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CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF DEVOTION

Solemn Novena to Saint Ann marking 100th Anniversary



SCRANTON – Like many other devotees, Leo Maxfield started attending the Solemn Novena to Saint Ann with his family as a young boy.

“My grandmother brought me up everyday at 5:30 p.m.,” Maxfield said. “We always had to sit in the very back of the tent and as a little kid I couldn’t see anything.”

As a teenager, Maxfield began volunteering in the monastery kitchen during the Novena and since 2011 has been coordinating ushers for the annual 10-days of prayer and devotion.

This year, as devotees mark the remarkable centennial anniversary of the Solemn Novena to Saint Ann, Maxfield helped to organize a “100th Anniversary Archives and

Photo Display Gallery” that is open to the public and located in Saint Gabriel’s Room off the lower church.

With the Solemn Novena now underway, the gallery is open every day from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

“The Passionists had an archive closet/area in the monastery where they’ve kept photos, newspaper articles and booklets from the last 100 years. We took all that stuff, we sorted through it, and put together a wonderful display that starts with the Passionists coming to Scranton and the founder of the Novena, Father John Joseph Endler, in 1924, and it goes all the way through the decades to the modern day,” Maxfield said.

With more than 300 photos, 200 newspaper articles

and numerous videos featured, many of the first people who have toured the display have been reminded of the impact the Novena has had on northeastern Pennsylvania.

“It really is a beautiful display and a beautiful reminder of just how far we’ve come,” Maxfield stated. “Anybody that sees it will really fall in love with the Novena all over again.”

This year’s Novena began on July 17 and will run through July 26, the Feast Day of Saint Ann and Saint Joachim. The sacred tradition has been a beacon of faith and hope for countless believers over the last 100 years, offering solace and spiritual guidance through prayer and reflection.

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Catholic leaders call for peace, unity following Trump assassination attempt

(OSV News) - Catholic leaders called for peace and unity in the hours after former President Donald Trump was grazed by a bullet and a spectator was killed July 13 in an assassination attempt during the Republican presidential nominee’s campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania.

The Holy See expressed “concern about last night’s episode of violence, which wounds people and democracy, causing suffering and death” in a July 14 statement in Italian. The Holy See is “united in the

prayer of the U.S. bishops for America, for the victims, and for peace in the country, so that the motives of the violent may never prevail,” according to Catholic News Service.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, posted a statement on social media saying, “The attempt on the life of former President Trump, the tragic loss of life of an innocent bystander and the wounding of others gives us all reason to pause and reflect upon the

divisions in our land. Pray for the victims of this tragedy, an end to violence and for God’s peace.”

During his homily for the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time on Sunday, July 14, Bishop Bambera expanded on his thoughts.

“I would be remiss if I failed to speak with you of this moment in our history as a nation and a people,” he told parishioners at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

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DIOCESE OF SCRANTON MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Catholic community of the Diocese of Scranton, are called through Baptism to imitate the servant leadership of Jesus Christ. In union with Our Holy Father, the Pope, we proclaim the Gospel faithfully, celebrate the sacraments joyfully, and boldly promote life, justice and peace in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

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Solemn Novena to Saint Ann marks milestone anniversary



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"You walk around and see these people and they're so deep in prayer. You can tell some of them are hurting and waiting for answers. It is such a faith-filled time," Sue Yanchik, a parishioner of Saint Ann Basilica Parish, said.

Yanchik has been attending the Novena since moving to Scranton in 1985. She is touched by how many people attend the 4:30 a.m. Mass on the Feast Day of Saint Ann each year.

"People are just walking around the grounds in the dark with just candlelight and the streetlights. It's just beautiful," she added.

This year's milestone anniversary not only honors the enduring legacy of Saint Ann but continues to be a testament to the power of prayer and communal devotion. For a century, the Novena has provided spiritual strength and healing to those in need, fostering a sense of unity and faith among believers of all backgrounds.

"Everyone comes to the Novena with intentions, with needs, with concerns about health, about family, about friends, about our town, and they are looking for Saint Ann's guidance and support," Very Reverend Richard W. Burke, C.P., Rector, Saint Ann's Monastery, said.

The Solemn Novena to Saint Ann began somewhat organically in 1924, shortly after the Passionists arrived in West Scranton in the early 1900s at the invitation of Bishop Michael J. Hoban.

As part of their tradition, the Passionists prayed weekly to Saint Ann, whom their monastery was named, because they chose the property on the Feast of Mary's birthday.

As the laity found out about the weekly prayers – they asked to participate.

"Father John Joseph (Endler) began meeting with them in a very small parlor room in the monastery and within a few months there were too many people. They wouldn't fit anymore. The rest of the monastery was cloistered at the time, so we pitched a tent out in the yard and we had prayers in the tent for the people when they came every week," Father Richard explained.

It was Father John Joseph Endler who suggested doing the first Novena to Saint Ann in preparation for her Feast Day in 1924.

"He planned it and put it into practice and in 1924 we had our first Solemn Novena to Saint Ann that culminated in the celebration of her Feast Day and for the next 100 years we've been doing it," Father Richard added.



In celebration of the Solemn Novena's 100th Anniversary, an archives and photo display gallery has been set up in the lower level of Saint Ann's Basilica.

Throughout its history, the Novena has witnessed many testimonials of healings, answered prayers and renewed faith. While many Scranton natives attend the Novena annually, it also draws people from across the entire region who are drawn by the belief that Saint Ann, known as the patroness of mothers, grandmothers and homemakers, intercedes to her grandson, Jesus Christ, on their behalf.

This year, the theme for the 100th anniversary of the Novena centers around "Gratefulness to God for 100 Years of Blessings."

"Our Novena preachers are going to reflect on how gratitude calls us to a deeper faith, how gratitude invites us to live in

hope, how gratitude helps us to adopt the heart and mind of Christ a little bit more in our lives," Father Richard explained.

With the centennial Novena celebration underway, many say its longevity is a testament to the enduring power of faith and the comfort found in communal prayer.

"The people are so faithful and especially generation after generation after generation they come back," Anthony Cicco of Saint Ann Basilica Parish, said. "For me, it is the atmosphere. It was sitting out there with my family, my mom, grandmother, and my sister especially, and coming up day after day and seeing how everyone just enjoyed being here so much."

Solemn Novena to Saint Ann Timeline of Historic Events

PASSIONISTS MAKE SCRANTON THEIR HOME

Early 1900s

More than a century ago, the Passionists arrived in Scranton to conduct missions and retreats. The people and the local clergy loved them so much, the Fathers were invited to establish their congregation in the diocese.



FOUNDING OF SOLEMN NOVENA TO SAINT ANN

1924

At the request of a small number of faithful, Father John Joseph Endler, C.P., was assigned to hold Novena services for the people in a tiny room off of the parlor in the monastery. Very quickly, the crowds started to grow. They soon had to have a tent outside to accommodate all of the people.

WORLD WAR II ERA

1939-1945

The Passionist community noticed an uptick in attendance during the war as people turned to God for an end to all strife and for peace on earth. One year, the intention was "Victory for our country and divine protection of our young men in service."

SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL

1960s

In 1962, Pope John XXIII called the Second Vatican Council. Many changes impacted the Novena, including the Mass being said in the vernacular of the people and the priest now facing the people. Perhaps the biggest impact is the fact that eventually Mass was allowed to be held outdoors. Before this time, only the Novena and Benediction could be held outdoors.



50th ANNIVERSARY AND 1980s CHANGES

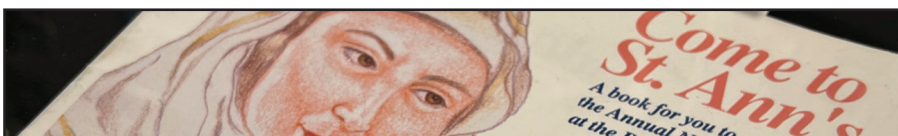
1974-1980s

Two highlights of the 50th Anniversary in 1974 were a Byzantine Rite Mass was held for the first time and during the closing service, a plaque honoring the late Rev. John Joseph Endler was unveiled. During the early 1980s, St. Ann Monastery underwent major renovations. The biggest change was that the top two floors of the monastery were removed. Other changes included the installation of the handicap ramp.

BASILICA DESIGNATION & 75th ANNIVERSARY

1990s

The 1990s saw a lot of change on the holy grounds of St. Ann's Monastery. The Passionist community raised \$6 million for renovations. In recognition of becoming a place of special devotion and pilgrimage, the church was dedicated as a Basilica on Oct. 27, 1997. The 75th Anniversary of the Novena was celebrated in both 1998 and 1999 as a "double celebration" because of the Basilica designation.



MODERN ERA

2000-Today

Just because it is the modern era, that does not mean there have not been trials and tribulations. The Novena has been a place of solace and prayer for those impacted by the terror attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, and the COVID-19 pandemic beginning in March 2020. As the Novena reaches its 100th anniversary, we are thankful for everyone who has made St. Ann's a place of peace and a haven of hope.

SOLEMN NOVENA

IN HONOR OF

Saint Ann

JULY 17 TO 26, 2024



PREACHERS: FR. LUIS DANIEL GUIVAS GENERA, C.P. AND FR. JUSTIN NELSON ALPHONSE, C.P.

NOVENA DEVOTIONS

After 8 & 11:45 A.M. & 5:30 P.M. Masses; w/Novena only at 3:30 • 7:30 P.M. Mass & Novena in Spanish

DIVINE LITURGY - BYZANTINE RITE

Tuesday, July 23, 5:30 P.M.
7:30 P.M. Mass and Novena in Spanish

DAILY MASSES

7:00, 8:00 & 11:45 A.M. & 5:30 P.M.
July 17-25: 7:30 P.M. Mass in Spanish

CONFESSIONS

Lower Basilica for 30 minutes prior to each Mass & the 3:30 P.M. Novena Service, and after all services

CHILDREN'S MASS & NOVENA PRAYERS

Saturday, July 20, 10:00 A.M.;
Special Blessing for Families and Grandparents

MASS OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Tuesday, July 23, 1:30 P.M.

SUNDAY, JULY 21

MASSES

7:00 A.M., 8:00 A.M., 11:45 A.M., & 5:30 P.M.
7:30 P.M. Mass in Spanish

SUNDAY, JULY 21

Celebration of Grandparents & Elderly at Mass

NOVENA DEVOTIONS

After 8:00 & 11:45 A.M. & 5:30 P.M. Masses; w/Novena only at 3:30 P.M. • 7:30 P.M. Mass & Novena in Spanish

SAINT ANN'S FEAST DAY FRIDAY, JULY 26

CONFESSIONS 4:00 AM

MASSES & DEVOTIONS

4:30, 7:00, 8:00, 10:00 & 11:45 A.M.
3:30 P.M. (Novena only) & 5:30 P.M.

LANGUAGE SERVICE

1:30 PM - POLISH in Upper Basilica



SAINT ANN SOLEMN NOVENA



Individual Blessing with Relic of St. Ann After Each Devotion

SOLEMN CLOSING FRIDAY, JULY 26, AT 7:30 P.M.

Pontifical Mass celebrated by Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.

CTV COVERAGE OF THE SOLEMN NOVENA

Everyday at 12 Noon and Weekdays at 3:30 p.m. Evening schedule is as follows: July 17-19 at 5:00 pm;
July 20 at 10:30 pm; July 21-24 at 7:00 pm; July 25 at 9:00 pm; July 26 at 6:30 pm.

Closing mass will air live on Friday, July 26 at 7:30 p.m., and rebroadcast Saturday, July 27 at 12 Noon

LOCAL TV COVERAGE

WQMY: Wed., July 17-Fri. July 19 - 3 PM-4 PM; Sat. July 20 & Sun. July 21-Noon-1 PM; Mon., July 22, Tues, July 23, Thurs, July 25, Fri., July 26 - 3 PM-4 PM; Wed., July 24-4 PM-5 PM; Solemn Closing July 27-Noon-1:30 PM

BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF ST. ANN PASSIONIST MONASTERY

1239 SAINT ANN STREET

SCRANTON, PA 18504

For the convenience of the people attending the novena, refreshments will be available on the monastery grounds during the entire novena.



Luzerne County church to celebrate Centennial Mass on July 28

FAIRMOUNT SPRINGS—The faithful of Saint Martha's Church will gather on Sunday, July 28, 2024, to celebrate a momentous day in the history of their faith community – a century of faith and service.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate a Solemn Pontifical Mass of Thanksgiving at 11:00 a.m. and a dinner will follow in the church hall.

"A lot of thought has gone into planning this Mass. We are pleased that Bishop Bambera is coming. Concelebrating with him will be our new administrator, two former pastors, and the first priest ordained from our church," parishioner Raphael Micca said. "Our 20-voice choir has been working hard on music for the Mass, which will include hymns in English, Latin and Polish."

Volunteers who are helping to organize the centennial activities say many former parishioners who moved out of the area are planning to return for the celebration. They feel it will be like a big family reunion.

