



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

November 23, 2023

**Happy
Thanksgiving!**



**Family-to-Family Food Basket Program
helps thousands enjoy Thanksgiving meals**



Thousands of people throughout the greater Scranton area will have a warm meal in their homes this Thanksgiving thanks to the generosity of their neighbors.

On Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2023, volunteers with the Family-to-Family Food Basket Program handed out hundreds of food bags outside the Scranton Cultural Center beginning at 9 a.m.

“It has been a very busy day so far, but everything is going very, very well,” Linda Robeson, Director, Family to Family, explained.

Families were provided all of the grocery items needed to prepare a traditional Thanksgiving meal, include a turkey, stuffing, potatoes, yams, and even pie.

“This is a full community effort,” Robeson explained.

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

Local teens describe NCYC 2023 in Indianapolis as 'awesome' - and so much more



The National Catholic Youth Conference can have a deep impact on high school teens.

For three days – this year Nov. 16-18 in Indianapolis – their faith was enriched through speakers, uplifting music, Eucharistic Adoration, group prayer, the opportunity for the Sacrament of Penance and Daily Mass.

Their faith was also emboldened in witnessing and worshipping with thousands of their Catholic peers, leaving the youths encouraged by the fact that they are not alone in following Christ in the one true church.

“NCYC was truly incredible. I came in, not expecting it to be half of what it was,” Hannah Rocco from Saint Eulalia Parish in Roaring Brook Township, said. “Adoration with 13,000 kids was truly incredible!”

The Diocese of Scranton sent a total of 92 pilgrims – young adults and chaperones – to this year’s conference.

“It was such an awesome experience,” Hayden Schwabe from Saint Jude Parish in Mountain Top, added. “You don’t have to worry about hiding your faith or being scared about putting your hands up in the air to take in the Holy Spirit because other people are doing it.”

We will have more coverage and reaction from the local students who attended NCYC 2023 in the Dec. 14 edition of *The Catholic Light*.

[Read about NCYC on the Diocese of Scranton Website](#)

Israel agrees to hostage deal with Hamas; Church leaders hope it will lead to end of war



The Latin patriarch of Jerusalem, Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, expressed his happiness at the late-night hostage-exchange agreement reached between Israel and Hamas Nov. 21, and said he hoped it would lead to end to the war which broke out after an Oct. 7 Hamas terrorist attack on 22 southern Israeli agricultural communities along the border with Gaza.

“We are happy with the news and hope that this will lead to further positive development that will bring the conflict to a conclusion,” said Cardinal Pizzaballa in a brief statement released to journalists in Italian and English.

The Israeli government said in a statement it was obligated to return all the hostages home and had approved the outline of the first stage of the goal.

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

U.S. Bishops' meeting shows united front on mission but no clear synod action plan



For two days, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops met in plenary assembly in Baltimore advancing key issues related to liturgy, living out the faith, including in the public square, and retooling the conference to better serve the church's mission.

However, the bishops' Nov. 13-16 meeting, which took place nearly three weeks following the conclusion of the global Synod on Synodality, also concluded without a common game plan for how bishops could get consultative feedback from their local parishes with respect to the synod's "halftime" report before it reconvenes in 11 months.

At the assembly's opening Mass Nov. 13, the bishops prayed for peace, with USCCB president Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services in the homily saying they asked for wisdom to help others embrace Jesus Christ, and noting the feast day of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, the first American saint, and herself an immigrant who championed care for immigrants.

The public portions of the bishops' plenary assembly Nov. 14-15 were marked with extraordinary unanimity as the bishops' closed-door "fraternal dialogues" gave them time for face-to-face group discussions to work out contentious issues in advance of presentations and votes.

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

Catholic Church 'never despairs' of souls lost to suicide, say pastoral leaders



When his 29-year-old daughter Katie died in 2016, Deacon Edward Shoener shared a heartrending truth in the obituary: she had taken her life amid a long-running struggle with depression.

“(She) fought bi-polar disorder since 2005, but she finally lost the battle,” wrote Deacon Shoener, who serves at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Scranton.

Nov. 18 marked International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day, dedicated to those who wrestle with the complex and often silent grief of having lost loved ones to suicide. Ahead of the observance, Deacon Shoener told OSV News the Catholic Church needs to be on the frontlines of addressing suicide and mental illness, and understanding their impact on individuals and loved ones.

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

**Acting to end abuse is 'non-negotiable,'
Pope Francis says**



The Catholic Church and all its members must end silence about clerical sexual abuse and ensure cases are no longer covered up, Pope Francis said, adding it is “non-negotiable.”

Meeting Nov. 18 with Italian diocesan and regional representatives of safeguarding programs and listening centers, the pope said it also is essential to “pursue the ascertainment of the truth and the restoration of justice in the ecclesial community, including in those cases where certain behaviors are not considered crimes by the law of the state, but are under canon law.”

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

**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!

SCAN HERE
TO PICK AND SEND
A GIFT!
PRICES RANGE
FROM \$5 TO \$30!

*USE "SORT BY" TO FILTER
WISH LIST BY PRICE.*

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

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



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](#)

**As you celebrate and give thanks to God
this Thanksgiving - support the Diocesan
Annual Appeal to help those struggling**

OUR CALL TO SERVE
DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Scan to donate
or visit
annualappeal.org

*Rejoice always,
PRAY WITHOUT CEASING,
GIVE THANKS
IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES.
1 Thessalonians 5:15-18*

*Thank You
for your support of the 2023
Diocesan Annual Appeal and
helping our parish reach its goal!*

"Thanksgiving" is central to our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Jesus gathered with His apostles around the Passover meal and in that moment gave them the gift of His own Body and Blood.

As you gather with your families this Thanksgiving, we hope you are filled with joy and love. As you gather, give thanks to God, and as you are aware of how blessed you are, may it motivate you to be generous to those in need!

By supporting the 2023 Diocesan Annual Appeal, you are supporting those in our community who are in need of food, clothing and shelter through the work of Catholic Social Services and through Parish Social Justice Grants which help to support critical community projects that provide material and spiritual assistance to parishioners!

[Click Here to Give a Gift to the 2023 Diocesan Annual Appeal Now!](#)

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