

# The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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## Support the good work and ministries of our local church through the 2023 Diocesan Annual Appeal

EAST STROUDSBURG – April 8, 2023, is a day that Ellen Gomez of Bushkill will never forget.

With her family and friends looking on, the 57 year old was baptized at the Church of Saint John in East Stroudsburg during the Easter Vigil Mass.

“I just feel good. I just feel like a new person,” Gomez told *The Catholic Light*.

Gomez grew up in the Bronx with her parents and five siblings before moving to the Poconos in 1995. While she attended church at a young age, Gomez said she never received the Sacrament of Baptism and always felt like something was missing in her life.

“I felt like I needed that blessing. I needed something. I never felt fully included,” she said.

After calling the Church of Saint John last year, staff members, including the parish deacon, made special accommodations to make sure Gomez could successfully complete RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) classes.

Because of generous gifts to the Diocesan Annual Appeal each year, the Diocesan Office for Parish Life is able to provide support and resources for parishes that have people participating in the RCIA Program.

As the 2023 Diocesan Annual Appeal launches in parishes this month, Ellen Gomez is just one of thousands of people who have benefitted from the generosity of parishioners in the past.

The Diocesan Annual Appeal funds the good works and ministries of our local Church that are outside the scope of any one individual parish.

By donating to the Diocesan Annual Appeal, you are helping to pay for the education and formation of seminarians and assisting with the living expenses of retired priests who have faithfully served the Diocese for decades. Your gifts also support the life-changing spiritual encounters organized by the Office for Parish Life.

When you give generously to the Diocesan Annual Appeal, you enable the Church to strengthen the bonds of unity between us and respond to the needs of our community not only in the Name of Jesus, but as members of His Body.

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OUR CALL TO  
**SERVE**

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL



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## 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

*The Catholic Light* is our official diocesan journal. The publication of notices, regulations and extra-synodical decrees in said paper constitute legal promulgation for all the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton, Clergy and Laity.

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Because no one can fulfill Christ's mission alone, together, we can form children in faith, bring the mercy of God to those who suffer the lack of basic needs through the work of Catholic Social Services and bring the presence of Jesus and the power of God's transforming grace to all through Catholic communication efforts.

"The Diocesan Annual Appeal is the Diocese of Scranton's single most important fundraising initiative and we need the support of all parishioners to be successful," Chris Sheperis, Diocesan Director of Development, said. "Poverty, hunger and homelessness remain serious challenges in our community. Money raised from the Appeal helps our brothers and sisters in need, in addition to funding vocation efforts, Catholic education and parish life programs."

This year, a renewed focus is being placed on the percentage of parishioners from each parish who donate to the Appeal.

"Gifts of any amount are welcome and will help us collectively reach our goal of \$4.5 million," Sheperis added.

The Appeal's theme, "Our Call to Serve" aligns with the spirit of creating communities rooted in the life of Jesus Christ. Each of us are called to become the loving, compassionate Christ that fed the hungry.

Diocesan ministries supported by gifts to the Diocesan Annual Appeal include Catholic Social Services; parish social justice and faith formation programs; Catholic education in our 19 Catholic schools; care for our current and retired priests and support for seminarians preparing for the priesthood; parish

**"The Diocesan Annual Appeal is the Diocese of Scranton's single most important fundraising initiative and we need the support of all parishioners to be successful."**

*Chris Sheperis, Diocesan Director of Development*

life and pastoral planning efforts; and communication programs such as *The Catholic Light* and Catholic Television.

"We invite all parishioners to visit our new website for this year's Appeal at [annualappeal.org](http://annualappeal.org). The new website highlights the number of individuals and families served in a new way. You can watch several videos of what your gifts help support and you can make a secure donation online," Sheperis explained.

This year, parishes around the Diocese will launch the Diocesan Annual Appeal on the weekend of Sept. 23-24 by asking parishioners to commit to a pledge to this year's campaign. Every dollar donated to the Appeal will support the intended ministries and cannot be used for any other purpose.

"In advance of celebration weekend for the Diocesan Annual Appeal, I am asking all people to pray and discern how they can best support this year's effort and to

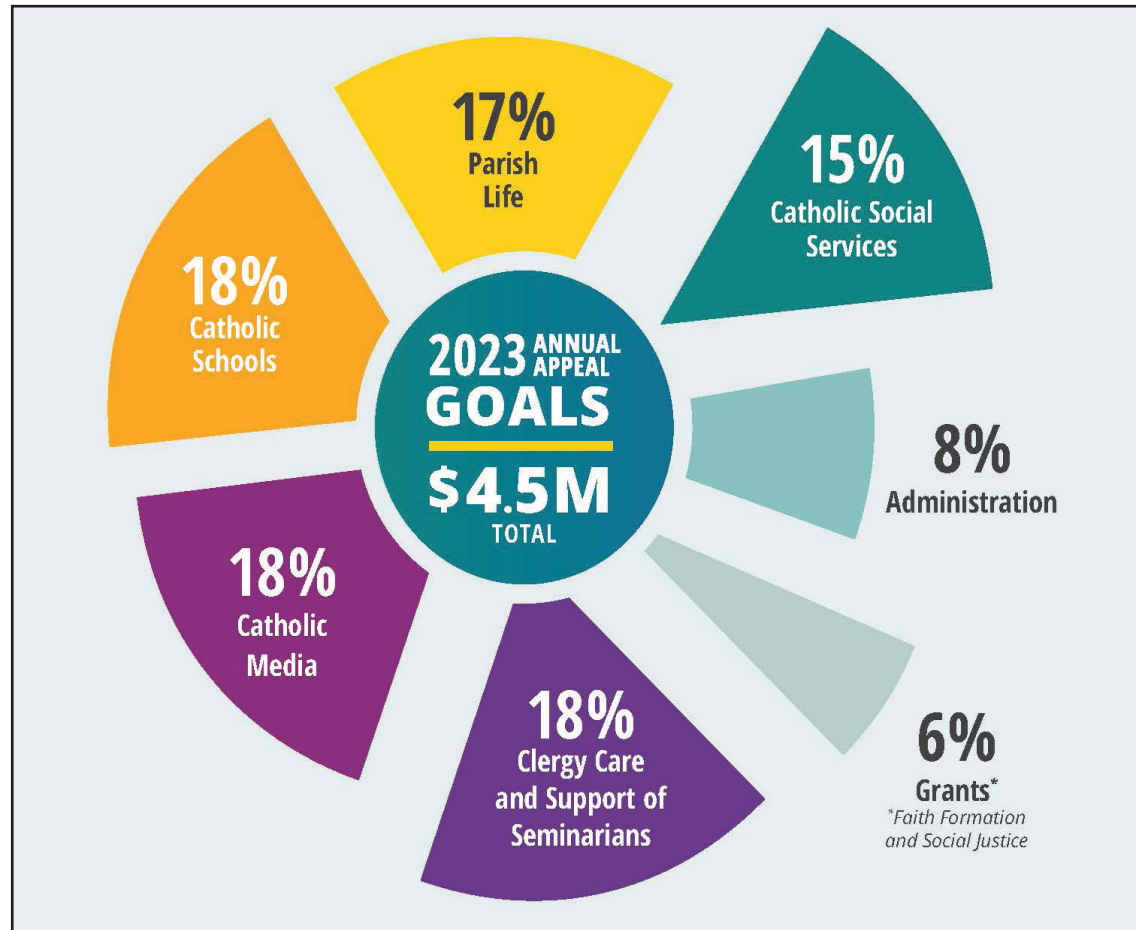


become familiar with the impact it has in all of the parishes across our diocese," Sheperis said.

Over the next several pages of this edition of *The Catholic Light*, you will see some of the many ministries that are funded by the Diocesan Annual Appeal.

Anyone interested in making a gift to the Diocesan Annual Appeal can visit [annualappeal.org](http://annualappeal.org) to give online or call the Diocesan Development Office at (570) 207-2250.

## Ministries and Programs funded by the 2023 Diocesan Annual Appeal





SCRANTON – Calling all teenagers! Are you looking for a highly energetic and engaging opportunity to celebrate the richness of our Catholic faith?

If so, the 2023 Diocese of Scranton Youth Rally is for you!

Students in grades 7-12 are invited to join together on Saturday, Oct. 7 for the Youth Rally which will revolve around the theme, "Be an Original."

Inspired by our first Millennial Saint, Blessed Carlo Acutis, students will have the opportunity to deepen their faith, make new friends and experience a day of fellowship and fun.

"The goal of the Diocesan Youth Rally is to provide an experience of the Universal Church for the young church of the Diocese of Scranton," Shannon Kowalski, Diocesan Director of Service and Mission, said. "Many parishes and programs are looking for a way to jump start youth ministry or create excitement in their young people and that is what we are aiming to do."

The Youth Rally will begin at 10 a.m. at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, and end at approximately 6:30 p.m. following the celebration of Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

Students will have the opportunity to participate in fun and engaging workshops, experience Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament as well as enjoy praise and worship opportunities with Steve Angrisano, a nationally known Catholic musician and speaker.

"Many of our students and adults know Steve from events such as Steubenville conferences, the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) in Indianapolis and parish missions. Steve has come to our diocese for others events and has always left us with a great experience so we are happy to have him back!" Kowalski explained.

Singer/songwriter Thomas Muglia is also expected to participate in the Diocese of Scranton Youth Rally.

"We are very excited to have Thomas as our house musician. Thomas is a young singer/songwriter from Arizona. His passion for worship and community makes him an excellent addition to our event. He is also a part of the house band for this year's NCYC," Kowalski added.

The cost of the full day of events is \$20 per student/\$25 per adult.

Events like the Diocesan Youth Rally are supported by gifts to the Diocesan Annual Appeal, which fund the work of the Diocesan Office for Parish Life.

"Between the workshops, the live music and the general excitement of gathering together as a community, our intent is to show our young people that the church is grateful for them and welcomes their involvement," Kowalski said.

For more information or to register for the Diocese of Scranton Youth Rally on Oct. 7, visit [dioceseofscranton.org](http://dioceseofscranton.org) or contact Shannon Kowalski at [SKowalski@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:SKowalski@dioceseofscranton.org).

## DIOCESE OF SCRANTON YOUTH RALLY

# BE AN ORIGINAL



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7TH, 2023 | 10AM - 7:00PM

Diocese of Scranton Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave, Scranton PA 18503

**\*\*OPEN TO YOUTH IN 7TH-12TH GRADE\*\***



Sessions for Youth & Adults | Opportunities for Praise & Worship  
Lunch & Dinner Provided | Adoration & Closing Mass  
Music from Thomas Muglia | Keynote from Steve Angrisano  
Closing Mass 5:30 PM | St. Peter's Cathedral

## Hispanic ministry outreach efforts aided by Appeal funding

GREAT BEND – Hundreds of people took to the streets of Susquehanna County this month to celebrate their faith and heritage.

Members of the local Ecuadorian community held a procession throughout Great Bend Sept. 2 with an image of Our Lady of El Cisne, ending with the celebration of Mass at Saint Lawrence Church.

"Latin Americans are very devoted to Our Lady. She has been such a role model for our faith," Jose Flores, Diocesan Coordinator for Hispanic Ministry, explained. "They have a really strong love of God, our faith and to Our Lady of El Cisne."



**Faithful of the Ecuadorian community hold a procession throughout the streets of Great Bend Sept. 2 with an image of Our Lady of El Cisne, which was later dedicated at Saint Lawrence Church.**

During the Mass, an image of Our Lady of El Cisne, which was brought from Ecuador to be

permanently placed in the church, was formally dedicated. Throughout Ecuador, the faithful have figurines, shrines, pendants and other trinkets dedicated to Our Lady of El Cisne.

"Today's liturgy was very special. It was a long process of more than a year to get the image here and to see it happening is very, very special," Flores added.

"The main purpose was, for the Ecuadorian community, to find a space in the church and this church is welcoming them."

In addition to the procession and Mass, the Ecuadorian community also celebrated with music, dancing and food outside of the church.

"It is a way for everyone to get together in the community. It's just exciting for everyone to celebrate," Ashlee Sanchez, a parishioner of Saint Lawrence Church said. "Our Lady of El Cisne is very special to us. She brings us hope when we need it."

Rosa Mishell Loja's father and uncles worked for months to make the celebration a success.

"I'm so excited because while I was here in America, I have never seen anyone doing this

for Our Lady of El Cisne. It is our first time and it's going good so far," she said.

Melisa Loja Pulla agrees. She reiterated how important it is to honor Our Blessed Mother in this way.

"She is magic for us. She is always there for us. She takes care of us," Pulla said.

In his role as Diocesan Coordinator for Hispanic Ministry, Flores has helped to grow the Spanish-speaking faith community in Susquehanna County over the last two years. Your gifts to the Diocesan Annual Appeal help the Diocesan Office for Parish Life fund its Hispanic ministry efforts in several different communities.



KINGSTON — U.S. Navy veteran Joe Bates started serving his country a few years after high school. By the end of his career in 1986, he was writing work packages for fast-attack nuclear submarines.

During the ensuing decades, reality and economic pressures took their course, and Bates ended up homeless. Making ends meet — while trying to save money for an apartment — was just not possible.

“You have to have your first month, your last month, a security deposit and it all adds up,” he said.

After participating in a two-year program with the Veterans Administration, Bates found a new home in the former Saint Hedwig’s School in Kingston. The building, now owned by Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton, is known as Saint Hedwig’s Veterans Village.

The building has 12 apartments specifically designated for veterans who have a disability and were homeless at one time.

“It was exactly what I needed. It’s not too big. It’s not too small,” Bates said.

Each veteran has his or her own apartment. The building also has a common area where they can spend time together and socialize.

Drawing upon his Navy career, Bates said, “This is kind of like a life preserver, so to speak,



**Luke Malonis, left, case manager for Saint Hedwig’s Veterans Village in Kingston talks with U.S. Navy veteran Joe Bates on Aug. 1, 2023. (Photos/Eric Deabill)**

and you just keep your head above water long enough so you can get back on your own feet. That is the most difficult thing that I’ve seen dealing with veterans and being one.”

