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Nearly 60,000 attend National Eucharistic Congress

INDIANAPOLIS (OSV News) - As five days of the National Eucharistic Congress concluded with one final revival and a beautiful solemn Mass in Lucas Oil Stadium - Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota, board chairman of the National Eucharistic Congress Inc., stood in Lucas Oil Stadium.

"I have a question for you," he told the crowd. "This is the 10th National Eucharistic Congress - do you think we should do an 11th one?"

Some 60,000 congress participants - representing 50 U.S. states, 17 countries, and various Eastern and Western churches, and speaking over 40 languages - cheered wildly in the stadium.

They also again rose to their feet to give the U.S. Catholic bishops an enthusiastic standing ovation for making possible the five-day congress with its impact sessions, breakout sessions, special events, revival nights with Eucharistic adoration and Benediction and beautifully celebrated reverent Masses.

The event reflected the diversity of a church all united in the same Eucharistic Lord and eager to use their gifts for a new Pentecost in the church.

The first day of the July 17-21 congress began with an evening revival as the 30 perpetual pilgrims, who had walked the four National Eucharistic Pilgrimage routes, took their final official steps of their eight-week journey into the stadium carrying icons of each route's respective patron saints.

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Altar servers carry candles and a crucifix during the procession of the gifts during Mass July 19, 2024, at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis during the National Eucharistic Congress. (OSV News photo/Scott Warden, courtesy Today's Catholic, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend)

Local Catholics reflect on impactful Eucharistic Congress

INDIANAPOLIS - Amazing. Overwhelming. Beautiful.

Those are just three of the words that Karen McLain of Madison Township used to describe the 10th National Eucharistic Congress, held July 17-21 in the Indiana Convention Center and adjacent Lucas Oil Stadium.

"The speakers, musicians, emcees, and worship leaders were all filled with such joy and conviction. You were drawn to them and to their stories," McLain said. "Every speaker, every topic in a session, was tied in some way to Jesus in the Eucharist."

McLain was one of many people from the Diocese of Scranton who made the trip to Indianapolis for the five-day event.

Even in a crowd of roughly 60,000 people - McLain said the pilgrims from Scranton were not hard to find.

"We met a group from Stroudsburg on the steps outside the stadium when we were all seeking shade during a lunch break. It was such a surprise," she stated. "A friend from Nanticoke texted that she was in a particular session, and we were in the same session. We texted back and forth until we found each other in the room of about 2,000 people."

Monsignor Dale Rupert, Diocesan Director of Worship and Senior Priest/Pastor Emeritus at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, was happy to see such a diverse crowd at the Congress - women and men of all ages, families with children, young people, religious sisters and brothers, seminarians, and priests.

"Everyone could identify us because of the credentials around our necks and the orange-colored backpacks that everyone was given," Monsignor Rupert explained. "There was such a spirit of camaraderie and community."

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The Catholic Light

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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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The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.
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Secretary for Communications/Editor-in-Chief:
Eric M. Deabill

Managing Editor:

Kevin G. McDonnell

Advertising Coordinator:

Eileen Manley

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Pamela Haeefe

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Locals reflect on 'missionary' message of Eucharistic Congress

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Both Msgr. Rupert and McLain pointed out that the Congress gave attendees many moments to encounter the love of God and have their lives changed by his grace.

"There was a church, named Saint John the Evangelist, across the street from the Indiana Convention Center which was designated the 'Adoration Chapel' for the Congress," Msgr. Rupert said. "Several times I visited there while the Blessed Sacrament was exposed each day. Literally, there was no seating available with very little space even to stand; that's how many people were in adoration. This church is about the size of our own Cathedral of Saint Peter, so we're talking about 800-900 hundred people. That was most edifying and impressive to see, all those people in adoration."

McLain highlighted the Eucharistic procession through downtown Indianapolis – calling it deeply moving.

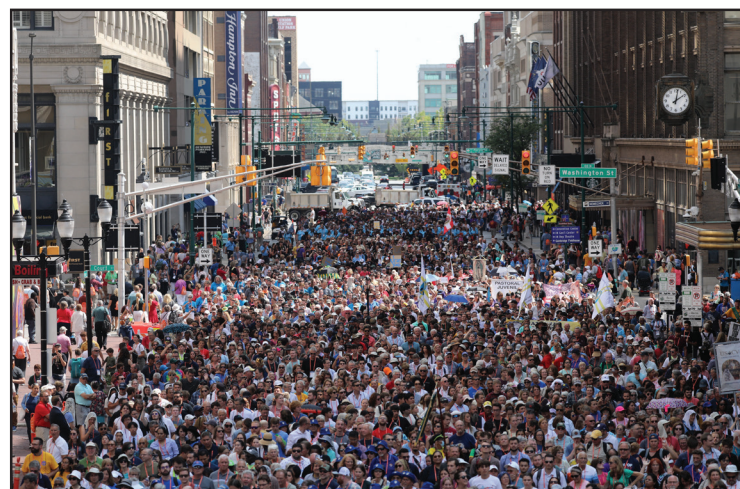
"Row after row of seminarians, clergy, order after order of nuns, and then thousands

of lay people praying, singing, and joining in honor of Jesus. As far as I could see up the street it was completely filled, both sidewalks and all the lanes of the street," she said. "There was a stop at the Capitol Square for prayer, people filling the square with Jesus lifted above them. It reminded me of the Scripture John 12:32, 'When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men unto me.' All eyes lifted up to Jesus. It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

The National Eucharistic Congress is a highlight of the National Eucharistic Revival, a three-year initiative of the U.S. Bishops to increase understanding of and inspire deeper love for Jesus in the Eucharist. It launched the revival's third year, the Year of Mission, which includes the Bishops' 'Walk with One' initiative that encourages Catholics to actively share their love of Jesus with someone who does not know him or who no longer practices the Catholic faith.

The Congress well exceeded the expectations that McLain had going in.

"I am hopeful that learning



Thousands of pilgrims join the final Eucharistic procession of the National Eucharistic Congress in downtown Indianapolis July 20, 2024. (OSV News photo/Bob Roller)

more about how to reach out to different ethnic groups in our area will be helpful. Finding new ways to share our faith was another session that will be useful to me as a leader as well as in my daily life," McLain stated. "Renewing my faith and my joy; encouraging my hope for the church and her future; and learning new things to help me in my personal walk with Jesus as well as in my leadership roles are all great take-aways for me from the Congress!"

As the massive crowds

had their Eucharistic faith renewed and deepened, Msgr. Rupert thinks the Congress will inevitably lead to greater charity and the practice of good works.

"The Closing Mass with Cardinal Tagle as principal celebrant was a beautiful and enthusiastic liturgy. His homily captured the spirit of the Congress and invited us all to go, live, and proclaim our Eucharistic faith so that our fellow Catholics might be renewed too by our witness," the Scranton priest added.



Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minn., chairman of the board of the National Eucharistic Congress, Inc., blesses pilgrims during adoration at the opening revival night of the 10th National Eucharistic Congress at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis July 17, 2024. (OSV News photo/Bob Roller)



Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, pro-prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization's Section for First Evangelization and New Particular Churches, delivers the homily July 21, 2024, during the final Mass of the National Eucharistic Congress at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. (OSV News photo/Bob Roller)

Eucharistic Congress: Five days of wonder, awe and adoration

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The icons of the four saints - St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin, St. Junipero Serra, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and the Blessed Virgin Mary - were put around the altar where the Blessed Sacrament was placed.

"How will we know that we are experiencing Eucharistic revival?" Cardinal Christophe Pierre, the papal nuncio to the U.S., asked in his keynote speech July 17, encouraging everyone to surrender their hearts to the Lord over the next few days. "When we are truly revived by the Eucharist," he said, "then our encounter with Christ's real presence in the sacrament opens us to an encounter with him in the rest of our life" and then "spills over in our daily life, a life of relating to others, our way of seeing others."

Every day of the congress began with most congress-goers joining in beautifully and reverently celebrated Eucharistic liturgies in the stadium - including a July 20 Holy Qurbana, the Syro-Malabar form of the Eucharistic liturgy, prayed in English. Additional morning and evening Masses were held at nearby sites in different languages, such as Spanish or Vietnamese, or in different forms, such as the Byzantine rite or the older usage of the Roman rite.

Three days of the congress, July 18-20, were split between seven morning impact sessions and nearly 20 afternoon breakout sessions on a variety of topics meant to form, equip and inspire people, including clergy, to live more deeply their



Pilgrims pray during a July 19, 2024, Encounter impact session at Lucas Oil Stadium during the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis. (OSV News photo/Bob Roller)

faith in light of Jesus making himself truly present in the Eucharist - and how to practically bring what they have learned into their parishes, ministries, groups and families.

The exhibit halls in the Indiana Convention Center were packed throughout the congress, as long lines formed for exhibits such as the Shroud of Turin or Eucharistic miracles. Religious sisters provided a kind of spiritual air traffic control that guided people to the lengthy confession lines.

The convention center was also a place where the spontaneity of joy could be seen and felt. Young people marched through chanting their love for Jesus, while further on, a group of Catholic women, dressed in traditional apparel from Cameroon, sang and danced their love for Jesus and Mary to the delight of people who gathered around them.

Tens of thousands of congress-goers at the revivals - and the liturgies as well - eagerly joined their voices in singing the beautiful hymns and chants, both traditional and contemporary, in English, Spanish, Latin and other languages. The congress saw the musicianship of Dave



Jonathan Roumie, best known for his TV role as Jesus Christ in "The Chosen," speaks during the July 20, 2024, revival night of the National Eucharistic Congress at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. (OSV News photo/Bob Roller)

and Lauren Moore, Sarah Kroger and Matt Maher, as well as the talents of the men's ensemble Floriani and the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra.

The nightly revival sessions created a sensory experience of awe around the Eucharistic Lord, as tens of thousands prayed in silent contemplation before the Eucharist on the altar -- illuminated in the dark stadium by spotlights. Adoring Jesus in the stadium, concluding with Benediction, was the pinnacle movement of each evening.

Keynote speakers and testimonies helped keep people's eyes fixed on Jesus' personal love for them and his desire to be close to them.

One such nightly revival, focused on healing, indicated the problem with Catholic belief in the Eucharist -- was more about the heart than the head, and needed Catholics to repent of their indifference to Jesus.

"Knowledge can make us great, but only love can make a saint," said Father Mike Schmitz, the Diocese of Duluth, Minnesota, priest known for chart-topping podcasts "The Bible in a Year" and "The Catechism in a Year." Mother Olga of the Sacred Heart, who survived four wars in the Middle East, recounted how in the midst of her own personal suffering she heard Jesus say in her heart: "That even on the cross and through the cross, we can still choose to love."

Jonathan Roumie, the actor famous for his portrayal of Jesus in the hit miniseries "The Chosen," told the audience at the

final revival night July 20 after reading Jesus' Bread of Life discourse from John 6, "The Eucharist for me is healing. The Eucharist for me is peace, the Eucharist for me is my grounding. The Eucharist for me is his heart within me."

More than 1,200 religious sisters and brothers, 1,170 priests, 630 deacons, 610 seminarians and 200 bishops participated in the congress, according to congress organizers. At a press conference July 19, Philadelphia Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez said he had never seen anything like the congress, as a non-papal event, in his 35 years of priesthood.

"You can sense the energy of what's happening here, which is touching hearts," he said, adding the experience was making him think about how to respond to the need for the church's sacraments to be more accessible.

At the sending-forth Mass July 21, Pope Francis' special envoy to the congress, Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, delivered a homily with warmth, joy and humor that made participants both laugh and feel inspired as he told them, "A Eucharistic people is a missionary and evangelizing people."

"We should not keep Jesus to ourselves," he said, exhorting them not to use their time in church to escape others, but to "share Jesus' tender love" with "the weary, the hungry and suffering ... the lost, confused and weak."

"Go and share Jesus' gift of reconciliation and peace to those who are divided," he said, emphasizing, "Let us proclaim Jesus joyfully and zealously for the life of the world!"

Bishop Cozzens revealed there would be another National Eucharistic Pilgrimage in 2025 from Indianapolis to Los Angeles, and possibly an earlier National Eucharistic Congress than 2033.

But he invited people to take this experience of the congress and - echoing Cardinal Tagle's call for Eucharistic "missionary conversion" - join the congress's "Walk with One" initiative.

"Commit yourself to walking with one person," he said. "Commit yourself to becoming a Eucharistic missionary, someone who lives deeply a Eucharistic life, and having received that gift, allows themselves to be given as a gift."



Pilgrims sing along with Catholic musician Matt Maher during the July 20, 2024, revival night of the National Eucharistic Congress at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. (OSV News photo/Bob Roller)



THE BODY OF CHRIST: A WONDROUS REAL PRESENCE IN THE WORLD

- *A Priesthood Perspective by Father Joseph Pisaneschi -
Pastor, St. Therese Parish, Shavertown & St. Frances X. Cabrini Parish, Carverton*



When I was in second grade preparing for my first Holy Communion, the teacher told us something so simple and yet profound, that it stayed with me all these years: "Jesus is going to come into your heart and soul when you receive Him in Holy Communion. He wants to be so close to you that He wants to live in you, and He wants you to live in Him."

There is a lot to unpack. And I continue to peel back the layers of that simple teaching to this day and will be doing the same for the rest of my life. My first thought was: "Wow! If Jesus comes to be with me, I will never be alone."

Confession: As a very young child I used to be afraid to sleep at night in the dark. One Christmas we were given a little tiny plastic baby Jesus by our religion teacher. I began to clutch on to that little Baby Jesus for dear life at night and slept with it in my hands. God forbid if I would wake up in the middle of the night without it! We had a whole search party trying to find the infant.

Enter in what the teacher said to us. I would no longer have to hold on to the figure; Jesus would be right there with me inside of me! I was no longer afraid of the dark.

My second thought was: "If Jesus is coming to live in me, then what about my best friend? What about the kid that teases me? What about the kids I tease and make fun of? Is Jesus going to come and live in them too? Believe me, I am still unpacking this in my fifties.

For me, this has been the central issue of the Eucharist. As Saint Augustine said, "we become what we eat [consume]." If Jesus is truly present in me and my heart and soul, then Jesus is present in everyone who receives Holy Communion's heart and soul. This has far-reaching implications.

