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Hundreds of young Catholics honored with the Bishop's Youth Award

SCRANTON – Some serve their parishes as altar servers and ushers, while others serve their schools and community by participating in service projects and organizing fundraisers. In all cases, however, they have contributed to the mission of our local church by reaching out and touching lives in real and meaningful ways.

This month – after being nominated by their Pastor, Parish Life Coordinator, Principal, Religious Education Director, or Youth Minister – more than 500 young adults received the Bishop's Youth Award.

Two separate Masses were held to distribute the awards earlier this month. Students in the western and southern regions of the Diocese received their awards at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Sunday, April 7, 2024, while students in the northern and eastern regions were recognized on Sunday, April 14, 2024.

"We're all very, very proud of those of you who received an award," the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, said during each Mass. "We are extremely grateful for your example and

for the witness of your lives and for the hope that you give us all."

Since 1996, the Bishop's Youth Award has recognized young people in eighth and 12th grade for their exemplary practice of faith and for their commitment to serve others. Each of the students receiving the award were called forth this year by parish to receive a special pin as a symbol of the way they have contributed to the mission of the Church.

"It is just a great feeling being around all these other people that you know are dedicated to their faith in some sort of way," Paige Moss, a 12th grade award recipient from Saint Robert Bellarmine Parish in Wilkes-Barre, said.

Faith is something that is very important to Raegan Czyzycki, a 12th grade award recipient, from Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Swoyersville.

"I think it's important to stay close to my faith because it gives me a sense of support and guidance that I probably couldn't find anywhere else," Czyzycki said.

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Top Left: Students participate in the Bishop's Youth Awards Mass on April 14, 2024.

Top Right: Two award recipients pray during the Bishop's Youth Awards Mass on April 7.

Above: Students stand during the Bishop's Youth Awards Mass on April 7, 2024.



Bishop Bambera baptizes Nicholas Medina-Almanzar during the Easter Vigil Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

Church's newest members experience true Easter joy

SCRANTON — The more than 170 faith-filled prospective members of parishes throughout the Diocese of Scranton rose to full communion in the Catholic Church when they received their sacraments of initiation during Easter Vigil ceremonies March 30.

In so doing, they joined their fellow Catholics in consummate celebration

of the Day of the Lord's Resurrection, described by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, in his Easter homily as what "defines who we are as Christians."

"With the entire Church of Scranton, we give thanks today for 177 catechumens and candidates who listened to the voice of the risen Lord speaking to their hearts and said 'yes' to God's invitation to be baptized and received into full communion in the Catholic Church," Bishop Bambera further expressed.

At Saint Luke Parish in Stroudsburg,

McKenzie Torres was among four future parishioners who received sacraments of initiation during the Easter Vigil liturgy.

"Receiving my sacraments at the Easter Vigil was a feeling and experience I never could have imagined," Torres shared after being confirmed and receiving her First Eucharist from Saint Luke pastor Father Michael Quinnan. "I felt the Holy Spirit so strongly that night and it was incredibly special to have my friends, family and parish members there to witness it."

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The Catholic Light

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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE
DIOCESE OF SCRANTON



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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Wilkes-Barre Parish to host Mass for World Day of Prayer for Vocations on Sunday

WILKES-BARRE – Saint Nicholas Church, 226 South Washington Street, will be the location for the Diocese of Scranton’s annual World Day of Prayer for Vocations Mass on Sunday, April 21, 2024.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will be the principal celebrant for the 12:15 p.m. liturgy, which will be held in Spanish.

The purpose of World Day of Prayer for Vocations is to publicly fulfill the Lord’s instruction to, “Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest” (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2).

While those in attendance will pray for all those discerning and living out their vocation, on this weekend the Church concentrates its attention on vocations to the ordained ministries (priesthood

and diaconate), consecrated life in all its forms (male and female religious life, societies of apostolic life, consecrated virginity), secular institutes in their diversity of services and membership, and to the missionary life.

This year, 2024, marks the 61st anniversary of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

May Christ the Good Shepherd guide and protect us as we respond to our vocations in total surrender to Him!

Misa del Día Mundial de Oración por las Vocaciones se celebrará el domingo en Wilkes-Barre

WILKES-BARRE – La Iglesia de San Nicolás, 226 South Washington Street, será el lugar de la Misa anual del Día Mundial de Oración por las Vocaciones de

la Diócesis de Scranton el domingo 21 de abril de 2024.

El Reverendo Joseph C. Bambera, Obispo de Scranton, será el celebrante principal de la liturgia

de las 12:15 pm, que se llevará a cabo en español.

El propósito de la Jornada Mundial de Oración por las Vocaciones es cumplir públicamente

la instrucción del Señor de: “Rogad al Señor de la mies que envíe obreros a su mies” (Mt 9,38; Lc 10,2).

Mientras los asistentes rezarán por todos aquellos que discernen y viven su vocación, este fin de semana la Iglesia concentra su atención en las vocaciones al ministerio ordenado (sacerdocio y diaconado), a la vida consagrada en todas sus formas (vida religiosa masculina y femenina, sociedades de vida apostólica, virginidad consagrada), los institutos seculares en su diversidad de servicios y membresía, y a la vida misionera.

Este año, 2024, se cumple el 61 aniversario de la Jornada Mundial de Oración por las Vocaciones.

¡Que Cristo el Buen Pastor nos guíe y proteja mientras respondemos a nuestras vocaciones en total entrega a Él!



In a hostile world, the vocation of Christians is to hope, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Though the global situation risks plunging people into pessimism, Christians are called to pursue their vocation of becoming “men and women of hope,” Pope Francis said.

“As individuals and as communities, amid the variety of charisms and ministries, all of us are called to embody and communicate the Gospel message of hope in a world marked by epochal challenges,” the pope wrote in his message for World Day of Prayer for Vocations April 21.

Global challenges such as war, migration, rising poverty rates and climate change, in addition to personal difficulties encountered daily, “risk plunging us into resignation or defeatism,” the pope wrote in the message. He encouraged Christians to instead

“cultivate a gaze full of hope and work fruitfully in response to the vocation we have received, in service to God’s kingdom of love, justice and peace.”

To be “pilgrims of hope and builders of peace” means “to base our lives on the rock of Christ’s resurrection, knowing that every effort made in the vocation that we have embraced and seek to live out will never be in vain,” the pope wrote.

Pursuing a vocation, he explained, is not an imposed duty but rather “the surest way for us to fulfill our deepest desire for happiness.”

“Our life finds fulfillment when we discover who we are, what our gifts are, where we can make them bear fruit, and what path we can follow in order to become signs and instruments of

love, generous acceptance, beauty and peace wherever we find ourselves,” he wrote.

The pope expressed his gratitude for the “hidden efforts” of those who consistently respond to their calls in life, namely parents, workers, consecrated men and women and priests, and he urged young people to make room for Jesus in their lives in order to discover their vocation.

“Let Jesus draw you to himself; bring him your important questions by reading the Gospels; let him challenge you by his presence, which always provokes in us a healthy crisis,” he told young people.

The pope also highlighted the “synodal character” of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, noting how “amid the variety of our charisms, we are called

to listen to one another and to journey together in order to acknowledge them and to discern where the Spirit is leading us for the benefit of all.”

Pope Francis encouraged people to prepare for the Holy Year 2025 by engaging in the current year of prayer, in which “all of us are called to rediscover the inestimable blessing of our ability to enter into heartfelt dialogue with the Lord and thus become pilgrims of hope.”

Prayer, he added, “is more about listening to God than about talking to him.”

The pope called on Christians to “open the doors of the prison in which we so often enclose ourselves, so that each of us can discover his or her proper vocation in the Church and in the world.”

Bishop's Youth Award Masses honor more than 500 kids for 'servant leadership'

Continued from Page 1

Brandon Makara, who serves Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Brodheadsville as an altar server, was excited to receive his award.

"I wasn't expecting this honor and it makes me so glad that I was chosen for it," the 12th grade student said.

Those same sentiments were shared by Lauren Shemansky, who attends Holy Family Academy in Hazleton and is a parishioner of Most Precious Blood Parish.

"I do youth group in my parish. We help make cookies and do things around Halloween for the little kids," Shemansky said. "I'm also in the Students for Service club. We do gardening and a lot of collections for people who need it."

While many of the 12th grade award recipients are preparing to head off to college, Peter Stec, who was recently accepted as the newest seminarian for the Diocese of Scranton, will be discerning a path to the priesthood. He also received a Bishop's Youth Award this year.

"What I'm most excited about is being with all the youth of the Diocese of Scranton who are deeply involved in their faith, specifically their Catholic faith," he said. "What has really fostered my vocation is Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament. If we can stick to that – then we can all be united together and have a future for our Church."

Father Bert S. Kozen, Pastor, Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Bastress, and Saint Luke Parish, Jersey Shore, served as homilist for the first Mass. Father James J. Paisley,



After presenting each individual award, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera congratulated this year's award recipients at the April 7, 2024 Mass.



Award recipients from Saint Eulalia Parish, including Amato Lynn, center, pray during the April 14th Mass.

Pastor, Saint Ann Basilica Parish, Scranton, served as homilist for the second celebration.

At both Masses, the homilists acknowledged how important it is for the young adults to continue to share the gifts and blessings God has given them.

"Yours are the hands and heart of Jesus," Father Paisley said. "Whatever gifts you have, today is a reminder to take them out of storage and share them enthusiastically ... Don't even think about tucking away your gifts for another day because we need them."

"Receiving this award is a testimony to your willingness to live your faith – not only in word but more importantly and more powerfully – in the manner in which your life is being lived," Father Kozen said. "Jesus is in each and every one of us and if we recognize the Risen Christ in those means, then we can't help but proclaim Him in that Easter faith each and every day of our lives."

As she received her award, Lillie Kochis, a senior at Holy Cross High School and parishioner of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Dunmore, put her Bishop's Youth Award into perspective.

"As young people, we have the opportunity to be the change that we want to see," she said. "This all comes from how you bring Jesus Christ's light into the world."

After taking a mission trip to the Diocese of Gaylord to participate in Habitat for Humanity activities last year, Kochis now spends an hour each week volunteering at Saint Joseph's Center.

"It's just my little way of giving back. I know that an hour of my time, spending time with the residents and doing activities there may not seem like a whole lot, but to the friends and the people I've met, it means the world to me," she said.



Bianca Barrager, Abigail Miller, Aaliyah Brennan and Brooke Plucas, all students from Holy Redeemer High School, pose for a photo together after the Bishop's Youth Awards Mass on April 7, 2024. (Photos/Mike Melisky)



Seminarian Peter Stec, center, prays during the Bishop's Youth Award Mass held on April 7, 2024.



Brandon Makara of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, left, and Paige Moss of Saint Robert Bellarmine Parish receive their awards.



Father Bert S. Kozen, V.F., Pastor, Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Bastress, and Saint Luke Parish, Jersey Shore, delivers the homily during the April 7th Mass.

Seminarians to be ordained Deacons May 25

SCRANTON - Two seminarians from the Diocese of Scranton are preparing to be ordained to the Diaconate on Saturday, May 25, 2024, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

Thomas Dzwonczyk, from Saint John Vianney Parish, Montdale, and Andrew McCarroll, from Saint Robert Bellarmine Parish, Wilkes-Barre, are expected to take the next step in their journey to the priesthood by being ordained as Transitional Deacons.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate the



Thomas Dzwonczyk



Andrew McCarroll

Ordination Mass at 10:00 a.m.

Faithful from parishes throughout the Diocese of Scranton are invited to mark their calendars and attend this joyful Mass!

Two seminarians receive Ministry of Lector



On April 11, 2024, seminarian Jeremy Barket from Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Dupont was installed to the Ministry of Lector by Bishop Mark A. Eckman, Auxiliary Bishop of Pittsburgh, at Saint Vincent Seminary in Latrobe. Meanwhile at Saint Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, seminarian Cody Yarnall also received the Ministry of Lector in March.

Calling all high school students! Registration for Quo Vadis and Fiat Days is now open!



QUO VADIS DAYS

• HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP •

JUNE High school age men join us for 3 days of adventure, prayer, dynamic talks, Mass, Adoration, and outdoor activities at **Marywood University!**
24-26



During the retreat, they discover how to better discern where God is calling them, learn about different vocations, interact with our priests and seminarians, and meet Bishop Bambera!
Cost is \$25.

Scan the QR code to register!



FIAT DAYS

• HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP •

JUNE High school women are invited to join us for 3 days of adventure, prayer, dynamic talks, Mass, Adoration, and outdoor activities at **Marywood University!**
24-26



Fiat is a 3-day summer camp for high school women that is designed to teach them about vocations, help them better discern where God is calling them, and enrich their faith through prayer, fellowship, speakers, small group discussion, activities, and more.
Cost is \$25.

Scan the QR code to register!



Prayer and music highlight inaugural 'Festival of Praise' held in Laflin

LAFLIN – Dozens of people gathered at Saint Maria Goretti Parish on April 4 to celebrate the beginning of the Easter season by adoring Christ in the Eucharist and praising Him for the gift of faith.

The Diocese of Scranton Vocations Office and the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the Diocese of Scranton teamed up to sponsor the inaugural 'Festival of Praise.'

"It was an absolutely incredible event," Matthew Kelly, a parishioner of Saint Gregory Parish in Clarks Green, said. "I look forward to many events like the Festival of Praise to connect with other Catholics, because especially now in

today's world, young Catholics in the Church are always looking for something greater than ourselves."

Beautiful music, led by Joel Kankiewicz and the Charismatic Renewal's music ministry, was a signature part of the event.

Kyra Krzywicki, Vocation Program Coordinator for the Diocese of Scranton, also gave a reflection on the goodness of God, the power of discerning his will, and his everlasting love.

"I really prayed in preparing this speech that the Lord would pierce hearts and speak to them a unique message for each person here," she said. "Looking out at their faces during the talk, it's really powerful to see how the



Lord is affecting people through you. I know that none of it is me, it's all Him!"

Krzywicki's message really touched Joni Host, a parishioner of Holy Name of Mary Parish in Montrose, who attended the event.

"The speech that Kyra gave tonight really resonated with me. The idea of praise, giving forth praise to God at all times, first and last, is such an important thing. I really liked the message," Host said.

Host said the 'Festival of

The music ministry team from the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the Diocese of Scranton, along with Joel Kankiewicz, perform during the 'Festival of Praise' at Saint Maria Goretti Parish in Laflin April 4, 2024. (Photo/Dan Piazza)

'Praise' was filled with people, both young and old, who have a passion and zeal for the Catholic faith. She said that was "encouraging to see."

