

The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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Two seminarians to be ordained to the Diaconate May 25

SCRANTON – With their Diaconate Ordination just days away, both Andrew McCarroll and Tom Dzwonczyk have had many people congratulating them about their “big day.”

Both men are quick to say the Ordination Mass, planned for May 25, is not about them.

“It is not my big day. It is the church’s big day. Everything that is happening is affirming the ministry that I’m doing for them,” McCarroll said. “I’m being ordained for the people, for service to them. That is an image that is very profound to me as I’m preparing these next few days.”

“It is not about anything we’ve done. It’s about the Lord and what He is doing through me and through everyone He is calling,” Dzwonczyk added. “It is 100-percent about God and what he is doing in his Church.”

Dzwonczyk and McCarroll will begin the final step in their formation for the priesthood when they are ordained to the transitional diaconate by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton,

on May 25 at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

All are welcome to attend and participate in the celebration.

Ordination as a transitional deacon generally occurs after a seminarian has completed at least three years of study in theology and takes place usually one year prior to priestly ordination. A Deacon can be an ordinary minister of Baptism, and will be able to preside at weddings, assist the priest at Mass, proclaim the Gospel and preach, as well as preside at wakes and funeral services.

Dzwonczyk, 26, is the son of Thomas and Stephanie Dzwonczyk of North Abington Township, Lackawanna County. He attended Holy Cross High School in Dunmore and just completed Theology III at Saint Mary’s Seminary and University in Baltimore, Md. During his discernment process, Dzwonczyk completed a pastoral year assignment at Saint Jude Parish, Mountain Top, where he also assisted teaching eighth grade religion at Saint Jude School. He has one younger sister,



Mr. Thomas J. Dzwonczyk



Mr. Andrew T. McCarroll

Katherine, and grew up attending Saint John Vianney Parish in Montdale.

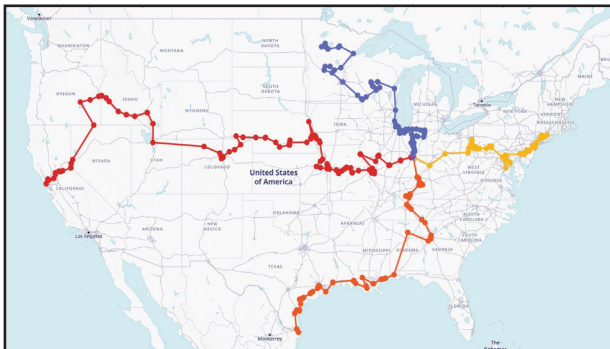
McCarroll, 25, is the son of Todd and Judy McCarroll of Lehman, Luzerne County. He attended Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre, Saint John’s University in Queens and has been attending Saint Mary’s Seminary and University in Baltimore, Md. McCarroll is participating in his pastoral year right now at Saint Boniface Parish, Williamsport, and Saint Lawrence Parish,

South Williamsport, and is also serving as Director of Religious Formation at Saint John Neumann Regional Academy. He has two brothers, Nicholas and Will, and has a home parish of Saint Robert Bellarmine in Wilkes-Barre.

While both men say while their studies and experiences have prepared them to become Deacons at the end of the month, they admit feeling both excitement and nervousness.

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National Eucharistic Pilgrimage to begin Saturday, will end eight weeks later



This is a map showing the four routes of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage launching from four points in the U.S. May 18 and converging eight weeks later in Indianapolis.

(OSV News) - There are hundreds of opportunities for Catholics to join one of four routes of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage for Mass, adoration, or other events - and it all begins this weekend.

The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage is part of the National Eucharistic Revival, a three-year initiative of the U.S. bishops to increase love for and understanding of Jesus Christ’s real presence in the Eucharist.

The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage is a major component of the revival, with pilgrimage routes launching from four points in the U.S. May 18-19 and converging eight weeks later in Indianapolis for the National Eucharistic Congress July 17-21.

The routes begin in New Haven, Connecticut;

Brownsville, Texas; San Francisco, California; and Northern Minnesota. Each route will be traveled by six perpetual pilgrims who are young adults selected by congress leaders; priest chaplains; and seminarians. They will be accompanying the Eucharist, often held in a monstrance specially designed for the pilgrimage.

By boats, over bridges and along byways, pilgrims on the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage’s eastern route - the one closest to the Diocese of Scranton - will accompany the Eucharist to many sites associated with America’s saints as they make their way across eight states, including Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia.

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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.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Catholic Light is our official diocesan journal. The publication of notices, regulations and extra-synodical decrees in said paper constitute legal promulgation for all the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton, Clergy and Laity.

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Seminarians excited, yet nervous, as Ordination approaches

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"I'm very excited. It seems like when I first entered seminary it would never get here, it seemed very far away, and now to think that I'm on the doorstep of it, is pretty incredible," Dzwonczyk said. "I'm also very nervous. I would imagine that this is how people feel before they're about to get married, very nervous recognizing the weight of the commitment, but I've also been feeling great peace in my prayer and in the conversations with my brothers at the seminary."

"It is a big step so there is some anxiety about it, which I think is a good sign, because it's a very natural sign, but it's coming out of excitement," McCarroll added. "I'm excited to serve and minister in a new way, a way that I've been preparing for."

Once ordained a deacon, McCarroll is looking forward to preaching at Mass. His first experience will come the same day

as his Ordination – May 25 – as he will preach the 4 p.m. Vigil Mass at Saint Robert Bellarmine Parish.

"I'm really looking to take the Scriptures and really bring them to life. It is a moment for growth and it is a challenge," he said. "I'm excited for the challenge to grow in that way."

Dzwonczyk says he is particularly moved by the Sacrament of Baptism and is looking forward to being able to baptize his first child.

"I always marvel at the grace that comes in baptism. It's a simple act – pouring water on someone's head – and yet the spiritual effect that it has never ceases to amaze me," he explained.

Dzwonczyk will deliver his first homily as a deacon on Sunday, May 26, at 11:00 a.m., at his home parish of Saint John Vianney in Montdale.

"I'm a little nervous. It's my first time preaching and it's Trinity Sunday, so it's not the easiest topic to preach on," he

joked.

As they look forward to their Ordination Mass, both men want to express their gratitude to all of the people who have helped them on their discernment journey – or simply prayed for them through the process.

"The number of people who have reached out to me, just saying they're praying for me or they're thinking about me, or who have reached out to my parents is just overwhelming and I'm truly humbled," Dzwonczyk said. "Truly, without their prayers, I wouldn't have made it."

"I trust God, that he is present in all of this, and that he is guiding me every step of the way," McCarroll added.

For anyone unable to attend the Ordination Mass in person, CTV: Catholic Television of



Seminarians Andrew McCarroll and Thomas Dzwonczyk visited the Diocese of Sunyani, Ghana, with Bishop Bambera in July 2023.

the Diocese of Scranton will provide a live broadcast as well as livestream the Mass on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel and all social media channels.

Quo Vadis & Fiat Days to take place June 24-26 at Marywood University

SCRANTON – On June 24-26, high school students from around the Diocese of Scranton will gather at Marywood University to participate in two special summer camp programs– Quo Vadis Days for young men and Fiat Days for young women.

In both cases, the mission of these camps is to help young Catholics learn more about vocations and to deepen their faith through fellowship and prayer.


"During Quo Vadis Days, we invite our seminarians, a lot of our priests and some college students and young adults from around the Diocese to come and spend time with these men, talk about prayer, talk about discernment, talk a little bit about dating, marriage and the priesthood but also just spend some time playing games, playing

sports, and enjoying each other's company," Father Alex J. Roche, Diocesan Vocations Director, said.


This will be the first year the Diocese is also offering Fiat Days for high school women.

"Fiat Days is not a new thing for the Church. We've modeled it after Quo Vadis and the idea really came to us to have an event for high school women who are discerning their vocation as well so that they can experience God's presence in their lives, but also through one another, and through the presence of religious sisters who are serving with us," Krya Krzywicki, Vocations Program Coordinator, added.


The cost to participate in either camp is \$25. Registration is available online right now at the Diocese of Scranton website at dioceseofscranton.org.



SAVE THE DATE!



Priesthood Ordination of Rev. Mr. William Asinari



Saturday, June 29, 2024
10:00 a.m.
Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Honesdale

Hundreds attend Mass to celebrate 'World Day of Prayer for Vocations'

WILKES-BARRE – It was nearly standing room only inside Saint Nicholas Church in Wilkes-Barre on April 21, 2024, as the faithful gathered to celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant of the 12:15 p.m. liturgy, which was celebrated in Spanish.

“In every stage of our life, we all come to a pause where we don’t know where to head. In times of trouble and need, we look up to God and ask him to clear a path and step into the next path of our life,” Angel Munoz of Saint Nicholas-Saint Mary Parish, said after the celebration. “It was an honor to have the Bishop here.”

The Mass was filled with many young people, some who say they considered a call to religious life because of the strong faith of their family.

“At a young age, I knew it was a possibility,” Marie Vazquez Perez of Saint-Nicholas-Saint Mary Parish, explained. “We come from many generations that are very religious, my grandmother and my mother, so I knew that was always a possibility. It didn’t happen for me, but I did think about the paths that I could take.”

Even though Perez did not pursue a religious life vocation, she still participates in her parish by helping with religious education, Our Lady of Guadalupe activities and the choir.



Saint Nicholas Church in Wilkes-Barre was nearly standing room only for the Diocese of Scranton’s annual World Day of Prayer for Vocations Mass on April 21, the Fourth Sunday of Easter. (Photos/Mike Melisky)



Following Mass, Bishop Bambera offered many individual blessings to young people. A new CARA report shows personal encouragement is crucial in fostering priestly vocations.

“I think he is still calling me in many different ways,” she added.

Adriana Sosa, who participated in the Mass as an altar server, agrees.

I feel God calls me in many ways. Throughout life, I have been dedicated to helping out a lot of people,” Sosa said. “He has made me into someone who volunteers.”

ENCOURAGEMENT, ADORATION KEY TO FOSTERING PRIEST VOCATIONS, NEW 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, Georgetown University’s Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate 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 CARA report was released just days before the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

Most respondents said they had first considered a vocation to the priesthood when they were 16 years old, and the average age of ordination was 34, a number consistent with the range of 33-37 reported since 1999.

CARA’s executive director, Jesuit Father Thomas Gaunt, told OSV News that direct encouragement of young men to consider priestly life is a “perennial factor” in vocations, with 89% of the respondents, or nine in 10, reporting they had received such support – usually from a parish priest (63%), friend (41%) or parishioner (41%).

“You could almost say that ... no one shows up at the seminary who was not encouraged,” Father Gaunt said.

Eucharistic adoration also emerged as significant in vocational discernment, with 75% of the respondents noting they had regularly prayed before the Blessed Sacrament prior to entering the seminary.

Bishop Bambera to honor 2024 Priest Jubilarians at June 6 Cathedral Mass

SCRANTON – Ten priests who are celebrating milestone anniversaries of their ordination year will be recognized during the 2024 Mass for Priest Jubilarians at 12:10 p.m. on Thursday, June 6, 2024, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as principal celebrant and homilist. During the Mass, the bishop will recognize a combined 425 years of service to the priesthood.

Monsignor Constantine V. Siconolfi will be recognized for 65 years of priestly service. Ordained on May 23, 1959, he

has served many parish communities, and founded Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen, which has served free daily meals to the needy of the Scranton area since 1978.

In addition to Msgr. Siconolfi, priests who are celebrating 60, 50 and 25 year ordination anniversaries will be honored at the Mass.

The 2024 Mass for Priest Jubilarians will be broadcast live by CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and will be available for viewing on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel, and social media platforms.

2024 Priest Jubilarians

65 Years - 1959
Monsignor Constantine V. Siconolfi

60 Years - 1964
Rev. John T. Albosta

50 Years - 1974
Rev. Richard W. Beck
Rev. Samuel J. Ferretti
Rev. Patrick J. McLaughlin
Rev. John F. Poplawski

25 Years - 1999
Rev. Arbogaste Satoun
Rev. Anthony J. Generose, J.C.L.
Rev. Andrew R. Sinnott
Rev. Peter J. O'Rourke

In celebrating 125 years, Wilkes-Barre church now looks to the future

WILKES-BARRE – On April 28, Cathy Swoboda was celebrating the past and looking forward to the future.

The parishioner and business manager of Saint Robert Bellarmine Parish was one of several hundred people who attended a special Mass of Thanksgiving at Saint Aloysius Church in Wilkes-Barre, recognizing the 125th anniversary of the worship site.

