 5 to 10 p.m. at the pastoral center and parish grounds on Church & Broad streets in downtown Pittston. Festival attractions include ethnic & traditional American picnic foods, variety booths, bingo, children's games, raffle drawings, and baked goods. Featured nightly entertainment: Thursday, The Taxmen; Friday, Sweet Pepper & The Long Hots; and Saturday, Flaxy Morgan.

**Saint Matthew's in East Stroudsburg — Aug. 11-13.** Summer festival will be held Friday & Saturday, from 5 to 10 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 6 p.m. on the parish grounds, 78 Ridgeway St., East Stroudsburg. Three-day event includes live entertainment, homemade international foods & desserts, beer & wine garden, Prize Bingo for adults, Kids' Toy Bingo (Sunday), children's games, raffle drawings, and mega cash raffle.

**Saint John the Baptist in Larksville — Aug. 11-13.** Annual Summer Picnic held on the parish church grounds features

homemade foods, theme baskets, games & attractions for all ages, and live entertainment.

**Most Precious Blood in Hazleton — Aug. 11-13.** Parish's 124th "La Madonna del Monte Festival" honoring the Blessed Mother includes devotional services and festival food nights & live entertainment on Friday, from 4 to 9 p.m., and Saturday, 4:30 to 9 p.m. Sunday pasta & meatball dinner served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (pre-order & takeout only). Sunday's festivities open with celebration of Mass and the "Madonna del Monte" procession through neighborhood streets, followed by benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto. Weekend event also includes bake sale, tricky trays, cash raffle and calendar lottery.

**Saint Juliana's Rock Lake Picnic — Aug. 19.** Sponsored by Saint Katharine Drexel Parish, the 185th Anniversary Summer Festival will be held from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on the grounds of Saint Juliana Church, 2048 Creamton Drive (Route 247), Pleasant Mount. Saturday church picnic includes a turkey & ham dinner, served from noon to 3 p.m., for outdoor dining or takeout; celebration of Vigil Mass at 5:30 p.m.; and live music throughout the day. Event also features Giant Finder's Market (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.); refreshment stand; pierogie, pie & bake sales; cash & basket raffles; and games for all ages. For more information, call (570) 798-2107.

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**Blue Army Vigil**

The next monthly First Friday Reparation Vigil, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary and sponsored by the Blue Army, will be held **July 7** at Saint Joseph's Oblate Chapel, 1880 Highway 315, Laffin (Pittston).

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

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

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**WILDWOOD CREST, NJ • Sept. 10-13 \$629**

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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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July 11: Disney at Franklin Institute, \$80-\$140

July 22: Bronx Zoo, \$89-\$99

Aug. 19: American Dream Mall, \$77-\$89

Oct. 12: Covered Wagon Ride through Pa. Grand Canyon, \$110-\$137

Oct. 24 & 25: Great Jack-o'-Lantern Blaze, \$55-\$125

**MUSIC**

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

**CHRISTMAS TOURS**



Nov. 28: "Miracle of Christmas" at Sight & Sound w/Shady Maple, \$199

Nov. 30: Pa. Christmas Gift Show, \$50-\$85

Dec. 8, 16 & 27: Radio City Music Spectacular, \$199-\$262

Nov. 29-30, Rockefeller Center Tree Lighting, TBA

Dec. 19-21, Victorian Christmas in Cape May, TBA

**BROADWAY**

Aug. 9: Hamilton, Back to the Future, Sweeney Todd,

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## 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 M a r e l l o Parish in Our Lady of Mount Carmel C h u r c h , William Street, Pittston.



**Father Lee Havey, CP**

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

All faithful are welcome to

attend the celebration.

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

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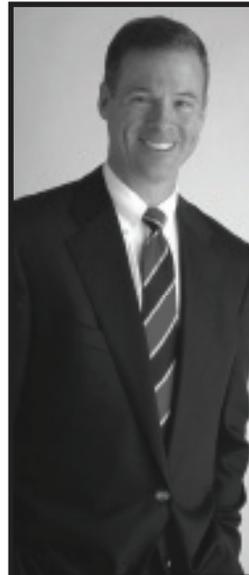
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## Catholic school '73 class seeks graduates' contact info

DUNMORE — The graduation class of 1973 from Dunmore Central Catholic/Bishop O'Hara High School will hold a 50th year Class Reunion on Saturday, Nov. 18, at La Buona Vita banquet facility, located on Reilly Street in Dunmore.