"I think it's really important to strengthen each other, iron sharpens iron, and then to go forth into the world and bring Christ's Good News," she added.

Kelly agreed with that sentiment.

"Everybody here tonight might be going through something personally, whether it be hope, sadness, sorrow or joy, but we're all here together as one," he said. "We have so many differences but at the end of the day, we share one similarity, we worship the same God and the same Christ!"

Theology on Tap series allows young adults to engage in topics of faith

EXETER – In his two decades serving as a chaplain to the Pennsylvania State Police, Father Thomas Muldowney has faced some of the most difficult situations imaginable. He has also been a witness to the miraculous.

"I've seen two miracles in my life. I'm eternally grateful," Father Muldowney told a crowd of young adults gathered for a Theology on Tap event April 11 at Sabatini's Bottleshop.

Father Muldowney was invited to speak on the topic of "Trauma, Self-Image & Spiritual Formation: How Trauma Impacts How We See Ourselves and God."

"Trauma is an emotional response to a very bad situation," Father Muldowney told the group gathered.

After discussing the signs of trauma and how people deal with trauma from a psychological perspective, the pastor of Saint Catherine of Siena Parish in Moscow also talked about the spiritual implications of trauma, giving examples of the real-life situations he has faced.



Father Thomas Muldowney, Pastor, Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, Moscow, speaks on the topic of "Trauma, Self-Image & Spiritual Formation" during a Theology on Tap session April 11 at Sabatini's Bottleshop in Exeter. (Photo/Shannon Kowalski)

"Many people turn to their spirituality, their religion, as a sense of support and coping. People turn to their spirituality and say, 'God will get me through this,'" Father Muldowney said.

Conversely, when faced with traumatic experiences, like the death of a loved one, others wonder why God would punish them or take away their loved one.

"I always respond, 'My God is not a punitive God. God is a loving, merciful God, and bad things happen because of human nature,'" the pastor added.

Father Muldowney is board certified as a Crisis Chaplain and Trauma Expert. He is certified in Crisis Intervention and in Emergency Crisis Response and has been designated as a Diplomat by the American

Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress.

"When people go through traumatic events in their life, it has a holistic effect on their entire being," he stated. "We cannot take away our traumatic experiences, but we can have a path of healing as we move forward."

Father Muldowney's message was something that impacted and interested many in the crowd.

"It was really incredible to see such a dedicated priest who is working in the field of trauma and to see how his past careers have informed how he ministers now to people," Courtney Schmidt, who works in campus ministry at King's College in Wilkes-Barre, said. "It was also really incredible to hear him talk about miracles that he has seen and tie his faith into a field of science and medicine. It was really cool to see him explain how these personal stories of ministering to others have impacted his own faith life."

Evan Gedrich, a parishioner

of Nativity of Our Lord Parish in Duryea, said many of the things Father Muldowney discussed he had never considered before.

"Father Muldowney was incredible," Gedrich said. "It's great that we have priests in the Diocese with backgrounds other than the typical seminary experience because that really nourishes the people well."

The purpose of Theology on Tap events is two-fold. It not only provides young adults with a chance to gather as a community but allows them to learn more about topics relevant to their faith lives.

"I think it is easy or tempting for young adults to think they're the only ones who feel a certain way – or are the only ones who have certain questions about life or faith – so when you come to an event like this, it's really easy to see that you're not the only one who has questions. You're not the only one who is interested," Shannon Kowalski, Diocesan Director of Pontifical Missions & Service, said.

Healing Mass for survivors of abuse held at Cathedral of Saint Peter

SCRANTON – The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, celebrated Mass April 11, 2024, Thursday of the Second Week of Easter, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, with the specific intention of praying for survivors of child sexual abuse.

The Diocese of Scranton's annual Healing Mass for Survivors of Abuse takes place each April to coincide with National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

"In these days, we pray for God's healing and peace for all survivors of sexual abuse and particularly for those abused by members of the clergy and trusted Church workers," Bishop Bambera said. "While we have celebrated this Mass in a very public way for seven years now, it is vital that we continue to pray for survivors of abuse."

During his homily, Bishop Bambera explained that Pope Francis has established the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors to combat clergy abuse and has encouraged them to help make the Church a safer environment for both minors and vulnerable adults.

"None of us will ever know the depth of pain that survivors endure," the bishop said. "Yet, in courageously sharing their pain, so many survivors with whom I've spoken over the years have taught me a great lesson. You've taught me why this Mass is so significant. You've taught me that if we are truly intent upon creating safe environments for its children and all of God's people – the Church, and especially Church leaders – must never forget or allow time to numb us to the pain that was so willfully inflicted on innocent lives by those who postured themselves as God's representatives and ministers of his love and mercy."

Erin McGrady, LPC, Safe Environment Coordinator for the Diocese of Scranton, attended the Mass in her effort to support survivors.

"It is important to continue to have this Mass because we must remember our history that led to the safeguards we have in place," McGrady said. "The Diocese must continue to remain vigilant in our practices to safeguard children. It is so important to educate our children and adults on signs to notice, what to do, and who to tell, to prevent child sexual abuse."



Bishop Joseph C. Bambera celebrates the Liturgy of the Eucharist during a Healing Mass for Survivors of Abuse on April 11, 2024, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. (Photo/Catholic Television)

During the 2023-24 school year, the Diocese of Scranton has already trained almost 6,000 children on the topic of Safe Adults and Respecting Boundaries.

"Abuse is happening all around the world in various locations. If we can educate others on how to prevent it, we can make all places safer for our children," McGrady added. "The Catholic Church is leading the way on responding to abuse with practices in place to include education, background checks, and removing abusers from ministry, to create safer environments for our children to grow in their faith."

While it is a Bishop's pastoral responsibility to provide utmost care in fostering the protection of minors through his actions and through established Diocesan Safe Environment initiatives, everyone in the community has a role to play in protecting children from abuse. The Diocese of Scranton has a zero-tolerance policy, and works to prevent any instances of abuse, particularly against minors and vulnerable adults.

"As Bishop of this local Church, I continue to apologize for the pain that has been inflicted upon far too many of you by leaders of our Church. In this season of hope and new life, I once again ask for forgiveness for the countless numbers of you who have suffered so much," Bishop Bambera said. "I pledge to continue to do all within my power to keep our churches, our parishes, and our schools safe for our children and for all of our people to worship, pray, learn and to grow in their faith."

The Diocese of Scranton annually

undergoes a comprehensive audit by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection to ensure that the Diocese is in compliance with current directives. The Diocese has passed all audits of its child protection procedures, policies and records every year since the policy was adopted in 2002.

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.

PRAYER FOR SURVIVORS OF ABUSE

Lord God,
your own son was delivered
into the hands of the wicked,
yet he prayed for his persecutors and
overcame hatred with
his blood on the cross.

Relieve the suffering of those
who have been abused; grant
them peace of mind and a renewed
faith in your protection and care.

Protect us all from the violence
of others, keep us safe from the
weapons of hate, and restore to us
tranquility and peace.

May God bless us with his mercy,
strengthen us with his love, and enable
us to walk in charity and peace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Diocese of Scranton to celebrate annual Mother's Day Adoption Mass May 12

SCRANTON – The Diocese of Scranton will celebrate its annual Mother's Day Adoption Mass on Sunday, May 12, at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. This liturgy prayerfully recognizes all mothers, with a special emphasis on adoptive and foster mothers.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as principal celebrant and homilist for the Mass.

The Mother's Day Adoption Mass is open to the public and all faithful are invited to attend.

CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton will broadcast the Mass live. A livestream will also be provided on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel and across all Diocesan social media platforms.

In preparation for the Mother's Day Adoption Mass, Bethany Meola, a stay-at-home mother, who previously served at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in the Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, reflected on the holiday from an adoptive mother's perspective.

"My first Mother's Day as a mom was as special as I'd dreamed it would be. My husband got me a bouquet of peonies, a framed picture of our daughter's handprint and matching shirts: Mama Bear and Baby Bear," Meola said. "My heart was

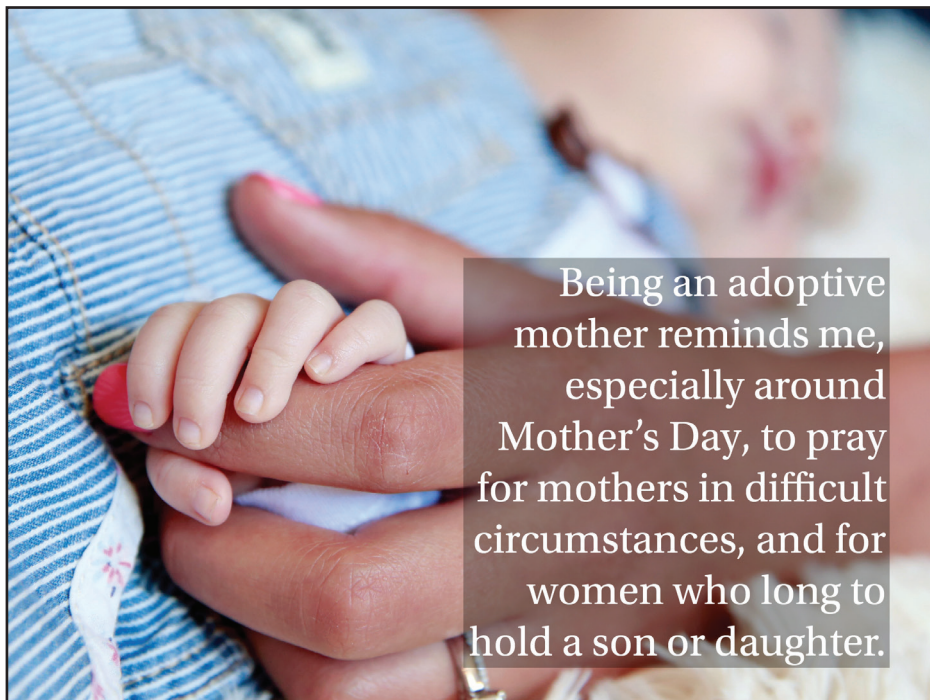
filled with joy and gratitude, not the least because after six years of infertility and trying to adopt, I finally held my beautiful sleeping daughter in my arms."

Meola says becoming a mother through adoption has taught her many things.

"First, being an adoptive mother has deepened my sense of being a steward of the gift of life. So often life is treated as something entirely under our control, something we can time precisely or even end when continuing it is undesirable. Experiencing infertility taught me the hard way that no, I'm not the Author of Life; God is," she continued.

"Second, being an adoptive mother has enriched my understanding of how Scripture uses the language and conception of adoption," Meola said. "Finally, being an adoptive mother reminds me – especially around Mother's Day – to pray for mothers in difficult circumstances and for women who long to hold a son or daughter. There are so many mothers in need of prayers and support, not the least being courageous birthmothers."

Mark your calendars for May 12 and join us for the Mother's Day Adoption Mass as we pray for mothers, near and far, including Mary, Mother of the Church.



Being an adoptive mother reminds me, especially around Mother's Day, to pray for mothers in difficult circumstances, and for women who long to hold a son or daughter.



BISHOP BAMBERA'S SCHEDULE

- April 18** - Confirmation for Saint Vincent de Paul Parish, Saint John Neumann Parish, Saint Joseph Parish, Saint Patrick Parish and Saint Ann Parish in Dingman Township, 6:30 p.m.
- April 20** - Scout Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 5:30 p.m.
- April 21** - World Day of Prayer for Vocations Mass
Saint Nicholas Church, Wilkes-Barre, 12:15 p.m.
- April 22** - Confirmation for Saint Gregory Parish
Clarks Green, 5:00 p.m.
- April 25** - Holy Rosary School Mass
Nativity of Our Lord Church, Duryea, 9:00 a.m.
- April 25** - Confirmation for Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Saint Thomas More Parish, Saint Mary Parish and Queen of Peace Parish in Honesdale, 5:00 p.m.
- April 28** - 125th Anniversary Mass for Saint Aloysius Church
Wilkes-Barre, 11:00 a.m.
- April 30** - Epiphany School Mass
Epiphany Church, Sayre, 10:00 a.m.
- April 30** - Saint Agnes School Mass
SS Peter & Paul Church, Towanda, 12:30 p.m.
- May 1** - Holy Family Academy School Mass
SS Cyril & Methodius Church, Hazleton, 9:00 a.m.
- May 4** - Jubilarian Mass for the Sisters of Christian Charity
Mendham, N.J., 11:00 a.m.
- May 5-7** - PA Bishops Spring Meeting
Malvern, PA
- May 11** - Misericordia University Commencement
Dallas, 2:00 p.m.
- May 12** - Mother's Day Adoption Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.
- May 13** - Confirmation for Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Ascension Parish and Saint Katherine Drexel Parish in Carbondale, 5:00 p.m.
- May 14** - Evening Prayer at King's College
Wilkes-Barre, 5:00 p.m.
- May 15** - Confirmation for SS Peter & Paul Parish, Saint Maria Goretti Parish and Saint Elizabeth Parish in Plains, 5:00 p.m.
- May 16** - Confirmation for Saint Boniface Parish, Saint Lawrence Parish, Saint Joseph the Worker Parish, Immaculate Conception Parish and Saint Luke Parish in Williamsport, 5:00 p.m.
- May 17** - King's College Commencement
Mohegan Arena, Wilkes-Barre Township, Noon
- May 18** - Marywood University Commencement
Mohegan Arena, Wilkes-Barre Township, Noon
- May 18** - Mass at Saint Rose of Lima Church
Carbondale, 4:00 p.m.
- May 19** - The University of Scranton Commencement
Mohegan Arena, Wilkes-Barre Township, 10:00 a.m.

Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe to visit Diocese of Scranton May 10-16

NANTICOKE – A Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe will visit several churches in the Diocese of Scranton next month.

The Missionary Image is an exact digital replica (4' x 6') of the original Miraculous Image of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, which she left on Saint Juan Diego's cloak (tilma) in Mexico on Dec. 12, 1531.

The Image was blessed at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico by Monsignor Diego Monroy, Rector, for the mission of promoting sanctity of the family, solidarity of the Church in America, a culture of life, and a civilization of love.

The Image visiting churches in the Diocese of Scranton in May, and others like it, have journeyed throughout the world. The Images have visited every state in the United States, including more than 1,000 parishes and have received the veneration of hundreds of thousands of people. There have been hundreds of Masses, Confessions, hours of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosaries in the presence of the Images.