“It is a milestone for the church. We have been through so much, starting with the Flood in 1972 and COVID recently,” she said. “For me, 125 years is a celebration of the past and hope for the future.”

Swoboda credits the kindness of her fellow parishioners – and the serenity of the building itself – for making the church a welcoming place.

“I’m involved in everything that goes on in this church because I want to be, not because I have to be. The people are wonderful. Everybody is sweet and kind to each other. We have a great time at our annual bazaar. It’s just a special feeling you have when you walk in the church,” she added.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant and homilist for the 125th Anniversary Mass. Father Richard Cirba, pastor, concelebrated the liturgy along with Father Kevin Mulhern, former pastor, and several other native sons of the parish,

including Father Andrew Sinnott and Father James Nash.

“It was just a glorious day. The weather is beautiful and we’re happy to welcome back some of the native sons of the parish,” Father Cirba said. “One hundred twenty-five years is a milestone and it would be remiss for us to just let it go by without acknowledging it so it brought great excitement and enthusiasm for the people.”

As he began his homily, Bishop Bambera thanked parishioners for the opportunity to celebrate with them and called the Mass a “beautiful gathering.”

In reflecting on the Gospel message for the Fifth Sunday of Easter, involving Jesus as the vine and his followers as the branches, Bishop Bambera explained how we are all interconnected – with a shared faith in the Risen Jesus and all those who have gone before us.

“I’d invite you today, here in this church, to let your memories flow,” he said. “Maybe this is the church where you and your children were baptized. Maybe this is where you received your First Communion 60 or 70 years ago, or maybe it is the place where you were married and began a family.”

The Bishop reminded those at the Anniversary Mass, however, that a “parish” is not just a building or a structure, it is the people of God.

“We are celebrating nothing less than the power and presence of God in our lives,” Bishop Bambera noted.

The faithful who attend Saint Aloysius Church are very thankful they currently have two seminarians who are discerning a path to the priesthood – Andrew McCarroll and Peter Stec. McCarroll is expected to be ordained a transitional deacon on May 25 and would likely be ordained a priest next summer and Stec will be attending college seminary this coming fall.

“I’m proud just to be able to see the history of this community, especially as I’m discerning my vocation and preparing for ordained ministry, to see all the men who went before me in priestly service to our Diocese,” McCarroll said at the conclusion of the Anniversary Mass. “To see that rich history of service, not only just to this community, but also the Church of Scranton.”

While McCarroll has seen the South Wilkes-Barre community change



The faithful of Saint Robert Bellarmine Parish celebrate the 125th anniversary of Saint Aloysius Church in Wilkes-Barre on April 28, 2024.

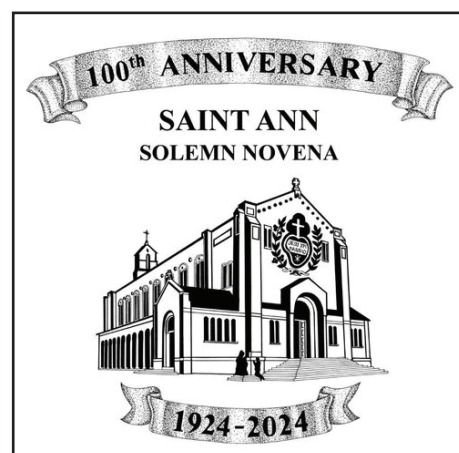
demographically over the years, he believes there is a lot of hope for the future.

“It is good to see that we’re still proclaiming the Gospel ... because Christ’s message is still true, then, as it is now,” McCarroll noted.

Saint Ann Solemn Novena to celebrate 100 years of prayer and devotion

SCRANTON - Father Richard Burke, C.P., Rector of Saint Ann’s Passionist Monastery and Director of Saint Ann’s Shrine Basilica, announces that the 100th Anniversary of the Solemn Novena to Saint Ann will take place July 17-26, 2024.

The novena is a period of nine days of special Eucharists, devotions, and preaching of the Word of God in West Scranton. These nine days build toward the celebration of the Feast of Saint Ann and Saint Joachim on the tenth day, July 26. Our special Passionist preachers this year will be Father Justin Nelson Alphonse, C.P., Pastor of Saint Agnes Passionist Parish in Louisville, KY, and Father Luis Daniel Guivas



Gerena, C.P., Administrator of Saint Gemma Passionist Parish in San Juan, Puerto Rico.



Father Richard said the centenary of the Novena has inspired special outreach to the growing Hispanic Catholic

community in the Diocese of Scranton and surrounding dioceses. The Novena will have a Eucharist and Novena service in Spanish at 7:30 p.m. each evening from July 17-25. The faithful will celebrate the Feast of Saint Ann in Spanish on Thursday, July 25, at 7:30 p.m. with Passionist Bishop Neil Tiedemann, C.P., D.D. as celebrant.

The Solemn Closing of Saint Ann’s Novena will be on Friday, July 26, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. with the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, serving as preacher and homilist.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend their year’s milestone Novena celebration in West Scranton from July 17-26!



Queen of the Apostles Parish, Avoca



Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Hunlock Creek



Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Pittston



Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, Moscow



Saint Mary Parish, Waymart



Most Precious Blood Parish, Hazleton



Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Montoursville



Saint Brigid Parish, Friendsville



Holy Cross Parish, Olyphant



Saint Boniface Parish, Williamsport & Saint Lawrence Parish, South Williamsport



Saints Peter & Paul Parish, Towanda

Embracing sustainability: Diocese of Scranton to allow 'green burials'

COVINGTON TWP. – After months of research, discussion and planning, the Diocese of Scranton Catholic Cemeteries Office is now offering the option of a 'green burial' as an alternative to a customary burial or cremation.

The 'Green Burial Council' defines the practice as a "way of caring for the dead with minimal environmental impact that aids in the conservation of natural resources, reduction of carbon emissions, protection of worker health and the restoration and/or preservation of habitat."

The concept of a green burial is rooted in simplicity and sustainability. Unlike traditional burials, which often involve embalming fluids, concrete vaults and non-biodegradable caskets, green burials prioritize returning the body to the earth in its most natural state.

"Green burials are a natural way of taking care of a person's burial needs at the time of a death," Kevin Beck, Diocesan Catholic Cemeteries Superintendent, explained. "It entails no outside vaults, which is a concrete vault that we use in most areas, and no fancy metal caskets. It is supposed to be all natural – wood, reed, bamboo, wicker or cloth – creating less disturbance and less of a carbon footprint at that point."

In response to inquiries about the practice of green burials, the Diocese of Scranton is now offering a natural burial section at Saint Catherine's Cemetery near Moscow. Parish cemeteries may offer the service at their discretion and only if following the procedures outlined by the Diocese. Father Thomas Petro, Pastor, Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Dupont, announced in his parish bulletin that its cemetery will also offer the option for individuals.



Kevin Beck, right, Diocesan Catholic Cemeteries Superintendent, and Alex Burney, Superintendent of Saint Catherine's Cemetery, examine a plot of land designated to be the first area for 'green burials' in the Moscow cemetery. (Photo/Eric Deabill)

Alex Burney, who has served as Superintendent at Saint Catherine's Cemetery for the last year, said an area in the back right corner of the cemetery has been selected to accommodate green burials.

"It is right behind the Sisters of the Good Shepherd section and it is a nice green area. The land is not one-hundred percent level, but that helps to make it natural," Burney said. "We have 12 graves available right now. However, we have a lot of room in front of it to be able to expand, so we would be able to do 100 graves and we have other sections that we would also be able to make green burial sections in the cemetery."

Because embalming is not conducted with a green burial, a body can only be preserved by refrigeration for 36 to 48 hours, so anyone contemplating the new practice should inform family members well in advance. While the cemetery provides the necessary space, a licensed funeral director must administer it.

"We have at least three funeral directors who have either done it, or are preparing themselves for

them have very little experience with it so far."

For many years, the Catholic Church has emphasized the sanctity of life and the importance of caring for God's creation. In his encyclical, *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis called for a renewed sense of ecological responsibility, urging Catholics to recognize the interconnectedness of all living beings and the urgent need for environmental protection.

"It will really resemble a traditional burial outside of the container that the person would be buried in," Beck said. "A person can still have a funeral Mass. They can still have a final blessing at the gravesite as well and family are welcome to be there. At the time, it is just really the materials and the carbon output to process a body for burial that is different."

At Saint Catherine's Cemetery, each gravesite will not have an individual marker or stone, instead, there will be one common marker created that will denote the names of those interred in the natural burial area. Since the area is meant to be natural, the gravesite will settle naturally and no extensive landscaping will be done, other than routine lawn mowing.

According to the new Diocesan Green Burial regulations, which are available on the Diocese of Scranton website, other important rules include:

- Cremated bodies will not be allowed in the green burial section, since the cremation practice involves the use of fossil fuels in the incineration process.

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DIOCESAN CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

The Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Scranton offer complete and compassionate service and are prepared to provide for all your burial needs. It is our privilege to assist you in planning the final resting place for your loved ones.

Memorial Day Masses will be celebrated at each Diocesan Cemetery on Monday, May 27, 2024. All are welcome to participate in these liturgies to pray for and remember the faithfully departed, especially our veterans.



MEMORIAL DAY MASSES, MONDAY, MAY 27, 2024

CATHEDRAL CEMETERY • 10AM

1708 Oram St., Scranton
570-347-9251
Crypt Chapel at rear of cemetery

MOUNT OLIVET CEMETERY • 10AM

612 Mt. Olivet Rd., Carverton
570-696-3636
at St. Frances X. Cabrini Church

HOLY CROSS CEMETERY • 9AM

at St. Mary's Church,
Prince of Peace Parish, Old Forge
570-347-9251

ST. CATHERINE'S CEMETERY • 10AM

Main St., Route 435, Moscow
570-842-8411 • Outside Altar
(if inclement weather at
St. Catherine's of Siena Church)

ST. MARY'S CEMETERY • 10AM

1594 S. Main St., Wilkes-Barre
570-822-6941

CALVARY CEMETERY • 10AM

Route 309, Drums
570-788-2150
at Good Shepherd Church



Notice to the Christian Faithful of the Diocese of Scranton

Mr. Gregory Francis Loughney, formerly an incardinated priest of the Diocese of Scranton, has been dispensed from the clerical state, effective February 29, 2024.

Mr. Loughney submitted a petition to the Most Holy Father, Pope Francis, requesting dispensation from the clerical state, which has been granted and is final.

Loughney is no longer a member of the clergy, nor has any of the privileges or responsibilities of the priesthood. A priest who has been dispensed from the clerical state may not celebrate Mass or confer the Sacraments. He may no longer be called "Father" or wear clerical attire.

Mr. Loughney now lives privately and is no longer affiliated with the Diocese of Scranton in any official capacity.

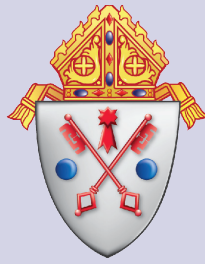
Aviso a los Fieles Cristianos de la Diócesis de Scranton

El Sr. Gregory Francis Loughney, ex sacerdote incardinado de la Diócesis de Scranton, ha sido dispensado del estado clerical a partir del 29 de febrero de 2024.

El Sr. Loughney presentó una petición al Santo Padre, el Papa Francisco, solicitando la dispensa del estado clerical, la cual ha sido concedida y es definitiva.

Loughney ya no es miembro del clero ni tiene ninguno de los privilegios o responsabilidades del sacerdocio. Un sacerdote dispensado del estado clerical no podrá celebrar Misa ni conferir los Sacramentos. Ya no se deberá llamar "Padre". Ni debe usar vestimenta clerical.

El Sr. Loughney ahora vive en forma privada y ya no está afiliado a la Diócesis de Scranton en ninguna capacidad oficial.



APPOINTMENTS

His Excellency, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, announces the following appointments, effective as indicated

Reverend Vincent H. Dang, to Pastor, Saint Andrew Parish, Wilkes-Barre, effective May 28, 2024. Father Dang will continue to serve as Pastor, Saint Leo the Great Parish, Ashley.

Reverend Alfredo Rosario Paulino, from Parochial Vicar, Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish, Scranton, effective April 26, 2024. Father Paulino will return to ministry in the Diocese of La Vega, Dominican Republic.



BISHOP BAMBERA'S SCHEDULE

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 Sun Arena, Wilkes-Barre Township, Noon

May 18 - Marywood University Commencement
Mohegan Sun 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 Sun Arena, Wilkes-Barre Township, 10:00 a.m.

May 25 - Transitional Diaconate Ordination
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.

