# The Catholic Light **DIOCESE OF SCRANTON**

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### Pope Francis calls for inclusive church while in Portugal for World Youth Day

LISBON, Portugal (CNS) - Pope Francis asked the 1.5 million young people who attended World Youth Day to take "what God has sown into your hearts" back to their home countries and build a joyful church that is open to all.

Young pilgrims, including the 21 from the Diocese of Scranton who made the trip to Portugal, constantly reflected on Aug. 3: in the church there is room for everyone." "everyone, everyone, everyone."

with him in Lisbon's Eduardo VII Park and shouts of "todos, todos, todos" -"everyone" in Spanish and Portuguese – spread throughout the crowd.

As he did often during the trip, the in silence a question he posed.

Yet was during his meeting Aug. 2 with Portuguese bishops, priests, religious and pastoral workers that the pope first issued his "todos" message.

"Please, let us not convert the church into a customs office" where only the "just," "good," and "properly married" can enter while leaving everyone else outside, he said. "No. The church is not that," he the pope's main point during the official said, rather it is a place for "righteous and welcome ceremony for World Youth Day sinners, good and bad, everyone, everyone,

Asked during his inflight news He asked the jubilant crowd of flag- conference Aug. 6 how the church can be waving young people to repeat the refrain for everyone when women and gay people are excluded from some sacraments, Pope Francis said that "the church is open to all, but then there is legislation that regulates life inside the church."

"This does not mean that (the church) pope solicited engagement from the crowd, is closed. Each person encounters God by asking them to repeat after him or consider their own way, inside the church, and the church is mother and guides each one by



Pope Francis waves as he arrives to lead the Way of the Cross during World Youth Day at Eduardo VII Park in Lisbon, Portugal, Aug. 4, 2023. (OSV News photo/Bob Roller)

their own path," he responded.

showed no sign of slowing down for the again." 42nd international trip of his pontificate,

which he jokingly told journalists on the At 86 years old, Pope Francis flight to Lisbon will "make me young

Continued on Page 4

### **New year to begin for Diocese of Scranton Catholic Schools**



After a renovation project that took several months, Our Lady of Peace Catholic School in Clarks Green has two new classrooms for third grade students to learn in this year.

of Scranton Catholic School System will proudly welcome said. "Regardless of where our students are starting their back thousands of students for the start of the 2023-24 journey this year, it is a time of excitement." school year.

Education and Superintendent of Catholic Schools, said dedicated faculty and staff at all 19 Diocesan Catholic from last year. schools are excited about the upcoming year and the opportunity to help each student grow spiritually, academically, emotionally and socially.

emphasized.

The long-time educator admits the "back to school" season comes with a variety of emotions.

"For some families, it is their first opportunity to enter our school system and it's a very exciting time. For others, it might be their 12th grade year and it will be the last 'first

SCRANTON - Over the next two weeks, the Diocese day' that they will have in our school system," Donohue

Throughout the summer, Catholic schools in the Kristen Donohue, Diocesan Secretary of Catholic Diocese have fielded many calls from prospective families - and many have already surpassed enrollment numbers

"Our schools are very attractive to a lot of families for a variety of reasons. We are seeing an uptick in enrollment and are continuing to see interest throughout the month "We are going to have a great year," Donohue of August with school right around the corner," Donohue added. "There are still open seats available in many of our schools. However, due to the increases in enrollment, there are classes that have been capped. If anyone is interested, it would be wise to reach out to the school principal right now to inquire."

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### The Catholic Light

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF SCRANTON



#### DIOCESE OF SCRANTON MISSION STATEMENT

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

#### POLICY STATEMENT

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### Pope prays for Maui victims, Catholic church survived blaze

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -After leading the recitation of the Angelus prayer Aug. 13, Pope Francis assured the people of Hawaii of his prayers.

With some 15,000 people gathered in St. Peter's Square to pray with him, the pope said he was praying "for the victims of the fires that have devastated the Hawaiian island of Maui."

The official death toll from the fires had risen to 99 Aug. 15 and the number was expected to increase as the search through burned out rubble continued.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i in the Honolulu Diocese has appealed for donations to help the agency meet housing, food and other needs of what could be thousands of victims from wildfires raging on the island of Maui that wiped out an entire town and drove people to seek refuge in the ocean.

evacuated as wildfires burned the historic town of Lahaina "to the 2,170 acres burned and more than also affected the Big Island night of Aug. 8. The National ground," as numerous news outlets 2,200 structures were damaged or (officially named Hawaii). reported. Maui police have asked destroyed. families of people still unaccounted



An aerial view shows the community of Lahaina after wildfires driven by high winds burned across the town several days ago, in Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii, Aug. 10, 2023. (OSV News photo/Marco Garcia, Reuters)

for to submit DNA samples to aid Catholic Church in possible identification.

An assessment of the Lahaina More than 11,000 people were Center and Federal Emergency Kihei area and inland communities Management Agency reported known as Upcountry. Wildfires

miraculously survived the blaze.

Other Maui communities fire by the Pacific Disaster affected by the fires include the

Hawaii Governor Josh Green Lahaina's Maria Lanakila said Aug. 13 that a Temporary

Housing Task Force has been formed to work with federal partners, and has already secured 1,000 rooms to house those displaced by the fire with longerterm housing plans in the works.

"We can only imagine the distress and heartache that many are currently experiencing from the destructive wildfires on Maui. and our thoughts and prayers are with everyone impacted," said a statement posted on the website of Catholic Charities Hawai'i, which urged people to make a donation to the agency for Maui relief at catholiccharitieshawaii.org/mauirelief.

"As a community of hope we can help those in need to overcome this tragedy and rebuild their lives through recovery efforts. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support as we navigate through this challenging time together," the agency said.

The Maui blazes began the Weather Service said strong winds from Hurricane Dora, were partly to blame for fueling the fires.

## ATTENTION

### Devoted Readers of The Catholic Light

On Sept. 1, 2023, The Catholic Light will be updating its subscription record database. We do not want anyone to miss out on our monthly newspaper which features stories of local, national and international importance from the Catholic perspective.

Any person who donates at least \$10 to the Diocesan Annual Appeal automatically receives a complimentary copy of *The Catholic* Light newspaper for the following year. This is the easiest way to subscribe and requires no other paperwork or payments. Gifts to the Diocesan Annual Appeal can be made at any time at annual appeal.org or by calling the Diocesan Development Office at (570) 207-2250.

Yearly subscriptions are also available to anyone who does not give to the Diocesan Annual Appeal at a cost of \$10/resident or \$12/non-resident of the Diocese of Scranton. Annual subscriptions can be purchased by calling The Catholic Light Office at (570) 207-2229.

If you have any questions regarding the status of your subscription to *The Catholic Light*, you can contact Pamela Haefele, Circulation Coordinator, at (570) 207-2229.

### Everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God New stewardship efforts helping parishioners respond to call to discipleship

CARBONDALE - For the Wasnock has used one phrase more than most others when talking about the two parishes he leads.

The saying, 'Building Disciples, Sharing Love,' has been gaining traction amongst his parishioners in Lackawanna County's Up Valley.

During Lent, the pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish launched a new stewardship In just a short amount of time, the how do we give?" he explained. success has been noticeable!

"We would like to change in all three ways! the mentality that you just have to Baptism."

last several months, Father Seth Visitor, a resource company of Mount Carmel in years past but that partners with parishes and COVID changed some of that." dioceses, Father Seth spoke at Masses of the many ways people led to the creation of a new Marian can use their time, talent and Society for the two parishes. treasure to better both parishes. He also sent mailings to parishioners focusing on social, spiritual and and posted videos on his parish website.

Saint Rose of Lima Parish and traditional three 't's' - time, talent and treasure - but also move into prayer, service and giving. How program focused on that theme. do we pray? How do we serve and

"We had come to Mass on Sunday," Father parishioners come forward to Seth said. "It is about having a embark on new initiatives," relationship and encounter with Father Seth said. "One was to Jesus Christ every day and how reinvigorate our weekly Holy Parishes combined over the next the Carbondale pastor plans look at how we interact with we go out and share that love Hours. About 30 people have calendar year. Parishioners of the to highlight different parish and be the disciples that we are signed up to devote an hour of two parishes donated \$13,105 in ministries in the joint bulletin, called to be through the gift of our their time in front of the Blessed one-time financial gifts as well. Sacrament. It is something that we

With the help of Our Sunday had at Saint Rose and Our Lady

The stewardship program also

"The Marian Society is service efforts. Members have come together from both parishes "We always have to look at the to host events," he added. "We're looking forward to the fall and maybe hosting a baby pantry, back to school Mass and grandparents

More than 40 percent of Parishioners have responded parishioners (440 households total) also pledged to increase several new their charitable giving to their parish, pledging an additional really just a way of re-engaging council become more of a \$89,105 to Saint Rose of Lima and Our Lady of Mount Carmel



Father Seth Wasnock, V.F., celebrates the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Feast Mass on July 18, 2023, at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Carbondale.

people," Father Seth added.

In the months ahead, put together a 'State of the Parish' "The stewardship effort is report and help his pastoral Seth ended by saying.

"mission advancement team."

"It is so important that we one another and how we go out, as we are commissioned, to be a disciple of Jesus Christ," Father

Parish in January and February plan guides us." respectively, Father Joseph efforts this past spring.

publishing the financial report and allows us to continue to create new parish life statistics for Saint Jude ministries with how our pastoral

Using the theme, "United Evanko, V.E., made a conscious by the Eucharist," Father Evanko effort to focus on stewardship invited his parishioners to recommit themselves to financially "It really allows us to continue supporting his Mountain Top to build upon the mission of what a parish as well as dedicating their

Father Joseph Evanko, V.E., confirms a RCIA candidate during the Easter Vigil Mass in April at Saint Jude Parish in Mountain Top.

hosting a ministry fair.

"It was an awareness, first and foremost, as well as educational and formational in the sense of stewardship," he explained. We're putting it in the context of us commit to a second ECHO what it means to be a disciple and parish and as individuals."

The ministry fair featured Evanko explained. information and an invitation for parishioners to join Saint Jude's more than 30 ministry programs, which hospitality ministers, peer grief children's choir.

Nearly 40 percent commitment to the church, which will allow Father Evanko of all different types."

MOUNTAIN TOP - After parish is," Father Evanko said. "It time and talents to the church by and parish staff to be creative in developing new programs.

> "Some of the money will be used to have our second ECHO apprentice from Notre Dame. We had such a great success with that "We're not just asking for money. program last year, so that helped apprentice and that whole program a good steward of the gifts and which has provided a lot of resources God has given to us as a different ministries for us that we wouldn't have otherwise," Father well as men's and women's groups

> > Last year, the parish's ECHO apprentice helped to create many young adult and young adult include family programs.

"We will use some of this support group, rosary makers and money to make sure that young adult/young adult family ministry of continues to be developed and reach out to those people on the parishioners at Saint Jude Parish have further outreach," Father pledged to increase their weekly Evanko added. "It gives us that ability to be creative with outreach

Saint Jude Parish also stresses inter-generational faith formation. The parish invested in 'FORMED' that brings Catholic video content to families and individuals.

"The increase in offertory is going to help us continue to pay for FORMED and then do spin-off faith formation. We're trying to do that on an adult level, obviously at a religious education level, as with more formation and offering spiritual retreats," Father Evanko

As more people return to church after the COVID-19 pandemic, evangelization efforts are also top of mind.

"We're talking about how to margins that have not come back from COVID, or are not coming to church, and how to evangelize them," Father ended by saying.

### **Snapshots from World Youth Day**

A total of 21 pilgrims from the Diocese of Scranton traveled to World Youth Day 2023. They began their trip on July 29 by visiting Fatima. They then made their way to Lisbon, visiting many churches in the city.

As World Youth Day got underway, they attended catechesis sessions and camped out in Lisbon's Tejo Park before the closing Mass with Pope Francis.

For their final two days abroad, the pilgrims traveled to Barcelona and went on a tour of La Sagrada Familia Basilica.

Some photos and reflections are included on the following two pages.



Pilgrims attended Taize prayer in one of Lisbon's historic churches.



A total of 21 pilgrims from the Diocese of Scranton, including one priest and four Tommy Flynn of Pittston takes a selfie of seminarians, attended World Youth Day. For 15 pilgrims, this was their first time at WYD.



Pilgrims attended a candlelight prayer service/procession of Our Lady of Fatima.



our pilgrims prior to the Vigil Mass.



Fr. Alex Roche gives the homily for pilgrims as they attended Mass in Barcelona.

### Don't be afraid to change the world, Pope Francis tells young people at WYD closing Mass

Continued from Page 1

The pope's packed agenda had three to four official events per day, and he added private meetings with several groups and individuals at the Vatican nunciature in Lisbon where he was staying. Among them was a group of abuse survivors who met with the pope for over an hour Aug. 2, during which they "dialogued about this plague" of abuse, the pope said.

The pope celebrated Mass with 1.5 million young people sprawled across Lisbon's riverside Tejo Park Aug. 6 and told them not to be afraid of pursuing their great dreams to change the world.

"Let's all repeat this phrase in our hearts: 'Don't be afraid,'" Pope Francis told the crowd. "Jesus knows the hearts



Pilgrims met up with Bishop Jeff Walsh, a

native son of Scranton, while in Lisbon.

Pope Francis waves to the crowd at the end of the closing Mass for World Youth Day at Tejo Park in Lisbon, Portugal, Aug. 6, 2023. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)

he tells you, here in Lisbon for this World Youth Day: 'Don't be afraid.'"