Many signs, wonders, conversions, healings, reconciliations, and graces have been reported by the faithful who have venerated the Images.

In the Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady appears as the pregnant Mother of God. She came to offer faith, hope, and consolation to the oppressed Aztec Nation. Our Lady put an end to the human sacrifice being offered to pagan gods and converted nine million Aztecs over the next nine years.

Pope Saint John Paul II

recognized the evangelistic role of Our Lady of Guadalupe when he prayed that the Guadalupe Shrine would be a center "from which the light of the Gospel of Christ will shine out over the whole world by means of the Miraculous Image of His Mother."

He also prayed, "Our Lady accompanies each one of her daughters and sons with her repeating what she said to her children in Cana, 'Do whatever He tells you' (Jn. 2:5). May she cross this continent bringing it 'life, sweetness and hope!' May she enliven and protect the work of the New Evangelization, so that Christians may live their faith with consistency and fervor, and that those who have abandoned it may return. May she promote the unity of the church, reuniting as in a new Pentecost those who believe in Jesus Christ and those who need to be renewed by the Spirit."

The visit of the Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe is being sponsored by the 'Living in the Divine Will Prayer Group' in Nanticoke which was formed in March 2021. The prayer group is based on the writings of Servant of God, Luisa Piccarreta.

PUBLIC VISITATION SCHEDULE OF MISSIONARY IMAGE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Holy Transfiguration Ukrainian Catholic Church, Nanticoke

Friday, May 10: 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy; 11:00 a.m. Talk; 11:15 a.m. Hour of Prayer; 12:15 – 2:00 p.m. Veneration of the Image

Saturday, May 11: Noon to 4:00 p.m. Veneration of the Image; 6:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy; 7:15 p.m. Talk

SS Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church, Plymouth

Sunday, May 12: 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy; 9:45 a.m. Talk; 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Prayer & Veneration of the Image

Gate of Heaven Parish, Dallas

Tuesday, May 14: 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration & Veneration of the Image

Our Lady of Fatima Grotto, North Street, Wilkes-Barre

Thursday, May 16: 9:30 a.m. Meet & Process with the Image to Planned Parenthood, 101 Main Street, to Pray for the Life of Unborn Children

Holy Spirit Parish – Saint Mary Church, Mocanaqua

Thursday, May 16: 1:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration & Veneration of Image; 6:00 p.m. Holy Mass; 7:00 p.m. Talk; 7:15-8:30 p.m. Veneration of the Image

Poconos parish raises \$6,000 to support pro-life efforts

EAST STROUDSBURG- Thanks to the generosity of its parishioners, Saint Matthew Parish was recently able to raise more than \$6,000 to support pro-life efforts in the community.

The parish held a baby bottle drive to collect funds for

Shepherd's Maternity House in East Stroudsburg, which is operated by Catholic Social Services, as well as the Pregnancy Resource Center of the Poconos, and Saint Joseph's Center in Scranton.

Check presentations were recently held at each facility.



Presentation of check to Saint Joseph's Baby Pantry March 21, 2024. Shown, left to right: Gerry Burns, Saint Matthew Pro-Life Committee Chairperson; Sister Maryalice Jacquinot, I.H.M., President & CEO, Saint Joseph's Center; Patty Stys and Mary Labar, Saint Matthew Pro-Life Committee members; Tamara Hall, Saint Joseph's Director of Adoption Services; and Father Don Williams, Pastor, Saint Matthew Parish.



Presentation of check to Shepherd's Maternity House in East Stroudsburg March 26, 2024. Shown, left to right: Frank Leo, Knights of Columbus Council 11434 Culture of Life Director; Patty Stys, co-founder, Shepherd's Maternity House; Kathy Chelednik, Director, Shepherd's Maternity House; Dr. Chris Lynch, Grand Knight of Council 11434, Saint Matthew Parish.



Presentation of check to the Pregnancy Resource Center of the Poconos (PRCP) April 5, 2024. Shown, left to right: Anthony Matrisciano, Past Grand Knight Council 11434; Alice Marchesani, PRCP Executive Director; Gerry Burns, Dr. Nancy Gabana, and Mrs. Sophie Gabana, Saint Matthew Parish Pro-Life Committee; Frank Leo, Knights 11434 Culture of Life Director.



"THE MYSTERY OF FAITH"

- *A Priesthood Perspective by Rev. Arbogaste Satoun -
Pastor, Our Lady of the Abingtons Parish, Dalton; Saint Patrick Parish,
Nicholson; Saint Mary of the Lake Parish, Lake Winola*



People of God,

What would the Catholic Church be without the Eucharist?

It's not conceivable.

What would the Catholic Church be without the Eucharist?

It would be a gathering of people reading the Bible and executing some songs.

What would the Catholic Church be without the Eucharist?

It would be like reading the gospel of the two disciples of Emmaus in Luke 24, without finishing the story, that means not going inside to break the bread where we recognize Jesus ("... their eyes were opened and they recognized Him...").

It is at the breaking of the bread, that means in the Eucharist, that we recognize Christ.

"Without the Eucharist, the Church does not exist," said Pope Benedict XVI in his homily of Corpus Christi in 2011.

THE MYSTERY OF FAITH

"The Eucharist makes the Church, and the Church makes the Eucharist," said Henri de Lubac in *Meditation on the Church*, Ignatius, 1953. (This book has had a huge influence on the publication of *Lumen Gentium*, a masterpiece of the Second Vatican Council).

"The mystery of Faith" is the expression that the Church uses to summarize its teaching after the Consecration of Bread and Wine that become the Body and Blood of Christ during the Liturgy.

Allow me please to share a story, not a joke.

A few years ago, I was at a Retreat, a preached Retreat for Priests only. The Retreat master at the very beginning asked this question, "Fathers, have you watched on TV the funeral of Ronald Reagan?"

We all answered, 'yes.'

He continued, "Have you watched on TV the funeral of Pope John Paul II?"

We answered 'yes,' and I added, "I made the trip to Rome for the Funeral Mass. I was in the crowd that was chanting, "Santo subito" (Declare him a saint now).

The Retreat master continued by saying that for one funeral, Ronald Reagan, there were a lot of people, songs, readings, and speech after speech. That was all. That is all.

For the other funeral, Pope John Paul II, there were a lot of people, songs, readings, as well as speech after speech.

But at some point, they stopped everything and they went to the table for the breaking of the bread, for the Eucharist (... then He took bread ... and said: DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME...) Luke 22,19.

That makes a lot difference.

THE MYSTERY OF FAITH

To the disciples of Emmaus, Jesus gave them the best sermon ever, the best homily ever, but it wasn't enough. He had to go in for the breaking of the bread, for the Eucharist; which means sermons and/or homilies are not enough. We need the Eucharist.

The Catholic Church



A monstrance, exposing our Eucharistic Lord, at Our Lady of the Abingtons Parish in Dalton on Jan. 6, 2024.

recognizes, acknowledges, and teaches that Christ's sacrifice on Calvary is a Unique Event, and cannot be repeated.

It is the "Source and Summit" of our life, the same event which in the sacrament, mysteriously becomes present in the liturgy.

The Eucharist is not a gift, it is God giving Himself.

In his April 2003 Encyclical, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, Pope Saint John Paul II, quoting the Council of Trent said, "Mass makes present the sacrifice of the cross." It doesn't multiply it, but makes it present.

In the same vein, Saint John Chrysostom says in his Paschal Homily, "We don't offer a Lamb today, and another one tomorrow, but the same. For this reason, there is only one sacrifice."

Jesus gave, gave, and gave without end. He taught the crowds, fed them, healed people, brought the dead to life, did many miracles and at the end,

He decided to give His Body and Blood, as His Permanent Presence among us.

"Behold, I am with you until the end of the world" (Matt 28,20). What a love!

THE MYSTERY OF FAITH

I understand when someone struggles to believe in the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

In that case, the person also should struggle with the belief that God became man; the struggle should also extend to the belief that God changed water into wine; the struggle should also be that Jesus brought back to life the dead; that Jesus walked on the lake; the struggle should not be a matter of "pick and choose" what we want to believe in.

If there is a struggle believing in a mystery, there should also be a struggle believing in all other mysteries.

If Someone is capable of bringing back a person who was in the tomb for four days, that Person should also be capable of changing bread and wine into His Body and Blood. Catholics eat the whole cake, they don't pick and choose.

That means Catholics read the whole Bible, not some passages or a few passages of the Bible. A whole cake is made to be eaten, not a piece of the cake. Even if, and even when, a passage of the Bible is challenging we read it, but we don't ignore or deny it.

THE MYSTERY OF FAITH

Just like we need breakfast, lunch and dinner to nourish our body, so too we need the

Eucharist to nourish our souls.

Just like we need a shower for our body, so too we need confessions for our souls.

For these reasons, in our Parishes of Our Lady of the Abingtons in Dalton, Saint Patrick in Nicholson, and Saint Mary of the Lake in Lake Winola, the Celebration of the Eucharist is always at the center of our life, of our activities and of our being.

We need a God who is near us, we need a God who gives Himself to us in our hands or tongues, we need a God who loves us, and we need a God that we can touch. That's why we have a Chapel of Adoration (that was given to the community by Msgr. Esseff more than 20 years ago). That is why we have an hour of Exposition-Benediction the First Saturday of each month with possibility of confession, during which time the Legion of Mary leads the people in praying for our families, for our Church, and for the whole world.

THE MYSTERY OF FAITH, IN CONCLUSION

Finally, what our eyes see is bread. But our faith tells us that it's the Body of Christ. We believe it because God says so, and from God there will NEVER be a mistake. It's so simple, but so true. It's in simple things that God manifests Himself. If you disagree, ask Naaman the Syrian in the Second Book of Kings, 5. He found out that it's through simple things that God shows His power, like the simple gesture of washing himself six times in the river.

May the peace of The Risen Lord be with all of you.

Nearly 180 welcomed into full communion in the Catholic Church on Easter Vigil



McKenzie Torres receives the Sacrament of Confirmation from Father Michael Quinnan during Easter Vigil ceremonies at Saint Luke Church in Stroudsburg.

Continued from Page 1

Now a fully initiated member of the Church, Torres added, “I have such an immense gratitude for this experience and cannot wait to continue learning and growing in my relationship with God. There is nothing quite like it, and I encourage everyone to do the same if they are considering it!”

Father Arbogaste Satoun presided over the conferring of sacraments bestowed on one catechumen and one candidate during the Easter Vigil Mass for the parishes of Our Lady of the Abingtons, Dalton; Saint Mary of the Lake, Lake Winola; and Saint Patrick, Nicholson.

Georgene DePrimo now enjoys full membership as a parishioner of Saint Mary of the Lake Church, after receiving her Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

“RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) has taught me so much about the Catholic faith,” she said, fully aware there is much more to learn as she continues to explore her new-found faith.

“After my induction into the Church, I was exhilarated and hopeful. It was such a happy experience,” DePrimo expressed.

Also extolling the merits of the RCIA process was the newest member of Saint Patrick Parish, Ashley Monetta, who, after receiving Confirmation and First Eucharist, remarked that the initiation experience was extremely helpful in understanding more fully what it means to be a Catholic.

“It was a wonderful feeling to finally, officially become a member (of the Church), and although I know there



Father Michael Quinnan, Pastor of Saint Luke Parish, Stroudsburg, gives Vincent Andrews his First Eucharist at the Easter Vigil Mass on March 30.

is still a lot to learn, I feel very solid and comfortable in my faith and where I am at this point in my journey,” she said.

At Saints Peter & Paul Parish in Towanda, Wendy Singer’s journey to full communion in the Church — marked by both doubt and grace — culminated with her reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation at the hands of her new pastor, Father Jose Kuriappilly.

“At a time when I was struggling with my own Christianity, I started taking care of a woman and her husband (who) were devout Catholics,” Singer began, stating the wife, Virginia, “was so graceful in teaching more about the Catholic faith, and

actually taught me the ‘Hail Mary’ three weeks before her passing.”

During the same time, Singer’s son Christopher informed her he felt a strong calling to begin studies for the priesthood. “I gained enough knowledge through Christopher that I yearned for more,” she said.

Singer credits her sponsor, Jude, in sealing the decision to complete her conversion as he “brought me home to Saints Peter and Paul in Towanda.”

“Since (my) Confirmation, as I face my own every day struggles, I have the faith to work through them,” she remarked. “I lift them up to the Lord every day and I am blessed to see things more clearly.”

Jenna Roberts joined Singer in receiving Confirmation during the Easter Vigil rites at Saints Peter & Paul’s.

“For a while I felt like something in my life was missing. I thought about getting back into church but...I couldn’t make the move,” Roberts shared, adding there was a sense of unworthiness when she occasionally attended Mass.

“It wasn’t until I (talked to) Father Jose at a Saint Agnes School function, where he told me that he felt that God told him to come talk to me. That is when he told me about the class and how I was able to be confirmed,” she said.



Georgene DePrimo and Ashley Monetta receive their First Communion as they are welcomed into their parishes of Saint Mary of the Lake, Lake Winola, and Saint Patrick, Nicholson, respectively.



Father Jose Kuriappilly, Pastor of Saints Peter & Paul Parish in Towanda, presides over the Sacrament of Baptism conferred upon David Landry (center) and Nicholas Odegard, accompanied by their Godparents, Jude Rabago and Angela Flynn. As catechumens, the two men received their sacraments of initiation — Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion — to come into full communion in the Catholic Church during the parish’s Easter Vigil liturgy.

On Easter, pope asks Christ to 'roll away' the stones of war worldwide

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Just as Jesus removed the stone that sealed his tomb on the morning of the Resurrection, on Easter Christ alone "has the power to roll away the stones that block the path to life" and which trap humanity in war and injustice, Pope Francis said.

Through his resurrection, Jesus opens "those doors that continually we shut with the wars spreading throughout the world," he said after celebrating Easter Mass in St. Peter's Square March 31. "Only the risen Christ, by granting us the forgiveness of our sins, opens the way for a renewed world."

Seated on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, the pope asked the risen Christ to bring peace in Israel, Palestine and Ukraine and a host of other conflict-ridden regions in the world.

"In calling for respect for the principles of international law, I express my hope for a general exchange of all prisoners between Russia and Ukraine," he said. "All for the sake of all!"

Pope Francis then appealed to the international community to ensure access of humanitarian aid to Gaza and called for the "prompt release" of hostages taken during Hamas' attack on Israel Oct. 7 as well as "an immediate cease-fire in the strip."

