

The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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Catholic Ministries Appeal 2024 begins: Answering the 'Call to Serve' across 11 counties

SCRANTON – In a time when communities are more interconnected than ever, the Diocese of Scranton is calling upon its faithful to unite in a transformative effort to support essential Catholic ministries across northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

The 2024 Catholic Ministries Appeal (Diocesan Annual Appeal) is now underway and comes with a pressing need for donations, vital to sustaining and expanding the life-changing work carried out by the Church.

This year's Appeal, under the theme 'Our Call to Service,' emphasizes the profound impact that every contribution can make. The Diocese of Scranton relies on the generosity of its parishioners to fund essential programs and services that touch tens of thousands of lives and no one parish can do on its own.

"In the Gospel of John, Jesus,

the Good Shepherd, reminds us that He came so that we may have life, and have it more abundantly," Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, said. "These are challenging economic times and there are many people in need who are relying on the Church of Scranton."

For example, every night, individuals in our local community face the harsh reality of homelessness.

For many years, the search for a safe place to sleep in the city of Wilkes-Barre meant bouncing around from church to church – but hope is on the horizon.

Work on a new, permanent home for Mother Teresa's Haven, Catholic Social Services' emergency shelter in Luzerne County, is now underway.

The location will be directly above the Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen on East Jackson Street.

Donations to the 2024 Appeal



will help to ensure the shelter opens and operates – possibly even being able to expand its hours when the winter weather arrives.

"I see us here, being able to provide more services than we can

ever imagine right now, because we're going to have office space here, we're going to be able to provide more case management," Joseph Mahoney, Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Social Services, explained.

The need for a permanent shelter has never been more urgent.

Last year, Mother Teresa's Haven provided nearly 5,400 individual nights of shelter to men in the community.

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Students at La Salle Academy in Jessup, one of 19 Catholic Schools, smile as they begin the 2024-2025 school year.

Catholic School Surge: Diocesan schools see largest enrollment increase in years

SCRANTON – As the new school year begins, there are many new faces filling the classrooms and hallways of the 19 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Scranton.

For the first time in more than seven years, enrollment has topped more than 4,500 students. As of Sept. 5, enrollment was at 4,565 students, a significant surge of nearly 150 more students compared to last year.

This robust increase underscores a renewed and enthusiastic embrace of Catholic values and academic excellence.

"While we are always focused on the spiritual, academic, and personal growth of our students, it is amazing to celebrate the growth of our enrollment too," Kristen Donohue, Diocesan Secretary of Education/Superintendent, said. "As always, we are honored to provide a safe, nurturing, and welcoming Catholic school environment to our new and returning families."

Donohue believes one of the key drivers behind this year's enrollment increase is the emphasis on academic and spiritual excellence.

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The Catholic Light

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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE
DIOCESE OF SCRANTON



DIOCESE OF SCRANTON MISSION STATEMENT

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

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Rising need for food pantries highlights urgent call for support

HAZLETON — Across northeastern Pennsylvania, there are countless individuals who face the daily challenge of putting food on the table.

The crisis is one that many in our community may not fully realize.

Around the beginning of the year, Nancy Craig became one of the people needing assistance and turned to Saint Joseph Food Pantry in Hazleton for a helping hand.

"They care about you. They care about your needs. They care about what your family needs," Craig said.

Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton operates Saint Joseph Food Pantry. Craig was so impressed by the pantry operations that she is now volunteering her time to help others who are struggling.

Pointing to the rising cost of gas and groceries, she is shocked to see the rising number of people needing assistance.

"There is not one person that I have seen yet come through these doors that is just looking for handouts," Craig explained. "It is a need."

The food pantries operated by Catholic Social Services are a lifeline for many people,



Nancy Craig packs food boxes to be distributed to people in need at Saint Joseph Food Pantry in Hazleton on Aug. 8, 2024. (Photos/Eric Deabill)

providing not just food, but hope, dignity, and support.

With a dramatic increase in the number of individuals and families seeking assistance, Catholic Social Services is facing unprecedented demand. As the Catholic Ministries Appeal kicks off this month, the call for donations has never been more urgent.

"Every month, we see 50 new families that we have never seen before," LeeAnn Lywiski, Hazleton Material Assistance Supervisor, said.

Lywiski has been helping the

less fortunate for more than 22 years. During 2023, she says the Hazleton office of Catholic Social Services served 5,350 families, which equates to roughly 12,000 people.

"We try to give everybody dignity, respect, and confidentiality. We serve them and make them feel like they're welcome here to receive the food," she added.

It is a similar story at the Catholic Social Services food pantry in Carbondale. The office in Lackawanna County's Up Valley helps an average of 300 families with food every week. On average, five to ten new families reach out for assistance on any given week.

"They know that they're going to be respected, and they know, that if they're here, they're family to us while they're here," volunteer Richard Ward said.

Ward became a volunteer after falling on challenging times himself.

"I was homeless for a while and was at the shelter in Scranton and Catholic Social Services helped me get up here in one of the programs, so the least I could



After receiving help from Catholic Social Services when he was homeless years ago, Richard Ward now helps others at the Carbondale food pantry.

do was come down and help," Ward added.

In addition to non-perishable food items, the Catholic Social Services Carbondale office also distributes milk, juice, fresh produce, and frozen meats.

"Nutrition is a huge factor for us. We want people to have well-balanced meals and that is something we really focus on here," Dominique Jordan, Catholic Social Services Carbondale Office Supervisor, stated.

Parishioners are encouraged to contribute in any way they can. Donations to the Catholic Ministries Appeal can be made online at AnnualAppeal.org, by mail or by calling (570) 207-2250. Additionally, volunteers are always needed to help with the distribution of food and other essential services.

As the Appeal unfolds this year, the hope is that the community will come together to support this critical initiative. In a time of growing need, the strength of Catholic Social Services efforts lie in the organization's ability to respond to community needs with compassion and solidarity.



Catholic Social Services food pantries work to provide people with nutritious foods that they can use to make meals.

Catholic Ministries Appeal provides critical funding to vocation programs

Mass with the Rite of Candidacy

10:00 a.m.

Saturday, September 28, 2024

Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton

Bishop Bambera calls eight men to Candidacy for Permanent Diaconate

SCRANTON – Eight faith-filled men will take a step toward ordination as permanent deacons for the Diocese of Scranton during a Mass on Sept. 28, 2024, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Mass, which will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will include the Rite of Candidacy.

During the Rite of Candidacy, Bishop Bambera will accept the men to formally enter the diaconate formation process as Candidates. Over the next four years, these men will receive spiritual, theological and pastoral formation, and upon completion, will be called to ordination as permanent deacons.

The Rite of Candidacy is the first official recognition of the positive signs of a man's vocation to the permanent diaconate.

The men who will be participating in the Rite of Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders on Sept. 28 are:

William Chechel

Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Brodheadsville

Daniel B. Cosacchi, Ph.D.

Saint Gregory Parish, Clarks Green

Jeffrey R. Kovaleski

Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Dickson City

Thomas J. Krzan

Saint Jude Parish, Mountain Top

Kevin J. Martin

Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Brodheadsville

Stephen O. Muntzenberger

Saint Jude Parish, Mountain Top

Justo Paula-Martínez

Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish, Scranton

Paul M. Zwolan

Saint Therese Parish, Shavertown

All are invited to attend the Sept. 28 Mass with the Rite of Candidacy. For those unable to attend in person, CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton will broadcast the Mass and there will be a livestream available on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel and links available on all Diocesan social media platforms.

Ezra 10:4 Men's Discernment Retreat planned for Oct. 11-12 in Luzerne County

NANTICOKE - The Diocesan Vocations Office is hosting its annual Men's Discernment Retreat, *Ezra 10:4*, on the weekend of Oct. 11-12, 2024, 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.


By coming on retreat to spend time in the Word of God and before the Blessed Sacrament, a man discerning his vocation can escape from these distractions, gain wisdom from priests and other discerning men, and find rest under the stained-glass ceiling of Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel at Holy Family Spiritual Renewal Center.

This preached retreat, led by Vocation Director Fr. Alex Roche, includes time spent in personal prayer and Eucharistic Adoration, Mass, fellowship with other men discerning God's call, and both group and one-on-one discussion.

Ezra 10:4 is free to attend. To register or to find more information, visit dioceseofscranton.org/vocations.

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

OCTOBER 11 - 12, 2024

Register at dioceseofscranton.org/vocations

Donations fuel faith formation efforts: Appeal supports vital parish programs

PITTSSTON — As the Catholic Ministries Appeal launches its crucial fundraising campaign this month, the spotlight is shining on the parish-based faith formation programs it supports.