"We have sold 161 tickets



Parishioners of Saint Martha's Church in Fairmount Springs will celebrate a Centennial Mass on Sunday, July 28, 2024.

for the dinner. There are people coming from New York and outside the area because they used to go to this church, and they remember it and how it was built. Some people are in their 90s that are coming. It is truly amazing," parishioner Bonnie Zultevicz explained.

Towards the end of 1922, a small number of Catholic families of Polish descent settled in the Fairmount Springs area and asked Bishop Michael Hoban for permission to build a church. Approval was given in 1923, but the cost was not to exceed \$3,500, and the church was to be a mission

of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Lake Silkworth.

Land was donated for the new church and three families mortgaged their farms to finance its construction. A simple structure was built by the summer of 1924 and the church was completed the following year. Prior to the church being built, the faithful gathered for Mass in private homes.

By the 1950s, the community had outgrown its original space. A new Saint Martha's Church was constructed about a mile away on land belonging to two parishioners who sold the parcel

to the church for \$500. The cornerstone was laid in 1959 and the new church was dedicated on Aug. 14, 1960. In 1966, Saint Martha's welcomed its first resident pastor, and a rectory was built.

"My grandparents were one of the founding families of this church. Saint Martha's Church, to me, stands out as a beacon shining God's light in this community," parishioner Mike Mecca explained. "Saint Martha's Church is not just a building. It is the central location where I, with the community members, gather to worship God."

As a part of Saint Martha's 100th anniversary, parishioners are creating a Centennial Book that will include more of the church's history through photographs, interviews, and newspaper articles.

"Many of the people within these walls have been a consistent presence, offering unwavering support through life's highs and lows, serving as a reminder of God's love and peace," parishioner Amanda Matysik added. "Such tight-knit

communities are irreplaceable, and the significance of Saint Martha's in my life, and that of my family, cannot be overstated."

Besides the centennial Mass and dinner, other events to mark the church's 100th anniversary have also been taking place. A 'Family Day Picnic' was held in June and two parishioners recently refurbished the cross and sign at the old cemetery – the site of the original Saint Martha's Church – and the final resting place of many church founders.

One of the things that many parishioners appreciate is that activities are intergenerational.

"These past 100 years have brought countless souls to greater love and union with Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, most especially by means of the Sacraments and Prayer/Worship," parishioner Rebecca A. Micca stated. "In these days of dwindling faith and de-moralization of societies, we need God's presence among us, not just within us living lives of grace, but in our churches, which are symbols of the 'heavenly Jerusalem' and places of communal worship."

White Haven parish to celebrate 150 years of faith with Mass and dinner

WHITE HAVEN – On Sunday, Aug. 18, 2024, the faithful of Saint Patrick's Parish in White Haven will gather to celebrate the 150th anniversary of their faith community.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will kick off the celebration with a Mass of Thanksgiving beginning at 10:15 a.m.

"We're blessed and lucky enough that Bishop Bambera is going to be the principal celebrant of the Mass," Ed Gower, co-chair of the 150th Anniversary Committee said.

Immediately following the Mass, a buffet dinner will be held in the parish center. The meal

is being catered by Capriotti's Catering.

"The committee has been working together for about 10 months now. Saint Patrick's is the quintessential parish where everyone knows each other and everyone works together. Families have been in the parish for generations," Father Mike Kloton, Parish Administrator, stated.

History records that the cornerstone of the first church was laid in 1866, however, the parish was not incorporated until 1874 under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Philadelphia, Most Rev. James F. Wood.

While Masses were reportedly being celebrated in



A historical photo from 1976 showing the interior of the new Saint Patrick Church in White Haven.

local homes as early as 1840, once it was established, it became a mission church of Honesdale and later Wilkes-Barre, with priests having to journey by horse and buggy along a winding trail

through what was then a dense forest.

A n extensive, 13-page history of the parish has been put together by parishioners Louise Fino and Brenda Crosley and will be included in a special

150th Commemorative Booklet that is part of the anniversary celebration. The booklet will also feature photos of more than 50 families that currently attend Saint Patrick's Parish.

"We expect it to be a nice commemorative booklet that people can look back on years from now," Gower stated.

Gower's wife, Joan, who is also serving as co-chair of the 150th Anniversary Committee, is thrilled that several I.H.M. Sisters who have served the community are planning to attend.

"Sister Jane (Gaughan) was pastoral associate and here longer than most of the pastors and has influenced many people very positively," Joan stated.

In reflecting on the importance of their parish, the Gowers also highlighted the active ecumenical work that has taken place.

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At Ordination Mass, Father Asinari reminded his ministry is a ‘gift from God’

HONESDALE — Amazed and overwhelmed.

Those are two words that Rev. William A. Asinari used to describe his feelings shortly after his Ordination Mass to the Priesthood on June 29, 2024.

“I am overwhelmed in the best way. All I can think of is God filling me with joy to the point where I overflow, and it doesn’t hurt. It doesn’t feel overwhelming in a negative way. It feels like you’ve just got blessing upon blessing and all you can really do is just sit in it and enjoy it,” Rev. Asinari said.

Hundreds of family members, friends, and fellow parishioners filled Saint John the Evangelist Church in Honesdale for the Ordination Mass. The Wayne County church is the place where Asinari grew up and first learned how to pray.

“I am overjoyed that the people who were here long before I was born, who’ve seen me since I was a little kid, who have watched me grow and have shaped me, get to be present for that moment where they can see the fruit of all of that throughout their lives and how much they cared and really supported me,” Rev. Asinari added.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant, homilist, and ordaining prelate for the Mass. The Most Rev. Matthew



Before the Prayer of Ordination, Deacon William Asinari participated in the Litany of Supplication, where he lied prostrate on the floor of Saint John the Evangelist Church in a gesture of solemn petition.

Kwasi Gyamfi, Bishop of Sunyani, Ghana, along with many priests of the Diocese of Scranton concelebrated the liturgy.

“Bill, the priestly ministry that will be entrusted to you this day will bear fruit in your life and in the lives of those given to your care only if you understand that your ministry is a gift from God, that it is Jesus whom you must follow and proclaim, and that it is His life and example that you must make your own,” Bishop Bambera told Asinari during his homily.

Before the Bishop delivered his homily, Asinari was officially called forward.

Father Alex Roche, Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians, testified

that after inquiry among the Christian people and upon the recommendation of those involved in Asinari’s formation, he has been found worthy of the Priesthood.

“As a priest, the Church will call you ‘another Christ.’ Remember well, however, that this title has little to do with rank or status among the People of God,” Bishop Bambera added. “Instead, it carries with it a perpetual challenge to be like Christ. Always hold in your heart the same selfless commitment to love and service that so characterized Jesus’ ministry. Live with integrity the life of celibacy, obedience, and simplicity.”

Prior to the Prayer of



Above Left: Bishop Bambera says the Prayer of Ordination for Rev. William A. Asinari.

Above Right: Rev. William A. Asinari receives a chalice and paten during the Rite of Ordination.



Left: Following the conclusion of Mass, Rev. William Asinari receives a hug from a friend at Saint John the Evangelist Church in Honesdale. (Photos/Mike Melisky)

Ordination being said by Bishop Bambera, Asinari lied prostrate on the floor of Saint John the Evangelist Church in a gesture of solemn petition. The people in attendance, through the intercession of all the saints, asked God’s blessing upon him.

After the Prayer of Ordination, Father Asinari was vested, his hands were anointed, he received a chalice and paten and was congratulated by all the priests in attendance with a fraternal kiss.

Among all those special moments, Father Asinari said the moment did not hit him until someone greeted him by saying “Congratulations Father.”

“I gasped. It didn’t hit me and just hearing it, it felt like someone acknowledging you for something far greater than what you are,” Father Asinari

explained. “It’s as if someone walked up to someone on the street and addressed them as a king. It almost felt otherworldly.”

Upon the conclusion of the Mass, Father Asinari spent an hour greeting family and friends and providing personal blessings to those in attendance.

His first priestly blessing was given to his family.

“They have always been there for me. I learned faith from them. I learned how to pray from them. I learned everything along the way from them. If it hasn’t been for my mother and my father being open to me about this, I don’t know if I would have done it, but the love and support that they’ve shown over the years in the worst times and in the best of times, I wouldn’t trade it,” the newly ordained priest ended by saying.



Rev. William J.P. Langan, Pastor, Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Honesdale, congratulates Father Asinari on his Ordination.



At the conclusion of the Ordination Mass, Father Asinari gave his first priestly blessing to his family, including his parents, Cathleen and Robert Asinari.

Rite of Candidacy celebrated for four seminarians

SCRANTON – Four seminarians from the Diocese of Scranton pledged their intention to continue formation for the priesthood during a special Mass with the Rite of Candidacy at Marywood University on June 26, 2024.

Jeremy Barket of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Dupont, along with Jacob Mutchler, Jan Carlo Perez, and Cody Yarnall, all of Saint Matthew Parish in East Stroudsburg, each indicated their desire to continue forming their mind and heart to serve Christ and His Church during the special Mass.

“What candidacy represents is a seminarian recognizing that, while his discernment is not completed, he has come to a point where he feels reasonably confident that he’s called to be a priest and he’s ready to begin the process of not only discerning where God is calling him, but actually preparing for priesthood,” Father Alex Roche, Diocesan Secretary of Clergy Formation, explained. “On the flip side, candidacy also represents the Church saying we have spent sufficient time with this man, we’ve worked with him, and we’ve seen the gifts that God has given him, and as a Church, we believe that he could be a good candidate for priesthood.”

Perez first entered seminary in 2017. He said the Candidacy Mass is an important step on his journey to the priesthood.

“It was the first time I got to say, ‘I



Four seminarians participated in Mass with the Rite of Candidacy on June 26, 2024, at Marywood University. The seminarians participating included, from left: Jeremy Barket, Jacob Mutchler, Jan Carlo Perez and Cody Yarnall. (Photo Mike Melisky)

do,’” he explained. “It has been a long time coming for me.”

Perez was drawn to the Catholic faith after being inspired by the stories of different saints. After his first year in college, he transferred to the seminary after feeling called to the priesthood.

“I want to be more like Jesus. He’s the center of everything, He’s the center of reality and I feel like He wants me to be more like him,” Perez explained. “I want to be an example to people. I want to help people. I want to serve people. I want to be holy, and I want to help lead people into

deeper union with Christ in the Eucharist especially.”

Mutchler, who just finished his second year of philosophical studies at Saint Vincent’s Seminary in Latrobe, has relied on God to lead the way up until this point.

“I really brought to prayer, ‘Lord, if this is what you want, grant that desire,’” Mutchler said. “I have really experienced through prayer and through affirmation of brother seminarians and formators that this really makes sense. It really just seems to be fitting given where I am in my life and my experiences.”

Yarnall expressed deep gratitude for all the support he has received up to this point and called the Rite of Candidacy a grace-filled moment.

“It’s a continuation of God’s commitment to us. His invitation to extend grace to us, to draw us along in formation and for us to respond in love and fidelity,” he said.

Barket acknowledged the importance of the Rite of Candidacy, indicating this is where many people believe seminarians are considered true candidates for the priesthood.

“I tried to run away from the idea of the priesthood for a long time, but it just kept coming back to me,” Barket said. “I would be in church, and I would start having peace. I would listen to certain homilies, and I used to say, ‘Why isn’t the priest talking about this? Why isn’t he talking about that? If I was up there, I would talk about this and this and this.’ I thought, oh, if I was up there, well, what does that mean?”

After moving back to Dupont from Pittsburgh at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Barket felt called to enter the seminary.

“Every day I just trust that this is where God wants me. I’m excited to continue this journey,” he added.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant and homilist for the Candidacy Mass, which was held in conjunction with annual Quo Vadis and Fiat Days at Marywood University.

During his homily, the bishop encouraged each candidate to deepen their resolve to follow Jesus.

“We pray today that you will continue to open your hearts to the call of the Lord, most especially to take all that you have learned and will be shared with you during these times of formation and translate them into lives that are open to the People of God and are willing to walk with them,” Bishop Bambera said.

Young adults participate in Quo Vadis/Fiat Days

SCRANTON – Nearly 50 young adults spent part of their summer discerning God’s will in their life.

The Diocese of Scranton held its annual Quo Vadis retreat for young men in high school June 24-26 at Marywood University. For the first time ever this year, high school women were invited to participate in Fiat Days during the same period.

“It was an incredible program. The center of Fiat Days is trying to hear that call that we are given from our Lord,” Emily Frisbie of Saint Katharine Drexel Parish in Forest City, said. “I have seen these past three days the power of young people praying together and praying for each other.”

Participants in both the Quo Vadis and Fiat Days retreat had the opportunity to

connect with priests and religious sisters, hear discernment stories and build new friendships with other students through sports, music, and small group discussions.

“I came in here worrying a lot about things. Taking this time to pray by myself and with other people, the power has alleviated the sense of worry,” Jayden Batoon of Saint John the Apostle Parish in East Stroudsburg, said. “Quo Vadis gave me a lot of insight from many different people of many different walks of life to help me sort out where I want to go.”

