



# **The Catholic Light**

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

## **Weekly E-Newsletter**

**August 8, 2024**

### **Biggest weekend of the summer for parish festivals arrives as nine communities prepare for 'grand' celebrations**



The biggest weekend of the summer festival season is now upon us - as nine different parishes throughout the Diocese of Scranton will be hosting events in the coming days.

Among the parishes preparing to welcome big crowds are:

- Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Pittston
- Most Precious Blood Parish, Hazleton
- Saints Anthony & Rocco Parish, Dunmore
- Saint Jude Parish, Mountain Top
- Saint Matthew Parish, East Stroudsburg
- Saint Elizabeth Parish, Bear Creek
- Blessed Sacrament Parish, Throop
- Saint Boniface & Saint Lawrence Parishes, Williamsport/S. Williamsport
- Prince of Peace Parish, Old Forge

To learn more about the times, attractions, music and foods planned at each parish, please click the link below.

[Click Here to See the Full Listing of 2024 Parish Summer Picnics, Festivals and Bazaars that have been submitted to The Catholic Light](#)

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**'Freedom' was focus of Catholic Charismatic Renewal conference which drew hundreds to Scranton**



Hundreds of people from around the country visited The University of Scranton on the first weekend of August for the annual Catholic Charismatic Renewal conference.

"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 and He still moves and He still works and He still speaks to us in different ways than we might hear at Mass or other liturgies," Karen McLain, Coordinator of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the Diocese of Scranton.

Music is a big highlight of the Charismatic Conference - but it also featured many opportunities for worship, teaching and prayer.

"We often sing and stand and clap and raise our hands," McLain said.

This year's theme was "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Freedom" (2 Cor 3:17).

"I love the community that is here. I love the opportunity to worship and praise the Lord with everybody that is here," Roni Buczynski, parishioner of Saint Paul VI Parish in Connecticut, said.

Click the thumbnail above to watch a video from CTV: Catholic Television about this year's conference.

[Click Here to Watch a Video from CTV: Catholic Television from the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference](#)

## **Genesis Mission workshops kick off in Lycoming County**



The Diocesan Office for Parish Life kicked off its first Genesis Mission session on Thursday, Aug. 8, at Saint Lawrence Parish in South Williamsport.

International Co-Founders Father Jon Bielawski and Michele Thompson were in Lycoming County to lead workshops to teaching the faithful how to confidently evangelize in their everyday lives.

Pastors and parishioners from a number of parishes attended Thursday's session, including, but not limited to, Saint Ann Parish, Williamsport; Saint Boniface Parish, Williamsport, Saint Joseph the Worker Parish, Williamsport; and Saint Peter Parish in Wellsboro.

Two more Genesis Workshop sessions are scheduled to take place on Friday, Aug. 9, and Saturday, Aug. 10, at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton.

Following these workshops, participants will have the opportunity to continue the Genesis Mission journey through a 6-week course of study that will equip them to use this practical down-to-earth approach.

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## **Pope appoints Rhode Island Bishop to succeed Cardinal O'Malley as Boston archbishop**





Ending months of speculation about the future leadership of the Archdiocese of Boston, Pope Francis has accepted the resignation of Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley and appointed Bishop Richard G. Henning of Providence, Rhode Island, to succeed him as the archdiocese's 10th bishop and seventh archbishop.

The resignation and appointment were publicized in Washington Aug. 5 by Cardinal Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

According to the archdiocese, Archbishop Henning, 59, will be installed Oct. 31. Cardinal O'Malley remains archbishop of Boston until that date.

According to rules set by St. Paul VI, all bishops must submit their resignation to the pope at age 75, which the pope is free to accept or defer

as he chooses. However, because the same rules dictate that cardinals lose their appointments in Vatican dicasteries and may not participate in the conclave to elect the next pope once they turn 80, it is typically expected that the pope will accept the resignation of active cardinals at or around that age.

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## **In times of trial know that nothing is impossible for God, Pope Francis says**



Each Christian and the whole Catholic Church must hold fast to the promise that “nothing is impossible for God,” especially when facing difficulties, Pope Francis said.

Resuming his weekly general audiences Aug. 7 after a six-week summer break, the pope returned to his series of audience talks about the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the church.

“Without the Holy Spirit, the church cannot keep moving, the church doesn’t grow, the church cannot preach,” he told pilgrims and visitors

sheltered from the summer heat in the air-conditioned Paul VI Audience Hall.

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## **Report claims U.S. abortions on the rise since Dobbs, driven by telehealth services**



In the wake of the Supreme Court's 2022 *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision, the number of abortions in the United States have increased, even as some states implemented near-total bans on the procedure, according to a report by #WeCount, a research project by the Society of Family Planning, a group that supports legal abortion. Pro-life activists who spoke with OSV News expressed concern about the report — and the trends it observed.