I did not realize it as a second-grade student, but this realization changes everything! How could I reverently receive Holy Communion at Mass and then treat others like dirt?

As the high school years came and went, I cannot say I treated everyone with the dignity and respect they deserved as a Child of God and as a living presence of Jesus. However, the thought that I was really wounding Jesus' Body when I disrespected someone else was hard to shake. Confessions became a real opportunity for growth and new understanding.

The fact of the matter is that Jesus – the second person of the Holy Trinity and his "Real Presence" –



is not only found in a sacramental host or in a Supper, and consists of the foot washing of the disciples and Jesus' great commandment of loving one another, gives further proof of this communal aspect of the Eucharist.

Yes, I say it again: "We are the living body of Christ." As Saint Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 12:27: "Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it."

And again, in Romans 12:5 he says: "So we, being many, are one body in Christ; and every one members one of another."

These words are as reassuring as they are challenging. How am I called to live as a member of Christ's Body and treat others and myself with the same respect I give to the sacramental Eucharist? While Jesus will never leave or abandon me, how can I live as the true presence of Christ's Body in this world?

It is worth pausing and reflecting on. Would I ever call Jesus a disrespectful name? Would I curse at him? Would I punch or hit Jesus? Would I ignore Jesus? Yet, we don't think twice when we do it to Christ's Real Presence in another person.

The fact that Saint John's Gospel, which is read on Holy Thursday's Mass of the Lord's Supper, and consists of the foot washing of the disciples and Jesus' great commandment of loving one another, gives further proof of this communal aspect of the Eucharist.

We recall the words of Jesus at every Mass: "Do this in remembrance of me." But this command is more than to just break the bread and drink the cup, it is to remember all that Jesus did and told us.

In Matthew 25, we are given the teaching of whatever we do for our brothers and sisters, we do for Jesus. Therefore, the Eucharist does not stop when the closing hymn is sung.

No, it continues when we "feed the hungry, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, visit the imprisoned..." This is our mission, which is so intertwined with the mystery on the altar that the two cannot be separated.

If we truly want to worship the Real Presence of Jesus Christ, we must recognize the fact that Jesus lives in every member of his Mystical Body, the Church.

In conclusion, to that second grader's fears and elations, Jesus **IS** with us. We are never alone. In and through the living presence of the miracle of the altar, we are truly transformed into the very mystery itself. This is not only my reality, but also your reality. Together we make up the Body of Christ – this wondrous Real Presence in the world.

Diocese hosts innovative workshop for international priests

SCRANTON – With international priests now making up a fifth of its active clergy, the Diocese of Scranton recently held a groundbreaking initiative aimed at fostering better integration and communication.

From July 15-17, 2024, international priests serving throughout the Diocese came together to participate in a specialized Acculturation and Accent workshop at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, welcomed nearly 20 international priests to the gathering – beginning with sincere gratitude for the sacrifice that each man is making – being so far away from home.

“I want to say thank you for your willingness to do that,” Bishop Bambera said. “We can’t do it without you, so thank you.”

The three-day workshop was led by Dr. Kevin Spence, who is associated with the Saint Meinrad Institute for Priests and Presbyterates. He held numerous hands-on sessions that included information on U.S. speech patterns, pronunciations, cultural differences and communication techniques.

“The workshop was very fruitful,” Father Neftali Feliz-Sena, Assistant Pastor at Annunciation Parish in Hazleton, said. “As international priests, we have our own culture and it is hard to deny what we are, but as we work in another culture, we need to have a better understanding of the other (American) culture.”

A native of Kerala, India, Father Jose Kuriappilly has been ministering in the Diocese of Scranton for five years. Currently serving as Pastor of Saints Peter



International priests serving in the Diocese of Scranton gathered July 15-17 at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton to participate in a three-day Acculturation and Accent workshop. The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, welcomed the priests to the program on its first day. (Photo/Eric Deabill)

& Paul Parish in Towanda and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Wyalusing, he said the workshop sessions helped him understand the American language on a deeper level, especially the pronunciation of some words.

“When I became a pastor, I talked to my people openly saying, ‘I am in a different world and everything is different for me – my language, culture, climate, food, everything is different – so you have to adjust with me and if you have any good opinions or corrections, please just come to me and correct me,’” Father Jose explained. “As I continue to practice, I grow in my language and the culture class did help me a lot.”

Father Stephen Bosomafi, Pastor of Saint Thomas More Parish in Lake Ariel, found the discussion on differences in pastoral ministry in the United States fascinating.

“Some of the things were eye opening. There are things that sometimes we take for granted and now we are exposed and we know this is not what Americans expect from you,” Father Bosomafi explained. “The tendency is for anyone to say, ‘I want to do things my way,’ but you are here serving the needs of the people ... you should meet them at a certain point.”

The three-day course also allowed the international priests to reflect on some of the biggest differences they have

experienced between American culture and their homeland.

Expanding on the concept of freedom, Father Neftali said he is always shocked by how Americans leave Mass after the distribution of Holy Communion.

“We don’t do that in our culture. The Mass doesn’t end until the priest or deacon says, ‘The Mass is ended, go in peace,’” he said. “After communion, you might see half the church empty. That was shocking for me, seeing that reality.”

For Father Jose, socialization with parishioners – especially children – has caused him a little tension.

“Sometimes I notice, some kids after the Mass, they come and hug us, but I am afraid at times,” Father Jose explained, noting the importance of safe environment policies instituted in the United States. “You have to be careful.”

Feedback from the participating priests was overwhelmingly positive, many expressing appreciation for the program’s comprehensive approach.

The priests said the sessions show the Diocese of Scranton is committed to helping international priests fully engage with and serve their communities.

“I think that is something to be commended and we appreciate what the Bishop is doing,” Father Stephen said.

“We appreciate the closeness, as well, from the priests of the Diocese and also from the Curia – the Bishop, Vicar General and Vicar for Clergy – they are so close and they show us respect and they are so grateful that we are here. That is very meaningful,” Father Neftali ended by saying.

Historic appointments mark beginning chapter for Catholic Foundation

SCRANTON – In a significant step to provide lasting financial support for Diocesan ministries, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, has announced the inaugural officers of the newly established Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Scranton.

The executive committee appointments set the stage to help build endowment funds to secure long-term funding for Diocesan religious, educational, and charitable ministries.

The Catholic Foundation, announced

publicly in March 2024, will work with donors to contribute cash donations, estate gifts, IRA contributions, and gifts to endowment funds that will provide long-term support for the work of the Catholic Church in our 11-county Diocese.

Bishop Bambera, who has been a driving force behind the Foundation’s creation, emphasized the importance of selecting the first Foundation officers.

“Appointing the first Foundation board members is more than just a formality; it is a pivotal moment for laying the groundwork

for the Foundation’s success,” Bishop Bambera said. “The diverse backgrounds and collective expertise of all of these individuals will be instrumental in guiding our efforts and ensuring that we remain true to our mission of fostering faith and charity.”

The Foundation’s first executive officers serving on the Executive/Nominating Committee of the Catholic Foundation Board are:

• **Chairperson:** Christopher DiMattio, Senior Vice President, Merrill Lynch Wealth Management, and a parishioner of

Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, Moscow.

• **Vice Chairperson:** Richard Mutchler, President, BioSpectra, Inc., and a parishioner of Saint Luke Parish, Stroudsburg.

• **Secretary:** Bryan J. Frantz, DMD, MS, Owner, Perio Health & Dental Implants, and a parishioner of Cathedral of Saint Peter Parish, Scranton.

• **Treasurer:** Nancy J. Marr, Founder/President Emerita, Marr Development Companies, and a parishioner of Resurrection Parish, Muncy.

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2024 Pennsylvania March for Life to take place Sept. 23

HARRISBURG – Thousands of pro-life advocates are expected in Harrisburg next month for the 2024 Pennsylvania March for Life.

The event will take place on Monday, Sept. 23 directly outside the Pennsylvania State Capitol Complex.

The Diocese of Scranton is once again inviting all people of good will to participate in the Pennsylvania March for Life.

The Diocese will be sponsoring a bus that will have pick-up locations in Scranton (8:30 a.m.) and Wilkes-Barre (9:15 a.m.) on the morning of the rally.

The bus is expected to arrive in Harrisburg around 11 a.m., which is when the March for Life Rally begins. The actual March itself kicks off around noon.

Following the March for Life, participants who travel to Harrisburg on the Diocesan bus will also be invited to celebrate

Mass at 1:30 p.m. at Saint Patrick's Cathedral in Harrisburg and the bus will depart for home at the conclusion of Mass.

The cost of the trip is \$15/per adult/\$10 per student. Space on the bus is limited. Those interested are encouraged to contact Shannon Kowalski at (570) 207-2238 or SKowalski@dioceseofscranton.org to reserve a spot.

With the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, the Pennsylvania State Legislature is now a critical battleground for protecting life. By participating in the 2024 March for Life, you will be a voice for the voiceless – empowering women to choose life and defend the dignity of the unborn.

The Catholic Church teaches that all human life is sacred from conception to natural death, opposing direct abortion as an act of violence that takes the life of the unborn child.

Pennsylvania March for Life

Monday, September 23, 2024
Harrisburg, Pa

High school youth ministries, college students, and families are welcome to join us as we head to Harrisburg to voice our support to life!

This is an excellent opportunity to learn about the principles of effective lobbying, the specific and current issues Pennsylvania is facing, and what you can do right now to champion pro-life policies to your PA elected representatives. This rally and march are suited for all levels of experience and comfort with advocacy.

Cost for the trip is \$15 per adult/\$10 per student and includes charter bus & driver gratuity

Passenger pick up in Scranton at 8:30am & 9:15am in Wilkes-Barre

SCHEDULE

- 10:00am - Prayer & Praise Pre-Rally
- 11:00am - March for Life Rally
- 12:00 p.m. - March for Life
- 1:30pm - Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral
- 2:45pm - Depart for Scranton

CONTACT INFO

To register, contact Shannon at SKowalski@dioceseofscranton.org or (570) 207-2238.

Revitalizing Faith: Diocese launches Genesis Mission workshops

SCRANTON – Faith is most powerful when it is shared.

That is why the Diocesan Office for Parish Life is working to equip parishioners with the skills and confidence to share the Good News of Jesus Christ more effectively.

Between Aug. 8-10, 2024, more than 80 people participated in Genesis Mission workshops aimed at helping participants confidently evangelize in their everyday lives.

“It was an honor that we were able to get this type of program in our Diocese,” Enrique Olmedo, a parishioner at Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish in South Scranton, said. “It was a very good opportunity that we got today.”

The workshops began on Aug. 8 at Saint Lawrence Parish in South Williamsport, followed by two more workshops Aug. 9 & 10 at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton.

“I think today’s workshop met a very important need in the life of our Diocese,” Father Cyril Edwards, Pastor of Mary, Mother of God Parish in North Scranton, stated. “I hope it will give people more confidence and knowledge in how to approach people who maybe used to go to church, or people who have never had a church, but are in need of a relationship with Jesus Christ.”

Genesis Mission’s international co-founders, Father Jon Bielawski and Michele Thompson, traveled to northeastern Pennsylvania to lead each workshop.

“One of the key things that we teach is that evangelization is about listening to the other person,” Father Bielawski said. “You have two ears and one mouth. You should be doing twice as much listening, and you do the



The Diocesan Office for Parish Life held Genesis Mission workshops in South Williamsport and Scranton Aug 8-10. Pictured above is the Aug. 9 workshop at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton and at the left is the Aug. 8 session at Saint Lawrence Parish in South Williamsport.

help many people. She called the program “transformational” after seeing it work in the Syracuse area.

“This gives you the confidence that you can talk to people and share Jesus with them” Wright explained.

With the introductory workshops completed, participants will now have the opportunity to continue the Genesis Mission journey through a six-week course of study that will further equip them for evangelization.

“I think it’s very important that people can share the richness of the Catholic faith with each other and also listen to others,” she added.

Evangelization efforts conducted by the Diocesan Office for Parish Life are made possible with assistance from the Diocesan Annual Appeal that is conducted each year. For more information on other parish renewal activities, call (570) 207-2213.

Centennial celebration brings renewed faith to rural church community

FAIRMOUNT SPRINGS – Nestled in a picturesque corner of Luzerne County, where family farms and their quiet simplicity stand in stark contrast to the fast-paced traffic of urban life, Saint Martha's Church marked a momentous milestone on July 28, 2024.

The church, one of three worship sites that make up Holy Spirit Parish, celebrated its Centennial Mass, bringing together a standing-room crowd of more than 200 people.

"I'm just overwhelmed and thrilled that we had this turnout," parishioner Sharon Baluta said. "While a lot of churches are dwindling (in attendance) and people are going away, this seems to be a younger, vibrant, family-oriented and community-oriented church."

Krista Zultevicz, 22, said Saint Martha's Church has helped to teach her what love and community are all about.

"I'm very blessed and privileged that my fiancé and I have the opportunity to get married here and grow our family in the Saint Martha's community," she said. "I'm proud of every aspect of this church, from the choir music that we hear every Sunday to the post-Mass breakfast and the annual Labor Day Festival."

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



A standing-room only crowd of more than 200 people gathered July 28, 2024, as Saint Martha's Church in Fairmount Springs celebrated its Centennial Mass. (Photos/Dan Piazza)

celebrant and homilist for the 100th anniversary Mass.

"What we're celebrating today is much more than a building or a place," Bishop Bambera said during his homily. "It's nothing less than the mystery of the church and the power and the presence of God at work in our lives."

Barbara Simmons, whose grandparents joined Saint Martha's Church in 1927, was touched by Bishop Bambera's remarks.

"I loved Bishop Bambera's homily. It was heartwarming and down to earth and really made people think about what their

role is in the church with all the troubles that there have been," she said. "It gave us a lot of food for thought."

Many parishioners participated in the special liturgy, serving as readers, altar servers, flag bearers or as part of a beautiful Centennial choir that featured many instruments including a trumpet, violin, cello, clarinet and two flutes.

"It was beautiful to see the music today and just the admiration for our Catholic faith and this church," Rachel Zultevicz explained.

Following the Centennial Mass, a



At the conclusion of Mass, a 100th anniversary dinner was held in the Saint Martha Church hall. The buffet included roast beef, chicken penne pasta, stuffed flounder and other items.

blessing was held for a new mural made in honor and memory of Saint Martha, and a community dinner was held in the church hall.