Defne Ramos, a parishioner of Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish in Scranton, said the three-day retreat helped her grow closer to God.

“Nowadays there are not a lot of teenagers that like to go to church. Some

do really bad stuff. But coming here and seeing so many other people that want to get closer to God and learn more things made me realize that I’m going on the right path, and I think those are the real people you should stay beside,” Ramos explained.

In all, 28 young men and 19 young women participated in this year’s programs.

“It was an amazing opportunity to have so many young Catholics in one space to share their faith together. We don’t get that opportunity enough,” Michael McIlvried of Saint Mary of Mount Carmel Parish in Dunmore, explained.



Nearly 20 young women participate in a roundtable discussion with religious sisters during the inaugural Fiat Days at Marywood University on June 26, 2024.

The young adults also got a chance to celebrate Mass with the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, and meet the Diocese of Scranton’s ten seminarians who are discerning the possibility of becoming a priest.

Continued on Page 19

Pastors see growth potential as new parish consolidations go into effect

WEST PITTSTON – As the calendar turned to July, several parishes that have been engaged in the *Vision 2030 Pastoral Planning Process* officially came together to form new communities of faith.

The changes all come after months, and in some cases, years of hard work, discussion, and consultation with parishioners.

CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH

In Luzerne County, Saint Barbara Parish, Exeter, consolidated with Corpus Christi Parish, West Pittston, on July 1, 2024. The new parish has retained the name Corpus Christi Parish.

All three worship sites of the newly consolidated parish, Immaculate Conception Church, West Pittston; Saint Anthony of Padua Church, Exeter; and Church of the Holy Redeemer, Falls, remain open.

Saint Barbara Parish and Corpus Christi Parish first came together in a linkage in May 2022 under the leadership of Monsignor John Sempa.

From the very first day working together, Msgr. Sempa said parishioners recognized the important fact that they are all neighbors who share the same faith. He says the people quickly worked together to combine ministries and make each other feel welcome and comfortable.

Those efforts paved the way for the two parishes to consolidate on July 1, 2024.

“First of all, people are good. That is the key thing. I think our Parish Pastoral Council, led by Attorney Joe Burke, did a wonderful job working with the Finance committees of both parishes. They were assisted by the three amazing ladies who work in our office, our two deacons and Fr. Michael, our Assistant Pastor,” Msgr. Sempa said. “Even before we became one, everything was working together very well. Even before the official declaration, we were one before then, everybody thought it was a no-brainer.”

The newly formed Corpus Christi Parish has wasted no time in working together on its ‘back-to-school calendar of giving,’ which is collecting school supplies, hygiene products and snacks for kids in Pre-K through high school during the month of July.

“A whole lot of wonderful things are going on. We look forward to expanding things and doing the best we can and making sure everyone knows they are needed and welcome,” Msgr. Sempa added.



VISION 2030

*Creating Parish Communities
Rooted in the Life of Jesus Christ*

CHRIST THE KING PARISH

In Lackawanna County, Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish, Jermyn, consolidated with Christ the King Parish, Archbald, on July 1, 2024. The new parish has retained the name Christ the King Parish.

All three worship sites of the newly consolidated parish, Saint Thomas Aquinas Church, Archbald; Sacred Heart of Mary Church, Jermyn; and Saint Mary of Czestochowa Church, Eynon, remain open.

Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish and Christ the King Parish first came together in a linkage in October 2023 under the leadership of Father Ryan Glenn.

Father Ryan said many parishioners are embracing the new identity of the consolidated parish and many recognized the need for change because of a diminishing number of priests.

“I am a huge proponent of transparency and communication. Between two town hall meetings, bulletin articles, preaching about it from time to time, it all came together for a smooth transition,” Father Ryan explained. “I think providing information to our people on the priority drivers of demographics and finances, along with the fact that we had a transition team and formed a new Parish Pastoral Council with membership from all three of our sites, it all came together naturally.”

On the weekend of July 26-28, Christ the King Parish will hold its annual parish picnic. Father Ryan says parishioners from all three sites are stepping up and volunteering.

“We share one mission. We’re excited because we just composed a new mission statement and it’s really appropriate for all of us living in the valley,” Father Ryan stated. “It’s to proclaim the Gospel, to worship the Lord and to serve the needy, to serve those who go without and it is best when we do it together, it is best when we pool our resources together and we can better accomplish the mission that the Lord has given us!”

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY PARISH

In the city of Carbondale, the two Catholic parishes of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Saint Rose of Lima officially came together to form a new parish on July 1. The newly consolidated parish is now

named Our Lady of the Rosary Parish.

Both Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and Saint Rose of Lima Church remain open for worship.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and Saint Rose of Lima Parish initially came together in a linkage under the leadership of one pastor in 2009. The process of consolidation began in fall 2021 with discussions revolving around priority drivers that included declining Mass attendance, a shrinking number of priests in the diocese, finances, and infrastructure concerns.

“The *Vision 2030 Process* really did help us lay out the priority drivers and examine things. We share so many similarities. We’re able to go to school together, we’re able to shop together, we’re able to have parties together – why can’t we pray together as well? I think it has been an opportunity for us to embrace the gift of the Eucharist as the

source and summit of our lives and to share in the great call of Jesus to be His disciple,” Father Seth Wasnock, pastor, Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, said.

Because of plenty of data, and help from the Holy Spirit, Father Wasnock said many parishioners began to see change was needed.

“Our current situation in the city and throughout the diocese has changed over the years. It’s not the same – not that it is good or bad – it’s just different. How do we respond to that different situation and how do we make it work for the people today,” he explained.

On the first weekend of the new Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Father Wasnock blessed an image of Our Lady of the Rosary at both churches.

“We asked Our Lady to watch over us as the perfect disciple moving forward as our new chapter of faith unfolds here in Carbondale,” Father Wasnock added. “The thousand-mile journey begins with one step, and we are making that step together with Christ by our side to help us and strengthen us.”

APPOINTMENTS

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

Reverend Ryan P. Glenn, to Pastor of the newly consolidated parish of Christ the King Parish, Archbald, effective July 1, 2024.

Reverend Michael Amo Gyau, to Parochial Vicar of the newly consolidated parish of Christ the King Parish, Archbald, effective July 1, 2024.

Monsignor John J. Sempa, to Pastor of the newly consolidated parish of Corpus Christi Parish, West Pittston, effective July 1, 2024.

Reverend Michael S. Drevitch, to Parochial Vicar of the newly consolidated parish of Corpus Christi Parish, West Pittston, effective July 1, 2024.

Deacon William A. Dervinis, to Diaconal Ministry at the newly consolidated parish of Corpus Christi Parish, West Pittston, effective July 1, 2024.

Deacon Walter G. Janoski, to Diaconal Ministry at the newly consolidated parish of Corpus Christi Parish, West Pittston, effective July 1, 2024.

Deacon James R. Meizanis, to Diaconal Ministry at the newly consolidated parish of Corpus Christi Parish, West Pittston, effective July 1, 2024.

Reverend Seth D. Wasnock, V.F., to Pastor of the newly consolidated parish of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Carbondale, effective July 1, 2024.

Reverend Joseph J. Mosley, to Parochial Vicar of the newly consolidated parish of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Carbondale, effective July 1, 2024.

Deacon Patrick J. Massino, to Diaconal Ministry at the newly consolidated parish of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Carbondale, effective July 1, 2024.

Reverend Christian Ekeh, to Parochial Vicar, Saint John Bosco Parish, Conyngham, effective July 1, 2024.

Deacon William F. Behm, to Diaconal Ministry, Our Lady of Hope Parish, Wilkes-Barre, effective July 1, 2024.

Respectful dialogue despite political differences needed, Catholic leaders say

Continued from Page 1

“This is not a political statement in support of the Republican candidate for president. It is not a moment to point fingers. It is not a time to engage in the dreadful social media posts that have emerged in the hours since this tragic event,” Bishop Bambara continued. “No – this is a moment that demands that all of us reflect upon who and what we have become in the polarized, divided and angry world in which we find ourselves as a people.”

Pointing to Amos in the first reading of the day and the disciples in the Gospel passage – Bishop Bambara said we must all pray for the grace to embrace the mission of Jesus even if we feel ill equipped to do so.

“We are not responsible for pulling a trigger and taking lives. But we are responsible to set aside hatred, to embrace discourse with respect and to work to build a world of justice, mercy, forgiveness and peace. Nor can we side step our responsibility as Christians. As followers of Jesus, we have all been called to build God’s kingdom, to work for peace, to respect human life in all shapes and forms, regardless of what we believe, how we live, where we come from and what we don’t have,” Bishop Bambara continued.



Republican presidential candidate and former U.S. President Donald Trump gestures, with blood on his face, as he is assisted by guards after being shot during a campaign rally at the Butler Farm Show in Butler, Pa., July 13, 2024. (OSV News photo/Brendan McDermid, Reuters)

On July 14, Trump thanked “everyone for your thoughts and prayers, as it was God alone who prevented the unthinkable from happening,” on his social media platform Truth Social.

“We will FEAR NOT, but instead remain resilient in our Faith and Defiant in the face of Wickedness. Our love goes out to the other victims and their families. We pray for the recovery of those who were wounded, and hold in our hearts the memory of the citizen who was so horribly killed,” he continued. “In this moment, it is more important than ever that we stand

United, and show our True Character as Americans, remaining Strong and Determined, and not allowing Evil to Win. I truly love our County, and love you all, and look forward to speaking to our Great Nation this week from Wisconsin.”

Just 48 hours after the attempted assassination, Trump appeared at the first night of the Republican National Convention July 15 in Milwaukee.

That spectator killed has been identified as Corey Comperatore, a firefighter from western Pennsylvania who was among the thousands attending Saturday’s rally.

On Facebook July 13, Father Kevin Fazio, pastor of All Saints Parish in Butler – a Catholic parish with five churches, one of which is located across from where the rally took place – wrote to parishioners that “We are shocked and saddened by the tragic shooting and act of violence that occurred at the Farm Show grounds on Saturday, July 13.”

“There are feelings of fear, hurt, anger, and sorrow in our community right now,” he wrote. “As Christians, we need to remember that during times of darkness, we are called to reflect the light of Christ. May we continue to pray for peace in our world, in our country, and right here at home. Our

prayers to God today for everyone involved in, and all of the victims of this violent act, their families, and friends. God our Father, watch over us. Jesus our Savior, heal us. Holy Spirit, guide us.”

Bishops, including Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, archbishop of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; and Bishop David A. Zubik of Pittsburgh, which includes Butler, issued statements calling for prayers and peace.

“We are grateful for the swift actions of the Secret Service and our local first responders,” Bishop Zubik said. “Let us join together in prayer for the health and safety of all, for healing and peace, and for an end to this climate of violence in our world. May God guide and protect us all.”

Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez of Philadelphia also prayed for consolation for “those mourning the loss of a loved one” and for a swift recovery for Trump and those injured.

“Americans must join in solidarity to condemn today’s act of political violence and violence in all forms,” he said in a multipart message on X. “Working together, we can resolve our differences through peaceful dialogue and conquer the sin of hatred.”

Mass in Remembrance of Victims of Violent or Tragic Death to be held July 25 at Cathedral

SCRANTON - Many families in the Diocese of Scranton continue to suffer the loss of loved ones who have died as a result of violent or tragic death.

In response, the Diocese of Scranton is offering the annual Mass in remembrance of victims of violent or tragic death; particularly for persons who have died through murder, suicide, or accidental death.

The Mass will be a way for family and friends to remember and celebrate the lives of these victims and to stand together surrounded in God’s love.

The Mass of Remembrance will be taking place this year on Thursday, July 25, at 7:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, 315 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton.

The Books of Remembrance will not be available to search for a name, but



instead will be placed near the altar.

CTV: Catholic Television will broadcast the Mass live for those unable to attend in person.

Parishioners are encouraged to register the name of their loved one for entry into the Book of Remembrance. An online registration form is available on dioceseofscranton.org. Registration is also available by calling the Diocesan Office for Parish Life at (570) 207-2213.



BISHOP BAMBARA’S SCHEDULE

July 18 - Legatus Mass

Divine Mercy Parish, Scranton, 5:30 p.m.

July 21 - Mass at Cathedral of Saint Peter

Scranton, 10:00 a.m.

July 22 - Mass at Muncy Women’s Facility

Muncy, 7:00 p.m.

July 25 - Mass of Remembrance

Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 7:00 p.m.

July 26 - Closing Mass for the Solemn Novena to Saint Ann

Saint Ann’s Basilica, Scranton, 7:30 p.m.

July 28 - 100th Anniversary Mass for Saint Martha’s Church

Fairmount Springs, 11:00 a.m.

August 18 - 150th Anniversary Mass for Saint Patrick’s Church

White Haven, 10:15 a.m.

Father Thomas Maloney, Diocesan priest for nearly 60 years, dies at age 84

PITTSSTON — Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant of a Pontifical Concelebrated Mass of Christian Burial for Father Thomas J. Maloney on June 24 in Saint Mary, Help of Christians Church (Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish) in Pittston.