In the 2024-2025 grant cycle, a total of \$111,369.80 was distributed to 43 parishes. This funding directly assists with faith formation initiatives that aim to promote life-long discipleship; invite and welcome home Catholics and non-Catholics into a parish; provide spiritual support to families, singles, youth and young adults; and can be used to update technology and media to grow faith formation events.

Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Pittston has used faith formation grant money to help its children dive deeper into their faith through fun and interactive programs like Vacation Bible School.

In July, the parish joined together with two others — Saint Joseph Mareello in Pittston and Saint Maria Goretti in Laflin — to hold a regional event.

“Most of our students are in the same school district, so they already know each other,” Tommy Flynn, Director of Religious Education at Saint John the Evangelist Parish, said. “We thought it was a great opportunity for them to intermingle, to have fun, and for us also to have a really big, fun week for them.”

Through interactive activities, creative crafts and heartfelt lessons, Vacation Bible



Della Rostock, left, and Elle Troynacki, middle, both parishioners of Saint John the Evangelist in Pittston, participate in a regional Vacation Bible School over the summer at Saint Maria Goretti Parish.



Students attending Vacation Bible School practice dance moves for a finale they were working on. Catholic Ministries Appeal donations help to fund parish faith formation efforts.

School brings the Gospel message to life in ways that resonate deeply with young people.

In Pittston, this year’s theme was ‘Camping with Christ.’

“We’re learning some new prayers. We’re learning about the Holy Spirit. We’re learning about kindness and we’re learning songs,” student Elle Troynacki said.

“I like the church a lot. We’ve been learning about Jesus, crafts, all that fun stuff. It’s nice,” student Cooper Quick added.

Through the administration of faith formation grants to parishes, the Appeal plays a critical role in making these transformative experiences possible.

Generous gifts from parishioners to the 2024 Appeal campaign will help ensure parish programs continue to thrive and reach more children each year.

“Probably my favorite part was the music,” student Della Rostock said of Vacation Bible School in Pittston.

Parishioners are encouraged to contribute to the 2024 Catholic Ministries Appeal in any way they can. Donations can

be made online at AnnualAppeal.org, by mail, or by calling (570) 207-2250. Every gift, regardless of size, helps ensure that vital faith formation programs continue to nurture the faith of our future generations.

“As someone who works closely with a lot of different programs in our parish, many are supported through the grants that we get through the Diocesan Annual Appeal, both the Social Justice Trust Fund Grant, and the Faith Formation Grant, which helps us to program, educate, and really just create opportunities for all of our parishioners,” Flynn explained.

Parishes Receiving a Faith Formation Grant for the 2024-2025 Cycle

A total of \$111,369.80 was distributed to 43 parishes in 2024-2025 Parish Faith Formation Grant Cycle. This fund directly assists with Faith Formation Initiatives that aim to promote life-long discipleship; invite and welcome home Catholics and non-Catholics into the parish; provide spiritual support to families, singles, youth and young adults; and use updated technology and media to grow faith formation events.

Annunciation Parish, Hazleton
Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace Parish, Hawley
Christ the King Parish, Archbald
Holy Child Parish, Mansfield
Holy Cross Parish, Olyphant
Mary, Mother of God Parish, Scranton
Most Holy Trinity Parish, Susquehanna
Most Holy Trinity Parish, Cresco
Most Precious Blood Parish, Hazleton
Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Durysa
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Montoursville
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Hunlock Creek
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Wyalusing
Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Carbondale

Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Brodheads ville
Queen of Angels Parish, Jessup
Resurrection Parish, Muncy
Saint Ann Basilica Parish, Scranton
Saint Ann Parish, Shohola
Saint Ann Parish, Williamsport
Saint Boniface Parish, Williamsport
Saint Brigid Parish, Friendsville
Saint Faustina Kowalska Parish, Nanticoke
Saint Gregory Parish, Clarks Green
Saint John Bosco Parish, Conyngham
Saint John Neumann Parish, Lords Valley
Saint John Parish, East Stroudsburg
Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Pittston
Saint John Vianney Parish, Scott Township

Saint Joseph Mareello Parish, Pittston
Saint Joseph the Worker Parish, Williamsport
Saint Jude Parish, Mountain Top
Saint Luke Parish, Stroudsburg
Saint Maria Goretti Parish, Laflin
Saint Matthew Parish, East Stroudsburg
Saint Michael Parish, Canton
Saint Nicholas - Saint Mary Parish, Wilkes-Barre
Saint Patrick Parish, Milford
Saint Peter Parish, Wellsboro
Saint Thomas More Parish, Lake Ariel
Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish, Elkland
Saint Vincent de Paul Parish, Dingman Township
Saints Peter and Paul Parish, Towanda

Appeal Gifts have a long-lasting impact on tens-of-thousands of people

By Making a gift to this year's Appeal, you are supporting those in great need by feeding the hungry and sheltering the homeless through Catholic Social Services. You are also sustaining the vibrancy and vitality of Catholic education in our diocesan elementary and high schools and educating our seminarians and caring for our clergy. You are also bringing the Good News of Jesus to those who are homebound and in great spiritual need through Catholic media and supporting the work of making our parishes vibrant centers of spiritual enrichment.

Vocations & Clergy Wellness



- Appeal donations support 10 Diocesan seminarians
- 16 Candidates & Aspirants are currently in Diaconate formation
- Villa St. Joseph (priest retirement home) supported

Catholic Social Services



- 107,832 meals were served last year at St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen
- 25,231 families received assistance from a CSS-operated food pantry in 2023
- 15,701 individual nights of shelter were provided to the homeless

Catholic Education



- Appeal gifts provide funding support for 15 Catholic elementary schools and 4 high schools
- More than 4,500 students benefit from Appeal donations

Parish Life Initiatives



- Supported the 457 marriages celebrated in 2023 with Pre-Cana programs
- Assisted parishes in celebrating 2,041 Confirmations and 1,892 First Holy Communions

Catholic Communications



- *The Catholic Light* newspaper is delivered to more than 37,000 homes monthly
- Diocesan website has more than 750,000 pageviews each year

Social Justice Grants to Parishes



- \$93,038.14 was distributed to 29 parishes this year
- Funding directly assists parish food pantries, homelessness, Hispanic ministry, prison ministry programs, caring for the elderly and family outreach

Faith Formation Grants to Parishes



- \$111,369.80 was distributed to 43 parishes this year
- Funding assists parishes in promoting life-long discipleship, inviting non-Catholics into a parish, youth/young adult ministry and upgrading technology to help grow faith formation events



Answering Our Call to Serve: Catholic Ministries Appeal/Diocesan Annual Appeal

During the month of September, we launch the Diocesan Annual Appeal. As I explained last month, our theme has remained the same this year - "Our Call to Serve." There are a couple of significant changes this year that I'd like to take an opportunity to briefly explain; before doing that, I'd like to share what has not changed.

Through the Annual Appeal, a collective and unified effort made possible only when we come together as parishioners to respond to those in great physical and spiritual need throughout our diocese, tens of thousands of lives are positively impacted and improved. Contributions to the Appeal help make possible the many Catholic Ministries throughout our region that enrich the lives of us all by attending to those in need and offering us an opportunity to fulfill an essential component of our mission as Catholic Christians.

This effort uniquely enables us to unite as members of our local parishes to respond to something greater in our diocese and to do

what no one parish can do on its own.

The most significant change this year is in how we'll be moving away from the language of Diocesan Annual Appeal and more directly - and transparently - aligning our support of these essential ministries by referring to this annual fundraising effort as the Catholic Ministries Appeal moving forward (at the beginning of October all of our materials referencing "Diocesan Annual Appeal" will be replaced with "Catholic Ministries Appeal"). Many other dioceses throughout the United States have made similar changes, and it makes sense at this time for us to more directly and transparently share stories of impact that explain how the funds raised are used to help those in need.

Recently, Bishop Bambera remarked that changing the Appeal's name to Catholic Ministries Appeal makes sense because its not about a Bishop, and it is not about a diocese (if we think of a diocese in the structural sense). It's about what we do when



By: Joseph D. Strubeck
Diocesan Secretary for Development

we answer the cry of those within our midst. It's about how each of us who has been blessed in countless ways seeks to more fully strive to live out our baptism, to become like Christ and to seek holiness.