As the anniversary celebration drew to a close, it was clear that Saint Martha's Church had not only marked a century of service but had also ignited a renewed sense of purpose and unity within its community.

Parishioners expect that hope will propel them to a bright future.

"It gives me hope and faith for the future – that the church is not dead – and religion is not dead," Baluta said.

Shavertown parish raises awareness about human trafficking

SHAVERTOWN – In advance of the United Nations World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, which is held annually on July 30, Saint Therese Parish in Luzerne County raised awareness about the millions of victims of human trafficking around the world.

After each Mass on the weekend of July 27-28, the parish held a 'Red Sand Project Ceremony.'

As parishioners exited the church in silence, they were invited to pour red sand into the cracks of a "sidewalk" set-up on the church plaza. By doing so, they remembered those in our society who fall between the cracks.

The project was put together by the Social Concerns Committee of the parish.

Globally, one in three victims of human



trafficking is a child, and the majority of those trafficked children are girls.

The reasons for child trafficking are numerous. Some of the most prominent are: poverty, armed conflicts, dysfunctional families, lack of parental care, and unaccompanied minors fleeing their homes.

Knights of Columbus provide donation towards new flooring

HONESDALE – The Honesdale Knights of Columbus generously donated towards new flooring for the Saint John the Evangelist Parish Catholic Family Community Center.

Many events are held in this location including the Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast, Honesdale Head Start, Saint Dominic's Academy, Saint John the Evangelist's Faith Formation Program, and the local boy scouts also will benefit from having this new flooring installed.

Members of the Honesdale Knights



of Columbus Chapter recently participated in a check presentation to Father William Langan. Pictured, from left, are: David Swendsen, Louis Johannes, Joe Poltanis, Matt Smith, Don Vivacqua, Jennifer Suhosky, and Mike Jones.

Mass in Italian to be celebrated Sept. 1 at Cathedral of Saint Peter

SCRANTON - The annual Mass in Italian will be celebrated on Sunday, Sept. 1, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., in the Cathedral of Saint Peter. All are welcome to attend.

The liturgy is celebrated in conjunction with La Festa Italiana, which occurs over the Labor Day weekend, Friday through Monday, Aug. 30 – Sept. 2, on Courthouse Square, one block away.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will preside and be the homilist.

Father David P. Cappelloni, V.F., La Festa Chaplain and pastor of Saints Anthony and Rocco Parish in Dunmore and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Dunmore, will be the principal celebrant.

Concelebrants will include Monsignor Constantine V. Siconolfi, La Festa Chaplain Emeritus, and priests from the Diocese of Scranton. Deacons from the Diocese will also participate.

The Mass will be broadcast live by CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and will be rebroadcast on Tuesday, Sept. 3, at 8 p.m., and Wednesday, Sept. 4, at 10:30 a.m. In addition to airing live on CTV, the Mass will also be available on the Diocese of Scranton website (dioceseofscranton.org) and links will be provided on all social media platforms. The Mass will also be available to watch anytime on demand after the live broadcast concludes.

This year's Italian Mass is being offered in memory of all those members and friends of La Festa Italiana who passed away since the last Mass was celebrated,

including Rose Blasi, Ken Brader, Anna Brunetti, Mayor James P. Connors, Tom "Chick" DiPietro, Bill DelPrete, Joe Hoban, James Mack, Sr., John Moffitt, Mariann Moran, Charles Morell, Angelo Rose, Billy Saar, Sheriff John Szymanski and Bill Weber.

Music ministry for the Italian Mass will be provided by the choirs of Saints Anthony and Rocco and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parishes, accompanied by a brass quartet, all directed by Joseph Moffitt. Dominick DeNaples, mandolin; Patrick Loungo, Nicholas Luongo, Eugene Mentz, organist, and Monica Spishock, timpani, will also accompany.

Ashley Yando-DeFlice is the cantor. The featured soloist will be T.J. Capobianco from the New York City Metropolitan Opera.


The lectors are Atty. Frank T. Blasi and Anthony Bengivenga, President of UNICO National.

The Prayer of the Faithful will be led by Diane Alberigi, Karen Clifford and Joe Guido.

The offertory gifts will be presented by Alex and Annette Blasi-Strubeck, Robert W. Pettinato, the Honorable Robert Mazzoni and the Honorable Leonard Zito (Ret.).

James Baress, Patrick Caramanno, Joshua Cillo, Jonathan Eboli, Stephen Eboli, Richard Garofalo and Joseph Wentline are the ushers. Guy Valvano is honorary usher.

At the conclusion of Mass, members of The Italian Colony of Saint Lucy will process out with the statue of Saint Lucy onto the festival grounds to the Heritage Piazza on Spruce Street.




LAFESTA SMILE!


Italian food, entertainment and more returns to Scranton!
LABOR DAY WEEKEND: FRIDAY, AUG 30TH, TO MONDAY, SEPT 2ND

MASS IN ITALIAN, SUNDAY, SEPT 1st AT 10 AM
Join us at St. Peter's Cathedral, 315 Wyoming Avenue




DOWNTOWN SCRANTON
COURTHOUSE SQUARE

PRESENTED BY
 **Lehigh Valley Hospital-Dickson City**

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LAFESTAITALIANA.ORG



SCAN ME

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation to be celebrated Sept. 1

Being obedient to God's commandment and spirit of love can radically change attitudes and actions to convert people from "predators" of natural resources to "tillers" of God's great garden of planet Earth, Pope Francis said.

"The earth is entrusted to our care, yet continues to belong to God," according to Judeo-Christian tradition, the pope said in his message for the 2024 the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

The World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, which will be celebrated Sept. 1, marks the start of the ecumenical Season of Creation. The season concludes Oct. 4, the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of ecology.



"Hope and act with creation"

**World Day of Prayer for
the Care of Creation**

1-IX-2024

Hundreds gather in Scranton for inspiring Catholic Charismatic Conference

SCRANTON – ‘Freedom’ was the primary focus and theme of the 2024 Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference, held Aug. 2-4, at The University of Scranton.

Hundreds of people from all over the country filled the Byron Center each day for engaging speakers, music and prayer opportunities.

Conference organizers say they hoped attendees would recognize the freedom to live their lives in the spirit of the Lord and be free from anything that affects them – including fear, anxiety, depression or addiction.

“We want to know in our daily lives that God can conquer all of that,” Karen McLain, Coordinator of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the Diocese of Scranton, explained.

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal is known for its active style of worship.



Father Gerald W. Shantillo, V.G., S.T.L., Vicar General of the Diocese of Scranton, delivers the homily during the Closing Mass of the 2024 Catholic Charismatic Conference on Aug. 4, 2024.



Several hundred people attended the 2024 Catholic Charismatic Conference, which was held at The University of Scranton, Aug. 2-4, 2024. (Photos/Mike Melisky)

Conference attendees not only sing, but stand, clap and raise their hands.

“The Renewal is simply Catholics who love the Lord Jesus as Lord of our

lives, and we believe that the Holy Spirit is still active in our lives every day, that He still moves, that He still works, and He still speaks to us in different ways than

we might hear at Mass or other liturgies,” McLain added.

Continued on Page 18

Mass for Suicide Healing and Remembrance to be held Sept. 15

SCRANTON - September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, and to offer healing and to increase awareness about the Church’s mercy and care for those who have died by suicide, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate a Mass for Suicide Healing and Remembrance Sunday, Sept. 15, 2024, at 12:15 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Mass will serve to remember loved ones lost to suicide, and to promote healing for those who grieve their passing.

During the Mass, those attending will be invited to bring forward a flower in remembrance of those lost to suicide. If you, your family, or someone you know has been affected by suicide, please share this information and encourage them to participate.

All are welcome to attend the Mass. The Mass will also be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese

Mass for Suicide Healing & Remembrance

Sunday, September 15, 12:15PM

Cathedral of St. Peter
315 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton


Every year, around 50,000 people in the U.S. will take their own life.

To remember those lost to suicide and healing for those who grieve their passing

This Mass is open to the public. All are welcome!

Visit catholiccmhm.org/suicide

The Mass will be broadcast on CTV: Catholic Television and livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube, and Facebook.



of Scranton and livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website (dioceseofscranton.org), YouTube channel, and links to the Mass provided on all Diocesan social media platforms.

For more information on the upcoming Mass for Suicide Healing and Remembrance, please contact the Diocesan Office for Parish Life at (570) 207-2213.

APPOINTMENT

His Excellency, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, announces the following appointment, effective July 5, 2024:

Reverend William A. Asinari, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Jude Parish, Mountain Top, and Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Dorrance.



BISHOP BAMBERA’S SCHEDULE

- August 18** - 150th Anniversary Mass
Saint Patrick Church, White Haven, 10:15 a.m.
- September 1** - Mass in Italian (La Festa Italiana Mass)
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.
- September 4** - School Mass at Holy Cross High School
Dunmore, 9:00 a.m.
- September 5** - Mass of the Holy Spirit
Byron Center, The University of Scranton, 11:30 a.m.
- September 10-11** - USCCB Administrative Committee Meeting
Washington, D.C.
- September 15** - Mass for Suicide Healing & Remembrance
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:15 p.m.

Solemn Novena to Saint Ann reaches century mark

SCRANTON — As he celebrated the concluding Mass of the 100th anniversary of the Solemn Novena to Saint Ann, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, began his homily by looking back.

Noting the Passionist Fathers who launched the Novena in 1924 received 3,844 letters of thanksgiving for favors granted in that first year, the Bishop said that number would be infinitely higher if records continued to be kept.

“For the past 100 years, countless more prayers have been answered and innumerable lives have been enriched and sustained, not only within the Diocese of Scranton, but throughout our country and in lands throughout the world,” Bishop Bambera said.

After emphasizing the importance of faith and God’s grace, the Bishop ended his homily by looking to the future with gratitude.

“These days of prayer during this annual Novena to Saint Ann are a treasure beyond imagining for those of us who seek God in our lives. Why? Because God is here,” he explained. “Because in the stories of your lives and mine, in our desire to grow in faith and especially through the Word of God and the power of the



Bishop Bambera delivers his homily during the Closing Mass of the Solemn Novena to Saint Ann on July 26, 2024. (Photos/Mike Melisky)

Eucharist, God’s presence is all around us, enveloping this hilltop with his love and mercy, giving us hope in times of struggle and challenge. What a gift we have been given!”

Hundreds of faithful filled the grounds of Saint Ann’s Basilica Parish for the closing Mass of the Solemn Novena. Whether sitting under large tents, in lawn chairs, or inside the church itself, many reflected on the miracles they attribute to Saint Ann.

“I’m a cancer survivor. Saint Ann pulled me through that in 2005 and a lot of my prayers have always been answered,” Jack Lyons of Saint Patrick Parish in West Scranton, said. “I’m just

very thankful to be here and still be alive and still be going strong.”

Evelyn Ishley, a parishioner of Saint Joseph Mareello Parish in Pittston, credits Saint Ann for helping her get pregnant.

“When I was trying to get pregnant, I wasn’t getting pregnant and I came to the Novena and then I found out later on that I was pregnant,” she explained. “To me, that was very significant.”

As the Novena celebrated its centennial anniversary, many faithful say it continues to inspire hope and unity among believers from all walks of life.

“A lot of people in my family ask me to pray for them the day that I’m here,” John Marcinkowski, a parishioner of Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Pocono Pines, said. “There are



A mother and her baby sit on a blanket and participate in the Closing Mass of the Novena.



Faithful recite Novena devotions to Saint Ann, the grandmother of Jesus, while on the grounds of Saint Ann’s Basilica in West Scranton.

many family members who, over the years, have put their faith in the Lord, through the intercession of Saint Ann and the Blessed Mother.”

The Novena, a nine-day period of intense prayer and reflection, has been a cornerstone of people’s spiritual life since its inception a century ago. Honoring Saint Ann, the grandmother of Jesus and patron saint of mothers and grandmothers, the event draws pilgrims from across the region to West Scranton each summer.

“It has been a childhood thing that I’ve done with my mother since I was in my teens,” Barbara Mika, a parishioner of Saint Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Old Forge, stated. “It has answered a lot of prayers, and it makes me feel much closer to my God.”

“It has just been a tremendous experience for me and it’s an inspiration for my faith to be here,”

Mike Germano, a parishioner of Saints Anthony and Rocco Parish in Dunmore, added.

While the Novena has adapted to the needs of the community over the last century, it has always kept spiritual essence at its core. This year’s centennial celebration featured a special exhibition highlighting the history of the Novena, showcasing photographs, artifacts and videos featuring those whose lives have been transformed by the tradition.

As this year’s milestone celebration concluded, the faithful said their hearts were full of gratitude, ready to carry their love and devotion of Saint Ann into the next century.

“It is just a great tradition for many families and it’s a great tradition for many people in all of the surrounding areas to come up here and thank the Lord for all our blessings,” Lyons said.



Sitting on benches, folding chairs and the grass itself, faithful participate in the Closing Mass of the Solemn Novena to Saint Ann July 26, 2024.



Very Reverend Richard W. Burke, C.P., Rector, Saint Ann’s Monastery, expresses gratitude for all those who helped make the Solemn Novena’s 100th anniversary so memorable at the end of the Closing Mass.

Breaking New Ground

Saint Ann's 100th anniversary marks debut of Daily Spanish Mass and Novena devotions

SCRANTON — As the Solemn Novena to Saint Ann celebrated its centennial year, it added a significant addition: a Daily Mass and Novena devotion in Spanish. The inclusion reflects the growing diversity of the local Catholic community in northeastern Pennsylvania.

"I think Hispanic Catholics bring a great deal of enthusiasm and energy," Father Jonathan Kuhar, Pastor of Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish in South Scranton, said.

Father Kuhar worked alongside the Passionist community to organize local parish involvement in the new Daily Spanish Mass and Novena devotions.

"I believe the Hispanic Catholics in our area, and the ones that will be coming in the future, will play a big role in continuing to build up our faith community," Father Kuhar added. "They can show us their faith and we can learn from each other."

The Daily Spanish Mass is a testament to Novena organizers wanting to welcome everyone and ensuring the annual tradition is a spiritual home for all.