Pastor emeritus of Our Lady of the Eucharist, Father Maloney died June 19 at Marywood Heights, Scranton, at age 84, after faithfully serving the Diocese of Scranton during his 59 years of priesthood.

Born October 23, 1939, in Avoca, son of the late Thomas and Irene Woods Maloney, Father Maloney graduated from Scranton Preparatory School, after which he began his priestly formation and studies at Saint Charles Seminary in Catonsville, Md.

He completed his theological training and preparation for the priesthood at Saint Mary's Seminary and University, Baltimore, Md., receiving his bachelor's degree in philosophy in 1961 and a Bachelor of Sacred Theology in 1963.

Father Maloney was ordained a priest of the Scranton Diocese on June 12, 1965, in the Cathedral of Saint Peter by Most Rev. Jerome D. Hannan, fifth Bishop of Scranton.

Following his ordination, he served as assistant pastor at Saint

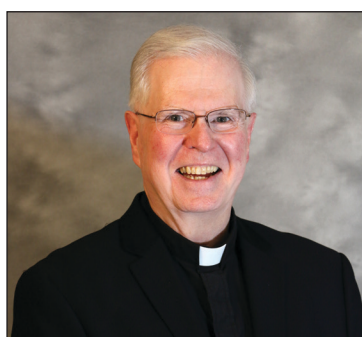
Matthew Parish, East Stroudsburg; Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Wilkes-Barre; and Saint Rose Parish, Carbondale. While fulfilling parochial duties during his assignments in Wilkes-Barre and Carbondale, he also served as a secondary school teacher at the parish Catholic high schools of Saint Mary, Wilkes-Barre, and Saint Rose, Carbondale.

During the summer months from 1967 to 1972, Father Maloney pursued advanced studies at Marywood College (now University), Scranton, and Loyola University in Chicago, earning a master's degree in religious education in February 1973.

Father was appointed chaplain at Mercy Heights Hospital, Scranton, and director of religious formation at Bishop Hannan High School, Scranton, in 1970.

In 1972, he was assigned in residence at Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish, Scranton, and director of religious formation at South Scranton Catholic High School/Bishop Klonowski High School. He would later serve as principal of Bishop Klonowski High School from July 1978 to September 1980.

Father Maloney subsequently was appointed as pastor of Holy Child Parish, Mansfield, where he served for three years and



Father Thomas J. Maloney

during which time he also served as director of campus ministry at Mansfield University.

In 1983, he was assigned the pastorate at Saint Ann Parish, Tobyhanna, serving in the position until 1985, when he was named the founding pastor of the new Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Pocono Pines. Father would later serve as pastor of Nativity of Our Lord Parish, South Scranton, from 1998 until his appointment as pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish, Hughestown, in 2000.

During his pastorship in Hughestown, he was also appointed pastor of the nearby Pittston parishes of Saint Mary of the Assumption and Saint Mary, Help of Christians.

In November 2010, the three faith communities consolidated to form the new parish of Our Lady of the Eucharist at Saint Mary, Help of Christians Church, Pittston, where Father Maloney

remained until his retirement and appointment as pastor emeritus in 2015.

Father continued to serve the Diocese with his appointment in December 2015 as administrator *pro tem* of Saint Elizabeth Parish, Bear Creek, where he was assigned as sacramental minister the following year.

In addition to his parochial duties, he also served as president of the Board of Pastors for both Pocono Central Catholic High School, Cresco, during 1985-87, and Seton Catholic High School, Pittston, from 2003 to 2007.

During 1995-2000, Father served as spiritual director for the Diocesan Permanent Diaconate Formation Program, and on the Diocesan Presbyteral Council from 2012 to 2015.

Father Maloney celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood with a Pontifical Concelebrated Mass with Bishop Bambera on June 18, 2015.

In the funeral homily for his priest-friend, Father Joseph Verespy noted it was during Father Maloney's pastoral assignments in the Pittston area that they developed a close relationship.

"It was during those days he became a friend," Father Verespy related, "but even more than that, he became an example, a model of what a pastor should strive to

be — kind and caring and devoted to the people entrusted to his care."

According to the homilist, regardless of their state in life, all those who came to know Father Thomas Maloney "encountered a man and a priest of generous heart and gentle spirit."

Father Verespy continued, "For 59 years, Father Maloney brought that same calm presence and reverence when he would gather with his people for the breaking of the bread, for the celebration of the Eucharist — breaking open the Word, carefully and reverently and lovingly guiding his people to open the eyes of their hearts to recognize the Risen Lord in their midst, in their neighbors and in those poor and forgotten, broken-hearted and overlooked."

"On hearing of Father Tom's death, someone sent a note: 'It is finished,'" Father Verespy shared. "I think I know what they meant: the struggle, the uncertainty. But not the glory; the glory has just begun... Thomas Maloney, with love and gratitude, we send you home."

Surviving are numerous cousins, friends and former parishioners, including his caregiver, Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Mary Ann Cody.

Interment was held in Saint Mary's Cemetery, Avoca.

Well-deserved retirement for 'Priest for all Seasons'

SCRANTON — Young Dave Bohr answered "the call" some 60 years ago and he has never stopped.

Monsignor David Bohr's calling to become a priest came to fruition on Dec. 11, 1971, when he was ordained for the Diocese of Scranton, and the "calls" just kept coming.

As he steps down as Diocesan Secretary for Clergy Formation, Director of the Permanent Diaconate & Continuing Formation of Priests, and rector of Villa Saint Joseph home for retired priests,

the time has come to reflect upon a priesthood overflowing with unparalleled scholarship, pastoral ministry and administrative leadership.

A mere glance of the curriculum vitae of Monsignor Bohr reads like the index of a history book on the Scranton Diocese.

On more than 20 occasions, Father/Monsignor David Bohr was called upon to serve in a plethora of assignments for the past 52 years — covering an expanse of

time that undeniably proved his faithful service and loyalty to his home Diocese and five of the ten Bishops who have headed our local Church.

From assistant chancellor to high school catechist, hospital chaplain to religious education director, seminary rector to Cathedral pastor — and a smattering of assignments in between — Monsignor Bohr has faithfully gone where few Catholic priests have gone before.

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During his recent retirement party at the Diocese of Scranton, Monsignor David Bohr, right, receives a gift from Father Gerald Shantillo, Diocesan Vicar General, as Bishop Joseph C. Bambera looks on.

Anniversary couples reminded marriage is part of the ‘mystery of God’s love’

SCRANTON — During their 50 years of marriage, John and Fran DiGregorio have experienced many ups and downs, but they have always worked to keep the Catholic faith at the center of their lives.

From their early days as newlyweds — when their premature son spent six months in intensive care — to more recent times when a football-size tumor was removed from John’s kidney, the Shohola couple has often turned to God for help.

“God has really been with us,” Fran said. “Now, we’re here to say thank you!”

On Sunday, June 23, 2024, the DiGregorios were one of 135 couples that attended the 2024 Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. The Mass recognizes couples who are celebrating their 25th and 50th anniversaries.

“It was glorious to see couples of all ages and at all points in their marriage,” Linda Romano of Matamoras said.

Linda and Peter Romano, parishioners of Saint Joseph Parish, are celebrating their 25th anniversary this year.

“You could just feel the love, joy and everyone’s happiness celebrating together. I really enjoyed it. It was quite the celebration and I’m grateful that we have this available to us,” Linda added.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant and homilist for the special Mass. In welcoming the couples to the Cathedral, the Bishop acknowledged that they are each a witness to “love, faith and the power of Christ at work in our lives.”

In all, the couples registered to attend the Mass signified 5,914 years of married life.

During his homily, Bishop Bambera noted that many of those



Married couples celebrating their 25th and 50th wedding anniversaries in 2024 participate in a special Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton and reception at the Diocesan Pastoral Center on June 23, 2024. (Photos/Mike Melisky)

times weren’t always blissful, but reflective of hard work, struggle, disappointment and fear.

“Your marriage has endured not because your years together have been perfect, but because you have come to see your marriage as part of something much bigger than yourselves — as part of the mystery of God’s love woven into creation — embraced in your lives and lived through God’s grace and mercy,” the bishop said.

Before ending his homily and asking each couple to renew their commitment to one another, Bishop Bambera asked each man and woman to look into the eyes of their spouse and think about how their relationship is sacred.

“For all that you have been through, realize how blessed you are to have each other,” he said. “For as familiar as those eyes are, see through them to discover the face of God abiding within the heart of the one you love and offer a prayer of thanks.”

The Wedding Anniversary Mass took on special significance for the Pender and Jackson families.

Donald and Margaret Pender, parishioners of Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Honesdale, celebrated 50 years of marriage,

while their daughter and son-in-law celebrated 25 years.

“It has all happened so quickly. The years went by so fast. We raised five children, and we were just busy raising them and building a home. My husband built a business. There have been ups and downs, but it has all been

wonderful,” Margaret Pender explained.

William and Emily Jackson, who are currently living in West Virginia, made the four-hour drive to attend the Mass and celebrate with their parents.

“It was a nice opportunity,” William said. “It’s nice to see that

people stay together and work through things.”

“It’s beautiful to see how people still look at each other with love in their hearts. I hope me and my husband can make it to our 50th (anniversary) too and be the same way,” Emily said with a smile.

What is the secret to a long and happy marriage? Local couples who have been married for 50 years share their thoughts



Ray & Carol Proulx, Milford

“I think the key is the word ‘grace.’ I think that is the one thing you can go back to, that you’re being supported, you are sharing life with God and that is what keeps you going.” - Ray

“Love. It is something that we have to practice everyday in the little things that we do for each other.” - Carol



Robert & Maureen Allen, Brackney

“Loving and forgiving each other often. Love has seasons. People need to know that sometimes love goes through ‘winter’ but then it comes back to ‘spring’ and ‘summer’ again.” - Maureen

“When we taught Pre Cana 20 years ago, we likened marriage to the rosary. You have the joyful mysteries, sorrowful mysteries and glorious mysteries!” - Robert



John & Fran DiGregorio, Shohola

“I think it is cooperation and trying to be understanding. It’s hard to be understanding sometimes.” - Fran

“You have to have humor but it is a lot of work. People think that marriage is a simple thing but there is give and take between both people. Everybody has their own quirks. It takes work!” - John

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.



Members of the Student Leadership Council from **Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre** share their time and talent by participating in the school's annual outdoor clean-up project.



More than 100,000 students from all 50 states and 26 foreign countries participated in the 2024 National Latin Exam. Congratulations to these Latin IV Advanced Prose students from **Holy Cross High School in Dunmore** for earning national recognition: David Huester, Cum Laude; Everly Prostka, Silver Medal, Maxima Cum Laude; Journey Horeis, Cum Laude; and Luke Mozeleski, Magna Cum Laude.



Eighth grade students Jonathan Fitzmaurice and Elizabeth Rich from **Holy Rosary School in Duryea** received medals from The University of Scranton for their Earth Day essays "Caring For Creation."



Second grade students at **Holy Family Academy in Hazleton** started planning for their summer adventures when the school hosted an end-of-year Hawaiian party.



Students at **Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore** celebrated the end of the school year with "FUN DAY."



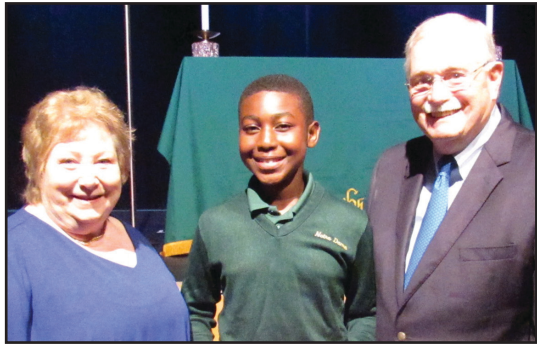
The kindergarten students at **Saint Agnes School in Towanda** worked diligently this year and couldn't wait for graduation. Congratulations to: Noah Eberlin, Owen DeLauro, Patric McLinko, Anna Lyne, Kaitlin Aylesworth, Jasper Smith, Caleb Nonnemacher, Grant Holcomb, Scarlet Beirne-Leighton and Riley Nonnemacher.



Students at **Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School in Williamsport** spent part of their summer setting up the school's new state-of-the-art laser engraver, which will allow them the opportunity to enhance their art & wood projects.



Congratulations to the fifth grade class at **Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport** as they are moving up to sixth grade and getting ready for an exciting new chapter as junior high school students.



Jedidiah Bioh, a student at **Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg**, was honored as the school's first recipient of the newly established Jeffrey and Linda Lyons Endowed Scholarship.



Students and their families, as well as faculty from **Saint Jude School in Mountain Top**, participated in their community's Fourth of July parade. From left: faculty and staff: Ann Papciak, Sister Ellen Fischer, MaryAnn Crofchick, Shelley Grenzberg, Sister Mary Theresa Wojcicki and Crystal Snarski.