"War is always an absurdity, war is always a defeat," he said, asking that the "strengthening winds of war" do not reach

Europe and the Mediterranean. "Let us not yield to the logic of weapons and rearming. Peace is never made with arms, but with outstretched hands and open hearts."

Easter Mass in the flower-laden square began with the singing of the "alleluia," traditionally absent from liturgical celebrations during Lent, as part of the rite of "Resurrexit" in which an icon of Jesus is presented to the pope to recall St. Peter's witness to Christ's resurrection.

More than 21,000 flower bulbs donated by Dutch flower growers decorated the square and popped with color against the overcast sky.

As is traditional, the pope did not give a homily during the morning Mass but bowed his head and observed several minutes of silent reflection after the chanting of the Gospel in both Latin and Greek.

Although the Vatican said Pope Francis stayed home from a Way of the



Pope Francis imparts his blessing at the conclusion of his Easter Mass in Saint Peter's Square at the Vatican March 31, 2024. (CNS photo/Lola Gomez)

popemobile among the faithful, smiling and waving to the throngs of visitors in St. Peter's Square and lining the long avenue approaching the Vatican.

The Vatican said some 30,000 people attended the pope's morning Mass and, by noon, there were approximately 60,000 people inside and around St. Peter's Square for his Easter message and blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world).

Stopping only occasionally to clear his throat, Pope Francis read the entirety of his Easter message and prayed for peace in several conflict hotspots around the world, including Syria, Lebanon, Haiti, Myanmar, Sudan, Mozambique and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Cross service at Rome's Colosseum March 29 "to conserve his health" for the Easter vigil and Mass, the pope appeared in high spirits while greeting cardinals and bishops after the Mass. He spent considerable time riding the

He also prayed for the Rohingya - a persecuted, predominantly Muslim, ethnic group residing largely in Myanmar - who he said are "beset by a grave humanitarian crisis."

"May the risen Christ open a path of hope to all those who in other parts of the world are suffering from violence, conflict, food insecurity and the effects of climate change. May he grant consolation to the victims of terrorism in all its forms," he prayed, asking visitors to "pray for all those who have lost their lives and implore the repentance and conversion of the perpetrators of those crimes."

On Easter, which Pope Francis said celebrates the life given to humanity through the resurrection of God's son, he lamented "how much the precious gift of life is despised" today.

"How many children cannot even be born?" he asked. "How many die of hunger and are deprived of essential care or are victims of abuse and violence? How many lives are made objects of trafficking for the increasing commerce in human beings?"

Pope Francis also asked that the light of the risen Christ "shine upon migrants and on all those who are passing through a period of economic difficulty" as a source of consolation and hope.

Parishes celebrate Holy Week and Lenten activities



Young people from Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Wyalusing participated in a Palm Sunday procession on March 24, 2024. The students led the procession from the parish hall to the church commemorating Jesus Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Father Jose Kuriappilly and Jesus on a donkey led the group as palm branches waved and they sang Hosanna.



Rose and Sophie Schoonover visit with their pastor, Father Gerard McGlone, at the Queen of Angels Parish Easter food basket blessing in Jessup on Holy Saturday, March 30, 2024.



On March 15, 2024, sixth and seventh grade students from Saint Boniface and Saint Lawrence Parishes presented Living Stations of the Cross at Saint Lawrence Church in South Williamsport. They brought the Stations to life through costumed visual representations, music and meditations.

'In Christ, and through His cross, everything in God's beautiful creation is redeemed,' Cathedral pastor says on Good Friday

SCRANTON – Faithful throughout the Diocese of Scranton observed Good Friday on March 29 with various street processions and liturgies in their parishes.

The Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, which was led by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, allowed people to pray and reflect on the significance of the day.

The solemnity of Good Friday was underscored as Bishop Bambera and the other ministers processed silently into the Cathedral at 12:10 p.m. The Bishop and Deacons then prostrated themselves on the sanctuary floor before the liturgy began.

On Good Friday, the faithful observe the passion and death of Jesus Christ. They are encouraged to ponder the five Sacred Wounds Jesus suffered during the crucifixion and bring their own wounds and sins to the foot of the cross. In His own body, Jesus brought our sins to the cross so that all of us may be healed.

Father Jeffrey D. Tudgay, Pastor of the Cathedral of Saint Peter and Immaculate Conception Parishes, served as homilist for the Commemoration of the Lord's Passion. He focused much of his remarks on that redemption.

"In Christ, and through His cross, everything in God's beautiful creation is redeemed," Father Tudgay said.

Having just listened to the Passion of Christ in the Gospel, Father Tudgay reflected on the "silence" of God as Christ was on the cross.

"As the drama of Christ's arrest and condemnation unfold, and as he's goaded to call down the powers of heaven into the agony of the moment, the suffering servant (Jesus) cries out from the cross, 'My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?' The Father's response: silence," Father Tudgay said.

The Cathedral pastor compared that with other moments when the Father's



A woman kisses the Cross during the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Good Friday, March 29, 2024. (Photo/Mike Melisky)

voice was "clearly heard" – including at his baptism at the Jordan River and the Transfiguration.

Father Tudgay suggested that the Father's silence can deepen our understanding of the love of Christ.

"What we see in the cross of Jesus Christ is an expression of the urgency of God's desire – Christ stopping at nothing – in order to fulfill the mission given to Him by the Father," Father Tudgay explained. "The cross of Christ is everywhere in our world. It's the eyes of faith that allow us to see it. The cross of Jesus Christ makes God's love tangible for all."

Wrapping up his homily, Father Tudgay said Christ's plea resembles any human suffering that might seem to go unheard or unanswered.

"What we know today and what we contemplate today is that the silence is fully redemptive," he said. "Today the silence that the Christian church observes is an invitation for us to contemplate the radical compassion of God, to know with certainty, that there is nothing, nothing in human existence, even death itself, that is alienated from the redeeming presence of the cross of Jesus Christ."

Following Solemn Intercessions, Adoration of the Holy Cross took place inside the Cathedral of Saint Peter. Each person in attendance was invited to approach the sanctuary and genuflect, bow, kiss, or show an appropriate sign of reverence for the cross.

Gifts of service, priesthood and Eucharist remembered at Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

SCRANTON – In the presence of several hundred people, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, celebrated the Evening Mass of Lord's Supper at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on March 28, 2024.

As the Sacred Triduum began, Bishop Bambera acknowledged the three important gifts being celebrated at the Mass.

"On this night, we give thanks for God's abiding presence, for his presence given to us in the Eucharist, for the blessing of priestly ministry, and for the invitation given to all the baptized, to serve, to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, and to reach out to our brothers and sisters in care," the Bishop said.

After the homily, Bishop Bambera knelt to wash and dry the feet of a dozen parishioners, following the example of Jesus at the Last Supper.

Rev. Gerald W. Shantillo, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, delivered the homily, reflecting on the gifts of service, priesthood, and the Eucharist.

"As Jesus gives us these three gifts at the Last Supper, He fully recognized that in doing so, we are called to share in the risk of His mission, even when it makes us uncomfortable," Father Shantillo said.

When it comes to serving others, he raised many of the questions people raise when they are hesitant to serve: Will it take too much time? Will others judge me? Do they deserve it?

"Let us pray for a world where priests, families, parishes, countries, and government leaders want to wash the feet of others, want to love, compromise, show mercy, forgive, and sacrifice for peace," he said.

In regards to the priesthood, Father Shantillo explained God does not call men to the priesthood for the individual themselves, but for those he will serve.

"We thank God for the gift of the priesthood and for men who take a risk to dedicate their lives to serve Christ and His Church," he said. "Let us pray for more priests and for the seminarians who serve here tonight."

Finally, in speaking about the Eucharist, Father Shantillo reminded the faithful that

the Eucharist's true end is not simply in the act of Adoration or consumption, "but rather our healing, forgiveness, transformation, strength and conversion."

Following the Mass of the Lord's Supper, Bishop Bambera led a Eucharistic procession to the Altar of Repose where the faithful were invited to spend time in silent prayer and meditation.



Above: During the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on March 28, 2024, Bishop Bambera washed the feet of 12 parishioners, following the example of Jesus at the Last Supper. (Photos/Mike Melisky)

Below: At the conclusion of the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, Bishop Bambera led a Eucharistic procession through the Cathedral of Saint Peter to the Altar of Repose.



Life on farm named for Dorothy Day helps Catholic couple deepen faith, 'glorify God'

HARVEYS LAKE (OSV News) - Life on a small organic farm in northeastern Pennsylvania in the cool early days of spring, adapting to the rhythms of planting, livestock care and chores, can sound blissful to anyone buffeted by adult pressures and responsibilities.

Carmina Chapp hopes you think that. Because she does, too, and she believes a quiet pastoral setting helps deepen your faith.

Her big moment of discernment came while reading the 1952 autobiography of Dorothy Day, "The Long Loneliness," which asserts that respite from life's losses can be found in service to others.

After trying to live her Catholic faith through the examples of saints, priests and women religious, but not finding inspiration in long-ago figures, Chapp read Day (1897-1980), the co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement and still very much a contemporary figure. She realized, "This is it."

Chapp, a Catholic theologian with degrees from Providence College and Duquesne University, is the founder of the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker Farm near the borough of Harveys Lake. Her husband, Larry Chapp, a retired theology professor who taught for 20 years at DeSales University, creates podcasts and blog posts under the title "Gaudium et Spes" ("Joy and Hope").

The Chapps, Oblates of St. Benedict, established the farm in 2013 with the goal of providing food for people in need served by soup kitchens and food pantries as well as a place of contemplation for visitors encouraged to follow a Benedictine spirituality.

She touted the farm at a March 20 webinar sponsored by the Minnesota-based Catholic Rural Life.

"It's amazing. It's a wonderful, peaceful life," Chapp said.

It came about after she and her husband prayed the Liturgy of the Hours, also known as the divine office, and found an identical discernment: "We need to simplify our lives" and "we need to feed people."

The farm exemplifies the dignity of work - to "live by the labor of their hands" - as referenced in Chapter 48 of the Rule of Benedict, produced in the year 530.

"We're in the mindset of we want to glorify God in our work now," Chapp said. "Voluntary poverty, it's called. We're intentionally living as simple a life as we can, so we just don't need very much."

The Chapps, assisted by volunteers, raise produce - tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, cabbages, cucumbers -- and tend to chickens for the eggs, goats for the milk, and sheep for the wool, on eight of the property's 11 acres.



Carmina Chapp, a Catholic theologian and founder of the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker Farm in Harveys Lake, is pictured with her husband, Larry Chapp, a retired theology professor who taught for 20 years at DeSales University. The Chapps, Oblates of Saint Benedict, established the farm in 2013 with the goal of providing food for people in need served by soup kitchens and food pantries as well as a place of contemplation for visitors encouraged to follow a Benedictine spirituality.

As a noncommercial operation, the farm operates on a modest budget. A recent capital campaign raised \$15,000, enabling the farm to meet annual expenses and buy a new goat milking shed as well as animal feed, and meet the cost of sheep shearing. Chapp processes the wool herself.

"It's not a huge enterprise, but it's big enough for us," Chapp said. "I think our bigger mission is evangelization. It's a place to show that it's possible to follow God's will. He won't let you down."

Although visiting volunteers are always welcome, there are no

overnight accommodations on the farm, making day trips currently the easiest way to participate.

But the Benedictine virtue of hospitality comes into that as well. "It takes a lot of energy to host people and visit with people, but it's brought us a lot of blessings," she said.

"If we all answered the call of what God asked us to do, the world would work perfectly," she added.

Chapp said the operation also is an example of Catholic social teaching in action.

Critics think "it's sort of a modern thing" with its emphasis on social justice, but, she points

out, it's rooted in the 1891 encyclical by Pope Leo XIII, "Rerum Novarum" ("On Capital and Labor"), and it's simply "the Gospel in action."

"It's actually a pretty intentional way the church deals with modern situations, particularly economic situations," she said.

And it offers an important perspective.

"The world may tell you (that) you have to work 60 hours a week to make money, to get your promotion," Chapp said. But this doesn't answer the question, "Does this build the kingdom of God?"

In addition, the constant pressure of work can mean, "I'm not doing what my family really needs, which is my presence," she said. Farm life, in which the chief pressure is always the weather, provides "so many opportunities to surrender to God's will."

As for Dorothy Day, her sainthood cause, launched in 1997 but officially opened in 2000, has been slow in making progress. In November, Msgr. Maurizio Tagliaferri was appointed by the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints as the relator for her cause. If the summary of her life of heroic virtue is accepted, she will be declared "venerable." After that, evidence of two miracles attributed to her intercession is required for canonization. In general, one such miracle is required for beatification and a second one for canonization.

Diocesan Scout Mass to be celebrated April 20

SCRANTON - The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate the Diocesan Scouts Mass on Saturday, April 20, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

All scouts and their families are invited to attend the liturgy which will recognize the value of scouting.

During the Mass, three scouts

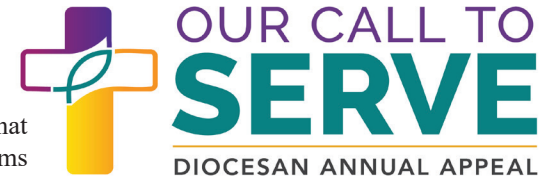
are expected to receive the Pope Pius XII medal. The emblem for this award reflects the ideal of the youth's growing awareness of the Word of God as well as the scouts place in the world.

Seven scouts will also receive the Ad Altare Dei medal, which centers on the Sacraments and equips the scout to take their place as a maturing Catholic.

At Saint Catherine of Siena Parish in Moscow, the value of scouting was also recognized recently as members of BSA Troop 132, Troop 1132 and Pack 126 participated in their annual Scout Sunday Service. Father Thomas M. Muldowney and Deacon Frank Zeranski are pictured at the right with the scouts that attended the Mass.



Donations to the Diocesan Annual Appeal are changing lives throughout our local community



Your gifts to the Diocesan Annual Appeal provide vital assistance to Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton that helps thousands of individuals and families facing poverty and hardship each year. Your donations help us provide essential items like food, clothing and shelter to many of our brothers and sisters who have having trouble making ends meet.

In 2023, your generosity allowed Catholic Social Services to provide...



