



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

August 22, 2024

Bishop tours Tioga County flood damage; celebrates first Mass in Westfield since disaster







It has now been nearly two weeks since flash flooding ravaged the communities of Westfield and Knoxville in far northwestern Tioga County on August 9, 2024.

Unbelievable damage was left behind when the fast-moving waters receded.

“Here in Westfield was almost the epicenter of the damage. A tremendous number of homes have been lost. We had one life lost in Knoxville, a friend of mine, and as of today he has not been found yet. He was washed away by the storm helping some elderly neighbors of his get out of their home,” Ralph Wolstenholme, a parishioner of Saint Catherine of Siena Church in Westfield, explained.

In the wake of homes literally being washed off their foundation, the community has not lost hope.

Neighbors have been rallying around one another to begin picking up the pieces.

[Click Here to Read the Full Story from The Catholic Light](#)

Parishes respond with prayer, outreach amid historic northeast floods



Catholics in Connecticut are working to help those impacted by what one lawmaker described as “historic, unprecedented flooding” Aug. 18-19 that took two lives and forced hundreds to flee for safety.

The southwestern part of the state was deluged by 6-10 inches of rainfall in as many hours Aug. 18, with more rain pummeling the region the following day.

A volunteer staffer at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Oxford told OSV News that while the church buildings were intact, “a lot of people here” in the parish “did get hit” by the flooding.

[Click Here to Read the Full Story from Our Sunday Visitor](#)

White Haven parish celebrates 150th anniversary



August 18, 2024, was a date that will forever be recorded in the history of Saint Patrick Parish in White Haven.

The parish community in Luzerne County gathered on that date to celebrate its 150th anniversary at a special Mass at 10:15 a.m.

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

To watch a short video from the Anniversary Mass, including interviews with several parishioners talking about their faith community, click on the thumbnail above or the link below.

[Click Here to Watch a Video from Catholic Television from the 150th Anniversary Mass at Saint Patrick Parish in White Haven](#)

Ezra 10:4 Men's Discernment Retreat planned for October

Diocese of Scranton
VOCATIONS



SCAN TO REGISTER
Open to Men 18 +

EZRA 10:4

**A RETREAT FOR MEN DISCERNING THE
PRIESTHOOD**

Rev. Alex Roche



Holy Family Spiritual Renewal Center, Nanticoke

Hosted by the Diocese of Scranton Vocations Office

OCTOBER 11-12, 2024

REGISTER AT [DIOCESEOFSCRANTON.ORG/VOCATIONS](https://dioceseofscranton.org/vocations)

The Diocesan Vocations Office is hosting its annual Men's Discernment Retreat, *Ezra 10:4*, October 11-12 at Holy Family Spiritual Renewal Center in Nanticoke.

Ezra 10:4 is open to adult men who are interested in learning more about discerning the vocation to priesthood. The Vocations Office began 2024 with *Ezra 10:4* as its guiding Scripture passage for the year. The verse states, “Arise! For this matter is your responsibility, but we will be with you; be courageous and act.”

For a man discerning the call to priesthood, fear, anxiety, and doubt can quiet the Lord’s voice and cause him to instead focus on the distractions of busy schedules and monotonous routines. With these distractions comes the false assumption that one can discern his vocation alone without the help of trusted spiritual advisors or the support of others who are discerning the same vocation.

[Click Here for More Information on the Men's Discernment Retreat](#)

Eucharist satisfies hunger for hope, truth, salvation, Pope Francis says



When receiving the Eucharist, Catholics should respond with gratitude and awe that Jesus offers himself as nourishment and salvation, Pope Francis said.

Jesus “becomes true food and true drink,” the pope said. “Thank you, Lord Jesus! Let’s say, ‘Thank you, thank you’ with all our heart,” he told visitors and pilgrims who joined him in St. Peter’s Square Aug. 18 for the midday recitation of the Angelus prayer.

[Click Here to Read the Full Story from Catholic News Service](#)

New USCCB Secretariat will advocate for 'just policies' that 'promote human dignity'



Jill Rauh, the executive director of a newly created secretariat at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, pledged to support the work of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the USCCB’s domestic

anti-poverty initiative, after some expressed concern about the future of that project following some staff layoffs.

Rauh oversees the work of the new Secretariat of Justice and Peace, announced Aug. 6. The new office will serve four bishops' committees to advance the social mission of the church through formation, policy analysis, advocacy and outreach.

In an interview, Rauh told OSV News that the secretariat will continue "advocating for just policies so that we can promote human dignity and flourishing."

[Click Here to Read the Full Story from Our Sunday Visitor](#)

Vatican stamp celebrates U.S.-Holy See Diplomatic relations



A new Vatican postage stamp celebrates the 40th anniversary of full diplomatic relations between the United States and the Holy See.

The 2.45-euro (\$2.75) stamp features the seal of the Holy See and the seal of the United States tied together with yellow and gold ribbons for the Vatican and red, white and blue ribbons for the United States.

The years 1984 and 2024 feature prominently on the stamp, which also notes it is the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations.

The Vatican post office will begin selling the stamp Sept. 16, the philatelic office said, and the post office located by the Arch of the Bells in St. Peter's Square will offer special cancellations for collectors Sept. 16 and 17.

[Click Here to Read the Full Story from Catholic News Service](#)

On the Road Again: Pope to visit Asia, Oceania in September



Pope Francis' trip to Asia and Oceania in September will be a trip of religious, economic and social contrasts.

Visiting four nations Sept. 2-13, the 87-year-old pope will be making the longest trip of his pontificate, both in terms of distance covered and days away from the Vatican.

The trip will include predominantly Muslim Indonesia and predominantly Christian Papua New Guinea, as well as Singapore, Asia's economic powerhouse, and Timor-Leste, one of the world's poorest nations.

Plans were being made for the trip in September 2020, but everything was halted because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Click Here to Read the Full Story from Catholic News Service](#)

Susquehanna County Parish plans picnic for Friday evening



FRIDAY, AUG 23

MOST HOLY TRINITY PARISH PICNIC

PLEASE COME!

Most Holy Trinity Parish has planned a picnic to bring all parishioners together from the three churches to enjoy one another's company while strengthening the Parish community through fellowship in a relaxing and "hassle free" atmosphere. You are welcome to invite others as well.

Great food, cash bar, and activities & friendly competitions for all ages. Stay tuned in for more details through the bulletin.

RSVP Payment Options by August 11 (\$5.00/ per person):

1. Picnic envelope available at each church
2. Venmo @Trevor-Pass-01



**SONNY SAYS:
PLEASE COME!**

PICNIC AT
**GREEN GABLES
RESTAURANT**
NEW MILFORD, PA

5:30 - 8:30 PM

**FELLOWSHIP, FOOD
AND FRIENDS**

**\$5 PER PERSON
PAID BY AUG 11**

**MOST HOLY TRINITY
PARISH**



<https://sites.google.com/view/mostholytrinitynepa/home>

Even though school is starting - the parish festival and picnic season isn't quite finished yet!

While additional events are planned for Labor Day weekend and into September, there is one parish picnic event planned for this coming weekend at Most Holy Trinity Parish in Susquehanna County.

The picnic, planned for Aug. 23, will bring together parishioners from the three churches of the parish for an evening of food, fellowship and friendship.

[Click Here to See the List of Parishes Holding Festivals and Picnics in September](#)

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