Students at **Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green** are having Falcon Fun at the school's summer camps. Check out these happy faces at Mrs. Schuler's "Classic Summer Camp."



Father Cyril D. Edwards, V.E., pastor of Mary, Mother of God Parish, Scranton, stopped by **All Saints Academy in Scranton** to awe the students with his magic tricks during their lunch break.



Students in first through fourth grades at **Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter** participated in a fun summer camp, "Become a Pokémon Trainer," where they completed themed projects, played games, and received and traded Pokémon cards.



First grade students from **Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton** will miss their morning meetings as the school year came to an end. The students loved using their breathing ball and bubble breathing to help them focus and relax.



"THE EUCHARIST: THE CENTER OF OUR CATHOLIC FAITH"

- *A Priesthood Perspective by Father August A. Ricciardi* -
Pastor, Prince of Peace Parish, Old Forge



Back in June 2022, the Bishops of the United States called for a three-year plan to revive and foster Eucharistic devotion in all the dioceses and parishes and in the heart of the faithful.

The Eucharist is the center of our Catholic faith. By receiving the Eucharist we remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us, and we grow in love for one another. Jesus commanded us to love, to remember him, and to wait for his return. We do these things by receiving his Body and Blood in the Eucharist.

The Eucharist is at the heart of Christian worship. It is celebrated by Christians around the world as a memorial of the death and resurrection of Jesus. In response to his words at the Last Supper - the Passover meal he celebrated with his Apostles - "Do this in memory of me," God invites us to his table as a foretaste of the heavenly banquet which he has prepared for people of all nations and cultures.

We read in Matthew 26:26-28: "While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it, he broke it, gave it to his disciples and said, 'Take, eat, this is my Body.' Then he took a cup and after giving thanks he gave it to them saying, 'Drink from it, all of you, for this is my Blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.'"

In the Eucharist, Jesus nourishes us with His body and blood and to give us life. Jesus is the Bread of Life. As we need food for nourishment and strength to keep us physically alive, so do we need the Eucharist to keep us physically and spiritually alive since we have been created with both body and soul!

The greatest of the seven sacraments of the Church is the Holy Eucharist. The Church teaches that in

the Eucharist, Our Lord Jesus Christ, true God and true man, is really present under the appearances of bread and wine. Jesus is not merely symbolized by the bread and wine, nor is He present only through the faith of those present.

Rather, the two, bread and wine are completely changed into the Body and Blood of Christ, leaving behind only their sensible appearances. Through the words of consecration, Jesus, without ceasing to be present in a natural way in heaven, is also present sacramentally, body, blood, soul and divinity.

Jesus tells us that His Body and Blood are true food and true drink that will give us eternal life. Just as manna sustained the Israelites on their journey to the Promised Land, the Eucharist, the Bread of Life nourishes us in the desert of this life until we reach the shores of eternal life, the Promised Land of the Kingdom of Heaven.

How exactly does the Eucharist nourish us?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church spells out the many fruits of this awesome sacrament.

First, the Eucharist unites us ever more intimately to Christ. This communion is the principal fruit of the Sacrament of the Eucharist (Holy Communion).

Second, it preserves, increases, and renews the life of grace which



we received at Baptism. Just as a material food nourishes us to grow physically, the Eucharist provides essential nourishment so that we can grow in our spiritual life.

Third, it separates us from sin by strengthening us in charity. The Eucharist washes away past venial sins and strengthens us against committing sins

in the future.

Fourth, the Eucharist makes the Church present. When we are united to Christ in the Eucharist we are also united more closely to all other members of his mystical body, the Church. This sacrament that is the 'sign of unity' and the 'bond of charity' also inspires us to pray ever more fervently for the unity of all Christians, as Christ himself prayed on the night he instituted the Eucharist.

Fifth, in our reception of the Eucharist we are committed to the poor and enabled to recognize Christ in those most in need.

The Catechism quotes Saint John Chrysostom, "You have tasted the Blood of the Lord, yet you do not recognize your brother...You dishonor this table when you do not judge worthy of sharing your food with someone judged worthy to take part in this meal."

When we come together to celebrate the Eucharist, we gather

as a community of believers called to become a community joined in the praise and worship of God. In the Eucharistic Prayer, we hear that Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, made it his body and gave it for our salvation. One way of identifying with this is to pray, "Lord, take me. Bless me. Break me. Make me a part of your saving sacrificial gift for the world's bodily and spiritual needs."

The inner drama at Mass contributes to the process of our spiritual transformation into Christ. It all takes time. When we approach the altar to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, Holy Communion, we need to remember that we are not changing Christ into ourselves. Jesus is transforming us into himself. We need to understand the real presence of Jesus under the appearances of bread and wine. It is not a symbol that points to Jesus, but rather, it is Jesus.

Pope Benedict XVI had told the young people attending the 20th World Youth Day: "The Body and Blood of Christ is given to us so that we ourselves will be transformed in our turn...We all eat the one bread, this means that we ourselves become one. In this way, adoration becomes union with God. God no longer simply stands before us as the One who is totally Other He is within us, and we are in him. His dynamic enters into us and then seeks to spread outwards to others until it fills the world, so that his love can truly become the dominant measure of the world."

Only Jesus can transform us into himself. Our inner receptivity is crucial.

To receive love, we need to be open to it. The sacrificial gift of self at every Mass is the best way to be continuously transformed into Christ. Then in Christ we become the bread for the world's bodily and spiritual hungers.

Congress emcees hope revival deepens attendees' experience of Jesus in Eucharist

INDIANAPOLIS (OSV News) - National Eucharistic Congress attendees are likely to recognize the faces of the daily revival session emcees, who are known for their prominent media presence and various ministries.

Montse Alvarado, Sister Miriam James Heidland and Father Josh Johnson will host the multi-hour sessions, which feature some of the most popular speakers at the congress, such as Bishop Robert E. Barron, Father Mike Schmitz and Jonathan Roumie.

Alvarado is president and COO of EWTN News and founding anchor of the weekly show "News in Depth." Sister Miriam, a member of the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity, is an author known for leading healing retreats for priests and sisters and hosting the podcast "Abiding Together."

Father Johnson, a priest of the Diocese of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, is host of the "Ask Father Josh" podcast, in which he answers questions about living the Catholic faith, and has written several books, including the "Pocket Guide to Adoration."

Scheduled to run through July 21 in Indianapolis, the National Eucharistic Congress is the pinnacle of the U.S. bishops' National Eucharistic Revival underway.

The congress's revival sessions aim to bring together some 50,000 congress participants in Lucas Oil Stadium.

They include Eucharistic adoration, Eucharistic processions and prayers for healing. They will also feature worship music from Dave and Lauren Moore, co-founders of Catholic Music Initiative. On Saturday evening, Catholic musician Matt Maher will lead worship.

Vocations Golf Classic raises funds to support future priests

DORRANCE TOWNSHIP – Braving 90-degree heat, a total of 152 golfers gathered at Blue Ridge Trail Golf Club on July 8 for an annual tournament with a higher purpose: raising money to support seminarians and future priests of the Diocese of Scranton.

The picturesque greens of the Luzerne County golf course once again served as the setting for the Vocations Golf Classic – John Yourishen Memorial Tournament.

"It's a different place to build up our church, a different way to get to know one another," Rev. Alex Roche, Tournament chair, explained. "As our number of seminarians starts going up, as it increases every year and we have more guys discerning and thinking about the priesthood and praying about the priesthood, it becomes more important to support them."

The golf tournament raised more than \$120,000 to support seminarian education expenses and pastoral training for those preparing to

dedicate their lives to the service of others.

"This is a cause that everyone loves to support," Sandra Snyder, Tournament co-chair, added. "We have been coming to this course for years, so people know this tournament and they mark it on their calendars. It is one of those 'save the date' tournaments."

The Vocations Golf Classic attracted a diverse group of players from every corner of our 11-county diocese, ranging from seasoned pros to enthusiastic amateurs, all united by their shared commitment to a worthy cause.

"My three guys carry me every year," Deacon Carmine Mendicino joked. "I come to enjoy the company. I enjoy the weather and riding around and greeting people."

Deacon Mendicino has attended the tournament since it started more than a decade ago.

"Over the years, the camaraderie builds on the golf course with all of the seminarians," he added. "I look forward to it every year."

Nicholas Wasko of Saint Ann Basilica Parish in Scranton, who was just accepted as the newest seminarian for the Diocese of Scranton, attended the tournament for the first time.

Although he had never golfed before, Wasko greeted golfers as they arrived at the registration tables and later hit the fairways with a group to get to meet those supporting the cause.

"To get to meet the supporters of the Vocations Office and supporters of the diocese in general, it is a great opportunity to connect," Wasko said.

As the sun set on the tournament, participants gathered for a celebratory dinner and awards ceremony. While there were stories of great shots and friendly rivalries exchanged, the golfers

celebrated the collective impact they made in supporting seminarian education.

Seminarian Cody Yarnall of Saint Matthew Parish in East Stroudsburg gave remarks on behalf of those who will benefit.

"I can speak on behalf of myself personally, and also the seminarians in the Vocations Office, when I say the financial support is invaluable, contributing to our formation as we progress towards priesthood," Yarnall stated.

With plans already in motion for next year's tournament, on the following two pages is a listing of all those who sponsored or contributed to the Vocations Golf Classic this year. In gratitude, we thank everyone who supports our seminarians!



Seminarian Nicholas Wasko of Saint Ann Basilica Parish in Scranton participates in the Vocations Golf Classic at Blue Ridge Trail Golf Club on July 8, 2024. (Photo/Eric Deabill)



CTV/EWTN TO BROADCAST NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS SESSIONS

Thursday, July 18, 2024

- 8:00 a.m. - Opening Mass of National Eucharistic Congress
- 10:30 a.m. - Impact Session of National Eucharistic Congress (**will end at Noon for Novena coverage**)
- 1:30 p.m. - EWTN Breakout Session
- 6:30 p.m. - Revival Session at National Eucharistic Congress

Friday, July 19, 2024

- 8:00 a.m. - Morning Mass from National Eucharistic Congress
- 10:30 a.m. - Impact Session of National Eucharistic Congress (**will end at Noon for Novena coverage**)
- 1:30 p.m. - Breakout Session featuring Bishop Andrew Cozzens
- 6:30 p.m. - Revival Session at National Eucharistic Congress

Saturday, July 20, 2024

- 8:00 a.m. - Morning Mass from National Eucharistic Congress
- 10:30 a.m. - Impact Session of National Eucharistic Congress (**will end at Noon for Novena coverage**)
- 1:30 p.m. - Breakout Session from National Eucharistic Congress
- 2:45 p.m. - Eucharistic Procession from Indianapolis
- 6:30 p.m. - Revival Session at National Eucharistic Congress

Sunday, July 21, 2024

- 8:00 a.m. - Revival Session from National Eucharistic Congress
- 1:00 p.m. - Closing Mass of National Eucharistic Congress

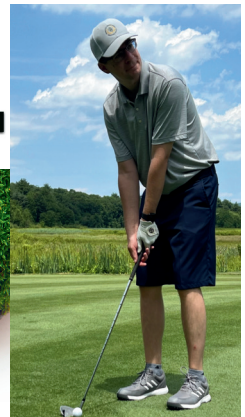


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Muncy parishioner, who has special needs, helps St. Joe's

MUNCY – Gregory Fleck is proof that everyone can make a difference in their community.

For the better part of a decade, Fleck has been raising money for Saint Joseph's Center, which cares for children and adults with special needs.

"Saint Joseph's (Center) really helps kids and adults who are intellectually and physically disabled," Greg said. "I feel grateful to raise money for them. I just want to help and give back to the community."

Fleck, who has cerebral palsy, once again enlisted the support of parishioners at his parish, Church of the Resurrection in Muncy, on Sunday, July 14, 2024. As Gregory rode his tricycle around the church parking lot, many others walked alongside him, all to support Newswatch 16's 'Go Joe 27' event and Saint Joseph's Center.

"Greg is so dedicated to this cause because he understands what it is like to live a life with a disability. He understands all the roadblocks, all the hardships, all the let downs. He is able to do something about it through all of his connections and all of his volunteering. He is able to reach out and talk for all those who are unable to do that," Kristin Fleck, Greg's mother, explained.



Gregory Fleck holds an event at Church of the Resurrection in Muncy July 14 in support of Saint Joseph's Center. (Photo/Dan Piazza)

Officials at Saint Joseph's Center are always inspired by Greg's enthusiasm.

"He just reaches so many people to share the mission of Saint Joe's and it is incredible to see all the smiling faces here today," Jo Ann Verduce, Director of Development at Saint Joseph's Center, said.

This Sunday, July 21, Bishop Bambera will welcome Gregory Fleck and his family to the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton for the celebration of the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Fleck is expected to help serve the Mass and will speak on the importance of Saint Joseph's Center in the community.

Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton will broadcast the Mass live.