Reunion organizers are requesting contact information for a mailing of event details being planned for September.

Any information may be forwarded, via phone call or text, to Lauren Telep of Olyphant at (646) 241-9443.

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**MISSION MESSAGE**

**The Wisdom of Simplicity**

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



begin to simplify his life and focus more on his deeper spiritual needs, as his mother had taught him in Africa, that he lost the thirty pounds that he had gained and realized that in simplicity comes wisdom.

We human beings are unique creatures, aren't we? Give us food, drink, clothing and shelter and our hearts will still be hungry; our souls will still thirst. It's a hunger and thirst for God.

This past Sunday, June 11, was the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, also known as Corpus Christi. The Gospel we heard proclaimed is John's Gospel known as The Bread of Life. Jesus says, "I am the Bread of Life." And only the Bread of Life can save us from that deep poverty of spirit that is so often the curse of affluence.

An interesting paradox, isn't it? The most affluent people on earth often times are the most hungry and insecure. Perhaps it is because they rely too much on what the world gives and trust less on what the Bread of Life can do.

Saint Augustine once preached: "If you receive worthily, you become what you have received."

Like Father Joseph, something deep within all of us cries for the wisdom of simplicity. Simplicity tells us that it is not power or prestige or status or abundance that truly satisfy but rather how well we loved, how well we served, how worthily we have received. That is why the greatest lesson the poor teach all of us is the peace and joy of simplicity. There is no greater wisdom than that.

***Apostleship of Prayer***

Papal Intention for June 2023

*For the Abolition of Torture* —

We pray that the international community may commit in a concrete way to ensuring the abolition of torture and guarantee support to victims and their families.



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## ***Marian Devotion***

### ***Rosary prayer services listed***

SCRANTON — Fostering prayerful devotion to Jesus and Mary through recitation of the Rosary, Marian Devotion Ministries in the Diocese of Scranton is hosting its 2023 Fatima Journey, which began on the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, May 13, and continues through October, the Month of the Holy Rosary.

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

Marian Devotion events are scheduled as follows:

#### ***Saturday Noon Rosary Rally***

— June 17, hosted by Saint Thomas More Parish, North Scranton, on the church grounds.

#### ***Rosary Evening of Marian Devotion***

— June 19, at 6 p.m. at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laffin.

#### ***Saturday Noon Rosary Rally***

— July 1, hosted by Saint Patrick Parish, Milford, at the front entrance of Saint Patrick Church.

#### ***Sunday Afternoon Rosary Rally***

— July 9, at 1 p.m. at the Prayer Garden on the grounds of Saint Lucy Church, West Scranton.

#### ***Monday Evening of Marian Devotion***

— July 10, 6 to 7 p.m., at the outdoor Grotto at Our Lady of the Abingtons Church, Dalton.

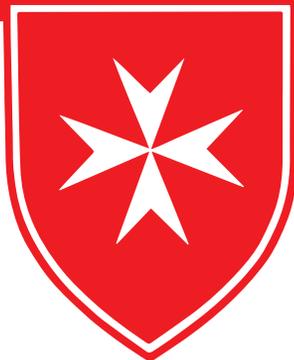
#### ***Saturday Rosary Rally***

— July 15, at 5 p.m. at the outdoor Grotto on the grounds of Saint Mary of Mount Carmel Church, Dunmore.

#### ***Rosary Evening of Marian Devotion***

— July 17, at 6 p.m. at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laffin.

For more information, contact Ernie Pappa at (570) 241-8171.



