

The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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Synod begins work with focus on Holy Spirit and listening

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis opened the work of the assembly of the Synod of Bishops asking members to meditate on ancient theological texts about the Holy Spirit, have the courage to be honest about their disagreements and focus much more on listening than on sharing their opinions.

The synodal process “is not easy, but it’s beautiful, very beautiful,” Pope Francis told some 364 other synod members and 85 non-voting experts, ecumenical delegates and facilitators the afternoon of Oct. 4 as the synod work began in the Vatican audience hall.

“A certain asceticism” is needed for the synod, the pope said. He asked forgiveness from journalists trying to cover the monthlong meeting but insisted “a certain fasting from public words” would be needed to ensure the proper spiritual

atmosphere for the synod members.

And, in fact, the synod rules distributed that evening said, “In order to guarantee the freedom of expression of each and all regarding their thoughts and to ensure the serenity of the discernment in common, which is the main task entrusted to the assembly, each of the participants is bound to confidentiality and discretion regarding both their own interventions and the interventions of other participants.”

Pope Francis also repeated what he has said many times: “the synod is not a parliament” where the ideas of opposing parties will be debated and voted up or down along party lines. Neither, he said, is it “a meeting of friends” getting together to exchange opinions and try to solve problems they see around them.

“The synod is a journey that the Holy Spirit makes,” he said, so constant prayer



Participants pray in the Vatican's Paul VI Audience Hall at the beginning of a working session of the assembly of the Synod of Bishops Oct. 10, 2023. (CNS photo/Lola Gomez)

and listening are necessary to follow the path the Spirit indicates.

“The Holy Spirit triggers a deep and varied dynamism in the Christian community, the confusion of Pentecost,”

when people from every nation heard the disciples speaking in their own languages, the pope said. From the experience, the Spirit creates not uniformity, but harmony.

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Local religious leaders stand in solidarity of Israel following deadly Hamas attack



More than 200 people attended a Solidarity with Israel event at the Jewish Community Center in Scranton Oct. 9. Bishop Bambera spoke on behalf of the Catholic community. (Photo/Eric Deabill)

SCRANTON — Praying for peace and standing in solidarity with the victims of a surprise attack by Hamas in southern Israel, local religious leaders and elected officials gathered at the Jewish Community Center in Scranton Oct. 9, 2023.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, spoke on behalf of the Roman Catholic community and joined faith leaders of several other religious traditions in expressing his grief and sorrow for the events that have been transpiring since the weekend.

“On behalf of the Catholic community of northeastern and north central Pennsylvania and well beyond, please know that we stand with the nation of Israel and the Jewish communities both locally and throughout the world,” Bishop Bambera said. “We pray with, and for you, this night for God’s peace. I think it is fair to say that our hearts, like yours, are broken.”

Bishop Bambera said he grieves the loss of every life

that has been taken so brutally and senselessly.

“We call upon the power and presence of God to heal the land of Israel and the lives of all who suffer this day,” the bishop continued.

Nearly 200 people attended the interfaith gathering organized by the the local Jewish Federation.

Rabbi Alex Hecht of the Beth Shalom Congregation in Scranton said the targeting of the Jewish people is “as vicious as the Nazis 80 years ago,” adding, “This is really an attack on the entire Jewish people.”

The war — which started after Hamas militants invaded Israel on Oct. 7, taking more than 150 soldiers and civilians hostage — has already claimed at least 1,600 lives as of Oct. 10. The violence is only expected to escalate as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, “What we will do to our enemies in the coming days will reverberate with them for generations.”

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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.

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Differences of opinion will surface, he said. "If you don't agree with what that bishop or that nun or that lay person says, say it to their face. That's what the synod is for. To tell the truth, not the chatter under the table."

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS HELD ON 'SYNODALITY'

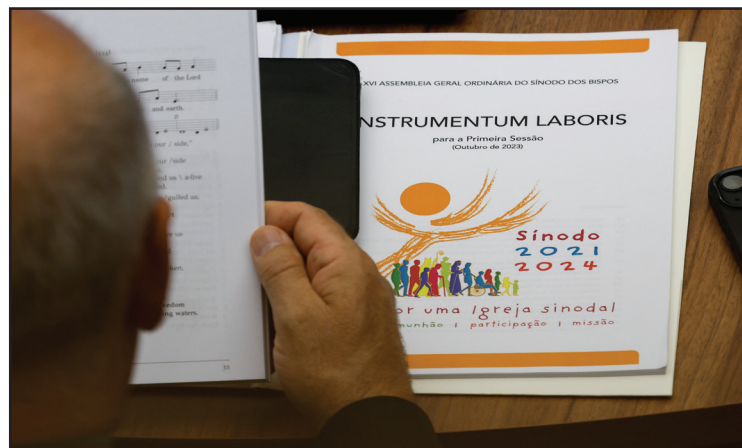
The assembly began their work in earnest Oct. 5, meeting, sharing and praying in small groups.

As the synod assembly proceeds through Oct. 29, its members will discuss the issues in the gathering's working document in order, beginning with the foundational question of what are "the characteristic signs of a synodal church?"

Topics to be addressed later in the month include being a sign and instrument of union with God and unity with humanity, how to share gifts and tasks in the service of the Gospel and what processes, structures and institutions create a missionary synodal church.

The synod members were asked to begin by focusing on the assembly working document's assertion that "a synodal church is founded on the recognition of a common dignity deriving from baptism, which makes all who receive it sons and daughters of God, members of the family of God, and therefore brothers and sisters in Christ, inhabited by the one Spirit and sent to fulfill a common mission."

After morning prayer Oct. 5, the groups began with each member sharing, for a maximum of four minutes, "what seems most important and most meaningful, what they feel emerges most strongly from their memory" of



A participant prays in the Vatican's Paul VI Audience Hall at the beginning of a working session of the assembly of the Synod of Bishops Oct. 10, 2023. (CNS photo/Lola Gomez)

the input of the various synod listening sessions over the past two years regarding what contributes to or detracts from strengthening that model of a synodal church.

Paolo Ruffini, prefect of the Dicastery for Communication and president of the assembly's Commission for Information, told reporters Oct. 5 the morning work followed the model of "spiritual conversation": members shared their experience and after a pause for silence and prayer, each person shared what struck or touched them most about what the others had shared. After more silence, they began trying to list common traits and obvious differences in what they had heard.

Each working group will be asked to draft a short report on their conversation, vote on whether it accurately reflects the discussion and then choose someone to read it to the whole assembly. After a discussion of all the reports in the full assembly, each group will decide whether or how to amend their reports before turning them into the synod secretariat for inclusion in a summary report on that section of the synod's work.

PARTICIPANTS DISCUSS FORMATION, BUILDING A WELCOMING CHURCH

The formation of seminarians, the Catholic Church as a welcoming home for all, migration and ecumenism arose as common themes of discussion among participants of the assembly of the Synod of Bishops Oct. 6, the Vatican said.

In regards to the formation of seminarians, Ruffini said some of the discussion included ways to increase their participation in the community and engagement with people on the margins of society.

"There are few seminarians, sometimes their selection has created problems and there are seminaries that could have improved organization," he said, summarizing participants' comments.

Participants also discussed the role of women in the church and the promotion of their active participation in the church's decision-making processes, he said, as well as ways of continuing to accompany migrants after they have migrated.

One small-group report, Ruffini noted, asked about ways the church can consider revising

its structures through canon law and altering the Curia.

"How does the church become welcoming? Should something be changed to make a welcoming church? What should be changed?" he summarized.

FOCUS ON WELCOMING IS WHAT JESUS WOULD DO, SYNOD MEMBER SAYS

Finding better ways to live "like Jesus did" – reaching out, welcoming, healing and including others – was the focus of Sister Liliana Franco Echeverri's small group discussions Oct. 9-10, she said.

Sister Franco, a member of the Company of Mary and president of the Confederation of Latin American and Caribbean Religious, or CLAR, and Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey, briefed reporters Oct. 10 about the synod's work on various aspects of the theme "communion."

Sister Franco's group discussed how "the service of charity and commitment to justice and care for our common home nourish communion," while Cardinal Tobin's group focused on welcoming and accompanying people who feel excluded from the church. Under the theme of communion with God and with one another, in the church and in the world, other groups looked at ecumenism, at valuing the cultural, linguistic and racial diversity of the church.

"There truly is a desire to be able to live like Jesus did, a Jesus who humanizes, who gives dignity, who includes, a Jesus who opens the doors for 'the other,'" Sister Franco said. Living like Jesus calls the church to be "prophetic" in denouncing injustice and exploitation that attacks human dignity and excludes from society people such as the poor, migrants and victims of human trafficking, she said.

Nine men in preparation for diaconate receive Rite of Institution of Lector



Pictured after the Mass with the Rite of Institution of Lectors on Sept. 30, 2023, are, front row, from left: Deacon Walter G. Janoski, Coordinator of Candidate Advisor and Pastoral Formation Programs; Rev. Mark DeCelles, Associate Director of the Permanent Diaconate, Christian D. Saunders; Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton; Monsignor David Bohr, Diocesan Secretary for Clergy Formation; and Rev. John V. Polednak, V.E., Episcopal Vicar for Clergy. Second row, from left: Joel Marte; Michaelangelo J. Colaneri; Ernesto A. Capo; Frank A. Fanelli; and Francisco Castelan. Third row, from left: Fernando B. Alves; Jorge A. Roca; and Rafael Sanchez.

SCRANTON – On the Memorial of Saint Jerome, Sept. 30, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, designated nine deacon candidates for the Diocese of Scranton as Lectors in the Rite of Institution of Lectors.

The candidates are Fernando B. Alves, Ernesto A. Capo, Jr., Francisco Castelan, Michaelangelo J. Colaneri, Frank A. Fanelli, Joel A. Marte, Jorge Roca, Rafael Sanchez Velasquez, and Christian D. Saunders.

The Rite is a major step on the path to becoming a permanent deacon, allowing the candidates to read the Word of God, except for the Gospel, at liturgical assemblies. The next step will be the Rite of Acolyte.

“How providential that we celebrate the conferral of the ministry of Lector on the Memorial of Saint Jerome, whose life was synonymous with devotion to the Sacred Scriptures and with a deep love for the written word of God,” Bishop Bambera said during his homily. “It is no surprise that Saint Jerome, who was equally known

for never shying away from expressing his views on most subjects in a clear and decisive manner, would rightly claim, ‘Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ.’”

Bishop Bambera told the men receiving the ministry of Lector that this moment is not merely a stepping stone in their path to becoming a deacon.

“To the contrary, you are being called to a special recognition of the Word of God in your lives that is essential to the life of the Church,” the bishop noted. “What an awesome responsibility to walk with Jesus through your encounter of Him in the Word of God.”

Most importantly, Bishop Bambera explained to the candidates that the Word of God must be “living and vibrant” in their lives and never “reduced to mere symbols on a page.”

“Live with authenticity the Word of God that you will proclaim through love and service to the People of God,” Bishop Bambera said.

Two downtown Wilkes-Barre parishes consolidate to form one new parish: Saint Nicholas-Saint Mary Parish

WILKES-BARRE – We are stronger together.

That is the message that Father Joseph Verespy hoped to instill in his parishioners on the weekend of Oct. 7 & 8, 2023, as the new parish he now leads, Saint Nicholas-Saint Mary Parish, was officially formed.

After two years of discussion and consultation using the *Vision 2030 Pastoral Planning Process*, the parish communities of Saint Nicholas and Our Lady of Fatima were officially brought together in a consolidation.

“I said this is a chance for us to hit the reset button, to take a good look at who we are,” Father Verespy said. “We are located right downtown (in Wilkes-Barre) and it is a chance to bring new life together as one parish and look at the talents that we have and examine how welcoming we are.”

Saint Nicholas Parish and Our Lady

of Fatima Parish were originally linked in 2021 under the leadership of a single pastor, Father Verespy. After examining many of the priority drivers in the *Vision 2030 Process*, including demographic changes in the community, Mass attendance, sacramental participation, financial obligations and the availability of clergy, the recommendation was brought forward to create one parish out of the previous two independent entities.

“When people see us now, hopefully it will be a parish people want to be a part of, but that is only going to be because we’re in this together,” the long-time pastor said.

In early September, in preparation of the consolidation, a new weekend Mass schedule was implemented. There is a Saturday 4 p.m. Vigil Mass in English and 6 p.m. Vigil Mass in Spanish. Both are being held at Saint Nicholas Church.

On Sunday, there are Masses at 8 a.m. (English), 10 a.m. (English) and 12:15 p.m. (Spanish) at Saint Nicholas Church and a 12:10 p.m. Mass (English) at Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church.

Father Verespy indicated that the schedule is provisional and will be evaluated as time goes by and the new Saint Nicholas-Saint Mary Parish comes into formation.

One of the most obvious changes for parishioners was a new consolidated bulletin on the first weekend of the new parish. The design of the first bulletin was simple and featured only the name of the new parish and the date it was established, Oct. 7, 2023.

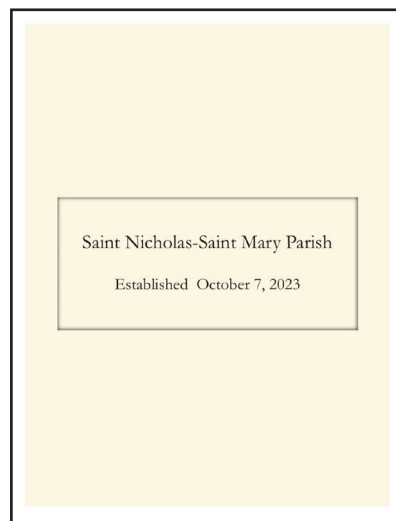
“I started my homily by saying, ‘Take a good look at the bulletin. It’s pretty empty, pretty bland, pretty vanilla ... but we are going to fill the blanks in here together,’” Father

Verespy stated.