In his 2018 Apostolic Exhortation, "Gaudete et exsultate" (On the Call to Holiness in Today's World), Pope Francis offers a reflection which may help as we discern Answering Our Call to Serve, and I hope you'll consider his words as you reflect upon the many ways you can participate in this year's Catholic Ministries Appeal. When Pope Francis reflects upon the "joy

lived in communion" he points to a possibility for each of us. He writes that "a joy lived in communion, which shares and is shared, since 'there is more happiness in giving than in receiving' (Acts 20:35) and 'God loves a cheerful giver' (2 Cor 9:7). Fraternal love increases our capacity for joy, since it makes us capable of rejoicing in the good of others: 'Rejoice with those who rejoice' (Rom 12:15). 'We rejoice when we are weak and you are strong' (2 Cor 13:9). On the other hand, when we 'focus primarily on our own needs, we condemn ourselves to a joyless existence'." [128]

The people of our local Church are so generous in giving of their time, talent and treasure; I can say that confidently and wholeheartedly, because I see it lived out in my local parish, and I've seen it in countless ways by meeting so many of you over the past four months. As you consider the ways you can support this year's Appeal, I encourage you to reflect upon what you might be able to pledge over the next several months to support

our critical Catholic Ministries; if you haven't made a gift in the past, please consider making a gift of any amount this year - all gifts, no matter the amount, will help us achieve, and hopefully exceed, our goal as we hope to meet the needs of so many and as we imagine an abundant future for all.

In closing, Pope Francis offers an additional comment that has helped me in my own discernment, and I offer it here in the hope that it helps you too; he notes that "Generosity too is demanded, for 'it is more blessed to give than to receive' (Acts 20:35). Discernment is not about discovering what more we can get out of this life, but about recognizing how we can better accomplish the mission entrusted to us at our baptism." [Gaudete et exsultate, 174]

Thank you for being beacons of hope within your communities and throughout our diocese, thank you for your past support of the Diocesan Annual Appeal and thank you in advance for your support of the Catholic Ministries Appeal this year!

Faithful encouraged to support essential Catholic ministry initiatives

Continued from Page 1

Harry Lyons has overseen the shelter for the last decade.

"More and more every year, it is regular working people who just can't make ends meet and lose their housing," Lyons stated.

Donations to the 2024 Diocesan Annual Appeal help to fund the important work of Catholic Social Services - and along with other funding sources - are helping to turn the new vision for Mother Teresa's Haven into a reality.

Together, we can end the cycle of uncertainty and hopefully get those experiencing homelessness into permanent apartments.

"When I can keep somebody within Catholic Social Services and get them into a program where I know they're going to be taken care of, it means the world to me," Lyons added.



Catholic Social Services leadership, including CEO Joseph Mahoney, center, met recently in Wilkes-Barre to plan out the new home for Mother Teresa's Haven shelter. (Photo/Eric Deabill)

In the past year, Catholic ministries have been at the forefront of addressing critical needs. From providing food and shelter to those in need, to offering educational programs that uplift young people and adults alike, the Church's

outreach is vast.

The goal for the 2024 Appeal is set at \$4.5 million, a figure that reflects the growing demand for diocesan programs and the urgent need to address emerging challenges. The funds raised will support vital Catholic ministries, including:

- Catholic Social Services
- Catholic Education
- Catholic Communications
- Vocations, Clergy Care and Support

of Seminarians

- Parish Life Initiatives
- Faith Formation and Social Justice

Grants to Parishes

Most parishes will celebrate the important work of the Diocesan Annual Appeal on the weekend of Sept. 21 & 22, with pastors showing one of eight videos that have been prepared to highlight the specific programs supported by donations.

Bishop Bambera is asking all faithful to consider how God is calling them to

participate.

"Your donations ensure that the light of Christ shines brightly in our midst," Bishop Bambera said. "By making a sacrificial gift, which can be spread out over the course of several months or done as a one-time payment, we will not just meet people's immediate needs. We will be building a community of compassion and support, where everyone feels valued and cared for."

To learn more about the many Catholic ministry programs supported by your donations, or to make a safe and secure online gift, please visit annualappeal.org.

Contributions to the 2024 Diocesan Annual Appeal can also be made by calling the Diocesan Development Office at (570) 207-2250 or mailing a check to: 2024 Diocesan Annual Appeal, c/o Development Office, 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503. Please include the name of your parish in the memo line.

All are invited to the Diocese's Hispanic Heritage Mass on Oct. 12

SCRANTON - As part of National Hispanic Heritage Month, the Diocese of Scranton will celebrate its 4th Annual Hispanic Heritage Mass on Saturday, Oct. 12, 2024, at noon.

National Hispanic Heritage Month begins on Sept. 15 and runs through Oct. 15 each year. It celebrates the histories, cultures, and contributions of those who come from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

The theme for 2024 is "Pioneers of Change: Shaping the Future Together."

The Diocese of Scranton's annual Hispanic Heritage Mass is being organized by 13 parishes who represent 15 different nationalities and is a collaborative effort which integrates the piety and devotions unique to the many cultures that comprise our Hispanic Community.

This year's celebration will focus on

the Eucharist and its unifying power, as well as display the faith and culture of our vibrant Hispanic Community.

The day will begin with a Pontifical Mass celebrated by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, followed by a Eucharistic Procession throughout the Cathedral.

Fellowship will continue after Mass in the Diocesan Pastoral Center where attendees will enjoy food, entertainment and community building. All are invited to attend this cultural event and experience the vibrant liturgy and celebration.

For those unable to attend the Mass in person, CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton will broadcast the liturgy and provide a livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel, along with links on all Diocesan Social Media platforms.

Todos están invitados a celebrar la Misa de la Herencia Hispana el 12 de octubre



DIÓCESIS DE SCRANTON

MISA ANUAL DE LA HERENCIA HISPANA

SÁBADO, 12 DE OCTUBRE DE 2024 A LAS 12:00 PM

LA CATEDRAL DE SAN PEDRO
315 WYOMING AVENUE, SCRANTON
¡CON EL OBISPO JOSEPH BAMBERA!

¡Incluyendo Procesión Eucarística!

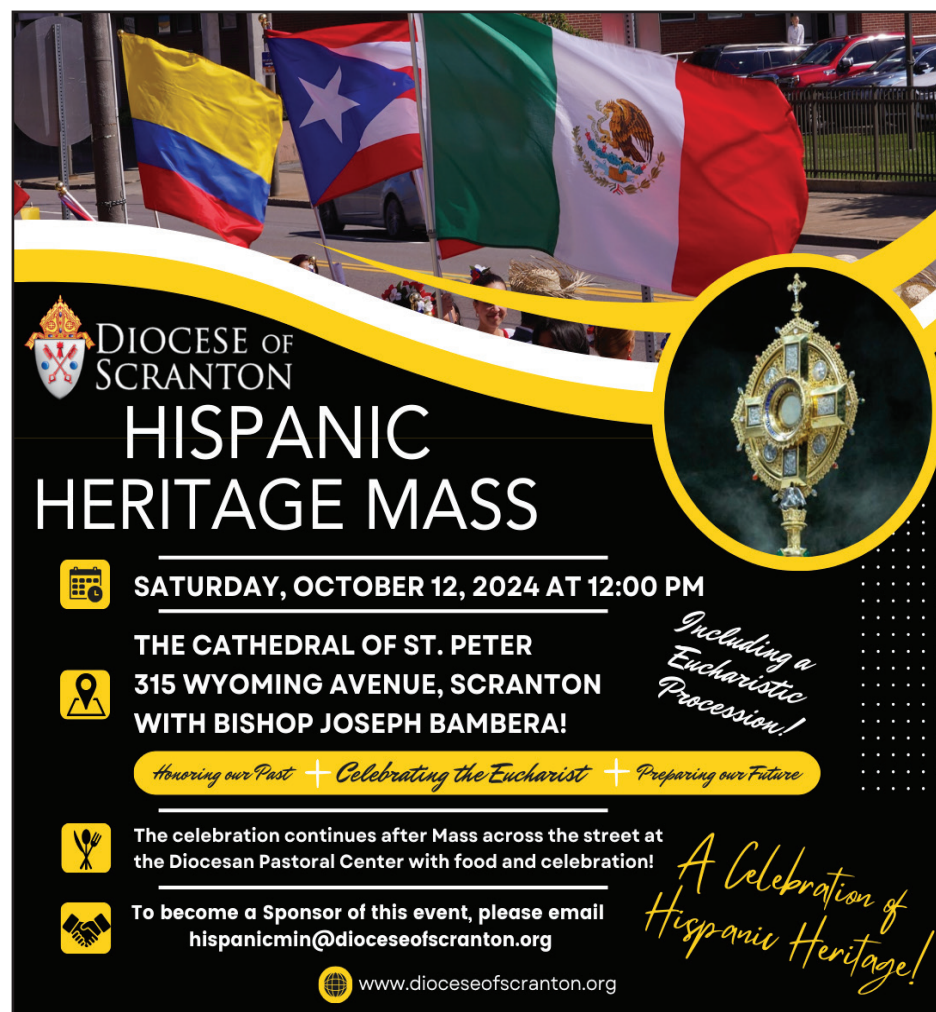
Honrando nuestro pasado + Celebrando la Eucaristía + Preparando nuestro futuro

¡La celebración continúa después de la Misa en el Centro Pastoral Diocesano, al cruzar la calle, con comida y celebración!

