



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

August 24, 2023

Catholic School System mourns loss of Holy Redeemer principal, Doreen Dougherty



Faculty, administrators, students and Catholic school families are fondly remembering Mrs. Doreen Dougherty, the principal of Holy Redeemer High School, who passed away on Aug. 20, 2023.

“On behalf of the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System, I wish to extend my sincerest condolences to Dougherty family and to all members of our Holy Redeemer School Family,” Kristen Donohue, Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Education/Superintendent of Schools, said in a

release sent to school families. "Doreen had a lasting, positive impact on our Catholic schools and on all who knew her. I ask you to join me in praying for the Dougherty family and friends to find peace and strength during this time of incredible sadness."

Dougherty, 54, of Shavertown, became principal of Holy Redeemer High School in 2019. She had also served as principal of All Saints Academy in Scranton.

Due to the passing of Mrs. Dougherty, the start of the Holy Redeemer High School academic year is being postponed by one week.

The first day of school for freshmen will now be Tuesday, Sept. 5. The first full day of school for all students will now be Wednesday, Sept. 6.

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

Bishop Bambera invites parishes to hold special collection for Maui



As the Hawaii island of Maui begins to recover from the devastation caused by the deadliest wildfire in the United States in more than a century, Bishop Bambera has invited parishes in the Diocese of Scranton to take up an emergency special collection to address the immediate needs of the affected communities while also planning for long-term recovery efforts.

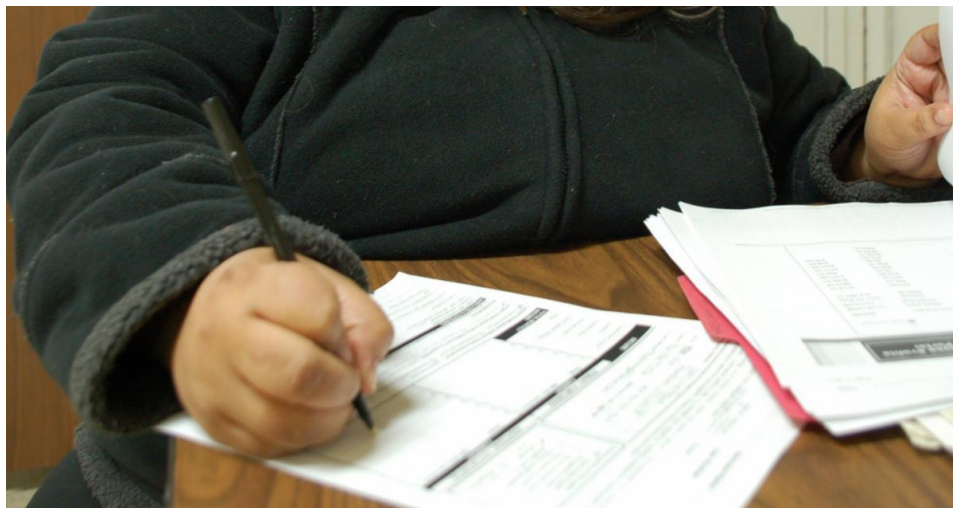
The bishop is allowing each pastor to choose an upcoming weekend that works best for parishioners, but has suggested either the weekend of Sept. 2/3 (Labor Day weekend) or Sept. 9/10.

Funds from the emergency collection will be transmitted to the USCCB's Emergency Disaster Fund and will go directly to help the people of Maui rebuild.

Bishop Bambera shared the words of Honolulu Bishop Larry Silva, who recently said to the Catholic faithful in Hawaii and beyond, "As a community of faith, we are called to come together and provide unwavering support to those who are suffering. It is in times like these that our collective love, faith, and compassion can make a tremendous difference."

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

August is National "Make a Will Month" - now is the perfect time to get started



August is “National Make a Will Month.”

“While many folks may not be thinking about their will in the middle of summer, it’s a good time to be reminded of the importance 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 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.

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

Voter Voice: How to Contact Your State Lawmaker in Support of Real Alternatives



Shortly after the state budget was signed, the Shapiro Administration announced it would end Pennsylvania’s 30-year contractual relationship with Real Alternatives, an award-winning Pennsylvania Pregnancy and Parenting Support Services Program. Presently, 83 centers throughout the Commonwealth provide compassionate support services to 13,500 women a year, from the moment they find out they are pregnant through 12 months after the birth of the baby.

Approximately 60% of the women who come to Real Alternatives considering abortion choose to bring their baby to term. Also, 84% of women that have been pressured to abort choose to bring their baby to term. Terminating this program will result in an increase in abortions throughout the Commonwealth.