May 29 - Holy Redeemer High School Commencement
F.M. Kirby Center, Wilkes-Barre, 7:00 p.m.

May 30 - Saint John Neumann High School Commencement
Penn College of Technology, Williamsport, 7:00 p.m.

May 31 - Holy Cross High School Commencement
Marywood University, Scranton, 7:00 p.m.

June 1 - Notre Dame High School Commencement
Notre Dame High School, East Stroudsburg, 11:00 a.m.

June 2 - Mass at Saint Michael the Archangel Church
Simpson, 2:00 p.m.

June 6 - Mass for Priest Jubilarians
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.

June 8 - Catholic Women's Conference Mass
Marywood University, Scranton, 8:45 a.m.

June 11-14 - USCCB Spring General Meeting
Louisville, Kentucky

Protocols established for 'green burials'

Continued from Page 6

• There will only be one burial per space – and space in the green burial area will be allocated in sequential manner to not disturb previous sites – therefore there is no "choice" of burial space allowed.

• Markers, memorials, plaques or objects of any kind cannot be left in the green burial area. Planting of any type will also be prohibited.

Anyone contemplating a green burial must recognize the solemnity and Catholic nature of the cemetery in which the area is located. No ceremonies, rituals, or acts contrary to Catholic tradition or Canon law will be allowed.

Fees and pricing for green burials will be the same as traditional burial practices.

While there are currently no planned green burials for Saint Catherine's Cemetery, staff members say they are prepared to handle the first request when it comes in.

"It is a beautiful setting back there. It's a nice little corner of the cemetery," Beck said.

Any questions regarding green burials should be directed to the Diocesan Catholic Cemeteries Director. All of the policies and procedures for Diocesan Catholic Cemeteries are located online at the Diocese of Scranton website.

Diocese of Scranton
CATHOLIC
 SCHOOL SYSTEM
 FAITH • ACADEMICS • SERVICE

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.

In the beginning of May, Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, completed his visits to all 19 schools in the Diocese of Scranton. Spending quality time with the community at each school, the Bishop offered words of wisdom during his homilies, making it an interactive conversation with the school students. He asked them a variety of questions to help emphasize his message that everyone, at every age, has the ability to spread the message of God's love.



Epiphany School in Sayre



Holy Family Academy in Hazleton



Holy Rosary School in Duryea



Saint Agnes School in Towanda



Class of 2025 members Matthew Rivera, John Siciliano, Michael Peterson and LeAnn Perez show off their class rings after participating in the school's annual Ring Day Liturgy at **Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg.**



The first grade classes at **Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston** celebrated in style by dressing like their favorite storybook character.



Eighth grade students from **Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School in Wilkes-Barre** led the school's annual May Crowning, honoring Mary as Queen of Heaven.



Students at **All Saints Academy in Scranton** recently shared their acting and singing talents with family, friends and the community by performing "Annie Kids," based on the musical "Little Orphan Annie."



The cast of "Matilda Jr." from **Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green** attended the 56th Annual Student Theater Festival at the Bucks County Playhouse, where they were awarded Outstanding Musical Ensemble.



Three eighth grade students from **Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter** were honored at the Elks Lodge 109 located in Pringle. The students took part in an essay competition based on what the Bill of Rights means to them. Congratulations to student authors Paul Dominick, Katherine Moser and Martha Goffredo, whose essay is moving on to the State Competition.



Members of the Theater Ensemble at **Holy Cross High School in Dunmore** enjoyed a fabulous day in New York City, touring Times Square, watching a performance of *Wicked* at the Gershwin Theater, and enjoying dinner and the show at Ellen's Stardust Diner.



Seniors from **Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre** recently went on a service trip to the Dorothy Day Worker's Farm in Harveys Lake. Students learned about their open-farm policy, which enables people to experience farm life, learn and work together, and be inspired to live a life in sync with God's creation.



Ella Rogan, a kindergarten student at **Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton**, plants seeds as part of the school's celebration of Earth Day.



Key Club members and Miss Burger's science class at **Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School in Williamsport** helped clean the neighborhood by organizing a litter pick up and keeping their school neighborhood beautiful.



Throughout the month of May, students in **La Salle Academy in Jessup** celebrate the Blessed Mother by creating their own crowns for Mary and crowning her each morning during a prayer service.



Future health professionals? Fifth grade students at **Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore** listen to each other's hearts during a presentation from the Physician Assistant students at Marywood University.



Pre-kindergarten students at **Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport** spent a beautiful day honoring Mary at St. Lawrence Parish in South Williamsport.



The fourth and fifth grade students at **Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg** visited the Pennsylvania State Capitol Complex in Harrisburg, entertaining and inspiring the crowd with patriotic songs from the main staircase.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Diocese of Scranton Fiscal Year 2022-2023



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In the First Letter of Peter, we are reminded, “As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace” (1 Peter 4:10). As we journey through our lives, each one of us is called to reflect upon the blessings bestowed upon us by God and use our gifts wisely for the betterment of His Kingdom.

It is incumbent upon us, as faithful stewards, to utilize our financial resources in a manner that reflects our commitment to God and His Church. Through the generous support of the faithful, the Diocese of Scranton is able to fulfill its mission, providing pastoral care, spiritual nourishment and support to those in need within our communities.

With gratitude, I present to you the audited financial statements of the Administrative Offices of the Diocese of Scranton for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. This report outlines in detail the stewardship of the resources entrusted to our care over the past year. Through the grace of God and the generosity of each one of you, we have been able to continue our ministries and outreach programs, serving the needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Please know that we remain diligent in managing our expenses and ensuring an environment of sound financial practices. Over the last year, we have continued to focus on several of our key Diocesan initiatives, including, but not limited to:

- **Vision 2030 Blueprint Process:** Our long-range pastoral planning process that looks proactively at the realities of our local church in the present moment, while striving to meet the opportunities and challenges of the coming decade to create vibrant parishes rooted in the life of Jesus Christ.
- **“Our Faith. Our Students. Our Future”:** Our Strategic Growth Planning Initiative for our 19 Catholic Schools which focuses on defining our priorities and developing a strong, financially sustainable vision for Catholic education in the Diocese.
- **Promoting Vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate and Consecrated Life:** Our Diocese held a ‘Hundredfold workshop’ to give parishioners the tools to create an action plan for creating vocation-friendly parishes and discuss future vocation initiatives.

As you review this report, I encourage you to prayerfully consider your own stewardship journey. How are you utilizing the gifts that God has entrusted to your care? Are you being faithful stewards of His blessings, both financially and otherwise?

As always, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to you for your continued support and generosity. I am thankful for the many ways in which you show your support to your parish community - through time, talent and treasure - and for your continued prayers as we work to fulfill our mission of imitating the servant leadership of Jesus Christ.

May God bless you and your family abundantly and fill you with his peace!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

+ Joseph C. Bambera

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Scranton



The financial information contained on the following pages is derived from the audited financial statements of the Administrative Offices of the Diocese of Scranton as of June 30, 2023 and 2022. The full report is available under the “Financial Services” page at www.dioceseofscranton.org

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY AT A GLANCE

STATISTICS REFLECT THE 2023 CALENDAR YEAR

TOTAL POPULATION
1,104,932
CATHOLIC POPULATION
354,259



1
BISHOP

1
RETIRED BISHOP

84
PRIESTS ASSIGNED IN
THE DIOCESE

4
PRIESTS ASSIGNED
OUTSIDE DIOCESE

109
RETIRED OR ILL
PRIESTS

197
TOTAL NUMBER OF
DIOCESAN PRIESTS



45
RELIGIOUS ORDER
PRIESTS

6
RELIGIOUS ORDER
BROTHERS

350
RELIGIOUS ORDER
SISTERS

97
PERMANENT
DEACONS

10
SEMINARIANS

110
NUMBER OF PARISHES



2,109
BAPTISMS

1,892
FIRST COMMUNIONS

2,041
CONFIRMATIONS

3,773
FUNERAL SERVICES

457
MARRIAGES
375 CATHOLIC
82 INTERFAITH

2
CATHOLIC HOSPITALS
SERVING 97,700 PEOPLE

A message from the Chief Financial Officer of the Diocese of Scranton

Dear Friends,

As the Chief Financial Officer of the Diocese of Scranton, it is my privilege to present the 2022-2023 audited financial report for the Diocese of Scranton Administrative Offices. This report provides an overview of the prudent use of funds that have been received for the period covering July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023.

Just as Bishop Bambera has stressed the importance of parishes being transparent with their financial information - as demonstrated by having each parish publish its financial five-year trend every January - it is equally important for the Diocese to also share the care and prudence with which it manages the resources that you, the faithful, entrust to our care.

I am pleased to inform you that for the third consecutive year, *Voice of the Faithful*, a lay organization of faithful Catholics has named the Diocese of Scranton as being one of the most financially transparent dioceses in the United States. For the last seven years, the group has reviewed all U.S. Catholic dioceses' online financial documents - and I am proud to say that once again we have received an overall score of 100% for financial transparency in 2023. We were only one of ten dioceses to achieve such a high rating!

Among the key points of the 2022-2023 fiscal report are:

- The Diocese had a net gain from operations in the amount of \$2,576,899. This came primarily from Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) income and bequests.
- Catholic Schools Assessments are now billed through the Diocesan Administrative Office. Revenue in 2023 for this assessment is \$6,041,629, net an allowance of \$453,559. Educational expenses in 2023 also include the payment of these school assessments of \$6,041,629 to Diocesan Catholic Schools.
- Funds raised by the 2022 Diocesan Annual Appeal totaled \$4,245,866. The Diocese returned \$192,860 directly to parishes that exceeded their goal for the campaign. This means the revenue from the Appeal to the Diocese totaled \$4,053,006. Funds raised by the 2021 Diocesan Annual Appeal totaled \$4,458,893. In that year, the Diocese returned \$205,567 directly to parishes that exceeded their goal for the campaign. Revenue from the 2021 Appeal totaled \$4,253,326.
- Employee Retention Tax Credit income of \$1,743,921 is included in 2023. Related consulting fees of \$277,024 for this income are included in 2023 Administrative expenses.

- 2022 Community and Social Service expenses included a one-time contribution of \$2.3 million to the Catholic Social Services to help provide funding for its defined benefit pension plan.

- The current year (2022-2023) included a \$1.9 million positive pension adjustment due to the effect of higher interest rates on the calculation of the pension obligation. The current year also included \$1 million of unrealized gains on investments. The prior fiscal year (2021-2022) included a transfer of \$7.2 million to the Lay Pension Plan and a \$2.1 million transfer back to the Diocese of Scranton Institute for a prior year pension contribution. These transfers were offset by a \$2.4 million positive net pension adjustment due to the effect of rising interest rates on the calculation of the pension obligation. The prior year included a \$9.9 million unrealized loss on investments to large, unfavorable market fluctuations during the 2021-2022 year.

- As in previous years, the financial statements of the Diocesan Administrative Offices have been independently audited by McGrail Merkel Quinn & Associates, P.C., Certified Public Accountants. The statements include activities related to the Diocesan Administrative Offices, not activities related to Catholic Social Services or the Catholic School System. These organizations are audited separately. The statements also do not include parish activities.

I invite you to view the complete audited financial statement for the 2022-2023 fiscal year on the Diocese of Scranton website at dioceseofscranton.org/directory/offices/financial-services.

I want to publicly thank the members of the Diocesan Finance Council for the support they provide to the Bishop and my staff and extend that appreciation to Catholics throughout the Diocese. The continuing generosity of the Catholic community and the sharing of time, talent and treasure make possible the good works of our Church in the Diocese of Scranton.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Eileen Giombetti

Eileen Giombetti
Diocesan Secretary for Financial Services



SERVING AS MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

STATISTICS REFLECT THE 2023 CALENDAR YEAR

BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY, OUR LOCAL CHURCH SERVES THE COMMUNITY IN MANY WAYS...