# THE ORDER OF MALTA

## SCRANTON CHAPTER

PRESENTS



## AN AFTERNOON OF HEALING

*with*

### FR. PIO MANDATO, FMHJ

Fr. Pio Mandato, FMHJ is a Franciscan priest living as a missionary hermit. He was born in Italy and along with his brother Vincenzo, received his first holy communion from Saint Pio before coming to the USA. He grew up in New Jersey and entered the Capuchin Franciscans at the age of 17, and was ordained in 1985. In 1998 he was accepted in the Diocese of Scranton, Pa., and now lives a life of solitude, prayer and intercession. He is also Chaplain to the Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth and at times is engaged in the preaching apostolate.

**FR. PIO MANDATO, FMHJ**  
MAIN CELEBRANT & HOMILIST

**MSGR. NEIL VAN LOON**  
MASS CONCELEBRANT &  
CHAPLAIN ORDER OF MALTA,  
SCRANTON CHAPTER

**SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2023**  
**AT 2:00 PM**

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## Catholic school students among 'Bandfest' performers

Six students from Catholic elementary schools in the Diocese of Scranton performed May 12 at "Bandfest," an honors band festival held at Lakeland Jr./Sr. High School and sponsored by District 9 of the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association. The Diocesan school musicians were among members of two bands for the event — one comprised of students in fifth and sixth grades and another featuring seventh and eighth grade students — all of whom were nominated by their band



directors. After a full day of rehearsal that began early in the morning, the elite band members performed their musical concert before a full house later in the evening. Catholic school instrumentalists who joined their counterparts for the regional "Bandfest" are, pictured from left: Kira Millard, Leah Smith, Clare Grandzol, all from Saint Jude School, Mountain Top; Robbie Stanchak, Wyoming Area Catholic School, Exeter; Raymond Mozdian, Our Lady of Peace School, Clarks Green; and Coleman Grandzol, also of Saint Jude's. Absent was Katie Cunnick of Our Lady of Peace School, who was nominated but unable to attend. These students, along with 31 others representing Catholic schools throughout the Diocese, also performed at a band concert on May 24 at Wyoming Area Catholic School, under the direction of Mark Stransky and Cheryl Mozdian.

### 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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### Concert to celebrate Independence Day

PITTSTON — The music ministries of the parishes of Saint John the Evangelist and Saint Joseph Marelo in Pittston, accompanied by musicians from the community, will present a concert celebrating the Independence Day holiday on Tuesday, June 27, at 7 p.m. in Saint John the Evangelist Church, 35 William St., Pittston.

Members and friends of the combined parish choirs will perform, with opportunities for all in attendance to sing along. Featured instrumentalists include Dale Chase and Chuck Smith (brass), Cindy Thomas (flute & piccolo), and Monica Spishock (percussion). Vocal soloist will be Erin Johnson.

The program is under the direction of Michael Sowa and Brandon Jopling, directors of music at Saint John and Saint Joseph Marelo parishes, respectively. A free-will offering will be accepted.

### Apostleship of Prayer

Papal Intention for July 2023

*For a Eucharistic Life —*

We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.

# Catholic Happenings Around Diocese

**Weekly Eucharistic Adoration** — **JUNE 16**, hosted by St. Thomas More Parish at Lake Ariel; exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held every Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Chapel of St. Thomas More Church, 105 Gravity Road, Lake Ariel. Weekly adoration of the Eucharistic Lord includes recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet during the 3 p.m. hour, evening prayers at 5:30 p.m., concluding with benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 6 p.m.

**Charismatic Renewal Regional Prayer Meeting** — **JUNE 19**, sponsored by the Scranton Diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal; gathering begins at 7:30 p.m., hosted at Queen of the Apostles Parish social hall, 715 Hawthorne St., Avoca. Devotional event will include exultant songs of praise & prayer and a spiritual witness talk by Father Arun Lakra, pastor of Ascension Parish & St. Katharine Drexel Parish in Forest City.

**AOH/LAOH Annual Membership Drive Day** — **JUNE 25**, sponsored by the Ancient Order of Hibernians & Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians of Lackawanna County; current and new Hibernian members are invited to attend an afternoon gathering from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Laceworks Tap & Grill, 524 Court St., Scranton. Those accompanying guests who are potential new members will be entered into a special prize drawing; light fare will be included. For AOH/LAOH membership eligibility, visit [www.aohpstate.org](http://www.aohpstate.org) and [www.statepalaoh.com](http://www.statepalaoh.com).