The inclusion of the Spanish Mass was met with gratitude from the local Hispanic community. For many, the daily Mass represented



Hispanic Catholics participate in the Daily Spanish Mass during the Solemn Novena to Saint Ann on July 21, 2024. (Photos/Mike Melisky)

a long-awaited opportunity to embrace the Novena in a way that felt deeply personal and inclusive.

"It feels so special. I'm glad to be a part of this Novena. I feel so excited and happy," Carlos Aroche, a parishioner of Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish, said.

"I think it's great that the Hispanic population around here is now able to celebrate the Novena," his fellow parishioner Marcos Marengo added.

Natalia Morocho, a parishioner of Saint Matthew Parish in East Stroudsburg, made the hour-long trip to Scranton to sing on one of the evenings.

"I was actually very glad to sing and to be here and to celebrate

with people," Morocho stated. "It's nice how the Hispanics and the Americans can be together, believing in the same religion and uniting."

Priests from numerous Diocesan parishes in Hazleton, Wilkes-Barre, East Stroudsburg, and Scranton assisted in the inaugural Spanish Masses at the Novena. Their parishioners also served as gift bearers, lectors, and music ministers.

"The Spanish speaking community came out with an enthusiasm that I really appreciate and that is a way that both of us, in the Body of Christ, can grow together in our faith," Father Kuhar ended by saying.



Father Justin Nelson Alphonse, C.P., blesses a parishioner with a relic of Saint Ann during the 7:30 p.m. Novena devotions on July 21, 2024.



Father Benito Hierro Aquino, Assistant Pastor at Saint Nicholas-Saint Mary Parish in Wilkes-Barre, delivers the Gospel message in Spanish during the 7:30 p.m. Mass at the Solemn Novena to Saint Ann on July 21, 2024.

Monroe County Lay Carmelite Community celebrates 25th anniversary

EAST STROUDSBURG—A Lay Carmelite community that was founded in February 1999 in the Poconos by four parishioners of Saint Matthew Parish is celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary this year.

Named 'Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament Lay Carmelite Community,' the group has had enthusiastic and robust participation from the start.

Now numbering fifty members, more than forty of

whom are active participants, the Community includes individuals from every parish in the Stroudsburg deanery.

Community founders were Ed Lawler, Harriett Eitzenberger and her deceased husband, Herm, and Marge Cantalupo.

In addition to the Lay Carmelite community in East Stroudsburg, the Diocese of Scranton has another one in Pittston.

The East Stroudsburg Chapter meets on the third

Saturday of each month from 8:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. at Saint Matthew Parish, 78 Ridgeway Street, East Stroudsburg. For additional information, contact Eileen at (570) 977-8796 or Gerry at (570) 424-2879.

The Pittston community, named 'Our Lady of the Mountains Lay Carmelite Community,' meets on the third Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Seminary,

1880 Highway 315, Pittston. For additional information, contact Linda at (570) 862-2940 or Chris at (570) 239-8094.

L a y C a r m e l i t e s are lay people who share in the mission of the Carmelite Order. The call to Carmel is a call to seek God's



Peter Cooney delivers a lecture on the history of the Carmelite Order July 20 at St. Matthew Parish.

will in the ordinary circumstances of everyday life. This roots a Lay Carmelite in a love of those with whom they live and work.

August is National 'Make-a-Will' Month

This month is a good time to consider making your will or reviewing your will to see if any changes need to be made.

Here are three reasons to motivate you to write your will this August.

1. It's an important legal document that everyone should have.

All adults should have a will - it's an essential document that states how you wish to distribute your property and protect your loved ones.

2. It provides peace of mind to you and your family.

Creating a will prevents family conflict, eliminates confusion, and ensures your assets go to the people you most want to have them. It also gives your family guidance and reassurance that they can fulfill your wishes. With a will, you can plan ahead for those who are in your care - for example, you can name a legal guardian for your minor children and choose who should care for your pets.

3. It lets you create a legacy that lasts beyond your lifetime.

A will provides a wonderful opportunity to provide a legacy of kindness and goodwill after your lifetime. Leaving a gift for a charitable organization in your estate plans ensures that you can make a positive impact on causes close to your heart for years to come.

Already made your will?

If you already have a will, it's important to keep it updated. Estate attorneys recommend reviewing your will every three to five years or whenever you have a big life event (like getting married, moving or having a grandchild).

Do you need help making your will?

The Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Scranton has materials to assist you with making your will. For more information, contact Jame Bebla, Executive Director, at (570) 207-2212 or jbebla@catholicfoundationscranton.org

Making Room for the Impossible: Discerning Our Call to Serve

There is an inherent social dimension to what it means to be a Catholic Christian, and this social dimension is nurtured through both our cultivation of a life of prayer and through our outward expressions of kindness - both to those closest to us and to those whom we may never have the opportunity to meet.

In his encyclical letter, "Fratelli Tutti," Pope Francis writes "Consumerist individualism has led to great injustice. Other persons come to be viewed as obstacles to our own serene existence; we end up treating them as annoyances, and we become increasingly aggressive. This is even more the case in times of crisis, catastrophe, and hardship, when we are tempted to think in terms of the old saying, 'every man for himself.' Yet even then, we can choose to cultivate kindness. Those who do so become stars shining in the midst of darkness" (22).

Uncertainty, fear, and the challenges presented by our current economic moment have likely given each one of us moments of pause. The rising cost of pretty much everything has greatly affected most of us in the eleven counties of our diocese.

In my first few months as Secretary of Development, I've returned again and again to the thought "if it's difficult for us in the present moment, how much harder must it be for those facing unemployment, homelessness, and hunger?"

We know that when inflation increases, the barriers for those who have been marginalized increase disproportionately and exponentially. Throughout the Church of Scranton how can we respond in kindness to these extraordinary needs?

A brief reflection on the challenges and successes of last year's Diocesan Annual Appeal



By: Joseph D. Strubeck
Diocesan Secretary for Development

might be a prudent place to start. While we fell short of our \$4.5 million overall goal, dozens of our parishes achieved or exceeded their individual goals this year. The wonderful work being done daily at each parish cannot be overstated! This work critically fulfills so much need in our local communities throughout northeast and north central Pennsylvania. If we're already doing so much, what then is the point of the Appeal?

It is no secret that when we come together in unity, we can do what would be impossible at the local level. This annual fundraising initiative has been in place for over three decades now (perhaps some thought it was a one time event; perhaps some of us still refer to it as the Bishop's Annual Appeal) but as we look toward a hopeful future of abundance and joy in meeting the physical and spiritual needs, we will bring this year transitioning towards aligning the name of this mission with what the ministries maintained by the collective and generous financial support.

Over the next several months, you'll begin to see "Diocesan Annual Appeal" used less and the prominence of "Catholic Ministries Appeal" taking shape. It will continue to fund, and, we hope, expand to support newer and greater initiatives that provide

opportunities for each one of us to respond to Our Call to Serve. The Appeal provides critically important funding for Catholic ministries and programs in our diocese and provides hope for those among us in great need; it seems a fitting moment to reflect upon Our Call to Serve once again this year as we work towards building a great spirit of unity throughout our entire diocese.

First and foremost, the unifying love of Jesus unites each of us and provides the conditions to make what at first seems impossible possible. In one of his reflections collected in the book, "What Do You Seek? The Questions of Jesus as Challenge and Promise," the late Jesuit Father Michael J. Buckley offers an appropriate call to discernment in this moment.

Indebted to Father Louis Cameli's work, "Ministerial Consciousness," Buckley writes: "Christian ministry is not an adoption of certain practices within human lives; rather it is a continuation within our lives of what constitutes the life and the choices in the life of Jesus of Nazareth. Christian ministry is not so much a copying of the life of Jesus as it is a continuation of it."

Responding to Our Call to Serve is first and foremost a recognition that we are the heirs and participants in something that precedes us and unifies each one of us beyond an "us" or "them" attitude. In this moment, part of that call involves making the conscious choice to cultivate kindness, and though the 2024 Diocesan Annual Appeal to make possible what seems impossible, inspiring hope for the future in the hearts and minds of the tens of thousands impacted for the better by Catholic ministries throughout the Diocese of Scranton.





Thank
you!

To all the Donors who supported the 2023 Diocesan Annual Appeal

All Saints Parish - Plymouth.....	\$16,276.00 / \$37,000.00 (44%)	St. Ann Basilica - Scranton.....	\$30,400.00 / \$30,000.00 (101%)
Annunciation Parish - Hazleton.....	\$32,699.00 / \$33,000.00 (99%)	St. Ann Parish - Shohola.....	\$21,618.00 / \$20,000.00 (108%)
Ascension Parish - Forest City.....	\$30,825.00 / \$25,000.00 (123%)	St. Ann Parish - Williamsport.....	\$51,585.00 / \$59,000.00 (87%)
Blessed Sacrament Parish - Throop.....	\$17,755.00 / \$16,000.00 (111%)	St. Barbara Parish - Exeter.....	\$20,173.00 / \$31,000.00 (65%)
BVM Queen of Peace Parish - Hawley.....	\$68,001.00 / \$76,000.00 (89%)	St. Boniface Parish - Williamsport.....	\$59,970.00 / \$60,000.00 (100%)
Christ the King Parish - Archbald.....	\$55,871.85 / \$67,000.00 (83%)	St. Brigid Parish - Friendsville.....	\$32,600.00 / \$22,000.00 (148%)
Corpus Christi Parish - West Pittston.....	\$39,385.00 / \$30,000.00 (131%)	St. Catherine of Siena Parish - Moscow.....	\$74,307.75 / \$63,000.00 (118%)
Divine Mercy Parish - Scranton.....	\$48,247.00 / \$63,000.00 (77%)	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish - Swoyersville..	\$46,212.56 / \$44,000.00 (105%)
Epiphany Parish - Sayre.....	\$62,423.00 / \$85,000.00 (73%)	St. Elizabeth Parish - Bear Creek.....	\$24,755.00 / \$24,000.00 (103%)
Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish - Hanover Twp..	\$25,445.00 / \$15,000.00 (170%)	St. Eulalia Parish - Roaring Brook Township....	\$30,618.24 / \$40,000.00 (77%)
Gate of Heaven Parish - Dallas.....	\$31,020.00 / \$47,000.00 (66%)	St. Faustina Kowalska Parish - Nanticoke.....	\$30,961.94 / \$47,000.00 (66%)
Good Shepherd Parish - Drums.....	\$14,096.36 / \$24,000.00 (59%)	St. Frances X. Cabrini Parish - Carverton.....	\$18,290.32 / \$13,000.00 (141%)
Holy Child Parish - Mansfield.....	\$26,129.00 / \$28,000.00 (93%)	St. Gregory Parish - Clarks Green.....	\$87,351.40 / \$74,000.00 (118%)
Holy Cross Parish - Olyphant.....	\$34,291.00 / \$47,000.00 (73%)	St. Ignatius Loyola Parish - Kingston.....	\$78,805.36 / \$77,000.00 (102%)
Holy Family Parish - Luzerne.....	\$44,494.32 / \$40,000.00 (111%)	St. John Bosco Parish - Conyngham.....	\$73,842.15 / \$58,000.00 (127%)
Holy Name of Jesus Parish - West Hazleton.....	\$11,185.00 / \$21,000.00 (53%)	St. John Neumann Parish - Lords Valley.....	\$29,164.00 / \$28,000.00 (104%)
Holy Name of Mary Parish - Montrose.....	\$20,300.00 / \$16,000.00 (127%)	St. John Neumann Parish - Scranton.....	\$22,569.00 / \$52,000.00 (43%)
Holy Rosary Parish - Hazleton.....	\$17,660.00 / \$17,000.00 (104%)	St. John Parish - E. Stroudsburg.....	\$35,883.00 / \$57,000.00 (63%)
Holy Spirit Parish - Mocanaqua.....	\$13,505.00 / \$28,000.00 (48%)	St. John the Baptist Parish - Larksville.....	\$17,376.00 / \$21,000.00 (83%)
Immaculate Conception Parish - Williamsport.....	\$23,060.00 / \$26,000.00 (89%)	St. John the Evangelist Parish - Honesdale.....	\$65,302.00 / \$64,000.00 (102%)
Immaculate Conception Parish - Scranton.....	\$42,321.20 / \$40,000.00 (106%)	St. John the Evangelist Parish - Pittston.....	\$45,034.00 / \$54,000.00 (83%)
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish - Dushore.....	\$35,096.00 / \$38,000.00 (92%)	St. John Vianney Parish - Montdale.....	\$26,279.00 / \$30,000.00 (88%)
Mary, Mother of God Parish - Scranton.....	\$56,045.00 / \$56,000.00 (100%)	St. Joseph Mareello Parish - Pittston.....	\$30,934.00 / \$27,000.00 (115%)
Most Holy Trinity Parish - Cresco.....	\$40,281.20 / \$49,000.00 (82%)	St. Joseph Parish - Matamoras.....	\$37,000 / \$37,000.00 (100%)
Most Holy Trinity Parish - Susquehanna.....	\$24,252.90 / \$30,000.00 (81%)	St. Joseph the Worker Parish - Williamsport....	\$82,136.40 / \$75,000.00 (110%)
Most Precious Blood Parish - Hazleton.....	\$30,704.95 / \$36,000.00 (85%)	St. Jude Parish - Mountain Top.....	\$81,465.00 / \$79,000.00 (103%)
Nativity of Our Lord Parish - Duryea.....	\$40,960.00 / \$40,000.00 (102%)	St. Katharine Drexel Parish - Pleasant Mount..	\$19,878.00 / \$13,000.00 (153%)
Nativity of the BVM Parish - Tunkhannock.....	\$28,993.00 / \$32,000.00 (91%)	St. Lawrence Parish - S. Williamsport.....	\$26,150.00 / \$26,000.00 (101%)
Our Lady Help of Christians Parish - Dorrance.....	\$18,000 / \$18,000.00 (100%)	St. Leo Parish - Ashley.....	\$20,283.00 / \$33,000.00 (61%)
Our Lady of Fatima Parish - Wilkes-Barre.....	\$19,873.00 / \$30,000.00 (66%)	St. Lucy Parish - Scranton.....	\$6,236.00 / \$19,000.00 (33%)
Our Lady of Hope Parish - Wilkes-Barre.....	\$35,268.50 / \$35,000.00 (101%)	St. Luke Parish - Jersey Shore.....	\$11,674.33 / \$16,000.00 (73%)
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish - Montoursville.....	\$35,052.00 / \$41,000.00 (85%)	St. Luke Parish - Stroudsburg.....	\$121,106.00 / \$114,000.00 (106%)
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish - Carbondale..	\$9,615.00 / \$23,000.00 (42%)	St. Maria Goretti Parish - Laflin.....	\$22,690.00 / \$42,000.00 (54%)
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish - Dunmore.....	\$52,766.50 / \$56,000.00 (94%)	St. Mary of the Lake Parish - Lake Winola.....	\$8,085.00 / \$12,000.00 (67%)
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish - Lake Silkworth...	\$19,207.00 / \$19,000.00 (101%)	St. Mary Parish - Waymart.....	\$23,566.00 / \$17,000.00 (139%)
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish - Wyalusing...	\$11,940.00 / \$10,000.00 (119%)	St. Matthew Parish - E. Stroudsburg.....	\$60,178.00 / \$60,000.00 (100%)
Our Lady of the Abingtons Parish - Dalton.....	\$8,370.00 / \$16,000.00 (52%)	St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish - Pocono Pines....	\$21,352.00 / \$24,000.00 (89%)
Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish - Pittston.....	\$11,735.00 / \$16,000.00 (73%)	St. Michael Parish - Canton.....	\$15,208.00 / \$12,000.00 (127%)
Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception - Freeland..	\$15,566.00 / \$26,000.00 (60%)	St. Michael Parish - Scranton.....	\$7,105.00 / \$9,000.00 (79%)
Our Lady of the Snows Parish - Clarks Summit....	\$78,184.03 / \$87,000.00 (90%)	St. Monica Parish - West Wyoming.....	\$26,045.00 / \$31,000.00 (84%)
Our Lady of Victory Parish - Harveys Lake.....	\$23,484.60 / \$37,000.00 (63%)	St. Nicholas Parish - Wilkes-Barre.....	\$57,775.00 / \$52,000.00 (111%)
Our Lady of Victory Parish - Tannersville.....	\$55,226.00 / \$52,000.00 (106%)	St. Patrick Parish - Milford.....	\$33,255.00 / \$33,000.00 (101%)
Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish - Brodheads ville..	\$67,331.30 / \$58,000.00 (116%)	St. Patrick Parish - Nicholson.....	\$6,970.00 / \$9,000.00 (77%)
Prince of Peace Parish - Old Forge.....	\$16,045.00 / \$28,000.00 (57%)	St. Patrick Parish - Scranton.....	\$23,379.00 / \$42,000.00 (56%)
Queen of Angels Parish - Jessup.....	\$15,117.00 / \$26,000.00 (58%)	St. Patrick Parish - White Haven.....	\$8,007.00 / \$16,000.00 (50%)
Queen of Heaven Parish - Hazleton.....	\$29,255.00 / \$29,000.00 (101%)	St. Paul of the Cross Parish - Scranton.....	\$18,155.00 / \$52,000.00 (35%)
Queen of the Apostles Parish - Avoca.....	\$20,653.25 / \$23,000.00 (90%)	St. Paul Parish - Scranton.....	\$43,895.00 / \$66,000.00 (67%)
Resurrection Parish - Muncy.....	\$28,245.00 / \$33,000.00 (86%)	St. Peter Parish - Wellsboro.....	\$38,196.70 / \$43,000.00 (89%)
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish - Dupont.....	\$15,942.45 / \$30,000.00 (53%)	St. Peter's Cathedral - Scranton.....	\$119,917.92 / \$71,000.00 (169%)
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish - Peckville.....	\$53,909.77 / \$41,000.00 (131%)	St. Rita Parish - Gouldsboro.....	\$11,417.00 / \$14,000.00 (82%)
Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary Parish - Jermyn...	\$12,736.40 / \$21,000.00 (61%)	St. Robert Bellarmine Parish - Wilkes-Barre....	\$29,235.00 / \$34,000.00 (86%)
SS Anthony & Rocco Parish - Dunmore.....	\$35,295.00 / \$47,000.00 (75%)	St. Rose of Lima Parish - Carbondale.....	\$47,462.00 / \$62,000.00 (77%)
SS Cyril & Methodius Parish - Hazleton.....	\$43,099.50 / \$43,000.00 (100%)	St. Therese Parish - Shavertown.....	\$89,955.00 / \$71,000.00 (127%)
SS Peter & Paul Parish - Plains.....	\$55,704.00 / \$50,000.00 (111%)	St. Thomas More Parish - Lake Ariel.....	\$42,859.40 / \$49,000.00 (87%)
SS Peter & Paul Parish - Scranton.....	\$9,935.00 / \$13,000.00 (76%)	St. Thomas the Apostle Parish - Elkland.....	\$8,058.00 / \$13,000.00 (62%)
SS Peter & Paul Parish - Towanda.....	\$36,295.00 / \$31,000.00 (117%)	St. Vincent de Paul Parish - Milford.....	\$41,340.00 / \$35,000.00 (118%)
St. Andrew Parish - Wilkes-Barre.....	\$7,615.00 / \$17,000.00 (45%)	Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Dickson City	\$47,055.75 / \$55,000.00 (86%)