107,832

MEALS SERVED AT ST. VINCENT DE PAUL KITCHEN IN WILKES-BARRE



15,701

INDIVIDUAL NIGHTS OF EMERGENCY SHELTER PROVIDED IN SCRANTON, WILKES-BARRE & HAZLETON



19

DIOCESAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS EDUCATING STUDENTS

86,000

MEALS SERVED AT ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI KITCHEN IN SCRANTON

40

HOMELESS VETERANS PROVIDED WITH HOUSING

4,423

STUDENTS ATTENDING DIOCESAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT FIVE COUNTIES

23,493

INDIVIDUALS SERVED BY ST. FRANCIS FOOD & CLOTHING PANTRIES IN SCRANTON

20

PREGNANT WOMEN & CHILDREN PROVIDED SHELTER AT SHEPHERD'S MATERNITY HOUSE IN EAST STROUDSBURG

9,796

HIGH SCHOOL & ELEMENTARY STUDENTS IN PARISH FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMS

11,812

HOUSEHOLDS ASSISTED BY CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES CARBONDALE FOOD/CLOTHING PANTRY

6,151

CHILDREN SERVED THROUGH CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR KIDS PROGRAM

6,000

STUDENTS TRAINED IN SAFE ENVIRONMENT/RESPECTING BOUNDARIES PROGRAMS

5,369

INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED BY ST. JOSEPH FOOD PANTRY IN HAZLETON

748,254

PAGE VIEWS ON THE DIOCESE OF SCRANTON WEBSITE

42,040

NUMBER OF HOMES RECEIVING "THE CATHOLIC LIGHT" EACH MONTH

REVENUE FOR DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES (Years Ending June 30, 2023 and 2022)

The Diocese of Scranton's operating revenue for the 2022-2023 fiscal year was \$37.4 million.

The Diocese's Self-Insurance Program (both medical and general) were two of the largest sources of revenue in the 2022-2023 fiscal year budget.

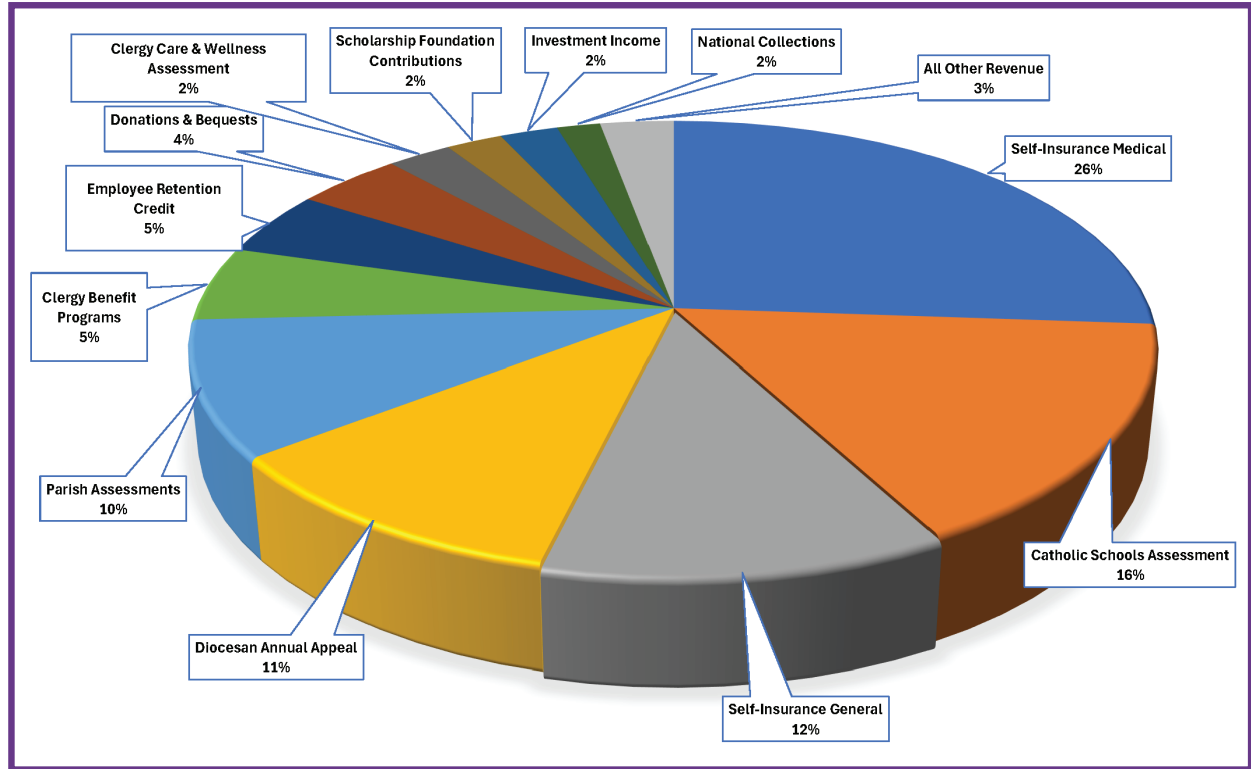
In total, the two self-insurance programs accounted for \$14,225,880 (or roughly 40%) of all revenue.

Under the self-insurance programs, the Diocese assumes responsibility for all claims. In effect, this means that every parish or agency is sharing in the payment of claims through its premiums.

Another large source of revenue for the support of programs and ministries

continues to be parish assessments. Catholic School Assessments brought in more than \$6 million and Diocesan Assessments brought in more than \$3.6 million. Diocesan assessments fund administration support services, human resources, financial services, information technology and much more. School Assessments are passed along to the Catholic School System to support the cost of educating students.

The Diocesan Annual Appeal, which brought in \$4,053,006 after parish rebates, continues to support the charitable, educational and pastoral services of the Diocese. Funds support Catholic Schools, Catholic Social Services, Parish Life, Communications and Vocations and Clergy Support.



	2023			2022		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Parish Assessments						
Diocesan	\$3,638,798	-	\$3,638,798	\$4,000,982	-	\$4,000,982
Clergy Care & Wellness	\$959,987	-	\$959,987	\$956,395	-	\$956,395
Catholic Schools	\$6,041,629	-	\$6,041,629	-	-	-
Intra-Diocesan Billings						
Self-Insurance Premiums (General)	\$4,379,604	-	\$4,379,604	\$4,259,961	-	\$4,259,961
Self-Insurance Premiums (Medical)	\$9,846,276	-	\$9,846,276	\$9,602,375	-	\$9,602,375
Clergy Benefit Programs	\$2,015,321	-	\$2,015,321	\$1,977,909	-	\$1,977,909
Diocesan Program Revenues (Schedule 1)	\$223,104	\$35,000	\$258,104	\$233,360	-	\$233,360
Diocesan Annual Appeal	-	\$4,053,006	\$4,053,006	-	\$4,253,326	\$4,253,326
Special Collections	-	\$27,304	\$27,304	-	\$27,068	\$27,068
Donations and Bequests	\$611,584	\$965,152	\$1,576,736	\$418,529	\$744,649	\$1,163,178
Scholarship Foundation Contributions	-	\$838,282	\$838,282	-	\$709,769	\$709,769
Custodial Receipts						
National Collections	-	\$645,129	\$645,129	-	\$783,083	\$783,083
Unemployment	\$226,178	-	\$226,178	\$397,508	-	\$397,508
Propagation Collections	\$168,657	-	\$168,657	\$193,180	-	\$193,180
Other Revenue	\$358,701	-	\$358,701	\$278,152	-	\$278,152
Employee Retention Credit Income	\$1,743,921	-	\$1,743,921	-	-	-
Investment Income, Net	\$590,061	\$275,630	\$865,691	\$2,251,259	\$243,591	\$2,494,850
Net Realized (Loss) Gain on Sale of Investments	(\$254,895)	(\$40,403)	(\$295,298)	\$3,424,248	\$49,320	\$3,473,568
Net Realized Gain on Sale of Property	\$47,150	-	\$47,150	\$104,145	-	\$104,145
Net Assets Released from Restrictions (Note 7):						
Satisfaction of Program Restrictions	\$5,913,906	(\$5,913,906)	-	\$5,890,016	(\$5,890,016)	-
Total Revenues, Gains and Other Support	\$36,509,982	\$885,194	\$37,395,176	\$33,988,019	\$920,790	\$34,908,809

EXPENSES FOR DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES (Years Ending June 30, 2023 and 2022)

The Diocese of Scranton's expenses for the 2022-2023 fiscal year were \$34.8 million.

During the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the Diocese of Scranton continued to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout the 11 counties of northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

The Diocesan Finance Office continued its work to administer the temporal goods entrusted to the Diocese of Scranton, exercising prudence in all decisions related to financial and administrative operations. The office consists

of a dedicated team of motivated professionals who efficiently and effectively service the needs of the Diocese, while also providing help, guidance and assistance to pastors, business managers, parishes, schools and other diocesan organizations and agencies.

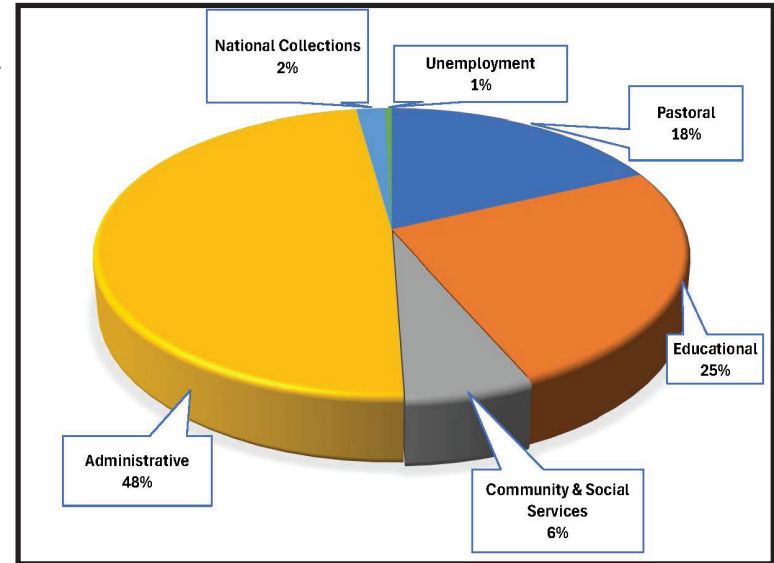
The office is committed to the highest standards of integrity and accountability. It is responsible for ensuring that financial policies and procedures are adhered to, internal controls are in place and operating to safeguard assets. Furthermore, the office is responsible for making sure all financial activities

and transactions are properly accounted for.

The staff of the Diocese of Scranton extends its special appreciation to all the faithful for their support, dedication and stewardship during the last fiscal year.

The sharing of your time, talent and treasure forms the foundation of success for our parishes, schools and our Diocesan church as a whole.

Your efforts are instrumental in helping carry out the mission of the Church of Scranton in the name of Jesus Christ.



	2023			2022		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Total Revenues, Gains and Other Support	\$36,509,982	\$885,194	\$37,395,176	\$33,988,019	\$920,790	\$34,908,809
Expenses						
Pastoral	\$6,316,256	-	\$6,316,256	\$5,964,117	-	\$5,964,117
Educational	\$8,780,381	-	\$8,780,381	\$3,125,882	-	\$3,125,882
Community & Social Service	\$2,121,794	-	\$2,121,794	\$4,377,318	-	\$4,377,318
Administrative	\$16,819,982	-	\$16,819,982	\$16,230,430	-	\$16,230,430
Custodial Disbursements						
National Collections	\$645,129	-	\$645,129	\$783,083	-	\$783,083
Unemployment	\$134,735	-	\$134,735	\$76,921	-	\$76,921
Interest Expense	-	-	-	\$936,111	-	\$936,111
Total Expenses	\$34,818,277	-	\$34,818,277	\$31,493,862	-	\$31,493,862
Excess of Revenues Over Expenses	\$1,691,705	\$885,194	\$2,576,899	\$2,494,157	\$920,790	\$3,414,947
OTHER CHANGES						
Change in Value of Beneficial Interest in						
Perpetual Trust	-	\$10,002	\$10,002	-	(\$45,773)	(\$45,773)
Provision for Bad Debt	-	-	-	(\$555,424)	-	(\$555,424)
Other Components of Net Periodic Pension Cost	\$15,101	-	\$15,101	\$104,930	-	\$104,930
Pension-Related Changes Other Than Net						
Periodic Pension Cost	\$1,923,168	-	\$1,923,168	\$2,420,319	-	\$2,420,319
Transfer to Lay Pension Plan	-	-	-	(\$7,184,731)	-	(\$7,184,731)
Transfer to Diocese of Scranton Institute	-	-	-	(\$2,150,000)	-	(\$2,150,000)
Change in Net Unrealized Gains and Losses on Investments	\$1,032,109	\$165,998	\$1,198,107	(\$9,037,746)	(\$856,847)	(\$9,894,593)
Increase (decrease) in Net Assets	\$4,662,083	\$1,061,194	\$5,723,277	(\$13,908,495)	\$18,170	(\$13,890,325)
Net Assets (Beginning)	\$2,896,841	\$9,487,893	\$12,384,734	\$16,805,336	\$9,469,723	\$26,275,059
Net Assets (Ending)	\$7,558,924	\$10,549,087	\$18,108,011	\$2,896,841	\$9,487,893	\$12,384,734

Diocesan Offices Supporting the Clergy, all 110 Parishes and the Faithful of the Church of Scranton

Administrative Offices and Chancellor: The Chancery is composed of those institutes and persons who assist the Bishop in governing the entire Diocese, especially in providing for the administration of the Diocese and directing pastoral action.

