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The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

February 1, 2024

Bishop Bambera to celebrate Holy Hours in every deanery this Lent



DIOCESE OF SCRANTON
KINGSTON DEANERY

**LENTEN
HOLY HOUR**
with Bishop Bambera

**Thursday, February 15
at 7:00 P.M.**

Holy Family Parish
574 Bennett Street
Luzerne, PA 18709

 NATIONAL
Eucharistic
Revival

After gathering together hundreds, if not thousands, of faithful parishioners last year during Lent for a series of Holy Hours, the Most

Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, is hoping for an even bigger showing this year!

Bishop Bambera plans to once again visit each of the 12 deaneries in the Diocese of Scranton to celebrate a Holy Hour this Lent.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, which takes place this year on Wednesday, Feb. 14, and lasts for 40 days.

In conjunction with the National Eucharistic Revival that has been taking place in our country since Corpus Christi Sunday in 2022, each Holy Hour will feature exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Vespers, and a homily on the Most Holy Eucharist.

The Holy Hours this Lent will begin at Holy Family Parish in the Kingston deanery on Thursday, Feb. 15, and will end at Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish in the Scranton deanery on Wednesday, March 20, 2024.

[Click Here for the Full Schedule of 2024 Lenten Holy Hours Across the Diocese of Scranton](#)

**Diocesan celebration honoring the gifts of
persons with disabilities to be held Feb. 11
in Scranton**

Diocese of Scranton



Mass for Persons With Disabilities

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024

10:00AM

CATHEDRAL OF ST. PETER

315 WYOMING AVE. SCRANTON, PA 18502

CELEBRANT: BISHOP JOSEPH C. BAMBERA

All are welcome to join us as we honor
the many gifts those with physical, developmental,
or intellectual disabilities bring to the Church and
the community.

**A lite reception will follow Mass in the
Diocesan Pastoral Center.**

For more info, contact
Shannon Kowalski at
(570)207-2213

In advance of National Disability Awareness Month in March, the Diocese of Scranton will hold its annual Mass for Persons with Disabilities on Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024, at 10 a.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

All people, including those with special abilities, have gifts to contribute to the life of the Church. The Diocese of Scranton embraces and welcomes the talents of all individuals in building up the Kingdom of God.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as principal celebrant and homilist at this special Mass.

The Mass is open to everyone. It will be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton. The Mass will also be livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel and links will be provided on all Diocesan social media platforms.

Partners in the annual Mass for Persons with Disabilities include Saint Joseph's Center in Scranton, The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania and the Order of the Alhambra.

[Click Here to Share this Information from the Diocese of Scranton Website](#)

Students in midst of celebrating Catholic Schools Week 2024



The 19 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Scranton are the midst of celebrating national Catholic Schools Week 2024.

The celebration began on Sunday, Jan. 28 and will run through Feb. 3.

The theme for National Catholic Schools Week 2024 is “Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community.”

All schools in the Diocese of Scranton are celebrating this annual celebration week with Masses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members.

Click the link above to view a video from this week at Holy Rosary School in Duryea. Additional videos from several other schools will be shared soon on the Diocese of Scranton social media platforms.

Cathedral Deacon participates in Vatican gathering of mental health ministers



Deacon Ed Shoener of the Cathedral of Saint Peter was one of several Catholic mental health ministers from all over the world that gathered in the Dicastery for Communication earlier this week for the first-ever Vatican workshop dedicated to mental health and pastoral care.

Deacon Shoener helped to found the *Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers*, which supports parishes and dioceses in starting mental health ministries.

According to Vatican News, Shoener joined others who are working on the frontlines of mental health ministry in Moldova, India, South Africa, among other places.

(Photo courtesy: Vatican Media)

[Click Here for a Story from Vatican News on the Recent Mental Health Conference](#)

Grab your aprons! Rectory, Set, Cook! III returns in less than two weeks

SAVE THE DATE!



**COMING THIS LENT!
TO A VIRTUAL KITCHEN
→ NEAR YOU!
LAUNCHES FEB. 13, 2024!**

WHO: DIOCESE OF SCRANTON PASTOR CHEFS
AND STUDENT OR GUEST CHEF PARTNERS FROM ELEVEN COUNTIES

WHAT: RECTOR4, SET, COOK! III:
COLLARS + SCHOLARS!

WHEN: FEB. 13, 2024,
(FAT TUESDAY) THROUGH MARCH 26, 2024

WHERE: ANY COMPUTER SCREEN
OR MOBILE DEVICE

WHY: RECTOR4, SET, COOK! IS A DIOCESE
OF SCRANTON ANTI-HUNGER AND ANTI-HOMELESSNESS
INITIATIVE. ALL SPONSORSHIP PROCEEDS
WILL BENEFIT CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES'
FOOD KITCHENS, FOOD PANTRIES
AND MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SHELTERS.