Para convertirse en patrocinador de este evento, envíe un email a hispanicmin@dioceseofscranton.org

¡Una celebración de la Herencia Hispana!

www.dioceseofscranton.org



DIocese OF SCRANTON

HISPANIC HERITAGE MASS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2024 AT 12:00 PM

THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. PETER
315 WYOMING AVENUE, SCRANTON
WITH BISHOP JOSEPH BAMBERA!

Including a Eucharistic Procession!

Honoring our Past + Celebrating the Eucharist + Preparing our Future

The celebration continues after Mass across the street at the Diocesan Pastoral Center with food and celebration!

To become a Sponsor of this event, please email hispanicmin@dioceseofscranton.org

A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage!

www.dioceseofscranton.org

SCRANTON - Como parte del Mes Nacional de la Herencia Hispana, la Diócesis de Scranton celebrará su Misa Anual de la Herencia Hispana el sábado 12 de octubre de 2024, a las 12:00 del mediodía.

El Mes Nacional de la Herencia Hispana comienza el 15 de septiembre y se extiende hasta el 15 de octubre. Cada año celebra las historias, culturas y contribuciones de quienes provienen de España, México, el Caribe, América Central y América del Sur.

El tema para este año 2024 es "Pioneros del Cambio: Formando el Futuro Juntos."

La Misa Anual de la Herencia Hispana de la Diócesis de Scranton está siendo organizada por 13 parroquias que representan 15 nacionalidades diferentes y es un esfuerzo colaborativo que integra la piedad y las devociones únicas de las muchas culturas que componen nuestra Comunidad Hispana.

La celebración de este año se centrará en la Eucaristía y su poder unificador, así

como en mostrar la fe y cultura de nuestra vibrante Comunidad Hispana.

El día comenzará con una Misa Pontifica celebrada por el Reverendísimo Joseph C. Bambera, Obispo de la Diócesis de Scranton, seguida de una Procesión Eucarística dentro de la Catedral de San Pedro.

La celebración continuará después de la Misa en el Centro Pastoral Diocesano, donde los asistentes disfrutarán de comida, entretenimiento y actividades comunitarias. Todos están cordialmente invitados a asistir a este evento cultural para experimentar la liturgia y celebración vibrante de la comunidad hispana en los estados unidos.

Para aquellos que no puedan asistir a la Misa en persona, CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton transmitirá la liturgia y ofrecerá una transmisión en vivo en el sitio web de la Diócesis de Scranton, en su canal de YouTube, así como enlaces en todas las plataformas de redes sociales diocesanas.

Centennial Celebration of beloved Saint Bernard Church planned for Sept. 29

BEACH LAKE - Animated with great joy in their hearts, the parishioners who worship at the four churches comprising Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Honesdale will celebrate the 100th anniversary of their treasured Church of Saint Bernard in Beach Lake on Sunday, Sept. 29, 2024.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will preside over the concelebrated Centennial Mass of Thanksgiving at 10:30 a.m.

Following the liturgical celebration, a gathering of fellowship will continue the joyful commemoration at Lukan's Family Resort in Hawley, beginning at 1 p.m.

"All parishioners from all our churches are welcome and encouraged to join in the celebration," Father William J.P. Langan, pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Parish, said.

He further remarked that as priest and pastor of the four churches of the Honesdale Catholic community for the past 15 years, it has been an honor to provide spiritual guardianship for Saint Bernard Church, and he is



The exterior of Saint Bernard Church in Wayne County is pictured along with the rustic church's altar.

most grateful to God for its 100th anniversary.

Blessed with a rich history, the Beach Lake church lays claim to a storied past. Its roots stretch back to the early 1900s when the Catholic place of worship was conceived due to hundreds attending a Mass in the hall of the nearby Beechnut Casino in northern Wayne County.

Saint Bernard Church would also survive two structural fires, one at the hands of alleged arsonists.

According to Connie Hathaway, who prepared the history of Saint Bernard's for the centennial celebration, Beach Lake had always been a favorite resort destination for New York

and New Jersey vacationers.

"With Catholic visitors increasing tremendously, it became necessary to perform Sunday Mass around the resort," Hathaway explained. "On Sunday, August 5, 1923, the first Mass was celebrated at the casino hall. The attendance of more than 200 people proved the need of a permanent structure."

The organization of a Building Committee led to construction and the first Eucharistic liturgy was offered in Saint Bernard's Chapel on Aug. 20, 1924. Bishop Michael J. Hoban, second Bishop of Scranton, dedicated the new house of worship as a mission charge of Saint Mary Magdalen Church in Honesdale.

Bishop Hoban instructed the

new church to be named in honor of Saint Bernard - not only to be placed under the spiritual patronage of Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, the 12th-century French abbot and mystic, but also in homage to Father Bernard Borr, who was appointed by the Scranton prelate as the church's founding pastor.

Hathaway related that the original chapel was destroyed by fire in 1945, and Saint Bernard Church as it is known today was rebuilt by then-pastor Father James Holleran.

"In September 1956, an arson fire consumed the front of Saint Bernard's, and the steeple had to be removed," she said.

Eventually, according to

the historian, the altar of Saint Bernard Church was reconstructed in 1979, and the church was expanded to accommodate the growing number of parishioners attending Mass.

"To the honor and glory of God, the foyer of the church was erected in the Jubilee Year 2000, under the pastoral guidance of Father Michael Marchetti," Hathaway noted.

After serving as a mission church for Saint Mary Magdalen Parish until 1941, Saint Bernard's was established as a mission of Saint Philomena Parish, Hawley.

The church would serve as a worship site for Saint Joseph Parish in White Mills from 1968 until 2009, when Saint Bernard Church was placed permanently under the pastoral umbrella of Saint John the Evangelist in Honesdale.

"Surely there have been many transformations in society and the Church these past one hundred years," Father Langan commented. "Throughout, Jesus Christ is the firm foundation, ever present in our midst. In the heart of Beach Lake, Christ is truly present in the Church of Saint Bernard."

Milestone moment: White Haven church celebrates 150th Anniversary Mass

WHITE HAVEN - When the faithful of Saint Patrick Parish were asked to describe their church - the word "community" came up frequently.

"We have a tremendous sense of community," parishioner Audrey Wood-Karnatski said.

"We come together to do things," parishioner Ed Gower added. "We're a welcoming community."

For 150 years, the Luzerne County parish which is home to roughly 300 parishioners has been growing that sense of "community" and on Aug. 18, 2024, many gathered to celebrate.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, was principal celebrant and homilist for a Mass of Thanksgiving to mark the parish milestone of a century and a half of unwavering faith and devotion.

Several other priests - including Father Michael Kloton, who currently serves as Parish Administrator, and Father Peter J. O'Rourke, who currently serves as Sacramental Minister, concelebrated the liturgy.

"We're all a community here and I think that is exactly what makes me so proud of being here," Father O'Rourke explained.

Parishioner Edward J. Price has belonged to Saint Patrick Parish for 70 years and has been inspired by all the work that is done.

"The ministry in the church, the outreach that we give to the people outside the church, the people that volunteer to help run the church and go out to the people that can't get here themselves are all very rewarding," he explained.

As the parish looks to the future, Price is hopeful that even more parishioners will discover their faith community.

Continued on Page 20



Faithful of Saint Patrick Parish in White Haven gather Aug. 18, 2024, to celebrate Mass for the 150th anniversary of their church. (Photo/Dan Piazza)

Bishop brings comfort to Tioga Co. flood victims after historic devastation

WESTFIELD – In the wake of historic flooding that devastated parts of Tioga County in August, parishioners in the communities of Westfield and Knoxville are finding solace in their faith.

On Aug. 9, 2024, flash flooding caused by the remnants of Tropical Storm Debby impacted thousands of people. Initial estimates indicate the flood water did damage to nearly 300 homes and businesses, in addition to damaging bridges, roadways and more.

“Westfield was almost the epicenter of the damage,” Ralph Wolstenholme, a parishioner of Saint Catherine of Siena Church in Westfield, explained. “A tremendous amount of homes have been lost. We had one life lost in Knoxville. He was 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.”