Catholic Schools: The Catholic Schools Office is committed to educating students and their families in the Catholic faith. The office provides a Catholic education that is spiritually sound and academically excellent and strives to prepare students to be faith-filled leaders and life-long leaders dedicated to serving the Church and society.

Catholic Social Services: Catholic Social Services serves individuals and families in poverty and hardship, responding compassionately to their needs. The agency advocates for individual dignity and self-sufficiency and actively works to replace despair with hope.

Child Protection/Victim Assistance: The Safe Environment Office oversees the creation and implementation of child protection programs and policies across the Diocese. Staff ensures the safest possible place in which children, young people and adults can minister, study and work.

Communications: The mission of the Communications Office is to evangelize through informing all about the Good News of the Catholic faith, the teachings of the Holy Father and our Bishop, Diocesan and parish ministries, programs and events.

Development Office: Offers assistance and support to the development and stewardship programs of all Diocesan parishes, schools and other Catholic institutions. This office helps secure necessary funds to assist the Diocese in its mission to serve God's people.

Finance Office: The Diocesan Finance Office is responsible for administering the temporal resources of the Diocese under the authority of the Bishop. The Finance Office provides assistance with financial activities for diocesan parishes and schools and other related organizations.

Human Resources: Serves more than 1,200 employees of our parishes, schools and Diocesan offices, centrally administering insurance and benefit programs such as medical, dental, life insurance and 403(b) retirement savings plans.

Information Technology: Provides information technology support for diocesan ministries, parishes and offices.

Parish Life Office: The Office for Parish Life works directly on-site in parishes to provide leadership formation, spiritual renewal, program design and resourcing, training for people in all types of parish ministry and consulting on specific parish needs.

Pontifical Mission Societies: The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Scranton promotes a mission spirituality and global vision in the hearts and minds of the faithful.

Property and Risk Management: Provides technical and fiduciary oversight in addition to project management for the physical development and maintenance of parish and diocesan properties.

Tribunal: The Diocesan Tribunal acts as the Judicial Arm of the Diocesan Bishop upholding rights and responding to grievances relating to Church Law. Deals mainly in the investigation of and pronouncements on petitions regarding invalidity of marriage (Annulments).

Vocations/Clergy Formation: The Vocations Office seeks to foster vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life and provide opportunities for discernment and mentoring of potential seminary candidates.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

June 30, 2023 and 2022

	ASSETS	
	2023	2022
Cash and Equivalents	\$10,926,979	\$9,806,124
Accounts Receivable, Less Allowance for Doubtful Accounts of \$5,172,043 in 2023 and 2022	\$4,434,009	\$6,724,937
Accrued Interest Receivable	\$58,379	\$73,826
Contributions Receivable	\$451,911	\$440,388
Due from Catholic Cemeteries	-	\$94,744
Prepaid Expense	\$688,145	\$236,721
Cash Subject to Program Restrictions	\$8,901,248	\$7,650,398
Notes and Loans Receivable	\$2,637,031	\$2,824,184
Investments	\$19,642,275	\$16,952,499
Land, Buildings & Equipment, Net	\$5,744,059	\$5,630,300
Other Assets	\$442,875	\$762,806
Beneficial Interest in Charitable Trust	\$246,606	\$236,604
TOTAL ASSETS	\$54,173,517	\$51,433,531

	LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
	2023	2022
Accounts Payable	\$1,299,736	\$747,812
Custodial Funds Payable	\$303,771	\$277,934
Contributions Payable	\$812,916	\$1,296,533
Scholarships Payable	\$610,788	\$723,343
Liability for Pension Benefits	\$4,862,024	\$5,962,339
Accrued Claim Expense	\$1,500,340	\$2,696,199
Accrued Post-Retirement Benefit Obligation	\$6,911,279	\$8,150,832
Refundable Advances	-	\$130,194
Loans Payable	\$2,637,031	\$2,824,184
Due to Catholic Cemeteries	\$965,481	-
Due to Diocese of Scranton Institute	\$16,162,140	\$16,239,427
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$36,065,506	\$39,048,797
NET ASSETS		
Without Donor Restrictions	\$7,558,924	\$2,896,841
With Donor Restrictions	\$10,549,087	\$9,487,893
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$18,108,011	\$12,384,734
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$54,173,517	\$51,433,531

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

June 30, 2023 and 2022

OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	\$5,723,277	(\$13,890,325)
Adjustments to Reconcile Change in Net Assets to Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Operating Activities:		
Net Realized Loss (Gain) on Sale of Investments	\$295,298	(\$3,473,568)
Net Unrealized (Gain) Loss on Investments	(\$1,198,107)	\$9,894,593
Net Realized Gain on Sale of Property	(\$47,150)	(\$104,145)
Amortization (Accretion) on Investments	\$41,821	(\$61,192)
Depreciation Expense	\$350,955	\$350,701
Provision for Bad Debt	-	\$555,424
Change in Beneficial Interest in Charitable Trust	(\$10,002)	\$45,773
Decrease (Increase) in Accounts Receivable	\$2,290,928	(\$989,962)
Decrease in Accrued Interest Receivable	\$15,447	\$146,053
(Increase) Decrease in Contributions Receivable	(\$11,523)	\$106,408
Decrease in Due from Catholic Cemeteries	\$94,744	\$66,794
Increase in Prepaid Expense	(\$451,424)	(\$98,381)
Decrease (Increase) in Other Assets	\$319,931	(\$163,466)
Increase (Decrease) in Accounts Payable	\$551,924	(\$98,705)
Increase in Custodial Funds Payable	\$25,837	\$28,202
(Decrease) Increase in Contributions & Scholarships Payable	(\$596,172)	\$284,325
Decrease in Liability for Pension Benefits	(\$1,100,315)	(\$1,591,553)
Decrease in Accrued Claim Expense	(\$1,195,859)	(\$534,630)
Decrease in Accrued Post-Retirement Benefit Obligation	(\$1,239,553)	(\$1,969,900)
(Decrease) Increase in Refundable Advances	(\$130,194)	\$130,194
Increase in Due to Catholic Cemeteries	\$965,481	-
(Decrease) Increase in Due to Diocese of Scranton Institute	(\$77,287)	\$2,999,804

NET CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES	\$4,618,057	(\$8,367,556)
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INVESTING ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
Purchase of Fixed Assets	(\$464,714)	(\$242,678)
Proceeds From Sale of Property	\$47,150	\$104,145
Principal Collected-Loans Receivable	\$187,153	\$181,552
Purchase of Investments	(\$20,472,916)	(\$35,067,982)
Proceeds from Sale of Investments	\$18,644,128	\$48,978,269
Net Cash (Used In) Provided By Investing Activities	(\$2,059,199)	\$13,953,306
Financing Activities		
Principal Payments on Loan	(\$187,153)	(\$181,552)
Funds on Deposit		
Additions	-	\$1,268,071
Withdrawals	-	(\$4,408,309)
Net Cash Used in Financing Activities	(\$187,153)	(\$3,321,790)

Net Increase in Cash	\$2,371,705	\$2,263,960
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Cash, Cash Equivalents and Restricted Cash, Beginning	\$17,456,522	\$15,192,562
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Cash, Cash Equivalents and Restricted Cash, Ending	\$19,828,227	\$17,456,522
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Financial Accountability

Transparency and accountability are important parts of our stewardship responsibilities. Each year, the Diocese subjects itself to an independent audit. Diocesan leadership has established and regularly confers with the Diocesan Finance Council. The council, whose existence is required by Canon Law, focuses on financial policies, procedures and activities of the Church of Scranton.

Current members of the Diocesan Finance Council are: Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, John Devine, John Graham, Sister Therese O'Rourke, Carlon Preate, Rev. Gerald Shantillo and Paul Woelkers.



Diocesan finances are audited by McGrail Merkel Quinn & Associates, P.C., Certified Public Accountants & Consultants. The full audited financial statements for the Fiscal Year 2022-21 are published on the Diocesan website at:
www.dioceseofscranton.org/directory/offices/financial-services

National Eucharistic Pilgrimage pilgrims walk among American saints on Eastern route

Continued from Page 1

Beginning in New Haven, Connecticut, May 18, the day before Pentecost, the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Route is the one that will attract the most attention locally.

The roughly 1,000-mile route will be traveled by six perpetual pilgrims accompanied by Father Roger Landry, a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts, who serves as the Catholic chaplain at Columbia University in New York.

While Catholics may join the pilgrims for legs of their journey, they are especially encouraged to join the route's public events, which include Masses, all-night adoration, a boat-based procession, service projects, testimonies, socializing and meals with regional flair.

As the perpetual pilgrims wind their way toward Indianapolis, they plan to stop for prayer and other events at both Catholic and secular sites. In New York City, for example, the pilgrims are stopping at both the St. Frances Cabrini Shrine and the Statue of Liberty. Some stops are less than an hour, while others may stretch to a day or more.

The route is named for St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first American-born saint, and includes stops at places she served in New York and Maryland.

The following is a list of selected highlights from the pilgrimage's Eastern route.

To find information for the full Seton Route at <https://tinyurl.com/SetonRoute>.

Events for the other three nationwide routes, along with an interactive map and registration, visit <https://www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org/>

July 6
Downtown Cincinnati

The pilgrimage will continue through the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio, and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, with a July 6 Mass celebrated by Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr at Cincinnati's Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains. The Mass is followed by a Eucharistic procession through downtown and a Eucharistic festival at the city's Fountain Square. The Seton Route enters the Archdiocese of Indianapolis July 8 with several events in Indianapolis ahead of the National Eucharistic Congress.

May 25
St. Frances Cabrini Shrine, New York

Pilgrims will spend time in the Archdiocese of New York, where they'll stop May 25 at the St. Frances Cabrini Shrine in Manhattan to venerate the saint, who left Italy with six of her religious community's sisters in 1889 to serve Italian immigrants in the New York slums. (Her life is the subject of the recently released film "Cabrini.") That night, New York Auxiliary Bishop Gerardo J. Colacicco and the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne - whose Massachusetts-born founder, Rose Hawthorne Lathrop, was declared venerable in March: will host adoration at St. Vincent Ferrer Church. While still in the city, the pilgrimage will process across the Brooklyn Bridge into the Diocese of Brooklyn May 26, and the following day take the Dorothy Day Ferry - named for the Catholic Worker Movement co-founder and servant of God - to the Statue of Liberty State Park for Eucharistic Adoration.

May 18 Start
Blessed Michael McGivney Parish, New Haven, Connecticut

The pilgrimage begins May 18 with a solemn, extended vigil Mass for Pentecost followed by all-night Eucharistic adoration at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, where Blessed Michael McGivney was ministering when he founded the Knights of Columbus in 1882. The parish church now houses his tomb. The pilgrims process May 19 to the nearby parish of St. Joseph for Mass before traveling by boat to Bridgeport.



June 8
Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, followed by Ohio River Procession

The pilgrimage will continue into the Archdiocese of Washington with Mass June 8 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception followed by a procession with stops at The Catholic University of America campus. It then heads northwest through western Maryland; the dioceses of Altoona-Johnstown, Greensburg and Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania; Wheeling-Charleston in West Virginia; and Steubenville, Ohio. On June 23, Bishop Mark E. Brennan of Wheeling-Charleston and Bishop Paul J. Bradley, apostolic administrator of Steubenville, will lead a "boatercade" Eucharistic procession down the Ohio River aboard a sternwheeler, blessing pilgrims on shore.

June 6
National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Emmitsburg, Maryland

From the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, the pilgrimage travels through the Diocese of Harrisburg into the Archdiocese of Baltimore, where the pilgrims will spend time at the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton June 6. Born in 1774, their route's namesake was a wife, mother of five, teacher, Catholic convert and eventual founder of the first women's religious community established in the U.S. She moved from New York to Emmitsburg in 1809 after her husband died while they were in Italy, which also is where she encountered Catholicism. The following day, the pilgrims will attend Mass and participate in a Eucharistic procession around the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Baltimore's co-cathedral and the first cathedral in the United States.