After moving into Saint Hedwig’s Veterans Village nearly ten years ago, Bates quickly bonded with Luke Malonis, who

serves as case manager for Saint Hedwig’s.

A Vietnam veteran himself, Malonis says Saint Hedwig’s has been a blessing for so many.

“The one word we should never hear before ‘veteran’ is ‘homeless’ and unfortunately there are thousands,” Malonis explained. “This is a fantastic



**The former Saint Hedwig’s School is now home to 12 apartments for homeless veterans.**

place. It gives them security knowing that they have a place to live. Once they’re in, they’re in.”

Bates is so thankful for the helping hand he is receiving, he cuts the grass and does minor maintenance work around the building.

“I’m sure I’m not unique in the opportunities that arose. I give

all that to God. If it wasn’t for Him, I wouldn’t be in the position I’m in now,” Bates said.

Bates recently got a full-time job with Kingston borough with the help of Malonis.

He is now saving up enough money to move out to South Dakota where his son and granddaughter live.

“I’ll be heartbroken when I leave here because I love Luke. Luke is one of the greatest men I’ve ever met. He’s got a heart bigger than anybody I know,” Bates said.

Your gifts to the 2023 Diocesan Annual Appeal help Catholic Social Services maintain its commitment to veterans.

Donations help to keep Saint Hedwig’s Veterans Village operating, as well as Saint Francis Commons in Scranton, which also houses more than two dozen veterans.

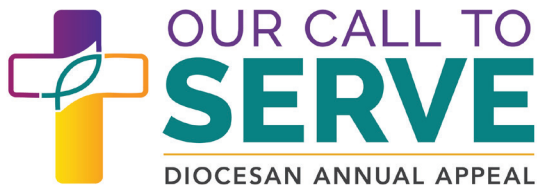
While the effort is costly, it is important and worthwhile.

“A lot of people get on hard times. They just need a helping hand and without these organizations, I believe it would be massively more difficult to do that,” Bates explained.

“How could you not want to help a disabled veteran?” Malonis added. “I mean, if it wasn’t for veterans, a lot of us wouldn’t have the freedoms that we have!”

## MISSION STATEMENT OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

**Rooted in the Gospel, the mission of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton is to serve individuals and families in poverty and hardship, as we are called by Christ to do, and to respond compassionately to their needs. As a Catholic agency, we advocate for individual dignity and self-sufficiency and actively give of ourselves to replace despair with hope.**



**Because of your support of the Diocesan Annual Appeal each year, Catholic Social Services is able to serve tens of thousands of our brothers and sisters in need. In addition to providing food, shelter, clothing and material assistance, Catholic Social Services also assists veterans, provides counseling and education to pregnant women and welcomes immigrants and refugees. In 2022, here is the lasting impact your gifts helped create:**



**67,661**

Meals served at  
St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen  
in Wilkes-Barre



**25,402**

Households/Individuals  
served by Catholic Social  
Services food pantries



**16,172**

Individual nights of  
shelter provided to people  
experiencing homelessness



### WILKES-BARRE

Planning for the new, permanent home of Mother Teresa’s Haven, a shelter for homeless men operated by Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton, is now underway.

On Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2023, agency leaders toured the space above Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen at 39 E. Jackson Street, which will soon be transformed into space that will be available for 20-24 men experiencing homelessness.

“I couldn’t be more excited about being here, seeing the space and getting in,” Harry Lyons, program director for Mother Teresa’s Haven, said. “There is a lot of potential here.”

In late April, the Wilkes-Barre zoning hearing board unanimously approved an application for a special exception to establish the shelter above the Kitchen.

“We have a very supportive community,” Joe Mahoney, Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Social Services, explained. “We met with the mayor. We met with the neighbors and met with King’s College. We have got all of this support but we need to make sure we keep talking to them.”

The second floor space that will be converted into the shelter



**Harry Lyons, program director for Mother Teresa’s Haven shelter, center, leads a tour of the second floor of the Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen building in Wilkes-Barre. This space will soon be transformed into the new, permanent location for the emergency shelter serving men experiencing homelessness. (Photos/Eric Deabill)**

was most recently occupied by a health clinic. The space, which is currently divided into several exam rooms, will need to be reconfigured to accommodate the needs of the shelter.

“We’re excited about opening up the walls so we can get some line of sight. We’re excited about having adequate bathroom space with showers. We don’t currently have showers or laundry facilities but both are a basic need, a dignity issue,” Lyons said.

For the last several years, Mother Teresa’s Haven has been

utilizing space in the basement of Saint Mary’s Church of the Immaculate Conception at 134 S. Washington Street. Prior to that, the shelter had rotated between several churches in Wilkes-Barre.

Catholic Social Services leaders say having a permanent home for the shelter located directly above Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen will also lead to better coordination of services for our brothers and sisters in need.

“We will be a one-stop shop,



**In April, the Wilkes-Barre Zoning Hearing Board unanimously approved an application for a special exception to establish a new, permanent home for Mother Teresa’s Haven shelter on the second floor of the Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen building on E. Jackson Street. Access to the shelter will be on the far right side of the building.**

hopefully making our clients lives just a little bit easier,” Mahoney said. “Having a permanent home is going to be a big relief to our staff and the people we serve.”

“Mike Cianciotta, who runs Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen, has been providing meals for us for several years. I work closely with Mike. The Kitchen is an amazing operation and we want people to be able to say that about us. We want that same feeling about what they do at the Kitchen to apply to us,” Lyons added.

The timeline needed

for renovations is still being determined so there is no expected completion date. While hoping to get the work done quickly, Lyons says it can’t be rushed.

Your gifts to the Diocesan Annual Appeal each year help to support all of the work done by Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton.

“This is something we’ve been waiting for a long, long time,” he said. “Ten years ago, on my very first day we started talking about it. This has been a goal forever.”



**7,770**

Individuals provided relief assistance (crisis funds, clothing and baby items)



**630**

Families served by Children and Youth programs in Luzerne County



**84**

Individuals assisted in permanent supportive housing programs



**74**

Homeless veterans provided housing between Scranton and Kingston



**21**

Women and infants provided safe shelter by Shepherd Maternity House



BALTIMORE, Md. – After a busy summer for many of our Diocesan seminarians – in which several attended World Youth Day in Portugal and two visited the Diocese of Sunyani in Ghana – a new semester of classes has just gotten underway.

Five seminarians are attending classes this fall at Saint Mary’s Seminary and University in Baltimore. Three are attending Saint Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, one will be studying at Saint Andrew’s College Seminary in S. Orange, N.J., and the final seminarian is serving his pastoral year at Saint Boniface and Saint Lawrence Parishes in Lycoming County.

At Saint Mary’s Seminary and University in Baltimore, Harrison Rapp of Dunmore has just entered his second year studying theology.

Since its founding in 1791, Saint Mary’s Seminary has been supporting the formation of Holy men, including many from the Diocese of Scranton.

“It is really an intentional time to be with God and to just open your heart to the ways in which God wants to lead us,” Rapp said.

At Saint Mary’s Seminary, men begin their day with Morning Prayer as a community. There is also Adoration, Mass during the day and Evening Prayer in addition to academic classes.

Saint Mary’s currently serves 13 dioceses in the United States and Canada



**For more than 200 years, Saint Mary’s Seminary and University in Baltimore has been supporting the formation of Holy men.**

but also welcomes men from Africa, China and Vietnam.

“It’s good because you do get to see a lot of different perspectives in the way the church operates in their own respective locations in the United States and abroad,” Rapp added.

Seminarian Jeremy Barket of Dupont studied theology at Saint Mary’s during the last academic year.

“The whole environment, inside and outside, is very conducive to having a very spiritual and prayerful atmosphere. There are so many times where I’ll just walk around the whole seminary and just pray a rosary,” he said.

Barket describes seminary as a



**Harrison Rapp, a seminarian for the Diocese of Scranton, prays in the chapel of Saint Mary’s Seminary. (Photos/Eric Deabill)**

community of men who want to grow closer to Christ.

“We’re normal guys. We just happen to pray a lot,” he said with a smile.

Before being ordained a priest in June, Father Michael Boris spent four years at Saint Mary’s Seminary.

“It was just a wonderful place of prayer and discernment,” Father Boris said.

Father Boris benefited from many mentors and spiritual directors as well as the classes he took.

He knows it is only because of the generous financial support from parishioners that his seminary experience was possible.

“To give somebody an education, to

feed somebody, to house somebody, requires money,” Father Boris noted.

Your gifts to the Diocesan Annual Appeal go directly to supporting our future priests who will faithfully lead our parishes in the decades ahead.

The Diocese of Scranton currently has ten highly talented men in priestly formation.

You help pay for their education, helping to form each man intellectually, pastorally and spiritually – so in return – they can share the love of the Gospel with all people.

“You’re investing in us, but you’re also investing in your own diocese and the future of the diocese as well,” Barket said.

“You can really recognize and be grateful for the importance of the gifts that have been given to us, from our housing to our food to our classes. All of that means a great deal,” Rapp added. “I’ve really benefited from my experience here so far. It has been blessed. I love the community life and I do look forward to continuing the journey!”

## Diocese of Scranton welcomes two new seminarians

SCRANTON – The Diocese of Scranton proudly welcomed two new seminarians over the summer months. The addition of the two men means the Diocese now has ten men actively discerning a vocation to the priesthood.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, and members of the Seminary Admissions Committee accepted Esteban Marengo and Daniel O’Brien as seminarians.

Marengo, of Scranton, is a parishioner of Saint Paul of the Cross Parish in South Scranton. He is currently attending classes at Saint Andrew’s College Seminary in S. Orange, N.J.

When asked what metaphor for Christ speaks to him most powerfully, Marengo responded “Christ the Good Shepherd.”

“Despite the many troubles of life, Jesus continues to love, protect and guide us, as a shepherd would his own sheep,” he said.

As he begins his seminarian experience, the Scranton native said he often reflects on the crucifix and its importance to our salvation.

“In it, we see the immense love that God has for all of us,” Marengo noted.

O’Brien, who just began his Pre-Theology I semester at Saint Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, actually credits

Marengo for part of the reason why he decided to become a seminarian candidate.

“Seeing him (Marengo) in his cassock a week before (the) Chrism Mass pushed my calling to the forefront of my mind,” O’Brien said.

O’Brien is a parishioner of Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Pittston. He is also a licensed commercial pilot for single-engine aircraft.

He says the Book of Psalms is the Book of the Bible that has had the greatest impact on his spiritual life and often reflects on the image of The Holy Mother Theotokos.

Even though he is just beginning the seminarian discernment process, when

asked if he had any advice to give someone else at this point, O’Brien quoted Father Clarence Cerwonka, Pastor Emeritus at Most Holy Rosary Church in Maine, N.Y., who told him, “Strive for what the Holy Spirit wants you to do.”

Please keep Esteban Marengo, Daniel O’Brien, as well as their families, all our seminarians, and all those discerning diocesan priesthood in your prayers!

If you have thought about the possibility of the priesthood, you are encouraged to talk to your parish priest or Father Alex Roche, Diocesan Director of Vocations & Seminarians, to help you further discern your vocation.



“Arise! For this matter is your responsibility, but we will be with you: be courageous and act!”

Whether you’re talking about our individual lives or the global and national situation, the world can seem like a confusing place. It is undoubtedly so for young people attempting to find their path in life, trying to figure out where God is leading them, especially if they feel called to the priesthood or religious life.

That’s why the theme for the Diocesan Vocation Office this year comes from the 10th chapter of the Book of Ezra. The Book of Ezra tells the story of the Israelites returning to Jerusalem after almost a century of exile. After being away from their homeland and Temple for so long, they were confused, frightened, and unsure where to go next. At that moment, God called upon a priest, Ezra, to

guide them on their path. It was his responsibility to lead, but God provided him with other people to assist him along the way.

At every moment in the life of the Church, we need Catholics to arise and live out their vocation. No one can tell someone else where God is calling them, but all of us are responsible for assisting one another in listening to the call.

There are many ways in which the Vocation Office, along with our parishes, can offer this help. From high school groups, to retreats for men and women, to the Project Andrew Dinner and Leave a Mark Mass, the Vocations Office offers something for everyone.

One of the most exciting new initiatives is the formation of Regional Vocation Centers. Four have been set up so far, with more

to come. Annunciation Parish in Hazleton, Saint Matthew Parish in East Stroudsburg, Christ the King Parish in Archbald, and Saint Maria Goretti Parish in Laffin offer a variety of resources for young men considering priesthood – regular discernment dinners where men join with others considering the same call, opportunities to shadow a priest for a day, spiritual direction, Eucharistic Adoration, and private weekend retreats are just some of the possibilities.

In addition to our Vocation Centers, the Diocese has invited Rhonda Gruenewald of Vocation Ministry to offer workshops for priests and parishioners here in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania. Vocation Ministry focuses on building up vocations right in our parishes. You, the Catholic faithful of the Diocese of



**The rectory of Saint Matthew Parish in East Stroudsburg now serves as a Regional Vocation Center for the Diocese of Scranton. It has several rooms where men considering the priesthood can stay and participate in weekend retreats or other spiritual opportunities.**

Scranton, can help our young men and women courageously listen to God’s voice and arise to follow him.

Thank you for listening to God’s voice in your own lives and for all the work you do in helping others discern their vocation. It is time for us in the Diocese to arise, be courageous, and act - the Holy Spirit is calling.