107,832 meals
at Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen
in Wilkes-Barre



5,369 people
provided assistance at Saint
Joseph Food Pantry in Hazleton



1,120 people
provided emergency housing at
one of three homeless shelters



20 moms/babies
provided housing at Shepherd's
Maternity House in the Poconos

Donors to the Diocesan Annual Appeal are champions for our Catholic faith. Your care, concern, and love for others has helped feed, shelter, and help the poor. You have educated young people in our Catholic schools. You have provided young men the opportunity to follow their calling to become priests and have fostered faith in our parishes and communities. You are an example of lived faith, and the Diocese of Scranton is thankful for your generosity.

There are several easy ways to make a gift to the Diocesan Annual Appeal - including using the QR Code located to the right, visiting AnnualAppeal.org, or calling our Diocesan Development Office at (570) 207-2250.



Parishes Close to Appeal Goal

PARISHES THAT HAVE REACHED 90% OF GOAL

Immaculate Conception Parish, Scranton (98%).....	\$916.80 needed
Saint Jude Parish, Mountain Top (98%).....	\$1,269 needed
Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Dorrance (97%).....	\$550 needed
Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Honesdale (95%).....	\$2,993 needed
Saint Matthew Parish, East Stroudsburg (95%).....	\$2,826 needed
Holy Rosary Parish, Hazleton (93%).....	\$1,185 needed
Saint Joseph Parish, Matamoras (93%).....	\$2,677 needed
Holy Child Parish, Mansfield (91%).....	\$2,521 needed
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Dushore (91%).....	\$3,570 needed
Queen of the Apostles Parish, Avoca (90%).....	\$2,346.75 needed

PARISHES THAT HAVE REACHED 80% OF GOAL

Immaculate Conception Parish, Bastress (88%).....	\$3,090 needed
Saint John Vianney Parish, Montdale (87%).....	\$3,971 needed
Nativity of the BVM Parish, Tunkhannock (86%).....	\$4,567 needed
Our Lady of the Snows Parish (86%).....	\$12,530.97 needed
Saint Peter Parish, Wellsboro (87%).....	\$5,555 needed
Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Peace, Hawley (85%).....	\$11,143 needed
Saint Ann Parish, Williamsport (85%).....	\$9,045 needed
Saint Boniface Parish, Williamsport (85%).....	\$8,830 needed
Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Pocono Pines (85%).....	\$3,617 needed
Saint Robert Bellarmine Parish, Wilkes-Barre (85%).....	\$5,015 needed
Visitation of the BVM Parish, Dickson City (85%).....	\$8,069.25 needed
Ascension Parish, Forest City (84%).....	\$4,030 needed
Resurrection Parish, Muncy (84%).....	\$5,305 needed

Saint Thomas More Parish, Lake Ariel (84%).....	\$7,840.60 needed
Christ the King, Archbald (83%).....	\$11,663.15 needed
Most Precious Blood Parish, Hazleton (83%).....	\$6,295.05 needed
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Montoursville (83%).....	\$6,948 needed
Saint Monica Parish, West Wyoming (83%).....	\$5,400 needed
Most Holy Trinity Parish, Cresco (82%).....	\$8,908.80 needed
Saint John the Baptist Parish, Larksville (82%).....	\$3,724 needed
Queen of Heaven Parish, Hazleton (81%).....	\$5,480 needed
Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Pittston (80%).....	\$10,726 needed
Saint Rita Parish, Gouldsboro (80%).....	\$2,733 needed

PARISHES THAT HAVE REACHED 70% OF GOAL

Saint John Neumann Parish, Lords Valley (79%).....	\$5,877 needed
Most Holy Trinity Parish, Susquehanna (78%).....	\$6,747.10 needed
Saint Elizabeth Parish, Bear Creek (84%).....	\$3,855 needed
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Dunmore (77%).....	\$12,958.50 needed
Saint Eulalia Parish, Roaring Brook Twp. (77%).....	\$9,346.76 needed
Saint Patrick Parish, Nicholson (77%).....	\$2,030 needed
Saint Michael Parish, Scranton (76%).....	\$2,167 needed
Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Carbondale (76%).....	\$15,113 needed
Divine Mercy, Scranton (75%).....	\$15,863 needed
SS Peter & Paul Parish, Scranton (75%).....	\$3,265 needed
SS Anthony & Rocco Parish, Dunmore (74%).....	\$12,150 needed
Holy Cross Parish, Olyphant (73%).....	\$12,759 needed
Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish, Pittston (73%).....	\$4,340 needed
Saint Luke Parish, Jersey Shore (73%).....	\$4,325.67 needed
Annunciation Parish, Hazleton (71%).....	\$9,551 needed
Epiphany Parish, Sayre (71%).....	\$24,327 needed

Current Parish Goal Report for the Diocesan Annual Appeal
\$3.92 million of \$4.5 million Goal (87%) as of April 12, 2024
Visit AnnualAppeal.org or call (570) 207-2250 to make a gift!

<i>Progress to Parish Goal</i>		<i>Progress to Parish Goal</i>	
All Saints Parish - Plymouth.....	\$16,151.00 / \$37,000.00 (44%)	St. Ann Basilica - Scranton.....	\$30,400.00 / \$30,000.00 (101%)
Annunciation Parish - Hazleton.....	\$23,449.00 / \$33,000.00 (71%)	St. Ann Parish - Shohola.....	\$20,468.00 / \$20,000.00 (102%)
Ascension Parish - Forest City.....	\$20,970.00 / \$25,000.00 (84%)	St. Ann Parish - Williamsport.....	\$49,995.00 / \$59,000.00 (85%)
Blessed Sacrament Parish - Throop.....	\$17,725.00 / \$16,000.00 (111%)	St. Barbara Parish - Exeter.....	\$19,088.00 / \$31,000.00 (62%)
BVM Queen of Peace Parish - Hawley.....	\$64,857.00 / \$76,000.00 (85%)	St. Boniface Parish - Williamsport.....	\$51,170.00 / \$60,000.00 (85%)
Christ the King Parish - Archbald.....	\$55,336.85 / \$67,000.00 (83%)	St. Brigid Parish - Friendsville.....	\$32,600.00 / \$22,000.00 (148%)
Corpus Christi Parish - West Pittston.....	\$38,410.00 / \$30,000.00 (128%)	St. Catherine of Siena Parish - Moscow.....	\$74,307.75 / \$63,000.00 (118%)
Divine Mercy Parish - Scranton.....	\$47,137.00 / \$63,000.00 (75%)	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish - Swoyersville..	\$45,390.00 / \$44,000.00 (103%)
Epiphany Parish - Sayre.....	\$60,673.00 / \$85,000.00 (71%)	St. Elizabeth Parish - Bear Creek.....	\$20,145.00 / \$24,000.00 (84%)
Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish - Hanover Twp..	\$24,270.00 / \$15,000.00 (162%)	St. Eulalia Parish - Roaring Brook Township....	\$30,653.24 / \$40,000.00 (77%)
Gate of Heaven Parish - Dallas.....	\$30,830.00 / \$47,000.00 (66%)	St. Faustina Kowalska Parish - Nanticoke.....	\$30,766.94 / \$47,000.00 (65%)
Good Shepherd Parish - Drums.....	\$13,996.36 / \$24,000.00 (58%)	St. Frances X. Cabrini Parish - Carverton.....	\$18,090.32 / \$13,000.00 (139%)
Holy Child Parish - Mansfield.....	\$25,479.00 / \$28,000.00 (91%)	St. Gregory Parish - Clarks Green.....	\$85,431.40 / \$74,000.00 (115%)
Holy Cross Parish - Olyphant.....	\$34,241.00 / \$47,000.00 (73%)	St. Ignatius Loyola Parish - Kingston.....	\$77,460.36 / \$77,000.00 (101%)
Holy Family Parish - Luzerne.....	\$44,374.32 / \$40,000.00 (111%)	St. John Bosco Parish - Conyngham.....	\$72,897.15 / \$58,000.00 (126%)
Holy Name of Jesus Parish - West Hazleton.....	\$11,185.00 / \$21,000.00 (53%)	St. John Neumann Parish - Lords Valley.....	\$22,123.00 / \$28,000.00 (79%)
Holy Name of Mary Parish - Montrose.....	\$20,300.00 / \$16,000.00 (127%)	St. John Neumann Parish - Scranton.....	\$21,879.00 / \$52,000.00 (42%)
Holy Rosary Parish - Hazleton.....	\$15,815.00 / \$17,000.00 (93%)	St. John Parish - E. Stroudsburg.....	\$35,353.00 / \$57,000.00 (62%)
Holy Spirit Parish - Mocanaqua.....	\$13,455.00 / \$28,000.00 (48%)	St. John the Baptist Parish - Larksville.....	\$17,276.00 / \$21,000.00 (82%)
Immaculate Conception Parish - Williamsport.....	\$22,910.00 / \$26,000.00 (88%)	St. John the Evangelist Parish - Honesdale....	\$64,457.00 / \$64,000.00 (101%)
Immaculate Conception Parish - Scranton.....	\$39,083.20 / \$40,000.00 (98%)	St. John the Evangelist Parish - Pittston.....	\$43,274.00 / \$54,000.00 (80%)
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish - Dushore.....	\$34,430.00 / \$38,000.00 (91%)	St. John Vianney Parish - Montdale.....	\$26,029.00 / \$30,000.00 (87%)
Mary, Mother of God Parish - Scranton.....	\$56,000.00 / \$56,000.00 (100%)	St. Joseph Marello Parish - Pittston.....	\$30,578.00 / \$27,000.00 (113%)
Most Holy Trinity Parish - Cresco.....	\$40,091.20 / \$49,000.00 (82%)	St. Joseph Parish - Matamoras.....	\$34,323.00 / \$37,000.00 (93%)
Most Holy Trinity Parish - Susquehanna.....	\$23,252.90 / \$30,000.00 (78%)	St. Joseph the Worker Parish - Williamsport....	\$82,061.40 / \$75,000.00 (109%)
Most Precious Blood Parish - Hazleton.....	\$29,704.95 / \$36,000.00 (83%)	St. Jude Parish - Mountain Top.....	\$77,731.00 / \$79,000.00 (98%)
Nativity of Our Lord Parish - Duryea.....	\$40,810.00 / \$40,000.00 (102%)	St. Katharine Drexel Parish - Pleasant Mount..	\$19,878.00 / \$13,000.00 (153%)
Nativity of the BVM Parish - Tunkhannock.....	\$27,433.00 / \$32,000.00 (86%)	St. Lawrence Parish - S. Williamsport.....	\$26,125.00 / \$26,000.00 (100%)
Our Lady Help of Christians Parish - Dorrance....	\$17,450.00 / \$18,000.00 (97%)	St. Leo Parish - Ashley.....	\$20,233.00 / \$33,000.00 (61%)
Our Lady of Fatima Parish - Wilkes-Barre.....	\$19,185.00 / \$30,000.00 (64%)	St. Lucy Parish - Scranton.....	\$5,997.00 / \$19,000.00 (32%)
Our Lady of Hope Parish - Wilkes-Barre.....	\$35,218.50 / \$35,000.00 (101%)	St. Luke Parish - Jersey Shore.....	\$11,674.33 / \$16,000.00 (73%)
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish - Montoursville.....	\$34,052.00 / \$41,000.00 (83%)	St. Luke Parish - Stroudsburg.....	\$119,051.00 / \$114,000.00 (104%)
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish - Carbondale..	\$8,130.00 / \$23,000.00 (35%)	St. Maria Goretti Parish - Lafin.....	\$22,190.00 / \$42,000.00 (53%)
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish - Dunmore.....	\$43,041.50 / \$56,000.00 (77%)	St. Mary of the Lake Parish - Lake Winola.....	\$7,860.00 / \$12,000.00 (66%)
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish - Lake Silkworth...	\$19,082.00 / \$19,000.00 (100%)	St. Mary Parish - Waymart.....	\$23,466.00 / \$17,000.00 (138%)
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish - Wyalusing...	\$10,950.00 / \$10,000.00 (110%)	St. Matthew Parish - E. Stroudsburg.....	\$57,174.00 / \$60,000.00 (95%)
Our Lady of the Abingtons Parish - Dalton.....	\$8,340.00 / \$16,000.00 (52%)	St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish - Pocono Pines....	\$20,383.00 / \$24,000.00 (85%)
Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish - Pittston.....	\$11,660.00 / \$16,000.00 (73%)	St. Michael Parish - Canton.....	\$15,148.00 / \$12,000.00 (126%)
Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception - Freeland..	\$15,141.00 / \$26,000.00 (58%)	St. Michael Parish - Scranton.....	\$6,833.00 / \$9,000.00 (76%)
Our Lady of the Snows Parish - Clarks Summit....	\$74,469.03 / \$87,000.00 (86%)	St. Monica Parish - West Wyoming.....	\$25,600.00 / \$31,000.00 (83%)
Our Lady of Victory Parish - Harveys Lake.....	\$22,984.60 / \$37,000.00 (62%)	St. Nicholas Parish - Wilkes-Barre.....	\$57,525.00 / \$52,000.00 (111%)
Our Lady of Victory Parish - Tannersville.....	\$54,746.00 / \$52,000.00 (105%)	St. Patrick Parish - Milford.....	\$33,205.00 / \$33,000.00 (101%)
Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish - Brodheadsville..	\$66,556.30 / \$58,000.00 (115%)	St. Patrick Parish - Nicholson.....	\$6,970.00 / \$9,000.00 (77%)
Prince of Peace Parish - Old Forge.....	\$15,970.00 / \$28,000.00 (57%)	St. Patrick Parish - Scranton.....	\$22,978.00 / \$42,000.00 (55%)
Queen of Angels Parish - Jessup.....	\$15,042.00 / \$26,000.00 (58%)	St. Patrick Parish - White Haven.....	\$7,957.00 / \$16,000.00 (50%)
Queen of Heaven Parish - Hazleton.....	\$23,520.00 / \$29,000.00 (81%)	St. Paul of the Cross Parish - Scranton.....	\$17,740.00 / \$52,000.00 (34%)
Queen of the Apostles Parish - Avoca.....	\$20,653.25 / \$23,000.00 (90%)	St. Paul Parish - Scranton.....	\$43,495.00 / \$66,000.00 (66%)
Resurrection Parish - Muncy.....	\$27,695.00 / \$33,000.00 (84%)	St. Peter Parish - Wellsboro.....	\$37,445.00 / \$43,000.00 (87%)
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish - Dupont.....	\$15,942.45 / \$30,000.00 (53%)	St. Peter's Cathedral - Scranton.....	\$119,622.92 / \$71,000.00 (168%)
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish - Peckville.....	\$53,539.77 / \$41,000.00 (131%)	St. Rita Parish - Gouldsboro.....	\$11,267.00 / \$14,000.00 (80%)
Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary Parish - Jermyn...	\$12,591.40 / \$21,000.00 (60%)	St. Robert Bellarmine Parish - Wilkes-Barre....	\$28,985.00 / \$34,000.00 (85%)
SS Anthony & Rocco Parish - Dunmore.....	\$34,850.00 / \$47,000.00 (74%)	St. Rose of Lima Parish - Carbondale.....	\$46,887.00 / \$62,000.00 (76%)
SS Cyril & Methodius Parish - Hazleton.....	\$43,099.50 / \$43,000.00 (100%)	St. Therese Parish - Shavertown.....	\$88,605.00 / \$71,000.00 (125%)
SS Peter & Paul Parish - Plains.....	\$54,654.00 / \$50,000.00 (109%)	St. Thomas More Parish - Lake Ariel.....	\$41,159.40 / \$49,000.00 (84%)
SS Peter & Paul Parish - Scranton.....	\$9,735.00 / \$13,000.00 (75%)	St. Thomas the Apostle Parish - Elkland.....	\$8,058.00 / \$13,000.00 (62%)
SS Peter & Paul Parish - Towanda.....	\$35,245.00 / \$31,000.00 (114%)	St. Vincent de Paul Parish - Milford.....	\$41,075.00 / \$35,000.00 (117%)
St. Andrew Parish - Wilkes-Barre.....	\$7,615.00 / \$17,000.00 (45%)	Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Dickson City	\$46,930.75 / \$55,000.00 (85%)

Father William Campbell, renowned scholar and teacher, dies at age 91

OLYPHANT — The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant of a Pontifical Mass of Christian Burial for Father William D. Campbell on April 4 in Saint Patrick Church at Holy Cross Parish, Olyphant.