June 1
National Shrine of St. John Neumann, Philadelphia

The pilgrimage continues through New Jersey's dioceses of Metuchen and Trenton and into Pennsylvania. On June 1, the pilgrimage in Philadelphia for morning Mass at the National Shrine of St. John Neumann, who served as bishop of Philadelphia from 1852-1860 and was a champion of the Catholic parochial school system in the U.S. That evening, the shrine will host a "Eucharistic encounter" and open mic night for young adults. The following day, the pilgrims will venerate another Philadelphia saint, St. Katharine Drexel, who is entombed at the Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul.

Save the Date—2025 Holy Year Pilgrimage



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HOLY YEAR JUBILEE ITALY PILGRIMAGE

For more than 700 years, the Catholic Church has celebrated “jubilee” or “holy” years as special times to renew people’s faith and experience God’s forgiveness, particularly by going on pilgrimage.

On May 9, 2024, Pope Francis formally proclaimed the Holy Year 2025 through a document, called a “bull of indiction,” which was read in front of the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican.

“The time has come for a new Jubilee when once more the Holy Door will be flung open to invite everyone to an intense experience of the love of God that awakens in hearts the sure hope of salvation in Christ,” Pope Francis said in the document titled, “Spes Non Confundit” (Hope Does Not Disappoint).

The Holy Year will open at the Vatican Dec. 24 this year and close Jan. 6, 2026, the Feast of Epiphany.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera is inviting the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton to celebrate the 2025 Holy Year with him through a special pilgrimage opportunity that is being planned. The most exciting and well-known rite of the Jubilee Year is the opening of the Holy Door at the four major basilicas of Rome: St. Peter’s Basilica, the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran, the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, and the Basilica of St. Mary Major, which will be included in the trip.

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Wedding Anniversary Mass deadline approaching May 26

SCRANTON - Any couples celebrating their 25th or 50th wedding anniversary in 2024 are reminded that the registration deadline for this year's Wedding

Anniversary Mass is May 26.

The Mass itself will be held on Sunday, June 23 at 2:30 p.m.

Visit the Diocesan website to register or for more information.

Huntington Mills native preparing for ordination to the Dominican Order May 25

FAIRMOUNT SPRINGS - The Rev. Brother Andrew Cyril Stola, O.P., will be ordained to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ on Saturday, May 25, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

The son of David and Teresita Stola, Br. Cyril grew up in Huntington Mills and attended Saint Martha's Church in Fairmount Springs with his family.

Brother Cyril graduated from Northwest Area High School in 2013, and he subsequently attended New York University, where he met the Dominican friars through the university chaplaincy. After graduating NYU with a degree in economics in May 2017, he entered the novitiate of the Dominican Province of Saint Joseph the same



Br. Andrew Cyril Stola, O.P.

Summer, receiving the religious name Brother Cyril.

The Dominican Order, also known as the Order of Preachers, was founded by Saint Dominic in 1216 to preach the Gospel for the salvation of souls.

Dominican friars pray together and serve the local Church through various ministries, and the Province of St. Joseph extends throughout the northeast region of the United States.

Brother Cyril professed simple vows in the Dominican Order in August 2018. He professed solemn vows in February 2022, and he was ordained to the diaconate in March 2023 by Bishop Gerardo Colacicco, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of New York.

Along with four other Dominican friars, Br. Cyril will be ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Christopher Cardone, O.P., Archbishop of Honiara in the Solomon Islands.

Brother Cyril will offer a Mass of Thanksgiving at Saint Martha's Church, 260 Bonnieville Road, Fairmount Springs, on Corpus Christi Sunday, June 2, at 10:00 a.m.

A Eucharistic procession, an opportunity to receive a first priestly blessing, and a reception will follow the Mass.

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<p>6-DAY NEW ENGLAND TOUR CAPE COD-MARTHA'S VINEYARD & MYSTIC AUGUST 25-30, 2024</p> <p>\$1099 PP (DELUXE TOUR)</p> <p>8-MEALS, TOURS, CRUISES, ALL ADMISSIONS TOO MANY INCLUSIONS TO LIST!</p>	<p>SUMMER NEW ENGLAND PURPLE MOOSE TOUR JUNE 18-21, 2024</p> <p>10-SEATS LEFT</p> <p>\$1175 PP</p> <p>ALWAYS A SELL-OUT UNIQUE TOUR 8-MEALS, STAY AT THE MOUNTAIN CLUB COG RAILWAY TO MT. WASHINGTON & MUCH MORE CALL FOR COMPLETE FLYER</p>
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Scouts presented *Pope Pius XII* & *Ad Altare Dei* awards at Cathedral Mass

SCRANTON – Since becoming involved in scouting four years ago, Thomas Cain of Jermyn has made many new friends and gained more self-confidence.

“As a boy scout, I try to advance by myself and not with other people. I try to do it on my own,” the sixth grader said.

On April 20, 2024, Cain was one of ten young people who received awards as part of the Diocese of Scranton’s annual Scout Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

Cain, who is a parishioner of Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish, was one of seven students to receive the *Ad Altare Dei* award, which centers on the Sacraments and equips a scout to take their place as a maturing Catholic.

The three other scouts received the *Pope Pius XII* emblem, which reflects the ideal of the youth’s growing awareness of the Word of God as well as their place in the world.

Ethan Stangline of Pleasant Mount, who is a parishioner of Saint Katherine Drexel Parish, also received the *Ad Altare Dei* award.

“*Ad Altare Dei* meant a lot of hard work and long determination. We had to answer questions based off how scouting relates to



Brendan Kane, left, from Saint Maria Goretti Parish, Laflin, and Robert Franckiewicz from Saint Nicholas-Saint Mary Parish, Wilkes-Barre, show off the *Pope Pius XII* medals they each received at the Diocesan Scouts Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on April 20, 2024. (Photo/Mike Melisky)

Baptism and the Sacraments and how it affects our daily lives,” the seventh grader explained.

Award recipient Ryan Fagan of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Throop said earning his *Ad Altare Dei* award was an important milestone.

“I think it means a lot because I learned a lot more than I knew before – mostly about marriage and baptism. The other Sacraments I knew somewhat about, even though Confirmation I didn’t know much about though,” Fagan said.

After handing each scout his award, he congratulated them on their accomplishments.

“We are extremely proud of you. You are a wonderful sign to all of us – of the young Church of this Diocese – and of a future that is bright and hope-filled because of you,” Bishop Bambera said. “We are richly blessed by all of you.”

In the days following the Mass, the Boy Scouts of America announced a change in name - becoming “Scouting America” in Feb. 2025 - but it will not affect affiliated Catholic scout troops, the executive director of the Catholic Church’s official committee overseeing Scouting programs in the U.S. told OSV News.

“It doesn’t really impact us at all,” said John Anthony, who heads up the National Catholic Committee on Scouting, which sponsors Catholic Scouting.

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June 23: Adventure Aquarium
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July 11: Dodgers at Phillies
July 13: Blues, Brews & Bube’s
July 14: Bronx Zoo

July 16 & Aug. 10: Cape May
July 20: Mountain Beer & Wine Fest
July 20 & Aug. 12: Wildwood
July 21: Brooklyn Pizza Tour
July 26: Baltimore Aquarium
July 27: Windmill Farm & Craft Market
Aug. 4: Peach Fest at Peddler’s Village
Aug. 17: Day in Gettysburg
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**Uniting Hearts in Prayer:
World Mission Rosary**

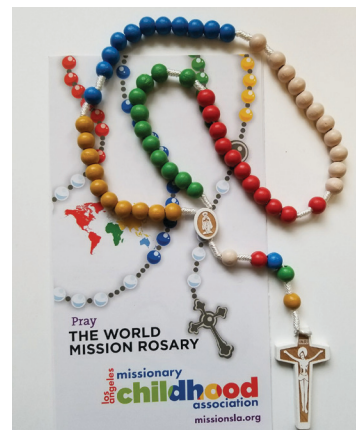
*By Shannon Kowalski
Diocesan Director,
Pontifical Mission Societies*



The World Mission Rosary, also known as the Rosary of the Nations, was introduced by Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen in the 1950s. Its design is distinctive, featuring colored beads representing five different regions of the world, each assigned a specific prayer intention.

The white bead represents Europe — the seat of the Pope; green represents Africa, for the growth of faith; red symbolizes the Americas, calling to mind the fire of faith that brought missionaries to America; blue signifies the Pacific Islands, for peace; and yellow stands for Asia, for missionary efforts in the morning light of the East. This innovative approach encourages Catholics to pray not only for their personal intentions, but also for the universal needs of the Church and of the world.

As May unfolds, Catholics around the world celebrate the



month dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God. It is a time when believers turn their hearts and minds to the Blessed Mother, seeking her intercession and guidance. May, fittingly, is also a time to reflect on Mary's role as Our Lady Queen of Peace, a title that magnifies her maternal concern for the well-being and harmony of humanity.

At the heart of the World Mission Rosary's intentions lies a profound call for peace, particularly in regions ravaged by conflict and strife. Among these regions, the Holy Land holds a special significance as the birthplace of Christianity and a focal point of religious tension.

The ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict, marked by decades of violence and displacement, has resulted in immense suffering for both Israelis and Palestinians. In the Holy Land, the call for peace is not merely a political aspiration but a deeply spiritual one. It resonates with the prayers of millions of Christians who long to see the land where Jesus walked, preached, and died and rose from the dead, restored to a state of harmony and tranquility.

The World Mission Rosary

serves as a tangible expression of solidarity with the suffering and a channel for invoking God's grace upon those embroiled in conflict.

Pope Francis has consistently emphasized the importance of prayer as a means of promoting peace, reconciliation, and dialogue among nations. In his apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* ("The Joy of the Gospel"), he writes, "Peace in society cannot be understood as pacification or the mere absence of violence resulting from the domination of one part of society over others. Nor does true peace act as a pretext for justifying a social structure which silences or appeases the poor, so that the more affluent can placidly support their lifestyle while others have to make do as they can."

The World Mission Rosary embodies this vision of peace as a holistic and inclusive reality, encompassing social justice, reconciliation, and the common good.

The World Mission Rosary is not merely a string of beads but a profound expression of faith, solidarity, and compassion. As Catholics lift up their hearts in prayer during the month of Mary, we stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land, asking for God's mercy and grace upon all who suffer amidst the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In a world marred by division, the World Mission Rosary reminds us of our shared humanity and our common destiny, urging us to work tirelessly for peace, justice, and reconciliation.

I invite you to join me in praying the rosary during the month of May, uniting our intentions with those of countless others around the world. If you happen to have a World Mission Rosary, pay special attention to the yellow beads while praying for peace in the Holy Land.

Through Mary's maternal intercession, let us seek the grace to be instruments of God's peace in a troubled world. Our Lady Queen of Peace, pray for us!



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Catholic Women's Conference is now only three weeks away!

SCRANTON - Tickets are still available for the 'Refresh Your Faith' Catholic Women's Conference, to be held on Saturday, June 8, at Marywood University.

The three keynote speakers for the day will be Father Justin Cinnante, O.Carm., Jackie Francois Angel, and Father Giuseppe Maria Siniscalchi, CFR. Biographies of each speaker are located online at the conference website, cwcnepa.com.

The day-long conference will begin with Mass, celebrated by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, and there will be opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and fellowship throughout the day.

There is a special Friday night event/dinner opportunity with Father Justin as well. Details are available online or by scanning the QR code below.



Women's Conference

Saturday, June 8, 2024

Marywood University, Scranton



Friday, June 7, 2024

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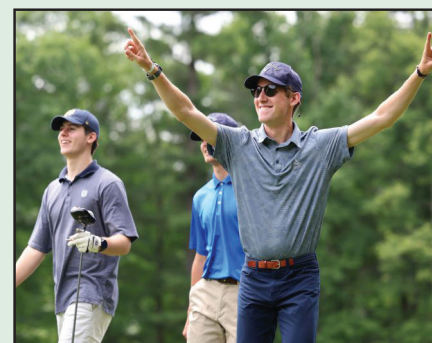
Vocations Golf Classic to be held July 8

DORRANCE TOWNSHIP- Parishioners and friends of the Diocese of Scranton have expressed their overwhelming support for the priesthood through the Vocations Golf Classic – John Yourishen Memorial Tournament since it began more than a decade ago.

This year's event will be held Monday, July 8, at Blue Ridge Trail Golf Club, Mountain Top. The day begins with lunch at 11 a.m., 12 noon shotgun start, and reception and dinner immediately following. Father Alex Roche, Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians, is the tournament chair.