Because of the discussions and consultation that has taken place, the first weekend of the consolidated parish was not anything out of the ordinary.

“We are going to bring our common faith, our talents, our time, and our personalities together so when people see the words Saint Nicholas-Saint Mary Parish, they will see us, our shared life, but it’s going to be up to us to do that together,” Father Verespy added.

Because of the consolidation, the new Saint Nicholas-Saint Mary Parish will have one new parish office located at 226 S. Washington Street, which is formerly the office of Saint Nicholas Parish. Office hours will be Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The phone number is (570) 823-7736.



The front cover of the first parish bulletin for Saint Nicholas-Saint Mary Parish.

Bishop Bambera's Message for Respect Life Month 2023

Dear Friends,

In 1972, the year before the United States Supreme Court ruled on *Roe v. Wade* to legalize abortion in the United States, the Catholic Church in the United States dedicated the month of October as a special season to promote a culture of life throughout our land.

As it does every year, this sacred season calls us to focus our prayers upon a renewed commitment to treasure and preserve human life from the moment of conception to natural death. As such, we have and should continue to work tirelessly to create a culture that moves beyond the cavalier attitude that has sadly resulted in far too many lives being lost through abortion, euthanasia, physician assisted suicide and capital punishment.

The theme for our reflections this year is **Radical Solidarity**.

Years ago, Saint John Paul II affirmed that solidarity "is not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people ... On the contrary, it is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good ... to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all." In short, solidarity is the means by which we put our love for others into action, making their good a goal for our own lives.

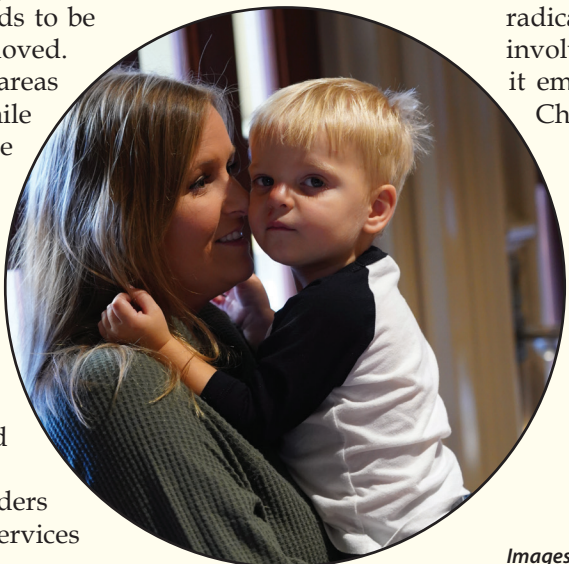
At this critical moment in our world and particularly in the United States, we have been entrusted with new challenges to build a civilization of authentic love, rooted in a fundamental respect for the dignity of every human life. Notwithstanding the fact that the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* last year has given us hope, it has not diminished the work that still needs to be done to ensure that every human life is valued and loved.

As a result of the Supreme Court decision, some areas of our country now protect the child in the womb, while other areas, sadly, are doing all they can to increase access to abortion. Here in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, tragically, efforts to protect human life are being compromised more than we might realize. Plans are being made to terminate Real Alternatives, a statewide contract maintained by federal and state funding, which has been in existence for over 27 years and has provided a critical lifeline to nearly 350,000 women who have suddenly found themselves in need when confronted with an unplanned pregnancy.

Nearly half of Real Alternatives' service providers consist of Catholic Charities and Catholic Social Services

radical
solidarity

to be courageously
pro-woman, promoting
a choice that truly
protects, accompanies,
and supports women
and their children



sites throughout our state. These important human services sites provide critical pregnancy and parenting support from the moment mothers find out they are pregnant through 12 months following the birth of their babies. The termination of this vital contract, should it occur here in the Diocese of Scranton alone, will almost certainly result in diminished funding for Saint Joseph's Center and challenge the very existence of relief programs for pregnant women in Scranton and Carbondale. Most notably, Shepherd's Maternity House in Stroudsburg, which provides a safe home for women facing unexpected and challenging pregnancies, could lose over 80-percent of its annual funding that comes through a grant from Real Alternatives.

Simply put, brothers and sisters, if we desire to live our lives as Christians with authenticity, we have no choice. We cannot merely speak of our respect for human life or self-righteously criticize those whose beliefs may be different from our own. We must enliven our words with action.

We must be fearless in our defense of the unborn – but also mothers in need, the elderly, the sick, the poor, the disabled, the prisoner, the immigrant and all whose lives are in jeopardy. Nor can we shrink from confronting life issues in our prayer, in what and how we teach as a Church, in the pastoral care that we offer and, in the initiatives, and public policies that we are able to influence through our right to vote.

Brothers and sisters, the radical solidarity that so reflects the teaching of Jesus refers to something much more than just a few sporadic acts of generosity or the empty words of the self-righteous. A culture of radical solidarity, as Pope Francis has proclaimed, "gets involved by word and deed in people's daily lives ... and it embraces human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in others."

May each of us who seek to live as authentic disciples work together to build a culture of life through radical, sacrificial, Christ-like love and service of every human life made in the image and likeness of our Creator.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

+ Joseph C. Bambera

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

Images from the Diocese of Scranton Respect Life Mass held Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023

Lycoming County parishes become more welcoming to new mothers and infants by joining 'Breastfeeding Welcome Here Initiative'

WILLIAMSPORT – Two parishes in Lycoming County are working to become more welcoming to the community – especially young mothers and their infants.

In late August, Saint Boniface Parish in Williamsport and Saint Lawrence Parish in South Williamsport signed on to the 'Breastfeeding Welcome Here Initiative.' The move comes after Williamsport was one of two cities in the commonwealth designated a 'Breastfeeding Family Friendly Community' by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

"We want to welcome young families. We want church to be a place where children are always part of the picture," Rev. Glenn McCreary, pastor, explained. "I've often said that I don't mind when a child is crying during Mass. We're Catholic, we're pro-life and crying children is what life sounds like. Now, we want to clearly extend that welcome to the breastfeeding individuals and families among us."

Lisa McCloskey, RN, BSN, IBCLC, Lycoming/Clinton Breastfeeding Coalition Chair,



Rev. Glenn McCreary, V.E., stands with parishioners outside Saint Boniface Church in Williamsport after affixing a 'Breastfeeding Welcome Here' sticker to the door of his church in August.

and a parishioner at Saint Boniface, helped both parishes with the process.

"We are creating a welcoming environment to remove barriers to make it easier for all families to choose and to continue human milk feeding and to change a culture to normalize breastfeeding," McCloskey said.

For the best health outcomes, the American Academy of

Pediatrics recommends exclusive breastfeeding for approximately six months followed by continued breastfeeding with complementary foods for at least two years and beyond as mutually desired.

"There are short-term and long-term health benefits for both children and the breastfeeding parent which improve the health of the community, reducing healthcare costs,

higher productivity, and lower absenteeism from work and school," McCloskey continued.

By signing onto the 'Breastfeeding Welcome Here Initiative,' the two parishes will allow a mother to freely feed her infants and young children in public, without ever being asked to cover up or move. If families request a private location to pump or feed, they will be directed to a comfortable space that is not a bathroom. Restrooms are not a hygienic place to prepare or eat a meal.

"We don't want to send a mother off to a lavatory to feed," Father McCreary said. "Nor do we want her to feel she doesn't belong here because the Mass and feeding schedules overlap."

Before affixing stickers to the doors of his parishes to let the community know of their support, Father McCreary also explained to his parishioners what this new 'welcome' will look like.

"If you're comfortable feeding in your pew, do it. If you want to step out to a more private place, we will give you some options. Our confessional rooms

in both churches are open and offer comfortable seating. Saint Boniface also gives the option to go to the lounge, where you can continue to hear the Liturgy while you care for that child."

McCloskey said the more we see breastfeeding, the more natural it becomes. In addition to the two Roman Catholic parishes that have signed on, James V. Brown Library in Williamsport and the Lycoming County State Health Center have also signed onto the initiative.

"It's through creating an environment of acceptance to make families feel more comfortable and by educating the community to learn why it's important to accept breastfeeding that we are able to change our culture," McCloskey said. "We need to sensitively provide options to meet families where they are at to make sure they are comfortable."

For the two churches, it is all about being a part of the "welcoming church."

"Let young families – visitors and members – find a home here," Father McCreary said.

OCTOBER 16, 2023

PENNSYLVANIA MARCH FOR LIFE

Still looking for a bus trip to the PA March for Life?

Contact:

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Scranton Area: | Shannon Kowalski | (570) 207-2213, x1155 |
| Wilkes-Barre Area: | Chris Calore | (570) 824-5621 |
| Hazleton Area: | Carol Matz | (570) 956-0817 |
| | Maryann Lawhon | (570) 788-5646 |
| Pocono Pines: | Stephen Glinane | (570) 977-4617 |

Parishes hold Pro-Life Chain events on Respect Life Sunday (Oct. 1)



**Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish
Brodheadsville, Monroe County**



**Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish
Tunkhannock, Wyoming County**

Hundreds fills the streets of Hazleton for Eucharistic Procession

HAZLETON – More than 700 people filled the streets of Hazleton earlier this month participating in a large Eucharistic Procession. The goal was to bring people's faith and love of Jesus out into the community.

On Sunday, Oct. 1, both Spanish and English-speaking parishioners of Annunciation Parish spent more than 90 minutes navigating the narrow streets of the city's south side while singing and praying.

"During this magnificent procession through the streets of the south side, I just felt the Lord, the Lord of the Miracles, El Señor de Los Milagros, our Eucharistic Lord, was touching hearts and touching lives in the way that only he can," Father Kevin Miller, pastor, Annunciation Parish, said. "For my part, I am nothing but grateful to everyone who helped put this together and everyone who participated."

The Eucharistic Procession was held as part of a three-day celebration at Annunciation Parish in honor of Saint Gabriel, patron of the parish church. Saint Gabriel is most well known as the angel chosen by God to be the messenger of the Annunciation.

The Procession was also held to honor El Señor de Los Milagros (The Lord of the Miracles), the Patron of Peruvian residents, which is celebrated during the entire month



Father Kevin Miller, pastor, Annunciation Parish, leads a Eucharistic Procession of more than 700 people through the streets of South Hazleton on Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023. (Photo/Eric Deabill)

of October. El Señor de Los Milagros is traditionally one of the most popular religious celebrations in Latin America.

"The community of Saint Gabriel is a magnificent community. We are so happy to be part of this community. Everyone came here so joyful. We love doing things together," Father Neftali Feliz-Sena, assistant pastor, Annunciation Parish, said.

Prior to the Eucharistic Procession, a bilingual Mass was held inside Saint Gabriel Church.

Mary Jane Thomas, who has attended Mass at Saint Gabriel Church all her life, found the Mass and procession to be very inspiring.

"I am so happy to see that we are all joining together as one, as we should be, because it is one church, one God, and it was just beautiful today," Thomas said. "I walked just about all of it."

Thomas has seen a lot of change in her parish over the last several decades,

but she believes her faith has only been strengthened by the influx of Spanish-speaking parishioners.

"When I first started to go to the Hispanic Mass, it was a little challenging at first, but then I found myself moving along with everybody and clapping. I thought, they are praising the Lord and we can all praise the Lord in whatever form we can," she added.

Veronica Mizenko of McAdoo recently returned to the Catholic faith and

was pleased that the Eucharistic Procession was held so that Jesus could be shared with the entire community.

"Father is taking Jesus out into the streets and amongst the people. All languages, all creeds, anybody is welcome in this church and he makes you feel so warm and so welcome," Mizenko said. "Father Kevin is bringing Him (Jesus) out for everyone to see and hear. It is so touching."

Mizenko said she saw several people watch the procession from their porches and cars, with some even joining in.

"People were just walking up and saw the procession and just started walking behind the procession and it is all for God. It was wonderful. It really was," she explained.

The procession was held as the Catholic Church in the United States has entered its second phase of the U.S. Bishops' National Eucharistic Revival, a three-year initiative by the prelates to inspire belief in the Eucharist following a 2019 Pew Research study that suggested only about one-third of U.S. Catholics believe the Church's teaching that the Eucharist is truly the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

The second phase of the revival, the Year of Parish Revival, is meant to foster Eucharistic devotion at the parish level.

Adore, Receive, Become: Eucharistic Tent Revival held at Peckville Parish

PECKVILLE – Hundreds of people gathered throughout the day on Sunday, Sept. 17, 2023, on the parish grounds of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Peckville, as well as in the church, for a day of Eucharistic Revival that renewed the faithful's knowledge and love of Our Lord's gift of the Eucharist to us. Immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass, children gathered under a tent to learn about Eucharistic Adoration as they prayed and gave praise to God in the Eucharist and then went forth to share their light with the world.

After a period of quiet Adoration, all those gathered in the tent prayed a Rosary for Eucharistic Revival and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Soon after, a light rain prompted the remainder of the program to be moved inside. This did not dampen the

spirit as the parish music ministry continued praising and worshipping God in song, as the Blessed Sacrament remained exposed inside the church. Then, a communal Anointing service provided a great number of individuals the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

The Eucharistic Revival Day culminated with a Mass of Thanksgiving with pastor, Rev. Andrew Kurovsky, and concelebrant and guest homilist, Msgr. Richard LaVerghetta, who challenged the community to continue to Adore, Receive and Become Jesus Christ, through the grace of the Eucharist. His challenge to expand our own "tents," individually, and as a parish, is definitely in keeping with the parish motto: "the Round Church, where there's room for everyone!"