A priest of the Diocese of Scranton for more than 65 years, Father Campbell died March 28 at Allied Services Meade Street Skilled Nursing in Wilkes-Barre.

Born Dec. 23, 1932, in Olyphant, son of the late Joseph and Mary Sullivan Campbell, Father Campbell received his early education at Saint Patrick School, Olyphant, and attended The University of Scranton.

He began his preparatory studies and theological training for the priesthood at Saint Mary's Roland Park Seminary, Maryland, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts in philosophy, Bachelor of Sacred Theology, and Licentiate of Sacred Theology.

Following his ordination as a priest of the Diocese of Scranton on May 31, 1958, in the Cathedral of Saint Peter by the Most Rev. Jerome D. Hannan, fifth Bishop of Scranton, Father Campbell served in a summer assignment

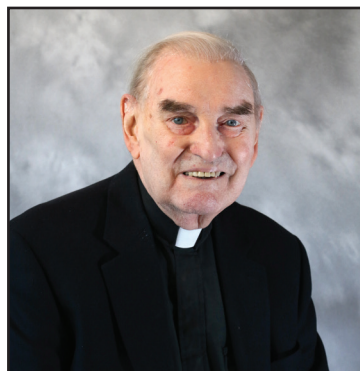
as assistant pastor of Saint Mary Parish, Mount Pocono, in 1958.

He later was appointed as assistant pastor of Saint James Parish, Jessup, where he was named parish administrator on June 8, 1960. Subsequent assignments included assistant pastorships at the parishes of Saint Peter, Wellsboro; Saint Mary, Wilkes-Barre; Saint Patrick, Milford, Holy Name of Jesus, Scranton; and Saint Joseph, Minooka section of Scranton.

Upon receiving his doctorate in theology from The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., in 1964, Father Campbell served as a faculty professor at Saint Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, from 1970 to 1974.

Father returned to his home Diocese and resided at Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish, Pittston, while serving on the faculty at Marywood College (now University) in Scranton. In May 1977, he was appointed the chaplain of Marywood, where he became known on campus as a "priest for all seasons."

Well-known for his scholarly lectures, Father Campbell served in additional teaching positions



Father William Campbell

at Saint Pius X Seminary, Dalton; Keystone Junior College, LaPlume; Goucher College, Towson, Md.; and the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.

In September 1989, he was appointed pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Scranton, where he served for 13 years, after which he was assigned as Senior Priest at Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Carbondale, in July 2002.

Father Campbell remained at the Carbondale parish until his retirement in August 2011 and continued to serve on the faculty at Marywood until 2017. He also served the Scranton Diocese as Dean of the Scranton (East) Deanery and on the Advisory Board of the Office for Continuing

Education of Priests.

Monsignor John Jordan began his funeral Mass homily for his dear friend with, "As Father Bill Campbell would say recently, he was in God's waiting room on his La-Z-Boy. Then his death happened on Holy Thursday evening, as many Catholics were celebrating the institution of the sacraments of holy priesthood the Holy Eucharist."

"One week later, on this Thursday in the Octave of Easter," he continued, "we gather here in Saint Patrick's in Olyphant to celebrate his funeral liturgy. So, we bring Father Campbell to his home parish after a life of many good works."

Monsignor Jordan remarked it was nearly 66 years ago that Father Campbell celebrated his first Mass in the church of his youth, where he also received his first sacraments of Baptism, Penance, Holy Communion and Confirmation.

"It was in Saint Patrick's School that as a star basketball player he became a Catholic League 'all-stater,'" the homilist noted.

"His whole priesthood was about growing in the deep

awareness that Jesus loves him and us, too," Monsignor stated. "His spirit and enthusiasm were contagious, and you could see that in his blue eyes and cheerful smile."

Commenting that he was among many other young seminarians who were students of Father Campbell at Saint Pius X Seminary in Dalton, Monsignor Jordan offered, "Of all the teachers we had during the time as Vatican II was reflecting on the Church, he was the one who was able to instruct us in the pastoral ways of best teaching and preaching in our sharing the good news of Christ's ministry."

In his closing words, the funeral homilist said, "Father Campbell's good deeds go with him and, perhaps, even preceded him, pleading his cause before the Master he served these 66 years in the priesthood."

Survivors include numerous nieces and nephews and their children; and his caregiver, James Loftus. He was also preceded in death by a brother, Paul, and sister, Alice Kenefick.

Interment was conducted in Saint Patrick's Cemetery, Blakely.

Father Byron, author, professor and former university president, recalled as 'visionary leader'

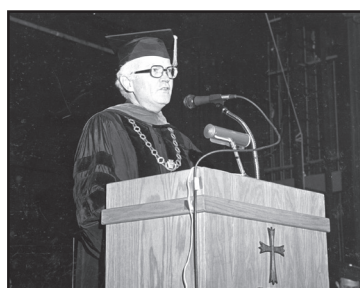
SCRANTON - Jesuit Father William J. Byron, known for his leadership of Jesuit institutions of higher learning and his many years of lecturing, teaching and writing on the relationship between business practices and Catholic spirituality, died at Manresa Hall, the health center of the Jesuit community at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia April 9. He was 96.

Father Byron was a former president of The University of Scranton, 1975-1982, and The Catholic University of America in Washington, 1982-1992. He

spent a year as acting president of Loyola University New Orleans, 2003-2004, and served as president of his high school alma mater, St. Joseph's Preparatory School in Philadelphia, 2006-2008.

His other leadership roles for the Society of Jesus included rector of the Jesuit community at Georgetown University in Washington, 1994-2000.

A funeral Mass for Father Byron will be celebrated April 20 at St. Matthias Church in Bala Cynwyd. A viewing will take place in the church at 10 a.m.



Rev. William J. Byron, S.J.

followed by the Mass at 11 a.m.

Jesuit Father Joseph Marina, current president of The University of Scranton, said Father Byron "will be greatly missed."

"As I walked into his room at the Jesuit infirmary, Father Byron was sitting up in his chair, alert but struggling," Father Marina said in an April 9 message to the university community. "He managed to ask if I was the president at Scranton now. When I nodded yes, he said, 'Take good care of it.'"

"Father Byron is among those who have given greatly to build a solid foundation for our mission and success at Scranton on which we continue to flourish to this very day," Father Marina added.

During his tenure at Scranton, among other things, Father Byron launched a multimillion-dollar capital campaign for the school. Also, a new undergraduate college, the School of Management, was created, along with new programs including nursing and physical therapy.

Father Byron was the author of more than 20 books and dozens of articles. He joined the Jesuit order in 1950 and was ordained a priest in 1961. Over his lifetime, he received 30 honorary degrees.

In its third year, Rectory, Set, Cook! sets new record for donations to fund anti-hunger, anti-homelessness initiatives

SCRANTON – Rectory, Set, Cook! III, an online fundraising event featuring priests from across the Diocese of Scranton, set a record for money raised this year – bringing in \$217,715 from 2,586 donors at the close of the competition.

The online contest ran for six weeks during Lent, beginning on Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2024, and concluding on Tuesday, March 26, 2024.

In all, 37 priests participated in Rectory, Set, Cook! III, filming a total of 30 videos, which were made available for the public to vote for their favorite recipe or video. Many of the priests were joined by guest ‘sous chefs’ which included Catholic school students, faith formation students, parishioners and even three media personalities.

Money raised from this year’s Rectory, Set, Cook! event will benefit anti-hunger and anti-homelessness initiatives of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton, while also supporting the parishes of the participating pastor chefs.

“Year after year, people tell us how much they love to see their priest participating in this contest. Whether the pastor knows his way around the kitchen or not, people say they love to see them cooking and raising money for charity at the same time,” Sandra Snyder, Diocesan Director of Foundation Relations and Special Events, said. “This year was particularly fun and exciting as we crossed the \$200,000 milestone for the first time!”

At the close of the competition on March 26, 2024, the following five teams had raised the most money and have been named the “2024 Top Chefs.”

1. 3 “Villans” + A Sister Act: Monsignor John J. Bendik, Monsignor Vincent Grimalia and Father Charles Cummings from the Villa Saint Joseph, Dunmore

Total Raised: \$28,485
Recipe: Chicken a la Villa
(Chicken a la King)

2. Father Jim Paisley, Pastor, Saint Ann Basilica Parish, Scranton

Total Raised: \$22,192
Recipe: International Pizza



3. Father Shawn Simchock, Administrator Pro Tem, Saint Ann Parish, Williamsport

Total Raised: \$18,303
Recipe: Homemade Meatballs

4. Team Bradford County led Father Jose Kuriappilly, Pastor, Saints Peter & Paul Parish, Towanda, and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Wyalusing (with assistance of Father Daniel Toomey, Pastor, Epiphany Parish, Sayre; Father Shinu Vazhakkootathil, Assistant Pastor, Epiphany Parish; and Father Binesh Kanjirakattu, Assistant

Pastor, Good Shepherd Parish, Drums, and Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Parish, Freeland)

Total Raised: \$14,813
Recipe: Kerala Shrimp Roast and Kerala-Style Chicken Biryani

5. Father Kevin Miller, Pastor, Annunciation Parish, Hazleton

Total Raised: \$13,092
Recipe: Maureen Miller’s Cranberry Walnut Cake

“We are so very grateful to all those who supported this worthwhile cause,”

Monsignor Bendik said. “As priests, each one of us is faithful to what our church teaches us about serving others, especially the hungry and those experiencing homelessness. Every one of us has such a commitment to the poor and it has been inspirational to see the community respond to this year’s competition. What a wonderful gift our whole Diocese is receiving!”

In its inaugural year, 2022, Rectory, Set, Cook! brought in more than \$171,000. In 2023, the online culinary competition raised a total of \$197,000.

A number of community businesses help to sponsor Rectory, Set, Cook!, including the program’s presenting sponsor, Hawk Family Foundation. All sponsorship dollars raised stay directly with Catholic Social Services to benefit area kitchens, food and clothing pantries, and emergency shelters.

Throughout the 2023 calendar year, Catholic Social Services responded to an increasing need in the community.

For example, Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre served 107,832 meals, the Catholic Social Services food pantry in Carbondale served 22,617 individuals, and the Saint Joseph Food Pantry in Hazleton served 5,369 individuals.

The agency plans to use the money raised from Rectory, Set, Cook! to continue to respond to the community’s hunger needs – as well as to help create a new permanent home for Mother Teresa’s Haven, the emergency shelter for the city of Wilkes-Barre.

“After being nomadic since it began in the 1980s, Mother Teresa’s Haven will soon be located above Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen on East Jackson Street,” Joe Mahoney, Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Social Services, explained. “The more we can provide services in that location, the better off we’re going to be, the better off our clients are going to be, and the better off the community is going to be.”

Recipes featured in Rectory, Set, Cook! III are available in a cookbook which is available for purchase. Each cookbook costs \$15 and can be ordered on the Diocese of Scranton website at dioceseofscranton.org.

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The Diocese of Scranton is committed to educating our students in an environment that is academically excellent and facilitates the development of moral judgment and Christian decision-making. We are proud to share the following successes of our students in the classroom and in their service to others. Each day, our schools are fulfilling their mission of preparing today's youth and young adults to become tomorrow's faith-filled leaders.



Carol Mueller and her daughter, Christina Mueller-Curran of Mueller Family McDonald's, present a \$12,000 check to the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, and Kristen Donohue, Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Education/Superintendent. Each year starting with Catholic Schools Week and continuing through President's Day weekend, the Mueller Family McDonald's locations host a French Fry campaign where a portion of each large fry sale is donated to the Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Foundation to assist local students experience an academically excellent, faith-filled education at one of our 19 schools.



Just before their Easter break, kindergarten students at **Holy Family Academy in Hazleton** presented the Living Stations to their community.



Students at **Holy Cross High School in Dunmore** returned to school after break to an Easter Octave liturgy celebrated by Father Cyril Edwards, the school chaplain.



Seventh and eighth graders from **Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg** participated in the PMEA District 10 Intermediate Songfest. Pictured are Emilio Hernandez, Finn Naughton, Callie Huggard, Jedidiah Bioh, Lyla Retalliata, A'naiyah Taylor and Aisling O'Gallagher.



Fifth graders at **Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport** show their gratitude to EMS workers by making thank you cards and presenting them to a local crew.



The second grade class at **Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School in Wilkes-Barre** performed the Living Stations to close their Lenten time as a school community.



Families from **Holy Rosary School in Duryea** partnered with Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Duryea, and donated items to create Easter Baskets to benefit Friends of the Poor — a yearly tradition spearheaded by the school's Student Council.



The fourth graders at **All Saints Academy in Scranton** continued the tradition of making buttered lambs to add to the Easter table with their teacher, Ms. Hilfiger.