**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; for more information and to register, call (570) 489-2091.

**First Friday Evening Mass & Adoration** — **JULY 7**, hosted by St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Pocono Pines at Our Lady of the Lake Church, 5112 Pocono Crest Road, Pocono Pines; First Friday Mass celebrated at 7 p.m., followed by Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, will be offered each month beginning in July. The First Friday liturgy and devotion will continue throughout the National Eucharistic Revival multi-year event established by the U.S. Catholic Bishops.

**Annual Lady Crusader Girls Basketball Camp** — **JULY 31-AUG. 4**, sponsored by the Lady Crusaders basketball program of Holy Cross High School in Dunmore; held at the Holy Cross High School gymnasium, Drinker St., Dunmore. Open to girls entering grades 4 thru 9. Camp sessions held each day from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and include instruction in all facets of basketball fundamentals and competitive games; instructors include high school coaches and players. Fee: \$60 per camper, includes commemorative camp T-shirt and end-of-camp pizza party. For more information, contact Coach Bob McCormack at (570) 309-1635 or email: [rmack0423@comcast.net](mailto:rmack0423@comcast.net).

**Summer Youth Music Camp** — **July 31-AUG. 4**, hosted by Gate of Heaven Parish, 40 Machell Ave., Dallas; music camp for children held daily throughout the week from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., concluding with a Youth Liturgy on Sunday, Aug. 6. Camp is open free of charge to youth singers ages 8 to

15; camper gatherings will include choir rehearsals, snacks and other activities. For more information and registration, contact the parish office at (570) 675-2121.

**17th Annual St. Mary's Villa Golf Tournament** — **AUG. 28**, sponsored by St. Mary's Villa senior care facility in Elmhurst; hosted at Glen Oak Country Club in Waverly. Registration fee: \$150 per golfer, includes registration luncheon at 11 a.m., tournament play with noon shotgun start, and cocktail reception and awards dinner to follow. Guests may attend the dinner only for \$60 a person. Golfer registrations accepted through Aug. 21. For more information and registration, contact Lani Dickson at (570) 842-5274 ext. 2216, or [ldickson@covh.org](mailto:ldickson@covh.org).



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# Catholic Ministry Searches Out Hidden Poverty and Provides Relief to the ‘Invisible’ Poor

Anyone who has ever gone to the Caribbean on a cruise or beach vacation knows that the resort lifestyle found in many of those tourist destinations is a world unto itself. Venture out into the rural parts of those island nations and you typically find a completely different way of life.

The Dominican Republic is a case in point. While it has a reputation as a tropical paradise with pristine beaches, many of the country’s rural areas — especially those along its border with Haiti — are home to subsistence farmers struggling to survive. In those parts of the country, many families live on a few dollars a day and without any basic infrastructure, including access to running water. Some are barely able to provide their families with “daily bread.”

The life of Haitian migrant workers is even more challenging. They come from the other side of the island of Hispaniola seeking greater economic opportunities, but usually become mired in a different form of abject poverty — one that draws them into the Dominican Republic’s sugar industry, where they must cut cane under a broiling sun to survive. It’s a life with many hardships.

“I feel for poor Dominican farmers because they are often ‘out of sight, out of mind,’ but the Haitian migrant workers face an even crueler fate. Their families are effectively invisible. They are ignored in terms of social services and are isolated from any opportunity to improve their lives,” explained Jim Cavnar, CEO of Cross Catholic Outreach, a respected Catholic ministry known for its service to the poor around the globe. “Most of the Haitian families that cross into the Dominican

Republic looking for work end up living in very poor communities called bateyes. They live in dirt-floor shacks adjacent to the fields, where they labor from dawn until dusk cutting cane by hand with machetes. The reward for their efforts — the equivalent of a few dollars for a full day’s work.”