The day concluded with a parish pasta dinner in the parish hall, enjoyed by nearly

"Enlarge the space of your tent, spread out your tent cloths unsparingly, lengthen your ropes and make firm your pegs" (Is 54:2)



Hundreds of people participated in a Eucharistic Tent Revival at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Peckville on Sept. 17, 2023.

250 people and provided with the help of Fiorelli's Catering and volunteers from the parish and Cub Scouts Pack 34 Jessup.

"Eukharistos," Greek for "Eucharist," means "grateful." What a perfect word, as the entire Sacred Heart of Jesus community

is grateful for all the parishioners and friends who gathered under the tent and in the church for this most memorable day. Even the rain made the gathering memorable by blessing all with a special "sprinkling rite" during this day of Eucharistic Revival!



THE EUCHARIST: A DREAM COME TRUE

*- A Priesthood Perspective by Father Peter Tomeczak -
Pastor, Saint Monica Parish, West Wyoming*



A few weeks ago, I was listening to a local radio station. The host asked his listeners, when they were kids, what they wanted to be when they grew up, and if they actually became what they dreamed of doing.

Most people responded that what they once imagined themselves doing as kids never came to be. I thought to myself, "mine actually did!"

In fact, one day when my family and I were going through boxes of old pictures, some saved art projects from my five siblings and myself, and miscellaneous school assignments that somehow had been saved, we came across a school assignment from when I was in first grade at Kennedy Elementary School in Nanticoke.

The assignment was to list things we might like to be when we grow up. On the top of my list was to be a priest. In second place, I wanted to be a fireman, and in third place to be a bus driver. By the way, I was the only student who wrote "priest" on their list as I recall my teacher, Mrs. Makowski saying. It's funny what catches our attention in the innocence of youth. I can't even remotely think of myself as a fireman or anything other than a Catholic priest.

You might be wondering what would prompt a first grader to be a priest when he grew up. Good question.

I'd like to share some of what first prompted my response, and how it led to my love of the Eucharist. Back

then, my twin sister Allison and I were assigned to afternoon kindergarten, so our mornings were free. We walked with my mother to Mass each weekday morning to Saint Francis of Assisi Church.

I was fascinated at what the priest was doing at the Altar. One day, as he lifted his hands and gently brought them down again, which in time I'd come to understand as "calling down the Holy Spirit to confect the Eucharist," I saw something I'll never forget: there was a vertical concentrated bright light that looked as if it was penetrating through the roof over the Altar and rested on the paten and chalice.

While I didn't understand all that was happening, I did know that something amazing was happening.

I remember my mother telling me that the Holy Spirit was making the bread and wine the Body and Blood of Christ. As if there were any doubt, I knew that this was truly Jesus because every time my mother would receive Communion, she would give my sister and I a kiss on the cheek when she returned to our pew.

One day I asked her why she always gave us a kiss after receiving Holy Communion. She told me that she's sharing Jesus with us until we are old enough to receive Him ourselves when we receive our First Holy Communion.

As young as I was, I'll never forget that, and how by her simple loving kiss on the cheek,

she was letting us know that the Eucharistic Jesus is very real! As I reflect, I realize that the Light of Christ was entering my heart in a very special way.

I mention this because it is my hope that parents will share the Lord with their children. You might be pleasantly surprised at their perceptiveness and openness. Let them know the beauty and reality of Christ in their lives. Help them to develop their own relationship with the Lord. The gift of sharing your faith will be the greatest gift you can ever give them. If they learn and know that the Lord is truly with them, there's no obstacle they cannot overcome, especially the challenges that our children face in our modern world.

As the years went by, as my love for the Lord grew, so did the intimate knowledge of God's love for me continue to grow. I came to realize through prayer and discernment, the Lord really was calling me to the priesthood.

My childhood dream became a reality on June 4, 2005. The front of my ordination card reads, "Consecrated to Preach the Gospel, Sustain God's People, and Celebrate the Liturgy." I keep a framed copy on my desk, and I see it every day. There is no greater joy in my life than to bring the Lord to His beloved children, especially in the Eucharist. At each Mass as I distribute Holy Communion, I look each person in the eye and say, "The Body of Christ."

This signifies who we are receiving, who we are, and who

we strive to be. This is not a representation, but the living, loving reality of Christ Himself coming to us in our brokenness and in the fallen nature of humanity. As that bright light, I saw so long ago as a five-year-old, penetrated the gifts of bread and wine, that same bright Light of Christ penetrates our heart, soul and very being, every time we receive and adore Him.

During this blessed time of Eucharistic Revival, the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, that we might sometimes take for granted, is brought to the forefront of our lives once again. We're seeing in our parishes more teachings on the Eucharist as we're learning His importance in the lived experience of Christ in our everyday lives. We're seeing more Holy Hours and invitations to spend time with the Lord in Adoration. We are indeed in a time of grace and renewal, a time that is far too precious to let pass without our participation.

The Lord is summoning His people to come to Him, be still, and know that He is God. Let's take advantage of these graced moments to spend quality time with the Lord.

Sometimes we forget to invite the Lord into our everydayness, into our joys and sorrows and into our hopes and dreams. Now is the time and today is the day to respond to the Lord calling, to renew our life in Christ, and to share in the joy and wonder of His life, death, and resurrection,

especially in the celebration of Eucharistic Adoration. When we adore the Lord, and bring all that we have and are to Him, all that we aspire to be, our joys increase and the sorrows that we hold in our hearts become bearable. We know that we are loved.

What might the Lord be trying to say to you today?

Too often we run away from Him rather than toward Him. Don't run from Him. With so many things vying for our attention, let's not silence or suppress the voice of God Who desires to speak to our hearts. What better time to speak to the Lord and allow Him to speak to us than in graced moments of silence in Eucharistic Adoration.

Gaze upon the loveliness of Christ. Take a deep breath and breathe in the love of the Lord. Pour out your heart to Him and let the Lord pour out His loving heart to you. It is a heart that speaks of the peace we long to hear, a heart that gives the love we need to sustain us, a heart that loves and embraces us despite our faults, failings, and shortcomings. This is the heart of Christ. This is the tender, merciful heart that gives Himself to us freely. This is the heart that empowers us, renews our listless spirits, and restores the joy and innocence of our youth.

May each and every one of us respond as Samuel did when he heard the voice of God calling to him in the silence and stillness of the night, "Speak Lord, Your servant is listening."

Burial rites held for Father Daniel Yenkevich, Diocesan priest for 33 years

KINGSTON — The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant of a Pontifical Mass of Christian Burial for Father Daniel Yenkevich on Sept. 28 at the church of Saint Ignatius Loyola Parish in Kingston.

Father Yenkevich, who was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Scranton in 1990, was residing in Scranton when he died on Sept. 23 at Hospice of the Sacred Heart, Dunmore, at the age of 88.

Born in Butler Township on Nov. 17, 1934, son of the late Joseph and Teofile Varnagiris Yenkevich, Father Yenkevich was a graduate of Saint Gabriel High School, Hazleton, and attended The University of Scranton, where he earned his bachelor's degree in history in June 1963.

He later enrolled at Niagara University in upstate New York, obtaining a master's

degree in history and certificate of specialization in Soviet and Eastern European Affairs.

Father Yenkevich completed his preparatory theological studies and priestly formation at Pope Saint John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Mass., and was ordained on June 30, 1990, in the Cathedral of Saint Peter by Most Rev. James C. Timlin, late Bishop Emeritus of Scranton.

Following ordination, Father served as assistant pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in Nanticoke until his appointment to the Order of Franciscans Minor in June 1992. He was assigned as assistant pastor of Saint Matthew Parish, East Stroudsburg, in October 1998.

In September 2001, Father Yenkevich received his first pastorate, at Saint Mary's Annunciation Parish in Kingston, where he served until he retired from pastoral ministry in November 2009.



Father Daniel Yenkevich

During his years of retirement, he continued to serve the Diocese as administrator of the parishes of Saint John, East Stroudsburg; Saint Cecelia and Saint the John the Baptist, Exeter; Queen of Heaven, Hazleton; Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Pocono Pines; and Saints Peter & Paul, Plains.

"Father Dan was born into a very large family of humble beginnings by growing up on a farm," said Father Richard Cirba, who delivered the funeral Mass homily for his priest-friend, adding Father Yenkevich lived his life with

"total enthusiasm, dedication and persistence."

"He loved his Lithuanian heritage and his mission and ministry to his Lithuanian people," Father Cirba continued, "and really enjoyed (traveling) to Lithuania and serving here in Kingston."

The homilist also shared that the Diocesan priest of 33 years was a gifted furniture refinisher, as well as artist, and lived out his desire for cloistered life as a religious hermit in East Alstead, New Hampshire.

Quoting Saint John Eudes, Father Cirba stated, "The greatest effect of God's mercy, the most precious grace he bestows upon mankind is to send worthy priests, men after His own heart, seeking only His glory and the salvation of souls."

He followed these saintly words with, "Father Dan was one of those worthy priests. Like Father Dan, every priest here is privileged to serve God and His people in

this awesome vocation of the Holy Priesthood. Even though we carry this treasure in 'earthen vessels' of our frail humanity and sinfulness, it is a Holy Priesthood because we are 'other Christs.'"

"May the meek and humble heart of Father Dan be rewarded and welcomed with (the) words, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. Come, share your master's joy,'" the homilist concluded.

Surviving are a brother, William Yenkevich, Conyngham; several nieces and nephews; and his caregiver, John Dortelina.

Father Yenkevich was also preceded in death by five sisters, Evelyn Yencho, Tilly Roszkowski, Ruth Lucas, Dorothy Dombroski and Eleanor Mockaitis; and nine brothers, Joseph, Michael, George, Sargiusas (Saggie), Kostanta (Gus), Charles, Algert, Edward and William.

Interment was held at Saint Ignatius Cemetery, Kingston.

Independent audit determines Diocese of Scranton in full compliance with Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People

SCRANTON — The independent auditing firm of StoneBridge Business Partners recently conducted a thorough on-site audit of the child protection policies of the Diocese of Scranton and determined the Diocese to be in full compliance.

The audit period covered the time period of July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2023.

Auditors examined the Diocese's protocols regarding training, reporting, and ensuring safe environments for young people according to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' mandated Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

The Diocese of Scranton has passed audits of its child protection procedures, policies and records every year since the policy was adopted by the USCCB in 2002.

In receiving the latest compliance audit results, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, stated, "Our 21-year compliance record with child protection audits highlights the commitment that the Diocese of Scranton, along with its parishes and schools, has in ensuring the protection of children. This independent



verification underscores the fact that rigorous training is being conducted and reliable reporting mechanisms are in place."

Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator Erin McGrady added

that the audit results confirm the Diocese of Scranton is following the promises of the Charter.

"While many steps have been taken to address clergy sexual abuse, we must continue to listen, care for and walk with survivors. Every one of us must remain committed to safeguarding and strengthening our policies against the sexual abuse of minors,"

McGrady stated.

The Diocese of Scranton's Safe Environment Office ensures that Charter standards are continually met.

For more information on the Diocese of Scranton's Safe Environment Program, or for a full overview of all policies and protocols, visit dioceseofscranton.org.

To report sexual abuse by a member of clergy, an employee or volunteer of the Catholic Church, contact your local police department or county District Attorney and Mary Beth Pacuska, victim assistance coordinator for the Diocese of Scranton at (570) 862-7551.

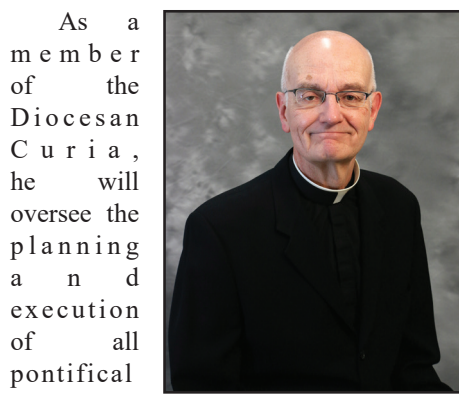
To report sexual misconduct by a bishop or eparch, contact the national reporting website or reporting hotline at ReportBishopAbuse.org, or by calling 1-800-276-1562.

Monsignor Dale R. Rupert appointed Diocesan Director of Worship

SCRANTON — On Monday, Sept. 25, 2023, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, announced that Monsignor Dale R. Rupert will be assuming the duties of the Diocesan Director of Worship, effective immediately.

The appointment comes following the departure of David Baloga from the position in the Diocesan Office for Parish Life earlier in the month.

The Diocesan Director of Worship works directly with the Diocesan Bishop in his role as chief steward of the mysteries of God and the overseer, promoter, and guardian of the liturgical life of the Church in Scranton.



Monsignor Dale R. Rupert

He will also serve as a resource person to diocesan parishes, institutions, staff, and offices, and will oversee details related to the celebration of the National Eucharistic Revival in the Diocese.

Priest and Pastor Emeritus, Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, and Senior Priest, Immaculate Conception Parish, Scranton, Instructor in the Permanent Diaconate Program, and Diocesan Master of Ceremonies.

Monsignor Rupert will remain Senior

APPOINTMENTS

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

Reverend Andrew Amankwaa, from Administrator *pro tem*, Saint Brigid Parish, Friendsville, effective October 20, 2023, and Administrator *pro tem*, Most Holy Trinity Parish, Susquehanna, effective October 24, 2023, to Administrator *pro tem*, Saint John Vianney Parish, Montdale, effective October 24, 2023.

Reverend Michael S. Drevitch, from administrative leave to Parochial Vicar, Corpus Christi Parish, West Pittston, and Saint Barbara Parish, Exeter, effective October 20, 2023.

Reverend Michael Amo Gyau, to Parochial Vicar, Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish, Jermyn, effective October 24, 2023. Father will remain Parochial Vicar, Christ the King Parish, Archbald.