The sixth grade class at **Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg** poses in the school's Rosary Garden after presenting the Living Stations.



Seniors at **Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre** pose behind the multitude of Easter baskets they prepared for the less fortunate in our area, donating all of them to Friends of the Poor.



First grade students from **Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green** enjoyed a wonderful performance of “Little Red Riding Hood” at Marywood University in Scranton.



Students at **Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School in Williamsport** celebrated the Octave of Easter with special guest Shannon Kowalski, Diocesan Director of Pontifical Missions and Service. She shared with students the importance of giving to the missions, which spread the Gospel of Jesus “to the ends of the earth.”



Students at **Saint Agnes School in Towanda** performed the Living Stations for Saints Peter and Paul parishioners and the student body.



Students at **Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton** dressed in pink and blue to support Jog for Jude and Pink and Blue Day. A collection was taken of baby items to benefit St. Joseph’s Baby Pantry.



Father Alex Roche, Diocesan Vocations Director; Kyra Krzywicki, Vocations Program Coordinator; Sister Kieran Williams, IHM, Director of Vocations; and Father Dan Toomey, Epiphany Church pastor, joined **Epiphany School in Sayre** for their Vocation Mass. Father Alex and Sister Kieran met with classes to discuss discovering our gifts from God and how we can use those gifts to bring happiness to the world.



Seventh grade students at Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter were learning about the Middle Ages during their social studies class and used supplies in the school’s STEM lab to collaborate and build castles. Pictured are Morgan Madar, Sophia Emmanuel, Miranda Mullay, Michela Welby and Julianna O’Hop.



Kindergarten students at **Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore** were ready for Palm Sunday as the entire school community prepared for Holy Week.



Mrs. Staskiel’s fourth grade class at **Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston** pose with the approved Solar Eclipse glasses that were presented by the school’s Guardian Parent Teacher Organization, as everyone prepared for the April 8 solar eclipse.



Ryan Leckey, social media influencer and former TV news personality, recently visited **La Salle Academy in Jessup** to talk about self-image, cyberbullying, and the lasting impact of social media.

12

30

44

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Catholic Women's Conference 'Refresh Your Faith' slated for June 7 & 8

SCRANTON - Each spring we throw open our windows and allow fresh air into our homes – the same can be said of this year's Catholic Women's Conference, "Refresh Your Faith" to be held Saturday, June 8, 2024, in Nazareth Hall at Marywood University.

There will also be a special talk by Father Justin Cinnante, O. Carm., on Friday evening, June 7, 2024, with options for the talk only, the talk with dinner, and optional overnight accommodations. It is time to throw open the windows of your soul and let in the beauty of Christ's love for us and renew our faith.

Keynote speakers Father Justin Cinnante, O. Carm., Father Giuseppe Maria Siniscalchi, CFR, and Jackie Francois Angel, doing double duty as a keynote speaker and provider of inspirational music, will inspire and ignite your love of Jesus. Mary Clare Hallman, Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life, will host the day's events.

Father Justin Cinnante was an antsy child who preferred praying the rosary over doing math problems.

Inspired at a very young age by the book, "The Lives of Saints," Father Cinnante stated, "God has a plan for everyone. The vocation for all of us is to be holy, to become a saint."

After being ordained as a priest in 2007, Father Cinnante served as a diocesan priest for ten years before he felt called to the Carmelite order. He leads a healing ministry at his parish, The Church of the Transfiguration, in Tarrytown, N.Y., and is a chaplain at Iona Prep and Iona University in New Rochelle, N.Y.

Father Giuseppe Maria Siniscalchi, C.F.R., thought about the priesthood as a young man but chose to further his education and attend law school.

After graduation from Boston Law School, he moved to Miami, Fla., where he worked as a public defender. He again started thinking

about the priesthood, enough so that he ended a long-term relationship with his girlfriend and considered joining a religious order. Once more, he backed away.

"I kind of panicked and ran away. I moved back to my hometown and worked there for five years in a law firm and went through a period of real darkness," he acknowledged. "I was trying to deny this call."

Double tragedy struck in 2001 – his mother's cancer diagnosis and 9/11.

"They both made me really think," he said, "what is the most important thing I can do? What do I have that can make the best contribution to the world? I remember one night saying, 'I got to face this,' and when I started to face it, more peace came in, more joy."

His first encounter with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal in New York left an impression – a bad one.

"I mean they were living in bad neighborhoods and the friaries were in kind of bad shape, kind of rough food and they were walking around with beards and sandals or bare feet," he recalled. "But then I heard a voice. God speaks to us in ways we can understand. He just said, 'Shut up, you'll be back.'"

He returned in 2002 and was assigned to Newark, N.J.

"I've come here to give everything I have," he said. "I didn't come here to hold anything back."

Jackie Francois Angel, keynote speaker and provider of inspirational music, always knew she was made for something "more" and "larger than life." She thought that fame and money were the answer. She aspired to be an actress since she came from a musical family and had been performing since the age of five.

At the age of eighteen she attended a Youth Conference and fell in love with God. She realized that her faith was not just about

rules and avoiding sin, but about a love story.

She also discovered her passion for sharing God's love through music and ministry. This changed her life and led her to become a Catholic speaker, author, and singer-songwriter.

Mrs. Angel says "His plan for me to be "great" was not about me, but about Him."

The conference will feature a celebration of Mass with the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, the divinely inspired music of Jackie Francois Angel, and opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The day will conclude with Eucharistic Adoration, led by Fathers Cinnante and Geraci along with the music of Jackie Francois Angel. Participants will also enjoy a continental breakfast, buffet lunch and the opportunity for shopping in the Catholic Vendor

Marketplace.

The cost to attend the full day Saturday conference is \$55. Student tickets (under 22 year of age) are \$20, and women religious are welcome free of charge.

The special Friday evening talk with Father Justin Cinnante ranges from \$20 for the talk only to \$40 for a buffet dinner and Father Justin's talk with additional options for overnight accommodations.

For more information and to register, visit dioceseofscranton.org/catholic-womens-conference-registration or scan this QR code:



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June 19: Hamilton

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MISSION MESSAGE

Liberation is bound up with those we serve

*By Shannon Kowalski
Diocesan Director,
Pontifical Mission Societies*



“If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time; but if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.” — Lilla Watson

The first time I heard this quote, I was sitting in the Theology and the Human Experience class I was required to take in preparation for a service-learning experience my junior year of college. Father Don Williams — class facilitator and University Chaplain at the time — recounted for us his own experience on mission in Haiti. He had seen the quote from Lilla Watson emblazoned on the side of a building and it stuck with him.

Those words from the Aboriginal educator and activist served as a reminder for visitors to not just come “rescue” the Haitians with donations and manual labor, but that our common humanity unites us in our struggles and in our achievements. Father Don offered those words to prepare us for what

we would do, see, think, and feel while on mission in Jamaica.

Thirteen of us from Misericordia University traveled to Kingston, Jamaica, for a one-week immersive mission experience. We stayed in the rectory of our gracious host, Father Patrick, a native of Kenya and a missionary himself.

Our accommodations were tight and certainly not what a bunch of American college students were used to. The men in our group took one for the team and slept on the cement floor of a garage-like addition to the house right next to the guard dogs that were released on the property at night.

As a 20-year-old woman who had never left the country before, I was more than nervous, but I was also exhilarated by the whole experience! From painting and repairing a parish school


to assisting the Missionaries of Charity shave, bathe, and dress residents in a care home, I was moved beyond myself and finally understood Jesus’ words from Matthew 25:40: “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

It is often said that in mission experiences you end up getting more than you give, and I can confirm that is true. What I experienced on mission in Jamaica changed my life. It liberated me! So much so that I came home with an unavoidable desire to do more.

Unsure of where to go or who to talk to, I contacted the Chancery. That is how I first met Deacon Ed Kelly and Miriam Heverline and learned about the Pontifical Mission Societies some 13 years ago and began serving on the Diocesan Mission Board.

I am honored to continue on the legacy of the Diocese of Scranton’s Pontifical Mission Societies office, and I look forward to sharing more about my own mission experiences through this column.

So let us continue the good work of the Pontifical Mission Societies, serving the poorest of the poor around the world, and may we never forget that our liberation is bound up with those we serve.



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Shannon Kowalski with one of the young school students she met while on an immersive mission service experience in Kingston, Jamaica, when she was a junior at Misericordia University.

Vatican says abortion, surrogacy, war, poverty are attacks on human dignity

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Being a Christian means defending human dignity and that includes opposing abortion, the death penalty, gender transition surgery, war, sexual abuse and human trafficking, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith said in a new document.

"We cannot separate faith from the defense of human dignity, evangelization from the promotion of a dignified life and spirituality from a commitment to the dignity of every human being," Cardinal Víctor Manuel Fernández, dicastery prefect, wrote in the document's opening section.

The declaration, "Dignitas Infinita" ("Infinite Dignity"), was released at the Vatican April 8.

In the opening section, Cardinal Fernández confirmed reports that a declaration on human dignity and bioethical issues - like abortion, euthanasia and surrogacy- was approved by members of the dicastery in mid-2023 but Pope Francis asked the dicastery to make additions to "highlight topics closely connected to the theme of dignity, such as poverty, the situation of migrants, violence against women, human trafficking, war and other themes."

In February the cardinals and bishops who are members of the dicastery approved the updated draft of the document, and in late March Pope Francis gave his approval and ordered its publication, Cardinal Fernández said.

With its five years of preparation, he wrote, "the document before us reflects the gravity and centrality of the theme of dignity in Christian thought."

The title of the document is taken from an Angelus address St. John Paul II gave in Germany in 1980 during a meeting with people with disabilities. He told them, "With Jesus Christ, God has shown us in an unsurpassed way how he loves each human being and thereby bestows upon him infinite dignity."

The document is dated, "2 April 2024, the nineteenth anniversary of the death of Pope St. John Paul II."

Cardinal Fernández said initially the dicastery was going to call the document "Beyond all Circumstances," which is an affirmation by Pope Francis of how human dignity is not lessened by one's state of development or where he or she is born or the resources or talents one has or what one has done.

Instead, he said, they chose the comment St. John Paul had made.

The declaration noted that the Second Vatican Council's Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World also listed attacks on human dignity as ranging from abortion and euthanasia to "subhuman living conditions" and "degrading working conditions."

Members of the doctrinal dicastery included the death penalty among violations of "the inalienable dignity of every person, regardless of the circumstances" and called for the respect of the dignity of people who are incarcerated.

The declaration denounced discrimination against LGBTQ+ people and particularly situations in which people are "imprisoned, tortured and even deprived of the good of life solely because of their sexual orientation."

But it also condemned "gender theory" as "extremely dangerous since it cancels differences in its claim to make everyone equal."

Gender theory, it said, tries "to deny the greatest possible difference that exists between living beings: sexual difference."

The Catholic Church, the declaration said, teaches that "human life in all its dimensions, both physical and spiritual, is a gift from God. This gift is to be accepted with gratitude and placed at the service of the good."

Quoting Pope Francis' exhortation "Amoris Laetitia," the declaration said gender ideology

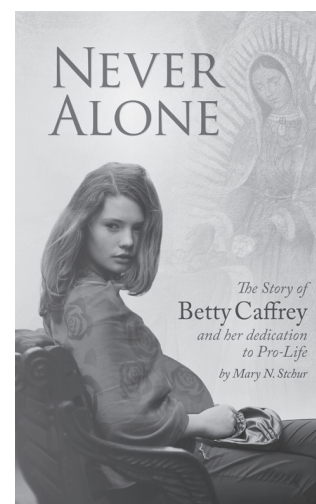
"envisages a society without sexual differences, thereby eliminating the anthropological basis of the family."

Dicastery members said it is true that there is a difference between biological sex and the roles and behaviors that a given society or culture assigns to a male or female, but the fact that some of those notions of what it means to be a woman or a man are culturally influenced, does not mean there are no differences between biological males and biological females.

"Therefore," they said, "all attempts to obscure reference to the ineliminable sexual difference between man and woman are to be rejected."

The document also repeated

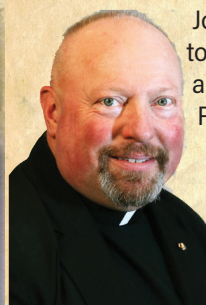
Pope Francis' call for a global ban on surrogacy, which, he said, is "a grave violation of the dignity of the woman and the child."



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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 Respecto 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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— Sister Maria Lucia of Fatima

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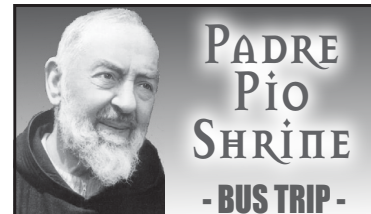
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'Sing for Life' Concert on April 18

The Scranton Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life will sponsor its "Sing for Life" concert and program on Thursday, April 18, at 6 p.m. at Saint Mary's Center, Scranton.

Admission cost for the concert program is \$10. All students admitted free of charge.

For more information, call (570) 343-5099 or visit: prolifescranton.org/event/



Join us on May 2, 2024 for a special mass celebrating the 25th anniversary of his beatification, veneration of the relic & recitation of the rosary. Padre Pio received the "stigmata," the wounds of Christ physically appeared on his body miraculously. Hear the stories of the priest who worked miracles.

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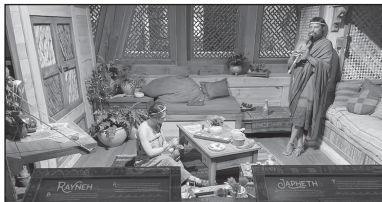
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LAKE TOBIAS WILDLIFE SAFARI TOUR & ZOO PLUS A SCENIC TRAIN RIDE • SEPT. 7

NIAGARA FALLS & TORONTO, CANADA - (5) meals, adm. to Casa Loma • SEPT. 22-25

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Book-signing set for new biography of Wyoming Valley pro-life pioneer

SCRANTON — Mary N. Stchur has announced the upcoming release of her new biographical work on Betty Caffrey, well-known founder and president of the Wyoming Valley Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life.

The book, *Never Alone*, detailing Caffrey's lifelong commitment to the pro-life cause, will soon be available at the Heaven and Earth Gift Shop in Scranton, where a book-signing will be held on Ascension Thursday, May 9.

According to Stchur, Caffrey has dedicated herself to ensuring the rights of the unborn and for the protection of all mothers for the past four-and-a-half decades.

"At the age of 95, she is still active in the work of the Pro-Life Center in Wilkes-Barre she established and where she and her volunteers continue to provide assistance to all in need," especially those with crisis pregnancies, Stchur said.



