



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

November 16, 2023

Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre celebrating 40 years of compassionate service



When the late Scranton Bishop J. Carroll McCormick dedicated the new Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen as a program of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton on May 19, 1983, he urged the people of the Wyoming Valley to “accept the challenge to love those whom the world has scorned.”

Two weeks later, Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen at 39 East Jackson St. in downtown Wilkes-Barre served its first meal on June 2, 1983. Monsignor Donald McAndrews, the executive director of Catholic Social Services in the Diocese who envisioned such a haven of charity for the area's needy, looked on with pride as a legacy was born.

For the past 40 years, Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen has provided a safe space for people in need to enjoy a hot meal, warm clothes, kindness, compassion and companionship.

That first simple meal served to some 100 underprivileged members of the community will be fondly recalled and celebrated when "A Bountiful Harvest," the Kitchen's 40th anniversary event under the major sponsorship of McCarthy Tire Service, will take place this Saturday evening, Nov. 18, at The Westmoreland Club in Wilkes-Barre.

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

[Click Here to Support the Work of Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen by Purchasing Raffle Tickets for the \\$5,000 Cash Raffle at this weekend's fundraiser](#)

Nearly 100 Diocesan youth and chaperones participating this week in NCYC 2023



Please join us in praying for the 94 pilgrims from the Diocese of Scranton that are arriving today in Indianapolis for the 2023 National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC).

The event is a unique three-day experience of prayer, community, evangelization, catechesis, service, and empowerment for Catholic teenagers (of high school age) and their adult chaperones.

The theme for NCYC 2023 is “Fully Alive,” focusing on the following Scripture passages, “God created mankind in His image; in the image of God, he created them” (Genesis 1:23-27) and “I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).

Parishes that have students attending NCYC this year are: Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Hanover Township; Our Lady Queen of Peace, Brodheadsville; Saint Catherine of Siena, Moscow; Saint Eulalia, Roaring Brook Township; Saint Ignatius Loyola, Kingston; Saint Joseph Mareello, Pittston; Saint Jude, Mountain Top; Saint Luke, Stroudsburg; and Saint Matthew, East Stroudsburg.

Diocesan Annual Appeal provides Faith Formation Grants to parishes



A faith formation grant from the Diocesan Annual Appeal is helping the leadership at Saint Eulalia Parish meet the needs of its people.

“In a recent parish survey, one of the top needs identified by the parishioners was their desire to learn more about their faith. On top of that list, they wanted to learn more about the bible,” Deacon Nick Rocco said.

On Nov. 9, Deacon Nick began an eight-part bible study series, ‘Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible,’ which was attended by more than 25 participants ranging from teenagers to parents and grandparents.

Because part of the program is video-based, Saint Eulalia Parish wanted to upgrade its technology before beginning the series and applied for a \$2,750 faith formation grant from the 2023 Diocesan Annual Appeal.

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

[Support the Faith Formation Work of Parishes By Donating to the 2023 Diocesan Annual Appeal Now!](#)

Milestone Moment: Mass celebrates 175th anniversary of founding of Sisters of Christian Charity



Between the beautiful entrance hymn of 'Exult and Sing,' and the crowd of more than 300 friends and colleagues looking back at her, Sister Ellen Fischer, S.C.C., admits shedding a few tears as she approached the ambo to deliver the first reading at a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the founding of the Sisters of Christian Charity.

The special Mass also served as a reason to celebrate the religious order's 150 years of service in the Diocese of Scranton.

"To be honest, I started the liturgy filled with tears as we looked out," Sister Ellen said. "To see the amount of people here supporting us, people that we have served with through our many, many years, it was just so humbling."

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

New Adoration Chapel in Pittston to open the weekend of Nov. 25 & 26



NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival

St. John the Evangelist and St. Joseph Mareello Parishes

Adoration Chapel Opening and Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition



Saturday, November 25th and Sunday November 26th

Come and experience *Carlo's Exhibition*, a collection of over 158 miracles from over 22 Countries that have occurred over the centuries and been approved by the Catholic Church.

**Eucharistic Miracle Exhibition and Chapel Open House will
take place after all masses.**

**The Eucharist will be transferred for the first time into the
adoration chapel after the 11:30 AM Mass.**

Msgr. Bendik Pastoral Center | 37 William Street, Pittston

Piously accenting the National Eucharistic Revival currently underway in Catholic churches throughout the United States, the Pittston parish communities of Saint John the Evangelist and Saint Joseph Mareello will unveil a new Adoration Chapel during the weekend celebration of the Solemnity of Christ the King, Nov. 25-26.

Open house events for the chapel of exposition and adoration of the Eucharistic Lord, located in the Monsignor Bendik Pastoral Center at 37 William St., Pittston, will be held following Masses celebrated that weekend at the neighboring parishes.