According to the latest quarterly #WeCount report, the national monthly total of abortions of unborn children exceeded 100,000 in January 2024, the first time that threshold was observed in the report. The report has collected data since April 2022, two months prior to the *Dobbs* decision,

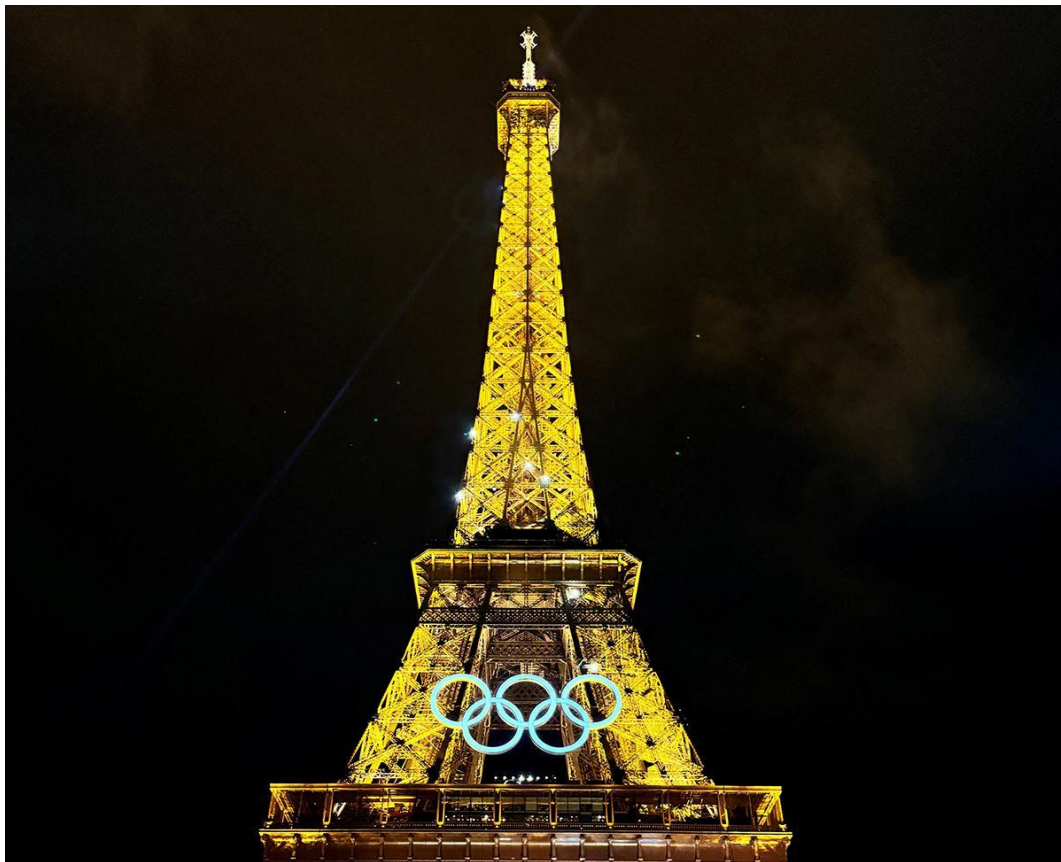


which saw the Supreme Court overturn its jurisprudence holding abortion to be a constitutional right since Roe v. Wade (1973).

According to #WeCount, between 94,670 and 102,350 abortions occurred monthly from January-March 2024, with a monthly average of 98,990.

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## **Vatican says it was 'saddened' by Olympics' Opening Ceremony**



More than a week after the opening ceremony of the Paris Olympic Games, the Vatican joined people who complained that a segment of the show featuring drag performers offended Christians.

“The Holy See was saddened by certain scenes in the opening ceremony of the Olympics in Paris and can only join the voices that have been raised in recent days to deplore the offense caused to many Christians and believers of other religions,” said the statement published by the Vatican press office late Aug. 3.

The Vatican statement did not specifically identify the July 26 performance, which featured drag performers, including one wearing a crown, seated at a table in a scene that reminded many people of Leonardo da Vinci’s famous painting of the Last Supper.

“In a prestigious event where the whole world gathers around common values, there should be no allusions that ridicule the religious convictions of many people,” the Vatican statement said.

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## **American Olympic medalists in Paris known for leaning on faith**



Among American Olympians achieving a spot on the podium in Paris are Catholics who have expressed their dependence on faith over the years as they've pursued excellence in their athletic pursuits.

Swimmer Katie Ledecky is outspoken about how her Catholic faith guides her life.

On Aug. 3, Ledecky became the most decorated American female gold medalist in any sport as well as one of only two women from any nation, in any sport, to win nine gold medals. It was her fourth consecutive Olympic gold medal in the 800 freestyle. She has 14 medals total. Just two days earlier she won her 13th Olympic medal — in itself historic. She took silver in the 4×200-meter freestyle relay.

After the 2021 Olympic games in Tokyo, the Catholic school graduate told the Catholic Standard, the Archdiocese of Washington's newspaper, that she prayed the Hail Mary before each race to calm her nerves, just as she had during the 2012 and 2016 Olympics.

"My faith remains very important in my life, especially the last two years," Ledecky told the Catholic Standard in 2021. She noted that watching livestreamed Mass, celebrated by her godfather Jesuit Father Jim Shea at a parish in Charlotte, North Carolina, helped her through the pandemic.

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## **Retired FBI agent, clergy abuse survivor and social workers appointed to Bishops' National Review Board**



UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF  
CATHOLIC BISHOPS

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 four-year term, having led the board since 2020.

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.

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