With little income, infrastructure or resources, many of these families can afford to eat just one meal a day, Cavnar said, and without adequate nutrition, their children fail to thrive. Their growth is stunted, they fall behind in school, they suffer frequent illness and eventually they lose hope of escaping poverty.

“At Cross Catholic Outreach, our goal has been to find hidden pockets of poverty and reach the ‘invisible’ families living in these terrible conditions,” Cavnar said. “Fortunately, we have a great in-country partner helping us locate and serve struggling families, and our Catholic donors in the U.S. have been very generous in supporting the outreaches we have established in the batey communities. We’ve been working to provide these families with everything from food to diapers for the babies. There’s so much need there.” (See the related story on opposite page.)

Ultimately, Cavnar believes his ministry’s efforts to help these families will give them hope.

“We want them to know God loves them,” he said. “They aren’t invisible or forgotten in the eyes of our Lord.”

Cavnar said he also believes this mission of mercy can serve as a powerful example of how the Catholic Church transforms lives and communities for the glory of God.

“I have seen Catholic missions succeed

water and Catholic education for the poorest of the poor. Church leaders have also been impressed by our direct and meaningful response to emergency situations, most recently by providing food, medicines and other resources to partners in Haiti, El Salvador and areas of Belize impacted by natural disasters.”

Archbishop Thomas Rodi of Mobile, Alabama, supports the ministry, writing, “It is a privilege for me to support Cross Catholic Outreach. This organization funds ministries to our neighbors in need in Africa, Asia,



*On a recent trip to the Dominican Republic, Cross Catholic Outreach CEO Jim Cavnar and Father Mike Seis, who leads social efforts in the Diocese of San Juan de la Maguana, attended the ribbon cutting of a new cheese factory funded by Cross Catholic Outreach. This factory will be self-sustaining and managed by the community, providing a new economic opportunity for women in the diocese.*

where government programs and secular efforts have failed,” he said. “I’m convinced the watching world is becoming more aware of this too, and as they see Catholics come together to end suffering and solve problems, I believe they can be inspired to return to the faith and to be drawn back to the Church. I know our many donors feel inspired. As they become involved in works of mercy and see the wonderful fruit of their compassion and generosity, they want to do more. They want to have a positive impact on the world.”

*Readers interested in supporting Cross Catholic Outreach’s ministries to bless the poor can contribute through the brochure inserted in this issue or by sending a tax-deductible gift to: Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC02500, PO Box 97168, Washington DC 20090-7168. The ministry has a special need for partners willing to make gifts on a monthly basis. Use the inserted brochure to become a Mission Partner or write “Monthly Mission Partner” on mailed checks to be contacted about setting up those arrangements.*

## Cross Catholic Outreach Endorsed by More Than 115 Bishops, Archbishops

Cross Catholic Outreach’s range of relief work to help the poor overseas is being recognized by a growing number of Catholic leaders in the U.S. and abroad.

“We’ve received more than 100 endorsements from bishops and archbishops,” explained Jim Cavnar, CEO of Cross Catholic Outreach. “They’re moved by the fact that we’ve launched outreaches in more than 90 countries and have undertaken more than 1,200 projects — everything from feeding the hungry and housing the homeless to supplying safe

Central and South America, and the Pacific. Through the generosity of so many, the love of God is made visible to many who are coping with the most difficult of daily living conditions.”

In addition to praising Cross Catholic Outreach’s accomplishments, many of the prelates are encouraged that Pontifical canonical status was conferred on the charity in 2015, granting it approval as an official Catholic organization. This designation allows Cross Catholic Outreach to participate in the mission of the Church and to give

a concrete witness to Gospel charity, in collaboration with the Holy Father.

“Your work with the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development is a strong endorsement of your partnership with the work of the Universal Church,” Archbishop Cordileone of San Francisco said. “By providing hope to the faithful overseas by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, delivering medical relief to the sick and shelter to the homeless, and through self-help projects, you are embodying the papal encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*.”