Father Joseph Elston, pastor of both Saint John the Evangelist and Saint Joseph Mareello parishes, announces the Most Blessed Sacrament will be transferred for the first time into the Adoration Chapel in a ceremony following the 11:30 Sunday Mass at Saint John Church.

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

Table of Plenty: Scranton Thanksgiving Community Program ready to serve friends in need



The Friends of the Poor apostolate is proud to announce, once again, its three community-based programs to help feed — in body & soul — the region's less fortunate this Thanksgiving.

The 47th annual holiday program is incorporating new collaborative partners to aid the Friends of the Poor's Thanksgiving Dinner for Adults & Elderly, Family to Family Thanksgiving Food Basket Program, and the kick-off Interfaith Prayer Service.

"The Thanksgiving Community Program has never been one to operate in a silo," Meghan Loftus, president and CEO of Friends of the Poor, said. "From its humble beginnings feeding a few dozen community members, our program has relied on the generosity of area individuals, businesses and institutions to make the holiday special for those who often go without."

Nearly 50 years later, the same remains true today as efforts have been well underway to prepare and serve 3,500 meals and provide another 3,500 families with Thanksgiving groceries.

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

**Catholic Social Services assists religious Sister
with becoming U.S. Citizen**



During her more than 20 years ministering to people in churches and nursing homes across the country, Sister Jude Njeri, L.S.O.S.F., a native of Kenya, said the United States had started to feel like “another home.”

On Sept. 15, 2023, it officially became her home, as Sister Jude took the Oath of Citizenship at a naturalization ceremony inside the federal courthouse in Scranton.

“This is a land of opportunities,” Sister Jude said immediately after becoming an American citizen. “My heart is very light. It has given me strength, another push, to go on. I still have time in my life to give.”

As a member of the Little Sisters of Saint Francis, Sister Jude has spent time ministering to people in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and New York, in addition to the greater Scranton area. As two decades began to pass, she started doing research on how to become a U.S. citizen.

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

Help make the Christmas season brighter for children across NEPA

TWEENS & TEENS NEED OUR LOVE, TOO!

THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON, DIOCESE OF SCRANTON
PARISHIONERS ARE HELPING TO PUT
SMILES ON YOUNG FACES THROUGH THE ANNUAL
GIFTS FOR KIDS GIVEAWAY COORDINATED BY
FRIENDS OF THE POOR,
THE CATHERINE MCAULEY CENTER,
CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES, AND
THE SALVATION ARMY.

OUR ASSIGNMENT THIS YEAR IS THE
OFTEN-OVERLOOKED 12-17 AGE GROUP.
PLEASE CONSIDER SELECTING A GIFT OR GIFTS
FROM OUR TWEEN-TEEN AMAZON WISH LIST
AND HAVING YOUR CHOICE/S SHIPPED DIRECTLY
TO THE DIOCESAN PASTORAL CENTER!

HIGH-PRIORITY ITEMS:

- ✓ Teen hygiene/bath products and cosmetics
- ✓ Teen body/skin/hair/dental care
- ✓ Teen sports equipment and sports-related gear & water bottles
- ✓ Teen bedroom decor and novelties
- ✓ Fun sunglasses, socks, blankets, beach towels
and any one-size wearables



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TO PICK AND SEND
A GIFT!
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WISH LIST BY PRICE.*

NEED HELP? CALL SANDRA SNYDER AT
570-591-5004 OR EMAIL
SANDRA-SNYDER@DIOCESEOFSCRANTON.ORG

In just eight weeks, Christmas will be upon us and once again Catholic Social Services is working to deliver hope to children through the annual "Christmas Gifts for Kids" program.

In Scranton, Catholic Social Services is partnering with three other community organizations – Friends of the Poor, Catherine McAuley Center, and the Salvation Army – to make sure no child goes without a gift. Last month, we registered approximately 1,500 families for this program in just **ONE HOUR** – significantly faster than we've ever seen before – which is a sign of the growing need in our community.

In Carbondale and Hazleton, Catholic Social Services also runs a "Christmas Gifts for Kids" program, serving hundreds of families in need in each of those communities.

You can help provide gifts to families this Christmas by purchasing a gift from our Amazon Wishlist - and the items will shipped directly to us to hand out in the days before Christmas. The price range for gifts is from \$5 to \$30.

[Click Here to View or Purchase a Gift for a local child from the CSS
Amazon Wishlist](#)

**Young Adult Discernment Retreat to take
place Dec. 8-9 in Nanticoke**

HOSTED BY THE DIOCESE OF SCRANTON
VOCATIONS OFFICE



THE BODY OF CHRIST

Encountering the Real Presence
to be Sent on Real Mission

REV. MICHAEL BORIS

YOUNG ADULT
DISCERNMENT RETREAT
DECEMBER 8-9, 2023

HOLY FAMILY RETREAT CENTER
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