



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

July 27, 2023

Diocesan delegation leaving for World Youth Day 2023 on Friday



In less than one week an expected 1.5 million young Catholics will descend on the capital city of Portugal for World Youth Day 2023. Among them will be 21 pilgrims from the Diocese of Scranton.

World Youth Day 2023 is scheduled to take place in Lisbon, Aug. 1-6, and the motto for this year's event is a passage from Luke's Gospel: "Mary arose and went with haste."

As a part of their trip, those young people and chaperones in the Diocese of Scranton delegation will also visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima.

“Our Diocesan delegation will visit the site of the apparitions and the miracle of Fatima. We’re also going to visit the Shrine of the Eucharistic Miracle of Santarem which is exciting and then we’re going to dive into the experiences of World Youth Day themselves,” Shannon Kowalski, Diocesan Director of Service and Mission, said.

Only six of the pilgrims from the Diocese of Scranton have attended World Youth Day before.

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



U.S. set to have fifth largest delegation at World Youth Day

When Pope Francis arrives in Lisbon for World Youth Day 2023, there will be plenty of pilgrims from the U.S. ready to greet him – close to 29,000.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops announced July 24 that more than 28,600 individuals, most between the ages of 18 and 25, and over 60 U.S bishops will be on hand for the Aug. 1-6 gathering.



Open yourself to God, pope tells youth ahead of World Youth Day

Young people today must be open to love and let themselves be led and accompanied by God in the face of life’s challenges, Pope Francis said.

In the second edition of the “Popecast,” released July 25, the pope responded to the stories of young people recorded ahead of World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal, scheduled for Aug. 1-6.

[Read More Here](#)

[Read More Here](#)

Solemn Novena to Saint Ann concludes in West Scranton



The 99th annual Solemn Novena in honor of Saint Ann came to a conclusion Wednesday evening in West Scranton.

Hundreds gathered for the Pontifical Closing Mass which was celebrated by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton.

The annual Novena began on July 17 and drew an estimated 8,000-10,000 people to the Basilica grounds each day.

During his homily, the bishop reflected on his interactions with a man experiencing homelessness on a cold day around Christmas last year. Bishop Bambera shared his internal struggles about figuring out if the man authentically needed help - before ultimately giving him some money to buy food and stay in a local hotel.

"I felt a little bit guilty for wondering about his honesty. But then I took some quiet consolation in trusting that, as best I could, I tried to be a witness to what I believe as a Christian," the bishop said. "Remember

those words of Jesus? 'When I was hungry, you gave me food. But when Lord? As often as you did it to the least of my brothers or sisters, you did it to me.'"

[Read Bishop Bambera's Full Homily from the Closing Mass of the Solemn Novena to Saint Ann](#)

[View a Photo Album from the Closing Mass of the Solemn Novena to Saint Ann](#)

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish celebrates 100th anniversary



The faithful of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Hunlock Creek gathered on Saturday, July 22, 2023, to celebrate the parish's 100th anniversary.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, was the principal celebrant and homilist for the centennial liturgy celebration.

"We have this beautiful community here and we welcome so many people for our festival and so many other opportunities to just celebrate God's love in the midst of God's creation and as we do so with Bishop Bambera here with us, it just unites us to that larger diocesan community that we love to be a part of," Rev. Brian F. Van Fossen, V.F., Pastor, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, said.

[Click Here \(or Above\) to Watch a Video Highlighting the 100th Anniversary Celebration](#)

Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference to take place next weekend

SCRANTON CCR CONFERENCE 2023 AUGUST 4,5,6



*Are you in need of **Renewal ?**
Refreshment for your spirit? There
is **new life** and **healing** available to
everyone in the Holy Spirit!*



Catholic Charismatic Renewal Diocese of Scranton
University of Scranton, Scranton, Pennsylvania

Conference 2023

*“Heal me, O Lord,
And I shall be healed” Jer 17:14*



Sr. Lukaszewicz



Deborah DeRosia



Bob Valiante



Bob Canton

August 4, 5, & 6, 2023

All are Welcome!

Full weekend Pre-Registration \$60.

Daily Registration available during the event at the U of S!

For more information, go to ccrscranton.org/conference

Come join in this
celebration and
renewal of faith
with Praise, Worship,
Daily Mass,
Adoration,
Inspired Teaching by
An International
group
of Speakers!

There is still time to register for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal's 2023 Conference which will take place Aug 4-6 at The University of Scranton.

All are welcome to join together for a weekend of worship, teaching and prayer focused on healing!

Among those scheduled to speak include: Mother Lucy Lukasiewicz, Deborah DeRosia, Bob Valiante and Bob Canton.

Please plan to join us as the Scranton Conference celebrates 41 years serving the Church!