Even though unbelievable damage was left behind when the water receded, the community has not lost hope.

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

“The hope that has come from this is incredible. Driving in here right after the damage, to come in and help, you saw people just coming in and saying, ‘How do I get to where the damage is,’ Mark Patrick Clements, another parishioner of Saint Catherine’s Church, added. “I met people from North Carolina that came all the way up here to help. They bring hope to this community.”

On Sunday, Aug. 17, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, visited the hardest hit communities.

Parishioners of Saint Catherine of Siena Church, which is located right in the heart of Westfield, took him around the community to see the damage first-hand.

With many roads reopen, Bishop Bambera was also able to celebrate the first Mass at Saint Catherine’s Church since the flooding.

During his homily, he reminded the faithful that while the flood water has taken so much, they cannot wash away the love and support that the community has for each other.

“You are living the Eucharist. You’re giving your life in faith by your service of your brothers and sisters. You’re not nailed



Candles burn in the back of Saint Catherine Church in Westfield Aug. 17, 2024, as Bishop Bambera celebrates the first Mass since historic flooding hit Tioga County Aug. 9. (Photos/Eric Deabill)

to a cross physically, like Jesus at the heart of His sacrament, but you’re suffering,” Bishop Bambera said. “You’re suffering for and with your brothers and sisters – and you’re serving them out of love and I can’t think of a more incredible example of what it means to live the Gospel and to allow the Eucharist to take hold of you – than in what you’re doing right now. Thank you.”

The Bishop also pledged financial support to parishioners from the Diocese of Scranton Flood Recovery Fund that was initially established in 2011. The fund has been used primarily to provide outreach to victims who have sustained significant damage during flood emergencies. Because of the generosity of the faithful in 2011, the Diocese has been able to provide modest assistance to those confronted with the task of rebuilding their lives when flooding emergencies occur.

As Bishop Bambera ended his homily, he also assured the faithful of his prayers – and prayers of others around the Diocese of Scranton.

“A whole lot of your brothers and sisters already are keeping you in their prayers because they’ve gone through what you’re going through, but all of this local church is holding you in our hearts and lifting you up to the Lord,” Bishop Bambera stated.

The Mass was a moving service for many who attended.

“There’s nothing more powerful than the Bishop seeing how much one of his



Initial estimates gathered by Tioga County emergency officials indicate nearly 300 homes sustained some level of damage from extreme flooding on Aug. 9, 2024.

communities has been affected and to come out and that outreach,” Wolstenholme said.

“To have him physically drive three and a half hours to come here, to the most remote area of the Diocese brings an incredible warmth to you,” Clements added. “He’s not coming in here in a police escort with pomp and circumstance. He came in here humbly and he came in here and met us one-on-one and he rode around with us, getting to know the community. That affects us tremendously.”

Parishioners also say it is miraculous that Saint Catherine’s Church was spared damage. With homes destroyed all around it, the water only touched the bottom step since the church is built on a slab.

“When we found out that the water only touched the bottom step, when right across the road, it was up to my shoulders, just literally 400 yards down the road with houses off their foundation, Christ was



Prior to celebrating Mass, Bishop Bambera toured flood damage in Westfield borough with several parishioners, including Mark Patrick Clements, right, and Ralph Wolstenholme, on the left.



Saint Catherine Church in Westfield did not sustain major damage in the flooding.

preserved. His house was preserved and that is miraculous!”

Statement of the Diocese of Scranton regarding the removal from ministry of Father John Ruth

SCRANTON – On Thursday, August 22, 2024, the Diocese of Scranton was made aware of a report of inappropriate sexual contact by Father John Ruth with a minor occurring from the late 1970s to the mid-1980s. The Diocese of Scranton immediately began an initial investigation into the allegation.

Following an initial review by the Diocesan Review Board, along with other information that has been acquired, the Diocese has concluded that the claim appears credible.

The Diocese of Scranton’s Policy for Response to Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors, and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishop’s Charter for Protection of Children and Young People, both have a zero-tolerance policy for the sexual abuse of a minor and require the removal from ministry of any cleric or other religious, upon determination of a credible claim of sexual misconduct with a minor.

Accordingly, Father Ruth’s faculties have been suspended – and he has been removed

from ministry due to an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor – as of September 4, 2024.

The allegation of abuse has been reported to civil authorities by the Diocese of Scranton and the Diocese will cooperate fully with any law enforcement investigation.

It is important to note that an accused cleric is presumed innocent until the contrary is proven under either civil or canonical proceedings. Notwithstanding, until a disposition of the accusation is reached, the Diocese of Scranton must prohibit Father Ruth from exercising priestly ministry.

The Diocese of Scranton takes every allegation of abuse seriously and is committed to protecting children. The safety and well-being of children is a non-negotiable priority. The Church has a moral and ethical duty to ensure that our policies are not just written guidelines but lived practices that are applied and monitored.

Father Ruth, 65, was most recently serving as Pastor of Most Holy Trinity Parish, Susquehanna, since Oct. 24, 2023.

His prior assignments include Pastor, Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish, Jermy; Senior Priest, Saint Patrick Parish, Scranton; Assistant Pastor, Saint John Neumann Parish, Scranton; Administrator, Saint Mary of the Assumption, Scranton and Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Scranton; Pastor, Saint Francis of Assisi, West Hazleton; Assistant Pastor, Saint John Bosco Parish, Conyngham; Coordinator of Hispanic Ministry at Saint Gabriel Parish, Hazleton; Chaplain, Mercy Hospital, Scranton; Assistant Pastor, Saint Ann Parish, Williamsport; Assistant Pastor, Saint Ignatius Parish, Kingston; and Deacon, Saint Joseph Parish, Athens.

For more than thirty years, the Diocese of Scranton has had policies regarding the sexual abuse of minors by clerics and has continuously worked to enhance its safe

environment protocols. Safeguards include mandatory background checks, including criminal history and child abuse history, and a publicized code of conduct for all priests and deacons, along with Diocesan employees, volunteers and any other personnel who have regular contact with children and young people.

To report an allegation of sexual abuse or any other criminal activity perpetrated by a priest, deacon, employee, or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, contact your local law enforcement agency and/or the Diocese of Scranton Victim Assistance Coordinator, Mary Beth Pacuska, at (570) 862-7551.

To learn more about the Diocese of Scranton’s ‘Promise to Protect/Pledge to Heal’ policies, visit the Diocese of Scranton website at dioceseofscranton.org.

Declaración de la Diócesis de Scranton Sobre la Suspensión del Ministerio del Padre John Ruth

SCRANTON – El jueves 22 de agosto de 2024, la Diócesis de Scranton fue informada de un reporte sobre contacto sexual inapropiado por parte del Padre John Ruth con un menor, ocurrido desde finales de la década de 1970 hasta mediados de la década de 1980. La Diócesis de Scranton inició de inmediato una investigación preliminar sobre la acusación.

Tras una revisión inicial por parte de la Junta de Revisión Diocesana, junto con otra información adquirida, la Diócesis ha concluido que la denuncia parece ser creíble.

La Política de la Diócesis de Scranton para Responder a las Acusaciones de Abuso Sexual de Menores, y la Carta para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos, ambas tienen una política de tolerancia cero para el abuso sexual de menores y exigen la suspensión del ministerio de cualquier clérigo o religioso, tras la determinación de una denuncia creíble de conducta sexual inapropiada con un menor.

En consecuencia, las facultades del Padre Ruth han sido suspendidas y ha sido retirado del ministerio debido a una

acusación de abuso sexual de un menor, a partir del 4 de septiembre de 2024.

La acusación de abuso ha sido reportada a las autoridades civiles por la Diócesis de Scranton, y la Diócesis cooperará plenamente con cualquier investigación policial.

Es importante destacar que un clérigo acusado se presume inocente hasta que se demuestre lo contrario en procedimientos civiles o canónicos. No obstante, hasta que se resuelva la acusación, la Diócesis de Scranton debe prohibir al Padre Ruth ejercer el ministerio sacerdotal.

La Diócesis de Scranton toma muy en serio cada acusación de abuso y está comprometida con la protección de los niños. La seguridad y el bienestar de los menores es una prioridad innegociable. La Iglesia tiene el deber moral y ético de asegurar que nuestras políticas no solo sean directrices escritas, sino prácticas vividas que se aplican y supervisan.

El Padre Ruth, de 65 años, estaba desempeñándose más recientemente como Párroco de la Parroquia de la Santísima Trinidad, en Susquehanna, desde el 24 de octubre de 2023.