## Meet the Seminarians Supported By Your Gifts to the Appeal



**Rev. Mr. William Asinari**  
Theology IV  
St. Mary’s Seminary, Baltimore



**Jeremy Barket**  
Theology I  
St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe



**Thomas Dzwonczyk**  
Theology III  
St. Mary’s Seminary, Baltimore



**Esteban Marengo**  
College III  
St. Andrew’s College Seminary



**Andrew McCarroll**  
Pastoral Year  
St. Boniface/St. Lawrence Parishes



**Jacob Mutchler**  
Pre-Theology II  
St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe



**Daniel O’Brien**  
Pre-Theology I  
St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe



**Jan Carlo Perez**  
Theology II  
St. Mary’s Seminary, Baltimore



**Harrison Rapp**  
Theology II  
St. Mary’s Seminary, Baltimore



**Cody Yarnall**  
Theology I  
St. Mary’s Seminary, Baltimore



SCRANTON – With the cost of groceries, fuel and other household expenses continuing to rise, Christine Ward has often found herself in need of a helping hand.

She is very thankful for the dedicated volunteers of Saint Paul Parish in Scranton's Green Ridge section, who operate a parish food pantry every Friday from the basement of Saint Clare Church.

"It is very important. We come twice a month and there is a lot of stuff that you can choose. They have a lot of choices," Ward said.

The pantry has seen its numbers skyrocket in recent years.

"People fall through the cracks every day that never thought they would fall between the cracks and sometimes we don't recognize, just in the general public around us, who those people are," food pantry volunteer Noreen Rowland said.

Ward says the volunteers are courteous and respectful and really want to help their community.

"It's actually good to come here because you get there and they ask you what you want. You can choose what you want – like Corn Flakes or any kind of cereal



**Christine Ward of Scranton expresses her gratitude to the volunteers who operate the Saint Paul Parish food pantry on a weekly basis. The parish received a \$5,000 Social Justice Grant this year from the Diocesan Annual Appeal to serve its community. (Photo/Dan Gallagher)**

– and then you can choose your coffee, hot chocolate, tea, fruits and all different things," Ward added.

In just the last year, Saint Paul Parish food pantry volunteers distributed more than 22,500 pounds of food.

Barbara Burkhouse, who has helped coordinate distribution efforts for the last 16 years, says the food pantry might have helped only five families a week in the

past. Now, the number of families helped each week is usually upwards of 25 families.

"They have increased significantly this year. We could see that as some of the benefits that were being given to people were cut back," Burkhouse explained.

While supported by parishioner donations and area businesses, gifts to the Diocesan Annual Appeal also play a



## OUR CALL TO SERVE

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

**Catholic Social Teaching is a central and essential element of our faith. It is a teaching founded on the life and words of Jesus Christ, who came "to bring glad tidings to the poor ... liberty to captives ... recovery of sight to the blind" (Lk 4:18-19), and who identified himself with "the least of these," the hungry and the stranger (cf. Mt 25:45). Catholic Social Teaching is built on a commitment to the poor. This commitment arises from our experiences of Christ in the Eucharist.**

critical role in helping the Saint Paul Parish food pantry fulfill its mission.

The parish is one of 24 parishes that has received a Social Justice Grant from the Diocesan Annual Appeal this year. The parish also received a grant for its food pantry in 2022.

The \$5,000 grant that the parish requested directly helps people in their local community.

"It is amazing. We use every penny we get our hands on. With the grant, we do a lot of meat and seafood coupons. We actually give people a \$20 meat/seafood coupon once a month so they can go to Gerrity's and pick out their own choice. That is really

appreciated," Jody Maloney, co-coordinator of the Saint Paul Parish food pantry, said.

"The Diocesan grant, the \$5,000, is extremely important to us and we're delighted to receive it," Burkhouse added.

As you consider how you are called to serve others, think about your brothers and sisters who receive a helping hand from the dedicated volunteers at the Saint Paul Parish food pantry.

"There are many clients that really rely on this and we see so many people that are raising grandchildren," food pantry volunteer Kathleen Manley said. "Some of them are very outspoken as to just how grateful they are!"

## PARISHES RECEIVING A PARISH SOCIAL JUSTICE GRANT FROM THE DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL IN 2023

<b>Corpus Christi Parish, West Pittston</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<i>Parish Food Pantry, Family Outreach, Counseling Programs</i>	
<b>Epiphany Parish, Sayre</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>
<i>Social Justice Education Speaker Program</i>	
<b>Holy Child Parish, Mansfield</b>	<b>\$3,500</b>
<i>Food Pantry, Medical Equipment, Pro-Life Activities</i>	
<b>Holy Rosary Parish, Hazleton</b>	<b>\$1,450</b>
<i>Veterans' Recognition Initiative, Scripture Study Formation</i>	
<b>Mary, Mother of God Parish, Scranton</b>	<b>\$2,645</b>
<i>Neighborhood Outreach Program, Youth Group Service Trip</i>	
<b>Our Lady of Hope Parish, Wilkes-Barre</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>
<i>Youth Outreach Program Initiative</i>	
<b>Resurrection Parish, Muncy</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>
<i>Food Pantry, Caring for Creation, Pro-Life Ministries</i>	
<b>Saint Ann Basilica Parish, West Scranton</b>	<b>\$4,200</b>
<i>Community Meal Program, Intergenerational Outreach</i>	

<b>Saint Ann Parish, Williamsport</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<i>Parish Food Pantry, Caring for the Elderly</i>	
<b>Saint Barbara Parish, Exeter</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<i>Grief Ministry Program, Care for the Elderly</i>	
<b>Saint Gregory Parish, Clarks Green</b>	<b>\$4,996</b>
<i>Social Justice Education, Disability Ministry, Care for Elderly</i>	
<b>Saint John the Apostle Parish, East Stroudsburg</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<i>Mental Health Ministry Program</i>	
<b>Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Pittston</b>	<b>\$3,500</b>
<i>Social Justice Education Initiative</i>	
<b>Saint John Neumann Parish, South Scranton</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>
<i>Hispanic Ministry Initiative</i>	
<b>Saint John Vianney Parish, Montdale</b>	<b>\$4,999</b>
<i>Mental Health Ministry Program</i>	
<b>Saint Joseph Marelllo Parish, Pittston</b>	<b>\$3,500</b>
<i>Social Justice Education Initiative</i>	

<b>Saint Joseph Parish, Matamoras</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<i>Pro-Life Ministries, Parish Nursing, Outreach Programs</i>	
<b>Saint Luke Parish, Stroudsburg</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<i>Grief Ministry Program, Nursing Ministry, Care for Elderly</i>	
<b>Saint Mary of the Lake Parish, Lake Winola</b>	<b>\$1,800</b>
<i>Ecumenical Food Pantry Outreach</i>	
<b>Saint Matthew Parish, East Stroudsburg</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<i>Hispanic Ministry Program, Homeless Outreach</i>	
<b>Saint Nicholas Parish, Wilkes-Barre</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<i>Community Outreach Program to Homeless</i>	
<b>Saint Patrick Parish, Milford</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<i>Pro-Life Ministries, Parish Nursing, Outreach Programs</i>	
<b>Saint Paul Parish, Scranton</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<i>Parish Food Pantry, Caring for the Elderly</i>	
<b>Saint Paul of the Cross Parish, South Scranton</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>
<i>Hispanic Ministry Initiative</i>	



<i>Parish Goal (Participation Goal)</i>		<i>Parish Goal (Participation Goal)</i>	
All Saints Parish - Plymouth.....	\$37,000.00 (100%)	St. Ann Basilica - Scranton.....	\$30,000.00 (100%)
Annunciation Parish - Hazleton.....	\$33,000.00 (100%)	St. Ann Parish - Shohola.....	\$20,000.00 (100%)
Ascension Parish - Forest City.....	\$25,000.00 (100%)	St. Ann Parish - Williamsport.....	\$59,000.00 (100%)
Blessed Sacrament Parish - Throop.....	\$16,000.00 (100%)	St. Barbara Parish - Exeter.....	\$31,000.00 (100%)
BVM Queen of Peace Parish - Hawley.....	\$76,000.00 (100%)	St. Boniface Parish - Williamsport.....	\$60,000.00 (100%)
Christ the King Parish - Archbald.....	\$67,000.00 (100%)	St. Brigid Parish - Friendsville.....	\$22,000.00 (100%)
Corpus Christi Parish - West Pittston.....	\$30,000.00 (100%)	St. Catherine of Siena Parish - Moscow.....	\$63,000.00 (100%)
Divine Mercy Parish - Scranton.....	\$63,000.00 (100%)	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish - Swoyersville.....	\$44,000.00 (100%)
Epiphany Parish - Sayre.....	\$85,000.00 (100%)	St. Elizabeth Parish - Bear Creek.....	\$24,000.00 (100%)
Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish - Hanover Twp.....	\$15,000.00 (100%)	St. Eulalia Parish - Roaring Brook Township.....	\$40,000.00 (100%)
Gate of Heaven Parish - Dallas.....	\$47,000.00 (100%)	St. Faustina Kowalska Parish - Nanticoke.....	\$47,000.00 (100%)
Good Shepherd Parish - Drums.....	\$24,000.00 (100%)	St. Frances X. Cabrini Parish - Carverton.....	\$13,000.00 (100%)
Holy Child Parish - Mansfield.....	\$28,000.00 (100%)	St. Gregory Parish - Clarks Green.....	\$74,000.00 (100%)
Holy Cross Parish - Olyphant.....	\$47,000.00 (100%)	St. Ignatius Loyola Parish - Kingston.....	\$77,000.00 (100%)
Holy Family Parish - Luzerne.....	\$40,000.00 (100%)	St. John Bosco Parish - Conyngham.....	\$58,000.00 (100%)
Holy Name of Jesus Parish - West Hazleton.....	\$21,000.00 (100%)	St. John Neumann Parish - Lords Valley.....	\$28,000.00 (100%)
Holy Name of Mary Parish - Montrose.....	\$16,000.00 (100%)	St. John Neumann Parish - Scranton.....	\$52,000.00 (100%)
Holy Rosary Parish - Hazleton.....	\$17,000.00 (100%)	St. John Parish - E. Stroudsburg.....	\$57,000.00 (100%)
Holy Spirit Parish - Mocanaqua.....	\$28,000.00 (100%)	St. John the Baptist Parish - Larksville.....	\$21,000.00 (100%)
Immaculate Conception Parish - Williamsport.....	\$26,000.00 (100%)	St. John the Evangelist Parish - Honesdale.....	\$64,000.00 (100%)
Immaculate Conception Parish - Scranton.....	\$40,000.00 (100%)	St. John the Evangelist Parish - Pittston.....	\$54,000.00 (100%)
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish - Dushore.....	\$38,000.00 (100%)	St. John Vianney Parish - Montdale.....	\$30,000.00 (100%)
Mary, Mother of God Parish - Scranton.....	\$56,000.00 (100%)	St. Joseph Mareello Parish - Pittston.....	\$27,000.00 (100%)
Most Holy Trinity Parish - Cresco.....	\$49,000.00 (100%)	St. Joseph Parish - Matamoras.....	\$37,000.00 (100%)
Most Holy Trinity Parish - Susquehanna.....	\$30,000.00 (100%)	St. Joseph the Worker Parish - Williamsport.....	\$75,000.00 (100%)
Most Precious Blood Parish - Hazleton.....	\$36,000.00 (100%)	St. Jude Parish - Mountain Top.....	\$79,000.00 (100%)
Nativity of Our Lord Parish - Duryea.....	\$40,000.00 (100%)	St. Katharine Drexel Parish - Pleasant Mount.....	\$13,000.00 (100%)
Nativity of the BVM Parish - Tunkhannock.....	\$32,000.00 (100%)	St. Lawrence Parish - S. Williamsport.....	\$26,000.00 (100%)
Our Lady Help of Christians Parish - Dorrance.....	\$18,000.00 (100%)	St. Leo Parish - Ashley.....	\$33,000.00 (100%)
Our Lady of Fatima Parish - Wilkes-Barre.....	\$44,000.00 (100%)	St. Lucy Parish - Scranton.....	\$19,000.00 (100%)
Our Lady of Hope Parish - Wilkes-Barre.....	\$35,000.00 (100%)	St. Luke Parish - Jersey Shore.....	\$16,000.00 (100%)
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish - Montoursville.....	\$41,000.00 (100%)	St. Luke Parish - Stroudsburg.....	\$114,000.00 (100%)
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish - Carbondale.....	\$23,000.00 (100%)	St. Maria Goretti Parish - Laflin.....	\$42,000.00 (100%)
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish - Dunmore.....	\$56,000.00 (100%)	St. Mary of the Lake Parish - Lake Winola.....	\$12,000.00 (100%)
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish - Lake Silkworth.....	\$19,000.00 (100%)	St. Mary Parish - Waymart.....	\$17,000.00 (100%)
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish - Wyalusing.....	\$19,000.00 (100%)	St. Matthew Parish - E. Stroudsburg.....	\$60,000.00 (100%)
Our Lady of the Abingtons Parish - Dalton.....	\$16,000.00 (100%)	St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish - Pocono Pines.....	\$24,000.00 (100%)
Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish - Pittston.....	\$16,000.00 (100%)	St. Michael Parish - Canton.....	\$12,000.00 (100%)
Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception - Freeland.....	\$26,000.00 (100%)	St. Michael Parish - Scranton.....	\$9,000.00 (100%)
Our Lady of the Snows Parish - Clarks Summit.....	\$87,000.00 (100%)	St. Monica Parish - West Wyoming.....	\$31,000.00 (100%)
Our Lady of Victory Parish - Harveys Lake.....	\$37,000.00 (100%)	St. Nicholas Parish - Wilkes-Barre.....	\$52,000.00 (100%)
Our Lady of Victory Parish - Tannersville.....	\$52,000.00 (100%)	St. Patrick Parish - Milford.....	\$33,000.00 (100%)
Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish - Brodheadsville.....	\$58,000.00 (100%)	St. Patrick Parish - Nicholson.....	\$9,000.00 (100%)
Prince of Peace Parish - Old Forge.....	\$28,000.00 (100%)	St. Patrick Parish - Scranton.....	\$42,000.00 (100%)
Queen of Angels Parish - Jessup.....	\$26,000.00 (100%)	St. Patrick Parish - White Haven.....	\$16,000.00 (100%)
Queen of Heaven Parish - Hazleton.....	\$29,000.00 (100%)	St. Paul of the Cross Parish - Scranton.....	\$52,000.00 (100%)
Queen of the Apostles Parish - Avoca.....	\$23,000.00 (100%)	St. Paul Parish - Scranton.....	\$66,000.00 (100%)
Resurrection Parish - Muncy.....	\$33,000.00 (100%)	St. Peter Parish - Wellsboro.....	\$43,000.00 (100%)
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish - Dupont.....	\$30,000.00 (100%)	St. Peter's Cathedral - Scranton.....	\$71,000.00 (100%)
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish - Peckville.....	\$41,000.00 (100%)	St. Rita Parish - Gouldsboro.....	\$14,000.00 (100%)
Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary Parish - Jermyn.....	\$21,000.00 (100%)	St. Robert Bellarmine Parish - Wilkes-Barre.....	\$34,000.00 (100%)
SS Anthony & Rocco Parish - Dunmore.....	\$47,000.00 (100%)	St. Rose of Lima Parish - Carbondale.....	\$62,000.00 (100%)
SS Cyril & Methodius Parish - Hazleton.....	\$43,000.00 (100%)	St. Therese Parish - Shavertown.....	\$71,000.00 (100%)
SS Peter & Paul Parish - Plains.....	\$60,000.00 (100%)	St. Thomas More Parish - Lake Ariel.....	\$49,000.00 (100%)
SS Peter & Paul Parish - Scranton.....	\$13,000.00 (100%)	St. Thomas the Apostle Parish - Elkland.....	\$13,000.00 (100%)
SS Peter & Paul Parish - Towanda.....	\$31,000.00 (100%)	St. Vincent de Paul Parish - Milford.....	\$35,000.00 (100%)
St. Andrew Parish - Wilkes-Barre.....	\$17,000.00 (100%)	Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Dickson City.....	\$55,000.00 (100%)