Even though the Shapiro Administration ended the Real Alternatives contract, the legislature must still pass “code bills” which will decide where to spend approximately \$1 billion dollars. Those code bills could pass the Senate as early as next week.

[Find Out More About How You Can Send a Message to State
Lawmakers Regarding Real Alternatives](#)

Pope asks for renewed prayers for Ukraine in celebration of its Independence Day



Acknowledging Ukraine’s celebration of Independence Day Aug. 24, Pope Francis pleaded with thousands of visitors at his weekly general audience to keep praying for peace in the country.

Noting that Aug. 24 also is the feast of St. Bartholomew, the apostle, the pope entrusted to him “dear Ukraine, so harshly tried by the war.”

But then departing from his prepared text and looking directly at the crowd in the Vatican audience hall, he said: “Brothers and sisters, let’s pray for our Ukrainian brothers and sisters who are suffering so much. The war is cruel. So many children disappeared, so many people dead.”

According to the Ukrainian government’s “Children of War” website, 503 children had been killed as of Aug. 23 and more than 19,500 children have been forcibly taken to Russia.

“Please,” the pope said, “pray. Do not forget tormented Ukraine.”

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

**Up & Over Middle School Retreat to be held
Sept. 22-24**



UP&OVER

MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT

**SEPTEMBER
22 - 24**

**@ CAMP ORCHARD HILL
DALLAS, PA**

- Develop Teamwork & Problem Solving Skills
- Meet New Friends
- Outdoor Obstacle Course

**Arrival:
7:00pm - Friday**

**Departure:
11:00am - Sunday**

**Registration Fee: \$170
includes 5 meals, lodging,
retreat materials, and a t-shirt**

**Register Online at
www.dioceseofscranton.org**

Students in 6th – 8th grade for the 2023-2024 school year are welcome to join us on September 22 – 24 at Camp Orchard Hill for a weekend of fun, faith, and new friends!

Up & Over is a peer-facilitated retreat that is designed to give participants the skills necessary to get “up and over” the challenges they may face.

Throughout the weekend students will spend time outdoors, meet new friends and learn how your God-given gifts can be used when you work with others as a team! Built into the weekend are opportunities for Mass and Reconciliation. There will also be a number of fun activities and events, including a movie, free time and an outdoor obstacle course. Come and join us for an outstanding experience! You will have a great time, meet new friends and come closer to God who loves you!

[Click Here for More Information or to Register for Up & Over 2023](#)

Church, society urged to address suicide risk factors with education, resources



Suicide, it is sometimes said, is a permanent solution to a temporary problem. But for at least 49,449 Americans during 2022, feelings of distress were so acute they took their own lives.

As CNN recently reported with the release of provisional data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “the suicide rate spiked in 2021, reversing two years of decline. And with the continued increase in 2022, rates surpassed the previous record from 2018.”

According to the CDC, suicide rates rose 37% between 2000-2018 and decreased 5% between 2018-2020. However, rates nearly returned to their peak in 2021.

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

Saint Martha's Festival and Chicken Dinner to take place on Labor Day weekend



Holy Spirit Parish

St. Martha's Festival and Chicken Dinner

"A reunion of family and friends"

Saturday, September 2, 5-11 p.m.

Sunday, September 3, Noon-11 p.m.

RAIN OR SHINE – "UNDER THE BIG TOP"



Homemade Polish and American food



Try our haluski, piggies, potato pancakes, pierogi, and more!

Basket raffle

Cake, coffee, and pie

Children's games

Dime pitch

Ice cream

Indoor flea market

Barbecue chicken dinners served Saturday and Sunday!

🎵 LIVE MUSIC NIGHTLY 🎵

SATURDAY: Vine Street **SUNDAY:** Al White and Friends

Join us for Mass: Saturday 4:00 p.m., Sunday 10:00 a.m.

260 Bonnieville Road, Fairmount Springs

Holy Spirit Parish will hold its annual Festival at St. Martha's Church, 260 Bonnieville Road, Fairmount Springs, on Saturday, September 2 from 5:00 until 11:00 p.m. and Sunday, September 3 from 12:00 noon until 11:00 p.m. Mass will be offered at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and 10:00 a.m. on Sunday.

There will be Polish and American food including homemade pierogi, haluski, potato pancakes, and gołąbki (piggies), a café with cake, pie, and coffee, as well as an ice cream stand, children's games, a dime pitch, basket raffle, and a large indoor flea market. Barbecue chicken dinners will be available for outdoor dining or take out both days.

There will be live music nightly, with "Vine Street" performing on Saturday and "Al White and Friends" on Sunday. The Festival will be held rain or shine under the "big top."

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

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