# Generous Catholic Donors in the US Are Delivering Food and Other Vital Resources to Dominican Republic's Poor

When Cross Catholic Outreach was launched nearly a quarter century ago, it had two groups of donors supporting its international ministries to the poor. The first group was individuals and families who had learned about its work from a visiting priest during a Mass or through a newspaper feature like this one, and they gave financial gifts to fund the charity's efforts. The second set of donors was businesses — many run by Catholic entrepreneurs — and they donated useful resources such as food, medicines and building supplies.

In the past 22 years, both of these supportive groups have had an incredible impact on the lives of the poor, according to Jim Cavnar, CEO of Cross Catholic Outreach.

“Actually, these two donor groups are often connected in ways that increase the impact of our ministry. That’s because the financial contributions we receive from donors allow us to accept and ship the valuable material gifts we are offered by companies and other charities,” Cavnar explained. “Without the cash donations we receive, we wouldn’t be able to distribute those large allotments of food, medicines, hygiene items, school supplies and construction materials. We would have to refuse them, and that would have a terrible impact on Catholic ministries and the impoverished children and families they support.”

Cavnar used a donated container of baby diapers as an example. In some developing countries, poor women leave hospitals after giving birth with their infant sons and daughters wrapped in newspapers — a fact that appalls local Catholic leaders. There is also an extreme need for diapers and other hygiene items in the poor batey communities of the Dominican Republic. If Cross Catholic Outreach is offered a container of diapers to address needs like these, it can only accept the gift if it is able to ship the container from its U.S. source to the ministries overseas.

“The financial contributions we receive from U.S. Catholics provide the funds we need to accept and ship containers of donated goods to those who need them most,” Cavnar said. “The concerned donors in America want to help the poor, and so do the companies offering us the diapers or other material aid. When one gift makes the other possible, both donors are able to have a big impact and serve families in need. It’s a win-win situation.”

The Catholic outreaches Cavnar described



*Thanks to support from Catholics in the U.S., Cross Catholic Outreach has been able to address the needs of desperately poor families in the Dominican Republic.*

in the Dominican Republic are particularly important because more than 20% of that country’s people live below the national poverty line, according to the CIA World Factbook. Poverty is even more severe in the country’s 230 bateyes — communities built on plantations to house Haitian migrant sugarcane cutters. Those families also face an even higher risk of malnutrition and often lack basic daily needs, including food, diapers and other important hygiene items.

“Thank God for the Catholic donors in the U.S. who contribute either material aid like diapers and food or cash contributions to help us ship those items or purchase them locally,” Cavnar said. “If it wasn’t for their compassion and generosity, the Church ministries we work with in the Dominican Republic would struggle to address local needs and hundreds of poor families would suffer as a result. There’s still a lot of need in many communities — and we hope to be able to provide more resources to those areas soon — but what we have accomplished so far has been a godsend and an answer to prayer.”

Cavnar hopes the success of his ministry’s current appeals on behalf of the Dominican Republic’s poor will allow the ministry to bless even more needy families in the months ahead.



## How to Help

To fund Cross Catholic Outreach’s effort to help the poor worldwide, use the postage-paid brochure inserted in this newspaper or mail your gift to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC02500, PO Box 97168, Washington DC 20090-7168. The brochure also includes instructions on becoming a Mission Partner and making a regular monthly donation to this cause.

If you identify a specific aid project with your gift, 100% of the proceeds will be restricted to be used for that specific project. However, if more is raised for the project than needed, funds will be redirected to other urgent needs in the ministry.



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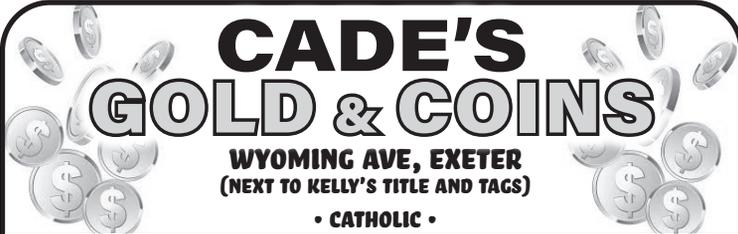
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### Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

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 Respecto de Reportar el Abuso Sexual de Un Menor de Edad

Es la norma de la Diócesis de Scranton reportar cualquier alegación de abuso sexual de un menor de edad a las autoridades. Si usted es una víctima de abuso sexual cometido por un sacerdote, diácono, religioso o empleado laico, o voluntario de la Diócesis de Scranton, usted está obligado a reportar el asunto inmediatamente a las autoridades de la ley.