In addition to listening the testimonies of young people and fielding questions from some of them during public events, of each one of you, the successes and the Pope Francis had a chance for more direct

during the trip. He heard the confessions of for peace in the world. three pilgrims and ate lunch with a group of 10 young people Aug. 4.

The pope later shared that he spoke to one young man who had previously considered taking his own life and said youth suicide is a problem today, noting the challenge is especially prevalent in places where universities and the job market are very demanding.

After the closing Mass, the pope announced that Seoul, South Korea, would be the location for the next World Youth the South Korean delegations scattered throughout the crowd.

visited the Shrine of Our Lady of Fátima, where he again put aside his prepared failures, he knows your hearts. And today interactions with several young people Mary and skipping over an expected prayer well."

He later said that "I prayed to Our Lady, and I prayed for peace" before a statue of Our Lady of Fátima, but "I did not advertise."

In the shrine's Chapel of the Apparitions, marking the exact spot where the three Portuguese children claimed to see Mary in 1917, he said the open-air chapel "is like a beautiful image of the church, welcoming, without doors, so that all can enter."

During the Aug. 6 press conference, Day in 2027, drawing great applause from Pope Francis also brushed off concerns about eyesight issues that arose after he joked that his glasses "aren't working" at The previous morning, Pope Francis one of his events and continued to largely improvise his remarks for the rest of his trip. And he said his health and recovery remarks and spoke off the cuff, focusing on from abdominal surgery in June is "going

### Diocesan pilgrims reflect on their World Youth Day 2023 experiences



"The most memorable experience of World Youth Day was attending Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima (Church in Lisbon). The congregation was primarily French-speaking (Mass was in French and Latin), and the participation by everyone in attendance through song and prayer exhibited a love for our Lord and reverence for the Holy Eucharist that was very moving."

> Jacob Mutchler, Diocesan seminarian Saint Matthew Parish, East Stroudsburg

"The main message I heard during World Youth Day was that there's a home for everyone in the Church - a home where each person is seen, known and loved by the Father and that this truth is often expressed to us through the ways in which we love one another."

> Kyra Krzywicki **Holy Family Parish, Luzerne**





"The most memorable part was Adoration. There were multiple amazing Adoration experiences. In Fatima, there was an amazing Adoration Chapel where it felt as if the Lord was staring right at me. Out in the field (before the closing Mass), weeping before the exposed host surrendering my troubles to the Lord. Also, witnessing Bishop Robert Barron carry the host right before my eyes as well as seeing the 1.5 million young adults all here to worship our Lord in Adoration."

> **Thomas Cunningham** Cathedral of Saint Peter Parish/Immaculate Conception Parish, Scranton

"The most unique and memorable moment of my World Youth Day experience was on the evening of the overnight vigil. We had celebrated Adoration the night before with the Pope and all the other 1 million+ pilgrims. I went to sleep in my sleeping bag to the sound of a group of Spanish pilgrims singing songs, playing instruments, and dancing. Then, I remember waking up at about 3 a.m. to complete silence as I looked around at a sea of peacefully sleeping pilgrims, and I thought to myself, this is truly Peace on Earth!"

> **Bridget Guarnieri** Saint Maria Goretti Parish, Laflin





"The main message heard during World Youth Day is to 'be open' to God's presence in your life. Over and over, Pope Francis would say 'you have a purpose' and 'God has called you by name.' This is true for those at World Youth Day or those at home. It's physically impossible to attend all of the events at World Youth Day. So, being in one place might mean missing another place. However, resist letting your expectations of God limit your experiences of Him. Therefore, you must trust and be open to where God called you in each moment even if it's not always how you might've planned your day. Ask yourself, 'Where is God calling me to grow? Where is God calling me to rest? What is God telling me in this moment?' These questions will help anybody realize God's presence in their lives, wherever they are, and not just for those at World Youth Day."

Jeremy Barket, Diocesan seminarian Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Dupont

"I've been fortunate enough to have experienced World Youth Day before Lisbon 2023, so I had a good idea of what to expect. I think this previous experience opened me up to view this pilgrimage from a different perspective. Some of the most memorable moments for me were watching others in our group experience the "big" World Youth Day events such as the opening ceremony and Stations of the Cross. Witnessing the joy of others after they had a moment of grace was special for me."

Shannon Kowalski Saint Ignatius Loyola Parish, Kingston



### **Hunlock Creek parish celebrates 100th anniversary Mass**

HUNLOCK CREEK - As he celebrated a special Mass to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish on July 22, 2023, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, offered prayers of both gratitude and hope.

"Gratitude for all that has been and hope for all that will be through the grace and the goodness of God," Bishop Bambera said.

During his homily, the bishop stressed how members of the parish have been

Lord since the parish's founding last century.

"You have been the hands and the voice and the heart of Christ," he said. "You've the Good News of Jesus, Katheryn Bobb done the work of God and you continue to do it in simple, yet profound ways, and I say to you on behalf of the church and all who have received from your goodness and your generous spirits, thank you!"

Following Mass, parishioners gathered amazing," Bobb explained. for food and fellowship in the parish's picnic pavilion.

knew the celebration was coming. We've spent many years in this parish. Our daughter was baptized here and married here and we're She is seven weeks old," parishioner Kathleen Scavone said. "Today, her and her mom and nice blessing for our family."

Paul Scavone said members of his least 75 years.

"My mom and dad came to this parish course of the entire year. as a young married couple. My brothers and sisters were baptized here ... now it continues to be a part of the tradition here."

attend Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

"It is a wonderful parish. The also to share that fiat with others!"



The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, celebrates Mass for the 100th anniversary of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Hunlock Creek on July 22, 2023. (Photo/Ed Koons)

instrumental in treasuring life, feeding parishioners are so friendly. We wish to be hungry families and bringing people to the able to do this again and keep it going for another 100 years," she said.

> As the parish family works to spread was thankful that Bishop Bambera took time from his busy schedule to celebrate their important milestone.

> "To have the Bishop come to our little church out in Hunlock Creek is absolutely

Rev. Brian Van Fossen, pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, said "Today was just a beautiful day. We Bishop Bambera's visit and homily shows parishioners they are part of a larger Catholic community.

"We have this beautiful community so blessed that we now have a granddaughter. and we welcome so many people for our festival and other opportunities to celebrate God's love in the midst of God's creation. dad actually brought up the gifts as being the As we do so with Bishop Bambera here, youngest new parishioner - along with the it just unites us to the larger diocesan oldest parish member - so that was really a community that we love to be a part of," Father Van Fossen said.

The parish pastor said the centennial family have been a part of the parish for at celebration would not be confined to just one day; it will be celebrated over the

"We have two themes going on. Our first theme is a spiritual theme which is with our granddaughter being here. It's nice echoing Mary's Magnificat for the last 100 years and the other one is '100 years and Kathleen Finarelli says it is a joy to still going," Father Van Fossen added. "We are looking forward to echoing Mary's Parish and hopes many others will join them. Magnificat – her 'yes,' her fiat to God – but

### Jazz Mass held at Church of Saint Benedict



On Sunday, Aug. 6, 2023, Our Lady of the Snows Parish in Clarks Summit brought back its Country Bazaar for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The theme for this year's bazaar was "...and all that Jazz." The celebration started off with a Jazz Mass at the Church of Saint Benedict which featured the choirs of Our Lady of the Snows and First Presbyterian Church. Following the Mass, parishioners enjoyed a Jazz lunch with live entertainment. For more on the Jazz Mass, tune into the next edition of "Our Faith, Our Diocese" on CTV: Catholic Television, which will premier on Tuesday, Aug. 29.



### Mass in Italian to be celebrated Sept. 3 in Scranton

SCRANTON - The annual Mass in Italian will be celebrated Monsignor on Sunday, Sept. 3, 2023, at 10 a.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter. All are welcome to attend.

The liturgy is celebrated in conjunction with La Festa Italiana, which occurs over the Labor Day weekend, Friday through Monday, Sept. 1-4, on Courthouse Square, one block away.

Reverend David V.F., Cappelloni, La Festa Chaplain, and pastor of Saints Anthony and Rocco Parish and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Dunmore, will be the principal celebrant and homilist.

Constantine Diocese of Scranton. Deacons from the Diocese will also participate.

The Mass will be broadcast DeNaples, live by CTV: Catholic Television Loungo, of the Diocese of Scranton and will be rebroadcast on Tuesday, Sept. 5, at 8 p.m., and Wednesday, P. Sept. 6, at 10:30 a.m. In addition to airing live on CTV, the Mass will air live on the diocesan website and on social media platforms. It will also be available on demand after the live broadcast concludes. Music ministry for the Italian

Concelebrants will include Mass will be provided by the Eugene Mentz, organist, and and Anthony J. Rinaldi, Sr. V. choirs of Saints Anthony and Monica Spishock, timpani, will Siconolfi, La Festa Chaplain Rocco and Our Lady of Mount also accompany. Emeritus, and priests from the Carmel Parishes, accompanied by a brass quartet, all directed memory of Bishop Timlin, Teresa Richard Garofalo and Joseph mandolin; **Nicholas** 

by Joseph Moffitt. Dominick Andrichak, Billy Arnold, Ron Wentline will serve as ushers. Luongo, Lemoncelli, Alfred Pantuso, Sr., honorary usher.

James Baress, Patrick Caramanno, Joshua Cillo, The Mass will be celebrated in Jonathan Eboli, Stephen Eboli, Patrick Casper, Joseph A. Guido, Scotty Guy Valvano will serve as an

### It is National 'Make a Will Month' now is the perfect time to get started

SCRANTON - August is properties, bank accounts and "National Make a Will Month."

"While many folks may not jewelry and other valuables. be thinking about their will in the of preparing or updating a will to ensure one's wishes are executed as they intend," said Jim Bebla, Diocesan Secretary for Development.

Despite the importance of of your accounts. having a will, many Americans never get around to drafting it, citing that they simply didn't have time or prefer not to think about it. any new assets, and making any Another common misconception is that unless you are wealthy, you do not need a will.

An individual's wealth and assets may determine how lengthy or in-depth a will or estate planning may be but it certainly does not dictate the need. Every family, regardless of their wealth, should have a will because of the peace of mind and ease that it can bring you.

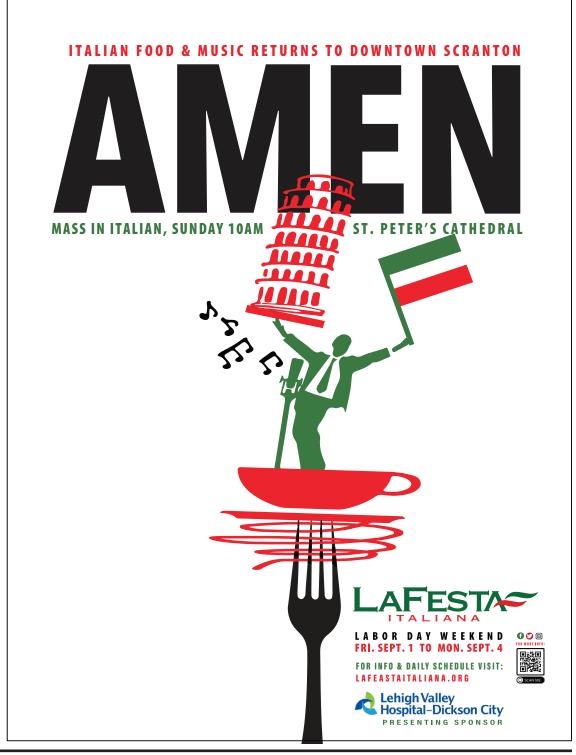
"Getting a will prepared does not need to be a lengthy or costly project," said Bebla.

• Make a list of all of your assets, including investments, org or (570) 207-2250.

personal property such as art,

- · Review all of your middle of summer, it's a good time beneficiary designations of your to be reminded of the importance life insurance, investment and retirement accounts.
  - · You may wish to consider including the Diocese, your parish or another charitable organization in your will and/or as a beneficiary
  - If you already have a will in place, be sure to review it every couple of years, updating it with necessary change to your wishes.
  - It is also helpful to review the executors that you put in place to execute your will, making sure that you still want the person you designated and that they are still willing to serve in this role.
  - If you haven't yet prepared a will, now is the time! Connect with a lawyer or consider using a free or cost-effective online tool.

For more information on preparing an estate plan or about including the Diocese or your parish Here are a few tips to get started: in your will, please contact Jim Bebla at Jim-Bebla@dioceseofscranton.



### Father Thomas Cappelloni, Diocesan priest for 47 years, dies in Hazleton at age 72

Parish in Hazleton. Retired from he active ministry for the past 11 years, Father Cappelloni died July 29 at his home in Hazleton.

Born in Scranton on Nov. 13, 1950, son of the late Frank and Ann Butler Cappelloni, Father Cappelloni was a graduate of South Scranton Central Catholic High School and began his preparatory studies for the priesthood at Saint Pius X Seminary, Dalton. He completed theological training and formation at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, Md., where he earned a master's degree in systematic theology.

Father Cappelloni

HAZLETON — A Mass of of Scranton on May 1, 1976, Christian Burial was celebrated in the Cathedral of Saint Peter for Father Thomas A. Cappelloni by the late Most Rev. J. Carroll on Friday, Aug. 4, in the Church McCormick, sixth Bishop of of Saint Gabriel at Annunciation Scranton. Following ordination, received his assignment as assistant pastor of Saint Basil Parish, Dushore, after which he was appointed assistant pastor of Saint Lucy Parish in West Scranton.