Tournament proceeds fund discernment programs for men considering the priestly vocation as well as help cover costs for men in seminary formation. Funds may also be used to alleviate concerns for men responding to God's call who have prior financial obligations.

Donations of any amount are welcome. To register to play, sponsor the event, or just make a donation, go online to the Diocese of Scranton website (dioceseofscranton.org). You also have the ability to purchase 50/50



tickets online to win half of the ticket revenue raised.

Join us for a day of great golf and great food and fellowship in support of our Diocese of Scranton seminarians, the future shepherds of our church.

Catholic Social Services plans 'A Night Under the Stars'

HAZLETON – With the weather warming up, Catholic Social Services is excited to announce the return of a popular event being planned for Friday, June 14, 2024.

'A Night Under the Stars' will be a dinner/dance and will take place from 6:00 – 10:00 p.m., and will feature entertainment by "Six Shots."

What makes this event so unique, is it will be a "pop-up" style event. The venue will remain a surprise and will be hosted at an "unusual location" where a typical dinner/dance event would not normally be held. Attendees will be notified about the location of the event by text/email two hours prior to it taking place.

The cost to attend the 'A

Night Under the Stars' event is \$60/per person. Registration is now available online at the Diocese of Scranton website at www.dioceseofscranton.org/css/catholic-social-services or tickets can also be purchased by calling (570) 455-1521.

Attendees must be 21 years of age. The event will take place rain or shine.



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Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

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.

We were at mother's house all the time, and yet she would continue to call, asking why we didn't visit. It wasn't until mother went to live at St. Mary's Villa Assisted Living that I understood.

We were with her often, but to my mother it was never a visit. We did her laundry, prepared her meals, managed her medications and planned doctor's appointments - but we never just visited. Now we can, and I haven't seen my mother as happy in a long time.

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Happy Mother's Day!



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Parish Bazaar, Picnic & Festival Listing

Immaculate Conception in Bastress — May 19. Annual Spring Turkey & Ham Dinner will be hosted from noon to 6 p.m. at the parish, 5973 Jacks Hollow Road, Bastress; dine-in and take-out dinners available, featuring turkey, ham, stuffing, mashed potatoes, noodles, gravy, corn, salad & homemade bread. Cost: \$12, adults; \$6, children (ages 4-12). Take-out dinners are adult-portion only. Other refreshments include sandwiches, ice cream, French fries, and soda beverages.

Mary, Mother of God in Scranton — June 14 & 15. Parish "Block Party" will be held Friday, from 6 to 11 p.m., and

Saturday, 5 to 11 p.m., on the grounds of Holy Rosary Center, corner of Wayne & West Market streets, North Scranton. Live entertainment: Friday, Picture Perfect, 7 to 11 p.m.; Saturday, Jim Cerminaro, 5 to 6:30 p.m., followed by Mace in Dickson Band, 7 to 11 p.m. Festival includes games, raffle baskets, and wine & spirits.

Saint Faustina Kowalska in Nanticoke — June 21 & 22, from 5 to 11 p.m. Annual Homecoming Festival held on the grounds of Saint Faustina Grove, Old Newport Street, Sheatown section. Featuring picnic foods, games & children's activities.

Live music: Lance Thomas Band (Friday) and Idol Kings (Saturday). Saturday vigil "Mass in the Grove" at 4 p.m.; music by Joe Stanky & The Cadets.

Divine Mercy in Scranton — June 21-23. Annual Picnic on the parish/church grounds, located at 312 Davis St. in the Minooka section of Scranton. Three-day summer festival features fresh homemade foods, games & entertainment for all ages.

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Invite You To Attend Their Annual

SPRING DINNER
SUNDAY, MAY 19TH
Turkey & Ham Dinner
Dinner from Noon until 6 P.M.
 Dine-In & Take-out are both available. Take-out meals are Adult ONLY. 
Dinner includes turkey, ham, stuffing, mashed potatoes, noodles, gravy, corn, salad, homemade bread.
\$12.00/Adults - \$6/Children (4-12 yrs) - 3 and under free
Sandwiches, Ice Cream, French Fries & Soda will be available outside as well.
 DIR: From Route 15 in South Williamsport, take Route 654 West to Bastress. (10 miles)

Mary, Mother of God Parish
Block Party
HOLY ROSARY CENTER
Games ♦ Raffle Baskets ♦ Wine & Spirits
Friday & Saturday • June 14 & 15
 ☆ **Fri. 6 pm-11pm • Sat. 5pm-11pm** ☆
 ☆ **7-11pm Music by Picture Perfect** ☆
 Sat: 5-6:30pm Music by Jim Cerminaro; 7-11pm Music by Mace in Dickson Band
 CORNER OF WAYNE & WEST MARKET STS., NORTH SCRANTON
Rev. Cyril D. Edwards Invites All To Attend!

Pentecost Celebration

Come, Holy Spirit !!

Saturday, May 18

Doors open - 8:30

Coffee & Donuts



St. Maria Goretti

42 Redwood Dr.

Laflin, PA

Come, Holy Fire !!




Our speaker is **Rev. Joseph Ita-Sam, CM**, who is a Roman Catholic priest from Akwa-Ibom State in Nigeria. He was ordained into the sacred priesthood on 13 July 2018 in Enugu, Nigeria. He was sent on Mission to the United States in 2018, and he is stationed as parochial vicar in St. Vincent DePaul Church, Germantown, PA. He is also studying to gain his Master's degree in Clinical Counseling in Marriage and Family Therapy at LaSalle University.

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<https://ccrscranton.org/news/pentecost-celebration>
 Cutoff date for ordering hoagies is **Wednesday, May 15, 2024.**

Questions? Unable to register online? Please use a phone number shown below or the email at bottom:
 Cathy Best 570-406-3015
 Joyce Hudak 570-735-1068
 CCR Office 570-344-2214

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World Refugee Day 2024 to be held June 22 in Scranton

SCRANTON – The public is invited to celebrate and honor World Refugee Day!

On Saturday, June 22, 2024, everyone is invited to join local

Scranton refugee communities for a time of sharing, learning, fellowship and celebration that honors global refugees. This year's theme is, 'A World Where Refugees Are Always Welcomed,' which focuses on the power of inclusion and solutions for refugees.

The event will be held from 2 - 4 p.m. at Nay Aug Park in Scranton (on the Greenhouse side of Nay Aug Park). The celebration will include cultural songs and music, refreshments, games and activities for kids.

World Refugee Day is an annual international day, designated by the United Nations, to celebrate the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home countries to escape conflict or persecution.

Several community agencies are working together to put together the 2024 World Refugee Celebration, including Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton, the Church of Saint Gregory in Clarks

Green, The University of Scranton, United Neighborhood Centers of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Ignatian Volunteer Corps, Islamic Center of Scranton, Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit, Congolese Community of Scranton, Bhutanese Cultural Foundation

Scranton Association, Saigon Corner Vietnamese Restaurant, The Hexagon Project, and Pennsylvania Department of Education – Migrant Education Program.

More volunteers and community partners are always welcome to participate.

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<p>"DANIEL" SIGHT & SOUND THEATER • \$209 July 20 • Incl. a meal at the new Hershey Farm Restaurant & visit to Kitchen Kettle Village.</p> <p>OCTOBER 24 • Incl. a meal at an authentic Amish home & dairy farm & visit to Village Farm Market.</p>	<p>THE GREENBRIER RESORT, LOCATED IN THE BEAUTIFUL ALLEGHENY MOUNTAINS 6 exquisite meals, Casino w/\$20 rebate, daily list of activities incl. optional Bunker Tour (<i>the once top-secret cold war fall out shelter</i>) • Oct. 27-30 • \$1799</p>
<p>RESORTS WORLD CATSKILLS CASINO \$25 SLOT, \$15 FOOD • JULY 28 • Only \$63</p> <p>WIND CREEK CASINO & OUTLETS • \$25 Slot • JUNE 30 • \$58</p> <p>NASHVILLE & MEMPHIS - GRACELAND, GRAND OLE OPRY, 12 MEALS • AUGUST 4-12 • \$2469</p> <p>HORSE-DRAWN WAGON TOUR OF THE PA GRAND CANYON, WELLSBORO Plus Riverboat Cruise & Luncheon at the Penn Wells Hotel • AUGUST 17 • \$219</p> <p>ATLANTIC CITY OVERNITE AT RESORTS CASINO HOTEL AUGUST 25-26 • \$219 - \$15 SLOTPLAY & \$25 FOOD CREDIT</p> <p>NIAGARA FALLS & TORONTO, CANADA • SEPTEMBER 22-25 – 5 MEALS • \$989</p> <p>GREEN DRAGON FLEA & FARMERS MARKET AND SHADY MAPLE • OCTOBER 18 • \$149</p> <p>LAKE TOBIAS WILDLIFE SAFARI TOUR & ZOO PLUS SCENIC TRAIN RIDE • SEPT. 7 Visit to Broad Street Market with local vendors • \$159</p> <p>FINGER LAKES LUNCHEON CRUISE • JULY 27 Sightseeing Cruise on beautiful Lake Seneca with live entertainment plus wine tasting at Magnus Ridge Winery • \$219</p> <p>OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND SEPT. 2-5 • Welcome Pizza Party • \$735</p>	

World Refugee Day 2024

A World Where Refugees Are Always Welcomed

Come Celebrate

World Refugee Day honors the strength, resilience, and courage of millions of refugees throughout the world. Everyone is welcome to come to this free event to share in the rich cultural heritage of the refugee communities in Northeast Pennsylvania.

Saturday, June 22, 2024
2:00-4:00 p.m.

Nay Aug Park
 (Mulberry Street Entrance, Across from GCMC Hospital & Everhart Museum)

Free Family Event • Cultural Music & Dance
• Giveaways, Games & Activities for Kids
• Light Refreshments

Questions? Contact the Office of Community Relations at 570.941.4419 or email community@scranton.edu

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Catholic colleges in Diocese set to stage spring commencement ceremonies

SCRANTON — Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Mary Persico, Ed.D., who will retire as the 12th president of Marywood University on June 30, will address the graduates at Marywood's 106th commencement on May 18.

Sister Mary will be recognized with a special tribute at the ceremony, which begins at 1 p.m. at Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza, Wilkes-Barre Township.



Sister Mary Persico, IHM

A Hazleton native, Sister Mary attended Marywood as an undergraduate and, in her junior year, entered the IHM Congregation, finishing her studies as a candidate. Upon earning her bachelor's degree in education and French from Marywood in 1969, she received a master's degree in French from Assumption College and her doctorate in educational leadership from Lehigh University.

Under Sister Mary's leadership since her appointment as Marywood president in 2016, the institution has made significant strides in scholarly life by restructuring and streamlining the colleges within the University, adding or expanding several signature academic programs, and establishing the office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Global Education.

Philanthropic Alumnus to Address King's Grads

Wyoming Valley native, philanthropist and King's alumnus Ed Kearney ('74), founder and chairman of Kearney & Company, P.C. — one of the largest certified public accounting firms in the

United States — will deliver the keynote address for the 75th annual King's College commencement on Friday, May 17, at Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza, Wilkes-Barre Township.

Kearney will also receive an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree during the event, which begins with the procession of graduates at 12:30 p.m., followed by the graduation program at 1 p.m.

The commencement speaker's philanthropy includes student scholarship funds at George Mason University, Howard University, the Virginia Society of CPAs, and King's College in Wilkes-Barre.

In 2020, the Kearney family committed \$1 million to fund two annual full-tuition scholarships for King's junior and senior accounting majors, based on academic merit, economic need, and civic service. Due to such generosity, the college's accounting program has been renamed the Kearney & Company Department of Accounting.

Kearney, who serves on the King's board of directors, also supports the accounting program with multiple internship and employment opportunities. To date, his company has hired more than 70 King's College students.



Ed Kearney

University of Scranton Graduation on May 19

The principal speaker at The University of Scranton's 2024 undergraduate commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 19, will be Shabana Basij-Rasikh, the co-founder and president of the

School of Leadership, Afghanistan (SOLA), which is the first and only boarding school for Afghan girls, currently operating in Rwanda, Central Africa.

Basij-Rasikh will also receive an honorary degree at the ceremony that begins at 11 a.m. at the Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza, Wilkes-Barre Township.

Living in Kabul in Afghanistan, Basij-Rasikh was six years old when the Taliban seized power in 1996. Under their regime, girls were completely forbidden from attending school.




Shabana Basij-Rasikh

With the regime's fall in 2001, girls returned to school openly in Afghanistan. Basij-Rasikh would attend high school in the U.S. and graduated from

Middlebury College in Vermont. It was during her collegiate career that she co-founded the School of Leadership, Afghanistan (SOLA) in 2008 with the mission of providing access to quality education for girls in her homeland.

