



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

January 11, 2024

Bishop Bambera releases 'March for Life' Letter in advance of 2024 event



My Dear Friends,

On June 24, 2022, the United States Supreme Court overturned the constitutional right to abortion in its *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision. This monumental ruling was due in no small part to the prayers and efforts of committed Catholics, Protestants, Orthodox, those of other faith traditions, and some with no religious affiliation, who

sought to protect the lives of the most vulnerable among us – unborn infants in the womb.

While the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* has given us all hope by allowing for greater freedom at the state level to enact pro-life laws, many legislative battles continue to loom on the horizon. Of note, are concerns regarding the longstanding *Hyde* protections which limit government funding for abortion on annual appropriation bills. Throughout its history, the *Hyde Amendment* has saved over 2 million lives and is arguably the most impactful pro-life policy in our nation's history.

Sadly, however, it can no longer be taken for granted. And on a more local level, the fight to protect human life is just as urgent as ever, given the increasing number of states that are intent upon passing pro-abortion legislation.... (*Read Bishop Bambera's Full Letter by Clicking the Link*)

[Click Here to Read Bishop Bambera's 'March for Life 2024' Letter](#)

A close-up photograph of a baby's hands, with the right hand raised and the index finger pointing up. The background is softly blurred.

Mass for **LIFE**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024

5:00PM | CATHEDRAL OF ST. PETER, SCRANTON

CELEBRANT: MOST REV. JOSEPH C. BAMBERA
BISHOP OF SCRANTON

**All are welcome to join us as we pray
for a greater respect of all human life.**

**Please consider bringing an unopened package of
diapers to be donated to local mothers in need.**

**'Pro-Life: With Every Woman, For Every Child' is
theme for 2024 March for Life**



In just over a week, on Jan. 19, thousands of pro-life advocates will take to the streets for the 2024 March for Life.

This year's theme will be "Pro-Life: With Every Woman, For Every Child," the group's president has announced.

The March for Life first took place in Washington in 1974 in response to the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion nationwide the previous year. Pro-life advocates have gathered in Washington to march each year since then to protest the ruling, with a smaller-in-scale event during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021.

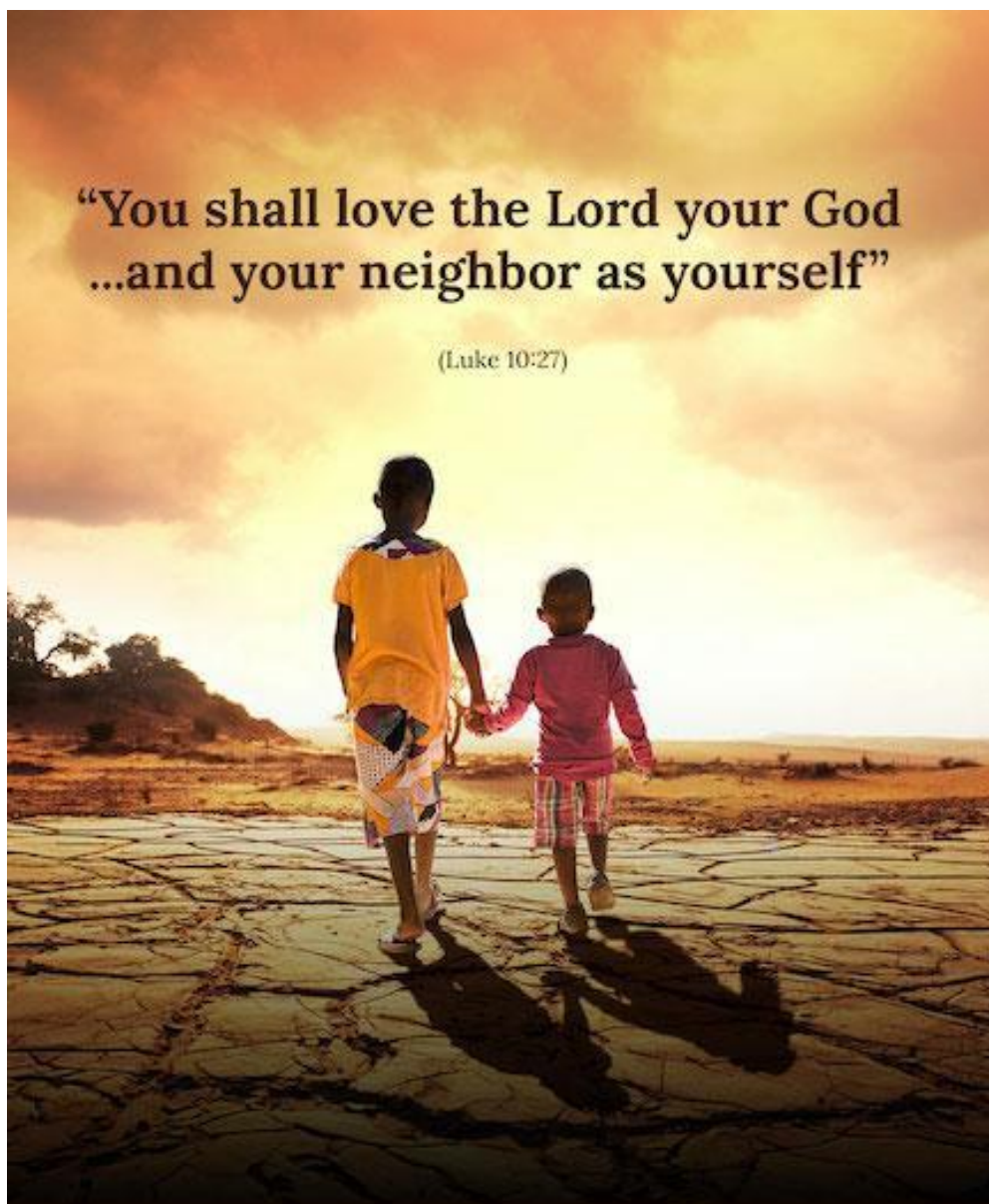
After the high court reversed *Roe* in 2022, marchers still gathered to protest abortion. Each year, the group selects a theme that it says fits the cultural moment. Jeanne Mancini, March for Life president, said that following the court's ruling in *Dobbs*, she wanted to highlight the work the pro-life movement does to support women facing difficult or unplanned pregnancies.