> In August 1978, Father Cappelloni was named assistant pastor at Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Honesdale, where he served until being assigned in the same capacity at Saint Aloysius Parish, Wilkes-Barre, in June 1982.

During his first pastorate, beginning in 1987 at Saint Martin of Tours Parish in Jackson where he served for 14 years, Father was Cappelloni spearheaded



Father Thomas Cappelloni

in size, and supervised the construction of a new catechetical center.

pastor of Holy Name of Jesus as chaplain of the Hazleton City Emilia; and Christopher Folk. Parish, Scranton, in July 2001, the he was assigned as administrator

Hazleton, where he was named as skills, Father Cappelloni was pastor in July 2002.

nearly ten years at the Hazleton parish, Father Cappelloni was appointed director of the National for stray animals. Shrine of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in nearby Harleigh. He retired Francis from pastoral ministry in April 2012 due to reasons of health.

In addition to his parochial duties, Father Cappelloni served the Scranton Diocese as Dean of Susquehanna County from Corey Cappelloni and daughter, January 1992 to December Emma; Brant (Nikki) Cappelloni with the worship site doubling 2000; as a catechist at Bishop Hannan High School, Scranton, and Honesdale Catholic School; and Advocate for the Diocesan Shortly after being named Tribunal Office. He later served Police Department.

Well known for his love of Nuremberg ordained a priest for the Diocese expansion of the parish church, of Our Lady of Grace Parish, the culinary arts and cooking Schuylkill County.

also an accomplished musician While fulfilling his duties for and organist. He will also be remembered for helping to establish a charitable trust fund

> Surviving are an older brother, (Frank) Cappelloni, and younger sister, Mary Ann Cappelloni Folk; numerous nieces and nephews, including Mara (Joseph) Cappelloni Lopez and their children, Alexa and Jackson; children, Gabriella, Christopher and Paul; Kristen (Patrick) Conaway and children, Reagan and Abigale; Lauren (Adam) Ercolini and daughter,

Interment was held Cemetery

### Cathedral deacon travels to South Africa as mental health ministry ambassador

Ministers, Deacon Ed Shoener clergy from South Africa. from the Cathedral of Saint Peter Catholic mental health ministry is guest of the Catholic Health Care Association of Southern Africa.

doors to parish mental health ministries, primarily inspired by the monthly worldwide Apostleship of Prayer intention offered by Pope Francis back in November 2021:

"For those who suffer from depression — We pray that people who suffer from depression or mental health ministry - not burnout will find support and a only in the Diocese of Scranton light that opens them up to life."

During June 17-24, Deacon Shoener visited Catholic parishes ministry in 2017 following the in the African nation, where he death of his daughter Katie, who shared his first-hand knowledge and experience regarding mental health ministry and addressed a

Noting that Africa is home to realized his pervading influence in nearly 20 percent of the world's Catholics and where the Church is being felt internationally when he growing faster than anywhere else visited Africa this summer as a on Earth, the Scranton Cathedral deacon stated, "Mental health ministry is truly an international The South African Archdiocese ministry because throughout of Johannesburg and Diocese of the world people face similar Klerksdorp recently opened their mental health challenges, and the Church needs to be with them and accompany them in their struggles and successes."

> Diaconate in 2004, Deacon Shoener ostensibly became one of the forefathers of Catholic but throughout the United States — when he founded the support with severe depression.

SCRANTON — As a founding conference on the subject at the mental health challenges because member and president of the Rabbuni Center in Klerksdorp, COVID hit (the region) particularly Association of Catholic Health attended by Church leaders and hard, and the number of people struggling with depression and anxiety has increased," the deacon explained, adding that suicide rates in the African nation are nearly double of those in the U.S.

> "Fortunately, the parishes in South Africa are strong and vibrant, and people support and help each other," Deacon Shoener said. "The mental health ministry teams in the parishes I visited are working to break down the misunderstanding and stigma that those with mental illnesses have Ordained to the Permanent to confront and educate the parish communities."

> > Deacon Shoener shared that during his ministerial mission he had the privilege of baptizing a native adult who sought entrance into the Catholic Church due to the mental health ministry.

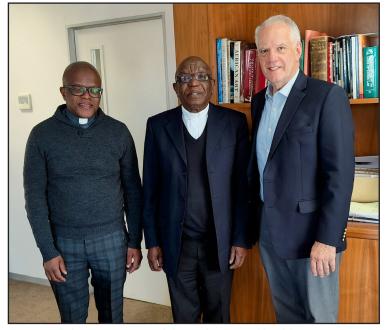
"Many people are joining parishes in South Africa with a they see those parishes as places

without fear or discrimination," he Scranton deacon shared that the noted.

Upon meeting with Archbishop Buti Tlhagale of Johannesburg and

them with the love of Christ, and other archdiocesan leaders, the South African prelate expressed:

Continued on Page 16



ended her life after a 12-year battle mental health ministry because Deacon Ed Shoener is pictured during his mental health ministry visit to South Africa this summer with Franciscan Father Solly Mphila, left, and "South Africa faces significant that will welcome them and support Archbishop Buti Tlhagale of Johannesburg.

### Mass for Suicide Healing & Remembrance to be held Sept. 17 in Scranton

Prevention Awareness Month, and to offer Diocese, shared, "The Mass was profoundly initially healing and to increase awareness about healing for those who are grieving the to be a mountain the Church's mercy and care for those suicide death of a loved one. Many people that could not be who have died by suicide, the Most Rev. said that coming forward with a flower and climbed, O'Malley Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate a Mass for Suicide Healing Mary holding Christ was like turning their and Remembrance on Sunday, Sept. 17, own grief over to Christ. In a visible way 2023, at 12:15 p.m. at the Cathedral of they were able to show that in faith they Saint Peter.

During the Mass, those attending will mercy of Christ." be invited to bring forward a flower in

Those who attended the 2022 Mass for the age of 31. Suicide Healing and Remembrance found it moving and meaningful.

endured similar losses is therapeutic."

Deacon Ed Shoener, one of those of suicide."

SCRANTON - September is Suicide instrumental in bringing this Mass to our placing it before the altar and the image of were entrusting their loved ones to the

Jack O'Malley lost the youngest of his heart. remembrance of those lost to suicide. No six adult children, his beloved son, Ryan, registration is necessary and all are welcome. who died from suicide on Aug. 21, 2011, at Helene,

"Our entire family was devastated, with strong faith crushed," O'Malley said. "We are a close, "I look forward to the beautiful Mass loving family and there was tremendous for Suicide Healing and Remembrance mutual support during that terrible time. each year," Ann Marie McCrone said. "For We loved as a family and we grieved as a me, sharing my grief with others who have family. Yet, each of us had to cope in our own, unique, personal manner to the cross

While seemed said each of his family members has developed resources resilience enabling them to fill the hole in their

"My wife, and have been gifted and the practice of our Catholic faith has helped us immeasurably in our journey together," he added. "The Mass is

the most wonderful aspect of our faith and in particular is very dear to us."

To learn more about grieving a loss catholicmhm.org. to Suicide from a Catholic perspective, consider accessing the "When a struggling or in crisis, help is available. Loved One Dies by Suicide" film resource at: when aloved one dies by suicide.

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON Mass for Suicide Healing & Remembrance To remember loved ones lost to suicide and healing for those who still grieve their passing Sunday, September 17, 2023 Cathedral of Saint Peter Principal Celebrant Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L Bishop of Scranton The Mass is open to the public. The Mass will also be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and livestream on the Diocese of Scranton

Other related worship and liturgy the reception of the Body and Blood of our resources to help you observe Suicide Lord Jesus Christ is the greatest gift. We are Prevention Awareness Month can also deeply grateful for the Mass and this Mass be found on the Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers website at

If you or someone you know is

Call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline. https://catholicmhm.org/ org to reach the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

#### **APPOINTMENTS**

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

Reverend Robert J. Antonelli, from Senior Priest, Saint Boniface Parish, Williamsport, to retirement, effective July 26, 2023.

Reverend Benito Hierro Aquino, CSMA, from ministry with Congregation of Saint Michael the Archangel, to Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Fatima Parish and Saint Nicholas Parish, Wilkes-Barre, effective July 18, 2023.

Reverend Ryan P. Glenn, to Associate Director of Continuing Formation of Priests, effective July 18, 2023. Father will remain Pastor, Christ the King Parish, Archbald.

Reverend Mark J. DeCelles, from Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Fatima Parish and Saint Nicholas Parish, Wilkes-Barre to Associate Director of the Permanent Diaconate Formation Program, effective July 18, 2023, and Parochial Vicar, Saint Therese Parish, Shavertown and Saint Frances Cabrini Parish, Carverton, effective September 1, 2023.

Reverend Samuel J. Ferretti, from Pastor, Saint Lucy Parish and SS. Peter and Paul Parish, Scranton, to Pastor Emeritus, Saint Lucy Parish and SS. Peter and Paul Parish, Scranton, effective September 6, 2023.

#### **Deacon Appointment:**

Deacon Joseph Sudano, from diaconal ministry, Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Wilkes-Barre, to leave of absence, effective July 26, 2023.



#### **BISHOP BAMBERA'S SCHEDULE**

August 27 - 185th Anniversary Mass for Saint Juliana Church Pleasant Mount, 8:00 a.m.

website. YouTube channel and Facebook

September 3 - 100th Anniversary Mass for Our Lady of Victory Church Harveys Lake, 10:30 a.m.

September 10 - Mass at Prince of Peace Parish Saint Mary's Church, Old Forge, 10:00 a.m.

**September 16** - Hispanic Heritage Month Mass Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.

September 17 - Mass for Suicide Healing & Remembrance Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:15 p.m.

### "A Powerful Intercessor"

### During annual Solemn Novena to Saint Ann, faithful bring prayers to Jesus' grandmother

SCRANTON - Born and raised just one street over from the Basilica of the National Shrine of Saint Ann, Kathy Dennebaum feels a deep connection to the annual Solemn Novena. She makes it a priority to attend services each year.

"I've had three major intentions that I've brought to the Novena and all three of them came to fruition so I'm a firm believer," she explained.

An estimated 8,000 to 10,000 people attended Novena services each day this year.

place since I was a little kid. My grandmother and grandfather had nine children that came here and were all members of this parish until they died," Dennebaum added. "I just like to come and listen to the priests when they meaningful."

husband Mark for 45 years, now bring their own grandson to from the prayerful place.

"I think it goes back to the



Faithful participate in the Closing Mass of the A boy is blessed with a relic of Saint Ann Crowds gather on the lawn of the Basilica of the Solemn Novena to Saint Ann on July 26, 2023.





at the Children's Mass on July 22, 2023. National Shrine of Saint Ann on July 26, 2023.

year for the annual Novena that with people who had their prayers Altar of Saint Ann, nine out of ten began July 17, 2023. The Novena concluded July 26, the Feast of through the intercession of Saint those petitions." Saint Ann.

"We never miss it, my speak. A lot of times it's very whole family of eight sisters and brothers," Patricia DeNapoli, a The West Scranton native, parishioner of Saints Anthony and who has been married to her Rocco Parish in Dunmore, said. "No matter what I ask, somehow, someway, it gets answered. You faith there is nothing else!"

fact that we grew up here and C.P., rector of Saint Ann's Shrine to us, we can influence the events now volunteer every year at the we'd like to have him be part of Basilica, said the annual Novena of the world," Father Richard

"This has been a very sacred were young," Mark Dennebaum Ann is such a powerful intercessor. in Ukraine is a prayer that is on

This year marked the 99th and calls and have conversations send in their petitions to put at the loving and filled with the Holy answered one way or another of them have peace in Ukraine on Ann," Father Richard said.

> With the anniversary of the Solemn Novena Scranton, began attending the quickly approaching, Richard believes its importance and relevance is just as important could be on," Matthew said. "It as when it started in 1924.

experience the peace that comes have to believe. If you don't have issues that we have to pray about. We can influence them through the Very Rev. Richard W. Burke, gift of our prayers that God gives who are both pre-med students, what we were part of when we remains popular because Saint stated. "The end of the hostility to Saint Ann.

centennial twins who grew up in West people's faces every day." Father Novena at a young age.

is the greatest time of the year. It for next year. "Just think about all the major brings us a lot of peace and a lot of happiness to come down here."

> At 20 years old, the twins, food stand at the Solemn Novena

"It is such an amazing place "Every week we get letters everybody's mind. When they to be. Everyone is kind and Spirit," Jacob said. "It's a family environment here. We all love what we do. We all love helping Jacob and Matthew Metzger, the people and putting a smile on

> With the 2023 Novena having wrapped-up, just "This is the holiest ground I coordinators say they will not waste any time in getting ready

> > "We're going to get a committee going in August to begin planning what is going to happen next year. We already have some suggestions," Father Richard hinted. "It will be very special."

### Solemn Novena features Mass celebrated in Spanish for the first time

**SCRANTON** Solemn Novena to Saint Ann for years and was thrilled this year's in Spanish for the first time.

community so hopefully they will start coming and start participating," Trently said.

On Sunday, July 23, 2023, Father Luis Daniel Guivas, C.P., who is originally from Puerto Rico, but currently stationed in

Benita Queens, N.Y., celebrated the first Trently has been attending the Spanish Mass for the Novena at 1:30 p.m.

"The hope is to have this first annual devotion included a Mass step so we can promote it so we can have a bigger celebration next "There is a big Spanish year during the whole Novena," he said.

> Jonathan Ramos, who is in formation for the Passionist community, said it is important welcome people of all backgrounds and languages.