Continúa en la página 21

Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement.

It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the *Code of Canon Law* and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator, Mary Beth Pacuska at (570) 862-7551.

Aviso al Respetto de Reportar el Abuso Sexual de Un Menor de Edad

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

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

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

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

Bishop Bambera to celebrate Respect Life Sunday Mass on Oct. 6

SCRANTON – The Catholic Church recognizes the month of October as Respect Life Month and the first Sunday in October is designated as Respect Life Sunday.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate Respect Life Sunday Mass on Oct. 6 at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

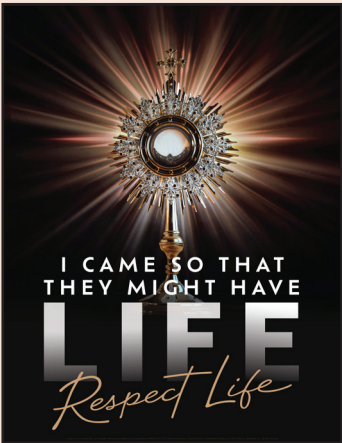
The Mass is open to the public. Faithful from across the Diocese of Scranton are invited to attend the Respect Life Sunday Mass and focus on God’s precious gift of human life and our responsibility to care for, protect and defend the lives of our brothers and sisters.

The theme for the 2024 Respect Life celebration is “I came so that they might have life” (John 10:10). Jesus gave His very flesh to give us the gift of eternal life and invites us to the most profound experience of this gift in our celebration of the Eucharist. When we meet Jesus

in the Eucharist, this encounter has the power to change us. The Eucharist has the power to transform the depths of our hearts and heart of our culture. United to the power of His Eucharistic Presence, Catholics are called to work to ensure that each person has life – and has it in abundance.

Catholics are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of life to its end, and at every point in between. During the month of October, the Church asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life.

For those unable to attend in-person, the Mass will be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and the Diocese of Scranton’s YouTube Channel. The Mass will also be livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website with links provided on the Diocese of Scranton social media platforms.



Red Mass to be celebrated at Cathedral of Saint Peter Oct. 4

SCRANTON – The Diocese of Scranton’s annual Red Mass will be celebrated on Friday, Oct. 4, 2024, at 12:10 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will be the principal celebrant. Rev. Joseph Marina, S.J., President of The University of Scranton, will be the homilist.

Historically, the Red Mass is attended by judges, lawyers and legislators for the purpose of invoking God’s blessing and guidance in the administration of justice. Its traditional name is derived from the color of vestments worn by the celebrants of the Mass, symbolizing the tongues of fire, which indicate the presence of the Holy Spirit. Moreover, the robes of the attending royal judges were, in ancient days, bright scarlet.

The public is invited to the Red Mass to pray for those in the legal, judicial and governmental profession. Members of the county bar associations from across the 11-county Diocese and the Diocesan Tribunal staff are also invited to participate.

Attendees will be asked to pray that decision-makers always serve the truth and to make and apply laws in ways that are right and just.

Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton will broadcast the Red Mass live and a livestream will be available on the Diocese of Scranton website and social media platforms.

APPOINTMENTS

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

Reverend John C. Ruth, from Pastor, Most Holy Trinity Parish, Susquehanna, to Administrative Leave of Absence, effective September 4, 2024.

Reverend Scott P. Sterowski, to Diocesan Coordinator for Ecumenism and Interfaith Relations, effective September 1, 2024. Father Sterowski will continue to serve as Pastor, Blessed Sacrament Parish, Throop, and Holy Cross Parish, Olyphant.

Reverend Sudhir Toppo, from Parochial Vicar, Saint Ann Parish, Shohola; Saint John Neumann Parish, Hawley; and Saint Vincent dePaul Parish, Milford; to Administrator, Most Holy Trinity Parish, Susquehanna, effective September 11, 2024.



BISHOP BAMBERA’S SCHEDULE

- September 15** - Mass for Suicide Healing & Remembrance
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:15 p.m.
- September 16** - Diocesan Teachers’ Institute Mass
Saint Nicholas Church, Wilkes-Barre, 9:00 a.m.
- September 19** - Mass of the Holy Spirit for Chancery Staff
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.
- September 21** - Vigil Mass for the Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Saint Lawrence Church, Great Bend, 4:00 p.m.
- September 22** - Mass for the Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
St. John the Evangelist Church, Susquehanna, 8:00 a.m.
- September 22** - Mass for the Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Saint Martin of Tours Church, Jackson, 10:00 a.m.
- September 23** - Pennsylvania March for Life & Mass
Harrisburg, Noon March; 1:30 p.m. Mass
- September 23-25** - Pennsylvania Catholic Conference Meeting
Harrisburg
- September 28** - Rite of Candidacy Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.
- September 29** - 100th Anniversary Mass for Saint Bernard Church
Beach Lake, 10:30 a.m.
- October 2** - Mass of Installation - Ministry of Acolyte
St. Vincent Archabbey Basilica, Latrobe, 5:00 p.m.
- October 4** - Red Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.
- October 5** - Catholic Men’s Conference Mass
Holy Redeemer High School, Wilkes-Barre, 1:45 p.m.
- October 6** - Respect Life Sunday Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.
- October 7** - School Mass at Holy Family Academy
Hazleton, 9:00 a.m.
- October 7 - 10** - Christian Churches Together Forum
Memphis, Tennessee
- October 12** - Hispanic Heritage Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, Noon

Speakers announced for PA March for Life

HARRISBURG — With less than two weeks until the Pennsylvania March for Life, organizers have released information on who will be speaking at the event.

On Monday, Sept. 23, 2024, thousands of pro-life advocates are expected to visit the Pennsylvania Capitol Complex to serve as a voice for life. The Pennsylvania March for Life is a public event and registration is not required.

Prior to attendees walking around the State Capitol beginning at noon, there is a rally which begins at 11:00 a.m. Toni McFadden, a pro-life advocate, will serve as the emcee.

Dr. Barry Whitworth, executive director, Baptist Resource Network, will give the opening prayer and Archbishop Nelson Perez of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia will give the

closing prayer.

Speakers during the rally will include Mark Houck, pro-life activist and co-founder and president of the King's Men; Michael Geer, president of Pennsylvania Family Institute; Jeanne Mancini, president of March for Life Education and Defense Fund; Dr. Eric Hussar, Pennsylvania State Director of the American Academy of Medical Ethics; Wendy Burpee, executive director of Genesis Women's Clinic; along with several state legislative leaders.

Pennsylvania March for Life activities will kick-off on Sunday, Sept. 22 with Mass at Saint Patrick's Cathedral, 212 State Street, Harrisburg, at 7:00 p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will continue overnight until Benediction at 9:00 a.m. on Sept. 23. Two additional Masses for Life will be

held at Saint Patrick's Cathedral at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

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.

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.

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.

Pennsylvanians for Human Life hold 'Pro-Life Rally' outside Bradford County Courthouse in Towanda

TOWANDA — Several dozen people took to the steps of the Bradford County Courthouse Sept. 8 to advocate for the unborn and highlight the significance of preserving human life.

The annual 'Pro Life Rally' sponsored by the Bradford County Pennsylvanians for Human Life marked a significant milestone this year — 20 years of working to foster a culture that prioritizes the sanctity of life.

"The original idea came out of our parish, Saint Mary's in Wyalusing. We had a pro-life committee and we started talking about how could we reach out a little more so that it was more than just our parish. We networked with some of the folks in Towanda and drew in more people," chairman Mike Kilmer explained.

This year's event brought attendees from across Bradford

County, including Deborah Geise who lives in Troy.

"I truly believe that only God has the ability to give and take life and we feel that children are a precious gift from God," Geise said.

Watching other attendees hold signs with messages such as 'Every Life is Precious' and 'Choose Life,' Geise felt inspired.

"It blesses me to see that there are people of like-minded faith and we need to have more of them that rise up," she explained.

Alex Piechocki, a parishioner of Saints Peter & Paul Parish in Towanda, emphasized the value of life from conception to natural death.

"Like Saint John Paul II said, there is one issue that is so far superior above all other social issues, which is the issue of life, because if the life issue is done



Mike Kilmer, chairman of the Bradford County Pennsylvanians for Human Life, speaks during a pro-life rally outside the county courthouse in Towanda on Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024. (Photo/Dan Piazza)

away with, all the other issues are non-existent," Piechocki said.

Attendees at the event affirmed the dignity of every human being and expressed the need to advocate for policies that protect and value life. They also stressed the help that is available

for mothers who are looking for alternatives to abortion.