Reverend Thomas Augustine, from ministry, Diocese of Nellore, India, to Administrator *pro tem*, Saint Brigid Parish, Friendsville, effective October 20, 2023.

Reverend J. Duane Gavitt, from Chaplain, Holy Redeemer High School, Wilkes Barre, effective September 29, 2023. Father will remain Pastor, Holy Rosary Parish, Hazleton, and Holy Name of Jesus Parish, West Hazleton.

Reverend Ryan P. Glenn, to Pastor, Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish, Jermyn, effective October 24, 2023. Father will remain Pastor, Christ the King Parish, Archbald.

Reverend Michael J. Kirwin, from Pastor, Saint John Vianney Parish, Montdale, to Pastor Emeritus, effective September 30, 2023.

Reverend John M. Lapera, to Pastor, Our Lady of the Snows Parish, Clarks Summit, effective January 24, 2024. Father Lapera will remain Pastor, Church of Saint Gregory, Clarks Green.

Monsignor Joseph G. Quinn, J.D., J.C.L., from Pastor, Our Lady of the Snows Parish, Clarks Summit, to Pastor Emeritus, Our Lady of the Snows Parish and Senior Priest, Our Lady of the Snows Parish, Clarks Summit, and Church of Saint Gregory, Clarks Green, effective January 24, 2024.

Reverend John C. Ruth, from Pastor, Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish, Jermyn, to Pastor, Most Holy Trinity Parish, Susquehanna, effective October 24, 2023.

Reverend Kenneth M. Seegar, from leave of absence for reasons of health to Sacramental Minister, Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish, Pittston, effective October 1, 2023.

Reverend Philbert Takyi-Nketiah, to Chaplain, Holy Redeemer High School, Wilkes-Barre, effective September 29, 2023. Father will remain Parochial Vicar, St. Jude Parish, Mountain Top, and Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Dorrance.

Reverend Seth D. Wasnock, V.F., to Administrator *pro tem*, Saint John Vianney Parish, Scott Township, effective September 30, 2023 to October 24, 2023. Father will remain Pastor, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Carbondale.

DEACON

Deacon James L. DiSimoni, from Diaconal Ministry, Diocese of Erie, to Diaconal Ministry, Prince of Peace Parish, Old Forge, effective September 29, 2023.



BISHOP BAMBERA'S SCHEDULE

October 15 - Mass at Saint John Vianney Parish
Montdale, 11:00 a.m.

October 16 - Pennsylvania March for Life
Harrisburg, Noon

October 16-19 - Priests Convocation

October 21 - Pennsylvanians for Human Life Prayer Breakfast
Fiorelli's, Peckville, 9:00 a.m.

October 22 - World Mission Sunday Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:15 p.m.

October 23 - School Mass for Notre Dame Elementary and Jr./Sr. High School
East Stroudsburg, 9:00 a.m.

November 2 - All Soul's Day Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.

November 4 - 175th Anniversary Mass for Sisters of Christian Charity
Saint Nicholas Church, Wilkes-Barre, Noon

November 5 - Consecrated Life Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:15 p.m.

November 5 - Leave a Mark Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 5:00 p.m.

November 12-16 - United States Conference of Catholic Bishops General Meeting, Baltimore

Two Lackawanna County parish communities join forces for 'Day of Service'

CLARKS SUMMIT – Two parish communities in Lackawanna County came together for one important mission on Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023.

Nearly 250 parishioners from Our Lady of the Snows Parish, Clarks Summit, and Saint Gregory Parish, Clarks Green, clad in orange shirts, joined forces fanning out across their community to participate in a special 'Day of Service.'

"We live, work and worship in the same area, so to come together to respond to the needs of the area just made sense," Dan Marx, Director of Worship and Mission at Saint Gregory Parish, said.

The volunteers took part in projects at 11 different sites, including senior centers, public parks and streambeds, and even a local cemetery.

"The response that we had to this day of service has just been incredible," Marx added. "People have donated both their time and treasure to create Refugee Welcome Boxes for the refugees of our area to bagging groceries at an area grocery store for tips that went to the Catherine McAuley Center."

At Our Lady of Peace School, several teenagers volunteered to hold a car wash



A total of 242 volunteers from Saint Gregory Parish in Clarks Green and Our Lady of the Snows Parish in Clarks Summit participated in a Day of Service on Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023. Volunteers prepared meals, held community clean-ups and spent time at two senior centers.

to raise money for the veterans at Saint Francis Commons in Scranton.

"I decided to do it because I thought it would be a nice thing to do for people," Will Regan from Our Lady of the Snows Parish said.

"I'm young and still active and I feel like I can help people that don't have the same abilities," Callahan Moore from Our Lady of the Snows added. "I think more people should do service projects like this."

At the end of the day, the students raised \$717 from the car wash.

"It's fun. It's not like I'm sitting around playing the computer my entire day. It's a

fun way of passing time instead of being at home," volunteer Jacob Krenitsky said.

While the students were busy washing cars, other volunteers packaged and delivered 126 meals to the Community Intervention Center in Scranton. The food was cooked by parishioners in their homes and put together by another team of volunteers.

Sue Burke, Faith Formation Director at Our Lady of the Snows Parish, said the 'Day of Service' is a powerful moment in teaching young people about the importance of volunteering.

"We're so privileged and we have so

much that we just need to share. We need to give to others and we need to teach our children to be able to give to others and that's what we're doing here today," Burke said.

Next year, Our Lady of the Snows Parish and Saint Gregory Parish will come together in a linkage under one pastor. Events like the 'Day of Service' prove that parishioners can come together as one family with one purpose and mission.

"We know that together is in our future and so to come together in any opportunity, whether it's to pray, worship, to serve or just gather as community, it is never a wasted effort," Marx said.

Dorrance church celebrates its centennial anniversary

DORRANCE – Parishioners of Saint Mary, Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in Dorrance gathered on Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of their church.

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

"As we gather to celebrate the Eucharist, the power and presence of God that is the heart of our faith, may our prayer be one of gratitude and hope: gratitude for all that has been and hope for what will be through the grace and goodness of God," Bishop Bambera said during his homily.

In celebration of its 100 years, *The Catholic Light* is looking back on the history of the parish.

Due to the growing number of Roman Catholic residents settling in and around the Dorrance area in the early 1920s, the

Diocese of Scranton determined there was a need for a church to administer to the spiritual needs of the faithful. Prior to that time, residents traveled to Wilkes-Barre, Sugar Notch, Nanticoke, or Hazleton to practice their faith.

The original church was built on one acre of land donated by Andrew Kotulik. Later, he also donated the area that houses the picnic grounds.

The original church took just over one year to build and was dedicated on Sept. 27, 1925. At the time of its founding, Saint Mary's was a mission church of Maternity



Parishioners of Saint Mary, Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in Dorrance celebrated the 100th anniversary of their church Sept. 23, 2023, with a special Mass celebrated by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton.

of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Wilkes-Barre.

On Dec. 5, 1952, the original church was destroyed by fire. A faulty furnace was

blamed for the destruction. After the fire, Sunday Mass was celebrated in the dining room of the Rustic Tavern until a new church could be built.

After a groundbreaking on April 26, 1953, the dedication of the new church was held on Feb. 14, 1954. The dedication and Mass were presided over by the Most Rev. Henry T. Klonowski, Auxiliary Bishop of Scranton.

Saint Mary, Our Lady Help of Christians Parish was linked with Saint Jude Parish in Mountain Top on July 7, 2010. Father Joseph Evanko has been serving as pastor since that time and has been assisted by several different assistant pastors.

In addition to its centennial celebration, which was marked on Sept. 23, 2023, the parish had previously celebrated its milestone anniversaries of 75 years on July 25, 1998; 50 years on June 10, 1973; and 25 years on Nov. 14, 1948.

At Diocesan Youth Rally, young adults encouraged to 'Be an Original'

SCRANTON – In a world where many people try to be copycats, every person is uniquely made in the image and likeness of God. That is what more than 200 young people heard as they filled the Diocesan Pastoral Center Oct. 7, 2023, to participate in a Diocesan Youth Rally.

Focusing on the theme of 'Be an Original,' the day-long event featured interactive workshops, Eucharistic Adoration, Mass with Bishop Bambera at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, and a keynote address from Steve Angrisano.

"God is so near to us, so close. I can't put it on a piece of paper, I can't take it to a court of law, but it's as real as real can be," Angrisano told the crowd of young adults.

Angrisano is an internationally recognized Catholic composer, presenter, and passionate music missionary. He has been featured at 10 World Youth Days, emceed three National Catholic Youth Conferences, and served as emcee when Pope John Paul II visited Saint Louis in 1999.

"Our faith is not a superstition. Our God is real. God created this universe, and no one can tell you that is not true. No one. Anyone who says science can disprove God is lying to you," he said.

Through an artful mix of music and storytelling, Angrisano described the worst day of his life, April 20, 1999, when a mass shooting at Columbine High School, which was next to his church at the time, took the lives of 14 people. He described the grief and pain of that day but also how God was with him and the community.

"I am standing with you here today because I am certain of that. God wins in the end," he said.

The young adults, many of whom are preparing for Confirmation and used the



More than 200 young adults participated in the 2023 Diocesan Youth Rally, which was held at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton, on Saturday, Oct. 7, 2023.

Diocesan Youth Rally as their retreat, got to choose the workshops they wanted to attend.

The sessions ranged from a panel on vocations, a session of authentic Catholic friendship, and even how Catholic teachings and spirituality can offer support for a person's mental well-being.

"It has been fun," participant Anthony Salvi from Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Brodheads ville said. "In one of the workshops we were talking about why God created us and what was his reason and how much he loves us."

Tanner Corkins of Saint Catherine of Siena Parish in Moscow thought the sessions were very insightful.

"I was really excited to take part in the rally to grow closer to God and really learn more about our faith and understand it on a deeper level," Corkins said.

Many of the young people said the most meaningful part of the Diocesan Youth Rally was Eucharistic Adoration, which was led by Father Gerald Shantillo, Vicar

General of the Diocese of Scranton and Moderator of the Curia.

"Just the peace that it brought me, I've never done it before, so it was very nice," participant Gregory Nalesnik of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Hawley said.

Organizers hope that the Diocesan Youth Rally gives the young people energy and excitement to be involved in their parish.

"More than anything, I hope that they take what they've learned and invest in their own faith," Shannon Kowalski, Diocesan Director of Service and Mission, said. "We need our young people to step up and to get involved in ministries and take on different things in their parishes, to lead bible studies and youth groups."

Gifts to the Diocesan Annual Appeal help to make events like the Diocesan Youth Rally possible.

"Everyone did an amazing job and I hope that next year we'll bring our kids back again," Ivett Bandirma from Queen of Peace Parish in Hawley said.

Leave a Mark Mass to take place on Nov. 5

SCRANTON - Young adults of the Diocese of Scranton will kick off National Vocation Awareness Week at the eighth annual Leave a Mark Mass on Nov. 5, 2023.

The Mass, which will be celebrated at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton at 5:00 p.m., is an opportunity for young Catholics to worship together, enjoy delicious food from local food trucks, play some intense rounds of cornhole or card games, and meet new friends!

Leave a Mark provides young adults in the Diocese with the opportunity to think about the vocation God is calling them to and to create friendships with others who are doing the same. Together, these young adults can offer their gifts and talents for the Church and discover how they can leave their unique mark on the world.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will be the principal celebrant and Father Alex Roche, Director of

Vocations and Seminarians and Pastor at St. Maria Goretti Parish in Laffin, will be the homilist.

Please plan to join us at the Leave a Mark Mass and social and discover how the Lord may be calling you to leave your mark in your homes, in your parishes, and in the world.



With assistance of grant from Diocesan Annual Appeal, Tioga County parishes hold afternoon retreat

WELLSBORO - Parishioners from the three Catholic parishes of Tioga County, which include Holy Child in Manfield, Saint Peter's in Wellsboro and Saint Thomas the Apostle in Elkland, came together for an afternoon of reflection on Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023.

Mary Hallman, Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life, was the guest speaker at the "In the Breaking of the Bread" retreat which was held at Saint Peter's Church in Wellsboro.

The parishes received a Faith Formation Grant from the Diocesan Annual Appeal for the event.

To make a gift to the Diocesan Annual Appeal, visit annualappeal.org.





DIOCESIS CELEBRA LA PATRIMONIO HISPANO CON MISA EN LA CATEDRAL

SCRANTON - La Catedral de San Pedro se revistió de hermosa música y orgullo cultural mientras la Diócesis de Scranton celebraba una Misa Pontifical por el Mes de la Herencia Hispana el sábado 16 de septiembre 2023.

Fieles feligreses de ascendencia hispana provenientes de Great Bend, East Stroudsburg, Hazleton, Wilkes-Barre, Scranton, Jermyn, Meshoppen y entre otros lugares, llenaron la Catedral para la celebración. El Reverendísimo Joseph Bambera, Obispo de Scranton, fue el celebrante principal y homilista de la Misa, que se celebró íntegramente en Español.

Después de la Misa, se llevó a cabo una celebración de la Herencia Hispana en el Centro Pastoral Diocesano. Cientos de personas disfrutaron de comida, compañerismo y espectáculos culturales de música y danza. Los países representados incluyeron, entre otros, México, Colombia, República Dominicana y Ecuador.

DIOCESE CELEBRATES HISPANIC HERITAGE WITH CATHEDRAL MASS

SCRANTON – The Cathedral of Saint Peter was filled with beautiful music and cultural pride as the Diocese of Scranton celebrated a Pontifical Mass for Hispanic Heritage Month on Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023.

Faithful parishioners of Hispanic heritage from Great Bend, East Stroudsburg, Hazleton, Wilkes-Barre, Meshoppen, Scranton, Jermyn and beyond filled the Cathedral for the celebration. The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant and homilist for the Mass, which was celebrated entirely in Spanish.