"Having this today is a great



Father Luis Daniel Guivas, C.P., celebrated the first Mass in Spanish at the Solemn Novena to Saint Ann on July 23, 2023.

opportunity to get to know more Hispanic origin who are very "My mother is healthy now. She people, our neighbors, and have devoted and dedicated people is doing much better!"

Ramos explained.

C.P., rector of Saint Ann's Shrine Richard said. Basilica, said he is hopeful that for next year they will be able to offer performs many miracles. daily Masses in Spanish.

to be able to inaugurate a daily her (Saint Ann) to leave her here celebration in Spanish next year. and she did, so I do believe she We have so many members of fulfills miracles," Trently said.

the opportunity to serve them," and I think it's very important to make something available to them Very Rev. Richard W. Burke, as part of the Novena," Father

That news is very exciting for the Novena's 100th anniversary Trently, who believes Saint Ann

"My mother was very sick "I'm hoping that we're going two months ago and I prayed to

### **During Closing Mass, Bishop Bambera shares** personal story highlighting God's presence

SCRANTON – As he celebrated the stay in a local hotel. closing Mass of the Solemn Novena to Saint Ann, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, about his honesty. But then I took some Bishop of Scranton, told a personal story which he said emphasized the power and I could, I tried to be a witness to what I presence of God in his life.

man experiencing homelessness on a cold winter night around Christmas. The man – who said he was hungry and needed shelter it to the least of my brothers or sisters, you approached the bishop as he tried to get did it to me!" inside the Cathedral rectory.

appeared to me to be a set-up, some better had a moment like the one he experienced angels spoke to my heart. What if he was at his backdoor last winter. telling me the truth? How could I turn crowd. "Maybe that was Jesus – testing me and my resolve to live as his disciple."

some money to get something to eat and he said. "Every one of us has been and

"I felt a little bit guilty for wondering quiet consolation in trusting that, as best believe as a Christian," Bishop Bambera It revolved around an encounter with a explained. "Remember those words of Jesus? 'When I was hungry, you gave me food. But when Lord? As often as you did

The bishop said every person gathered "As I was struggling with what at the Closing Mass of the Novena has likely

"For me, that exchange became an someone away who was in such need? What unexpected moment that was filled with would Jesus do?" Bishop Bambera told the the presence of God. God was teaching me a lesson about all that is possible when we set aside our selfish, self-centered, self-After some internal struggle inside his righteous ways, when we seek to forgive, mind, the bishop provided the man with and when we let Jesus guide us forward,"



The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, delivers the homily during the Closing Mass for the Solemn Novena July 26, 2023.

continues to be touched by the presence of Bambera urged the faithful to follow the God in our lives when we least expect that path that the Lord desires. presence to grasp hold of our hands and hearts. And every one of us can recount a individuals like (Saints) Ann and Joachim, moment in our lives – perhaps even during this treasured Novena – in which we were blessed to encounter the presence of God."

"God continues to use unlikely like Joseph and Mary, like me and you, to accomplish his purpose in our world - to give hope – and to proclaim a message of As he ended the Novena, Bishop life, salvation, mercy and peace," he said.

### Mass with Anointing of the Sick brings comfort to many

SCRANTON - The annual Mass of the Anointing of the Sick during the Solemn Novena to Saint Ann brought out a large crowd on July 20, 2023, as hundreds chose to experience the healing presence of Jesus in their lives.

"It means everything to me. I love it," Patricia Williams said.

Williams, a native Scranton, made a special effort to friend.

"I got my friend to come because she just had an operation Anointing is a very powerful and I came for my eyes," she explained. "I might lose my mainly came for that."

of Saint Ann's Shrine Basilica, described two precious moments force in the heart of our lives." he had recently celebrating the 92-year-old nun and the other the Anointing of the Sick at last very beneficial for me," she said.



recovered.

"The Sacrament of the moment of grace for everyone who wants to receive it, anyone who is eyesight because of macular sick, any of us who are elderly," degeneration in my family. I Father Richard explained. "It is a wonderful opportunity to look During his homily, Very Rev. into the eyes of Jesus and discover Richard W. Burke, C.P., rector His love, discover His healing presence and discover His guiding

Elaine Jacklinski of Scranton sacraments. One was with a believes attending the Mass of

Sacrament. attend this year's Mass with her with a person in a coma who later year's Novena played a part in saving her life.

Ann's

administers

**During the Mass** 

with the Sacrament

of the Anointing

of the Sick, held

during the Solemn

Novena to Saint Ann

on July 20, 2023,

Very Rev. Richard W.

Burke, rector, Saint

Monastery,

the

"Last year, it was very beneficial for me because my heart stopped a few days after the Novena when I was in the hospital and I was brought back and I feel it was because of the anointing Mass that God was with me," the West Scranton resident explained.

While she admits it isn't as easy getting to the special Mass because of mobility issues, Jacklinski is thankful she was able to attend.

"This Mass is very special. It's

#### WITH THE SOLEMN NOVENA TO SAINT ANN CONCLUDED, WHAT DO THIS YEAR'S PREACHERS HOPE THE FAITHFUL WILL REMEMBER?

"I hope people will realize that God walks with them always, in the good times and in the not so good times. God's grace is with them always. Never be fearful. Never feel alone and always know that you have somebody!"

-Father Melvin Shorter, C.P.

"I would hope that they would take home with them a desire to really get to know Jesus as a person, that they would go home with a desire to develop a closer intimacy with Jesus. That in itself will transform their lives!" -Brother Andre Mathieu, C.P.





The Eucharist is the source and summit of our Christian life (Lumen Gentium 11). It is the life of the Church and the Sacrament of Sacraments.

St. Irenaeus of Lyon instructs as follows, "Our way of thinking is attuned to the Eucharist and the Eucharist in turn confirms our way of thinking." A true Catholic therefore, is one who has an ardent love, devotion, and worship towards the Eucharist. The Eucharist makes the Church. It is the most precious treasure of the Church. The Eucharist is the life of the Church and of the world. It is the bread of life (Jn 6:35). "Anyone who eats this bread will live forever" (Jn 6:51). Therefore, the Eucharist gives life as the Lord himself is life, and communicates life to the world.

However, I have always been fascinated with one of the most remarkable stories in the bible. precisely, the Last Supper story.

As the Evangelist John relates in Chapter 13, while they were at supper, the Lord made the final prediction of his betrayal and subsequent passion. With the Apostles worried, John asked Jesus who it was that would betray him. Jesus said, "The one whom I will give this bread after I have dipped it in a dish is the one" (Jn 13:26). He dipped the bread in the dish and gave it to Judas. The scripture says, "As soon as Judas ate the bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, What you are about to do, do quickly" (v.27). Judas left the room. The evangelist continues, "Night had fallen" (Jn 13:30).

The story of the last supper has a weight of theology and laden in it. fascination and worry with the story are as follows:

### THE EUCHARIST: BREAD OF LIFE

### -A Priesthood Perspective by Rev. Paschal Mbagwu, S.T.L., S.T.D. -Administrator, Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Pocono Pines

has become the 'food of death' to Judas? What went wrong? Did he eat a different bread of the Eucharist from the other Apostles? What really happened with the 'bread' Jesus gave to Judas? Given that Judas received the bread from the hands of Jesus. one would assume that Judas received the same spiritually, Christ-filled bread of life from the author of life Himself. like the other Apostles, Alas, it turned out to be the doom of Judas. The bread of life did not change anything for someone who has made up his mind to sin and remain in sin, for someone who has rejected the love of Jesus. So, how did this food of life 'become' the 'food of death' to Judas?

The key to finding the solution to the problem of Judas' unholy communion is in the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians 11:27-32. In this passage Paul warns the Corinthians of the dangers of receiving this food unworthily. He

"Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily will have to answer for the body and blood of the Lord. A person should examine himself, and so eat the bread and drink the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself."

At this point, one may begin to understand the reasons for the fall of Judas after the reception of the Eucharist from Jesus.

Judas was with Jesus for about three years, listening to the word of life and yet, did not allow the word to penetrate his soul. He deliberately shut out God from his heart. He hardened his heart to God. Judas failed to heed to the warnings of Jesus and did not repent of his evil machinations.

He remained fixed towards How is it that the food of life evil as the lure of money from the

Sanhendrin blinded his intellect, of those who love, those who let His dispositions towards the Lord and the Eucharist were flawed.

he was plotting the betrayal of his master, Jesus. In theological language, Judas was in a state of mortal sin and needed to confess to the Lord, but he did not. Little wonder then, the Evangelist wrote; "as soon as Judas ate the bread, Satan entered him ... and night had fallen." Yes. Satan entered him because even though he was in the presence of Jesus who is God, he closed the door of his soul to Jesus. He did not let the light of Jesus' words to penetrate his soul. He turned his back to the Lord. He was not clean spiritually to receive the 'Bread of life'. He experienced the darkness of sin.

The story of Judas becomes a warning to all of us who eat the hymn, bread of life and drink from the chalice of salvation. It reminds us of the remote and proximate preparations for reception of the Holy Eucharist. The Church have reiterated the necessity of properly purifying one's soul for reception of the Eucharist.

To receive Holy Communion, the person must be a baptized Catholic in communion with the Church. He/she must be free from mortal sins. The person should observe the required one hour fast before the reception of Holy Communion. One should reception of the Eucharist? also be at Mass on time, wearing appropriate dress, because it is an appointment with the Lord. Such, "ought to convey the respect, solemnity and joy of this moment when Christ becomes our guest (Catechism of the Catholic Church. 1387). While at Mass, the person should participate attentively and devoutly through the Mass.

St. Augustine informs all to 'purify our desires and hopes to welcome the sweetness of God.'

themselves to be transformed. Judas had no love for Jesus and His intentions were bad as was breeding hatred and deceit in his heart.

> He forgot the teachings of the Lord Jesus on reconciliation; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift (Mt 5:23-24). He was not transformed at heart.

Transformation is necessary because the Eucharist is the food of transformations. In the Eucharist, matter (bread and wine) is transformed into the body and blood of Jesus. As those who worship God partake of the Eucharist, they are expected to be transformed after the likeness of the One they receive. They become bearers of Christ.

St. Thomas Aquinas, in the lauda sion salvatorem. states:

"The good partake, the bad partake with, however, an unequal share of life and death.

It is death to the bad, life to Fathers down through the ages the good: behold how unlike is the result of like partaking."

> Aquinas' hymn explains what happened to Judas, "Behold how unlike is the result of like partaking." This is it. We see this thought running through the ages in the Church.

> What has changed? Why are we slow to believe and to adore? How do we prepare for the

The Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship issued a directive on the dispositions for receiving Holy Communion as follows, "The Eucharist continuously present among men the Paschal Mystery of Christ. It is the source of every grace and of the forgiveness of sins. Nevertheless, those who intend to receive the Body of the Lord must approach it with a pure conscience and proper dispositions of soul if they are to receive the The Eucharist is the food effects of the Paschal Sacrament.

On this account the Church prescribes 'that no one conscious of mortal sin, even though he seems to be contrite, may go to the Holy Eucharist without previous sacramental confession' ... It is desirable that those who receive communion daily or very often go to the Sacrament of Penance at regular intervals, depending on their circumstances. Besides this, the faithful should look upon the Eucharist as an antidote which frees them from daily faults and keeps them from mortal sins; they should also understand the proper way to use the penitential parts of the liturgy, especially at Mass" (Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist, 23).

From the Church's teachings, there is a close connection between the Eucharist and confession of sins. A regular communicant expected to be going for Sacramental Reconciliation regularly. This is important because the nearer we come to God who is light, the more his light of glory dazzles and brightens the soul so we are able to see the tiny spots of sin on our soul. God regularly calls out to the human heart: 'open your hearts', seek the Lord with all your heart'. 'If today you hear God's word, harden not your heart' (Ps 95).

At this point we conclude that Judas never gave a chance to the Word of God. He hardened his heart despite being in the presence of the Word of Life. What a tragedy! However, the further one stays away from God and from Sacramental Reconciliation, it becomes more difficult to see the big sins in one's life because such a person is moving further away from God who is the source of light. The Psalmist makes this connection when he says, "God you are light. In your light, we see light" (Psalm 36:9).

As we mark our year of revival of the Eucharist, may we resolve to open our hearts to Jesus and to his words. Let every Catholic resolve to be regular to Sacramental Confession of sins in preparation for the reception of Jesus. As Catholics, may we value who we have and the gift of God to us in the Eucharist. the bread of life.

### Students to return to the classroom across the Diocese of Scranton

Continued from Page 1

#### WHAT TO EXPECT THIS YEAR

Scranton's Strategic Growth Planning Initiative for Catholic Schools to pick up steam as the new academic year begins.

Launched in April, the process aims to help the Catholic School System define priorities and develop a strong, financially sustainable vision for the future to ensure Catholic schools remain vibrant and viable.

All stakeholders will soon be invited to fill out surveys, allowing them to provide input into the process.

"We will be surveying our current families, faculty and staff, families who are in parish faith formation programs who may not have children attending our schools, and our priests to gain an idea of what we're doing well and what areas we need to strengthen. We also want to hear any ideas or suggestions that any of those groups may have," Donohue stressed.

As students return to the classroom, interactive STREAM lessons - focused on science, technology, religion, engineering, art and math – will continue to be a primary focus of educators.

"Our educators are very much looking forward to teaching lessons that promote thought-provoking, hands-on, and collaborative activities," Donohue said.

Educators will also continue to use assessment data to offer differentiated instruction and will focus on social emotional learning initiatives.

"We've partnered with Friendzy, which is a religious curriculum-based social emotional learning platform that will really supplement and expand the social emotional learning initiative," Donohue said.