"If only they knew that there was a lot of support out there, there are plenty of places that will help you," Cathy Moliski, a parishioner of Epiphany Parish in Sayre, stated.

Following a short rally outside the courthouse, rally participants walked to Saints Peter & Paul Parish for a pro-life talk given by Rev. Martin Fuller from Meadville, Pa, followed by a social in Grotto Hall.

Many of those participating in the Sept. 8 rally will also be attending the Pennsylvania March for Life in Harrisburg on Monday, Sept. 23, 2024. The Bradford County Pennsylvanians for Human Life and the Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a bus trip to Harrisburg that day. The bus will make several stops throughout Bradford County. There is no charge to ride the bus. To make a reservation, call Frank Socha at (570) 772-6524.

"It is a wonderful experience," Kilmer said. "We march around the Capitol and try to impress our legislators to be pro-life."

Nearly 1,000 college students gather for 'Mass of the Holy Spirit' at U of S

SCRANTON – Nearly one thousand students, faculty and staff from The University of Scranton gathered at the Byron Recreation Complex last week to participate in the school's annual Mass of the Holy Spirit.

The Mass, celebrated on Sept. 5, 2024, is a tradition among Jesuit academic institutions dating back to the 16th century, in which the community gathers to thank God for the gifts of creation and salvation and to seek the guidance and wisdom of the Holy Spirit in the coming year.

"As we begin this academic year, we are entering into it realizing that we can't do this alone," Father Joseph G. Marina, S.J., President of The University of Scranton, said. "We rely on the power of God's help and grace, and we invoke that through the Holy Spirit at this Mass."

Students say seeing so many attend the liturgy is a powerful reminder about the importance of faith.

"It reminds me that I'm not alone in this faith journey and it also reminds me that I'm not the only young one," senior Maria Stephen explained. "They all want



Members of The University of Scranton lacrosse team participate in the Mass of the Holy Spirit on Sept. 5, 2024. (Photos/Dan Gallagher)



Bishop Bambara celebrates the Liturgy of the Eucharist during the Mass of the Holy Spirit inside the Byron Recreation Complex.

to get closer to God in some way, shape or form. I don't know their stories and they don't know mine, but at least I know we're in it together in some way."

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambara, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant and homilist for the Mass of the Holy Spirit.

During his homily, the Bishop encouraged each student to nurture his/her

relationship with Jesus, live with integrity, and give of themselves in service to others.

"You have the opportunity to respond to Jesus' invitation to serve more than you might imagine," Bishop Bambara said. "Continue to embrace the mission of this university and the many opportunities that are given to you to serve in the spirit of the Gospel and to work for justice and peace."

Jenna Kotlar, a senior at The

University of Scranton, has found the service opportunities on campus and in the greater Scranton community to be one of the most valuable parts of her education.

"For me personally, I find it to be such a joy because I really can see God working in all of those situations," Kotlar explained. "It is just a really cool thing to see people coming together, who have all different backgrounds and interests, for a common cause."

Faith and education thrive: Diocese reports increasing Catholic School enrollment

Continued from Page 1

Catholic schools are well-known for a personalized approach to education, providing students with a strong academic foundation while instilling values of compassion and service.

"Our Catholic school educators are excited to teach our students to be the next generation of successful, faith-filled leaders in our world," Donohue added.

At Epiphany School in Sayre, Bradford County, enrollment this year has gone up eight percent. Enrollment this year is 101 students compared to 93 at the start of last academic year.

"Epiphany is like my second family. It is really amazing," sixth grader Evelyn Owen said.

Finn Heffron, who has just entered fourth grade, has been at Epiphany School since participating in its pre-kindergarten program.

"If I wasn't at this school, I wouldn't know a lot about all of God's great adventures and miracles," he said.



First grade students at Epiphany School in Sayre show off their religion workbooks as the new school begins.

Heffron credits Epiphany's teachers for the school's positive reputation.

"They are so sweet and loving," Heffron explained.

Recent graduates of Epiphany School have demonstrated outstanding success, showcasing a track record of excellence

that helps attract new families eager for their children to benefit from such a well-rounded educational experience.

"It's really amazing how you can build so many long-lasting friendships in this school," Nicolo Rossettie Cabrera, who just recently graduated from sixth grade, said. "Epiphany is smaller than public schools and you really get to bond with your classmates and teachers."

Saint Agnes School in Towanda, which is the other Diocesan Catholic School located in Bradford County, has also seen an enrollment increase this academic year.

Will Eberlin, who just entered fourth grade at Saint Agnes School, enjoys math class and interacting with kids from all different grade levels.

"I think the teachers are great and there's a lot of nice kids that go here," Eberlin said. "I have a lot of friends in

different grades."

Saint Agnes prioritizes the importance of service to the community. Each month, students pick a different charity to support. They have visited local food pantries, sang to seniors at area nursing homes and collected clothing for those less fortunate.

"I feel this school teaches how to be really grateful for the things you have," Madelyn Nash, who recently finished sixth grade, added.

As the new year begins, all 19 Catholic schools are preparing for a year filled with new opportunities, innovative programs, and rigorous academics with a strong moral foundation.

"It is a privilege to be a part of a community that values both academic and spiritual growth," Donohue said. "We encourage any family who is interested in learning more about the benefits of a Catholic education to call their nearest school at any point during the year. Come join our growing Catholic school family, promising a bright and hopeful future for students and communities alike."

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.

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL



**Holy Family Academy
in Hazleton**



Holy Cross High School in Dunmore



**Saint Clare/Saint Paul
School in Scranton**



Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre



**Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East
Stroudsburg**



**Saint John Neumann Elementary
School in Williamsport**



Holy Rosary School in Duryea



**Our Lady of Peace School in
Clarks Green**



**Wyoming Area Catholic School
in Exeter**



Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston



**Notre Dame Elementary School
in East Stroudsburg**



**Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School
in Williamsport**



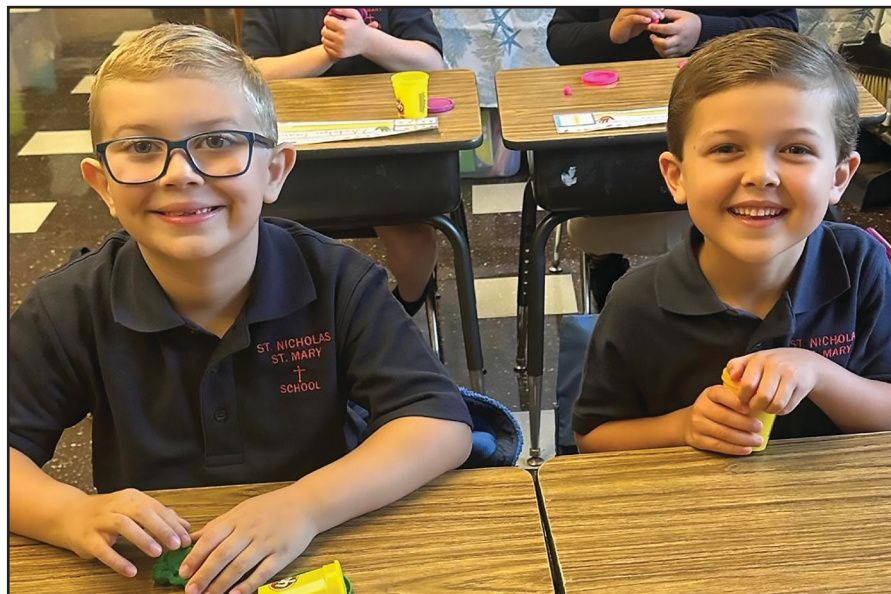
**All Saints Academy
in Scranton**



**Saint Mary of Mount Carmel
School in Dunmore**



Saint Jude School in Mountain Top



Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School in Wilkes-Barre



Saint Agnes School in Towanda

Rosary Crusade and Rally to be held Nov. 16

SCRANTON - In the fall of 1949, the first Rosary Rally in the United States was held in Scranton. Organized by "the rosary priest," Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., the Rosary Rally was an effort to re-ignite the untold benefits of devotion to the rosary and prayer to our Blessed Mother. Nearly 50,000 people gathered to pray the rosary on this special day.

Father Patrick Peyton devoted his priestly life to spreading devotion to Mary and encouraging family prayer, especially the rosary. He used radio, television, film, and 540 Rosary Rallies worldwide to accomplish his mission.

Born in 1909 in Ireland to a devout Catholic family, a young Peyton immigrated to the United States and served as the sexton (janitor) at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton before

he answered the call to the priesthood. From these humble beginnings, Father Peyton would move to Hollywood and go on to reach ten million people with his message of the importance of Family Rosary Prayer. Celebrities like Loretta Young, Lucille Ball, Bing Crosby, Jimmy Stewart, and Rosalind Russell came to see Father Peyton as their chaplain.