In April of 2021, when it became evident that the Taliban would regain control in Afghanistan, Basij-Rasikh began preparations to move SOLA from Afghanistan to Rwanda, where the boarding school continues to operate.



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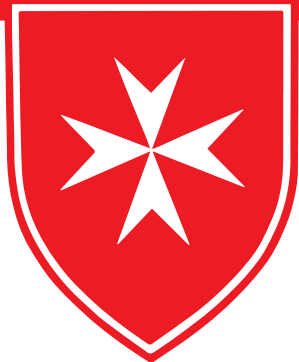
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Misericordia graduations held May 11 on campus

DALLAS — Misericordia University hosted commencement ceremonies for the Class of 2024 on May 11 at the university.

In the graduate student commencement, 90 graduate students were awarded master's and/or doctorate degrees.

During the undergraduate ceremony, a total of 208 graduates were awarded their bachelor's degrees.



THE ORDER OF MALTA

SCRANTON CHAPTER

PRESENTS



FR. PIO MANDATO, FMHJ
MAIN CELEBRANT & HOMILIST

MSGR. NEIL VAN LOON
MASS CONCELEBRANT &
CHAPLAIN ORDER OF MALTA,
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with

FR. PIO MANDATO, FMHJ

Fr. Pio Mandato, FMHJ is a Franciscan priest living as a missionary hermit. He was born in Italy and along with his brother Vincenzo, received his first holy communion from Saint Pio before coming to the USA. He grew up in New Jersey and entered the Capuchin Franciscans at the age of 17, and was ordained in 1985. In 1998 he was accepted in the Diocese of Scranton, Pa., and now lives a life of solitude, prayer and intercession. He is also Chaplain to the Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth and at times is engaged in the preaching apostolate.

SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 2024

1:00 PM - CONFESSIONS

1:30 PM - ROSARY

2:00 PM - MASS & HEALING SERVICE

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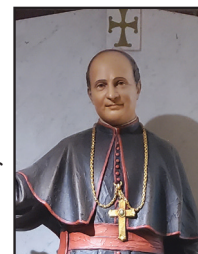
FOR MORE INFORMATION

E-MAIL CONTACT@MALTAOFSCRANTON.ORG

Saint Joseph Oblates to celebrate founder's feast day

LAFLIN—The Congregation of the Oblates of Saint Joseph will commemorate the annual feast of their founder, Saint Joseph Marello, with a triduum (three-day) devotion prior to the feast day celebration on Thursday, May 30.

Priests of the Oblates of Saint Joseph will offer three Eucharistic liturgies for the feast of Saint Joseph Marello on May 30 at 8 a.m., noon & 7 p.m. in the Chapel of Saint Joseph, 1880 Route 315, Laflin.



**St. Joseph
Marello**

Following the evening Mass, a reception will be held for all guests, hosted by the Oblate Laity Association.

In preparation for the feast day, a triduum of Masses will be offered Monday (Memorial Day) thru Wednesday, May 27–29, in the Oblates chapel. Devotions to the congregation's founder will follow the liturgies with individual blessing of his first-class relic.

Saint Joseph Marello (1844–1895) was a priest of the Diocese of Asti in the Piedmont region of Italy. Ten years after his ordination in 1868, he founded the Congregation of the Oblates of Saint Joseph.

The future Saint Joseph Marello was eventually appointed to serve as bishop of the nearby Diocese of Acqui. He died in Savona, Italy, on May 30, 1895, at the age of 50.

Pope Saint John Paul II canonized Bishop Marello a saint in 2001 at Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome.

The Oblates of Saint Joseph have been serving in the Diocese of Scranton since 1929, as well as in 18 countries worldwide.

Catholic Happenings Around the Scranton Diocese

Charismatic Pentecost Celebration — **MAY 18**, hosted by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the Diocese of Scranton; gathering begins at 8:30 a.m. at St. Maria Goretti Parish, 42 Redwood Drive, Laflin. Special guest speaker: Father Joseph Ita-Sam, a native of Nigeria, West Africa, where he was ordained for the Congregation of the Mission (Vincentians) and currently serves at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Germantown. Event features spirit-filled prayer & praise, inspirational music & anointed worship, challenging teaching, and prayers for healing; open to all faithful free of charge and includes continental breakfast and complimentary lunch. Registration is required by contacting the CCR office at (570) 344-2214; Joyce Hudak at (570) 735-1068; or Cathy Best at (570) 406-3015.

Monthly Meeting of the Lay Carmelites — **MAY 18**, 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.

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 has begun 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 — June 8, at 1 p.m. on the

Drive-Thru Potato Pancake Fest — **MAY 18 & 19**, sponsored by the Men's Club of Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, 420 Main Road, Hanover Township; held on the parish grounds Saturday and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. (vehicles may enter drive-thru from the Sans Souci Highway). Cash raffle drawing held Sunday at 5:30 p.m. Cost: six potato pancakes for \$10. For more information, call (570) 823-6242.

Home Goods Shower — **MAY 19**, sponsored by the Friends of the Poor of Scranton; held from 1 to 3 p.m. at La Buona Vita banquet hall, 200 Reilly St., Dunmore. Admission cost: \$25. Tickets available at the door or online at: friendsofthepoorscranton.com.

Grief Journey Ministry: "Be Not Afraid, I Go Before You" — **MAY 20 & JUNE 3, 10**, hosted by Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, 2011 State Route 29, Hunlock Creek (Lake Silkworth); 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

grounds of the Marian Prayer Garden at Saint Lucy Church, West Scranton.

Monday Evening of Marian Devotion — June 10, from 6 to 7 p.m., hosted at Our Lady of the Abingtons Church, Dalton.

Saturday Rosary Devotion — June 15, at 5 p.m. on the Fatima Shrine prayer grounds at Saint Mary of Mount Carmel Church, Dunmore.

Rosary Evening of Marian Devotion — June 17, 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.

is encouraged; contact the parish office at (570) 477-5040.

Tuesday Novena Devotion to Saint Anthony of Padua — **MAY 21-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." Novena services include blessing with the Saint Anthony relic. All faithful are welcome; for more information, call (570) 824-7832.

Parish Flea Market — **MAY 23-25**, hosted by St. John the Evangelist Parish, 35 William St., Pittston; held in the Monsignor Bendik Pastoral Center (former Seton Catholic auditorium). Market hours: Thursday & Friday, 5 to 8 p.m.; Saturday (Bag Sale),

9 a.m. to noon. Refreshments available for purchase on Thursday and Friday. Entrance on Church Street; area parking available.

"Car Cruise" Show — **MAY 26**, sponsored by St. Ann Basilica Parish in West Scranton; held from

noon to 4 p.m. on the basilica grounds. Classic car show exhibit also features food sales, music and cash raffle; activities for all ages. For more information, call (570) 342-5166.

Continued on page 30

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Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese

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.

“Nazareth Group” Days for High School Girls — JUNE 1, hosted by the Capuchin Sisters

of Nazareth in Tunkhannock and Williamsport; Saturday programs presented by the Nazareth Group for young women interested in deepening their faith. 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.

Parish Bingo — JUNE 2, hosted by the Altar & Rosary Society of Blessed Sacrament Parish, Rebecca Street, Throop; doors open at noon and games start at 1 p.m. Admission fee: \$5, in advance; \$7, at door. Tickets available at weekend Masses or by calling Debbie (570) 540-1154.

First Friday Rosary & Adoration — JUNE 7, hosted by St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish at Our Lady of the Lake Church, 5112 Pocono Crest Road, Pocono Pines; offered on First Friday of each month. Opens with recitation of the Rosary at 6:30 p.m. led by St. Monica’s Army; followed by one hour of blessed adoration. All faithful are welcome.

Father’s Day Bingo — JUNE 9, sponsored by St. John

the Evangelist Parish, 35 William St., Pittston; games party hosted from 2 to 5 p.m. in the Monsignor Bendik Pastoral Center Auditorium (entrance on Church Street). Doors open at noon; admission fee: \$25, includes 20 regular games. Event includes four specials and a grand prize game, raffle drawing, and food for sale; prizes value more than \$6,000. Tickets at the parish office; call (570) 654-0053.

Third Annual Deacon Cliff Memorial Golf Outing — JUNE 10, golf tournament honors late Deacon Cliff Jorgenson, who served at St. Patrick Parish in Milford; proceeds benefit the parish’s charitable endeavors. Tournament will be hosted at Lords Valley Country Club. Event begins with 7:30 a.m. registration and continental breakfast, followed by 9 a.m. shotgun start (scramble format), tournament prizes and buffet awards dinner. Cost: \$140 per golfer, including golf cart snacks. For more information/registration and sponsorship opportunities, contact Jack Boyle at (908) 451-1206.

Monsignor Esseff Birthday Celebration — JUNE 11, Mass & reception marking the 96th birthday of Monsignor John Esseff; hosted at St. Anthony/St. George Church, 311 Park Ave., Wilkes-Barre. Liturgy celebrated at 11 a.m., followed by reception in the church basement. Those planning to attend are asked to contact Peggy at the church office (570) 824-3599.

Sacred Heart Solemnity Mass June 7 in Pittston

PITSTON — The Sacred Heart Enthronement Guild of the Scranton Diocese will host a Eucharistic celebration on the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus on Friday, June 7, at 4 p.m. at Saint Joseph Marello Parish in Pittston.

Father Dan Toomey, Enthronement Guild spiritual moderator, will be principal celebrant. Passionist Father Mark Ward of Saint Ann Shrine Basilica, West Scranton, will serve as guest homilist.

Musical prelude begins at 3:45 p.m. Dinner reception will follow the Mass in the parish center.

For dinner reservations and more information on Sacred Heart Enthronements, contact Maria Pappa at (570) 241-8172.

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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Entered Eternal Life:
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Christian Charity Sister Mary Stanislaus Surgoft

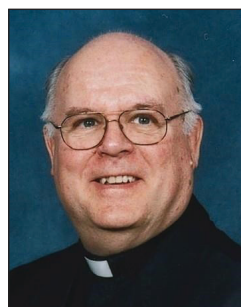
Entered Life:
October 27, 1922

Entered Eternal Life:
May 8, 2024

Father John P. Ryan

Entered Life:
January 28, 1938

Entered Eternal Life:
April 22, 2024



Prayer Requests for Priests

The Daily Prayer Request for Priests schedule is as follows:

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; May 22, Father Robert Hochreiter; May 23, Father Thomas Hudak; May 24, Father Andrew Hvozdovic; May 25, Holy Cross Father Daniel Issing; May 26, Father George Jeffrey; May 27, Monsignor John Jordan; May 28, Father Joseph Kakareka; May 29, Father Louis Kaminski; May 30, Father Binesh Joseph Kanjirakattu; May 31, Father William Karle; June 1, Pope Francis; June 2, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; June 3, Father Joseph Kearney; June 4, Jesuit Father Herbert Keller; June 5, Father Brian Kelly; June 6, Father E. Francis Kelly; June 7, Father John Kilpatrick; June 8, Monsignor Shane Kirby; June 9, Father Michael Kirwin; June 10, Father Michael Kloton; June 11, Holy Cross Father Charles Kociolek; June 12, Father Bert Kozen; June 13, Father Jonathan Kuhar; June 14, Father Jose Joseph Kuriappilly; June 15, Father Andrew Kurovsky; June 16, Father Joseph Kutch; June 17, Father Arun Lakra; June 18, Father John Lambert.



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Mother's Day Adoption Mass held at Cathedral of Saint Peter



SCRANTON - The Diocese of Scranton held its annual Mother's Day Adoption Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on May 12, 2024.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant and homilist.

"I love this Mass. I get very emotional every year I attend," Tamara Hall, Director of Maternity and Family Services at Saint Joseph's Center, said. "We have a strong following of adoptive families that bring their families to this Mass and I have the privilege of seeing them grow up."

The Mass recognized all mothers - including foster mothers, adoptive mothers, birth mothers and those who fill a "motherly" role.

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Blue Mass at Peckville parish honors first responders



PECKVILLE - On Sunday, April 14, a Blue Mass was held at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church. Members of the local police, fire, EMT, and 911 dispatch units and all first responders received a special blessing from Fr. Andrew Kurovsky, Pastor, through the intercession of Saint Michael the Archangel.

The public safety workers were anointed and given a prayer card and medal of Saint Michael the Archangel. A gathering was held after Mass in Holy Family Hall where all shared gratitude to all those who serve and protect.

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