#### NEW STREAM LAB AT ST. CLARE/ST. PAUL SCHOOL

Students at Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton will begin the school year with a new space dedicated specifically for STREAM lessons. The school will open main campus building.

"The STREAM lab will be utilized by teachers and their students on a weekly basis so all students have the opportunity to engage with the new equipment that has been carefully chosen and is relevant to subjects reaching across the entire

curriculum," principal Kara Kennedy Ware said. "Teachers may choose to team teach thematically, and our students will also be Donohue expects the Diocese of able to participate in our new after-school STREAM club. The broader goals for the new STREAM lab are to provide limitless opportunities for teaching, exploring, and learning in a beautiful engaging space, where imagination and innovation are cultivated and encouraged."

The school's STREAM facilitator, Katie Purcell, was instrumental in designing the space so that it would be conducive for student problem solving and collaboration. The new space has areas with names such as Collaboration Corner, Research Row, Workstation Nation and more.

"When designing the lab, I thought of the limitations within the classroom I had when implementing STREAM. I also spoke with faculty members and used the research from my STEM Education program to come up with the most important areas our students need to succeed," Purcell said. "The Collaboration Corner is a space for students to work together to brainstorm ideas and voice their opinions for their projects. They can use what they have learned during their time together when researching in Research Row and share their ideas with one another. The students will then go to Workstation Nation or Creation Carpet to bring their ideas to life. Both stations require the students to use collaboration, communication, creativity, and critical thinking when completing their projects and labs. This also brings the design process to life for the students."

Both Ware and Purcell expect faculty and students will be excited to engage in more hands-on STREAM activities in the new lab space.

"As a teacher myself, I cannot wait to use this with my students. I feel that I have more opportunities now to engage in projectbased learning and do different projects that I could not complete in my classroom. That is how I hope the rest of the faculty feels as well," Purcell stated.

"In my opinion, some of the potential a new STREAM lab on the second floor of its benefits for implementing STREAM, and creating a dedicated space are the unprecedented opportunities that presented for students to sharpen their critical thinking skills, while engaging in a studentcentered environment that encourages them to confidently take the lead in their learning," Ware added.

#### NEW SCIENCE LABS AT HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL

It has been a busy summer at Holy Cross High School in Dunmore with five rooms, including two science labs, a science classroom, the school's art room and computer lab, all being renovated in some way or receiving new equipment.

"For years we have wanted to upgrade our biology and science labs and the equipment in another science room," principal Ben Tolerico said. "I think it was an opportunity to enhance the school itself."

Tolerico credits his faculty for helping to design the new spaces.

"They did an incredible amount of leg work, going through catalogs to pick out everything they wanted," he said. "It will be really great for the kids to have all of this brand new equipment ... It shows the commitment the school has."

While the renovation work is still being completed, it is expected to be finished by opening day.

Tolerico said the new spaces and equipment will help students planning to pursue a career in science or art with equipment that is comparable to what they will use in college.

"Our school community feels strongly about giving life to the arts," the long-time educator explained. "Not everybody is going to be a doctor, lawyer or teacher, they have other passions. We must show our students in that niche that we support them."

#### NEW CLASSROOM SPACE AT OUR LADY OF PEACE SCHOOL

The new school year will bring new classroom space to Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green.

Due to enrollment increases and the COVID-19 pandemic, two third grade classes had been learning in the school's gymnasium for the last two years.

In February, construction crews began converting cafeteria space into new classrooms that will be used for the first time Aug. 28.

"The third teachers are very happy to have the brand new space. They were very patient and super professional about using the gym but they are glad to be in the new space," principal Ann D'Arienzo said. "The rest of the school is very happy to have the gym back as well."

an additional office space was also created and will likely be used as a resource and support room for small groups of students.

With 340 students already enrolled at Our Lady of Peace School this year, D'Arienzo is excited for classes to begin.

"There is a lot of momentum," she explained.

A newly formed parent-teacher group, named the Falcon Family Alliance, has also been formed to bring student activities back to the gym. The group held its inaugural meeting several weeks ago.

"They will help us with activities and events - during school, after school and fundraising events - things of that nature," D'Arienzo ended by saying.

#### "TOO GOOD FOR DRUGS"

Fifth grade students attending a Catholic School in Lackawanna County this coming year will participate in a new program entitled, 'Too Good for Drugs.'

The Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System is partnering with the Lackawanna County District Attorney's Office for the initiative.

"Too Good for Drugs' is an evidencebased educational program designed to teach children and empower them at a young age to develop self-esteem, help them stand up for themselves and make good choices when it comes to alcohol or drugs," Lackawanna County District Attorney Mark Powell said.

Students at Saint Clare/Saint Paul School, All Saints Academy, Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, La Salle Academy and Our Lady of Peace School will each have ten sessions throughout the course of the year.

"It is a highly success program. It has been implemented in several public schools over the years and we're delighted that we're expanding the program to all schools in Lackawanna County," Powell added. "Education is the key. We, as children, did not have the same issues with social media and the amount of drugs available at a young age."

Donohue said the 'Too Good for Drugs' program is much broader than the DARE Program that many will remember years ago.

"It is much more than just saying no to drugs. They look at the whole picture of how to make decisions and do so confidently," Donohue said. "Students will talk about setting reachable goals, identifying and managing emotions as well as being able to In addition to the two new classrooms, resist the temptation of drugs and saying no."



The Diocese of Scranton is committed to educating our students in an environment that is academically excellent and facilitates the development of moral judgment and Christian decision-making. We are proud to share the following successes of our students in the classroom and in their service to others. Each day, our schools are fulfilling their mission of preparing today's youth and young adults to become tomorrow's faith-filled leaders.



Student volunteers from Holy Rosary School in Duryea spent a weekend working at the Nativity of Our Lord Parish Picnic by serving ice cream at the school's sponsored stand.



The husband and wife maintenance duo at Holy Family Academy in Hazleton has been working diligently to make sure the classrooms and hallways are ready to greet students for the 2023-24 academic



Incoming ninth graders to Holy Cross High School in Dunmore had a chance to get a "sneak peek" of what some classes will be like in the fall when they attended the school's "Head Start to High School" program this summer.



Mrs. Mathiesen, the second grade teacher at Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg, spent part of her summer preparing her classroom for the new faces that she will see at the end of August.



Veteran teacher Heidi Tavani from Saint Agnes School in Towanda shares "insider" school information with newly hired teacher Deb Philippi as they both prepare to greet students for the 2023-24 school year.



The maintenance team from La Salle Academy in Jessup stands on their finished summer project, installing new flooring throughout the school. In addition to new floors, students and staff will also see fresh paint and updated furniture in classrooms.



Michael Coval, eighth grade student at Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore, volunteers each year at the Solemn Novena to Saint Ann in Scranton. This year he served as usher, altar server, and assisted in the sound room.

Mrs. Susan James, Classroom Technology Specialist at Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston, is busy preparing the schedule for the 2023-24 quarterly NWEA Testing. These assessments allow teachers the ability to chart an individual path of academic success for their students.





This summer, students from Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green had the opportunity to attend ASL Camp to learn American Sign Language. Here some attendees pose with the ASL Camp photo frame to commemorate their last day.



Sister Ellen Fischer, principal of Saint Jude School in Mountain Top, rides in style in the town parade along with Jessica and Hailey Metrick and Michael Falzone.



Some pre-K, kindergarten and first grade students from Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter participated in the school's "Ooey Gooey Science Camp." Students made Play-Doh, bubbles, and learned about the life cycle of a frog.



Students and their families from Epiphany School in Sayre attended the Sayre Business Association Street Fair to share their love of the school and provide games for kids.



STREAM campers from Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport were hard at work building their own castles out of recycled cardboard boxes as part of the many activities offered this summer.



Mrs. Jessica Zugel, the Latin teacher at Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg, provides instruction this summer to sophomore Alana Jackson who is aspiring to join the school's Latin program in the fall.



It was a lovely day for a "spot of tea" as summer campers at All Saints Academy in Scranton spent a week "traveling" the globe, enjoying food and drink and exploring traditions from around the world.

### Bishop Bambera co-chairs Catholic-Pentecostal International Dialogue

ACCRA, Ghana - The Catholic-Pentecostal International Dialogue held its third meeting of the seventh phase of dialogue in Millennium City (near Kasoa), Ghana, at the Pentecost Convention Centre of the Church of Pentecost between July 13-18, 2023.

Since its initiation in 1972, this was the first time that the dialogue took place in the Global South, allowing the participants to experience the vivacity of the local Christian Catholic and Pentecostal communities.

Participants in the Dialogue include Catholics appointed by the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity (DPCU), and Pentecostals appointed by some Classical Pentecostal churches affiliated with the Pentecostal World Fellowship (PWF).

The general theme of the current phase, which started in 2018, is "Lex orandi, lex credendi" ("the law of prayer is the law of faith").

and discussing "Kerygma/Preaching and Christian Life" (2022), the third session was dedicated to "Worship/Prayer and Christian Life."

The goal of the Dialogue is to promote mutual respect and understanding in matters of faith and practice. Genuine exchange and frank discussion concerning the positions and practices of the two traditions have been the guiding principles of this bilateral theological dialogue.

Dialogue benefitted from local contacts, exchanges and visits.

On Friday, July 14, the Catholic Archbishop of Cape Coast, the Most Reverend Gabriel Charles Palmer-Buckle met, prayed and had a vibrant exchange with the participants.



Members of the Catholic-Pentecostal International Dialogue met in Accra, Ghana, during the week of July 13-18, 2023. The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, serves as the Catholic co-chair of the Dialogue.

After reflecting on the general topic attended a church service at the Pentecost by Rev. Dr. Paschal C. Mbagwu. International Worship Centre Atomic-Accra. The members of the Dialogue were hosted by local pastor, Rev. Anthony Mensah and welcomed by the General Secretary of the Church of Pentecost, Rev. Alexander Kumi-Larbi.

The participants had a deeply meaningful guided tour to Elmina Castle, July 17, with its testimony to the Atlantic slave trade, which provided an opportunity to learn about a very painful chapter of Meeting for the first time in Africa, the human history in which Christians were complicit. Participants acknowledge with gratitude the cordial and fraternal assistance provided by many members of the Church of Nyamekye, which hosted us in Ghana.

On Sunday, July 16, the Dialogue Worship, Prayers and Liturgy," prepared

The Pentecostal paper, entitled, "Worship and Prayer: A Pentecostal Perspective," was prepared by Rev. Prof. Jacqueline N. Grey.

Morning and evening prayers each day were led alternately by Catholics and Pentecostals.

Co-chairs of the Dialogue are the Most Reverend Joseph Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, and Rev. Prof. Cecil M. Robeck, Jr. Professor of Church History and Ecumenics, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California. They were assisted by Rev. David Wells, Chair of the PWF Christian Unity Commission, as well as of Pentecost, continues to be an active Pentecost, chaired by Apostle Eric Kwabena by Rev. David Cole, Liaison to the Greater member of our dialogue." Christian Community for the Pentecostal/ During the third session, Catholics Charismatic Churches of North America, was in July 2022 in Rome, for its 50th presented a paper entitled, "Catholic and by Msgr. Juan Usma Gómez, DPCU, anniversary.

who served as co-secretaries.

According to Bishop Bambera, "Pope Francis' message for the 50th anniversary of the Dialogue (Rome 2022), has resonated throughout this week: 'One thing is certain. Unity is not chiefly the result of our activity, but a gift of the Holy Spirit. Yet, unity will not come about as a miracle at the very end. Rather, unity comes about in the journeying.' The Dialogue's meeting in Ghana, recognizing the global nature of the work of Christian unity and highlighting the depth of Christian faith of the African continent, has been a powerful reminder to us all of the challenges and blessings of the work before us. The path of unity, as Pope Francis reminds us, is not the path of proselytism or uniformity. It lies in journeying together. The path of unity most clearly emerges when each of us continues to grow in our mutual respect for one another, as is so evidenced in our Catholic-Pentecostal International Dialogue."

Prof. Robeck noted, "By bringing the dialogue to Accra, Ghana this year, we have taken it to the global South, where the majority of Christians now live. This move enabled the delegates to participate in a vital Pentecostal worship service together among these growing churches. It also enabled us to hear something of the slave trade that ravaged the African continent. In the midst of all these things, the Church of Pentecost Convention Centre offered gracious hospitality on its beautiful campus in Millennium City. Rev. Opoku Onyinah, immediate past Chairman of the Church

The last meeting of the Dialogue

### Deacon Shoener visits South Africa as head of Catholic Mental Health Ministers

Continued from Page 8

assisting the Catholic parishes to develop a mental health ministry as an integral part of their pastoral mission. Mental health has ministry and is in high demand."

During his conference presentation in

"I support the wonderful initiative of health challenges and to be willing to discuss such challenges with parishioners.

"I discussed my daughter Katie's struggle with bipolar disorder and her suicide in not received due attention in our pastoral August 2016," he said. "I also discussed my challenges of living with depression."

Deacon Shoener continued, Klerksdorp, Deacon Shoener stated he emphasized that when leaders talk openly stressed the need for parish leaders and about mental health issues, it helps to than 1,400 members and subscribers from information, visit: catholiccmhm.org.

living with mental health challenges."

According to the president of the

clergy to be open about their own mental destignatize (such) issues and show more than 40 countries. Deacon Shoener that the Church is an understanding and added that the CMHM actively supports welcoming community where there is no parish-based ministries in dozens of U.S. fear or discrimination against those of us Catholic dioceses, as well as in South Africa and Moldova.