[Click Here to Learn More about the Speakers, Schedule or to Register Online](#)

New poll on declining faith should prompt greater witness, experts say



A new survey indicates belief in spiritual entities continues to decline in the U.S. — and evangelization leaders say the data is a call for Catholics to examine their own witness to their faith.

Poll results released by Gallup July 21 show that 74% of U.S. residents believe in God, 69% in angels, 59% in hell and 58% in the devil.

The responses point to a new low in spiritual beliefs among U.S. residents, consistent with trends seen by Gallup – which has conducted the survey for the past two decades – and Pew Research Center.

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

Pope to young people: To Tackle life's ups and downs, look to the elderly



The Gospel calls Christians to bring the elderly to the center of their lives and away from the margins of families, politics and financial markets that banish them as “unprofitable waste” in society, Pope Francis said.

“Let it not happen that by pursuing the myths of efficiency and performance at full speed we become unable to slow down to accompany those who struggle to keep up,” he said in his homily at a Mass for World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly in St. Peter’s Basilica July 23.

“Please, let us mingle and grow together,” he said.

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

Closing of the American Heart?

Record number of U.S. 40-year-olds never married



A recent analysis shows 25% of 40-year-olds in the U.S. have never been married – a record high – and may indicate “the closing of the American heart,” according to W. Bradford Wilcox, a sociologist at the University of Virginia and director of the National Marriage Project.

“More and more Americans are headed toward a kinless future, without either a spouse or children of their own,” Wilcox told OSV News. “This particular statistic ... is just one more manifestation of the fact that fewer adults are putting a ring on it.”

The Pew Research Center published the statistic and related demographic analysis June 28 after examining 2021 U.S. Census Bureau data. Pew disaggregated the data by sex, race and education. It showed that more men (28%) than women (22%) had never married by 40; that more Blacks (46%) than Hispanics (27%), whites (20%) or Asians (17%) had never married by 40; and that more people with a high school education or less (33%) had never married by 40, contrasted to people with some college (26%) or a bachelor’s degree or higher (18%).

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

Federal judge blocks Biden asylum ban criticized by U.S. Bishops, migrant advocates

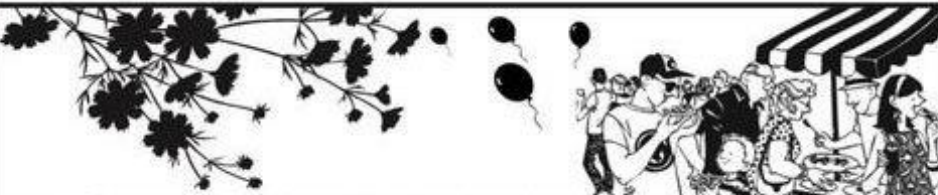


A federal judge July 25 blocked the Biden administration's rule permitting immigration authorities to deny asylum to migrants who arrive at the U.S.-Mexico border without first applying online or seeking asylum protections in a different country.

U.S. District Judge Jon Tigar of the Northern District of California blocked the rule, which President Joe Biden's administration implemented in May, following the expiration of a Trump-era policy restricting migration during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

**Lackawanna County parish holding its
popular picnic this weekend**



13TH ANNUAL CHRIST THE KING PARISH

PICNIC

JULY 28, 29, 30, 2023

Held on the grounds of St. Mary of Czestochowa Church
Betty & Main Streets, Eynon, PA 18403

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

FRIDAY
INSIDE-OUT BAND

6:00 to 10:00 p.m. - Picnic opens at 5:00 p.m.

SATURDAY
THE TOMMY GUNS BAND

6:00 to 10:00 p.m. - Picnic opens at 5:00 p.m.

SUNDAY
SARAH MARIE & JOSEPH
2:00 to 4:00 p.m. - Picnic opens at 3:00 p.m.
THE WANABEES
5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

ETHNIC & AMERICAN FOOD

Beer & Wine Tent - Raffles
Children's Games - Flea Market & More

Thousands of people will fill the grounds of Saint Mary of Czestochowa Church in Eynon this weekend as Christ the King Parish holds its 13th annual parish picnic.

The picnic, which runs July 28-30, is held at the intersection of Betty & Main Streets, on Friday & Saturday from 5 to 10 p.m., and Sunday, 3 to 9 p.m.

The Festival will 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, 6:30 to 10 p.m.) and Tommy Guns (Saturday, 6 to 10 p.m.); the Wanabees Duo on Sunday from 5 to 9 p.m., preceded by Sarah Marie & Joseph from 2 to 4 p.m.

[Click Here for the Full Listing of Summer Festivals, Picnics and Bazaars Webpage](#)

Follow Us



Diocese of Scranton
300 Wyoming Avenue,
Scranton, PA 18503-1279
(570) 207-2238
www.dioceseofscranton.org