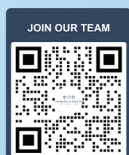
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World Refugee Day celebrated in Scranton

SCRANTON – Ushu Mukelo came to the United States after spending 12 years in a refugee camp in Uganda.

Explaining that armed groups often take over small villages causing widespread poverty and chaos, Mukelo was happy to celebrate World Refugee Day at Nay Aug Park in Scranton on June 24, 2024.

“For us, as refugees, it is a day to get together, it is a day to remind us of those difficulties and it is a day to remember that resilience is real and if we are to continue to be human, we’re not supposed to forget the stories of our past,” Mukelo explained.

Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton works with the federal government to assist refugees resettling in northeastern Pennsylvania. The agency works with several other non-profit agencies to sponsor World Refugee Day each year.

“The main purpose is to celebrate that we’re here to help

them to be a part of the community,” Joe Mahoney, CEO of Catholic Social Services, explained. “We invite them to partake in Scranton, to share with us.”

Fikile Ryder is the Director of Community for Catholic Social Services. She oversees the immigrant and refugee resettlement program.

“The United States has a history of immigrants that are building this country,” Ryder said. “Each one of them brings a special unique talent and they bring the diversity that reaches our country.”

During World Refugee Day, refugee communities share music, food, fellowship and personal stories.

“Refugees don’t come here because it is a choice that they make. They had to leave their homeland because of violence, persecution and war,” Julie Schumacher Cohen, Assistant Vice President of Community Engagement at The University

of Scranton, said. “It’s really an enriching experience and the more that we can do to welcome them and learn from one another, the richer the community we are and the richer the country we are.”

Downpours during the event forced many attendees to seek shelter together under pavilions at the park – but many say that helped facilitate people talking to one another.

“Everyone was huddled under

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the gazebo. There were people from all different areas and walks of life talking to each other,” Ann Montoro Williams, Stewardship Manager with Friends of the Poor, said.



People attending World Refugee Day 2024 at Nay Aug Park in Scranton enjoy food under one of the park’s pavillions.

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COME AND BE BLESSED!

Quo Vadis/Fiat Days inspire students

Continued from Page 7

Raymond Full, a parishioner of Saint Matthew Parish in East Stroudsburg, has thought about the possibility of becoming a priest himself.

“I think there is something in me that is really attracted to that and I can’t explain it other than it’s God-given, that he instilled that there and I think there is a certain beauty about it that is attractive to me and I’m very fond of,” he said.

The cost to attend the three-day camp was only \$25 for students. Because of donations to the Diocesan Annual Appeal, the Vocations Office can put on these important events.

“I was very grateful to have so much time to do the Divine Office. It was really beautiful to take that time,” Marcellina Cavalier of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Brodheadsville, added.

Summer Guide to Church Festivals & Picnics

Saint Nicholas-Saint Mary in Wilkes-Barre — July 18-20. Annual Parish Bazaar held on the Saint Nicholas church grounds, 226 South Washington St., Wilkes-Barre, beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and following the 4 p.m. Vigil Mass on Saturday. Bazaar features a variety of ethnic foods and traditional American menu items, including Mexican & Caribbean specialties, bratwurst, halushki, pierogi, potato pancakes, chicken wings & fried dough. Giant flea market opens Thursday at 1 p.m.; 3 p.m., Friday & Saturday. Live musical entertainment nightly from 7 to 10:30 p.m. by Flaxy Morgan (Thursday); Strawberry Jam (Friday); and Kartune (Saturday).

Saint Joseph Mareello in Pittston — July 18-20. Annual three-day summer picnic held on Thursday, Friday & Saturday from 5 to 10 p.m. on the grounds of the parish worship site at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 237 William St., Pittston. Festival features ethnic and traditional food & beverage favorites, including

porketta, pizza frita, potato pancakes, cannoli, pizza, and beer tent; also features picnic & children's games, basket raffles and large indoor flea market. Live nightly musical entertainment by The Taxmen (Thursday), Boots & Bangs (Friday), and the Joyce School of Irish Dance, followed by Flaxy Morgan (Saturday).

Saint Eulalia's in Roaring Brook Township — July 19 & 20, from 5 to 10 p.m. Summer Festival held on the church picnic grounds, 214 Blue Shutters Road, will feature homemade ethnic & picnic foods, Grandma's Attic flea market, basket raffles, bake sale, arts & crafts, games & activities for all ages, and Summer Cash Raffle. New addition this year is the "Sweet Taste of Heaven" candy shop, featuring a selection of nostalgic candies, including cotton candy and candy apples. Friday musical entertainment features the Electric City Steel Drum Project from 6 to 7 p.m., followed by Alex "The Crooner" Nebraska from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday's music provided by

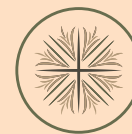
the classic rock band Between the Velvet Lies from 7 to 10 p.m. Festival weekend will feature the parish's 14th Annual Jerry Mahon 5K race event through the Roaring Brook/Elmhurst area on Saturday, beginning at 9 a.m. (rain or shine). Pre-registration required for all participants. For more information on the summer festival and race, visit: sainteulalias.com/festival-and-5K.

Exaltation of the Holy Cross in Hanover Township — July 19-21. "Big Tent Bazaar" will be held on the church grounds, 420 Main Road, Buttonwood section, on Friday, 6 to 11 p.m.; Saturday (following the 4 p.m. Vigil Mass), 5 p.m. to midnight; and Sunday, 5 to 11 p.m. Featuring homemade foods, potato pancake express, full-service Tiki Bar, theme baskets and raffles.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Hunlock Creek — July 26 & 27, from 5 to 10 p.m. Parish "Summer Fest 2024" held on the church grounds at Lake Silkworth, 2011 State Route 29. Tent-covered two-day event features a huge indoor flea market, theme baskets, festival games and homemade foods. Musical entertainment provided by Kartune (Friday) and Popstar Drive (Saturday).

Christ the King in Archbald/Eynon/Jermyn — July 26-28. Summer picnic held on the grounds of Saint Mary of Czestochowa Church, Betty & Main streets, Eynon, beginning on Friday & Saturday at 5 p.m., and Sunday, at 3 p.m. Festival includes ethnic & American food favorites, beer tent, children's games, basket & cash

continued on next page



Saint Eulalia
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7-9 PM

» Alex Nebraska (Alex the Crooner)

SAT., JULY 20

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» Between the Velvet Lies (classic rock band)

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Deacon Michael Golubiewski, and Parishioners

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Thursday, Friday, Saturday
JULY 18, 19, 20

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Giant Flea Market (Opens at 1 PM Thurs.) • Games • Bingo
• Fun for All Ages • Ethnic Food • Bountiful Baskets
• Raffle (1st prize 50-50) + 49 prizes

Live Music 7:00 PM to 10:30 PM 🎵

Thursday: Flaxy Morgan • Friday: Strawberry Jam • Saturday: Kartune

Bratwurst, Haluski, Pierogies, Potato Pancakes, Piggies, Pizza,
Chicken Wings, Mexican/Caribbean Food, Fried Dough,
Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, French Fries

CHRIST THE KING PARISH PICNIC

The Catholic Community of Archbald, Eynon, Jermyn, & Mayfield

JULY 26, 27, 28, 2024

Friday—

Pour Decisions

6:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.
Picnic starts at 5:00 P.M.

Saturday—

"The Scheme"

6:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.
Picnic starts at 5:00 P.M.

Sunday—

Frost Duo

3:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.
Picnic starts at 3:00 P.M.

Beer Tent, Bake Sale, and the following Ethnic and American cuisine:
Cabbage & Noodles, Potato Pancakes, Pierogi with onion & butter or deep fried, Pigs in the Blanket, Pagach, Sausage Plain, Sausage with peppers, Steak & Cheese, Steak & Cheese with Peppers and Onions, Steak Sub Hoagie, Texas Burger, Kielbasa with Kraut, Texas Weiner, Wimpie, Porketta, Clam Chowder, French Fries, Hamburger, Hot Dog Plain or Hot Dog with Kraut, Pizza, Pizza-Frita, Funnel Fries

Visit the

Choice is Yours Raffle Stand, Children's Games, Florence's Basket Raffles,
Match-for-Cash, Pull Tab Games, House of Treasures
PLUS CASH RAFFLE!!

Held on the grounds of St. Mary of Czestochowa Church, corner of Betty & Main Streets, Eynon.



Church Festivals

continued from previous page

raffle drawings, and “House of Treasures” market. Live musical entertainment features Poor Decisions (Friday, 6 to 10 p.m.); The Scheme (Saturday, 6 to 10 p.m.); and Frost Duo (Sunday, 3 to 7 p.m.).

Saint Ann’s in Williamsport — **July 27.** Annual Parish Picnic begins on Saturday afternoon with the celebration of an outdoor weekend Vigil Mass at 4:30 p.m. on the grounds of Saint Ann Pavilion & Parish Hall, 1220 Northway Road in Williamsport. Festival dinner follows at 6 p.m., featuring a shared desserts table. The Saint Ann Picnic Basket Raffle concludes the festivities, with drawings beginning at 7 p.m. Raffle tickets cost \$5 per sheet of 25 tickets (buy four sheets, get one free).

Saint Aloysius in Wilkes-Barre — **Aug. 1-3.** The “St. Al’s Church Bazaar” held Thursday & Friday, from 6 to 10 p.m.; Saturday, 5 to 11 p.m., on the church grounds, 143 West Division St. Picnic food, bingo, and games for all ages.

Our Lady of Victory in Tannersville — **Aug. 2 & 3.** Annual Homecoming Bazaar held Friday & Saturday on the Our Lady of Victory parish grounds, 327 Cherry Lane Road, Tannersville. Festivities feature food, fun & games for the whole family. Festival attractions also include a grand raffle drawing, nearly 100 theme baskets, used book tent, and bingo games.

Sacred Heart of Jesus in Dupont — **Aug. 3.** Traditional Polish Picnic held from 11 a.m. continued on page 22

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church

215 LACKAWANNA AVENUE, DUPONT PA

POLISH PICNIC

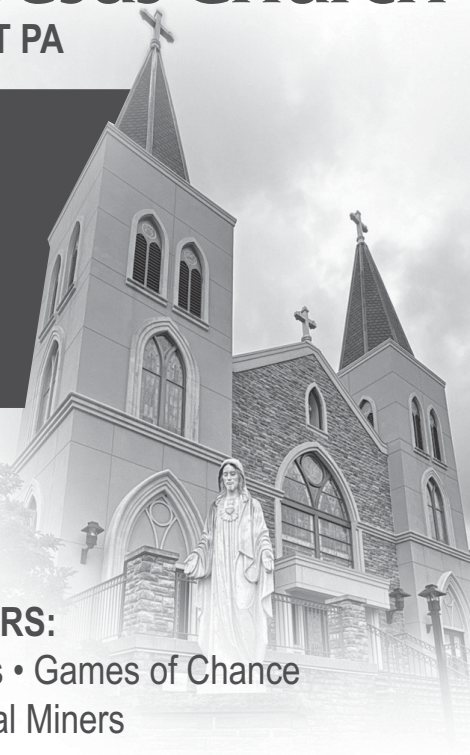
Saturday, August 3 • 11 AM – 7 PM
Located in the Picnic Grove

FOOD OFFERINGS INCLUDE:

Pierogi • Golombki • Halushki • Kielbasi
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THIS FAMILY FRIENDLY PICNIC OFFERS:

Delicious Ethnic Foods • Theme Baskets • Games of Chance
Beer Tent • Music by Stanky and the Coal Miners



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The Parish Community of
Saint John the Evangelist, Pittston, PA

AUGUST 8 • 9 • 10, 2024
Thursday, Friday, Saturday • 5:00 to 10:00 PM

Parish Grounds and Pastoral Center on Church and Broad Streets - Rain or Shine



Entertainment Nightly

Thurs. - The Taxmen
Fri. - Tori V and the Karma
Sat. - Flaxy Morgan

Delicious Ethnic & American Foods • Variety Booths
Bingo • Children’s Games • Raffles • Baked Goods

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 3
5-9 PM

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- And so much more!

► Grand Raffle
► 75+ Basket Raffles
► Games for All Ages
► Used Book Tent
► Bingo

Summer Guide to Church Festivals & Picnics

Continued from page 21

to 7 p.m. in the parish's Picnic Grove, 215 Lackawanna Ave., Dupont. Homemade ethnic foods include pierogi, pigs-in-the-blanket, halushki, kielbasi and potato pancakes. Also featuring theme baskets, games of chance, beer tent, and live music by Stankey & the Coal Miners.

Saint Ann's Basilica in Scranton — Aug. 4. Saint Ann Basilica Parish, West Scranton, hosts its 10th annual "Car Show & Chicken BBQ" on Sunday, Aug. 4, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., beginning with the all-day car show; barbecue dinner served from noon to 4 p.m. Event includes picnic foods, music, vendors, raffles & prizes. Free admission.