> World Suicide Prevention Day will Association of Catholic Mental Health be observed this year on Sunday, Sept. Ministers (CMHM), the Association, since 10, and World Mental Health Day will its founding in 2019, has grown to more be commemorated on Oct. 10. For more

# Summer Guide to Church Festivals & Picnics

Creamton Drive (Route 247), stand; pierogi, pie & bake sales; picnic includes a turkey & ham for all ages.

Saint Juliana's Rock Lake dinner, served from noon to 3 *Picnic — Aug. 19.* Sponsored by p.m., for outdoor dining or take-Saint Katharine Drexel Parish, out; celebration of Vigil Mass the 185th Anniversary Summer at 5:30 p.m.; and live music Festival will be held from 10 throughout the day. Event also a.m. to 7 p.m. on the grounds features Giant Finder's Market of Saint Juliana Church, 2048 (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.); refreshment Pleasant Mount. Saturday church cash & basket raffles; and games

- Aug. 19 & 20. Parish's 16th Café," and other attractions Annual Family Festival held on the include basket & cash raffles, parish grounds and hall, Rebecca children's and festival games, Street, Throop, features ethnic and ice cream stand and a big indoor traditional picnic foods, basket & flea market/country store. Live cash raffle drawings, bake sale and nightly music provided by Vine bingo games. Youth wiffle ball Street (Saturday) and Al White game and other competitions open & Friends (Sunday). Weekend

Saint Martha's in Fairmount Springs — Sept. 2 & 3. Sponsored by Holy Spirit Parish, the annual Saint Martha's Festival during Labor Day Weekend will be held on Saturday, 5 to 11 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 11 p.m., under the "big top tent" on the grounds of Saint Martha Church, 260 Bonnieville Road, Fairmount Springs (Stillwater). Featuring homemade Polish and American picnic foods, including halushki, potato pancakes and pierogi. Chicken barbecue dinners will be available both days, with outdoor dining and take-out service offered. Coffee, cake and pie by the slice

the festival on Saturday at 9 a.m. Masses celebrated at 4 p.m. on Saturday; 10 a.m. on Sunday. For more information, call Florence Brozoski (570) 864-3780.

> Saint Mary's in Mocanaqua — Sept. 2 & 3. Annual Labor Day Weekend Homecoming Picnic will be hosted at Saint Mary Park, Lee Road, Mocanaqua, on Saturday, Sept. 2, from 5 to 9:30 p.m., and Sunday, Sept. 3, from 1 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass will be celebrated on the park grounds at 4 p.m. on Sept. 2. Festival attractions include homemade ethnic foods, including pierogi, halushki, piggies, potato pancakes & desserts; various picnic refreshments, basket raffles, game & prize stands. Live musical entertainment provided both days: The Music Room (Saturday) and Flaxy Morgan (Sunday).

Immaculate Conception in **Bastress** — **Sept. 4.** The parish's annual Labor Day Picnic features a family-style turkey & ham dinner with all the trimmings, served with sit-down or take-out service from noon to 6 p.m. in the parish hall at Immaculate Conception Church, 5973 Jacks Hollow Road. Dinner tickets cost \$12 for adults; \$5 for children (ages 4-12). Event includes picnic refreshments, games & summer kitchen menu items.

Saint Boniface in Williamsport - Sept. 7-9. The 55th annual Church Carnival will be held on the grounds of Saint Boniface, 326 Washington Blvd., Williamsport. Featuring nightly sit-down dinners (take-outs available) from 4 to

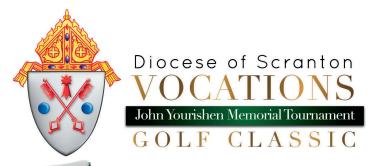
Blessed Sacrament in Throop will be available at the "Sidewalk 7 p.m. in the school gym; white elephant sale, 4 to 8 p.m.; and raffle drawing on final night at 10 p.m. Includes homemade foods & treats, games, rides and bingo.

> Our Lady of the Abingtons in Dalton — Sept. 9 & 10. Annual Fall Festival held on Saturday, from 5:30 to 10 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 6 p.m., on the church grounds, located off Seminary Road (behind the parish office). Festival attractions include a Saturday pig roast and Sunday chicken barbecue dinner; musical entertainment, potato pancakes, clam chowder, pizza, homemade baked goods, bountiful basket raffle, silent auction and white elephant sale. For more information, call (570) 563-1622.

> Our Lady of Lourdes in Montoursville — Sept. 15 & 16. Annual Parish Fall Festival on the parish grounds, 100 Walnut St., Montoursville, will be held each day from 5 to 9 p.m. Featuring live music, basket raffle, cake wheel, pumpkin stand, wine wheel and children's games. Theme night attractions: Friday — "Aloha Night," with roast pork dinner with an Hawaiian flare, baked beans, cole slaw, roll & butter, and dessert. Tickets cost \$12 (available in the parish office). Featured entertainment: Leo & KG with Family Traditions; Saturday — "Polish Night," with authentic homemade pierogi, stuffed cabbage, halushki and dessert; cost, \$13. Featured entertainment: Lenny Weber playing music of the 70s, 80s & 90s. Traditional picnic foods include hot sausages, walking tacos, funnel cakes, fresh lemonade, ice cream & homemade pies. Basket raffle in the parish hall on Sunday starting at 11:30 a.m.











The 13th Diocese of Scranton Vocations Golf Classic saw 184 golfers and a host of sponsors come together at the Blue Ridge Trail Golf Club on July 10 in support of our future priests. We are incredibly grateful to all who continue to help provide a life-changing opportunity for our seminarians to share their gifts in service to God and one another!



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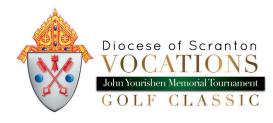
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### Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen reopens after 'once-in-a-generation' renovation

SCRANTON - When Bobby Wolliver returned to Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen on July 31, the first thing he noticed was how bright the inside of the facility looked.

"It is wonderful. It's brighter," he said. "I'm happy to be home and back here again."

For ten weeks, the kitchen was closed for a "once-in-a-generation" renovation project. The nearly \$2 million project involved replacing most kitchen equipment, expanding freezer space, creating handicap accessible bathrooms, creating a new front entrance along with painting and making the facility energy efficient.

"Every single ceiling has been replaced. Every light has been turned into an LED light, every wall has been painted," Executive Director Rob Williams said. "It is exciting to look around the room and see our people where they are most comfortable."

Albert Vosberg of West Scranton comes to Saint Francis Kitchen for a meal several times a week.

"I was blown away. It is amazing. It is like night and day. I just thank God that we have this place because without it a lot of people would go hungry," he said. here is like my family."

Tania Durmiaki of Carbondale agreed.

they need to talk to people other said. than their family. It puts a smile on people's faces," she explained. "This is open to anyone."

Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen serves 10 hot meals every week. They include a daily meal at 11 a.m. every day of the week (including weekends and holidays) and evening meals at 5 p.m. every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Each meal includes a garden



short prayer service prior to Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen reopening on Monday, July 31, 2023.

kitchen area.



vegetables, dessert and beverages.

The kitchen also provides comradery. Everybody that works are distributed at parishes in everything," she said. Carbondale, Olyphant and Roaring Brook Township.

"It is a wonderful mission we

Roberts, who was born and raised in Scranton, waited until the official grand reopening to see the renovation project. completed renovation work.

needed. It is beyond what I expected. I love it," she said.

Head chef Selena Hitchens was excited to get back into the kitchen serve its weekday meals project. kitchen and prepare the first meal out of its facility in the 500-block for the community.

"It's like feeling like a kid in salad, fruit salad, protein, starch, a candy store, you know when you the meals at the other location,"

your eyes just light up, that's how "It is not only the food, it is the hundreds of weekly meals that it felt walking in here and seeing

Siconolfi founded Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen in 1978. In those 45 "Some people live alone or have here," volunteer Jane Roberts years, officials believe there has only been four missed meals.

> None of those missed meals occurred during this latest

Lackawanna College allowed prepare meals in its commercial of Wyoming Avenue.



Above: The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, leads a Above: Albert Vosberg of Scranton, right, talks to a friend while enjoying his first meal inside the newly renovated Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen on July 31, 2023.

Below: Head chef Selena Hitchens stands in the newly renovated Below: Volunteers help to distribute one of ten hot meals that are served at Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen each week.



walk in and you see everything and Durmiaki noted. "It was smaller compassion and grow in His love," but they did a lot."

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, Monsignor Constantine V. led a short prayer service before blessing the renovated facility ahead of its first meal.

> "This is a great day for all of circumstances in life. us. It is really beautiful and we're very happy to be able to provide this to all of you," Bishop Bambera

"It is magnificent. It was the kitchen to utilize its facility to Gospel passage and prayed for all those who helped make the kitchen. Meals on Wheels of renovations possible as well as all Northeastern Pennsylvania let the those who will benefit from the focus on possible future expansion.

> us and all who use this building. the future of this organization ... "They did a lot for us to have May all who come here know the I'm excited to see what God has in presence of Christ, experience His store for us," he added.

Bishop Bambera said.

Williams stressed that the mission of Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen continues to be providing a space for people to have a warm, nutritious meal, no matter their

"By taking good care of them and loving them, we emphasize that our brothers and sisters in need have dignity and are deserving of a The bishop read a short dignified meal," Williams said.

With the renovation project now complete, Williams said Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen can now

"We have a really strong staff. "We ask you, Lord, to bless We must discern God's will for

### Foundation grants fund renovation project at Scranton emergency shelter

Haven, Scranton's only year-round emergency shelter for both men the comfort of guests but will allow the facility to continue serving people with disabilities.

recently created a new handicap entrance/exit, renovated both the men's and women's restrooms and the common areas and installed new cabinets and flooring in the shelter's kitchen area. In the next phase of the project, which will be safely accommodate 20 men and partially supported by American Rescue Plan Act grant funding from Lackawanna County, the provides two meals per day, building's roof will be replaced.

The most recent work was completed with the help of the foundations, including Moses Taylor Foundation and the Robert H. Spitz Foundation, and a national funder, The Pulte Family Charitable Foundation.

Harry Lyons, supervisor of Saint Anthony's the number rose to 5,658, and in Haven, said the new handicap 2022 6,410 individual nights of entrance was a critical need after a sale of half the building that

Recent resulted in renovations by the Foundation is renovations to Saint Anthony's new owner removed access to a supporting programs that aim to previous point of entry.

and women, will not only improve us to establish this new handicap entrance so we can serve everybody. We have a number of people who use walkers and wheelchairs," The facility, at 409 Olive St., Lyons explained. "I recently got a call from the VA about a gentleman with no legs who uses a motorized wheelchair, so having this project finished will now ensure we have the ability to accommodate him."

> Saint Anthony's Haven can six women each night. In addition to overnight shelter, the facility shower and laundry facilities and supportive services.

The number of individuals city of Scranton, local charitable experiencing homelessness who The rely on Saint Anthony's Haven has returned to levels previously experienced before the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, Saint Anthony's Haven provided 4,371 individual program nights of shelter to clients. In 2021, shelter were provided.

> "The Robert Η. Spitz

Robert H. Spitz Date October 27, 2022

A \$30,000 grant from the Robert H. Spitz Foundation supported recent renovations at Saint Anthony's Haven, Scranton's only year-round emergency shelter for both men and women. Pictured at the check presentation are, from left: Cathy Fitzpatrick, Grants & Scholarship Manager, Scranton Area Community Foundation; Frank Caputo, Grants & Communications Coordinator, Scranton Area Community Foundation; Sandra Snyder, Diocesan Director of Foundation Relations and Special Events; and Laura Ducceschi, President/CEO, Scranton Area Community Foundation, Administrator of Robert H. Spitz Foundation.

focused break the cycle of poverty," said the Scranton Area Community Foundation, which administers the Robert H. Spitz Foundation. "Supporting the renovation work at Saint Anthony's Haven will help to better serve those populations in need of the facility's services, and the Robert H. Spitz Foundation is proud to be able to help the community in this way."

Robert H. Spitz Foundation funding also was used to replace the Olive Street entrance roof and help remove nine deteriorated and dangerous balconies from Saint James Manor, the building that houses Saint Anthony's Haven.

The mission of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton, which operates Saint Anthony's Haven, is to serve individuals and dignity and self-sufficiency.

cold," Lyons added.

on families in poverty and advocate for for the grant funding we have received for this project," Lyons "We don't want anyone left stated. "Without the support of the "It was really important for Laura Ducceschi, president of out in the street or left out in the community we would not be able to continue serving our brothers "We're incredibly thankful and sisters in the way that we do."



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### MISSION MESSAGE

### 'Rich in Heart'

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



One of my favorite novels is I have stepped into the kingdom of To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper the unlikely. God's plan is always Lee. I read it back in high school, but it has as much relevance and skin and walk around in it."

and known — but a greater pull the invisible become visible. to let go and trust in God that is calling me out of myself. When years and had raised 12 children the surrender to trust comes, God takes over and unknown places live in the slum in a shack with no and unknown faces enter my life.

deeper and larger than our plans.