Si algún sacerdote, diácono, religioso, empleado laico o voluntario de la Diócesis de Scranton tiene sospecha de que un menor de edad ha sido sujeto a cualquier forma de abuso, incluyendo abuso sexual de menor de edad, el asunto será reportado a las autoridades de la ley.

Es la norma de la Diócesis defender todas las regulaciones civiles y del estado. Al fin de que la Diócesis esté comprometida igualmente a defender las normas del Código de Derecho Canónico y defender los principios de la Carta Para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes (Conferencia de los Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos), lo cual incluye apoyar a las víctimas de abuso sexual en pos del bienestar emocional y espiritual.

Por eso, información respecto a una alegación del asunto sexual de un menor de edad, debe ser reportada a la Coordinadora Diocesana de Asistencia para Las Víctimas, Mary Beth Pacuska, a (570) 862-7551.

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# Thousands flock to Missouri to visit nun's apparently incorrupt body

GOWER, Mo. (OSV News) – Thousands flocked to a rural Missouri monastery over the Memorial Day weekend to venerate the apparently incorrupt body of a Benedictine nun – with visitors telling OSV News the experience has been spiritually powerful for them.



Visitors stand in a long line to view the apparently incorrupt body of Sister Wilhelmina Lancaster at the Abbey of Our Lady of Ephesus in Gower, Mo., May 27, 2023. (OSV News photo/Megan Marley)

“It’s electrifying,” Luke Nold of Easton, Missouri, a volunteer helping the crowds converging at the Abbey of Our Lady of Ephesus, located outside of Gower, told OSV News.

Nold told OSV News he’s talked with people from multiple states, and “some of the stories I’m hearing are just profound,” galvanizing the hearts of Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

As word of Sister Wilhelmina’s remains spread, pilgrims from several states have steadily descended on the abbey, praying before and

touching items to the body, which the sisters cleaned and protected with a coating of wax. The visits intensified ahead of a May 29 rosary procession, after which Sister Wilhelmina’s body was encased in glass at the altar shrine.

The steady stream of pilgrims – which one law enforcement official told OSV News numbered “close to 5,000” on just the Friday of Memorial Day weekend – flowed on either side of the body.

## Sister Wilhelmina’s connections to Scranton

**On the Benedictines of Mary Queen of the Apostles website, Sr. Wilhelmina’s fellow nuns have published background on her life, using her own words, from a short autobiography discovered after her death. It contained the following references to Scranton:**

“Around the same time I learned of the arrival of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter in Scranton, Pennsylvania from Wigratzbad, Germany. I went with friends in a van to attend Fraternity events such as the solemn dedication of St. Gregory’s Chapel in Elmhurst. The Holy Father’s Motu Proprio of 1988, *Ecclesia Dei*, was news that I latched onto as salvific. I was determined to return to and attend the Traditional Latin Mass as much as possible. When a friend of mine, John Ambs, driver of the van to Scranton, suggested that I join the two Sisters in Scranton and form with them a traditional house there, I did not hesitate. It was Mr. Ambs who collected funds for my entry into the aegis of the Fraternity and presented it, along with my arrival May 27, 1995 to Fr. Arnaud Devillers, fssp. I came bag and baggage that day, most of the books and papers I have since destroyed or returned to the Oblate Sisters of Providence since my break from them June 11th, 1998.”

(Courtesy: benedictinesofmary.org)

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**Bishops to Congress, faithful: Fight increasing online child exploitation**

WASHINGTON (OSV News) - The U.S. bishops are encouraging Catholics to join them in asking Congress to protect children online, both from viewing pornography and from becoming victims of child pornography and exploitation.

In a June 9 action alert, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development said that "members of both parties in Congress are putting forward various pieces of legislation that would address and help prevent the destructive effects of online child exploitation," and Catholics' "voice is needed to urge Congress to use their authority to protect children and vulnerable people online."