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



As part of the Summer Art and Wellness Camp at **All Saints Academy in Scranton**, students talked about stress and how best to deal with those feelings. They then created a “worry doll” where they could put all their worries into for the week.



Students from **Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore** honed their skills this summer at Cheer Camp with The University of Scranton cheerleaders.



Early Education teachers from **Saint Agnes School in Towanda** gathered this summer to collaborate on plans for Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) opportunities for the 2024-25 school year.



The summer maintenance team at **La Salle Academy in Jessup** has been hard at work since the students started their break installing new floors, deep cleaning all the classrooms, and sprucing up areas with paint.



Students Ashton Meyer, Dominic Zucco, Phee Stahl, Noah Geiger, Ava Geiger, Mikey Iorio, and Alexa Meyer from **Saint Jude School in Mountain Top** attended “Disaster Camp,” where they studied how and why natural disasters such as tornados, volcanoes, and earthquakes occur.



Rising seventh, eighth & ninth grade students enjoyed a week-long Summer Enrichment Camp at **Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre** participating in courses such as Freshman 101, Forensics Lab Investigations, and Arts & Crafts.



Just before the end of the school year, the local Knights of Columbus presented art kits to Pre-Kindergarten through third grade art contest winners at **Holy Family Academy in Hazleton**.



Students Claire Silinskie, Scarlet O'Hop, Madison Marsh and Lia Pacelli from **Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter** learned new hoops skills with school alumni Nick and Matt Prociak at the school's George Barilla Basketball Skills and Drills Camp this summer.



There was a lot of spirit showing at the Cheer Camp at **Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green**. Current Falcon cheerleaders showed the younger Falcons what it takes to be the best in the nest!



New and returning families at **Epiphany School in Sayre** participated in the school's "Summer Meet Ups," playing yard games and getting acquainted.



Mrs. Stacy Schnatter, a sixth grade teacher at **Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg**, puts some finishing touches on her classroom as the school prepares for the 2024-25 school year.



The maintenance team at **Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg** has been working hard over the summer to make sure the school is ready for the students to return. In this photo, Jeremy Mosier installs a new lock on one of the student lockers.



Students at **Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School in Williamsport** helped decorate for the 2024-25 school year by designing the bulletin boards in the cafeteria.



Pre-Kindergarten students from **Saint Clare/ Saint Paul School in Scranton** participated in Preschool Prep, learning about mat work and touring the school while getting to know their new classmates.



Just before graduation, the eighth grade history class of **Holy Rosary School in Duryea** participated in a Wax Museum, where students researched, dressed as, and portrayed historical figures.

Students from around the area participated in the week-long Summer Enrichment Program hosted by **Holy Cross High School in Dunmore**. Local rising sixth, seventh & eighth grade students had an opportunity to pursue educational experiences that will enhance their love for lifelong learning in classes like Five Nights of Fortnight (a STEM experience), Mapping a U.S. Road Trip, Digital Animation, and more.



Statement of the Diocese of Scranton on Monsignor Joseph P. Kelly being found guilty under canon law of sexual abuse of two minors

SCRANTON – Monsignor Joseph P. Kelly, a priest of the Diocese of Scranton, has been found guilty under canon law of the sexual abuse of two minors at the conclusion of a disciplinary process authorized by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith at the Holy See.

As a result, Monsignor Kelly is immediately and permanently prohibited from the exercise of priestly ministry and permanently prohibited from wearing clerical attire or presenting himself as a priest. The Vatican authorized the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, to impose a permanent penalty on Monsignor Kelly, short of authorizing his dismissal from the clerical state, given his advanced age.

These penalties conclude a canonical process that began nearly four years ago.

By October 2020, seven individuals had alleged that Monsignor Kelly sexually abused them as children, some of whom received compensation through the Independent Survivors Compensation Program. At that time, Monsignor Kelly was placed on administrative leave, prohibiting his ability to publicly celebrate the sacraments or present himself as a priest.

One additional allegation of sexual abuse of minors against Monsignor Kelly was received in January 2023.

Reviewing each of the accusations against Monsignor Kelly, the Diocese of Scranton consulted its Diocesan Review Board and determined that five of the eight allegations were credible, meaning that they were not manifestly false or frivolous and that they were supported by credible evidence.

The Diocese of Scranton investigated the five credible accusations, and as required by the Code of Canon Law of the Catholic Church, submitted the findings of the investigation to the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith at the Vatican.

Finding the accusations credible, the Disciplinary Section of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith at the Vatican authorized Bishop Bambera to adjudicate

the five credible accusations using trial processes found in canon law.

To ensure an impartial process, Bishop Bambera utilized three priest canon lawyers from outside the Diocese of Scranton to assist him in the adjudication of the facts and documentation drawn from each of the accusations.

Throughout the canonical proceedings, Monsignor Kelly was represented by a canon lawyer of his choosing and was given the opportunity to present his defense.

Bishop Bambera and the same priest canon lawyers also adjudicated defense materials presented by Monsignor Kelly and his canon lawyer, which included depositions from Monsignor Kelly, in-person testimony from Monsignor Kelly and witness testimony on behalf of Monsignor Kelly.

At the conclusion of the adjudication, Monsignor Kelly was found guilty under canon law of two of the accusations against him.

The Vatican's Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith reviewed the findings and determined Monsignor Kelly's procedural rights were upheld for his defense and that the procedures in canon law were followed throughout the trial. The Dicastery authorized Bishop Bambera to impose a permanent penalty on Monsignor Kelly.

Monsignor Kelly had the opportunity to appeal Bishop Bambera's decision but did not do so.

Monsignor Kelly now lives privately and may no longer represent the Diocese of Scranton in any official capacity.

Throughout the process, victims have been offered assistance for healing.

"As Bishop of the Diocese of Scranton, I continue to apologize for the pain that has been inflicted upon far too many young people by leaders of our Church," Bishop Bambera said. "We must never forget or allow time to numb us to the pain that was so willfully inflicted upon innocent lives. I thank the victims in this case for stepping forward and continue to pray daily for their healing."

Retired FBI agent and clergy abuse survivor appointed to Bishops' National Review Board

WASHINGTON (OSV News) - A retired FBI agent will head up the U.S. bishops' consultative safe environment body, while a clergy abuse survivor, a nursing professor and two clinical social workers are also among the board's Aug. 1 appointments.

Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has appointed James Bogner as the next chair of the National Review Board.

A former high-level FBI special agent with more than 35 years of law enforcement experience, Bogner succeeds outgoing chair Suzanne Healy, who

recently completed her term.

Three new members have also been appointed to the board: Paulette Adams, a tenured professor emeritus at the University of Louisville School of Nursing; independent business owner Scott Surette, a survivor of clerical abuse; and retired clinical social worker Barbara Thorp of the Archdiocese of Boston.

The 15 member, lay-led board is a key part of the bishops' commitment to preventing sexual abuse of minors, as detailed in the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," established in 2002 amid a number of emerging clerical abuse scandals.

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 Respeto 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.

People need truth, goodness, hope, pope says after proclaiming Holy Year

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Paul Outside the Walls, and to the vicar of the archpriest of the Basilica of St. John Lateran.

In the run-up to the Holy Year 2025, Pope Francis appealed to the world's Christians to become joyful heralds of hope in a world marked by fear and despair.

“Each of us needs hope in our lives, at times so weary and wounded, our hearts that thirst for truth, goodness and beauty, and our dreams that no darkness can dispel,” the pope said.

“Everything, within and outside of us, cries out for hope and continues to seek the closeness of God, even without knowing it,” he said in his homily during a recent evening prayer service in St. Peter’s Basilica.

The service was preceded by a formal ceremony in the marble atrium in front of the basilica’s Holy Door during which the pope released the “bull of indiction” proclaiming the Holy Year 2025.

The door, which is made up of 16 bronze panels depicting episodes from both the Old and New Testament, was surrounded by a long garland of yellow and white flowers. About 200 dignitaries - cardinals, bishops, religious, diplomats and others - were seated in the atrium on either side of the pope.

The document titled, “Spes Non Confundit,” (“Hope Does Not Disappoint”), formally announced the jubilee celebration would begin with the opening of the Holy Door in St. Peter’s Basilica Dec. 24 this year and close Jan. 6, 2026, the feast of Epiphany.

Pope Francis handed special copies of the document, which were adorned with a braided yellow cord affixed with a round metal seal - a “bulla” in Latin - to the archpriests of the papal basilicas of St. Peter and St. Mary Major, to U.S. Cardinal James M. Harvey, archpriest of the Basilica of St.

Paul Outside the Walls, and to the vicar of the archpriest of the Basilica of St. John Lateran.

The Holy Year is meant to help the faithful deepen their relationship with Jesus, “the ‘door’ of salvation, whom the church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere and to all as ‘our hope,’” the document said.

Those in the atrium then processed into the basilica where several hundred others were in attendance for the celebration of the evening prayer presided over by Pope Francis.

In his homily, the pope emphasized the unique nature of Christian hope, which is “based on Christ who died and rose again,” and which “we wish to celebrate, ponder and proclaim to the whole world in the coming jubilee.”

Christian hope is a gift “that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading,” he said, and “it sustains the journey of our lives, even when the road ahead seems winding and wearying.”

