



# *The Catholic Light*

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

**Weekly E-Newsletter**

**April 18, 2024**

## **Wilkes-Barre parish to host Mass for World Day of Prayer for Vocations on Sunday**



Saint Nicholas Church, 226 South Washington Street, Wilkes-Barre, 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.

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



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.”

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[Click Here to Watch a Video from the Second Bishop's Youth Awards Mass held on April 14](#)

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**Diocesan Scout Mass to be celebrated  
April 20**





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.

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



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.

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



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.”

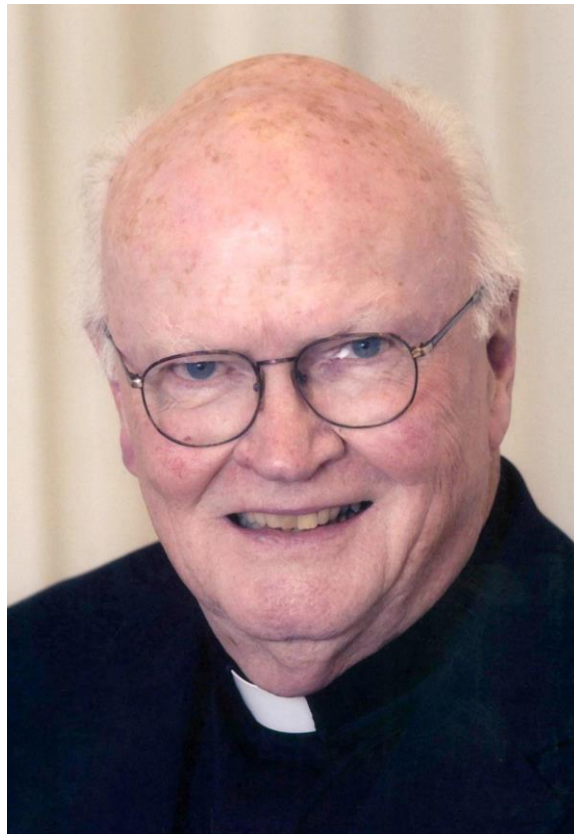
“Trauma is an emotional response to a very bad situation,” Father Muldowney told the group gathered.

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.

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



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 in Pennsylvania, 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, Pennsylvania. A viewing will take place in the church at 10 a.m. followed by the Mass at 11 a.m.

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



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.

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## Encouragement, Eucharistic Adoration key to fostering priest vocations, report shows



Personal encouragement and Eucharistic adoration are crucial in fostering vocations to the priesthood, according to data from a newly released report.

On April 15, the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University released the 2024 “Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood,” a report made directly to the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The report comes in advance of the 61st annual World Day of Prayer for Vocations, celebrated this year on April 21, the Fourth Sunday of Easter, which is also known as Good Shepherd Sunday in the Latin Church. The Gospel passage (Jn 10:11-18) for the Mass highlights Jesus’ role as the Good Shepherd.

The online survey, which CARA has overseen since 2006, was completed by 392 of the 475 total ordinands for 2024 from both diocesan and religious order seminaries who were invited to participate. The ordinands represented 128 dioceses and 29 religious institutes in the U.S.

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**Pregnant Workers Fairness Act's final regulations to protect mothers, but accommodate abortion**



## PREGNANT WORKERS FAIRNESS ACT (PWFA)

### WHAT IS PWFA?

The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA) is a federal law that requires covered employers to provide “reasonable accommodations” to a qualified worker’s known limitations related to pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions, unless the accommodation will cause the employer an “undue hardship.” An undue hardship is defined as causing significant difficulty or expense.

A “**reasonable accommodation**” means a change in the work environment or how things are usually done in order to remove work-related barriers.

### WHAT ARE SOME POSSIBLE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PREGNANT WORKERS?

- Schedule changes or time off to go to health care appointments
- Extra bathroom breaks
- A chair or stool to sit on while working
- The ability to telework full or part-time
- A private place to pump breast milk
- Leave to recover from childbirth
- Breaks to eat and drink
- Light duty



### WHAT OTHER FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT LAWS MAY APPLY TO PREGNANT WORKERS?

Other laws that apply to workers affected by pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions, include:



- Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which prohibits employment discrimination based on sex, pregnancy, or other protected categories (enforced by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC))
- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) which prohibits employment discrimination based on disability (enforced by the EEOC)
- The Family and Medical Leave Act which provides unpaid leave for certain workers for pregnancy and to bond with a new child (enforced by the U.S. Department of Labor)
- The PUMP Act which provides nursing mothers a time and private place to pump at work (enforced by the U.S. Department of Labor)

Learn more at [www.EEOC.gov/Pregnancy-Discrimination](http://www.EEOC.gov/Pregnancy-Discrimination)

Final regulations for the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act will grant workers protections for time off and other job accommodations for pregnancy-related medical conditions like miscarriage, stillbirth and lactation – but also for abortion, which was opposed by many of the bill’s supporters.

The regulations govern the implementation of the bipartisan legislation passed by Congress and signed into law by President Joe Biden in December 2022, and went into effect the following June. The law prohibits employment practices that discriminate against making



reasonable accommodations for qualified employees due to their pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions.

But a rule proposed by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in August 2023 governing the implementation of that law contained broad language including abortion among “related medical conditions,” and the potential circumstances for which employers may have to grant workplace accommodations, such as time off for medical appointments or additional rest breaks.

The EEOC issued a notice on April 15 that the final rule will be published in the Federal Register on Apr. 19.

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Diocese of Scranton  
300 Wyoming Avenue,  
Scranton, PA 18503-1279  
(570) 207-2238  
[www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org)