Following the Mass, a Hispanic Heritage celebration was held at the Diocesan Pastoral Center. Hundreds of people enjoyed food, fellowship, cultural music and dance performances. The countries represented included, but were not limited to, Mexico, Colombia, Dominican Republic and Ecuador.



Catholic educators receive Saint John Paul II Award for dedicated service

WILKES-BARRE – Three long-time educators in the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System were honored with the Saint John Paul II Award during the Diocesan Teachers' Institute Mass on Sept. 25, 2023.

Kimberly Art, April Ayres, and Brenda Quattrini were each presented the award for 25 years of dedicated service to Catholic education in the Diocese of Scranton by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, at Saint Nicholas Church.

"I'm very excited and very proud," Art said. "I know it is not easy to stick with something that long but I'm very proud and glad that I'm able to be in this school system."

Art began her career as the computer teacher at Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore and then moved into the role of fourth grade teacher in 2001. She has been there ever since.

"I'm Catholic. I lead with my heart, and I lead with Jesus, and I love that I'm able to incorporate Jesus into my daily lesson plans and my daily teaching and I'm glad that I can have Jesus lead me in teaching the children," she explained.

Quattrini attended Epiphany School in Sayre and in second grade decided she wanted to teach second grade.

"My second-grade teacher was my favorite teacher, and this was my dream,



Three Catholic school educators received the Saint John Paul II Award for 25 years of dedicated service during the Diocesan Teachers' Institute Mass at Saint Nicholas Parish on Sept. 25, 2023. Present for the award presentation were, from left: Michele Long, Assistant Superintendent; Kristen Donohue, Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Education/Superintendent of Catholic Schools; Brenda Quattrini, Epiphany School; Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton; Kimberly Art, Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School; April Ayres, La Salle Academy; and Charlene Krushinsky, Assistant Superintendent.

and I am living my dream," she explained.

Quattrini says she would not trade her experience in Catholic education for anything.

"I love how we're all family and we want to pass our religion onto the kids," the long-time educator added. "I am just

thrilled to be a part of it and that Sister Kathleen hired me many years ago!"

Catholic school educators impart a distinctive character to the education profession. They create an environment where the young grow and learn. They also direct the learning process, designing

programs and developing ways to encourage success. Most especially, they are witnesses to the faith, serving as sharers in the mission of Jesus Christ by leading young people to know, love, and serve God.

Ayres also grew up attending Catholic schools, including Saint Michael's in Jessup and Bishop O'Hara High School in Dunmore.

"I knew from an early age that I wanted to become a teacher when my brother was born. I was captivated by how learning occurs. That was just my calling. I knew that is what I wanted to do," Ayres said.

First hired at Saint Mary's in Dickson City, Ayres now teaches at La Salle Academy in Jessup. She spent three years teaching third grade and has taught fifth grade for 22 years.

"I grew up with a Catholic education. It was fabulous, the teachers, the support, the family atmosphere. I stayed all the way through high school. I promote it, I agree with it, I support it, and I absolutely love it," she added.

When asked what she would say to someone considering becoming a Catholic school educator, Ayres said it is a place where anyone can not only teach, but lead, inspire, challenge, and encourage.

"You will absolutely love it," Ayres stated. "It's family. It's a second home."

'Let your faith shine brightly for all to see,' Bishop Bambera tells Catholic School educators

WILKES-BARRE – As a new academic year begins in the Diocese of Scranton's 19 Catholic schools, teachers and administrators are being challenged to let their faith shine brightly for all to see.

"Your light shines more brightly than you might imagine," the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, said during his homily at the Diocesan Teachers' Institute Mass, which was held on Sept. 25 at Saint Nicholas Church.

"The children entrusted to your care, the young men and women, are who they are because of who you are every day," Bishop Bambera continued.

During his homily, the bishop thanked the hundreds of educators in attendance for helping students have a reverence for

Catholic rituals and prayers. After visiting each school for Mass last academic year, the bishop said that reverence is "palpable."

"Your appreciation for and your willingness to teach Catholic values is also obvious, and those are the values that set us apart from other fine educational opportunities, and the values that are at the heart of why we have a Catholic School System," he added.

During the Mass, the educators recited the 'Prayer of Commitment' to the ideals of Catholic education.



Catholic school educators celebrate the Diocesan Teachers' Institute Mass on Sept. 25, 2023.



Following Mass, educators and administrators took part in professional development programs.

"We are grateful to have this opportunity to pray together," Kristen Donohue, Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Education/Superintendent of Catholic Schools, said.



The Class of 2024 at **Holy Cross High School in Dunmore** gathered at St. Anthony's Field at 6:30 a.m. to celebrate a special activity before graduation – Senior Sunrise! Join the Holy Cross community from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Sunday, October 29, for an Open House to hear more about the engaging activities and academic achievements going on at the school. For more information, visit their website at www.hchspa.org.



Students from **Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green** came together to sing, dance and pray with their amazing musical guest, Vallimar Jansen. The entire student body enjoyed a mini-concert full of music, faith and joy at the Church of Saint Gregory in Clarks Green.



The kindergarten class at **All Saints Academy in Scranton** learned that friendship is about being kind and loving. Students worked in pairs to make friendship bracelets and then traded them with their partners.



Kindergarten students at **Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg** participate in a STREAM activity with Mrs. Durham.

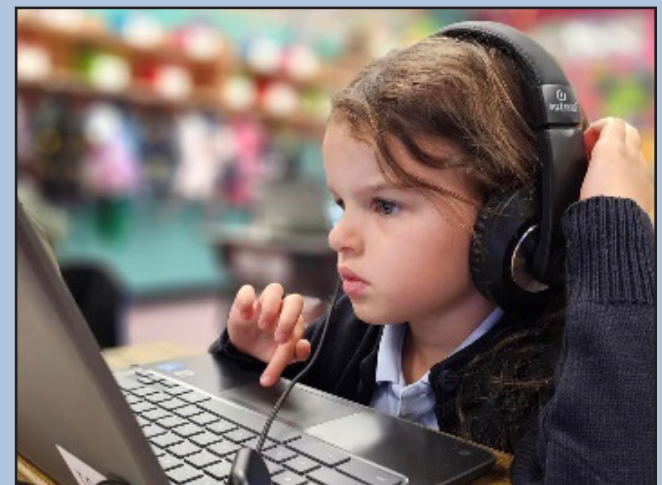


Freshman art students at **Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre** decorated pumpkins and jars in the school's 2023-24 theme, *Be the Light*. To learn more about the educational and extra-curricular activities offered at Holy Redeemer, make plans to come to their Open House from 1 – 3 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 5. Visit www.holyredeemerhs.org for more details.



Second grade students from **Holy Family Academy in Hazleton** proudly show some fall creations they made in class.

Caroline Carmody, a first grade student at **Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter**, along with all students at the school, just completed NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) testing. NWEA testing allows the teachers to track student progress throughout the year so that student growth can be quantified and lessons are created that are differentiated based on student needs.





With their new Hydroponica system, second graders at **Saint Agnes School in Towanda** harvested some delicious lettuce that they graciously shared and was served as part of the school lunch.



Students from **Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School in Williamsport** take a much-needed break during the school's annual Noble Knights Walk-A-Thon, held at the beginning of each school year.



It was a special day for students and their dogs, cats and stuffed animals at the annual Saint Francis Feast Day Pet Blessing at **Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School in Wilkes-Barre**.



Monsignor Neil Van Loon, V.F., pastor of Saint Paul Parish, works with third grade students from **Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton**, who are training to become altar servers.



By purchasing Breast Cancer Awareness items, students at **Holy Rosary School in Duryea** supported The Paint Pittston Pink Foundation.



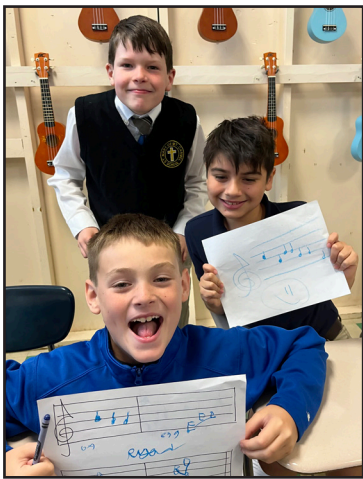
Ryan, Trevor and Michael, seventh grade students at **La Salle Academy in Jessup**, prepare for their regular volunteer shift at the Bread Basket Food Pantry, helping those in the community who are faced with food insecurity.



Celebrating A's! Pre-K4 students at **Epiphany School in Sayre** made apple-people crafts and tasted a variety of apples to see which ones they liked best as part of a STREAM activity that was based on the letter A.



It was Grandparents Day at **Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport**. Students invited grandparents and their special adults to lunch and tour their classrooms to celebrate.



Fourth grade students at **Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore** are learning to sing and play "Cabbage Cafe," which is made of words like "BAG, EGG, DAD, and BAD," whose letters can all be found as notes in the treble clef.



Under the guidance of Mrs. Nicolai, the librarian at **Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston**, Individualized Instruction student Grace will be participating in a library internship program this school year. Grace will be assisting Mrs. Nicolai in organizing and scanning library books, as well as sharing her love of reading with the GSA community.



Congratulations to Joseph Nguyen, a senior at **Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg**, who was named a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist. The National Merit Scholarship Program honors individual students who show exceptional academic ability and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

Were not our hearts burning within us?

Luke 24:13-35



26M
Children



38,140
Seminarians



8,750
Shelters



12,000
Health Centers



844,000
Catechists



258,540
Religious sisters

WWW.ONEFAMILYINMISSION.ORG

**BE THE SPARK THAT
TRANSFORMS LIVES.
GIVE NOW.**



Pray and Give Generously on **OCTOBER 22, 2023**
WORLD MISSION SUNDAY



A Pontifical Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral of Saint Peter at 12:15 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 22, 2023. The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will be the principal celebrant. Deacon Edward Kelly, Interim Diocesan Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies, will be the homilist. CTV: Catholic Television will provide a live broadcast the Mass. The Mass will also be livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel and across all Diocesan social media platforms.

Bishop Bambera's Letter for World Mission Sunday

On October 22, the Universal Church celebrates World Mission Sunday. This global Eucharistic celebration for the Church's missions is an opportunity to remind our parishioners of their own call to be missionary disciples. We assist the Holy Father to exercise his Petrine obligation to support the Church in the missions by praying for our missionaries and financially supporting their ministry.

World Mission Sunday, organized by the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith, one of the four Pontifical Mission Societies, is the only canonically mandated collection in the Church. This year, the spirit of Pope Francis' theme, "Hearts on fire, feet on the move," resonates with us as we are reminded of the energetic and unwavering faith that fuels our shared mission.

For the past 201 years, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith has extended its arms to support growing churches globally, reaching more than 1,100 mission dioceses across Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, Latin America, and parts of Europe. This assistance bolsters the proclamation of the Gospel, the building of the Church, and service to the poor. Let us echo this spirit in our parishes, inspiring our congregations to contribute both prayer and sacrifice to this cause on World Mission Sunday.

As new Cardinal Christophe Pierre wrote to the bishops in the United States last year, our support to World Mission Sunday "makes possible the proclamation of the Gospel, the celebration of the Sacraments, and service to the poor in mission dioceses. For the first decades of its life, the fledgling Church in the United States received essential support from the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, and the Catholics of this country have returned that generosity in abundance."

Your role in echoing this call is paramount. Your voices collectively carry great influence and can be the spark that inspires the "hearts on fire, feet on the move" spirit that Pope Francis calls us to embody.

Additional information regarding World Mission Sunday can be found at: www.onefamilyinmission.org/resources. Deacon Edward T. Kelly, Interim Diocesan Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies, is always available to assist our faithful and our parishes in preparation for this momentous day.

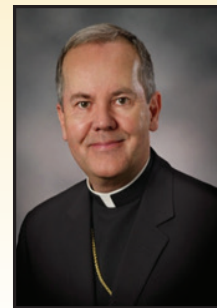
May the fire in our hearts continue to inspire our feet to move in service to God's mission.



Faithfully yours in Christ,

† *Joseph C. Bambera*

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



Hearts on fire, FEET ON THE MOVE (cf. Lk 24:13-35)



Pope Francis, in his message for World Mission Sunday 2023, reflects on the theme "Hearts on fire, feet on the move," based on the story of the disciples who encounter Jesus on their way to Emmaus (cf. Lk 24:13-35). He invites all of us to "set out once more, illumined by our encounter with the risen Lord and prompted by his Spirit. Let us set out again with burning hearts, with our eyes open and our feet in motion. Let us set out to make other hearts burn with the word of God, to open the eyes of others to Jesus in the Eucharist, and to invite everyone to walk together on the path of peace and salvation that God, in Christ, has bestowed upon all humanity."

On World Mission Sunday, we join our Holy Father in supporting his missions. As we pray and respond here at home, we share in those celebrations taking place in every parish and school throughout the world. Together, through our prayers and financial support, we bring the Lord's mercy and concrete help to the most vulnerable communities in the Pope's missions.

In a world where so much divides us, World Mission Sunday rejoices in our unity as missionaries by our Baptism, as it offers each one of us an opportunity to support the life-giving presence of the Church among the poor and marginalized in more than 1,111 mission dioceses.

Dr. Schanzer of Epiphany Parish chosen as 2023 Catholic Doctor of the Year

ATHENS – Thirty-five years after her first medical mission trip to Africa, a Bradford County woman will be recognized as the 'Catholic Doctor of the Year' later this month by the Mission Doctors Association.

Dr. Cathy Schanzer, MD, FACS, will be presented with the 'World of Difference Award' on Oct. 22, 2023, at the Los Angeles Archdiocese's Annual Mass for Healthcare Professionals at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels.