Saint John the Evangelist in Pittston — Aug. 8-10. "Summer Fest '24," the three-night parish picnic, will be held Thursday thru Saturday from 5 to 10 p.m. at the pastoral center and parish grounds on Church & Broad streets in downtown

Pittston. Festival attractions include ethnic & traditional American picnic foods, variety booths, bingo, children's games, raffle drawings, and baked goods. Featured nightly entertainment: Thursday, The Taxmen; Friday, Tori V and the Karma; and Saturday, Flaxy Morgan.

Saint Matthew's in East Stroudsburg — Aug. 9-11. Summer festival held on Friday & Saturday, from 5 to 10 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 6 p.m. on the parish grounds, 78 Ridgeway St., East Stroudsburg. Three-day event includes live entertainment, homemade international foods & desserts, beer & wine garden, bingo prizes, kids' toy bingo & games, raffle drawings, and mega cash raffle. Featured music headliners include: Who Knows Band, Kevin MacIntire (Frank Sinatra Show), Joey & The T Birds, Lightning Sounds Entertainment, and Robbie Junior Music.

Saint Jude's in Mountain Top — Aug. 9-11. Parish's 71st annual "Picnic in the Grove" held Friday & Saturday, from 4 to 10

p.m., and Sunday, noon to 8 p.m., at the Saint Jude Grove, 420 South Mountain Boulevard (Route 309), Mountain Top. Features ethnic & traditional picnic foods, including homemade pierogi and halushki; live music; bountiful basket raffle; and open-pit chicken

barbecue dinner on Sunday, starting at noon.

Saints Anthony & Rocco in Dunmore — Aug. 9-11. The Dunmore parish's annual three-day "Italian Festival" is hosted

on the grounds and pavilion area at Saint Rocco Church, 122 Kurtz St., Bunker Hill section of Dunmore. Festivities—including homemade ethnic & picnic foods, games & activities, theme

Continued on page 23

St. Joseph Melkite Greek-Catholic Church Lebanese-American Food Festival

FRIDAY AUGUST 9 4-9pm	SATURDAY AUGUST 10 4-9pm	SUNDAY AUGUST 11 1-7pm
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Raffle**

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Noon—2pm**

**REV. RAWEL TOPPO
ADMINISTRATOR**

Cheers!

Summer Guide to Church Festivals & Picnics

Continued from page 22

baskets, cappuccino & cookie stand, designer purse stand, plush animal stand, and live daily entertainment — get underway on Friday and Saturday at 5 p.m., and on Sunday following the noon Mass & outdoor procession starting from Saint Rocco's. Festival entertainment provided by the Dunmore High School Marching Units & Cheerleaders and Picture Perfect (Friday); Popstar Drive (Saturday); Vinsko Entertainment and the Scranton Prep Cheerleaders (Sunday afternoon); and the Luongo Brothers Band (Sunday night). The event concludes with a fireworks display on Sunday evening at 9 p.m., followed by raffle drawings. Shuttle bus service provided during festival hours (Friday & Saturday, 5 to 10 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.) from the Saint Anthony's and Saint Mary's Mount Carmel church parking lots.

Most Precious Blood in Hazleton — Aug. 9-11. Parish's 125th annual "La Madonna del Monte Festival" honoring the Blessed Mother includes devotional services; festival food nights & live entertainment on Friday, from 4 to 8:30 p.m., and Saturday, 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. Sunday pasta & meatball dinner served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (pre-orders for takeout; walk-ins welcome). Sunday's festivities open with celebration of Mass at 10:30 a.m., followed by the traditional "Madonna del Monte" procession through neighborhood streets, followed by benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto. Weekend event also includes homemade ethnic & American picnic foods, games for all ages, bake sale, tricky trays, grotto candle sale, and calendar lottery. For more information, contact Mary Maher (570) 454-8714.

Blessed Sacrament in

Throop — Aug. 10 & 11. Blessed Sacrament's 17th Annual Family Festival held on Saturday and Sunday at the parish grounds & hall, 215 Rebecca Street, Throop. Festival features a Saturday youth event at 9 a.m. on the grounds; free T-shirts to all participants (ages 13 & under). Traditional ethnic and picnic foods will follow from 3 to 9 p.m., including pigs-in-the-blanket, halushki, potato pancakes, pierogi (butter/onions or fried), sausage & peppers, pizza frita, wimpies, funnel fries, porketta sandwich, piggy soup, ice cream & bake sale. Live music on Saturday night, from 5:30 to 9 p.m., with Kevin Vest. Sunday bingo games start at 1 p.m. (doors open at noon) in the parish hall; featuring special food menu, bingo & theme basket raffles, and grand prize cash drawing at 4:30 p.m.. For advance festival tickets or more information, call Karen Doyle at (570) 489-2552.

Saint Brigid in Friendsville — Aug. 11. Parish picnic & basket raffle held Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Neumann Hall grounds, State Route 267, (Choconut) Friendsville. Featuring take-out chicken barbecue dinner; \$14 for adults, and \$5, children (school-age under 12). All dinners must pre-ordered and paid in advance and include barbecued half-chicken, potato salad, baked beans, cabbage salad, rolls & dessert. For dinner orders, call the parish office (570) 553-2288. Basket raffle items can be viewed on the parish Facebook page.

Prince of Peace in Old Forge — Aug. 11. The Old Forge parish is sponsoring its annual Chicken Barbecue & Basket Raffle event on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the parking lot of nearby Arcaro & Genell restaurant, located on Main Street. Dinner is prepared by Arcaro & Genell's and is take-out only. Cost for the dinner is \$15 per person

and includes a barbecued half-chicken, corn on the cob, pasta salad, roll & dessert. Walk-ins are limited and advance orders are encouraged. For advance tickets, contact the parish rectory at (570) 457-5900 by Aug. 5. Tickets also sold before and after all weekend Masses (Saturday, 4 p.m.; Sunday, 8 & 10 a.m.).

Saint Boniface & Saint Lawrence in Williamsport — Aug. 11. Annual Sunday Summer Picnic gathers at noon, with lunch served at 12:30 p.m., at the South Williamsport Sports Complex, East Central Ave. Parish provides chicken, hot dogs, hamburger barbecue, drinks, games & prizes. All are welcome to bring favorite covered dish or dessert.

Saint Elizabeth/Saint Mark in Bear Creek — Aug. 11, from noon to 8 p.m. Parish's Sunday Summer Festival held on the Saint Elizabeth church grounds, 5700 Bear Creek Boulevard, Bear Creek, featuring chicken barbecue dinner served from noon to 2 p.m. Traditional ethnic and picnic foods available, including

pierogi and potato pancakes. Event also includes live music, summer beverages, gift basket raffles, bingo & festival games, and grand prize cash drawing.

Saint Juliana's Rock Lake Picnic — Aug. 17. Sponsored by Saint Katharine Drexel Parish, the 186th Anniversary Summer Festival held on the grounds

of Saint Juliana Church, 2048 Creamton Drive (Route 247), Pleasant Mount. Saturday church picnic includes a turkey & ham dinner, served from noon to 3 p.m., for outdoor dining or take-out. Event also features live music throughout the day; Giant Finder's Market, food & refreshments, cash & basket raffles; and games for all ages.

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MISSION MESSAGE

**Missionary Cooperative Program:
Witnessing Faith in Action**

*By Shannon Kowalski
Diocesan Director,
Pontifical Mission Societies*



It is not uncommon for new or unfamiliar faces to fill our pews during the summer months, especially in some of our rural parishes that welcome snowbirds or summer vacationers.

Sometimes, the cantor, lector, or even the priest will invite us to turn and greet our neighbors in the pews. This invitation often stretches us beyond our comfort zones to an act of hospitality and community.

The call to welcome the stranger is deeply rooted in Catholic teaching and scripture.

In Matthew 25:35, Jesus says, "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

This mandate is clear: Christians are to show hospitality and love to all, especially to those who are foreign or marginalized. Let's remember, there is joy in

welcoming the stranger, for in doing so, we welcome Christ himself.

Beyond snowbirds, summer vacationers, and visiting family and friends, you will likely see another unfamiliar face at your parish this summer. If you haven't already met the missionary hosted by your parish for the Missionary Cooperative Plan, you will soon!



Between May and August, dozens of lay and religious missionaries from around the world will be visiting each of our parishes to share firsthand accounts of their work in diverse and often challenging environments.

The Missionary Cooperative Plan (MCP) of the Pontifical Mission Societies invites missionary organizations to share their experiences and needs directly with our parishes, creating a personal and impactful connection between the local faithful and the universal Church. These visits are an opportunity for missionaries to raise essential

funds and bring the mission field to life for parishioners.

The funds collected through MCP appeals support education, healthcare, and social services in some of the poorest regions of the world. Our MCP missionaries not only address these material needs of the poor but also bring spiritual nourishment and the hope of the Gospel.

This evangelization effort is not merely about increasing numbers but about sharing the profound message of Christ's love and salvation.

From Vietnam to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the witness of these missionaries offers us a glimpse into the daily realities and spiritual richness of missionary work. By participating in the MCP, our parishes in the Diocese of Scranton have become active partners in the Church's global mission.

Supporting missions and welcoming strangers are not just acts of charity. They are essential components of living out the Gospel. These efforts remind us that we are all part of one human family, called to love and support one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Apostleship of Prayer

Papal Intention for July 2024

For Pastoral Care of the Sick —

We pray that the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick confers to those who receive it, and their loved ones, the power of the Lord and become ever more a visible sign of compassion and hope for all.

Monsignor Bohr retires following widespread priestly ministry and roles

Continued from page 10

Along the way, he also served the Universal Church in a key administrative position at the Pontifical North American College in Rome. His return to the Eternal City stirred memories

of his priestly formation and seminary studies at the Pontifical Lateran University and Pontifical Gregorian University.

Rome was also the setting for the successful defense of Monsignor Bohr's doctoral

dissertation, leading to the conferral of his Doctorate in Moral Theology a few short years after his ordination.

The dissertation was published by Paulist Press under the title, *Evangelization in America*, in 1977.

Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, the most recent Bishop of Scranton Monsignor Bohr has closely ministered alongside, may have said it best.

In extending his profound gratitude, and that of the entire Diocese, on the occasion of Monsignor's recent retirement, Bishop Bambera said of his longtime colleague, "It is very hard to sum up 50-plus years of very active ministry of writing, reflecting and teaching."

The Bishop continued, "As I look at the number of individuals you have touched, from priests to permanent deacons to religious

to lay faithful, in many respects you, more than most any of us, have touched people's lives and drawn them and given them the ability to come closer to the Lord than any of us could ever hope for or imagine."

Most notably, Monsignor's leadership ability and theological acumen were called upon when he was chosen as founding director of the Diocese's Religious Education Institute, Office of Evangelization, and Office for the Permanent Diaconate.

As he wryly related, "I served twice as director of continuing formation of priests and three times as director of permanent diaconate formation. I tell people, 'They figured if they gave me these positions enough times, I would finally get them right.'"

A prolific writer, Monsignor Bohr is the author of four books, the most recent — *The Diocesan*

Priest: Consecrated and Sent — receiving the 2010 Catholic Book Award from the Catholic Press Association.

"I am truly grateful for all the wonderful people I have met and have gotten to know along the way," Monsignor shared.

Forever the teacher, he offered one last important lesson upon his departure: "Pope Francis likes to speak of Christ knocking on the door of our heart; not to get in, but to get out to welcome and serve others. I pray that we all can spend the rest of our lives doing just this!"

Appointed to succeed Monsignor Bohr in his most recent positions are: Father Mark DeCelles as Director of the Permanent Diaconate Program; Father Ryan Glenn, Director of Continuing Education of Priests; and Father Alex Roche, Secretary for Clergy Formation.

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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 Respetto de Reportar el Abuso Sexual de Un Menor de Edad

Es la norma de la Diócesis de Scranton reportar cualquier alegación de abuso sexual de un menor de edad a las autoridades. Si usted es una víctima de abuso sexual cometido por un sacerdote, diácono, religioso o empleado laico, o voluntario de la Diócesis de Scranton, usted está obligado a reportar el asunto inmediatamente a las autoridades de la ley.

Si algún sacerdote, diácono, religioso, empleado laico o voluntario de la Diócesis de Scranton tiene sospecha de que un menor de edad ha sido sujeto a cualquier forma de abuso, incluyendo abuso sexual de menor de edad, el asunto será reportado a las autoridades de la ley.

Es la norma de la Diócesis defender todas las regulaciones civiles y del estado. Al fin de que la Diócesis esté comprometida igualmente a defender las normas del Código de Derecho Canónico y defender los principios de la Carta Para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes (Conferencia de los Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos), lo cual incluye apoyar a las víctimas de abuso sexual en pos del bienestar emocional y espiritual.

Por eso, información respecto a una alegación del asunto sexual de un menor de edad, debe ser reportada a la Coordinadora Diocesana de Asistencia para Las Víctimas, Mary Beth Pacuska, a (570) 862-7551.

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Bishop Bambara co-chairs Catholic-Pentecostal International Dialogue in Portugal

LISBON, Portugal – The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambara, Bishop of Scranton, once again co-chaired the Catholic-Pentecostal International Dialogue, which met at the Center of Spirituality, Alfragide, from July 6-12, 2024.