The appeal follows a June 6 letter to Congress from chairmen of four USCCB committees urging the lawmakers to enact safeguards to protect children from exposure to internet pornography and provide resources for law enforcement fighting online pornography.

While child exploitation has always been a problem, the internet and mobile technology have caused it to increase, they said. They called for legislation promoting safeguards to protect children using the internet, resources for law enforcement fighting child pornography, respect and tools for parents protecting their children online, and efforts to ensure social media prohibits predators.

"Online child exploitation threatens the safety and well-being of our young people and destroys families and communities," the bishops said. "The ability of a child to grow into adulthood in peace and security is both a human right and a demand of the common good: the dignity of the human person requires protections for our young people so that they may flourish as they mature."

**Prayer Requests for Priests**

The Daily Prayer Request for Priests schedule is as follows:

- 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.; June 21, Father John Turi; June 22, Father Anthony Urban;
- June 23, Father Brian Van Fossen, V.F.; June 24, Monsignor Neil Van Loon, V.F.; June 25, Father Shinu Vazhakkootathil John;
- June 26, Father Joseph Verespy; June 27, Father John Victoria;
- June 28, Saint Peter Priestly Fraternity Father Matthew Vierno;
- June 29, Father James Walsh; June 30, Passionist Father Mark Ward;
- July 1, Pope Francis; July 2, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera;
- July 3, Monsignor William Ward; July 4, Monsignor Christopher Washington;
- July 5, Father Seth Wasnock; July 6, Father Donald Williams;
- July 7, Father Bryan Wright; July 8, Holy Cross Father Michael Wurtz;
- July 9, Father Daniel Yenkevich; July 10, Father Michael Zipay;
- July 11, Father Joseph Adonizio; July 12, Saint Peter Priestly Fraternity Father Zachary Akers;
- July 13, Father Patrick Albert; July 14, Father John Albosta;
- July 15, Father James Alco; July 16, Father Andrew Amankwaa;
- July 17, Father Michael Amo Gyau; July 18, Father Robert Antonelli.

# IN MEMORIAM

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of Mercy  
Andre Dembowski**



*Entered Life:  
December 19, 1942*

*Entered Eternal Life:  
May 9, 2023*



**Immaculate Heart  
of Mary Sister  
Josephine Cioffi**

*Entered Life:  
August 6, 1940*

*Entered Eternal Life:  
May 20, 2023*

**Immaculate Heart  
of Mary Sister  
Rose Marie Mozzachio**



*Entered Life:  
April 28, 1941*

*Entered Eternal Life:  
June 4, 2023*

## PA diocese hosting Parish Renewal event on June 20

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. Cost to attend is \$50 per person (\$45 each for groups of four or more).

For more information and registration, visit: [divinerenovation.org/unlocked](http://divinerenovation.org/unlocked).

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## Pope's message of hope launched into space to orbit Earth

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Pope Francis' message of hope for humanity encased in a small satellite blasted off into space June 12 and soon will beam his words back to Earth.

"The 'Spei Satelles' mission successfully launched from the U.S. base in Vandenberg, California, and in the coming days, it plans to deploy the CubeSat into orbit, carrying Pope Francis' message of hope" contained in a nano version of the book, "Why Are You Afraid? Have You No Faith?" according to a press release June 13 from the Vatican Dicastery for Communication and agencies involved in the project.

Once deployed into orbit, the microsatellite was set to transmit papal messages of hope and peace

in English, Italian and Spanish that any amateur radio receiver should be able to pick up.

In addition to the papal nanobook, the "Spei Satelles" mission also carries a chip with the names and commitments of men, women and children on earth who requested a "boarding pass" to take part in the mission.

Since speisatelles.org was launched March 27, 2023, the press release said, "hundreds of individuals from all over the world have joined the project."

By registering online, it said Catholics can symbolically "board" the mission by committing to carry out a corporal or spiritual work of mercy, and non-Catholics can perform a gesture or deed that fosters human fraternity.

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