"I'm very proud of the award but I didn't do this by myself," Dr. Schanzer said.

Dr. Schanzer was first inspired to follow a call to missionary service in the third grade when she heard a Maryknoll priest speak about his mission work in Africa.

"I was just enamored with the work that he was doing for all these poor people that were living in underdeveloped countries and I decided as a kid it was something that needed to be a part of my life," the Bradford County doctor said.

After attending the University of Texas Medical School and completing her Ophthalmology residency at Baylor College of Medicine, Dr. Schanzer married her husband, Tom, who became her partner in mission work.

"After I finished residency, I still felt God calling me to do mission work," she said.

In 1988, the couple went on their first medical mission trip to a Catholic Mission Hospital in Abak, Nigeria.

"Neither of us knew exactly what we were doing," Dr. Schanzer admitted.

"I remember them having all these paper signs attached to trees all over the area saying the American eye doctor is coming. That is how they got the word out," Tom added.

Spending two weeks in the Nigerian village, Dr. Schanzer did approximately 75 surgeries and saw 200 patients.



During her most recent trip this summer to Sierra Leone, Dr. Schanzer was accompanied by Elizabeth and Leah Reid of Athens, PA. "Lizzie" and Leah spent most of their missionary time teaching grade school children in the schools of Serabu, a remote village in Southeastern Sierra Leone. Dr. Schanzer, Tom and the Reid sisters are parishioners of Epiphany Catholic Church in Sayre, PA.

"All of them had these rock-hard cataracts," she remembered.

The couple continued with annual mission trips to other African countries including Zimbabwe and Mozambique with the Volunteers in Mission program until the early 2000s. In 2006, Dr. Schanzer and her husband were asked by Archbishop Joseph Ganda, first native priest and bishop of Sierra Leone, to establish the Southern Eye Clinic in the village of Serabu.

The challenges were immense.

"The village had no water and no power. Obviously, since then we've dug nine water wells and used several generators," Cathy explained.

In addition to establishing nine water wells, Cathy and Tom also support numerous community development projects including a computer center, sports activities, food and feeding programs, and educational scholarships and stipends.

"The invitation was kind of like when we adopted our seven children," Tom said. "The conversations were fairly short. We said, God is calling us to do this, he'll see us through this."

Because Sierra Leone is a very male-dominated country, it took a long time for Dr. Schanzer to receive respect.

"The chiefs weren't interested in talking to me about building the eye clinic. They would only talk to Tom," she said. "They would watch me do the surgeries, turn to Tom, and say, 'Oh Tom, you bring very fine woman with you.'"

Regardless of the challenges, the work has been extremely rewarding.

"It is very life giving. Tom and I both come back from our trips physically exhausted but spiritually uplifted. We feel God's presence in everything that we're doing, whether it's me in the operating room or Tom helping to organize something in the village. We truly know that this is something that God has called us to and guides my hands and guides Tom in doing things in the village," Dr. Schanzer said.

Volunteer mission teams have traveled with Cathy and Tom during the months of January and June each year. This past January they had their busiest trip ever, as five surgeons and one medical student conducted a total of 476 eye surgeries, including on 21 children.

During the rest of the year, 64 employees keep the primary clinic and 10 satellite clinics in nearby villages running.



The clinic is one hundred percent charity to all patients for examinations, treatments, medicines, glasses, and surgeries. Patients come to the clinic from seven West African nations.

When they are not serving the village of Serabu, Dr. Schanzer and her husband are active in the Epiphany Parish community, serving on the Pastoral Council, Spiritual Development Committee, and RCIA faculty. The couple are also lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and attend daily Mass.

Earlier this year, Dr. Schanzer was diagnosed with Glioblastoma (brain cancer), a diagnosis that is often terminal in less than two years. Dr. Schanzer had surgery to remove the primary tumor, followed by radiation therapy and continues with chemotherapy. Cathy and Tom feel grateful for their deep faith and the strong worldwide support of family and friends.

"Cathy's future is unknown, of course, but we've developed a strong relationship with ophthalmologists, so our future mission trips are already staffed. Cathy will be able to come and go as her health allows. She can go without pressure," Tom explained.

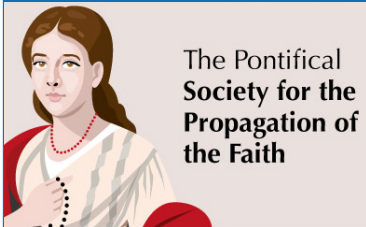
The mission program started by Dr. Schanzer and her husband, Southern Eye Institute, is funded by private donations and every dollar received is used to assist the needy people in Sierra Leone. For more information, visit TheGiftsofSerabu.com or SouthernEyeInstitute.net or donate to Southern Eye Institute, P.O. Box 771317, Memphis, TN 38177.



"We truly know that this is something that God has called us to and guides my hands and guides Tom in doing things in the village." Dr. Schanzer

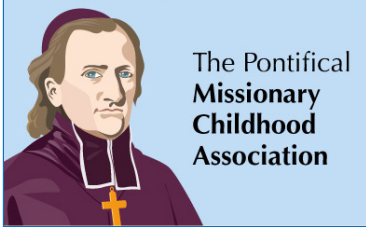


WHAT IS THE PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES IN THE UNITED STATES?



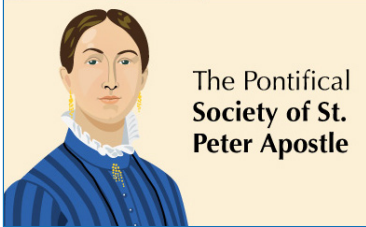
The Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith

The Propagation of the Faith's commitment is to arouse in the people of God an authentically universal spirit in order to make grow in the local Churches a missionary awareness in accordance with the Church's natural outreach.



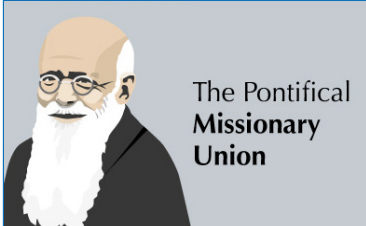
The Pontifical Missionary Childhood Association

The Pontifical Society of Missionary Childhood or of the Holy Childhood leads children to discover the missionary spirit and teaches them to help children of their same age around the world through prayer and small material sacrifices.



The Pontifical Society of St. Peter Apostle

The Society of Saint Peter collaborates in the growth of the young churches through financial support for building new seminaries and formation programs for the new local priests, religious and sisters.



The Pontifical Missionary Union

The Missionary Union is an association of the clergy, men and women religious and laypersons which proposes to arouse the passion for the mission in the Church, contribute to missionary formation, and encourage the Christian communities to cooperate and take active part in evangelization.

On Sunday, October 22, 2023, every Catholic Church all over the world will celebrate World Mission Sunday. On this Sunday, as parishioners from all the parishes throughout the Diocese of Scranton gather at the Eucharist, our brothers and sisters throughout the world will do the same. It is a time when the Universal Church comes together in prayer and sacrifice as "one family in mission." On that Sunday, a second collection is taken up in every Catholic Church to benefit the 1,100 plus mission dioceses across the world. It enables The Society for the Propagation of the Faith to not only feed people's physical hunger, but to also feed their souls by building up the Church.

The theme for World Mission 2023 is "Hearts On Fire, Feet On the Move." In reflecting on this theme, Pope Francis writes: "Let us not close our hearts within our own particular concerns, but let us open them to all humanity." The Holy Father invites us to kindle the fire of Christ's love in our hearts and to actively share this warmth with the world around us. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we go forth and

MISSION MESSAGE

Hearts on Fire

By Deacon Edward Kelly
Interim Director,
Pontifical Mission Societies

bring the Good News to all corners of the world. This is a call to move out of our comfort zones and make a tangible difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters in the poorest mission dioceses of Africa, Asia, the Americas, Oceania, and Europe.

In our world of often times not-so-good news, World Mission Sunday reminds all of us of the great works of the Church. The Society for The Propagation of the Faith oversees the world-wide celebration of this most important day, representing and acting in the name of Pope Francis himself. Let us join with Pope Francis in sharing the joy of the Gospel through our prayers, sacrifices and donations on this very special day in the life of the Church.

For those who cannot attend Mass on World Mission Sunday, October 22, and even for those

of you who want a visual of the Universal Church, there will be a televised Pontifical Mass celebrated in St. Peter's Cathedral at 12:15 p.m. The celebrant will be our Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, and the guest homilist will be Deacon Edward Kelly, Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the Diocese of Scranton.

On behalf of those in the mission dioceses who are unable to personally express their appreciation and gratitude, I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart.

If you would like to become an active member of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, you can use the form below and return it to The Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503. Thank you again and may God bless you always!

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As a member, your gift means financial and spiritual support to: Missionaries, Seminarians, Religious Novices, Catechists, Schools, Hospitals, Orphanages, Maternity Clinics and Feeding Programs in more than 1150 Mission Dioceses!

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Pope, in document on climate crisis, criticizes science 'deniers'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — encyclical, "Laudato Si', On Care for Our Common Home," Pope Francis intensified his critique of the "irresponsible derision" of the reality of climate change.



In the Spirit of Gratitude & Joy our St. Mary's Villa Family celebrated our 99th Anniversary and Founder's Day

this year on
Wednesday, October 4, 2023
Mass and an Appreciation Luncheon for our Staff
was held with a Missioning Ceremony
to commend our devoted staff.

*St. Mary's gives thanks and gratitude to our
dedicated staff and local community for
supporting our residents for nearly a century.*



"When human beings claim to take God's place, they become their own worst enemies," he said, explaining the title of the document released at the Vatican Oct. 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of ecology.

The new document, addressed "to all people of good will on the climate crisis," is a follow-up to "clarify and complete" his 2015 encyclical because, he wrote, over the past eight years, "our responses have not been adequate, while the world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point."

The bulk of the 15-page "apostolic exhortation" is dedicated to a severe rebuke of the "resistance and confusion" regarding the global climate crisis and its link to human activity as well as of the growing "technocratic paradigm underlying the current process of environmental decay."

"I feel obliged to make these clarifications, which may appear obvious, because of certain dismissive and scarcely reasonable opinions that I encounter, even within the Church," he wrote.

In fact, the Pew Research Center released survey results Sept. 28 reporting that U.S. Catholics' views on climate change are similar to those of the general public. A majority of U.S. adults - 54% - described climate change as a major threat to the country's well-being, but it remains a lower priority than other issues, the survey showed.

"Despite all attempts to deny, conceal, gloss over or relativize the issue, the signs of climate change are here and increasingly evident," the pope wrote, detailing the serious and irreversible damage already done and "dangerous changes" underway according to evidence supported by most scientists specializing in climate science.

"Only a very small percentage of them seek to deny the evidence," he added.

The pope blamed the resistance and confusion about the climate crisis on the lack of information on climate science, people choosing to "deride" facts and "ridicule those who speak of global warming," and inertia or indifference by "the great economic powers, whose concern is with the greatest profit possible at minimal cost and in the shortest amount of time."

Consequently, the pope wrote, "a broader perspective is urgently needed, one that can enable us to esteem the marvels of progress, but also to pay serious attention to other effects that were probably unimaginable a century ago."

People need to assume "responsibility for the legacy we will leave behind" and let go of this "technocratic paradigm" that believes "goodness and truth automatically flow from technological and economic power" and pursues "infinite or unlimited growth."

The great problem, he wrote, is an "ideology underlying an obsession: to increase human power beyond anything imaginable, before which nonhuman reality is a mere resource at its disposal."

"Everything that exists ceases to be a gift for which we should be thankful, esteem and cherish, and instead becomes a slave, prey to any whim of the human mind and its capacities," he wrote.

"Never has humanity had such power over itself, yet nothing ensures that it will be used wisely, particularly when we consider how it is currently being used," he wrote.

Pope Francis called for "rethinking our use of power," which requires an increased sense of responsibility, values and conscience with "sound ethics."



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Scranton faith community stands in solidarity with Israel

Continued from Page 1

Reverend Rebecca A. Barnes of Saint Luke's Episcopal Church, who serves as president of the Scranton Area Ministerium, recalled how she was in Israel on a study pilgrimage one year ago.

"We come together, people of different traditions, and we lament," Mother Barnes said. "We stand together in condemnation of the terrorist attacks of Hamas and all forms of violence and acts of inhumanity and injustice. By whatever name we call God, we call together on God, whose heart – like ours – is broken."

David Fallk of the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania thanked not only the faith leaders, but the dozens of community members, who attended the prayer service.

"The situation demands our attention and our attendance," Fallk said. "All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for people of good will to do nothing. I see people of good will doing something, expressing their concern not just for our community here but for the entire



The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, speaks during a prayer service in support of Israel at the Jewish Community Center in Scranton on Oct. 9, 2023.

Jewish community, particularly those in Israel."

Dan Cardonick, Executive Director of Jewish Community Center of Scranton that hosted the prayer service, said the last few days have been among the "darkest in Israel's history."

"Together, let us commit to a future where peace rules, families can live without fear, and dreams of a brighter tomorrow become a reality," he said.

Cardonick urged people to continue to show their support for the people of Israel and refuse to remain silent.

"Our shock and anger at these horrific terrorist attacks are juxtaposed with heartbreak for the families of the victims, the state of Israel, and the entire Jewish people," he added.

The prayer service ended with a song of peace.

The words of the song echoed many of the sentiments in the prayer with which Bishop

Bambera closed his remarks.

"Oh God, rend your heavens and come into our midst. Console your people in their grief, comfort them in their pain, let justice prevail and peace reign in the hearts of your people and in your Holy Land," Bishop Bambera prayed.