“It opens our eyes to future possibilities whenever resignation or pessimism attempts to imprison us. It makes us see the promise of good at times when evil seems to prevail,” he said. “It fills us with serenity when our hearts are burdened by sin and failure. It makes us dream of a new humanity and gives us courage in our efforts to build a fraternal and peaceful world, even when it seems barely worth the effort.”

During this Year of Prayer in preparation for the celebration of the jubilee, he said, “let us lift up our hearts to Christ and become singers of hope in a civilization marked by too much despair.”

Diocese of Scranton Presents 2025 Jubilee

Pilgrims of Hope

PILGRIMAGE TO ROME

with Bishop Joseph C. Bambera

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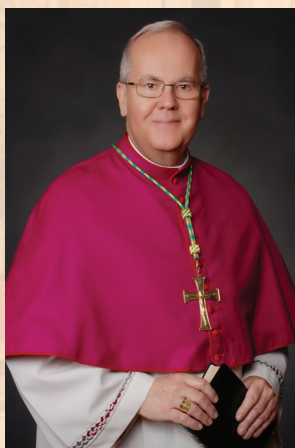


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Vacation Bible Camp in Milford

MILFORD - The 2024 Vacation Bible Camp at Saint Patrick Church proved to be a spirit- and joy-filled few days for more than 30 children, who learned about their Catholic faith while having a great deal of fun as well.

Arts & crafts, board games, sports activities, water games, sidewalk chalk art, bracelet making, Scripture readings, prayers and quiet reflection made for a truly memorable experience for the young campers and organizers.

The popular annual event was under the direction of Saint Patrick catechist Laurie Barcia, along with the collaborative efforts of fellow catechists and volunteers Diane Dennis, Angelica Barcia, Connor Giblin, Clare Barcia and Kaitlin Murphy.



Charismatic Conference focused on freedom

Continued from Page 9

This year's speakers included Msgr. William John-Lewis, Father John Gordon, Maria Vadia, and Fausto Franco.

Vadia, founder of The Glory of God Foundation, has visited more than 30 countries, bringing a message of faith, salvation and healing.

"We need to treasure the Word of God, because the Word of God is truth, the Word of God is fire, the Word of God is a hammer, the Word of God is a mirror," she told the crowd. "It is a sword, it is living water. The Word of God is alive and active."

Many travelled hundreds of miles to participate in the conference.

"I love the community that is here. I love the opportunity to worship and praise the Lord with everybody," Roni Buczynski, a parishioner of Saint Paul VI Parish in Connecticut, said. "It fills your heart with joy to praise the Lord and it just lifts you up to another place and takes you out of the everyday. It's a little taste of



A man raises his hands to praise the Lord Jesus Christ during the Closing Mass of the 2024 Catholic Charismatic Conference at The University of Scranton on Aug. 4, 2024. (Photo/Mike Melisky)

heaven on earth." "I look forward to this conference every year. I've been coming since 1990 and I get my spirit so rejuvenated here," Robert Lauricella, a parishioner of Saint Mary Parish in Maryland, added. "I love the flow, the energy, the music, the speakers. Jesus is all around and alive and the Holy Spirit is very much flowing through this place."

18th Annual St. Mary's Villa GOLF TOURNAMENT

GLEN OAK COUNTRY CLUB, CLARKS SUMMIT, PA

MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2024

All proceeds from the event benefit resident equipment and activities at St. Mary's Villa in Elmhurst Township, PA.



Summer Guide to Church Festivals & Picnics

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.

Saint Ann's Basilica in Scranton — Aug. 18. Saint Ann Basilica Parish, West Scranton, hosts its 10th annual "Car Show" on Sunday, Aug. 18, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the Basilica grounds. The daylong automobile exhibition featuring classic Cars also includes a variety of food items, entertainment, face-painting, raffle drawings & gift baskets. Free admission; call (570) 342-5166 for more information.

Most Holy Trinity in Susquehanna — Aug. 23. The Susquehanna parish plans a Summer Picnic outing to bring together all parishioners from Most Holy Trinity's three churches. The parish community gathering of friends and fellowship will be held Friday evening from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in a relaxed atmosphere at Green Gables Restaurant in New Milford. The event will include various foods, cash bar, activities & friendly competitions for all ages. Cost is \$5 per person; guests are welcome. For reservation information, call Patty at (570) 507-4033.

Holy Spirit in Mocanaqua — Aug. 31 & Sept. 1. Two parish churches hold their summer festivals during Labor Day Weekend. Saint Martha Church, 260 Bonnierville Road, Fairmount Springs, hosts its Festival &

Chicken Dinner on Saturday, Aug. 31, from 5 to 11 p.m., and Sunday, Sept. 1, noon to 11 p.m. Dinners available both days; event includes ethnic & picnic foods, basket raffle, flea market and live music. The Saint Mary Church Picnic, at 8027 Main St., Mocanaqua, will be held Aug. 31 & Sept. 1, featuring homemade ethnic food favorites pigs-in-blanket and pierogi; plant and basket stands.

Immaculate Conception in Bastress Township — Sept. 2. Parish's annual Labor Day Picnic features a family-style turkey & ham dinner with all the trimmings, served with sit-down or take-out service from noon to 6 p.m. in the parish hall at Immaculate Conception Church, 5973 Jacks Hollow Road. Dinner tickets cost \$13 for adults; \$5 for children (ages 4-12). Event includes picnic refreshments, games & summer kitchen menu items.

Saint Boniface in Williamsport — Sept. 5-7. Annual Parish Carnival held on the grounds of Saint Boniface Church, 326 Washington Blvd., Williamsport; opens on Thursday & Friday, at 6 p.m., and Saturday at 5 p.m. Featuring nightly sit-down dinners (take-outs available) from 4 to 7 p.m. in the school gym; white elephant sale, 4 to 8 p.m.; and raffle drawing on final night at 10 p.m. Offering homemade ethnic & traditional picnic foods, including pierogi, hot sandwiches and pizza; various carnival treats, games, rides and bingo.

Our Lady of Lourdes in Montoursville — Sept. 13 & 14. Annual Parish Festival on the parish grounds, 100 Walnut St., Montoursville, held Friday & Saturday from 5 to 9:30 p.m. Featuring live music, basket raffle, cake wheel, pumpkin

stand, wine wheel and children's games. Nightly dinner specials (tickets available at parish office): Friday — Barbecued chicken, baked potato, vegetable sides, rolls & dessert; cost: \$13. Featured entertainment: Leo & KG with Family Traditions; Saturday — Homemade pierogi, stuffed cabbage, halushki & dessert; cost: \$13. Featured entertainment: Lenny Weber playing classical favorites. Traditional picnic foods include hot sausages, walking tacos, funnel cakes, fresh lemonade, ice cream & homemade cobblers. Basket raffle in the parish hall on Sunday at 11:30 a.m.

Saint John Vianney in Scott Township — Sept. 29. Annual Harvest Festival held on the

grounds of the parish's Corpus Christi Church, 704 Montdale Road, Scott Township, from noon to 4 p.m. Event features a full-course turkey dinner, with drive-

thru/takeout service only. Dinners cost \$15; tickets available on site. Tent-covered outdoor booths feature Bountiful Baskets, baked goods & raffle drawings.

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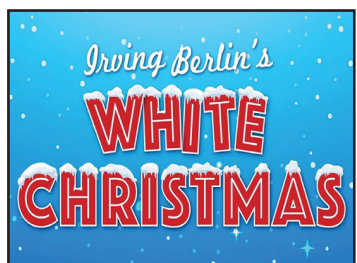
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Inaugural officers announced for Catholic Foundation

Continued from Page 5

In addition to these key positions, James Bebla, executive director of the Catholic Foundation, has announced the formation of two committees to address specific areas of need and opportunity within the community.

•Development/Stewardship Committee: Chaired by Attorney Jonathan Spohrer, this committee is responsible for developing and recommending fundraising strategies and will assist in fundraising efforts for the initial major gifts campaign. The committee will also assist in developing gift and donor agreement templates and policies. Other committee members include: Marianne Chester, Paula Minichello, and Mark J. Soback.

•Finance/Investment Committee: Chaired by Ralph H. Meyer, this committee will review investment policies, guidelines and performance and oversee management of the investment portfolio, financial reports, and audits, and make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding investment, financial and distribution policies and guidelines. Other committee members include: Michael W. Cavage, John Graham, and Kathleen Lambert.

Those individuals appointed to the Foundation's Executive Committee are looking forward to serving the community with integrity and purpose.

"God has provided so many gifts throughout our lives and this Foundation provides an opportunity to share those gifts so that Catholic programs in the Diocese of Scranton will continue for generations," Chris DiMattio, chairperson, said.

"I am looking forward to serving, with the team Bishop Bambera has assembled, to build a system that can provide support to these critical areas of

ministry to our Diocese through future generations," Richard Mutchler, vice chairperson, added. "I am proud to be a part of the first generation of the Board of Directors and I look forward to promoting the excellent opportunities, available to every member of the Diocese, by responding to God's call to tithe by supporting this critical mission."

"The creation of the Catholic Foundation truly marks a transformational moment for the Diocese. The Foundation will ensure the future financial stability of educational, spiritual, and service ministries, thus fulfilling the mission of the Diocese," Dr. Bryan Frantz added. "I am truly honored to serve as an officer on the Foundation Board. It's a privilege to work with the Bishop and experience his leadership and vision. It's also wonderful to work with fellow board members from across the Diocese. These are truly committed individuals who are dedicated to ensuring the success of this critical initiative."

"Being asked to take a leadership role for the new Foundation resulted in an easy answer – of course! Being given the opportunity to use my past career and volunteer experience in a new role as board treasurer, in service to the Diocese and the Foundation's mission, is humbling," Nancy J. Marr stated. "I'm looking forward to being a part of the Foundation during its formative years, working with Bishop Bambera and the rest of the board. There is so much potential to make a difference!"

For more information on the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Scranton, visit catholicfoundationscranton.org, or contact James Bebla, Executive Director, at (570) 207-2212 or JBebbla@catholicfoundationscranton.org.

Speakers announced for 9th annual 'Be A Catholic Man' Conference



WILKES-BARRE – The speakers for the 9th annual 'Be A Catholic Man' Conference, to be held Saturday, Oct. 5, at Holy Redeemer High School, have been announced.

All men are invited to participate in this year's event – which will have the theme 'Come Follow Me.'

The conference will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m.

Nationally known speakers for the event include Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, John Edwards, and Father Bill Casey. The conference will conclude with Mass celebrated by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton.

The speakers are conducive for fathers and sons, clergy, and men of every age.

Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers has appeared as a guest on numerous international Catholic programs and is the host, or co-host, of several popular series on EWTN. He is a member of the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars and the Confraternity of Catholic Clergy. He is the award-winning author of five books, including *Behold the Man: A Catholic Vision of Male Spirituality*.

John Edwards, like so many men, vowed to be a better person, husband and father time and time again. It wasn't until he felt the presence of Jesus as he walked out of a jail cell that he realized how much he wanted to change and how he could only do that with His help. Since that time, he has taken a journey to grow closer to Christ.



Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers



John Edwards



Father Bill Casey

Father Bill Casey is a nationally renowned speaker and a frequent guest on EWTN. He served as an officer in the U.S. Army and then he was ordained a priest in the Congregation of the Fathers of Mercy. Father has a love for the study of Sacred Scripture, and a strong devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Admission to the Catholic Men's Conference on Oct. 5 can be acquired by mailing \$40 (\$30 if mailed by Sept. 15) to "Be A Catholic Man," PO Box 669, Wyalusing, PA, 18853. Please write 'Men's Conference' on the memo line and include contact information and parish. Students are \$15. Priests, Deacons and Seminarians are free. The registration fee includes morning coffee and a box lunch.

Additional information and online registration can be found at BeACatholicMan.com or by scanning this QR code.



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MISSION MESSAGE

The Olympic Games & World Mission Sunday

**By Shannon Kowalski
Diocesan Director,
Pontifical Mission Societies**



For the last two weeks, all eyes have been on Paris for the 2024 Summer Olympics, where more than 10,000 athletes from 206 different nations competed in 329 events. More than just a showcase of athletic prowess, the Olympics epitomize the spirit of diversity, fraternity, and camaraderie among nations and individuals of varying backgrounds.

The Olympics, with their unique ability to gather a diverse array of participants from every corner of the world, promote universal values that connect us all. From competitors who have trained with state-of-the-art facilities to those who have overcome immense obstacles in resource-scarce environments, the Olympics are a testament to the universal love of sport and the indomitable human spirit.

When viewed through the lens of Catholic social teaching, the Olympics take on an added dimension of spiritual fraternity and the universal call to human dignity and solidarity. Athletes representing many cultures, languages,

and traditions converge on a single stage. This diversity and unity reflect the Church's belief in the universal dignity of every person, created in the image of God. The camaraderie among athletes, regardless of their nationality or socioeconomic status, is a living testament to the concept of fraternity that Pope Francis frequently speaks about.

In his encyclical "Fratelli Tutti," Pope Francis calls for a renewed sense of fraternity and social friendship that transcends borders and differences. The Olympic Games, in their purest form, embody this call, demonstrating how people from various backgrounds can come together in peaceful competition and mutual respect. The games highlight our shared humanity and the possibility of achieving harmony and understanding through genuine encounters with one another.

The Olympics also provide a platform for athletes from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds to shine. For many competitors from developing nations, the Games offer a rare opportunity to showcase their talents internationally. This visibility can lead to transformative changes in their lives and communities. Take, for example, the story of Tegla Loroupe from Kenya. Despite growing up in poverty, Loroupe became the first African woman to win the New York City Marathon. Her Olympic participation and subsequent successes made her a role model, illustrating how sports can provide a path to a better future. Loroupe now advocates for peace and supports refugee athletes, using her platform to bring about positive change.

In addition, the story of Yusra Mardini, a Syrian swimmer who competed in the 2016 and 2020 Olympics as part of the Refugee Olympic Team, is a testament to the power of perseverance. Fleeing war-torn Syria, Mardini and her sister swam for hours in the Aegean Sea to

push a sinking boat to safety and save the lives of other refugees. Her journey from a life-threatening escape to the Olympic pool is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit.