Betty Caffrey

According to the author, the title of the book chronicling Caffrey's early years and passionate anti-abortion crusade comes from Caffrey herself, who feels she is "never alone" since her inspirational fight for all human life is guided by the Holy Spirit.

"Her defense of the unborn and concern for women is documented decades after the *Roe v. Wade* decision (legalizing abortion) through the media coverage she had received," Stchur noted.

The book features historical photos and news stories recalling the pro-life efforts, successes and challenges the Wyoming Valley PHL has withstood over the years under Caffrey's leadership.

Stchur further added, "With the issue of abortion taking the forefront today, this book, likewise, presents what the pro-life movement is really about, countering the false messaging being presented in the media and political arenas."

A retired English professor and mother of seven, the author stated *Never Alone* will also be available soon at the Barnes & Noble bookstore in Wilkes-Barre and other locations.

For more information, contact Stchur at mnstchur@gmail.com.

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- † Mass on Friday is led by the **Most Reverend William Koenig**, Bishop of Wilmington, assisted by **Rev. Msgr. Steven Hurley**—Vicar General to the Bishop, with a **Fourth Degree Color Corp** at Friday's Mass.
- † Sacred Music led by three-time Grammy nominee **Marty Rotella**.
- † Friday Night Presentation on Blessed Carlo Acutis by MRH Board Member **Mary Bea Damico**.
- † Saturday Speaker **Joe McIlvaine**—former professional baseball player and MLB executive.
- † The familiar **Spiritual Exercises**: *outdoor Stations of the Cross, Rosary Pilgrimage to Our Lady's Grotto, Reconciliation Services, Private Adorations, Blessed Carlo Acutis Shrine, & daily Mass.*

Register at <https://www.malvernretreat.com/events/mid-may-2024/>

Retreat Opens: Friday, May 17, 2024 @5pm
Retreat Ends: Sunday, May 19, 2024 @11am

Contacts:

David Rash (Co CA-Captain)
(p) 302-530-0475 (e) hensr1@comcast.net
John Destafney (Co CA-Captain)
(p) 215-385-2321 (e) johndest@comcast.net

Retreat Director:

Fr. Scott Reilly, Chaplain - Lumen Institute

Saturday Speaker:

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Prayer Requests for Priests

The Daily Prayer Request for Priests schedule is as follows:

April 18, Father Charles Cummings; April 19, Father Richard Czachor, V.E.; April 20, Father Vincent Dang; April 21, Father Mark DeCelles; April 22, Jesuit Father John Dennis; April 23, Father John Doris; April 24, Saint Peter Priestly Fraternity Father Anthony Dorsa; April 25, Father Michael Drevitch; April 26, Jesuit Father James Duffy; April 27, Father Cyril Edwards, V.E.; April 28, Father Joseph Elston; April 29, Monsignor John Esseff; April 30, Father Joseph Evanko, V.E.; May 1, Pope Francis; May 2, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; May 3, Monsignor William Feldcamp; May 4, Father Neftali Feliz-Sena; May 5, Father Samuel Ferretti; May 6, Father Richard Fox; May 7, Saint Peter Priestly Fraternity Father Thomas Fritschen; May 8, Father Martin Gaiardo; May 9, Father J. Duane Gavitt; May 10, Father Anthony Generose; May 11, Father Richard Ghezzi; May 12, Father Ryan Glenn; May 13, Father Joseph Greskiewicz; May 14, Holy Cross Father Richard Gribble; May 15, Monsignor Vincent Grimalia; May 16, Father Louis Grippe; May 17, Father Eugene Gunning; May 18, Father Gerald Gurka; May 19, Father Richard Gyansah-Tabiri; May 20, Passionist Father Lee Havey; May 21, Saint Michael the Archangel Father Benito Hierro Aquino.

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'Eucharistic Miracles' exhibit on display in Canton



Over the recent Divine Mercy Sunday weekend, Knights of Columbus Council 5517 of Saint Michael Parish in Canton hosted for public display the "Eucharistic Miracles" exhibit provided through the guardianship of Gloria Calabro. Faithful were able to spend time viewing the presentation during the parish's First Friday devotion and the Divine Mercy weekend Masses on Saturday and Sunday.

Catholic Choral Society spring concerts begin May 17

SCRANTON — The annual spring concerts of the Catholic Choral Society of Scranton will open on Friday, May 17, at 7 p.m. at Holy Rosary Church at Mary, Mother of God Parish, 316 William St., North Scranton.

During the performance, the Catholic Choral singers will be joined by the Forest City Regional High School Chamber Singers, directed by District 9 PMEA President Alison Yuravich.

A second spring concert event will be held on Sunday, May 19, at 7 p.m. in the Church of Saint Ignatius at Saint Ignatius Loyola Parish, 339 North Maple Ave., Kingston.

The Choral Society will host as guest performers the Good Shepherd Academy Junior High Choir of Kingston, under the direction of Thomas Hanlon.

Currently celebrating its 75th season, the Catholic Choral Society is composed of members from Luzerne, Lackawanna, Wayne, Susquehanna and Wyoming counties.

Ann Manganiello of Exeter serves as director of the Catholic Choral ensemble; Linda Houck, Kingston, is accompanist.

Co-presidents of the group are Brenda Grunza, Nicholson, and Lois Ostrowski, Pittston.

Singers and children 12 years of age and younger are admitted free of charge.

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Rev. Andrew Fritz, C.S.C., ordained a priest of Holy Cross in 2023, elevates the chalice during Mass at St. John Vianney Catholic Church, a Holy Cross parish in Goodyear, Arizona.

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Catholic Happenings Around the Scranton Diocese

Weekly Eucharistic Adoration — **APRIL 19**, hosted by St. Thomas More Parish in Lake Ariel; exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held every Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Chapel of St. Thomas More Church, 105 Gravity Road, Lake Ariel. Weekly adoration of the Eucharistic Lord includes recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet during the 3 p.m. hour, evening prayers at 5:30 p.m., concluding with benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 6 p.m. All faithful are welcome.

Monthly Meeting of the Lay Carmelites — **APRIL 20**, hosted by Our Lady of the Mountains Lay Carmelite Community on the third Saturday of each month; gatherings are held from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Oblates of St. Joseph seminary/chapel, 1880 Highway 315, Laflin. For more information, contact Chris at (570) 239-8094.

"Nazareth Group" Days for High School Girls — **APRIL 20**, hosted by the Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth in Tunkhannock and Williamsport; Saturday programs are presented by the Nazareth Group for young women interested in deepening their faith and growing in their relationship with Jesus Christ. The encounter groups

include enriching prayer, talks, discussions and nature walks. Open to all girls in grades 9-12; the experience is offered from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Capuchin Sisters' two convent locations: Mother of God Convent, 215 Wellwood Drive, Tunkhannock; and Mother of the Eucharist Convent, 6100 Jacks Hollow Road, Williamsport. Reservations are required. For Tunkhannock, contact Sister Angela of the Capuchin Sisters at (570) 836-2737; for Williamsport, contact Sister Clare at (570) 745-3334.

Gift Card Bingo — **APRIL 20**, sponsored by the Youth Ministry of Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish; hosted at the Warrior Run Fire Hall, 316 Academy St., Warrior Run. Doors open at 11 a.m.; games begin at 12:30 p.m. Admission fee: \$20, includes 15 regular games. Event features five specials, door prizes, basket raffle, bake & food sales, and cash raffle. For tickets/more information, visit www.exhc.org or call (570) 328-4004.

"Older Parishioners" Dinner — **APRIL 21**, hosted by the parishes of St. Boniface, Williamsport, and St. Lawrence, South Williamsport; event is offered for parishioners age 65

or older. Theme: "Springtime in Paris," featuring a meal of French cuisine, authentic French pastries and a taste of champagne. Entertainment provided by the Williamsport Area School District Strolling Strings. More details available in the parish bulletins.

Sunday Pierogi & Soup Sale — **APRIL 21**, sponsored by SS. Peter & Paul Church, 1309 West Locust St., West Scranton; packages of homemade pierogi sold every weekend after the church's 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday. Cost: \$10 per dozen. Soups sold following the Sunday Mass include: shellfish bisque (\$15/ quart); beef vegetable, Italian Wedding, pea soup, pasta fagioli & clam chowder (all \$8/quart.)

Weekly Bereavement Support Group Sessions — **APRIL 22-MAY 13**, sponsored by St. John Neumann Parish in Hawley;

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 to enable participants

to find healing following the loss of a loved one. All are welcome; advance registration required at stvgriefgroup@att.net or by calling the parish office (570) 775-6791.

Continued on page 30

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Marian Devotion Rosary prayer services

Fostering prayerful devotion to Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary through recitation of the Holy Rosary, Marian Devotion Ministries in the Diocese of Scranton opens its 2024 Fatima Journey being offered from May through October.

Prayer rallies and Rosary evenings are hosted throughout the Diocese and include the Rosary with chanted Scriptural mysteries, Fatima prayers and Marian hymns.

Upcoming Marian Devotion gatherings are scheduled as follows:

Saturday Afternoon Rosary Rally — May 11, at 1 p.m. on the grounds of the Marian Prayer Garden at Saint Lucy Church, West Scranton.

Feast of Our Lady of Fatima Marian Devotion — May 13, from 6 to 7 p.m., hosted at Our Lady of the Abingtons Church, Dalton.

Monday Evening of Marian Devotion — May 20, at 6 p.m. at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laflin.

For information, contact Ernie Pappa (570) 241-8171, or email: singtomary@aol.com.

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Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese

Tuesday Novena Devotion to Saint Anthony of Padua — **APRIL 23-JUNE 11**, hosted by Our Lady of Hope Parish, 40 Park Ave., Wilkes-Barre; Saint Anthony Novena devotion offered on Tuesday evenings, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the parish church. Novena theme: “The Holy Eucharist & Real Presence of Christ: Miracle of All Miracles.” All faithful are welcome.

Guest Presentation: “The Universal Call to Holiness in Our Times” — **APRIL 24**, sponsored and hosted by Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, 215 Lackawanna

Ave., Dupont; guest presentation begins at 6:30 p.m. Featured speaker: Dr. Larry Chapp, renowned theologian, author and co-founder of the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker Farm. Open to the public free of charge; includes refreshments.

“Cathedral Derby” Night at the Races — **APRIL 27**, sponsored by the Cathedral of Saint Peter at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave., Scranton; doors open at 6 p.m., followed by post time at 7 p.m. Admission cost: \$15 per person (adults only; 21 years of age or older), includes light fare, beer, wine and soft drinks. For reservations, call (570) 344-7231, or online at: www.stpeterscathedral.org.

Mother’s Day Tea Party — **APRIL 27**, hosted by the Catherine McAuley Center for mothers and children in crisis; celebration of all mothers and women held from noon to 2 p.m. at The Space at Olive, 541 Wyoming Ave., Scranton. Refreshments, including finger sandwiches and dessert, will be served; event also features children’s activities, family photo station, door prizes and raffle drawings. Cost: \$25 per adult, including four children up to age 18; open to the community. For more information and to purchase tickets, contact Mary-Pat Ward, development director, at the McAuley Center: (570) 342-1342 or mpward@catherinemcauleycenter.org.

Special Needs Mass — **APRIL 28**, hosted by Alhamar Caravan 4, Order of Alhambra; held at 10:30 a.m. at St. Ignatius Church in Kingston. Celebrant: Father James McGahagan, Alhamar chaplain. Students from parish CCD special needs classes will participate. All are welcome.

Free Community Sunday Supper — **APRIL 28**, hosted at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Route 209, Brodheads ville; supper served from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in

the parish’s McCawley Hall. For more information, call the parish office at (610) 681-6137.

Grief Support Group Sessions — **MAY 1, 8, 15 & 22**, series of weekly gatherings addressing topics dealing with the grief process to enable participants find healing; Bereavement Support Group hosts seasonal meetings on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave., Scranton (across from St. Peter’s Cathedral). All those interested are asked to contact the Cathedral Parish office at (570) 344-7231.

Christian Concert: “The Live and In the Room Tour” — **MAY 3**, featuring Catholic recording artist Matt Maher, who has performed at the National Catholic Youth Conference and several World Youth Days; hosted at the Peckville Assembly of God Church, 3364 Scranton Carbondale Highway, Blakely, beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets are reserved for the Diocese of Scranton; cost is \$30 each. For more information, contact Dominick Costantino, Office of Parish Life, at (570) 207-2213.

Grief Journey Ministry: “Be Not Afraid, I Go Before You” — **MAY 13, 20 & JUNE 3, 10**, hosted by Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, 2011 State Route 29, Hunlock Creek (Lake Silkworth); four Monday evening gatherings will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The parish grief ministry offerings encourage and assist participants through their grief journey toward healing after suffering the loss of a loved one. All are welcome. Registration is encouraged; contact the parish office at (570) 477-5040.

Mother’s Day Weekend Retreat Honoring the Blessed Mother — **MAY 10-12**, hosted at the Malvern Retreat House, 315 South Warren Ave., Malvern; concludes on Sunday at 11:30 a.m.

Continued on page 31

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

Continued from page 30

Retreat director: Father Chris Alar, provincial superior of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy Province of Marian Fathers, and host of EWTN's "Living Divine Mercy." Open to all men and women; cost: \$325, includes accommodations and meals. Register at: www.malvernretreat.com or call (610) 644-0400.

Memorial Day MLB Game Bus Trip — **MAY 27**, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Jessup/Peckville Chapter 10729; excursion to Citi Field in New York City for the New York Mets-

Los Angeles Dodgers baseball game at 4 p.m. Bus departs at 11 a.m. from Jessup Hose Company No. 1, Fourth Ave., Jessup. Cost: \$140 per person, including game ticket; bus ride only is \$90. For more information, call Bob Wasilchak (570) 954-2057, or John Bogdanovicz (570) 687-6522.

29th Annual Parish Golf Tournament — **JUNE 9**, sponsored by St. Joseph Mareello Parish in Pittston; hosted at Pine Hills Country Club, Taylor. For more information and registration forms, visit the parish website: sjmparish.org (golf tournament) or email: epg14@verizon.net.

IN MEMORIAM

**Saints Cyril
& Methodius Sister
Jacqueline Ziobro**

*Entered Life:
November 24, 1930*

*Entered Eternal Life:
March 30, 2024*



**Bernardine
Franciscan Sister
Edna Cylwick**

*Entered Eternal Life:
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