After the Scranton community gathered in solidarity with the people of Israel on Monday night, the Jewish Community of the Wyoming Valley held a similar gathering on Tuesday evening, Oct. 10, at the Jewish Community Center in Kingston.

Saying terrorism, war solve nothing, pope prays for peace

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - "War is a defeat," Pope Francis insisted as he called for prayers for peace in Israel and Palestine.

Speaking to thousands of people gathered in St. Peter's Square Oct. 8 for the recitation of the Angelus prayer, the pope said he is following events in Israel and Gaza "with apprehension and sorrow."

A day earlier, militants in Gaza launched a massive attack on southern Israel, firing rockets and breaching the border.

"The violence has exploded even more ferociously, causing hundreds of deaths and casualties," the pope told people



Smoke rises following Israeli strikes in Gaza, Oct. 7, 2023. (OSV News photo/Mohammed Salem, Reuters)

gathered for the midday Sunday prayer.

"I express my closeness to the families and victims," Pope Francis said. "I am praying for them and for all who are living hours of terror and anguish."

"May the attacks and weapons

cease," he said. "Please!"

"And let it be understood that terrorism and war do not lead to any resolutions, but only to the death and suffering of so many innocent people," Pope Francis said. "War is a defeat! Let us pray that there be peace in Israel and in Palestine."

During October, the month traditionally devoted to the rosary, the pope asked Catholics to pray for Mary's intercession "for the gift peace in the many countries throughout the world marked by war and conflicts. And let us continue to remember the dear Ukraine, which suffers so much every day, which is so battered."

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Stroudsburg Deanery churches participating in unique faith pilgrimage Oct. 21 & 22

STROUDSBURG — All eight Catholic parishes in the Stroudsburg Deanery of the Diocese of Scranton will open their doors over the weekend of Oct. 21-22 for what is being

called the “Living Water Trail” — a different kind of religious pilgrimage, welcoming visitors to refresh their faith through worship, informational and entertaining experiences offered amid the autumnal beauty of the Pocono Mountains.

The Stroudsburg Deanery church locations will provide the scenic settings for the fall weekend “voyage of faith” featuring a variety of inspirational events during Saturday, Oct. 21, and Sunday, Oct. 22.

Pilgrims are free to take part and visit as many of the deanery worship sites as they wish, as each parish community will share their most precious gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The “Living Water Trail” experience features portions of the Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition of Blessed Carlo Acutis on display at the Pocono churches, which will provide a Eucharistic Revival souvenir to each visitor.

According to organizers, individual, group and family pilgrimages may be planned

Living Water Trail

Stroudsburg Deanery, Diocese of Scranton

around activities, liturgies, worship services and meals available throughout the two-day spiritual event.

The weekend Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit schedule at the deanery churches is as follows:

Saint John Church, 5171 Milford Road East, East Stroudsburg — Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Sunday, 8 a.m. to noon.

Saint Luke Church, 818 Main St., Stroudsburg — Saturday & Sunday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Our Lady of Victory Church, 327 Cherry Lane Road, Tannersville — Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Most Holy Trinity Parish, 236 PA-390, Cresco — Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saint Rita Church, 512 Main St., Gouldsboro — Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish, 5112 Pocono Crest Road, Pocono Pines — Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, 1402 US-209, Brodheadsville — Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. (includes Vatican LEGO exhibit).

In addition to the parish schedules for sacramental confessions, Vigil/Sunday Masses, Eucharistic exposition & adoration, and devotions, event highlights at the various churches during the weekend include:

Saint John, East Stroudsburg — Saturday, Divine Mercy Chaplet, 3:30 p.m.; Rosary and Mass in Spanish, beginning at 6:15 p.m.

Saint Matthew Church, 200 Brodhead Ave., East Stroudsburg — Guest Lecture: “Reclaiming the Sabbath: Resting in Our Eucharistic Lord” by Father Brian J.T. Clarke: Saturday, 5 p.m., & Sunday, 3 p.m.; Sunday, XLT (Holy Hour with Praise and Worship Music & Eucharistic Reflection), 7 p.m.

Saint Luke, Stroudsburg — Saturday, Stained Glass Window Tour, 12:30-1:30 p.m./2:15-3:15 p.m., and Living Waters & Eucharistic Music Worship, 1:30 to 2:15 p.m.; Sunday, Mass in Polish, 2 p.m., followed by Saint John Paul II Polish Dinner, 3 p.m.

Our Lady of Victory, Tannersville — Saturday, Artisan Craft Fair & Food, 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Sunday, Eucharistic Display: “Learn About the Tools We Use,” 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Most Holy Trinity, Cresco — Spanish Community Showcase: Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., & Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Worship Space Tour: Saturday, 10 & 11 a.m. and 12:30, 1:30 & 2:30 p.m., and Sunday, 1, 2 & 3 p.m.; Sunday, Spanish Mass, noon.

Saint Rita, Gouldsboro — Saturday, Blessing of Articles, 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Sunday, Centennial History/Tour of Church, 11:30 a.m., 1 & 3 p.m.

Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Pocono Pines — Knights of Columbus Showcase: Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Our Lady Queen of Peace, Brodheadsville — Saturday, Presentation: “Eucharistic Theology of Saint John Paul II” by Father Bob Simon, 10 a.m.; Spanish Liturgy Workshop by Father Gregoria Arreaga, 10 a.m.; Sunday, Community Supper, 3 p.m.

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Those with authority must 'serve others,' Bishop stresses at 50th Diocesan Red Mass

SCRANTON — Lawyers, judges, and elected officials from across the 11 counties of the Diocese of Scranton gathered at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Oct. 6, 2023, to celebrate the 50th Diocesan Red Mass.

“We lift up all those in the legal profession to the mercy and love of God and the power of the Holy Spirit,” the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, said in welcoming everyone to the milestone Mass.

The Red Mass is offered to invoke God’s blessing upon all members of the legal profession. Its name is derived from the color of the vestments worn by the presider and concelebrants, the scarlet robes of attending justices (which were bright scarlet in the Middle Ages) and the scarlet gowns of law professors.

During his homily, Bishop Bambera used the Gospel message, the familiar story from the Last Supper of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples, to remind all those in attendance — whether they are a lawyer, judge, or public servant — that they must serve the most vulnerable among us.

“The gesture of Jesus washing the feet of His friends is recalled in the Gospel as a sign of His commitment to serve the suffering world in which He was immersed,” the bishop said.

Bishop Bambera also shared the words of Pope Francis, who recently spoke



The six gift bearers at the Red Mass have each spent more than 50 years serving the legal profession. Those honored are Joseph F. Cimini, Esq., Honorable Vito P. Geroulo, Albert E. Nicholls, Jr., Esq., Sal Cognetti, Jr., Esq., John Krisa, Esq., and Anthony J. Piazza, Jr., Esq. (Photo/Mike Melisky)

about those involved in the legal profession. The Holy Father said those whose vocation lies in law have the capacity to do great good but only if they use their authority “in a way that reflects a well-formed conscience and the use of that authority to serve others and the common good with prudence and responsibility.”

The first Red Mass was held in the Diocese of Scranton in 1971 but the tradition traces its origins to Rome, Paris, and London.

In closing his homily, Bishop Bambera acknowledged the difficulties and challenges people in the legal profession face, but offered some four pieces of advice as they face changing societal values and political pressure.

“First, never be too proud or self-inflated to pray for strength in the work that you

do,” Bishop Bambera began. “We would also do well to recognize the need to acquire not only mere professional competence but wisdom and creativity in our exercise of the law ... most of it comes with

humility and a willingness to engage and learn from the experiences of others.”

Bishop Bambera also for the dignity of every person encouraged those in attendance impacted by the work that you to “be willing to serve beyond the do.”



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Papal Intention for October 2023

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Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement.

It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the *Code of Canon Law* and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator, Mary Beth Pacuska at (570) 862-7551.

Aviso al Respetto 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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Bishop to celebrate Mass on Nov. 4 in W-B marking milestone anniversaries of Christian Charity Sisters

WILKES-BARRE — The Diocese of Scranton will fittingly share in the yearlong commemoration of the 175th anniversary of the founding of the Sisters of Christian Charity (SCC) when the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate a jubilee Eucharistic liturgy next month in Wilkes-Barre, where the religious Sisters began their venerable ministry in America.

Bishop Bambera will serve as principal celebrant of a Pontifical Mass of Thanksgiving on Saturday, Nov. 4, at noon at Saint Nicholas Church, Wilkes-Barre.

In addition to marking 175 years since the SCC congregation was established in Germany, the liturgy will also celebrate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Christian Charity Sisters in the Scranton Diocese and, thus, the United States.

Blessed Pauline von Mallinckrodt, foundress of the Sisters of Christian Charity, was born on June 3, 1817, in Minden, Germany, and at a young age was drawn to care for impoverished families in Paderborn — nursing their sick and providing them food. In 1840, her charitable work extended to Catholic education with the opening of a kindergarten and school for blind children.

As Pauline's burning love for God and care for the needy led her to consider a religious vocation, she was advised to begin her own community of women religious. On Aug. 21, 1849, Pauline, together with three other women founded the Sisters of Christian Charity, whose ministry soon spread rapidly throughout Germany and, eventually, North and South America.

At the request of Monsignor Peter Nagel, and with the blessing of Bishop William O'Hara, first Bishop of Scranton, Christian

Charity Sisters arrived as Saint Nicholas Parish in Wilkes-Barre on Oct. 15, 1873, at the direction of Mother Pauline. The foundress graciously welcomed the request for SCC nuns to serve as teachers in Diocesan schools as Catholic education was suffering from military repression in her native Germany.

Upon welcoming Mother Pauline on her visit to the United States, Bishop O'Hara granted her permission to establish a permanent presence in Wilkes-Barre. By 1877, the new SCC Motherhouse — Mallinckrodt Convent — was ready for occupancy.

The residence also included Saint Ann's Academy, a private school for girls. Eventually, the Motherhouse headquarters was transferred to Wilmette, Ill., in 1916, and then to Mendham, N.J., in 1927.

German Catholic pastors throughout the Scranton Diocese soon requested the Christian Charity Sisters to teach in their parish schools, and the congregation grew quickly beyond diocesan borders and throughout the U.S.

Along with their ministry in Catholic education, the SCC religious community responded to the need for Catholic healthcare, which led the Sisters to purchase land in Williamsport and build Divine Providence Hospital, known today as UPMC.

Throughout the years, the charism and ministries of the Sisters of Christian Charity has adapted to the changing needs of the Catholic Church, particularly in the areas of education, healthcare and social work of various kinds. Pauline von Mallinckrodt died April 30, 1881, was beatified by Pope Saint John Paul II on April 14, 1985.

Since their arrival in the United States 150 years ago, the

Sisters of Christian Charity have served in nearly 20 states and at the following Catholic parishes and schools in the Diocese of Scranton:

Saint Nicholas, Saint Ann's Academy, Saint Boniface and Bishop Hoban/Holy Redeemer High School, Wilkes-Barre; Saint Mary Assumption and Seton Catholic High School, Pittston; Sacred Heart, Luzerne; Saint Mary Assumption and Saint John the Baptist, Scranton; Saint Boniface, Saint Mary High School, Saint Ann, Bishop Neumann High School, Saint Anthony Center and Divine Providence Hospital, Williamsport; Immaculate Conception, Bastress; Saint Mary Magdalen, Honesdale; Saint Basil, Dushore; Sacred Heart, Duryea; Central Catholic/Bishop O'Reilly High School, Kingston; and Holy Trinity and Bishop Hafey High School, Hazleton.

Currently, the Sisters serve in ministry at Saint Nicholas Parish, Wilkes-Barre; Saint Jude Parish, Mountain Top; Nativity/Miguel School, Scranton; and UPMC in Williamsport and Muncy.

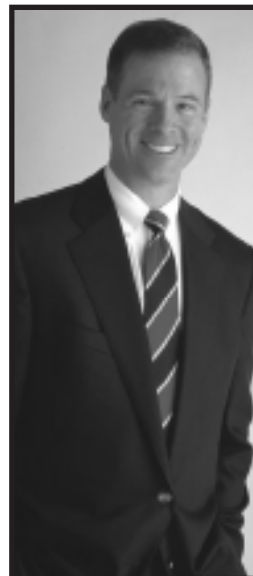


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Faithful encouraged to participate in 'America Needs Fatima' Rosary rallies on Oct. 14

SCRANTON — Catholics throughout the Diocese of Scranton will unite with faith communities around the nation on Saturday, Oct. 14, at noon, to lend their prayerful pleas to the chorus of intercessions of supplication and reparation as part of this year's "America Needs Fatima" Rosary Crusade.

Each year since the "America Needs Fatima" campaign was founded in 1985, faithful gather at noontime on a Saturday in October to send their Rosary prayers and petitions heavenward, seeking the

Blessed Mother's intercession on behalf of the United States.

The unified, simultaneous prayer effort coincides with October's designation by the Catholic Church as the Month of the Holy Rosary and Respect Life Month.

Prayerful recitation of the Rosary as a visible sign of the power of prayer in public arenas pays homage to the Blessed Mother's final apparition to the shepherd children of Fatima in Portugal on Oct. 13, 1917, culminating her messages of the need to offer the Holy Rosary as an essential tool for world peace and spiritual conversion.

The "America Needs Fatima" Rosary rallies include reparatory prayers for the country, particularly

regarding the evil of abortion, and offenses against the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Special intentions also include a greater respect for all human life — from conception to natural death — and converting hearts and minds away from sin.

Joining tens of thousands of similar "public square" prayer gatherings across America, the following outdoor Rosary events will be held on Saturday, Oct. 14, at noon in the Scranton Diocese. All faithful are welcome.

Mountain Top — Weiss Parking Lot, 237 South Mountain Boulevard, Mountain Top. For information, call Carmen at (570) 262-7373.