The Olympic Games are a celebration of human diversity and unity, illustrating the power of sport to bridge divides and foster global camaraderie. Through the stories of athletes from various nationalities and socioeconomic backgrounds, we see the embodiment of the Olympic motto: "Faster, Higher, Stronger — Together." When viewed through the lens of our Catholic faith, the Games remind us that, despite our differences, we are united by our shared humanity and the pursuit of excellence.

Even though the Olympics ended Aug. 11 as the world tuned back to its regularly scheduled programming, there is still a way that we Catholics can continue to foster a sense of global community among diverse nations. On Sunday, Oct. 20, we will celebrate World Mission Sunday - a day set aside for Catholics worldwide to renew their commitment to the Church's missionary work, which involves spreading the Gospel and supporting missions in places where the Church is young, poor, or in need of assistance.

Instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1926, World Mission Sunday emphasizes the responsibility of all Catholics to participate in the Church's mission of evangelization and charity. On this day, special prayers are offered, and collections are taken up in parishes to support the Pontifical Mission Societies, which fund various missionary activities, including building churches, providing religious education, and supporting the work of priests, religious sisters, and lay missionaries.

While the Olympic Games and World Mission Sunday operate in different arenas — one in the field of sports and the other in the mission of the Church — they both exemplify the power of global unity, the celebration of diversity, and the pursuit of a higher purpose. Both events remind us of our shared humanity and the importance of working together across cultural and national boundaries to achieve something greater than ourselves. Whether through the spirit of athletic competition or the mission of evangelization, these events call us to unite in solidarity, respect, and a commitment to the common good.

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New community garden helps to cultivate community spirit

SCRANTON — A new community garden, built on Catholic Social Services property in the 600-block of Wyoming Avenue, is not only adding beauty to the neighborhood, but it will also provide food to those in need.

On June 4, 2024, as part of Scranton City Pride, Catholic Social Services joined forces with United Neighborhood Centers and Scranton Tomorrow to install Pine Brook's first community garden outside of Saint James Manor.

"United Neighborhood Centers offered assistance, including soil, tools, help with planting, and they even have the master gardeners coming out to do a skills class with us," Shannon Caufield, Director of Residential Programs with Catholic Social Services, said.

With help from students at the Career Technology Center of Lackawanna County — in addition to some grant funding — several new garden beds were built and set up adjacent to the building's parking lot.

"We received some funding that permitted us to get some garden beds. We worked with the CTC, where they were able to build the garden beds for us as part of their senior project, and we just paid for the cost

of the lumber and they came and installed them," Caufield explained.

Residents, staff and even community members got their hands dirty — spreading out soil and putting the first plants in place.

Prior to the garden beds being installed, residents of Saint James Manor had been planting vegetables right in a dirt patch that existed.

Saint James Manor houses critical social service programs that support Scranton's disenfranchised populations — including Saint Anthony's Haven Emergency Shelter for those experiencing homelessness, a Mental Health Counseling Program which provides transitional housing for individuals who are experiencing

homelessness as a result of mental health issues, and the Citizens' Re-Entry Program for the formerly incarcerated.

"They really did take ownership of it. They took care of it. It gave them something to do, some pride as well," Caufield added. "When this opportunity came up to expand, we obviously said yes,

immediately. The residents love it. Because many of them are experiencing homelessness, they need something to give them ownership and pride and this offers them that opportunity."

In addition to regular garden beds, the CTC students also created several raised garden beds for anyone who might be in a wheelchair or have trouble

bending down.

When not growing vegetables, Catholic Social Services officials might add flowers to keep the area looking nice.

"We're very excited ... We're looking forward to providing some fresh produce to our residents who can't afford it as well as the local community," Caufield said.



Above: Staff from Catholic Social Services and United Neighborhood Centers came together June 4 to create a new community garden in the 600-block of Wyoming Avenue in Scranton, outside of Saint James Manor. (Photos/Eric Deabill)

Kelly HOPKINS BENEFIT



RAISE SOME HELP FOR HOPPY

Come out and show your support for one of Scranton's BRAVEST! Our beloved Lieutenant Kelly Hopkins of the Scranton Fire Department is bravely facing the toughest battle of his life. Diagnosed with Stage 4 paraesophageal cancer, Kelly has begun treatment and needs our community's strength and support more than ever. Kelly has always been the kind of person who would give the shirt off his back to help someone in need. Now it's our turn to give back to him. He's excited to see the faces of those he cares about so much. Let's come together and show our love and support for Hoppy as he fights this battle. Help us make this event a huge success and raise some help in true Hoppy fashion for his fight against cancer!

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Catholic Social Services spreads joy to 102 children with back-to-school giveaway

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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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CARBONDALE – With the start of school just a few days away, Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton hosted a backpack and school supplies giveaway that benefited 102 children.

The event, held Aug. 9 in the basement of Saint Rose of Lima Church, was filled with excitement as families arrived to find an array of backpacks filled with essential supplies. From crayons and notebooks to pencils and folders, every item will help students start their academic year with confidence.

“We always try to look to see what we can do to help the community. We love this community and we’re invested in this community,” Jolette Lyons, Director of Relief Services for Catholic Social Services, said. “Every kid should be excited to go back to school and sometimes



Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton distributed 102 backpacks to children and families in need in Carbondale on Aug. 9, 2024, at Saint Rose of Lima Church. Participating in the distribution were, from right: Dominique Jordan, Supervisor of the CSS Carbondale Office; Jolette Lyons, CSS Director of Relief Services; Richard Ward, CSS volunteer; Cindy Bethea, CSS volunteer; and Jessica Bruno, CSS volunteer. (Photo/Eric Deabill)

families struggle with getting supplies to go back.”

This is the first year that Catholic Social Services organized the back-to-school giveaway in Carbondale.

Staff members say it became a priority after listening to the parents that they serve in their local food pantry.

“One of the women that comes in has six children and she said she was going to have a really hard time getting school supplies this year and I think that is what really rushed us to do something this year,” Dominique Jordan, Catholic Social Services Carbondale Office Supervisor, explained.

Each backpack was tailored to the needs and grade level of the child. A total of 69 backpacks for young children, filled with a notebook, crayons, scissors, glue, ruler, pencils, and folder, were meticulously put together. More than 30 other backpacks, all for older students, contained three notebooks, three folders, pens, pencils, and highlighters.

The giveaway was made possible through the generous contributions of local churches and community members.

“Our Lady of the Rosary Parish did a collection for us through the month of July.



Everyone who could brought in bookbags and all the supplies. They collected a good amount for us,” Jordan said.

“Lighthouse Christian Ministry and local families and volunteers also dropped items off. It has been great,” Lyons added.

The impact of the event extended far beyond just providing supplies. For many families, the giveaway offered a sense of relief and support as they prepare for the new school year. With the rising costs of education-related items, Catholic Social Services provided not only tangible help, but also a reminder of the strength and unity within the whole Carbondale community.

“Parents want their kids to be excited to go to school. They want to give their kids the best things, so if we can help them, we feel privileged to be able to do that,” Lyons said.

For more information on how to get involved with Catholic Social Services in Carbondale or to support future initiatives visit dioceseofscranton.org or contact their office at (570) 282-0460.

Eucharistic Miracles presentation continues for public display

Diocese of Scranton parishioner Gloria Calabro announces her comprehensive exhibit of a series of enlightening placards chronicling Eucharistic miracles recognized by the universal Catholic Church down through the ages continues to be available for public display.

Coinciding with the Catholic Church’s National Eucharistic Revival in America, Calabro expressed that opportunities still exist for parishes in the Scranton Diocese to host the exhibit, which includes nearly 100 historical capsule accounts provided by the Vatican International Eucharistic Miracle initiative.

To inquire about scheduling parish visits for the presentation, contact Gloria at (570) 479-1175, or Gil at (570) 239-5357.

Oblates to honor Saint Joseph the Worker with Labor Day Weekend Mass devotions

LAFLIN — The Congregation of the Oblates of Saint Joseph, located at 1880 Route 315, Laflin, will host their annual Triduum and Labor Day Mass celebrations honoring Saint Joseph the Worker.

A three-day preparation of Masses over the Labor Day Weekend will be offered on Friday, Saturday & Sunday, Aug. 30-Sept. 1, with liturgies celebrated daily at noon in the Oblates seminary chapel.



Devotions to Saint Joseph, with special intentions for all workers and the unemployed, will follow each Mass. A blessing with the first-class relic of Saint Joseph Marello, founder of the Oblate religious order, will conclude the devotions.

A special morning Mass will be celebrated on Labor Day, Sept. 2, at 11 a.m., honoring the Patron Saint of Workers. Following the Mass, bread will be blessed and distributed to all the faithful as a symbol of the "fruit of our labor."

Serving as celebrant and

homilist for this year's Labor Day Mass will be Oblate Father Paul A. McDonnell, rector of the OSJ religious community and pastor of Divine Mercy Parish in Scranton.

The Triduum and Labor Day

liturgical celebrations will be broadcast live on JMJ Catholic Radio 104.5 FM. For more information, contact the Oblates main office at (570) 654-7542 or email: osjseminary@comcast.net.

Alhambra Mass celebrates parish special needs students



Local Caravan Alhambra 4, Order of Alhambra, hosted a Sunday Mass for the Holy Family/Saint Ignatius special needs CCD students and invited families recently at Saint Ignatius Church in Kingston. Father James McGahagan, chaplain of the Alhambra Caravan, celebrated the liturgy, during which the students actively participated and presented the offertory gifts. Founded in 1904 and open to Catholic men and women, the Alhambra Order confraternity is dedicated to assisting and enhancing those with intellectual disabilities, as well as commemorating historical Catholic places, events and figures. Mass principals pictured are, first row from left: Donna Magni, Grand Commander; Marilyn Krall, Grand Scribe; Ada Magni, Supreme Director Region 2 and Scribe of the Exchequer; Father McGahagan; and Monsignor David Tressler, pastor of Saint Ignatius Loyola Parish, Kingston, and Holy Family Parish, Luzerne. Second row: Cathy Kennedy, Past Grand Commander; Sharon Yale, Master of the Wardrobe; and Maureen Roughsedge, Master of the Oasis. Third row: Thomas Dugan, Grand Chamberlain; Raymond Metzo, Past Grand Commander; Francis Kennedy, Immediate Past Grand Commander and Immediate Past Supreme Director Region 2; and Raymond Kownacki, Grand Advocate.





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Bishop celebrates Mass for Saint Rose 50th reunion classmates



The Class of 1974 from Saint Rose High School, Carbondale, recently gathered for their 50th class reunion that opened with a Mass at Saint Rose of Lima Church, celebrated by their classmate, Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton. Members of the milestone graduation class in attendance are shown, first row from left: Nancy McAndrew Yavoroski, Karen Collins Levenstein, Mary Helen Sweeney Schulte, Maria Roccato Andrews, Susan Farrell Masler, Ellen Gessler Tuohy, Paul Julianio, Cindy Congdon Waibel, Mimi Smiley and Mary Carol Bonacci Snyder. Second row: Mary Margaret Zukas Madison, Sister Joan Quinn, IHM (senior class advisor), Sandy Oakley Waering, Kathy Tuzzi Carito, Lynn Hazen, Audrey Kuna, Bishop Bambera, Jerry Durkin, Judith Farley Hoffman, Mary Beth O'Hara Osborne and Joan Shields. Third row: Donald Jackovitz, Billy Mussari, Robert Molinaro, Kevin Osborne, Cindy Mazza, Lou Norella and Joseph Janinek.

Faithful reminded of opportunity to host Pilgrim Virgin Statue

Lake Ariel parishioner Mike Tuman reminds faithful throughout the Diocese of Scranton that the traveling Pilgrim Virgin Statue continues to be available for home visitations and private veneration.

Tuman currently serves as custodian for the venerable statue of the Blessed Mother, which has a rich tradition and history of being hosted by families and individuals.

According to Tuman, the three-foot statue is accompanied by

seven third-class saintly relics. He also emphasized there are no fees or monetary donations required



to host the Marian object of devotion, which is also embedded with a small fragment from the 1917 Fatima apparition site in Portugal.

"I will work it out with those interested as far as pickup and delivery" of the statue, he said, adding that a prayer program is included for the private and shared devotions. "The visitations provide a relaxed, prayerful opportunity for devotion to the Mother of God for her assistance and intercession."

For more information, contact Tuman by calling or texting him at (570) 647-9500.

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Pocono Pines parish planning to host 'Shroud of Turin' exhibit, parish mission

POCONO PINES — Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish, 5110 Pocono Crest Road, Pocono Pines, announces it will host a pair of spiritually inspiring events to begin the fall season.

During Sept. 20-29, the Pocono Pines parish will serve as the setting for "The Man of the Shroud" exhibit, which is on loan to the local Knights of Columbus Council from the Saint Maximilian Kolbe Shrine in Marytown, Ill.

An in-depth visual presentation on the captivating Shroud of Turin — venerated for centuries by faithful and those who piously believe it to be the burial cloth of Jesus Christ — the exhibit contains more than 30 display banners chronicling the history and science of one of the most critically studied religious icons in history.

The moving and informative mobile exhibition was developed

by the Center for the Study of the Passion of the Christ and the Holy Shroud, following decades of exhaustive and medical, historical and scientific research.

Featuring a full-length canvas replica of the Shroud as its centerpiece, the realistic presentation also includes a large crucified corpus revealing the Lord's wounds, corresponding to the passion narratives recorded in the Gospel accounts.

Beginning Friday, Sept. 20, and continuing through Sunday, Sept. 29, the exhibit will be on display at Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish during the following times: weekdays, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Sundays, noon to 8 p.m.

Admission is free of charge and group visitations are welcome; free-will offerings will be accepted.

For groups of ten or more,

scheduled appointment times are requested by calling (267) 897-3712.

While the Shroud exhibit is being offered, Saint Maximilian Kolbe will host its three-night 2024 Parish Mission on Sept. 22-24, beginning each evening at 7 p.m.



Father Bill Garrott, OP

"Christlock: Identity Theft No More!" will serve as the theme for the mission retreat experience,

which will be led by Dominican Father Bill Garrott.

Renowned for his preaching skills and musical talent, Father Garrott has directed more than 200 parish missions throughout

the U.S. and Canada, interweaving word and song to guide faithful in experiencing God's unconditional love and a more personal encounter with Jesus.