# Bishop Bambera to celebrate Respect Life Sunday Mass on Oct. 1

SCRANTON – The Catholic Church recognizes the month of October as Respect Life Month and the first Sunday in October is designated as Respect Life Sunday. The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate Respect Life Sunday Mass on Oct. 1 at 10 a.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Mass is open to the public. Faithful from across the Diocese of Scranton are invited to attend the Respect Life Sunday Mass and focus on God's precious gift of human life and our responsibility to care for, protect and defend the lives of our brothers and sisters.

Catholics are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most

vulnerable, from the beginning of life to its end, and at every point in between. During the month of October, the Church asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life.

Students from the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System and parish youth ministries have been invited to participate in the Respect Life Mass on Oct. 1 as readers, gift bearers and altar servers.

For those unable to attend in-person, the Mass will be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and the Diocese of Scranton's YouTube Channel. The Mass will also be livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website with links provided on the Diocese of Scranton social media platforms.

# Speakers announced for third annual PA March for Life on Oct. 16

HARRISBURG – The third annual PA March for Life will take place on Monday, Oct. 16, 2023, outside the Capitol building in Harrisburg. Both the House and Senate will be in session that day, which will allow the pro-life community to come from every corner of the Commonwealth to have their voices heard.

The PA March for Life is an opportunity to celebrate the beauty of life, advocate for a Commonwealth where every single life is cherished from the moment of conception to natural death and mourn the tragedy of abortion.

After a wave of pro-life legislation across other states, now is a great time to continue the momentum and show our state lawmakers support for protecting the sanctity of life in Pennsylvania.

The schedule of events for Oct. 16 include a Mass at Saint Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg at 9:30 a.m. At 10 a.m., a Prayer and Praise Pre-Rally will take place on the main stage at the front steps of the Capitol. At 11 a.m., the main rally will take place followed by the noon March around the Capitol. At 1:30 p.m., another Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral of Saint Patrick.

The speakers announced for the PA March for Life Rally include:

- Dawn Fitzpatrick, who is the Executive Director of the March for Life organization and a former Respect Life Director at the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago.

- David Bereit, founder of 40 Days for Life. 40 Days for Life helps communities lead prayer vigils outside of abortion facilities as a witness to the tragedy of abortion. David's work has mobilized 750,000 volunteers in over 700 cities around the world.

- Dr. Kendra Kolb, a Pennsylvania neonatologist and pro-life advocate. She works with newborn and prematurely-born babies, and is a member of the Perinatal Palliative Care Committee, which provides compassionate medical care for babies with life-limiting diagnoses.

- Bishop Timothy Senior, Bishop of Harrisburg. Bishop Senior is a classically-trained pianist and he holds a Master's in social work and a Master's in business administration.

- Dr. Don Immel, superintendent of the PennDel Ministry Network with the Assemblies of God. Dr. Immel has been working in ministry as a youth pastor, a pastoral counselor, and a lead pastor since 1982.

- Pastors Jay and Tiffany Gilbert, founders of Voices for the Unborn pregnancy center in the City of Pittsburgh. Jay is senior pastor at Another Level Ministries, where Tiffany works alongside him, and leaders at Another Level Bible Institute.

All are welcome to attend the PA March for Life and no advanced registration is required. For more information on [marchforlife.org/Pennsylvania-march-for-life](http://marchforlife.org/Pennsylvania-march-for-life).



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  
at 12:15 p.m.

Cathedral of Saint Peter  
315 Wyoming Ave., Scranton

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 website, YouTube channel and Facebook.



The Diocese of Scranton is sponsoring a bus to the PA March for Life in Harrisburg. High school students, college students and families are welcome to join us. The cost of the trip is \$30 per adult/\$25 per student and includes charter bus and driver gratuity. Passenger pick-up in Scranton is at 7:45 a.m. The bus will depart Harrisburg at 2:45 p.m. following the conclusion of the 1:30 p.m. Mass at Saint Patrick Cathedral. For more information or to register, contact Shannon Kowalski at [SKowalski@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:SKowalski@dioceseofscranton.org) or call (570) 207-2213, x1155.

Another bus trip to the PA March for Life will originate from the Wilkes-Barre area. For more information, contact Chris Calore at (570) 824-5621.

The VOICE of JOHN, in conjunction with Pennsylvanians for Human Life in Hazleton, will host a bus trip that leaves from Saint John Bosco Church in Conyngham after the 8 a.m. Mass. It will return at approximately 4:30 p.m. Cost is \$40 per adult/\$25 per student. To reserve a seat, contact Carol Matz at (570) 956-0817 or Maryann Lawhon at (570) 788-5646.



# Father Shane Kirby elevated to the rank of Monsignor

SCRANTON — Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, was recently informed that His Holiness Pope Francis has named Reverend Shane L. Kirby, a priest of the Diocese of Scranton, a Chaplain to His Holiness, which bestows upon the priest the title of Monsignor and the privilege of being an honorary member of the Papal Household.

A native of Waynesburg in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, Monsignor Kirby was ordained for the Scranton Diocese in 2004 in the Cathedral of Saint Peter. Since November 2017, he has served in the Dicastery for the Clergy at the



**Monsignor Shane L. Kirby**

currently serves as coordinator for the Clergy and Administration Offices within the Dicastery. Additionally, the newly elevated Monsignor is the coordinator of the Program for the Newly Ordained at Casa Santa Maria, a graduate house for student priests at the Pontifical North American College in Rome.

At the time of his appointment for Vatican service, Monsignor Kirby was serving as Chancellor and Episcopal Vicar for Canonical Affairs for the Diocese of Scranton, as well as pastor of Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish in Jermyn.

Vatican in Rome, Italy.

Originally appointed as an official of the Congregation of the Clergy, Monsignor Kirby

# Old Forge celebrates Our Lady of Constantinople with Mass and procession



**Rev. Samuel Ferretti, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera and Rev. Gus Ricciardi participate in a procession in Old Forge in honor of Our Lady of Constantinople on Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023.**

OLD FORGE — Just one week after La Festa Italiana brought thousands of people to downtown Scranton to celebrate their Italian heritage, the Felittese Festival did the same thing for Old Forge.

Despite rainy weather on Saturday night, many people still attended the annual three-day celebration in honor of Our Lady of Constantinople.

“It has been a tradition in Old Forge for years. It is a way for families, the parish and the community to come together to express their faith,” Father Gus Ricciardi, pastor, Prince of Peace Parish, said.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, celebrated the 10 a.m. Feast Day Mass at Saint Mary’s Church, on Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023.

During his homily, he touched on the importance of relationships as a way to experience God and live out our faith.

“If you want to encounter God, look at the lives that God has placed in your own,” Bishop Bambera said. “In your relationships and in your ability to live in peace with one another and to serve one another, you will encounter God.”

Following Mass, the bishop participated in a procession of the statute of Our Lady of Constantinople that began at Saint Mary’s Church and ended at the Felittese chapel grounds on Third Street.

“The history of this Italian festival started when our ancestors came over from Filetto, Italy, in the early 1900s/late 1800s, and they formed a community here in Old Forge,” Jeff Casella, Felittese Association Chairman, explained. “They brought their faith and traditions with them.”

Joanna Reviello has been participating in the Felittese Festival for decades and has worked to ensure that children participate in the Mass and procession.

“Twenty-five years ago, I began having our children lay the flower before the Blessed Mother and ask for continued family blessings. I wanted to teach them that tradition,” she explained. “When our ancestors left Filetto and came across the ocean and settled here in Old Forge, they wanted to bring their tradition and their faith with them. They attributed all of their family blessings to Our Blessed Mother!”

## La Festa Italiana Mass Sunday, Sept. 3, 2023



**Upper Left: Christopher DiMattio, President, La Festa Board of Directors, carries the Italian flag into the Cathedral of Saint Peter. Upper Right: Rev. David P. Cappelloni, V.F., La Festa Italiana Chaplain, delivers the homily during Mass. Lower Left: Members of the SS. Anthony and Rocco Parish Choir, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Choir, Holy Family Parish Choir and UNICO Scranton Chapter Choir sing during Mass. Lower Right: Two ushers kneel in the back of the Cathedral during the Liturgy of the Eucharist. (Photos/Mike Melisky)**



# Harveys Lake church celebrates 100th anniversary

HARVEYS LAKE – Exactly 100 years to the day of the first Mass celebrated at Our Lady of Victory Church on Sept. 3, 1923, parishioners filled the pews for a special centennial celebration.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, was the principal celebrant and homilist for the church's 100th anniversary Mass on Sept. 3, 2023.

"There is a lot to give thanks for this day, most especially thanks and gratitude to God for the blessing of faith and for the gift of one another in and through whom the Lord is present and all of whom are truly the Church of Jesus Christ," Bishop Bambera said in welcoming the faithful to the liturgy.

Dorothy Lutinski, 97, is the oldest living parishioner of the Harveys Lake parish. She was thrilled to attend the special Mass.

"I can't believe it that I'm here to celebrate this special occasion. Everything turned out so beautiful," Lutinski said. "I was a member of the choir for 35 years."



**The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, celebrates Mass for the 100th anniversary of Our Lady of Victory Church in Harveys Lake on Sept. 3, 2023. (Photo/Dan Gallagher)**

Many of those in attendance for the anniversary Mass have deep connections to the church building itself – including the descendants of those who helped to dig the foundation of the building who presented Bishop Bambera a special basket as the Mass began.

"Every gathering of God's people has special meaning,"

Bishop Bambera noted in his homily. "We give thanks today for the living presence of God here in our midst on this altar as countless other individuals have done in this church for 100 years."

Bishop Bambera thanked all of the people in attendance for helping to build up the Luzerne County church in his/her own way.

"It was just a beautiful

celebration. Bishop Bambera said this is just a real treasure here and we are just blessed to be a part of this faith and this community," parishioner Sara McGrath said.

"What is overwhelming to me is the vitality of the parish. There are a lot of young people here, there is life here, they're willing to be active in the ways of the faith," Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdevic, pastor, Our Lady of Victory Parish, said.

During his homily, Bishop Bambera also gave parishioners a little history lesson. He asked if they were aware of the reason by the Most Rev. Michael Hoban, Second Bishop of Scranton, named the church Our Lady of Victory. He answered his own question – saying it was to honor soldiers from Harveys Lake (and the Diocese of Scranton) who served during World War I.

"What a wonderful way to commemorate the lives of those veterans who served and most of the recruits from this area, interestingly enough, served in

Spain during the War. Hence, the reason for the architecture of your church which has a little bit of Spanish flavor to it," Bishop Bambera noted.

While parishioners know the church is truly the People of God, many say the building itself is a critical piece of infrastructure for the lakeside community.

"One of the reasons that my husband and I bought the house that we did, is that when we sit on our porch we can see this beautiful church and everything that means to us. Our faith is here," parishioner Merry Ann Edwards said. "Everybody here is just so loving and giving. We all enjoy working together to do what we can for the church and our community. I'm honored and blessed to be part of this parish."

"I think everyone in the community carries on the work of Christ as we see them around the lake and on the lake and in church," McGrath added. "Every one just has such a loving and welcoming spirit here."

## Wayne County church celebrates 185th anniversary of its founding

ROCK LAKE – With a celebration as big as a 185th anniversary – the joy simply could not be contained to just one weekend!

Parishioners of Saint Juliana Church came together on two consecutive weekends in August to mark the dedication of their beloved house of worship in northern Wayne County.

The first – and largest celebration – was held on Saturday, Aug. 19 as part of the church's annual "Rock Lake Picnic." The church picnic, originating as early as 1838, has been held annually to financially support the church's construction and upkeep.

Festivities included a

traditional turkey and ham dinner, along with other food, children's games and art, live music throughout the day, a huge finder's market, homemade bake sale and raffles.

Reverend Arun Lakra, pastor of Saint Katharine Drexel Parish, celebrated Mass at 5:30 p.m. in the church.

Concelebrating the liturgy were Rev. Patrick Albert, pastor of the parish from 2005-2015, as well as Rev. Seth Wasnock and Rev. Joseph Mosley, pastor and senior priest from Saint Rose of Lima Parish and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Carbondale.