Wilkes-Barre — Our Lady of Fatima Blessed Grotto, 51 North Street, Wilkes-Barre.

Roaring Brook Township — Saint Eulalia Church grounds, 214 Blue Shutters Road, Roaring Brook Township. For more information, contact Mary Ann Brooks at (570) 689-9104.

Honesdale — Honesdale Central Park, Church & Ninth streets; sponsored by the four churches of Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Honesdale, and area Knights of Columbus. Event begins with Mass at 11 a.m. in Saint Mary Magdalen Church, Church St., Honesdale, followed by prayerful procession to the park. Facial masks and social distancing required; provide own chairs for the outdoor devotion. In case of inclement weather, the Rosary Rally will be held at Saint Mary Magdalen Church.

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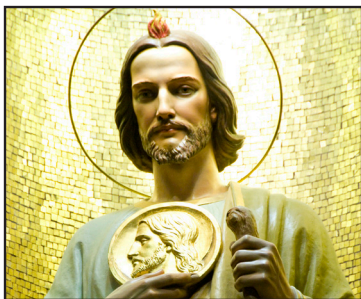
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Pittston parish hosting 66th Saint Jude Novena

PITSTON — Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish will host its 66th Annual Novena to Saint Jude, patron saint of hopeless cases and things despaired of, at Saint Mary, Help of Christians Church, 535 North Main St., Pittston, beginning Thursday, Oct. 19, and concluding on the Feast of Saint Jude, Saturday, Oct. 28.

Mass, homily, Novena prayers and veneration of the relic of Saint Jude will be held Monday through Friday at noon & 7 p.m. Saturday devotions are offered at noon & 4 p.m., and the Sunday Novena is held at 11 a.m. & 5 p.m.

Recitation of the Rosary and



Sacramental confessions (except Sunday) precede all Novena devotions.

Scheduled Novena celebrants/homilists are as follows:

Thursday, Oct. 19, noon, Monsignor John Jordan, and 7 p.m., Father Louis Grippe; Friday, Oct. 20,

noon & 7 p.m., Father Joseph Verespy.

Saturday, Oct. 21, noon & 4 p.m., Father Kenneth Seegar; Sunday, Oct. 22, 11 a.m. & 5 p.m., Father Seegar.

Monday, Oct. 23, noon & 7 p.m., Saint Joseph Oblate Father Paul McDonnell

Tuesday, Oct. 24, noon, & 7 p.m., Father Sam Ferretti; Wednesday, Oct. 25, noon, Father Seth Wasnock, and 7 p.m., Father Alex Roche.

Thursday, Oct. 26, noon & 7 p.m., Monsignor Dale Rupert; Friday, Oct. 27, noon & 7 p.m., Father Michael Bryant.

On the Feast of Saint Jude, Saturday, Oct. 28, Father Seegar will celebrate both the noon liturgy and the Novena's closing Mass at 4 p.m.

Novena prayer cards are provided. For more information, contact the parish office at (570) 654-0263.

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Enthronement Mass slated for Christ the King feast

LAFLIN — The Diocesan Enthronement Guild of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary will host a special Mass of Enthronement to celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King on Sunday, Nov. 26.

The Mass commemorating the annual feast day that marks the end of the Church's liturgical year will be celebrated at 3 p.m. in the chapel of the Oblates of Saint Joseph Seminary, Route 315, Laflin.

Saint Joseph Oblate Father Joseph Sibilano, who resides at the seminary, will serve as principal celebrant for the liturgy.

Music ministry for the liturgical celebration will be provided by Ernie Pappa and Vanessa James. The prelude of contemporary music will be offered prior to the Mass, beginning at 2:30 p.m. Refreshments will be provided following the Mass.

The Enthronement of the Sacred Heart apostolate enables families and individuals to consecrate their homes to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Homes that have been



**Father Joseph
Sibilano, OSJ**

enthroned become an extension of the liturgy, whereby faithful

can follow up their Eucharistic devotion in church with prayerful devotion in their own private settings.

Anyone interested in enthroning their home and family to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary may register to receive an Enthronement packet by contacting Maria Pappa, coordinator of the Enthronement Guild, at (570) 241-8171. Enthronement renewals are also available.

All are welcome to attend the Christ the King celebration.

Marian Devotion Rosary prayer services

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 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, Laflin.

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.

Saint John Vianney Parish hosting Blue Mass Oct. 28

SCOTT TOWNSHIP — Knights of Columbus, Corpus Christi Council 12573, is sponsoring a Blue Mass honoring all emergency personnel and first responders on Saturday, Oct. 28.

The annual liturgy will be hosted by Saint John Vianney Parish, 704 Montdale Road, Scott Township, with the Mass celebrated at the parish worship site at 5 p.m.

In addition to offering prayers of blessings and special intentions for the crucial work of law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency responders, the Blue Mass also memorializes and remembers all those who have fallen in the line of duty in service to the public.

'Tomb of Unborn' at Mount Olivet Cemetery hosts pro-life ceremonies



The Diocese of Scranton joined in the commemoration of the 11th annual National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children in September, when pro-life Americans honored the memory of the nearly 65 million unborn victims of abortion since its legalization in 1973. Area faithful participated in a memorial service at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Carverton at the Wyoming Valley Knights of Columbus "Tomb of the Unborn" on the cemetery grounds. During the annual observance, the Rosary was recited in remembrance



of all aborted babies. Three weeks later, the 27th anniversary of the Knights' "Tomb of Unborn" was celebrated on Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 1. Pictured in the above photo is Father Thomas Petro, chaplain of the Greater Pittston Knights of Columbus Assembly 948 and pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Dupont, leading the solemn commemoration, which included prayerful recitation of the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary.

Prayer Requests for Priests

The Daily Prayer Request for Priests schedule is as follows:

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; October 18, Holy Cross Father Charles Kociolek; October 19, Father Bert Kozen; October 20, Father Jonathan Kuhar; October 21, Father Jose Joseph Kuriappilly; October 22, Father Andrew Kurovsky; October 23, Father Joseph Kutch; October 24, Father Arun Lakra; October 25, Father John Lambert; October 26, Passionist Father Francis Landry; October 27, Father William Langan; October 28, Father John Lapera; October 29, Saint Peter Priestly Fraternity Father William Lawrence; October 30, Passionist Father John Michael Lee; October 31, Jesuit Father John Levko; November 1, Pope Francis; November 2, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; November 3, Father Michael Litcheck; November 4, Holy Cross Father Thomas Looney; November 5, Holy Cross Father Robert Lozinski; November 6, Father Edward Lyman; November 7, Monsignor Peter Madus; November 8, Saint Peter Priestly Fraternity Father Christopher Mahowald; November 9, Father Thomas Major; November 10, Father Thomas Maloney; November 11, Father Joseph Manarchuck; November 12, Capuchin Franciscan Father Pio Mandato; November 13, Father Michael Marchetti; November 14, Jesuit Father Joseph Marina; November 15, Jesuit Father Leonard Martin; November 16, Bishop Emeritus Joseph F. Martino; November 17, Father Paschal Mbagwu; November 18, Father Michael McCormick; November 19, Father Glenn McCreary, V.E.; November 20, Saint Joseph Oblate Father Paul McDonnell; November 21, Holy Cross Father Russ McDougall.

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Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese

Eucharistic Adoration Evening: "Abundant Life Holy Hour" — OCT. 12, hosted by Mary, Mother of God Parish in North Scranton; Holy Hour with exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 7 p.m. at the parish worship site of Holy Rosary Church, 316 William St., Scranton. Evening of Eucharistic adoration includes quiet prayer, homily and solemn benediction.

Final "40 Days for Life" Pro-Life Rosary Gatherings — OCT. 12-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.

Weekly Bereavement Support Group Sessions — OCT. 16-NOV. 13, sponsored by St. John Neumann Parish in Lords Valley; bereavement support group meets on consecutive Monday afternoons from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the St. John parish hall, 705 Route 739, Lords Valley. Weekly gatherings address topics dealing with the grief process. All are welcome; advance registration required at stvgriefgroup@att.net or by calling the parish office (570) 775-6791.

Mass for Healing — OCT. 17, sponsored by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the Diocese of Scranton; Mass with prayers for healing will be offered at 7 p.m. at the Oblates of St. Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laffin. Guest celebrant: St. Joseph Oblate Father Paul McDonnell, rector of the OSJ seminary/chapel and pastor of Divine Mercy Parish, Scranton. Prayer teams will be available for individual prayers following the liturgy. All are welcome.

Tuesday Eucharistic Adoration — OCT. 17, hosted by St. Peter Parish in Wellsboro; 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 in the presence of the Eucharistic Lord.

39th Annual Prayer Breakfast for Life — OCT. 21, sponsored by the Scranton Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life (PHL); held from 9 a.m. to noon at Fiorelli's Catering, 1501 Main

St., Peckville. Guest speakers include Peter DeMaio, president of PHL; event also features a basket raffle. Breakfast cost: \$25 for adults; all children & students admitted free of charge. Program sponsorships and patrons also available. For more information and reservations, call the Scranton PHL office at (570) 343-5099, or visit: prolifescranton.org.

Parish Pasta Dinner — OCT. 21, sponsored by Queen of the Apostles Parish, 715 Hawthorne St., Avoca; pasta dinner served from 3 to 7 p.m. in the parish hall (take-outs available). Cost: adults, \$12; children (ages 3 & older), \$6. Sale of quarts of tomato sauce, meatballs, vodka sauce, and cannoli will be held during the Oct. 21-22 weekend in the parish hall.

55th Annual Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner — OCT. 25, hosted by St. Luke Parish, 118 Kendall Ave., Jersey Shore; lunch served from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., and dinner served from 4 to 7 p.m. (take-out dinners available all day). Featuring pork & sauerkraut, knockwurst, mashed potatoes, apple sauce, dumplings, bread, dessert and soft beverages. Cost: adults, \$11 (in advance) and \$12 (at door); children (ages 5 to 12), \$5 and \$6. Advance tickets available during all weekend Masses and thru Oct. 24 at the parish office.

"Sweet Discourse" Eucharist Series — OCT. 26, hosted by St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Pocono Pines; series of Eucharistic encounter nights, offered in conjunction with the National Eucharistic Revival, held on the fourth Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. in the parish hall. Moderator: Father Paschal Mbagwu, parish administrator. Monthly gatherings include the evening's lesson, followed by question-answer session and dessert social; series continues through July 2024.

Continued on next page

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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Catholic Happenings

Take-Out Turkey Dinner —

OCT. 28, sponsored by St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport; held from noon to 5 p.m. at the parish center (kitchen take-out window), 720 West Fourth St., Williamsport. Dinner includes turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, green beans, cole slaw and dessert. Cost: \$13 per dinner.

Parish Rummage Sale —

NOV. 4, sponsored by St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport; held from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Fleming Parish Center, 720 West Fourth St., Williamsport. Numerous food and bake sale items available.

Traditional Turkey Dinner —

NOV. 5, hosted by Our Lady of Hope Parish in Wilkes-Barre; traditional full-course holiday turkey dinner will be served from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the parish center, 154 S. Hancock St., Wilkes-Barre, with take-outs available. Event also includes a bake sale, small games of chance, raffle drawing, and children's activities. Dinner cost: adults, \$14; children ages 12 and younger admitted free of charge. Tickets sold at the door.

Franciscan Retreat: "The San Damiano Cross" — **NOV. 5**, sponsored by the Holy Dormition/St. Clare Secular Franciscan Fraternity; afternoon retreat will be hosted from 1 to 4 p.m. at St. John Bosco Parish, 573 PA Route 93, Sugarloaf. For more information, contact Ed Pane, OFS, at (570) 401-7517.

Election Day Pasta & Meatball Dinner — **NOV. 7**, sponsored by St. John Bosco Parish, SR 93, Conyngham; sit-down dinners served from 3 to 7 p.m. in the parish center. Dinner includes pasta, meatballs, salad, Italian bread and homemade dessert (take-outs available). Cost: adults, \$12; children (age 10 & younger), \$6. Tickets at the door, at weekend Masses or by contacting the parish office (570) 788-1997.

Ukrainian Orphanage

Fundraiser — **NOV. 11**, sponsored by the Orphan Outreach Ministry at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Brodheadsville; tricky tray games party to be held in the parish's McCawley Hall at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Route 209, Brodheadsville. Proceeds benefit orphanages for disabled children and adults in war-torn Ukraine. Doors open at 9 a.m.; drawings begin at 12:30 p.m. Admission cost: \$10, includes one sheet of tickets; additional sheets available for purchase. Fundraising event features drawings for more than 150 theme baskets and gift prizes. For more information, contact Sandie Flannery at (570) 350-9652 or sandieflannery@gmail.com.

Annual Take-Out Roast Beef Dinner — **NOV. 12**, hosted by Mary, Mother of God Parish in North Scranton; dinner is take-out only from noon to 4 p.m. at nearby Stirna's Restaurant, 120 W. Market St., North Scranton. Dinner cost: \$11, in advance; \$14, at the door. For advance tickets, contact the parish office at 316 William St., Scranton; phone: (570) 342-4881.

Parish Christmas Craft Show — **NOV. 18**, sponsored by St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport; held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Fleming Parish Center, 720 West Fourth St., Williamsport. Food items available for purchase.

Parish Cash Bingo — **NOV. 19**, to benefit Prince of Peace Parish in Old Forge; hosted at the Eagle McClure Fire Department, 375 Milwaukee Ave., Old Forge. Doors open at 11 a.m.; bingo games start at 1 p.m. Event includes 20 regular games with \$100 cash prizes, plus five specials with \$250 jackpots; basket raffle and snack bar. Admission cost: \$30; additional game booklets \$10 each. Advance tickets at weekend Masses or contacting the parish office (570) 457-5900.



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