All are welcome to attend.

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Blue Army Reparation Vigil

The next monthly First Friday Reparation Vigil, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary and sponsored by the Blue Army, will be held **Sept. 6** at Saint Joseph's Oblate Seminary, 1880 Highway 315, Laflin (Pittston).

Devotions begin Friday evening at 8 p.m. with recitation of the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary, during which time confessions are heard. Mass of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is celebrated at 8:55 p.m., followed by benediction, litany and consecration to the Sacred Heart.

The vigil continues with the crowning of the Blue Army Pilgrim Virgin Statue, the Blue Army Pledge, Fatima prayers and Marian hymns, followed by litany and consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The vigil concludes with scapular enrollment at 10:15 p.m.

Apostleship of Prayer

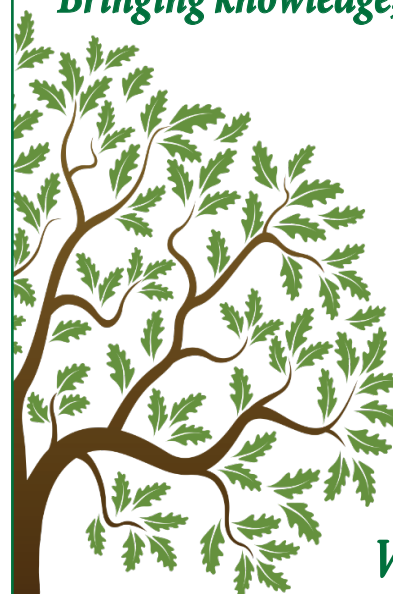
Pope's Intention for August 2024

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Mental Health Ministry offering spiritual support

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Our Lady of the Snows, Clarks Summit; and Saint John Vianney, Scott Township.

Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at the Church of Saint Gregory, 330 North Abington Road, Clarks Green.

The gathering sessions run approximately 90 minutes.

The Spiritual Support Group provides a safe, supportive space for individuals (18 years of age & older) who are living with mental illness.

The group meetings provide those in attendance the ability to speak out in a confidential, non-judgmental environment, where isolation and stigma dissipate, and a supportive community is created.

"Our goal is to ensure that no one feels alone in his or her struggle," leaders of the spiritual support group state.

'Rosary for America' prayed at Grotto

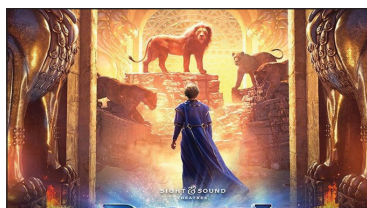


Our Lady of Fatima Blessed Grotto in North Wilkes-Barre served as the solemn setting for a public recitation of "A Rosary for America" hosted there in July by the Lay Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, guardians of the shrine. Caretakers and supporters of the well-known Marian grotto are shown above in a photo taken by Chris Calore, a member of the Lay Servants. Pictured, from left: Marie Nelson, Stephen Englot, Michele Kollar, Sharon Yale, Jordan Olsommer, Rachel Young, Jo Ann Sterbinsky, Mike Young and Maureen Roughsedge.

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Nov. 7: Cash/Diamond Tribute
at Silver Birches

Nov. 12: Destiny USA Shopping Mall

Nov. 29: White Christmas
at Dutch Apple

Nov. 30: Frozen at Fulton Theatre

Dec. 5: Elvis Christmas Show

Dec. 15: Miracle on 34th Street

Dec. 16-18: Cape May Christmas

Dec. 22: Joy to the World at AMT

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Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese of Scranton

Weekly Eucharistic Adoration — AUG. 16, 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 — AUG. 17, 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.

White Haven Parish Sesquicentennial Celebration — AUG. 18, hosted by St. Patrick Parish in White Haven to celebrate the parish's 150th anniversary; celebration begins with a Mass of Thanksgiving at 10:15 a.m. in St. Patrick Church with Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton. Mass followed by a buffet dinner in the parish center, catered by Capriotti's Catering.

Monthly Parish Sunday Breakfast — AUG. 18, hosted by St. Eulalia Parish, 214 Blue Shutters Road, Roaring Brook Township; serving from 8:30 to noon in the parish hall. Menu includes pancakes, eggs, breakfast potatoes, sausage links, ham, rolls, toast, coffee, tea, juice & water; take-outs available. Cost: adults, \$10; students, (ages six to 12), \$7; and children (ages five & younger), \$5. For more information, call (570) 842-7656.

Tuesday Eucharistic Adoration — AUG. 20, 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.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Rosary — AUG. 21, hosted at SS. Peter & Paul Church, 1309 West Locust St., West Scranton; weekly Rosary devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help offered every Wednesday morning following the 9 a.m. Mass. All are welcome.

Divine Mercy Shrine Pilgrimage — AUG. 22, sponsored by Queen of the Apostles Parish in Avoca; celebrating the Memorial Feast of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Daylong pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Mass., departs at 7 a.m. from the Oblates of St. Joseph Chapel, Laflin; departure time from the Divine Mercy Shrine is 4:30 p.m. Cost: \$60 per person (advance reservation/payment required). For more information, call Ann Jake (570) 466-4693, or the parish office (570) 457-3412.

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, contact the parish office at (570) 655-8956.

Venerable Father Patrick Peyton Rosary — SEPT. 4, hosted by the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton; Rosary devotion is held on the first Wednesday of each month following the 12:10 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral. Recitation of Rosary prayers is offered for the special intention of furthering the cause for canonization of Venerable Father Patrick Peyton.

Grief Support Group Sessions — SEPT. 4, 11, 18 & 25, series of weekly gatherings addressing topics dealing with the grief process to enable participants find healing; Bereavement Support Group hosts seasonal meetings on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave., Scranton (across from St. Peter's Cathedral). Anyone interested in

attending is asked to contact the Cathedral Parish office at (570) 344-7231.

Monthly "XLT: Exalt" Eucharistic Adoration —

SEPT. 5, sponsored by the Scranton Diocesan Office of Vocations; hosted at St. Maria Goretti Church, 42 Redwood Drive, Laflin, beginning at 7

Continued on page 30

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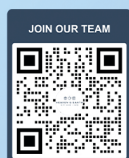
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Catholic Happenings in the Diocese

Continued from page 29

p.m. Gathering held on the first Thursday of each month; includes Eucharistic Adoration, guest speaker, Sacrament of Reconciliation, live music by Joel Kankiewicz, and social. For more information, contact Kyra Krzywicki, vocations program coordinator, at: kkrzywicki@dioceseofscranton.org.

First Friday Rosary & Adoration — **SEPT. 6**, hosted by St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish at Our Lady of the Lake Church,

5112 Pocono Crest Road, Pocono Pines; offered on First Friday of each month. Opens with recitation of the Rosary at 6:30 p.m. led by St. Monica's Army; followed by one hour of blessed adoration. All faithful are welcome.

Annual Flea Market — **SEPT. 14-15 & 21**, sponsored by St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Old Forge; held in the church hall, 320 Vine St., Old Forge. Three-day flea market hours: Saturday, Sept. 14, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, Sept. 15 (half-price sale), 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and Saturday, Sept. 21 (bag & box sale), 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sale features antiques, household goods, furniture, children's items, and gift card raffle; includes a variety of ethnic foods, bake goods and refreshments for purchase.

Rummage & Food Sales — **SEPT. 20 & 21**, sponsored by St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish in South Scranton; event also includes a bake sale. All donations are welcome; drop-off day is Aug. 17 from 9 to 11 a.m. Accepted rummage sale items (clean & unbroken) include: tools, toys, small furniture, lamps, books, household items & holiday decor. For more information, call the parish office (570) 343-6420.

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.

"Nazareth Group" Days for High School Girls — **OCT. 12**, hosted by the Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth in Tunkhannock and Williamsport; Saturday

programs are presented by the Nazareth Group for young women interested in learning about the faith and growing in their relationship with Jesus Christ. Open to all girls in grades 9-12; the experience is offered from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Capuchin Sisters' two convent locations: Mother of God Convent, 215 Wellwood Drive, Tunkhannock; and Mother of the Eucharist Convent, 6100 Jacks Hollow Road, Williamsport. Reservations are required. For Tunkhannock, contact Sister Angela of the Capuchin Sisters at (570) 836-2737; for Williamsport, contact Sister Clare at (570) 745-3334.

Pro-Life Presentation Event: "Arise for Life with Jim Caviezel" — **OCT. 16**, benefiting the pro-life Providence Pregnancy Center (PPC) of Scranton; special event begins at 7:30 p.m. at Theater at North in North Scranton. Keynote speaker: Jim Caviezel, best known for his portrayal of Jesus in *The Passion of the Christ*. Presentation featuring Caviezel's pro-life message also includes a silent auction to benefit the PPC's ministry to pregnant women and their newborn babies. For event details and sponsorship opportunities, visit ppcscranton.org/events or call (570) 341-7045.

Marywood Undergraduate Fall Open Houses — **OCT. 26 & NOV. 16**, hosted by Marywood University in Scranton; both Saturday open house events for high school students and their parents are held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., beginning with registration at 8:30 a.m. in the Fireplace Lounge at the Nazareth Student Center on campus. Complimentary continental breakfast and lunch included. To register, visit: marywood.edu/openhouse, or call (570) 348-6234.

Who makes house calls?

As of October 2015, I will now meet clients either at their home, or at a location they choose and no longer require clients to meet at my office. I have decided that I would change the way I meet with people so it will be as easy and as convenient as possible for the client.

Based on my practice, which consists of estate planning and administration along with elder law, I find that clients are more comfortable discussing such matters in familiar surroundings. While I know this may seem unconventional to some, I believe I will be able to serve clients much better in this fashion.

If anyone is uncomfortable with home visits, I have a few locations where I can meet in an office setting. I look forward to meeting with my existing clients and especially meeting new clients that are looking for any assistance in estate or elder law matters.



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*Entered Life:
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August 8, 2024*



Prayer Requests for Priests

The Daily Prayer Request for Priests schedule is as follows:

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.; August 21, Father Richard Polmounter; August 22, Father John Poplawski; August 23, Monsignor Patrick Pratico; August 24, Monsignor Joseph Quinn; August 25, Father Michael Quinnan; August 26, Father Michael Rafferty; August 27, Father Philip Rayappan; August 28, Jesuit Father James Redington; August 29, Father Gregory Reichlen; August 30, Father August Ricciardi; August 31, Father Frederick Riegler; September 1, Pope Francis; September 2, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; September 3, Jesuit Father Angelo Rizzo; September 4, Father Alex Roche; September 5, Monsignor Walter Rossi; September 6, Monsignor Dale Rupert; September 7, Father John Ruth; September 8, Holy Cross Father Brogan Ryan; September 9, Father Dominic Sabi; September 10, Father Thomas Sarnecki; September 11, Father Arbogaste Satoun; September 12, Father Kenneth Seegar; September 13, Monsignor John Sempa; September 14, Father Gerald Shantillo, V.G.; September 15, Saint Joseph Oblate Father Joseph Sibilano; September 16, Monsignor Constantine Siconolfi; September 17, Father Shawn Simchock.



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Stop and read: Pope praises spiritual value of literature

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Every Christian, but especially seminarians, should set aside their screens regularly and spend time with a book of literature or poetry, Pope Francis said.

In a world that so often prizes efficiency and accomplishment, “we desperately need to counterbalance this inevitable temptation to a frenetic and uncritical lifestyle by stepping back, slowing down, taking time to look and listen,” the pope wrote. “This can happen when a person simply stops to read a book.”

In a letter “On the Role of Literature in Formation,” published by the Vatican Aug. 4, Pope Francis said he initially intended to write a letter on how important it is for seminarians to devote time to reading novels

and poetry but decided to expand it because reading is important for “the formation of all those engaged in pastoral work, indeed of all Christians.”

The pope’s letter cited his own experience as a high school literature teacher in 1964-65 as well as essays by the writers C.S. Lewis, Marcel Proust and Jorge Luis Borges and texts by Jesuit Father Karl Rahner, St. Paul VI, St. John Paul II and the Second Vatican Council. He also referred to evidence in the Acts of the Apostles that St. Paul knew the work of the poet Epimenides, who wrote in the sixth century B.C.E., and the poet Aratus of Soli from the third century B.C.E.

Reading, the pope said, is a healthy form of relaxation, an important way to increase one’s

vocabulary and an essential exercise in learning to listen to the experiences of other people and other cultures.

“Often during periods of boredom on holiday, in the heat and quiet of some deserted neighborhood, finding a good book to read can provide an oasis that keeps us from other choices that are less wholesome,” the pope said. “Likewise, in moments of weariness, anger, disappointment or failure, when prayer itself does not help us find inner serenity, a good book can help us weather the storm until we find peace of mind.”

Pope Francis insisted reading “is not something completely outdated” and is an antidote to “our present unrelenting exposure to social media, mobile phones

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and other devices.”

“I very much appreciate the fact that at least some seminaries have reacted to the obsession with ‘screens’ and with toxic, superficial and violent fake news by devoting time and attention to literature,” he wrote. “They have done this by setting aside time for tranquil reading and for discussing books, new and old, that continue to have much to say to us.”

However, the pope said, even in those seminaries, literature is often seen merely as a form of healthy entertainment rather than as a subject that is important in their training.

A lack of literature and poetry, he said, “can lead to the serious intellectual and spiritual impoverishment of future priests,

who will be deprived of that privileged access which literature grants to the very heart of human culture and, more specifically, to the heart of every individual.”

Literature, he said, is “listening to another person’s voice.”

Literature and poetry, like other arts, also help hone a reader’s ability to be in awe - of others, of the world and, ultimately, of God, the pope said.

Literature, he said, “teaches us how to look and see, to discern and explore the reality of individuals and situations as a mystery charged with a surplus of meaning that can only be partially understood through categories, explanatory schemes, linear dynamics of causes and effects, means and ends.”

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for U.S./German/Japanese:**

Medals, Uniforms, Helmets, Hats, Armbands, Flags,
Daggers, Swords, Bayonets, Knives, Pistols, Rifles,
Equipment, Pictures, Letters, Currency, Coins, etc...

Contact Sam at (570) 814-8287

Please leave a message if I'm unavailable.

(I am a private collector not a dealer and would be honored to purchase
your military souvenirs to display in my collection.)