A number of years ago one importance in today's world as it of our mission trips took us to did back then. My favorite quote Eagle Pass, Texas - right on comes from the main character, the Mexican border. Most of the Atticus Finch: "You never really almost 30,000 people in Eagle Pass understand a person until you came over from Mexico. They are consider things from their point of now compassionate, communityview — until you climb into their minded Americans. Across the border is Piedras Negras. On a Every time I have embarked on warm July morning, I was walking a mission trip I would think of that in a small slum in Piedras Negras quote. To be willing to walk in with an elderly couple I had just someone else's shoes for a while met. The invisible became visible. is where mission begins. But it's It is one thing to talk about the poor not easy. For me, there is a certain or even support them financially. It tug — the pull to stay home where is an entirely different experience life is more comfortable, safe, to put a face on the poor and make

— six boys and six girls. They electricity, no running water, and no garbage pickup. They sleep in a bed outside to escape the heat inside their make-shift tin shack on a torn, stained mattress with two small discolored pillows. The legs of the bed are placed in cans filled with gasoline to keep the fire ants from biting them. Yet, there is a joy in their eyes. They welcomed me saying, "Our home is your home."

That slum in Piedras Negras, just like the Kibera and Nukuru expect God to surprise you.

slums in Kenya, do not exist in any official capacity. The people who live there are called "squatters" because they do not own the land. They are denied basic services such as potable water, electricity, and sanitation. The government can evict them at any time. In a matter of hours an entire village can disappear and the residents could be left with nothing. This kind of forced eviction is commonplace among "squatter" settlements in mission dioceses around the world. Few opportunities are extended that would radically improve their

This invisibility — that so many people can dwell so long beyond the sight, imagination, and concern of leaders and societies — is just the kind of thing that enraged Old Testament prophets and certainly Jesus in The New Testament. As Christians do we see the faces of those in the kingdom of the unlikely?

Before I left that small slum in Piedras Negras I asked my new This couple had been married 55 friends how they cope with the reality that they could be evicted at any time. Their response has stayed with me until this day. "We have our faith. We have our families and we have each other. And we will always have God who gives us life." Then they added, "We are 'rico en Corazon," which means "rich in heart." What an important lesson coming from the poorest of the poor — to be rich in heart — rich in what matters to God. When you are willing to climb into another person's skin and walk around in it for a while,

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### Apostleship of Prayer

Papal Intention for August 2023

For World Youth Day — We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.

### "Be A Catholic Man Conference" to take place Oct. 7 in Wilkes-Barre

WILKES-BARRE - Catholic men from around the Diocese of Scranton are invited to the eighth annual "Be A Catholic Man Conference" on Saturday, Oct. 7, 2023, at Holy Redeemer High School.

The daylong conference will begin at 8 a.m. and run until 3 p.m.

All men are encouraged to join together in fortitude and strength in professing our Catholic Faith. As the world becomes increasingly hostile to Catholic teaching, Saint Polycarp reminds us to "Follow the example of the Lord, being firm and unchangeable in the Faith." Furthermore, Saint Paul advises Boughton, us to "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to resist on the evil day, having done everything, to hold your ground."

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate Mass at 1:45 p.m. before the conference officially closes. There will also be opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation as well as Eucharistic Adoration/ Benediction.

John Anthony Boughton, C.F.R., as a sales representative, and and Sam Blair.

non-profit men's ministry that Herzegovina 1992-95. promotes authentic masculinity, He is a former college football All-American, high school teacher, coach and counselor turned September 2022, Mark, his wife, Ryan-Marie, and seven young made charged with felony violations Ventures, a venture capital firm in mkilmer@thekilmergroup.com.



Mark Houck

for defending his 12-year-old son from an aggressive abortion escort. Mark was acquitted on all charges.

Father John Anthony C.F.R., of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal is currently stationed in the Bronx, serving as the Vicar General of the CFRs. Through a life of prayer, fraternity, apostolate, penance, and wholehearted living of the gospel, they work in service of the poor and evangelization, sharing the rich treasures of the Catholic faith by the prophetic witness of their lives. Father Boughton is a native of Dallas, Texas. A The conference will feature graduate of the Virginia Military a dynamic line-up of speakers. Institute, he was commissioned in They include Mark Houck, Fr. the U.S. Naval Reserve, worked was vice president and director focus on execution. Mark Houck is founder and of operations for St. David's president of The King's Men, a Relief Foundation in Bosnia and Conference, please register either

fatherhood and beloved sonship. cradle Catholic and a former Navy **SEAL** Officer with experience leading elite teams around the globe. He taught activist, radio host, evangelist and Leadership and Ethics at the motivational pro-life speaker. In United States Naval Academy and helped screen, select, and train over 90 new future SEAL until Sept. 8, 2023), Students \$15, international Officers. Before transitioning Priests/Deacons FREE. news with an FBI invasion of from active duty, Sam was a their home. Mark was falsely SkillBridge Fellow at Squadra Mike Kilmer at (570) 721-0872 or



Fr. John Boughton, C.F.R.



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To attend the Catholic Men's online at www.BeACatholicMan. Sam Blair is a passionate com, or by mail to: "Be a Catholic Man, Inc.", P.O Box # 669, Wyalusing, Pa. 18853. Include your name, address, email & parish with your check payable to "Be a Catholic Man, Inc." with "Men's Conference" on the memo line.

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For more information, contact



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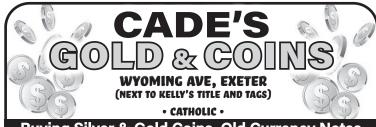
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### Parish offering 'Sweet Discourse' Eucharistic series

**POCONO** conjunction with the National Eucharistic Revival movement Catholic Bishops, Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Pocono Pines has launched its monthly educational sessions in dessert social. "Sweet Discourse" series Eucharistic encounter nights.

The series programs are being

as administrator of the Poconos parish, led the first of the 12 July, with his presentation on "Eucharist as Worship."

offered on the last Thursday of the Eucharist appears on page 12 Aug. 31.

In each month at 7 p.m. in the parish in this issue of *The Catholic Light*.

Father Paschal will continue Father Paschal Mbagwu, an to moderate the Sweet Discourse initiated by the United States author and theologian who serves gatherings that include the evening's lesson, followed by a question & answer period and

> The yearlong series continue through July 2024, with His "Priesthood Perspective" on the next program scheduled for

#### **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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### CCR pilgrims return home spiritually healed & transformed

#### **Several Hundred Worshipers** Attend Scranton's Annual Charismatic Conference

SCRANTON — It is not often that the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord (August 6) falls on a Sunday — let alone on a Sunday when the venerable and muchanticipated Scranton Catholic Charismatic Conference held each summer comes to a rousing, joyful conclusion.

This year, through Divine Providence, God's hand ordained presentations it to be so.

Jesus Christ's Transfiguration before his apostles on Mount Tabor, prior to His suffering and death on the Cross to redeem the world, some 800 faithful from throughout the Northeast were sent forth from the Aug. 4-6 weekend conference spiritually transformed.

Sponsored by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Diocese of Scranton since the early 1980s, the 2023 edition of the annual gathering of praise and worship at The University of Scranton delivered messages of healing and hope.

Those messages proclaimed in dynamic fashion by this year's featured speakers: Deborah DeRosia of Trinidad; Mother Lucy Lukasiewicz of the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ religious congregation; Bob Canton of Stockton, Calif.;



Mother Lucy speaker Lukasiewicz joyfully addresses the congregation during last weekend's Catholic Charismatic Conference in Scranton.



and Father John Gordon from the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J.

Their inspiring, uplifting punctuated the worship-filled weekend On the glorious celebration of Eucharistic adoration & liturgies, teaching, preaching, prayer and fellowship, all of which came to a celebratory crescendo with Sunday's closing Mass presided over by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton.

vear's Charismatic Conference Scripture theme, taken from the Prophet Jeremiah (17:14): "Healing me, O Lord, and I shall be healed," resonated throughout the messages presented.

"God wants to restore, refresh, renew, transform, sustain and nurture every phase and dimension of our lives," Charismatic liaison and conference coordinator Karen McLain said. "There is no part of our life that God cannot heal! God wants to heal any brokenness in our lives because of Who He is."

Emphasizing that the Scriptures are laden with the Lord's promises to heal, and that He continues to be faithful to those promises, McLain stressed all that is needed to receive such healing grace is to persevere in prayer. "What do we need to do? What is our part? We have to ask!"

"He proves Himself each time we wait upon Him," she said. "All we need to do is to have faith."

According to McLain. attendees conference were "encouraged to continue to pray for healing for themselves and others, and to take God's love and His desire to be actively involved, to our homes, jobs and communities."

Bishop Bambera concluded his homily from the closing Mass by instructing the throng of conference faithful to embrace the crosses of life, to trust in the Lord's sustaining power and grace, and "to be the voice and the heart and the hands of Jesus in our world today."

"In serving the lives that God gives to our care and through our acceptance of the crosses that come our way, the mystery of God's saving plan for our world and our lives will unfold," the Bishop offered. "And in its unfolding, we will find our peace through the love and mercy of Jesus abiding within our hearts."

For more information about the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, visit cerscranton.org or call the CCR office at (570) 344-2214.



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### American Sign Language Mass to begin at University of Scranton on Sept. 10

SCRANTON - Being deaf or is an adjunct professor in the hearing-impaired can be a barrier World Languages and Cultures for Catholics who want to attend Department. church on a weekly basis.

American Sign Language Mass and next month.

to even more people and help language." more people feel welcome and can't know it."

the Mass with the assistance throughout the year. of The Royal Signers. Stefko

"You want people to be able That is why campus ministry to worship and experience the members at The University of Mass in their native language, Scranton are excited to announce in a language that is accessible they will begin offering a regular to them," Stefko said. "For deaf hard-of-hearing people, spoken English is not always "At World Youth Day, Pope accessible and there aren't a Francis said the Church is open to lot of opportunities throughout 'everyone, everyone, everyone.' the region for deaf and hard-This is a perfect way to make of-hearing people to participate the doors of the Church open where there is the use of sign

Beginning on Sept. 10, the

"The students are going to included as well."



Students and staff members from The University of Scranton who will be participating in a weekly American Sign Language Mass beginning on Sept. 10.

be doing it with me from the at home," Dr. Daniel Cosacchi, American Sign Language Mass beginning. They will be signing or hard-of-hearing people who and action - what we learn in the Vice President for Mission and will be offered weekly at 11 a.m. pieces of the Mass like the rely on American Sign Language. classroom is not meant to be kept Ministry at The University of in Madonna Della Strada Chapel, responsorial psalms and other She points to children who are in the classroom. It's meant to be Scranton, said. "If folks aren't 415 Monroe Avenue, Scranton. songs," Stefko added. "There non-verbal and adults who have able to hear the Gospel, they The only times the American Sign are staff members from The had strokes as examples of other Language Mass will not be held is University of Scranton who are people who benefit from sign American Sign Language Mass, Mary Ann Stefko will sign when students are away on breaks also knowledgeable in American language. Sign Language and they will be

deaf or hard-of-hearing accessible." Catholics in the United fraction of them, estimated to be oneto-four percent of that number, attend Mass on a weekly basis because Languageevents.

"Everybody is welcome and we welcome anybody who

National could benefit from the use of sign Catholic Office for the language," she added. "We will Deaf estimates there have special seating available are about 5.7 million for them so we'll make sure it is

As he expressed excitement States. Only a small for the new ministry that will be beginning, Cosacchi said the new Mass will not only benefit the community but the students who will be participating.

"It gives them a real world of the lack of American opportunity to practice what they've been learning in the interpreted Masses and classroom," he stated. "That is so much a part of what a Jesuit Stefko says it is not only deaf education is about - reflection given away."

> For further details about the call (570) 941-7419 or email campusministry@scranton.edu.

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### **Knights of Columbus present donation to Diocese**

**SCRANTON** Thursday, Aug. members of the Knights of Columbus presented the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, with a charitable donation in the amount of \$1,871.34 to support the good work of the Diocese of Scranton.

The donation came from money raised from the Knights of Columbus Labels Program.

meeting, During their expressed Bishop Bambera his gratitude to the Knights for the good works they are doing in many parish communities as well as for their active participation in many Pontifical up to fifty \$1,000 grants to families January each year. For more Masses throughout the year.

their Catholic School Student member's child is enrolled. Grant Program. The Knights Educational Foundation offers accepted during the month of generosity!



Members of the Knights of Columbus presented a check to the Diocese of Scranton on Aug. 2, 2023. Pictured at the check presentation are, from left: Charlie Vagnarelli, Past State Deputy; George Schneider, Jr., Former State Advocate; the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton; and Art Bobbouine, Community Director.

who have Catholic School information on the Catholic The Knights encourage students enrolled in Grades 1-12 School Student Grant Program, local families to participate in where the Knight of Columbus visit kofcpennsylania.org.

Thank you to the Knights Applications are traditionally of Columbus for their continued

### Services on Sept. 9 to commemorate Remembrance Day for Abortion Victims

The Diocese of Scranton will participate in the 11th annual National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children on Saturday, Sept. 9, when pro-life Americans will honor the memory of the nearly 65 million unborn victims of abortion since its legalization in 1973.

Diocesan observances on Sept. 9 will include a Memorial Service for Victims of Abortion at noon at Cathedral Cemetery, 1708 Oram St., Scranton. For more information, contact Theresa Baux (570) 687-5329.

Later in the day, at 1:30 p.m., a remembrance service will be held at Mount Olivet Cemetery, 612 Mount Olivet Road, Carverton.

The pro-life gathering will take place at Mount Olivet's Wyoming Valley Knights of Columbus "Tomb for the Unborn," located at the top of the hill on the cemetery grounds. The Rosary will be recited in remembrance of all aborted babies.

All faithful are welcome to attend both events.