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

Ecumenical Service Jan. 24 to celebrate 'Week of
Prayer for Christian Unity'

**"You shall love the Lord your God
...and your neighbor as yourself"**

(Luke 10:27)



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY - 2024

Faithful throughout the Diocese of Scranton will join with members of various Christian congregations of northeastern Pennsylvania for an

Ecumenical Celebration of the Word of God on Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2024, at 12:10 p.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

The event highlights the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which has been celebrated each January since its inception in 1908.

The theme for the 2024 celebration is: “ You shall love the Lord your God ... and your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27).

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as leader of prayer for the traditional ecumenical prayer service. Bishop Bambera is once again serving as Chairman of the U.S. Bishops’ Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

Guest homilist for this year’s prayer service is Reverend Rebecca A. Barnes, Rector of Saint Luke Episcopal Church, Scranton, and President of the Scranton Multifaith Ministerium.

Students from Holy Rosary School in Duryea will provide the music for the religious gathering, under the direction of David Tighe.

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

Diocesan Annual Appeal funding assists parish in serving new community meal in West Scranton



Since November, parishioners of Saint Ann Parish in West Scranton have been warming hearts and filling stomachs on the second Sunday of each month.

They will do it again this weekend – Sunday, January 14 – as the parish holds its third free, sit-down community meal in the lower level of Saints Peter and Paul Church, 1309 West Locust Street, Scranton.

“We felt there was a need for this meal in the west side,” Deacon Peter Lemoncelli said. “In west side, there is no other church or organization that offers this type of free meal so we always thought there would be a need.”

With the help of a Parish Social Justice Grant from the 2023 Diocesan Annual Appeal, the parish was able to begin the monthly meals and is now looking to spread the word.

More than just providing a meal to those in need, organizers have quickly realized that many in the community were looking for companionship.

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

Host-for-a-Day campaign supports mission to feed needy



Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen in Scranton has begun the 46th annual Host-for-a-Day campaign to support its mission of providing a free daily meal and other services to needy men, women and children in the area.

For a donation of \$100 or more, an individual, family, business, community organization or faith-based group can help to fund the day's meal. Various other sponsorship levels are also available, starting at \$500.

In effect, each contributor becomes a “host” for a day. Contributors may then select a date on which they, or someone they designate or memorialize, will be recognized as helping to provide that meal.

Financial contributions to the Kitchen also help to fund other programs such as a Client-Choice Food Pantry and Free Clothing Store, and weekly meals at parish locations and high-rise housing buildings in Carbondale and Olyphant, which has now expanded to Roaring Brook Township.

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

Fueling Vocations through Prayer: Four Vocation Centers being established in the Diocese of Scranton



Each of us has a vocation to which God is calling us. When it comes to a young man considering the possibility of the priesthood, that discernment process most often takes place within a community.

As the Diocese of Scranton works to create a culture of vocations within its parishes, it has started the process of creating four parish vocation centers where men can regularly gather for fellowship and prayer.

“If most of our faith life is happening in parishes and local communities, then our vocation work should take place there as well,” Father Alex Roche, Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians, said. “The vocation centers will be places where men can gather together for regular dinners, for Adoration and prayer, where they might be able to do a retreat, shadow a priest or even spend an extended amount of time in.”

After several years of discussion and planning, the first Diocesan vocation center began at Saint Matthew Parish in East Stroudsburg. The second was created at Saint Maria Goretti Parish in Laflin. The others will be located at Christ the King Parish in Archbald and Annunciation Parish in Hazleton.

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

**FNCB Bank donates \$85,000 to Diocese of Scranton
Scholarship Foundation**



FNCB Bank, based locally since 1910, has allocated \$85,000 through the Pennsylvania Education Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program to the Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Foundation. This donation aims to facilitate tuition assistance for students enrolled in pre-school, elementary, and high school programs throughout northeastern Pennsylvania.

The Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Foundation annually extends tuition awards to over 1,000 families, a substantial portion of which is funded by contributions from FNCB Bank.

“This donation underscores FNCB Bank’s commitment to supporting education and the local community,” Gerard Champi, FNCB Bank President & CEO, said. “Our contribution aligns with the Diocese of Scranton’s objectives, and we are pleased to assist in providing educational opportunities to many deserving students across northeastern Pennsylvania.”

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

Consider a New Year's Gift to the Diocesan Annual Appeal



OUR CALL TO
SERVE
DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Scan to donate
or visit
annualappeal.org



*Discerning a vocation to the priesthood
or religious life requires time, prayer,
and significant self-searching.*



Your gift to the Diocesan Annual Appeal supports the education
and housing of the Diocese of Scranton's 10 seminarians.

Gifts to the Diocesan Annual Appeal are needed to help support life-changing ministries across the Diocese of Scranton, including Hispanic ministry programs.

From helping to support seminarians and retired priests, to supporting Catholic education and Communication efforts, to helping Catholic Social Services serve thousands of our neighbors - the work supported by the Annual Appeal is more than any one parish can do on its own!

Please prayerfully consider a gift today and click on the link below or call (570) 207-2250.

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

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