In his homily, Father Arun quoted Psalm 118:24, "This is the



**Participating in the Aug. 19, 2023 anniversary Mass at Saint Juliana Church are, Rev. Joseph Mosley, Deacon Carl Albright, Rev. Arun Lakra, pastor, Rev. Patrick Albert and Rev. Seth Wasnock.**

day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Father spoke of rejoicing with gladness for the beautiful day that was provided along

with the blessing of past priests, friends, relatives and neighbors. He stressed that as individuals, families, a parish and community, "we are one."

Reminding those in attendance of the unconditional love that God has for each of us, Father Arun said we are called to share the joy and blessings we receive.

His final question to parishioners – "Do I recognize the blessings of God in my life and am I grateful to Him?" – challenged those in the crowd to reflect on the many gifts they are given.

Parishioner Jim Biondo expressed gratitude for the presence of the priests and Deacon Carl Albright and provided a warm welcome to all attending the picnic Mass.

*Continued on Page 23*



# Red Mass to be celebrated at Cathedral of Saint Peter

SCRANTON – The Diocese of Holy Spirit. Moreover, the robes of the Scranton’s annual Red Mass will be celebrated on Friday, Oct. 6, at 12:10 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. The public is invited to the Red Mass

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambara, Bishop of Scranton, will be the principal celebrant and homilist. Members of the county bar associations from across the 11-county Diocese and the Diocesan Tribunal staff are also invited to participate.

Historically, the Red Mass is attended by judges, lawyers and legislators for the purpose of invoking God’s blessing and guidance in the administration of justice. Its traditional name is derived from the color of vestments worn by the celebrants of the Mass, symbolizing the tongues of fire, which indicate the presence of the Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton will broadcast the Red Mass live and a livestream will be available on the Diocese of Scranton website and social media platforms. The Mass will also be rebroadcast at 3:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Oct. 6.



## BISHOP BAMBERA’S SCHEDULE

- 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.
- September 21** - Mass of the Holy Spirit for Chancery Staff  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.
- September 23** - 100th Anniversary Mass for Saint Mary, Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Dorrance, 4:00 p.m.
- September 25** - Diocesan Teachers’ Institute Mass  
Saint Nicholas Church, Wilkes-Barre, 8:30 a.m.
- September 26-28** - Pennsylvania Catholic Conference Board of Governors Meeting, Harrisburg
- September 28** - Pennsylvania Bishops’ Provincial Meeting  
Harrisburg
- September 30** - Ministry of Reader Mass  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.
- October 1** - Respect Life Sunday Mass  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.
- October 6** - Red Mass  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.
- October 7** - Catholic Men’s Conference Mass  
Holy Redeemer High School, Wilkes-Barre, 1:45 p.m.

## APPOINTMENTS

His Excellency, Bishop Joseph C. Bambara, announces the following appointments, effective as follows:

*Effective August 14, 2023:*

**Reverend Brian J.T. Clarke**, to Chaplain, Notre Dame High School, East Stroudsburg. Father will remain Senior Priest, St. Matthew’s Parish, East Stroudsburg.

*Effective August 29, 2023:*

**Reverend Andrew Amankwaa**, from Parochial Vicar, Most Holy Trinity Parish, Susquehanna and Saint Brigid Parish, Friendsville, to Administrator *Pro Tem*, Most Holy Trinity Parish, Susquehanna and Saint Brigid Parish, Friendsville.

*Effective September 1, 2023:*

**Reverend John J. Chmil**, from Pastor, St. Ann’s Parish, Williamsport, to Pastor, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Swoyersville.

**Reverend Duane J. Gavitt**, from Pastor, St. Elizabeth’s Parish, Bear Creek, and St. Rita’s Parish, Gouldsboro, to Pastor, Holy Rosary Parish, Hazleton and Holy Name Parish, West Hazleton.

**Reverend Binesh Joseph Kanjirakattu**, from Administrator, Holy Rosary Parish, Hazleton and Holy Name Parish, West Hazleton, to Parochial Vicar, Good Shepherd Parish, Drums, and Immaculate Conception Parish, Freeland.

**Reverend Michael J. Kloton**, to Administrator, St. Patrick’s Parish, White Haven. Father will remain Pastor, Good Shepherd Parish, Drums and Immaculate Conception Parish, Freeland.

**Reverend Rawel Toppo**, from Administrator, St. Patrick’s Parish, White Haven and Parochial Vicar, Good Shepherd Parish, Drums, and Immaculate Conception Parish, Freeland, to Administrator, St. Elizabeth’s Parish, Bear Creek, and St. Rita’s Parish, Gouldsboro.

*Effective September 6, 2023:*

**Reverend Richard E. Fox**, to Pastor, St. Lucy’s Parish, Scranton. Father will remain Pastor, St. Patrick’s Parish, Scranton.

*Effective September 7, 2023:*

**Reverend Stephen Brenyah**, from ministry in the Diocese of Sunyani, Ghana, to Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and Saint Anthony and Saint Rocco Parish, Dunmore.

**Reverend Mark J. DeCelles**, from Parochial Vicar, Saint Therese Parish, Shavertown, and Saint Frances X. Cabrini Parish, Carverton, to Parochial Vicar, Saint John Neumann Parish and Saint Paul of the Cross Parish, Scranton. Father will continue to serve as Associate Director of the Permanent Diaconate.

**Reverend Shawn M. Simchock**, from Parochial Vicar, Saint Ignatius of Loyola Parish, Kingston, and Holy Family Parish, Luzerne, to Administrator *Pro Tem*, Saint Ann Parish, Williamsport.

**Reverend Paul Yeboah**, from ministry in the Diocese of Sunyani, Ghana, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Ignatius of Loyola Parish, Kingston, and Holy Family Parish, Luzerne.

## DEACONS

**Deacon John M. Hanley**, from diaconal ministry, Archdiocese of New York, to diaconal ministry, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Milford, effective August 14, 2023.

**Deacon Paul Jennings**, to Diaconal Ministry, Saint Lucy Parish, Scranton, effective September 6, 2023. Deacon Jennings will continue to serve in Diaconal Ministry at Saint Patrick Parish, Scranton.

**Deacon Carmine Mendicino**, from diaconal ministry, St. Lucy’s Parish and SS. Peter and Paul Parish, Scranton, to retirement, effective September 6, 2023.



# President Biden visits Cathedral of Saint Peter to pay respects to family of Ellen Casey



Secret service agents, state police and local police closed down the 300-block of Wyoming Avenue in Scranton on Thursday, Aug. 17, 2023, as President Joe Biden visited the Cathedral of Saint Peter to privately pay his respects to the family of Ellen Casey, the former first lady of Pennsylvania who died on Aug. 11 at age 91. (Photo/Eric Deabill)

SCRANTON – President Joe Biden visited the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Thursday, Aug. 17, 2023, to privately pay his respects to the family of Ellen Casey, the former first lady of Pennsylvania and mother of U.S. Sen. Bob Casey, who died Aug. 11 at age 91.

The president arrived at the Cathedral at 1:08 p.m. and departed at 1:48 p.m.

Secret Service, along with state and local police had a heavy presence outside the Cathedral during the 40-minute visit.

Talking to reporters both before and after his flight, Biden said he wanted to attend Mrs. Casey's funeral which was scheduled for the following day but had previously been scheduled to be at a summit at Camp David and didn't want other funeral attendees to have to go through Secret Service security.

"I just want to show my respect to the family," Biden said after arriving at the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport in Avoca.

Biden said Mrs. Casey loved with a fierceness and a tenderness that was "just incredible."

"She played an enormous role, not just in my life but everyone's (life). There is a quote my sister always uses about Michelangelo, 'He saw the angel in the marble, and he carved till he set it free.' That's who she was. This was an incredible woman – decent, honorable. Her values were amazing and every time I'd go to

Scranton over the years, I'd stop and see her. She was a friend," Biden said.

President Biden emphasized he has known the Casey family for the majority of his life.

"We lived not far from one another. He was on Wyoming Avenue and I lived on North Washington Avenue. We went to the same parish, Saint Paul's," Biden added.

Monsignor Joseph G. Quinn, pastor, Our Lady of the Snows Parish, Clarks Summit, was the principal celebrant for the Mass of Christian Burial for Mrs. Casey on Aug. 18, 2023.

During his homily, Msgr. Quinn reflected on the remarkable life and deep faith that Mrs. Casey had.

"For Ellen Harding Casey, coming to know God and learning to live one's faith really did matter and discerning one's true purpose in life and committing oneself to intentionally fulfilling it does make a difference," Msgr. Quinn said. "Remaining genuinely hopeful in what one believes to be God's purpose for your life does aid one in finding the inner calm and joy we all need to move forward one day at a time and finally, selflessly sharing one's love with and for others, does help us to rise to new life."

At the request of the Casey family, the funeral Mass was livestream from the Cathedral of Saint Peter and is currently available for viewing at any time on the Diocese of Scranton YouTube channel. Scranton's YouTube Channel.

# Avoca parish holds Silver Rose Pro-Life Prayer Service



A single, silver rose sits next to the altar at Queen of the Apostles Parish in Avoca on Sept. 7, 2023. The parish hosted a Silver Rose program put together by the Knights of Columbus to share the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe and promote a greater understanding for the dignity of all human life. (Courtesy: CTV)

AVOCA – Faithful from parishes around the Diocese of Scranton came together Sept. 7 to share the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe and pray in an intentional way for the unborn.

Queen of the Apostles Parish in Avoca hosted a Silver Rose program put together by the Knights of Columbus to promote a greater understanding for the dignity of all human life.

The daylong celebration began with the celebration of Mass at 8 a.m., followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament all afternoon. The day concluded with a special Holy Hour at 7 p.m.

"The Knights of Columbus, who are very dedicated to life, are united around this and continue to find their unity as they honor the Mother of God," Rev. Phil Sladicka, pastor, Queen of the Apostles Parish, said. "We want to defend the child in the womb. We want to respect that life."

The Silver Rose program demonstrates the unity between Knights of Columbus in Canada, the United States and Mexico. Each year, from early March through mid-December, six silver roses are stewarded by Knights of Columbus councils along routes from Canada to Mexico. Every stop that each silver rose makes is an opportunity for a rosary-centered occasion for people to pray for respecting life.

"I believe in the power of prayer," Arthur Philipp, Jr., of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Throop, said. "The world is attacking life right now from all over and I believe a lot of people forget about the spiritual aspects of the world around us. I think it's important that we gather together

and pray for Our Blessed Mother and for all those who are suffering and those who have gone through and had abortions."

Phil Rodney, a member of Knights of Columbus Cardinal John J. O'Connor Council 12967, said every Knights Council meeting opens with the Rosary in defense against abortion.

"It is a true honor to have the Silver Rose here today," Rodney said. "Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patron saint for life. Life is sacred no matter whether it's in the womb or on someone's deathbed."

Many who attended the Holy Hour called the experience "moving."

"I truly believe, with the Grace of God, that events like this are held to evangelize to the world the sanctity of life through Our Lady, through Our Lord and Saint Joseph," Thomas Gilchrist of Avoca said.

"The sanctity of life is very precious and by the Grace of God, and by the Grace of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Our Blessed Mother, maybe people will understand that," Barb Gregorio of Scranton added. "It was a beautiful service."

"Coming together with other people really strengthens me," Chris Shuleski of Duryea said. "It gives me a lot of joy to be with my brothers and sisters and the Lord."

Even though the Silver Rose was only in Avoca for one day, it helped many vocalize their respect for life for the unborn.

"It's not enough to keep our beliefs to ourselves. We have to show and tell other people what they are and in so doing, we become strengthened in our faith and our beliefs," Nancy Adomiak of Avoca said.



**MOUNTAIN TOP** – A new academic year is underway for thousands of Catholic school students across the Diocese of Scranton.

As children and young adults return to their studies, they are returning to 19 schools that prioritize strong academic programs, a commitment to faith and a family-centered community where love and respect abound.

At Saint Jude School in Mountain Top, students, faculty and families work together to create a special environment.

“The kids that are in my class, that have been here since kindergarten, are all very close,” seventh grader Hannah Fauerbach said.

Dedicated teachers play an important role in the success of each school.

They plan interactive STREAM activities, connecting science, technology, religion, engineering, arts and math, in lessons for all grade levels.

“We have a lot of activities in social studies, literature, English

and science,” seventh grader Leah Smith said.

“I feel like they know each kid individually and they get to know their kids and they care about their children and my kids see that and they connect with the teachers and

they have a special bond,” parent Rebecca Cabrera explained.

It is clear Christ is the reason for Saint Jude School.

Through artwork on display in the hallways, He is the unseen – but ever present – teacher in each classroom. Students are invited to become His disciples by praying daily and celebrating Mass weekly in neighboring Saint Jude Church.

“In the morning and in the afternoons we have prayers and then after lunch we have prayers,” seventh grader Elizabeth Bilbow said. “They really emphasize just how much religion means to us.”



**Students from Saint Jude School in Mountain Top walk through the halls of their school.**

“During Lent, every Friday, we do the Stations of the Cross and not many schools do that kind of stuff anymore so that just sets us apart,” fifth grader Robert Marcalus added.

Parents are also actively involved in the school.

Take for instance Saint Jude’s Field Day at the end of the 2022-23 academic year. More than 70 parents volunteered to participate. There is never a project too big or too small that parents will not tackle.

“Things get done. Things come together. People want to make things happen and make a

great place for our kids,” parent Jill Carone said.

The Diocesan Annual Appeal directly benefits all 19 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Scranton, including Saint Jude School.

Your gifts help each student learn that God is present and active in their lives.


With enrollment growing at Saint Jude School, Sister Ellen Fischer, school principal, says so do requests for tuition assistance.

“The (Diocesan Annual) Appeal is so important because the reality is, there are other families who want a Catholic

education for their children, and the reality is sometimes they can’t quite afford it,” Sister Ellen said. “Donations to the school in various ways assists with making that a reality. We have to serve all God’s people.”

By your financial support of the Diocesan Annual Appeal, Saint Jude School can continue to be that warm, welcoming environment where even more students can come together to learn about and glorify God.