This dialogue began in 1972 and is co-sponsored by the Catholic Church's Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity (DPCU) and the Pentecostal World Fellowship's Christian Unity Commission.

The primary goal of this dialogue is to promote mutual respect and understanding between the Catholic Church and Classical Pentecostal leaders and churches.

All participants are convinced that Christian unity is the will of Christ. In the context of the general theme, *Lex orandi, lex credendi*, the fourth annual session discussed "Sacramentality and Christian Living."



Participants in the Catholic-Pentecostal International Dialogue shown in a group photo on July 7, 2024.

Dr. Jean-Daniel Plüss presented the Pentecostal paper, "Conformed to the Image of Christ: Pentecostal Spirituality, Sacramental Practices and Daily Living."

Rev. Fr. Marcial Maçaneiro, S.C.J., presented the Catholic paper, "The Sacraments and Sacramental Life: A Catholic Perspective."

Morning and evening prayers, led alternately by the participants, were also essential for the work together.

A visit to "Our Lady of Fatima Shrine," where the participants attended Sunday Eucharist at the main square, was an occasion for exchange, dialogue, clarification, and reflection. It significantly marked this session in light of the topic discussed: the devoted expressions of many pilgrims impacted the participants, who saw in them a hunger for God and a confidence in God's action.

At the end of the meeting, Bishop Joseph Bambara, Catholic Co-Chair, described the session as follows: "This year's dialogue has once again affirmed what Pope Francis noted in reflecting upon the upcoming 1700th

anniversary of the First Council of Nicaea, 'Jesus Christ is the heart of ecumenism ... and our mission is to bear witness to him.' Our discussions, while candid and probing, reflect a depth of mutual respect, understanding

and fellowship that emerges from shared faith in Jesus. These days continue to be a blessing to us all as we journey together as brothers and sisters in the Lord."

More information is available at dioceseofscranton.org.



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Marian Devotion Rosary prayer service

Fostering prayerful devotion to Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary through recitation of the Holy Rosary, Marian Devotion Ministries in the Diocese of Scranton continues to lead its Fatima Journey through October.

An upcoming Marian Devotion gathering is scheduled

as follows:

Saturday Afternoon Rosary Rally — July 20, at 1 p.m. on the grounds of the Marian Prayer Garden at Saint Lucy Church, West Scranton.

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



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2024 IHM Foundation virtual celebration Aug. 3; benefits Sisters' retirement fund

Two prominent individuals will be honored when the 2024 Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters Celebration takes place as a virtual event on Saturday, Aug. 3.

The 11th annual ceremonies will air live on the IHM Facebook page and YouTube channel, beginning at 6 p.m.

Since 2014, the Sisters of IHM Foundation has sponsored the annual fundraiser to raise awareness and generate vital financial support for their congregation — the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

This year's honorees include: Lois Draina, Ph.D., recently retired Dean of the College of Education and Human Development at Marywood University in Scranton, with more than 20 years of Catholic school administration experience.

Honorary Chairperson John Cognetti, president and broker of record at Hinerfeld Realty. Having received his early education in

Catholic schools staffed by the IHM Sisters, he has served the Greater Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, Pocono Mountains and Pittston Chambers of Commerce.

Various opportunities are

available for individuals and organizations to help care for the needs of the retired IHM Sisters.

For more information, visit www.sistersofihm.org or call (570) 346-5431.

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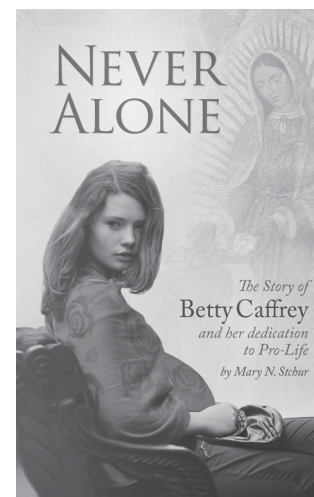
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Never Alone

by **Mary N. Stchur, M.Ed.** is the Biography of **Betty Caffrey** who has dedicated over 45 years as Founder and President of the Wyoming Valley Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life. It features historical photos and news stories recalling the Pro-Life successes, efforts, and challenges which the Chapter has withstood throughout the years under the leadership of Mrs. Caffrey. At the age of 95, Betty Caffrey is still active in the day-to-day running of the Pro-Life Center and stands as an inspirational warrior in the fight for the protection of the unborn.

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Aug. 20: Atlantic City Day Trip

Sept. 26: Tribute to Rat Pack

Oct. 2: Fall Foliage Train Ride
@ Silver Birches

Oct. 4: Daniel at Sight & Sound

Oct. 7-11 Cape Cod Island Hopping

Oct. 13 & 23: Pumpkin Blaze

Oct. 20: Renaissance Faire

Oct. 29: 3 Troubadours @Penn's Peak

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Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese of Scranton

21st Annual Memorial Blood Drive — **JULY 18**, sponsored by the North Pocono Blood Council of American Red Cross and St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Moscow; held from 1 to 6 p.m. at St. Catherine Church, 220 Church St., Moscow. Annual Red Cross Blood Drive honors the memory of John Paul Ruggiero, a young parishioner of St. Catherine's who passed away while attending the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., in 2002. Donors receive complimentary refreshments. For appointment registration, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org and enter "Moscow." Walk-ins welcome.

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

the Blessed Sacrament at 6 p.m. All faithful are welcome.

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

Weekly Bereavement Support Group Sessions — **JULY 22-AUG. 12**, sponsored by St. John Neumann Parish in Lords Valley; bereavement support group meets on consecutive Monday afternoons from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the St. John parish hall, 705 Route 739, Lords Valley. Weekly gatherings address topics dealing with the grief process to enable participants to find healing following the loss of a loved one. All are welcome; advance registration required at stvgriefgroup@att.net or by calling the parish office (570) 775-6791.

Tuesday Eucharistic Adoration — **JULY 23**, hosted by St. Peter Parish in Wellsboro;

weekly exposition & adoration of the Blessed Sacrament offered every Tuesday from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Church of St. Peter, 47 Central Ave., Wellsboro. All faithful are welcome to spend time in prayerful meditation and reflection in the presence of the Eucharistic Lord.

Summer Youth Music Camp: "On Pilgrimage with Jesus" — **JULY 29-AUG. 2**, hosted by Gate of Heaven Parish, 40 Machell Ave., Dallas; music camp for children held daily throughout the week from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., concluding with a Youth Liturgy on Sunday, Aug. 4. Camp is open to youth singers ages 8 to 15; camper gatherings will include choir rehearsals, snacks and other activities. For more information and registration, contact the parish office at (570) 675-2121, or parishoffice.goh@goholv.org.

First Friday Rosary & Adoration — **AUG. 2**, hosted by St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish at Our Lady of the Lake Church, 5112 Pocono Crest Road, Pocono Pines; Rosary and Eucharistic adoration offered on the First

Friday of each month. Devotions open with recitation of the Rosary at 6:30 p.m. led by St. Monica's Army; followed by one hour of exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Continued on page 30

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Continued on page 30

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Catholic rock band coming to Diocese

MJM7, the Mette Catholic family spiritual rock band, has planned two stops in the Diocese of Scranton during their Summer Missionary Tour concert series.

The well-known Catholic musical group will perform on Sunday, July 28, at 6 p.m. at the Saint Faustina Kowalska Parish Cultural Centre, 38 W. Church St., Nanticoke.

Two days later, on Tuesday, July 30, Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Brodheadsville will host an MJM7 concert on 7

p.m. at the parish pavilion.

According to their website, MJM7 features the Mette family's gifts of uplifting music, joy and spirituality in presenting a parish mission in a rock concert setting.

Utilizing vibrant lights and powerful music, their concerts are described as empowering events inviting all ages to pray more fully and worship more freely.

The MJM7 performances are open free to the public, with free-will donations accepted.

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Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese

Continued from page 29

Divine Mercy Inaugural Golf Tournament — **AUG. 4**, sponsored by Divine Mercy Parish, Minooka section, Scranton; first annual tournament will be hosted at the Pine Hills Golf Course in Taylor. Tournament play begins with a 1:30 p.m. tee off. Cost: \$100 per golfer (\$400/foursome), includes awards dinner, complimentary gift bag and golf prizes. Registration forms available at the parish office, 312 Davis St., Scranton, or online at: www.divinemercyparish.us.

23rd Annual Lebanese-American Food Festival — **AUG. 9-11**, hosted by St. Joseph Melkite Greek-Catholic Church, 130 North St. Frances Cabrini Ave. (off lower Jackson Street), West Scranton; event held on the church grounds Friday & Saturday, from 4 to 9 p.m., and Sunday, 1 to 7 p.m. Featuring homemade Lebanese/Middle Eastern foods & pastries and traditional American picnic food favorites; includes gift baskets & cash raffles. For more information, contact the rectory office at (570) 343-6092 or visit the Facebook page.

invited. For more information, call David Beahm (570) 673-4838, or the parish office (570) 673-5253.

Cash Bingo — **AUG. 24**, hosted by St. Maria Goretti Parish in Laflin; bingo games held from 1 to 4 p.m. (doors open at 11 a.m.) in the parish hall, 42 Redwood Drive, Laflin. Admission cost: \$30, includes 20 games and \$5 food voucher. Regular game prizes of \$100; prizes for special games (\$5 each) range from \$200 to more than \$500. Event also includes basket raffle, bake sale and cash drawing; food and beverages available for purchase. For tickets, call the parish office (570) 655-8956.

Cause for Canonization Mass & Devotion for Father McGivney — **AUG. 11**, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus of St. Michael Parish, Canton; devotion begins with Rosary and Litany prayers at 8:45 a.m., followed by Mass at 9:30 a.m. in St. Michael Church to further the cause for canonization of Blessed Father Michael McGivney, Knights of Columbus founder. All faithful are

Catholic High School Class Reunion — **SEPT. 21**, hosted by the 2004 graduation class from the former Bishop Hoban High School in Wilkes-Barre; 20-year reunion gathering will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. at Rodano's in downtown Wilkes-Barre. For more information and reservations, visit: tinyurl.com/hoban04reunion20.

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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Prayer Requests for Priests

The Daily Prayer Request for Priests schedule is as follows:

July 18, Father Gerard McGlone; July 19, Monsignor Stephen McGough; July 20, Father John McHale; July 21, Father Connell McHugh; July 22, Jesuit Father Bernard McIlhenny; July 23, Jesuit Father Ronald McKinney; July 24, Father Patrick McLaughlin; July 25, Father Edward Michelini; July 26, Father Kevin Miller; July 27, Jesuit Father J. Patrick Mohr; July 28, Father Joseph Mosley; July 29, Father Joseph Motsay; July 30, Father Thomas Muldowney; July 31, Father Kevin Mulhern; August 1, Pope Francis; August 2, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; August 3, Father Paul Mullen; August 4, Father James Nash; August 5, Jesuit Father Eugene Nolan; August 6, Father Theodore Obaza; August 7, Holy Cross Father Thomas O'Hara; August 8, Father Peter O'Rourke; August 9, Father James Paisley; August 10, Father Sergio Leon Pamplona Henao; August 11, Father Francis Pauselli; August 12, Father Jaime Perez Restrepo; August 13, Father Carmen Perry; August 14, Father Thomas Petro; August 15, Father William Petruska; August 16, Father Michael Piccola; August 17, Father William Pickard; August 18, Saint Joseph Oblate Father Jackson Pinhero; August 19, Father Joseph Pisaneschi; August 20, Father John Polednak, V.E.

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Mercille Schneider**

*Entered Life:
July 7, 1927*

*Entered Eternal Life:
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**Immaculate Heart
of Mary Sister
Raymond Mary McIntyre**

*Entered Life:
October 12, 1935*

*Entered Eternal Life:
June 10, 2024*



**Immaculate Heart
of Mary Sister
Joan Marie Thompson**

*Entered Life:
July 29, 1938*

*Entered Eternal Life:
June 16, 2024*



**Immaculate Heart
of Mary Sister
Anne McDonald**

*Entered Life:
July 28, 1950*

*Entered Eternal Life:
July 4, 2024*



**Immaculate Heart
of Mary Sister
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We will be at both call for details!

White Haven church to celebrate 150th anniversary in August

Continued from Page 5

Over the years, the ecumenical work has taken place between the five churches in White Haven. They have worked together on many programs such as Vacation Bible School as well as community service projects that parishioners perform – which includes regularly serving meals to the community.

“White Haven is a small town. People live in a tiny community by choice generally. There are certain values that come

with a small town. You can call on people and that is what we see in Saint Patrick’s (Parish). There is a camaraderie and a community reflective of a small town parish,” Ed added.

The 150th Anniversary Committee is still looking for mementos to be displayed at their celebration in August. If anyone has photos or mementos of the old church, convent, school, rectory or construction of the church or parish center and are willing to share them, please contact the parish office at (570) 443-9944.



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MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2024

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