### **Diocese of Scranton Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion** TRAINING SESSIONS

In English and Spanish

Sat., Aug. 19, 2023--9AM-3PM Diocesan Pastoral Center 330 Wyoming Ave., Scranton **English & Spanish** 

Sat., Oct. 14, 2023--9AM-3PM Saint John Parish 5171 Milford Rd., East Stroudsburg Spanish only

Sat., Nov. 11, 2023--9AM-3PM Saint Jude Parish 420 S. Mountain Blvd., Mountain Top **English & Spanish** 

Sat., Mar. 9, 2024--9AM-3PM Holy Rosary Parish 240 S. Poplar St., Hazleton English & Spanish

Sat., Jun. 8, 2024--9AM-3PM Saint Nicholas Parish 226 S. Washington St., Wilkes-Barre English & Spanish



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### MOUNT OLIVET CEMETERY NEW GARDEN COLUMBARIUM



Plans are currently underway for the construction of a new Garden Columbarium on the grounds of Mount Olivet Cemetery in Carverton. The beautiful new structure will offer space for individuals who plan on cremation and wish to be entombed in an above ground setting. The granite structure will provide a final resting place in pleasant surroundings easily accessible to family and friends. In addition to singles, the columbarium will also feature companion niches which accommodate placement of two urns.

One of life's most difficult decisions can be made before the need arises. while those concerned are able to consult and discuss options together.

Preconstruction purchase is now available. To schedule an appointment, please call 570-696-3636.



For more information: Mount Olivet Cemetery 612 Mount Olivet Road Wyoming, PA 18644 570-696-3636 MtOlivet-cem@dioceseofscranton.org

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#### Oblates to host Labor Day Triduum, Mass honoring Saint Joseph the Worker

LAFLIN — The Congregation of the Oblates of Saint Joseph will host their 41st Annual Labor Day Weekend Triduum and Labor Day Mass in honor of Saint Joseph the Worker during the upcoming holiday weekend, Sept. 1-4, at the Oblates chapel, located at 1880 Route 315 in Laflin.

Masses during the Triduum — Friday, Sept. 1, through Sunday, Sept. 3 — will be celebrated at noon and 7 p.m., followed by devotional prayers to Saint Joseph Calif. A California native and JMJ Catholic Radio 104.5 FM. as the patron saint of laborers. A of Saint Joseph Marello, founder of the Oblates of Saint Joseph, will conclude the devotions.



**Father Gustavo** Lopez, OSJ

Guest be Saint Joseph

with the Oblates' USA Province Guadalupe Parish in Bakersfield, ordained to the priesthood in 2009, deliverance/exorcism ministry and as prison chaplain for the Diocese of Fresno.

The Triduum will conclude celebrant and with a special Labor Day Mass preacher for honoring Saint Joseph the Worker this year's on Monday, Sept. 4, at 11 a.m., Labor Day concelebrated by OSJ priests Triduum will serving in the Diocese of Scranton.

At the conclusion of the Oblate Father Mass, bread will be blessed and Gustavo Lopez, distributed to the faithful as a who ministers symbol of the "fruit of our labor."

Masses celebrated during as assistant pastor of Our Lady of the Triduum and on Labor Day morning will be broadcast live on

All are welcome to attend the blessing with the first-class relic Father Gustavo also serves in devotions. For more information, contact the Oblates' main office at (570) 654-7542, or by email: osjseminary@comcast.net.

### Marian Devotion Rosary prayer services listed

Fostering prayerful devotion Devotion Ministries in the Diocese Holy Trinity Chapel, Cresco. to Jesus and Mary through of Scranton is hosting its 2023

the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, May 13, and continues through October, the Month of the Holy

Prayer rallies and Rosary the Diocese and include the Abingtons Church, Dalton. Rosary with chanted Scriptural mysteries, Fatima prayers and hvmns.

Marian Devotion events are Avenue, downtown Scranton. scheduled as follows:

at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Route 315, Laflin. Chapel, Route 315, Laflin.

Sept. 7, at 5:15 p.m. at the Most email: singtomary@aol.com.

Sunday Afternoon Rosary recitation of the Rosary, Marian Fatima Journey, which began on Rally — Sept. 10, at 1 p.m. at the Prayer Garden on the grounds of Saint Lucy Church, West Scranton.

> Rosary Evening of Marian **Devotion** — Sept. 11, at 6 p.m. at the outdoor Marian Grotto on evenings are hosted throughout the grounds of Our Lady of the

> > Saturday Noon Rosary Rally — Sept. 16, at Lackawanna County Courthouse Square, Washington

Rosary Evening of Marian Rosary Evening of Marian Devotion — Sept. 18, at 6 p.m. at **Devotion** — Aug. 21, at 6 p.m. the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel,

For more information, contact **Bilingual Rosary Evening** — Ernie Pappa at (570) 241-8171 or

### Parish group hosting National Shrine trip

Companions" social group at Good Shepherd Parish in Drums Parish. announces plans for a round-trip bus excursion to the Basilica of the is \$75 per person. Pilgrims will National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in Washington, D.C., on Friday, registration and payment, contact Sept. 15.

Leading the Marian pilgrimage (570) 788-0457.

DRUMS — The "Coffee will be Father Rawel Toppo, assistant pastor of Good Shepherd

> Cost to participate in the bus trip be responsible for providing their own lunch.

For more information, including Ann at (570) 788-5655, or Pat at

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### Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese

Cash Bingo — AUG. 19, hosted more information and registration, Laflin; bingo games held from 1 to 4 p.m. (doors open at 11 a.m.) in the parish hall, 42 Redwood includes 20 games and \$5 food voucher. Regular game prizes of \$100; prizes for special games (\$5 \$500. Event also includes basket raffle, bake sale and cash drawing; parish office at (570) 655-8956.

Parish Yard Sale — AUG. 19, sponsored by Sacred Hearts of U.S. Catholic Bishops. Jesus & Mary Parish in Jermyn; kitchen accessories, tools, toys, information, call (570) 876-1061.

Roast Beef Dinner — AUG. 27, dinner served from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Saint Mary of Czestochowa Blossburg. Dinner cost: adults, \$15; children (ages 12 & younger), and ticket raffle drawings.

hosted at Glen Oak Country Club 344-7231. in Waverly. Registration fee: \$150 attend the dinner only for \$60 baked goods; event also includes accepted through Aug. 21. For fire pit of cheer.

by St. Maria Goretti Parish in contact Lani Dickson at (570) 842- SEPT. 17, hosted by St. Ann more information, visit www.

hosted by St. Maximilian Kolbe and other entertainment. Parish in Pocono Pines at Our parish devotional group gathers for a monthly prayer meeting at 10:15 food and beverages available for a.m. The designated gathering is purchase. For tickets, contact the being offered in conjunction with the National Eucharistic Revival

First Friday Evening Mass & sale will be held from 8 a.m. to Adoration — SEPT. 1, hosted noon in the parish hall and on the by St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish Ave., Jermyn, An extensive the Lake Church, 5112 Pocono variety of sale items include Crest Road, Pocono Pines; Mass of the monastery farm. Pilgrims information, call (570) 489-2091. celebrated at 7 p.m., followed may provide their own lunch or holiday decorations, furniture, by Eucharistic Adoration of the jewelry, small appliances, outdoor Blessed Sacrament, offered on equipment, books, audio/video the First Friday of every month. items, wall hangings and more. The First Friday liturgy and Event also includes refreshments devotion will continue throughout and baked goods; gift basket the National Eucharistic Revival raffle drawing available. For more multi-year event established by the U.S. Catholic Bishops.

Bereavement Support Group sponsored by Holy Child Parish in Sessions — SEPT. 6, 13, 20 & Mansfield; full-course roast beef 27, series of weekly gatherings addressing topics dealing with the grief process to enable participants Church hall, 144 Saint Mary St., find healing; Bereavement Support Group hosts seasonal meetings on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 \$7. Event includes theme basket p.m. in the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave., 17th Annual St. Mary's Villa Scranton (across from St. Peter's Golf Tournament — AUG. 28, Cathedral). Anyone interested in sponsored by St. Mary's Villa attending is asked to contact the senior care facility in Elmhurst; Cathedral Parish office at (570)

Annual Lebanese Festival per golfer, includes registration SEPT. 10, hosted by St. Anthony luncheon at 11 a.m., tournament & St. George Maronite Church, play with noon shotgun start, and 311 Park Ave., Wilkes-Barre; cocktail reception and awards begins at 11:30 a.m. Featuring dinner to follow. Guests may Lebanese foods, desserts and a person. Golfer registrations theme baskets, raffle drawings and

Lebanese Heritage Festival purchase food at the event. For 5274 ext. 2216, or ldickson@covh. Maronite Church, 1320 Price St., byzantinediscalcedcarmelites. West Scranton; held from noon com. St. Monica's Army Prayer & to 7 p.m. Featuring authentic

**Therese** of Carmelite Sisters Annunciation Monastery

Fall College Football Game Drive, Laflin. Admission cost: \$30, Share Gathering — AUG. 30, Lebanese food & pastry, music Bus Trip — OCT. 7, sponsored by Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Lisieux Mary Parish in Dickson City; bus Lady of the Lake Church, 5112 *Pilgrimage* — SEPT. 30, hosted excursion to attend the Army vs. each) range from \$200 to more than Pocono Crest Road, Pocono Pines; by the Byzantine Discalced Boston College football game of Holy at noon at West Point Military in Academy in New York. Saturday Sugarloaf; pilgrimage in honor of morning departure from St. St. Therese offers prayers with the Mary Parish at 7 a.m.; return trip religious Sisters during services departs West Point at 6 p.m. and multi-year event established by the throughout the day, Eucharistic arrives back in Dickson City at adoration, and Divine Liturgy at approximately 8 p.m. Cost: \$120 noon. Liturgy includes Blessing per person, includes game ticket, of Roses and Blessing of the Sick; bus accommodations, and bag day also includes presentation of lunch with soft drink. Reservations church grounds, 624 Madison in Pocono Pines at Our Lady of the life of St. Therese, blessing require a \$60 deposit; balance of the St. Joseph icon, and tour is due by Sept. 14. For more

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Continued on page 31









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### Montoursville parish aids NYC pro-life ministry

The Pro-Life Ministry at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Montoursville continued its longtime mission of supporting the Good Counsel Homes in New York City by hosting a recent baby shower to benefit the apostolate's charitable work. A Catholic, nonprofit network, the four Good Counsel Homes in the New York metropolitan area provide shelter and services to expectant and new mothers and their babies in need. The baby shower at the Montoursville parish produced numerous donations of diapers, infant formula, clothes and gift cards to be distributed directly to



the mothers and children through the humanitarian efforts of the Good Counsel Homes. Michael Phelps, Good Counsel's parish engagement coordinator at their New Jersey office, served as guest speaker for the event and personally delivered the donations to the pro-life apostolate. Pictured with the pro-life volunteers at Our Lady of Lourdes and the impressive display of donated items, Phelps is shown to the right of Father Michael McCormick, pastor of the Lycoming County parish.

### 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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Sister of Christian Charity Concetta Einhorn

> Entered Life: April 18, 1928

Entered Eternal Life: July 27, 2023



Entered Life: March 20, 1941

Entered Eternal Life: August 8, 2023



### Catholic Choral to open 75th performance season

SCRANTON — The Catholic Choral Society will open its 75th classical, and secular year of performing around the at region on Tuesday, Sept. 5, when Northeastern Pennsylvania. rehearsals will begin on Tuesday at the IHM Center at Marywood University.

no auditions are required.

Choral The Society nondenominational and composed of members from Luzerne, Lackawanna, Wayne, are scheduled for the Advent, counties.

The chorus performs sacred, performances throughout

The Catholic Choral Society's evenings from 6:15 to 8:30 p.m. first concert of the season will be the annual November Generations Concert on Sunday, Nov. 12, at 7 New members are welcome and p.m., when the chorus will host regional choral groups — from is elementary school through college is — at The University of Scranton.

Additional choral programs Susquehanna, Pike and Wyoming Christmas, Lenten and spring seasons.

### Catholic Happenings

provided

PA March for Life Bus Pennsylvania March for Life *Trip* — OCT. 16, originating gathering and rally at the state from the Wilkes-Barre area; capitol in Harrisburg. For more round-trip bus transportation information, contact Chris for the annual Calore at (570) 824-5621.

### **Prayer Requests for Priests**

The Daily Prayer Request for Priests schedule is as follows:

August 17, Father Richard Cirba; August 18, Father Brian J.T. Clarke; August 19, Father Brian J.W. Clarke; August 20, Father Charles Connor; August 21, Father William Corcoran; August 22, Father David Cramer; August 23, Father William Culnane; August 24, Father Charles Cummings; August 25, Father Wilfredo Cusicanqui; August 26, Father Richard Czachor, V.E.; August 27, Father Vincent Dang; August 28, Father Mark DeCelles; August 29, Jesuit Father John Dennis; August 30, Sulpician Father Daniel Doherty; August 31, Father John Doris; September 1, Pope Francis; September 2, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; September 3, Saint Peter Priestly Fraternity Father Anthony Dorsa; September 4, Jesuit Father James Duffy; September 5, Father Cyril Edwards, V.E.; September 6, Father Joseph Elston; September 7, Monsignor John Esseff; September 8, Father Joseph Evanko, V.E.; September 9, Monsignor William Feldcamp; September 10, Father Neftali Feliz-Sena; September 11, Father Samuel Ferretti; September 12, Father Richard Fox; September 13, Saint Peter Priestly Fraternity Father Thomas Fritschen; September 14, Father Martin Gaiardo; September 15, Father J. Duane Gavitt; September 16, Father Anthony Generose; September 17, Father Richard Ghezzi; September 18, Father Ryan Glenn; September 19, Father Joseph Greskiewicz; September 20, Holy Cross Father Richard Gribble.



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