“We’ve got Saint Jude Spirit and we’re not afraid to show it and no one else can copy it!” sixth grader Rachel Atwal said.



**OUR CALL TO  
SERVE**  
DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

**The Diocesan Annual Appeal helps provide funding for all 19 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Scranton each year. In all, funding from the Appeal will benefit the more than 4,400 students who attend a Catholic school in the Diocese of Scranton.**

## ***Doreen Dougherty, Holy Redeemer principal, remembered as a “fierce advocate for Catholic education”***

**SWOYERSVILLE** – As the funeral Mass for Doreen Dougherty began Aug. 25 inside Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Holy Redeemer students honored their principal’s memory and commitment to Catholic education by lining the main aisle of the church.

At the conclusion of the liturgy, her faculty and peers did the same, celebrating and paying respect to the long-time educator’s kindness, love and grace.

“Doreen Dougherty was a great servant leader,” Monsignor David Tressler said during the homily of the Mass. “Her passion

for Catholic education was evident each and every day as she interacted with the students, faculty, staff and parents.”

Dougherty, 54, passed away on Aug. 20, 2023, at home, surrounded by her loving family.

Born April 15, 1969, Dougherty was the valedictorian of Bishop O’Reilly High School, Class of 1987. She had a passion for education, working first as an instructional aide at Regis Elementary and then Good Shepherd Academy. She helped to develop the Individualized Instruction Program at All Saints Academy in Scranton and later



became the school’s principal. In 2019, Dougherty became principal of Holy Redeemer High School.

“She was unwavering in her faith, a fierce advocate for Catholic education, an inspiring mentor to

her colleagues, a warrior for those requiring someone dependable, a caring friend for anyone seeking a companion, a listening ear for those needing a voice, a champion for her students and a superhero to her family,” her daughter, Shaina Aquilina, said in offering words of remembrance at the end of Mass.

Both Aquilina and Msgr. Tressler stressed that family was everything to Dougherty. While Doreen might have had about 20 immediate family members, her daughter said she always counted her school communities in Luzerne and Lackawanna counties as family as well.

“Our mom was the epitome of the sunshine. She radiated warmth, light and happiness to everyone she encountered,” her daughter said. “She was inviting, generous and always knew how to make your day brighter than it was before.”

Aquilina said her mother saw each day as an opportunity to shower those around her with love and compassion.

“She had a special talent for creating a family in whatever community she interacted with and prided herself on fairness, empathy and equity,” she added.

*Continued on Page 23*



*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.*

# WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL



Saint Jude School in Mountain Top



Holy Rosary School in Duryea



Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg



Good Shepherd Academy  
in Kingston



Holy Family Academy  
in Hazleton



Epiphany School  
in Sayre

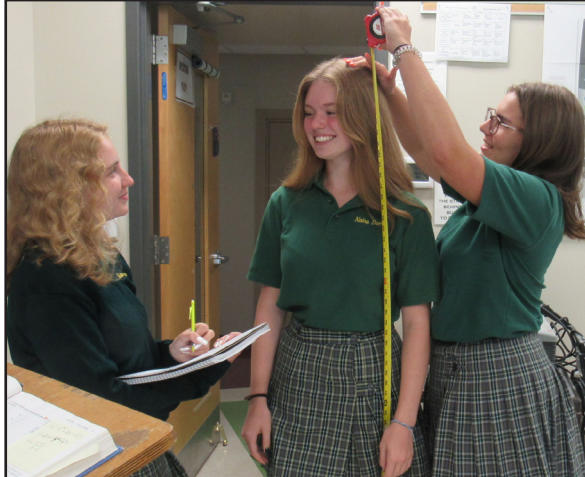


Wyoming Area Catholic  
School in Exeter



La Salle Academy  
in Jessup





Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School  
in East Stroudsburg



Our Lady of Peace School  
in Clarks Green



Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School  
in Williamsport



Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary  
School in Wilkes-Barre



Saint Agnes School in Towanda



Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore



Holy Cross High School in Dunmore



Saint John Neumann Elementary School  
in Williamsport



All Saints Academy in Scranton



Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre



Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton





# THE EUCHARIST: A MIRACLE

*- A Priesthood Perspective by Rev. Thomas J. Petro, J.C.L., KCHS-  
Pastor, Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Dupont*



*Soon afterward he journeyed to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd accompanied him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. A large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, he was moved with pity for her and said to her, "Do not weep." He stepped forward and touched the coffin; at this the bearers halted, and he said, "Young man, I tell you, arise!" The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, exclaiming, "A great prophet has arisen in our midst," and "God has visited his people." This report about him spread through the whole of Judea and in all the surrounding region.*

*(Luke 7:11-17)*

Miracles happen every day. It takes eyes of faith to see them, however. As a pastor of souls, I do my best to discourage people from chasing after the fantastic and the exceptional in the spiritual life. Such religious phenomena can distract more than ground one in the faith. This is not to dismiss miracles, but instead to call people to a greater depth of belief in the power of God daily operative in their lives, especially manifested in the sacraments of the Church. The greatest miracle that we can behold daily is the enduring true presence of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in the Holy Eucharist.

Each time Mass is celebrated, God condescends to us: He makes Himself present to us in a most miraculous way. The bread and wine consumed at Mass is truly the Precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ. The Church knows no greater miracle than the Eucharist. We see the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass as the ritual murder of the Son of God, offered to the Father for the remission of our sins and for life everlasting.

The great mercy of God for us poor sinners continues to amaze me as nothing short of miraculous. Daily we offend Him by our sins and daily He calls us to partake of Him for the healing of our souls and bodies. I am keenly aware of my own unworthiness as I daily ascend the altar of God to offer again the unbloodied sacrifice. I know that Jesus Christ has come into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the first! This belief

compels me to now make public a record of God's Eucharistic mercy that was experienced in a most personal way.

During the beginning of September 2021, a young man named Thomas Pistack fell seriously ill with COVID. He received medical attention and he recovered. His father, Joseph, subsequently became infected with the COVID-19 virus. On October 1, 2021, Joseph's daughter, Mary, took her father to the emergency room and he was admitted for observation. At 5:00 a.m. on October 2, his family received word that Joseph was admitted to the intensive care unit and were told, "Say what you have to say to him as this might be the last time you speak to him." At this point, Joseph was put on a ventilator, intubated, induced into a coma and medically paralyzed. Joseph's mother, Mary Ann Pistack, called the hospital at 6:00 a.m. to see how he was doing and was told that he was "near death" and would probably not live. She immediately called for a priest to administer the anointing of the sick and went to the hospital, only to discover that her daughter-in-law and Joseph's wife, Marie, was also admitted to the hospital with COVID. After one week Marie was released from the hospital to recover at home, but her husband remained in the ICU. Joseph's mother then asked the attending

physician if patients that were as ill as her son ever recovered. The doctor answered "Rarely," and told his mother that if Joseph lived, he would likely have to learn how to talk, walk and eat again. She was also told that he may have to be on oxygen for the rest of his life, and may have liver, kidney and lung problems. Mary Ann asked me and many other people to pray for the recovery and good health of her son.

Prior to the 4:00 p.m. vigil Mass in Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Dupont on Saturday, October 9, I noticed that Mary Ann was filled with anguish as she prepared to pray the rosary. She was scheduled to assist as the extraordinary minister of Holy Communion at that Mass. As I was on my way to the confessional, I stopped and asked her if she felt well enough to distribute Holy Communion. She responded that she was indeed able, and I answered, "I will pray for Joseph." Mary Ann relates that as she started to pray the rosary, she looked at the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary in our church and said, "Mary you know how it is to lose a son, would you spare mine?" She states that she immediately heard a most beautiful voice from over her left shoulder say: "I will."

Following confessions, I prepared for Mass in the usual way, personally preparing the



chalice, ciborium, and other liturgical items. Mary Ann at this point did not share with me the special grace she had just received. The vigil Mass for the Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time then began. I experienced nothing unusual at that Mass until the singing of the Agnus Dei. It was at that moment my eyes were cast upon the ciborium and I was taken aback by what I saw: there, upon the very top of the consecrated Hosts, I beheld a single Host with what appeared to be a very visible droplet of blood. It had not been there prior. Since I had personally prepared the ciborium, and had carefully removed the lid at the altar after the offertory procession,

and observed the ciborium throughout the Mass, I can testify and affirm with moral certitude that nothing unusual in appearance or substance was present in that ciborium until the Agnus Dei chant. Upon seeing the unusual Host, I carefully removed it and placed it on the paten. After the distribution of Holy Communion, I placed the Host in question on top of the others in the ciborium and reposed it in the tabernacle for inspection later. I did not know what to think or believe at that time; I was somewhat stoic, a little incredulous and apprehensive. "What just happened?," I thought.

*Continued on Page 19*

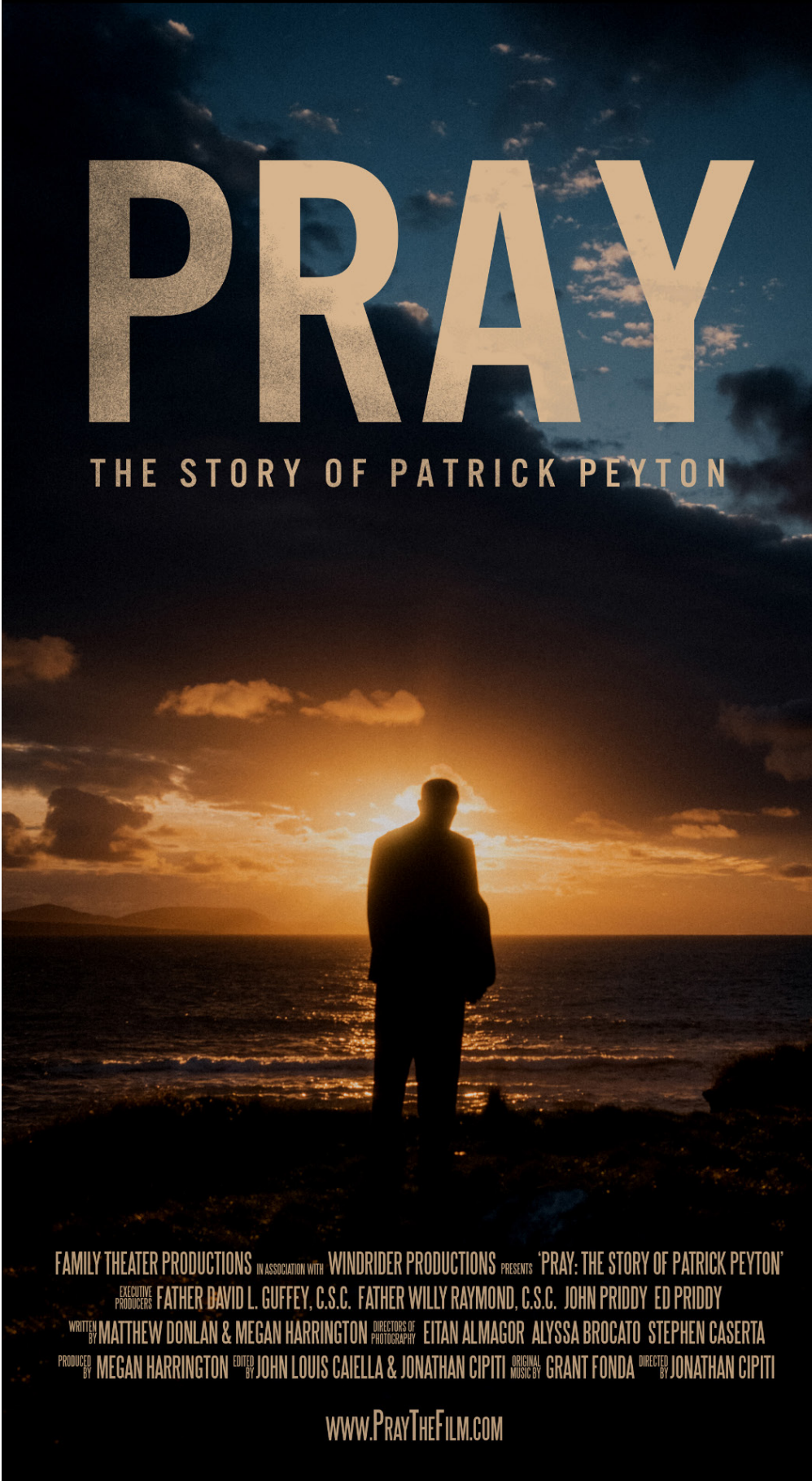






# PRAY

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**Wednesday, October 4,  
7:00 PM**

**Moskovitz Theater,  
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*Followed by a panel featuring  
Father David Marcham,  
Vice Postulator of the Cause for  
Venerable Patrick Peyton*



**View the trailer at [PrayTheFilm.com](http://PrayTheFilm.com)**



# Eighth 'Be A Catholic Man Conference' set to be held 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, at Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre.

Anchored by this year’s theme, “Stand Firm in the Faith,” the 2023 daylong conference begins at 8 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m.

All men are encouraged to join together in fortitude and strength in professing their 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 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 and Benediction.

The conference will feature a dynamic line-up of speakers, including Mark Houck, Franciscan Friar John Anthony Boughton and Sam Blair.

Founder and president of The King’s Men, a non-profit men’s



**Nearly 340 men attended last year's 'Be A Catholic Man Conference' at Holy Redeemer High School on Oct. 8, 2022.**

ministry that promotes authentic masculinity, fatherhood and beloved sonship, Mark Houck is a former college football All-American, high school teacher, coach and counselor. He now enjoys a second career as an activist, radio host, evangelist and motivational pro-life speaker. In September 2022, Mark, his wife, Ryan-Marie, and seven young children made international news with an FBI invasion of their home. Mark was falsely charged with felony violations for defending his 12-year-old son from an aggressive abortion escort. Mark was acquitted on all charges.

Father John Anthony Boughton, C.F.R., of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal is currently stationed in Bronx, N.Y., serving as the Vicar General of his religious congregation.