Catholic
Social
Services

For more information,
call Sandra Snyder
at 570-591-5004
or email

Sandra-Snyder@dioceseofscranton.org

Report: Vocations to religious life in U.S. decline, but key factors can positively impact numbers



A new report shows a continued decrease in the number of permanent vocations to consecrated life in the U.S. — but key factors such as family life, devotional practices, Catholic education and personal encouragement can positively impact those numbers.

“Women and Men Professing Perpetual Vows in Religious Life: The Profession Class of 2023” was released Jan. 26 by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University, ahead of the church’s World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life on Feb. 2.

The study – annually commissioned since 2010 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations – was written by CARA researchers Jonathon Wiggins and Sister Thu T. Do, a member of the Lovers of the Holy Cross of Hanoi.

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

Pope calls for global cease-fire; says humanity is on brink of abyss



Today's wars and conflicts have put humanity on the brink of the abyss, Pope Francis said, calling for a worldwide cease-fire.

"I will never tire of reiterating my call, addressed in particular to those who have political responsibility: stop the bombs and missiles now, end hostile stances" everywhere, the pope said in an interview with *La Stampa*, an Italian newspaper, published Jan. 29.

"A global cease-fire is urgent: either we do not realize it or we are pretending not to see that we are on the brink of the abyss," he said.

Asked specifically about the situation in Israel and Palestine, the pope said that the Oslo Accord is "very clear with the two-state solution. Until that agreement is implemented, real peace remains distant."

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

Two years into war, Knights of Columbus steadfast in Ukraine on front lines of aid



As Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine reaches the two-year mark, the Knights of Columbus remain steadfast in bringing relief to vulnerable Ukrainians living in some of the hardest-hit areas, one of the organization's leaders told OSV News.

"Our members are doing heroic work, and they are willing to risk their lives to bring aid to people in places like Avdiivka and ... other villages that (are) close to the front line," said Szymon Czyszek, director of international growth in Europe for the Knights of Columbus.



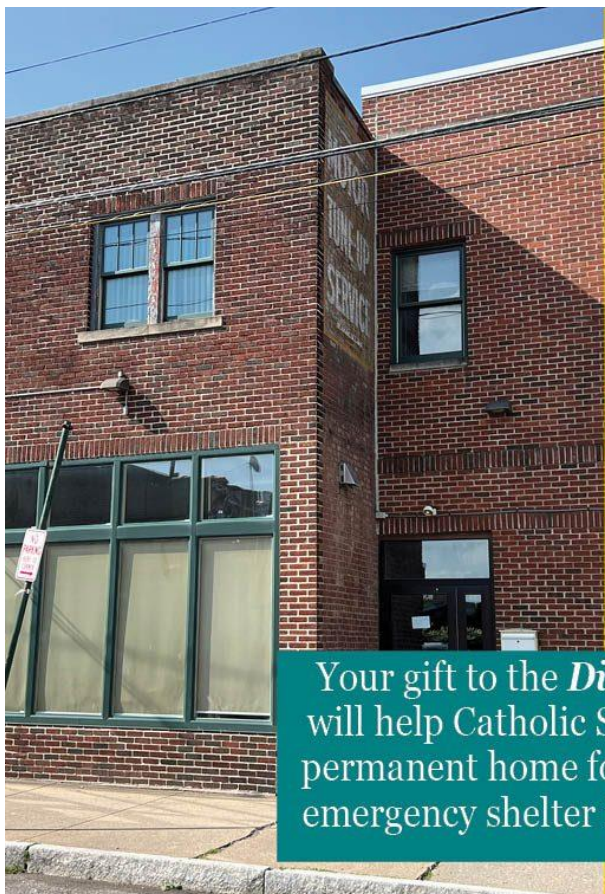
The global Catholic fraternal organization established its first council in Ukraine in 2012 and now counts some 10,000 members in Ukraine and neighboring Poland, said Czyszek, who spoke amid another massive Russian attack on Ukrainian cities.

Air strikes hit Kyiv, the capital, and Kharkiv, among other places, on Jan. 23, local officials said, killing 10 people and wounding more than 70 as Moscow's war approaches the start of its third year. Video from Ukraine's

police showed emergency workers helping residents of apartment buildings as another video showed a body of a 9-year-old girl pulled from under the rubble. Her mother also died in the attack.

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

As cold continues into February, your Diocesan Annual Appeal gifts will help build permanent shelter in Wilkes-Barre



Scan to donate
or visit
annualappeal.org

Your gift to the *Diocesan Annual Appeal* will help Catholic Social Services establish a permanent home for Mother Teresa's Haven emergency shelter in Wilkes-Barre this year.

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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