Through a life of prayer, fraternity, apostolate, penance, and wholehearted living of the gospel, the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal minister 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 graduate of the Virginia Military Institute, he was commissioned in the U.S. Naval Reserve, worked as a sales representative, and

was vice president and director of operations for Saint David’s Relief Foundation in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992-95.

Sam Blair is a “passionate cradle Catholic” and a former Navy SEAL Officer with experience leading elite teams around the globe. He taught leadership and ethics at the United States Naval Academy and helped screen, select, and train more than 90 new future SEAL Officers.

Before transitioning from active duty, Sam was a SkillBridge Fellow at Squadra Ventures, a venture capital firm in Baltimore, Md. Sam is passionate about leveraging his unique skill sets and hard-earned leadership experiences to help corporate leaders, portfolio companies and corporations build robust cultures, clarity of purpose and a relentless focus on execution.

Registration is online at [www.BeACatholicMan.com](http://www.BeACatholicMan.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.

Cost is \$40; Students \$15; Priests/Deacons admitted free.

For more information, contact Mike Kilmer at (570) 721-0872 or [mkilmer@thekilmergroup.com](mailto:mkilmer@thekilmergroup.com).



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**MISSION MESSAGE**

**The Saint of the Gutters**

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



"By blood, I am Albanian. By citizenship, an Indian. By faith, I am a Catholic nun. As to my calling, I belong to the world. As to my heart, I belong entirely to the Heart of Jesus. God still loves the world and He sends you and me to be His love and His compassion to the poor."

— *Saint Mother Teresa*

Small of stature, rocklike in faith, she was born on Aug. 26, 1910, in Skopje, Macedonia, to Albanian heritage. In 1928, 18-year-old Albanian Anjeze Gonxhe Bojaxhiu left her home and family in what is now Macedonia to embark on what has been called one of the greatest religious journeys of the century. Anjeze became internationally known as Mother Teresa. In fact, Saint Pope John Paul II called Mother Teresa

the greatest missionary of our time. On Sept. 4, 2016, Pope Francis canonized Mother Teresa as a saint of the Roman Catholic Church.

During her lifelong ministry, she established more than 600 mission houses in more than 130 countries throughout the world where her sisters (Missionaries of Charity) served the poorest of the poor. But she started small by feeding the hungry — one by one, one at a time. The following are two beautiful examples of this in Saint Mother Teresa's words:

*The other day I picked up a child in Calcutta. From her dark eyes I saw she was hungry. And I gave her some bread and she was eating crumb by crumb. I told her, "Eat the bread, you are hungry." I asked her why she eats so slowly. She replied: "I am afraid to eat faster. When I finish this piece, soon I will be hungry again." I told her: "Eat faster then I will give you more." That small child already knows the pain of hunger.*

*Another time I was walking through the streets of London in a poor area where our sisters also work. I saw a man in a truly terrible condition sitting there*

*looking so sad and alone. So I walked up to him and took him by the hand and asked him how he was. When I did this he looked up at me and said, "Oh, after such a long time, I feel the warmth of a human hand. After such a long time, someone is touching me." And then his eyes brightened, and he started to sit up straight. Such a tiny attention had brought Jesus into his life. He had been waiting so long for a show of human love, but it was actually a show of God's love.*

Mother Teresa insisted that "Love cannot remain still. It has to get into action, and that action is service." She has often been called the "Saint of the Gutters." Wherever she went, her first visit would be to the slums. She washed the sores of children, she cared for those lying on the street, she nursed and fed those dying of hunger. She started each day in communion with Jesus in the Eucharist and then went out, rosary in her hand, bringing the love of Jesus to the unwanted, the unloved, the uncared for, but also she could see Jesus in them.

This is the great lesson of Saint Mother Teresa. She could see physical hunger. But she could also see in all people the hunger for love and the hunger for God. She teaches us to see. Before she died, Mother Teresa said: "Every day do something beautiful for God."

If we could all just follow the example of the "Saint of the Gutters!"

***Apostleship of Prayer***

**Papal Intention for September 2023**

***For People Living on the Margins —***

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions. May they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.



# Memorial scholarship established in memory of Doreen Dougherty, Holy Redeemer principal

Continued from Page 15

The love and respect that many had for Dougherty was evident by the standing room only crowd that filled the church for the Mass of Christian Burial. Hundreds of others attended a viewing the night before at Holy Redeemer High School, many waiting in line for more than an hour to pay their respects to her family.

"You lost the heart of your family and a part of yourselves," the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, said prior to conveying the Rite of Final Commendation. "We lost a dedicated educator and leader. We lost a tireless advocate



**Doreen Dougherty takes a selfie with Holy Redeemer High school soccer players. The late principal is remembered for her love of sports and Catholic education.**

for the Catholic faith and values and most especially a treasured, trusted and loving colleague and

friend. May God give her the rest she so richly deserves."

Interment with the Rite of Committal followed the Mass in Saint Mary's Cemetery.

Dougherty's family is establishing a memorial scholarship fund in her honor. Donations can be made by visiting the Luzerne Foundation's website (www.luzfdn.org) or mailing a donation to: The Doreen S. Dougherty Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o the

Luzerne Foundation, 34 South River Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702.

## Wayne Country church celebrates 185th anniversary

Continued from Page 12

Biondo let those present know of how the picnic team and parishioners are mindful of, grateful for, and in awe of the sacrifices of those who came before them. He honored the pride and dedication of all the picnic volunteers and thanked the parishioners and friends of Saint Juliana Church who helped to make her "shine again."

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, was present at Saint Juliana Church on Sunday, Aug. 27, to celebrate the church's 185th anniversary.

He recalled visiting Saint Juliana's for the Sacrament of Confirmation and commented that his father hunted in nearby Rileyville and had probably attended Mass at Saint Juliana's as a young boy.

The bishop's homily reflected on 185 years of faith being proclaimed and professed in this

little corner of God's kingdom, which was established 30 years before the Diocese of Scranton itself. He urged people to reflect less upon the building and more upon the celebration of the very presence of Jesus.

Bishop Bambera commented upon the fact that the Sacrament of the Eucharist has been celebrated in this area for nearly 200 years and asked parishioners to recall the people who once journeyed with them in faith and those who continue to walk the same journey.

The bishop invited parishioners to give thanks for the opportunity to share in Christ's work by building up the Body of Christ, in living and proclaiming the Gospel message, reminding those in attendance, that as people of faith, they have cared for, consoled and celebrated with each other and have reason to be thankful.

"If we look carefully, we will see the result of Jesus in our hearts

when we see people serving others by becoming the hands, hearts and voice of Christ," Bishop Bambera said. "This church is a blessed opportunity for mercy and forgiveness. The power of Christ is in the church. This celebration reminds us that we gather for a mission. We gather to be fortified and to go forth to proclaim the Gospel and live in peace. The light of Christ has shown brightly in this community for 185 years. The power and presence of God is at the heart of who we are as Christians. We must have gratitude and hope for all that has been and all that will continue to be, in the grace of God present in our midst."

After Mass, Bishop Bambera was warmly received by parishioners at a reception within the walls of the original horse and buggy barn, built in 1855. He graciously visited with all present and in departing, left them with smiles and fond memories.



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## Hibernians celebrate annual Our Lady of Knock feast



Mary, Mother of God Parish at Holy Rosary Church in North Scranton recently hosted the annual Eucharistic celebration commemorating the Feast of Our Lady of Knock and attended by members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) and the Ladies AOH of Lackawanna County. Father Martin Gaiardo, assisted by Deacon Joseph Marcellus, celebrated the Mass in honor of the Blessed Mother's appearance in the summer of 1879 in Knock, County Mayo, Ireland.

### 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 Respeto 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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## Candlelight Rosary Novena at Divine Mercy Parish in Scranton

SCRANTON — Now in its 44th year, the well-known Annual Candlelight Rosary Novena that has been offered in Lackawanna County to faithful around the month of October will be hosted this fall at Divine Mercy Parish in the Minooka section of Scranton.

The 2023 edition of the inspirational and moving devotion, which celebrates the Month of the Holy Rosary and the annual Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary in October, will open on Saturday, Oct. 7, the memorial feast day, at Divine Mercy's Saint Joseph Church, 312 Davis St.

Serving as host pastor for the popular Rosary Novena will

be Saint Joseph Oblate Father Paul McDonnell, who also serves as rector of the Oblates of Saint Joseph community and chapel on Highway 315 in Laffin. He is assisted by the permanent deacon of Divine Mercy Parish, Deacon Martin Castaldi.

According to the Novena's longtime director, Deacon Carmine Mendicino, evening services for the nine-day Candlelight Rosary devotion will begin at 7 p.m. from Oct. 7 through Saturday, Oct. 14, with the Novena closing scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 15, at 6 p.m. in Saint Joseph Church.

Deacon Mendicino stated the theme for this year's Rosary

Novena is "Pray for Unity," focusing on the importance of faithful living their spiritual lives in unison with each other.

Nightly devotions include: Rosary recitation by candlelight; crowning of the statue of the Blessed Mother; Gospel reading followed by the homily; praying of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy; and solemn closing with benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The Rosary Novena is open to the public, with the parish church completely handicap accessible.

For more information, contact Deacon Mendicino at (570) 341-2252, or the Divine Mercy rectory office at (570) 344-1724.



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## Marian Devotion Rosary prayer services listed

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

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

Marian Devotion events are scheduled as follows:

**Saturday Noon Rosary Rally** — Sept. 16, at Lackawanna County Courthouse Square, N. Washington Avenue, downtown Scranton.

**Rosary Evening of Marian Devotion** — Sept. 25, at 6 p.m. at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laffin.

**Healing Mass** — Oct. 1, at 7 p.m. at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laffin.

**Sunday Afternoon Rosary Rally** — Oct. 8, at 1 p.m. at the Prayer Garden on the grounds of Saint Lucy Church, West Scranton.

**Rosary Evening of Marian Devotion** — Oct. 9, at 6 p.m. at the outdoor Marian Grotto on the grounds of Our Lady of the Abingtons Church, Dalton.

**Saturday Rosary Devotion** — Oct. 14, at 5 p.m. at the Fatima Shrine on the grounds of Saint Mary of Mount Carmel Church, Dunmore.

**Rosary Evening of Marian Devotion** — Oct. 16, at 6 p.m. at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laffin.

**Tuesday Evening Rosary Rally** — Oct. 24, at 6 p.m. at Saint Mary of the Lake Church, Lake Winola.

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

## 'Tomb of Unborn' 27th anniversary commemoration slated Oct. 1

Prayerful commemoration of the 27th anniversary of the Knights of Columbus "Tomb of the Unborn" located at the top of Mount Olivet Cemetery in Carverton will be held on Sunday, Oct. 1, beginning at 2 p.m.

Father Thomas Petro, chaplain of Greater Pittston Knights of Columbus Assembly 948, will serve as leader for the celebration, during which Rosary prayers will be recited.

All Wyoming Valley Knights and area faithful are welcome to attend. For more information, call (570) 654-3713.

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Oct. 19: Autumn in Gettysburg w/2 meals, \$185  
Oct. 25: Simon & Garfunkel Tribute w/Train Ride, \$165  
Nov. 13: Historic Philadelphia, 2 museums, 2 meals, \$189

**Oct. 24 & 25: Great Jack-o'-Lantern Blaze -- Historic Hudson Valley, NY, \$125**

### **BEST OF BROADWAY**

Oct. 18: "MJ: The Musical," \$275 or "A Beautiful Noise," \$276

Nov. 8: Barry Manilow's "Harmony," \$295

Dec. 30: "Hamilton," "Wicked," or "A Beautiful Noise," all shows \$325 per person

### **CATCH THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT**

Nov. 25: "A Christmas Carol" & Kitchen Kettle Village, \$160

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

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### **LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024**

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## **Catholic school teacher shares year of education ministry in Micronesia**

Over the recent Labor Day Weekend, parishioners of Queen of Angels Parish in Jessup were treated to a witness talk by Marino Angeloni, a faculty member at Holy Redeemer High School, Wilkes-Barre, who recently returned from serving a year in Catholic high school teaching ministry in the Yap island chain of Micronesia, located in the northwestern Pacific Ocean. Angeloni is pictured with Father Gerard McGlone, pastor of Queen of Angels Parish.



## **Mental Health Masses scheduled in Diocese**

SCRANTON — "Breaking Silence, Breaking Bread: Mass for Mental Health" is the thematic title for a series of liturgical celebrations to be offered in October at two parishes in the Diocese of Scranton.

A Mass for those afflicted with mental health conditions, as well as caregivers and mental health practitioners, will be celebrated on Wednesday, Oct. 11, at 7 p.m. in the Church of Saint Gregory in Clarks Green. A fellowship reception will follow.

During the weekend of Oct. 21 & 22, the specially themed Eucharistic liturgies will be hosted by Saint John Vianney Parish in Scott Township, with

the schedule as follows:

Saturday, Oct. 21 — Mass at 5 p.m. at Corpus Christi Church, Montdale; Sunday — Oct. 22, Mass at 9:30 a.m. at Saint Pius X Church, Royal; and Mass at 11 a.m., followed by reception, at Corpus Christi Church.

According to organizers, as anxiety and depression negatively affect all areas of life — including relationships with God and others — the Masses offered for the special intentions of those experiencing mental illness implore the divine power of healing, as the Body of Christ prays together for healthier, more joyful lives for their brothers and sisters.

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## Renowned Philadelphia choir to perform at Pittston parish



Saint John the Evangelist Parish, 35 William St., Pittston, will host a concert by the acclaimed Saint Thomas Gospel Choir of Philadelphia on Saturday, Oct. 7, at 6:30 p.m. Consisting of 30 singers and musicians, the Gospel Choir is based at the African Episcopal Church of Saint Thomas in Philadelphia and performs at more than 50 religious services, programs, concerts and celebrations each year. The chorus' impressive list of credits includes the Philadelphia Orchestra Christmas Spectacular and Radio City Music Hall in New York City. The Saint Thomas Gospel Choir has traveled extensively throughout America and, in 2018, staged several performances in Italy in the cities of Rome, Venice and Florence. The suggested donation offering for the Oct. 7 concert in Pittston is \$10 per person. For more information or to reserve space in advance, call the Saint John Parish office at (570) 654-0053.

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# Annual Candlelight Rosary Novena



**SATURDAY, OCT. 7 *thru* SUNDAY, OCT. 15**  
**Oct. 7-14 at 7:00PM and Sunday, Oct. 15 at 6:00PM**

## DIVINE MERCY PARISH

312 Davis Street - Scranton, PA

***Theme: Pray for Unity***

- The Rosary will be said by candlelight in the Church.
- The crowning of Our Lady takes place each night.
- The Novena will close each evening with Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

***- Everyone is invited to attend -***

Rev. Paul A. McDonnell, O.S.J., Pastor; Deacon Martin Castaldi; Deacon Carmine Mendicino, Director; Nicholas Katchur & Christopher Mendicino, Choir Directors





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# Catholic Happenings in the Diocese

**"Knight at the Races" Fundraiser** — **SEPT. 16**, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 12572 in Scranton; hosted at St. Paul of the Cross Parish Hall, 1217 Prospect Ave., Scranton, from 6 to 10 p.m. Admission fee: \$10; race horses available for purchase for \$10 each. Event includes theme basket & cash raffle drawings, food, refreshments and cash bar. For more information, call (570) 921-8386. Proceeds benefit charities supported by the Knights Council.

**Family Fun Festival** — **SEPT. 16**, sponsored by Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton, in partnership with Pennsylvanians for Human Life; event will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Hazleton CSS Family Center and grounds, 106 South Church St., Hazleton.

Featuring games, food, vendors and representatives from non-profit agencies. All are welcome.

**Annual Flea Market** — **SEPT. 16-17 & 23**, sponsored by St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Old Forge; held in the church hall, 320 Vine St., Old Forge. Three-day flea market hours: Saturday, Sept. 16, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, Sept. 17 (half-price sale), 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and Saturday, Sept. 23 (bag & box sale), 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sale features antiques, household goods, furniture and children's items; includes a variety of ethnic foods, bake goods and refreshments for purchase.

**Charismatic Renewal Regional Prayer Meeting** — **SEPT. 18**, sponsored by the Diocese of Scranton Catholic Charismatic Renewal; begins at 7:30 p.m. in the church hall at Queen of the Apostles Parish, 715

Hawthorne St., Avoca. Featured speaker: Ted Mike, who also leads the evening's praise and worship music. Brian Hughes of WILK radio will host the gathering; refreshments provided. All are welcome.

**Grief Journey Ministry: "Be Not Afraid, I Go Before You"** — **SEPT. 18, 25 & OCT. 2, 9**, hosted by Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Lake Silkworth; four Monday evening gatherings will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The parish grief ministry offerings encourage and assist participants through their grief journey toward healing after suffering the loss of a loved one. All are welcome. Registration is encouraged; contact the parish office at (570) 477-5040.

**Tuesday Eucharistic Adoration** — **SEPT. 19**, hosted by St. Peter Parish in Wellsboro;

*Continued on next page*

## Father Cizek Day Celebration on Oct. 15

**SHENANDOAH** — The Father Walter Cizek Prayer League announces the annual Father Cizek Day celebration will be held on Sunday, Oct. 15, in Shenandoah.

The Prayer League is dedicated to promoting the canonization cause for Father Cizek, who has been revered and venerated for his extraordinary faith and devotion to his priestly vocation.

The centerpiece of the daylong celebration will be a Divine Liturgy offered at 2 p.m. at Saint Casimir Church, 229 North Jardin St., Shenandoah.

Monsignor Ronald Bocian, president of the Father Walter Cizek Prayer League, will serve as principal celebrant for the Eucharistic liturgy, with Jesuit Father Phillip Hurley as homilist.

Prior to the liturgical celebration, the Father Walter Cizek Prayer League Center, 218 West Cherry St., Shenandoah, will

be open to visitors from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

During that time, Mother Lucille Cutrone of the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal will offer her reminiscences of Father Cizek and be available for any questions. A social reception immediately follows the Mass in the church hall.

Father Cizek served the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) congregation as a teacher and missionary in Eastern Europe during the mid-20th century. It was during his missionary ministry the Catholic priest was arrested by Soviet authorities and held in confinement for 15 years in a Siberian labor camp.

Upon his release, Father Cizek wrote two well-known defining books, *With God in Russia* and *He Leadeth Me*, offered as meditations on his acceptance and forgiveness after surviving horrific conditions as a prisoner of the Communists.

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# Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese

*Continued from previous page*

weekly exposition & adoration of the Blessed Sacrament offered every Tuesday from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Church of St. Peter, 47 Central Ave., Wellsboro. All faithful are welcome to spend time in prayerful meditation and reflection.

**Annual St. Therese of Lisieux Novena** — **SEPT. 22-OCT. 1**, hosted by Queen of Angels Parish in Jessup; nine-day Novena concluding on the Feast of St. Therese, the Little Flower of Jesus, on Oct. 1 will be held at the parish worship site of St. Michael Church, 322 First Ave., Jessup. Daily devotions include celebration of Mass, Novena prayers and blessing with the St. Therese relic. Novena schedule: weekday Masses & prayers offered at 5:30 p.m.; weekend Masses & prayers on Saturday at 4 p.m., and Sunday at 8 and 10:30 a.m.

**Free PHL "Praise4Life" Family Picnic** — **SEPT. 24**, sponsored by Pennsylvanians for Human Life; beginning at 1 p.m. at the Whitetail Pavilion at Lackawanna State Park. Family-friendly event will include food and special presentations, including a time of praise with musical guest Michael Corsini and inspirational speaker Michael Grogan. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided; guests are welcome to bring other foods and their own soft (non-alcoholic) drinks. Open free to the public; registration is required. For more information and to register, call (570) 343-5099.

**"40 Days for Life" Pro-Life Rosary Gatherings** — **SEPT. 27-NOV. 3**, offered for the special intentions of an end to abortion and closure of the Planned Parenthood location in Wilkes-Barre; Rosary is prayed each weekday, Monday

thru Friday, at 10 a.m. in front of the offices of Planned Parenthood, 101 North Main St., Wilkes-Barre. The pro-life campaign draws attention to the evil of abortion through prayer & fasting, constant vigil, and community outreach. For more information, visit: [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com).

**St. Therese of Lisieux Pilgrimage** — **SEPT. 30**, hosted by the Byzantine Discalced Carmelite Sisters of Holy Annunciation Monastery in Sugarloaf; pilgrimage in honor of St. Therese offers prayers with the religious Sisters during services throughout the day, Eucharistic adoration, and Divine Liturgy at noon. Liturgy includes Blessing of Roses and Blessing of the Sick; day also includes presentation of the life of St. Therese, blessing

of the St. Joseph icon, and tour of the monastery farm. Pilgrims may provide their own lunch or purchase food at the event. For more information, visit [www.byzantinediscalcedcarmelites.com](http://www.byzantinediscalcedcarmelites.com).

**Enthronement Guild Healing Mass** — **OCT. 1**, sponsored by the Diocesan Enthronement Guild of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary; hosted at 7 p.m. at the Oblates of St. Joseph Seminary Chapel, 1880 Route 315, Laflin. Celebrant: Oblate Father Joseph Sibilano; healing Mass will include an anointing service. Liturgical music provided by the Sacred Heart Singers, directed by Ernie Pappa, with a prelude of contemporary hymns beginning at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to participate.

*Continued on Page 30*

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## Parish Fall Festivals

**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.

**Saint John Vianney in Scott Township** — **Oct. 1**. Annual Harvest Festival will be held on the grounds of the parish's Corpus Christi Church, 704 Montdale Road, Scott Township, from noon to 5 p.m. Event features a complete turkey dinner, with drive-thru/takeout service only. Dinners cost \$15; tickets available on site. Tent-covered outdoor variety booths include Bountiful Baskets and decorative wreath stands, baked goods, and raffle drawings, including a \$5,000 cash prize. For more information, call (570) 254-9502.

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## Knights Council hosts Mass to further founder's cause

Knights of Columbus JFK Council 5517 at Saint Michael Parish in Canton hosted a special Mass and devotions for the canonization cause of Blessed Michael McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus, on the beatified priest's feast day, Aug. 13. Father Joseph Kutch, host pastor and K of C Council chaplain, offered the Eucharistic liturgy that included Rosary and litany prayers led by the Knights. Prayer cards of Blessed Michael, along with a program detailing his life and the miracle attributed



to the Knights' founder for his beatification, were available at the Sunday Mass. The liturgy was followed by an Exemplification ceremony during which two new Council members were welcomed.

## Catholic Happenings

**First Friday Evening Mass & Adoration — OCT. 6**, hosted by St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Pocono Pines at Our Lady of the Lake Church, 5112 Pocono Crest Road, Pocono Pines; Mass celebrated at 7 p.m., followed by Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, offered on the First Friday of every month. The First Friday liturgy and devotion will continue throughout the National Eucharistic Revival multi-year event established by the U.S. Catholic Bishops.

**Fall College Football Game Bus Trip — OCT. 7**, sponsored by Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Dickson City; bus excursion to attend the Army vs. Boston College football game at noon at West Point Military Academy in New York. Saturday morning departure from St. Mary Parish at 7 a.m.; return trip departs West Point at 6 p.m. and arrives back in Dickson City at approximately 8 p.m. Cost: \$120 per person, includes game ticket, bus accommodations, and bag lunch with soft drink. Reservations require a \$60 deposit; balance is due by Sept. 14. For more

information, call (570) 489-2091.

**Bingo Bonanza — OCT. 8**, hosted by Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Dickson City; doors open at noon and games begin at 2 p.m. Admission cost: \$25, in advance; \$30, at door. Event includes 17 bingo games, each with a minimum prize value of \$300. Prizes include a laptop computer, appliances, home security system, lawnmower, diamond necklace, luggage, gift cards, trip for two to Sight & Sound Theater, and more. Games party also features basket raffle and cash drawings; food and beverages for sale. For advance tickets and more information, contact the parish office at (570) 489-2091.

**"America Needs Fatima" Public Square Rosary Crusade — OCT. 14**, held in conjunction with more than 20,000 Rosary rallies across America, offered as a penitential/conversion prayer gathering for blessings on the United States through the intercession of the Blessed Mother; public Rosary Rally begins at 12 noon at the Weis Store parking lot in Mountain Top. For more information, call Carmen at (570) 262-7373.

### 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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**Newly professed SCC Sister to serve at Saint Jude's**




Sister of Christian Charity Madeleine Davis recently made her first profession of vows during a Eucharistic liturgy in the Chapel of Mary Immaculate at Mallinckrodt Convent in Mendham, N.J. A native of Illinois, Sister Madeleine has now been assigned to serve on the staff at Saint Jude School in Mountain Top, while continuing her studies at Marywood University, Scranton. She will reside at Saint Nicholas Convent in Wilkes-Barre. In preparation to profess her first vows, Sister Madeleine participated in a spiritual retreat Aug. 7-14 at Villa Pauline in Mendham, directed by Saint Joseph Oblate Father Paul McDonnell, pastor of Divine Mercy Parish, Scranton, and rector of the Oblates of Saint Joseph community and chapel in Laflin. Pictured following the profession ceremony are, from left: Christian Charity Sisters Maria del Rosario Castro, general superior; Mary Elizabeth Robbins, formation director; Madeleine Davis; and Joann Marie Aumand, provincial superior.

### Prayer Requests for Priests

*The Daily Prayer Request for Priests schedule is as follows:*

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; September 21, Monsignor Vincent Grimalia; September 22, Father Louis Grippe; September 23, Father Eugene Gunning; September 24, Father Gerald Gurka; September 25, Father Richard Gyansah-Tabiri; September 26, Passionist Father Lee Havey; September 27, Saint Michael the Archangel Father Benito Hierro Aquino; September 28, Father Robert Hochreiter; September 29, Father Thomas Hudak; September 30, Father Andrew HvozdoVIC; October 1, Pope Francis; October 2, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; October 3, Holy Cross Father Daniel Issing; October 4, Father George Jeffrey; October 5, Monsignor John Jordan; October 6, Father Joseph Kakareka; October 7, Father Louis Kaminski; October 8, Father Binesh Joseph Kanjirakattu; October 9, Father William Karle; October 10, Father Joseph Kearney; October 11, Jesuit Father Herbert Keller; October 12, Father Brian Kelly; October 13, Father E. Francis Kelly; October 14, Father John Kilpatrick; October 15, Monsignor Shane Kirby; October 16, Father Michael Kirwin; October 17, Father Michael Kloton.



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## Synod is 'truly important' for the church, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Pope Francis asked a group of Italian journalists to shun fake news and a love of scandal, including when covering the Catholic Church and the upcoming assembly of the Synod of Bishops.

"Help me to narrate this process for what it really is, leaving behind the logic of slogans and pre-packaged stories," he asked the group Aug. 26 as he accepted the "È Giornalismo" prize, which recognizes outstanding contributions to journalism.

Pope Francis told the group

he realizes how "speaking of 'together.'"

a 'synod on synodality' may seem something abstruse, self-referential, excessively technical, of little interest to the general public," but the whole process, which began in 2021 with listening sessions on the local, national and regional levels "is something truly important for the church."

At a moment in history "when there is much talk and little listening, and when the sense of the common good is in danger of weakening," he said, "the church as a whole has embarked on a journey to rediscover the word

The Synod will be held from Oct. 4-29 and will not be open to the public or to reporters to "safeguard the synodal climate."

Some portions of the synod, including Mass in St. Peter's Square Oct. 4 to open the assembly, will be be livestream and open to Vatican accredited reporters.

The first general congregation and the opening sessions of each of the five segments or "modules" into which the synod will be divided will also be open press.

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