Today, Father Peyton's messages that "The Family That Prays Together Stays Together" and "A World at Prayer is a World at Peace" are still well known around the world. His Cause for Sainthood was officially opened in 2001, and he is currently named Venerable.

Seventy-five years after the first rally, the Diocese of Scranton will commemorate the ministry and mission of Fr. Peyton by holding a Rosary Crusade, beginning in October, the month

of the rosary. Parishes will be invited to participate in a variety of ways.

The Rosary Crusade will culminate with a Rosary Rally on Saturday, Nov. 16, at 1:30 p.m., at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. Everyone is invited to participate and each parish will be invited to send a representative family to the Rally. A variety of activities will take place, including a book signing, screening of the movie "Pray: The Story of Patrick Peyton," confessions, adoration, and a recitation of the rosary.

Supporting this effort are Holy Cross Family Ministries, the Order of Malta, and Heaven & Earth Gift Shop & Café. Donors who may like to sponsor a billboard may contact Mary Clare Hallman, Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life, at (570) 207-2213, x. 1148.



ROSARY RALLY

**11.16.2024
1:30pm**

Cathedral of St. Peter
315 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton PA

"The family that prays together, stays together."

- Rosary
- Book signing
- Movie screening
- Adoration
- Confessions

Let's continue the legacy of Fr. Peyton and renew the spirit of family prayer.

November 1949: 50,000 people gather at St. Ann, Scranton to pray the rosary with Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C.



75 Years ago, Father Patrick Peyton held the first U.S. Rosary Rally in Scranton, PA. 50,000 people gathered here!





For more information contact: Mary Hallman (570) 207-2213 mhallman@dioceseofscranton.org







Annual Candlelight Rosary Novena



SATURDAY, OCT. 5 *thru* SUNDAY, OCT. 13
Oct. 5-12 at 7:00PM and Sunday, Oct. 13 at 6:30PM

DIVINE MERCY PARISH

312 Davis Street - Scranton, PA

Theme: In God We Trust

- The Rosary will be said by candlelight in the Church.
- The crowning of Our Lady takes place each night.
- The Novena will close each evening with Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

- Everyone is invited to attend -

Rev. Paul A. McDonnell, O.S.J., Pastor; Deacon Martin Castaldi; Deacon Carmine Mendicino, Director; Nicholas Katchur & Christopher Mendicino, Choir Directors

Ninth annual 'Be A Catholic Man' Conference Oct. 5



Members of the 'Be A Catholic Man' conference planning committee recently gathered to plan the Oct. 5 conference. Shown are, front row, from left: Dr. Chris Carr; Kurt Kushner; Tony DePaola. Second row: Jim Biondo; Raphael Micca; Kevin Berli; Jack Walsh; John Brzycki; Joe Adcroft; Frank Socha, Rev. Brian Van Fossen, conference chaplain. Third row: Mike Kilmer, conference chairman; Dr. Lou Guarnieri; Paul Binner; Alex Piochoki; David Sutton; Joe Alinoski; Ralph Marino; Tim Pawlik; Deacon Marty Castaldi; and John Leskosky. Taking the photo was committee member Christopher Calore.

WILKES-BARRE — Jesus calls each one of us to follow him. He summons us to die to self to find a new life with ultimate joy in him. Jesus promises to be with us every step of the way and will lead us to eternal life in heaven.

The ninth annual 'Be A Catholic Man' conference will be held on Saturday, Oct. 5, 2024, at Holy Redeemer High School, 159 S. Pennsylvania Avenue, Wilkes-Barre.

This year's theme is "Come Follow Me."

This year's inspiring speakers include EWTN hosts Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers and Father Bill Casey. Also speaking will be John Edwards with his mission to encourage men to grow closer to Christ.

The conference begins at 8:00 a.m. and runs until 3:00 p.m., and includes speakers, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, confession, and a closing Mass with the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton. An optional rosary occurs at 7:15 a.m. Registration with coffee and

donuts is available beginning at 7:00 a.m.

In today's busy, high-tech world, there are few opportunities where men can take time to reflect on how to better imitate Jesus' heroic love. The annual Men's conference provides an opportunity to put away cell phones and iPads and be inspired to go further in imitation of Christ for the sake not only of oneself, but for loved ones.

To register for the 2024 'Be A Catholic Man' conference, visit beacatholicman.com. Early bird registration of \$30 is available before Sept. 15, after which time the conference price increases to \$40. Student registration is \$15, and priests/deacons/seminarians may attend free of charge.

Anyone who would prefer to pay by check can make it payable to "Be A Catholic Man" and mail it to: Be A Catholic Man, Inc., PO Box 669, Wyalusing, PA 18853. Please put "Attn: Men's Conference" in the memo line of the check.

Diocese of Scranton Presents 2025 Jubilee

Pilgrims of Hope

PILGRIMAGE TO ROME

with Bishop Joseph C. Bambera

AUGUST 31 — SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

\$4,995.00 pp/double occupancy



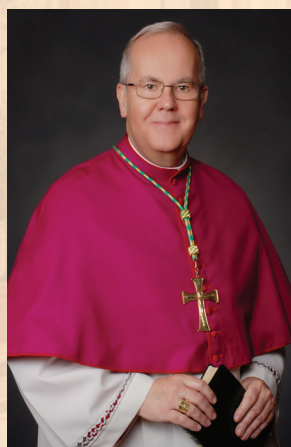
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Procession of Saint Lucy statue following Mass in Italian likely to become new *La Festa Italiana* tradition

SCRANTON – As the 48th annual Italian Mass concluded on Sept. 1, 2024, a new tradition was born.

For the first time, a procession of faithful led a statue of Saint Lucy from the Cathedral of Saint Peter about a block away to Courthouse Square in downtown Scranton, to kick off the third day

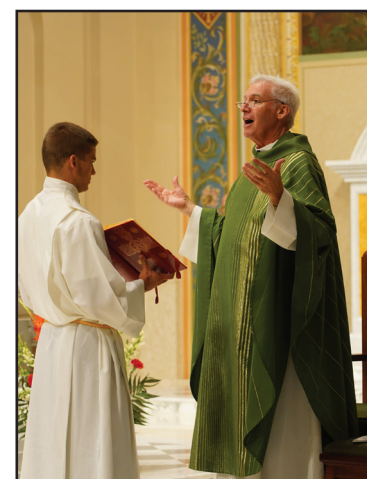
of La Festa Italiana.

“We’re all about tradition,” Chris DiMattio, La Festa Committee President, explained as the Mass concluded.

The procession was a way to publicly introduce the Scranton area to the ‘Italian Colony of Saint Lucy,’ a newly formed non-profit organization. Last year,



Members of the newly formed non-profit, Italian Colony of Saint Lucy, carry a statue of Saint Lucy from the Cathedral of Saint Peter to Courthouse Square in downtown Scranton. (Photos/Mike Melisky)



Father David P. Cappelloni, La Festa Chaplain, served as principal celebrant of the Mass.

members of Saint Lucy’s Church in Scranton came together to form the new group.

“We wanted to keep the name of Saint Lucy alive and well and strong, so we started this group to raise money for various charities that we want to give to,” Joe Guido, Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Italian

Colony of Saint Lucy, explained. “We hope to make it an annual tradition of carrying the statue of Saint Lucy from the Mass over to the festival.”

The Italian Colony of Saint Lucy currently has about 50 members. The new group is not directly affiliated with any parish and is open to both men and women.

“We’re called the ‘Italian Colony’ because in 1899, all the immigrants from Italy, when they settled in this area, the original parish they formed was called the ‘Italian colony,’ so we wanted to keep that name in conjunction with the name of Saint Lucy, so that is how we came up with the Italian Colony of Saint Lucy,” Guido added.

La Festa Italiana is much more than a four-day food festival. It is a celebration of heritage, culture and tradition – of which the Mass in Italian has become a significant milestone.

During his homily for the Italian Mass, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, emphasized that faith and action go “hand in hand.”

“Every one of us in this Cathedral is here today because

somebody loved us and fed us and forgave us and passed onto us their faith in God,” Bishop Bambera said. “We will honor them best – and ultimately the Lord Jesus whom they loved – by embracing the faith passed onto us and giving it life through our love and service of one another.”

Father David P. Cappelloni, La Festa Chaplain, and pastor of Saints Anthony and Rocco and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parishes in Dunmore, served as principal celebrant of the Mass.

This year’s Italian Mass was 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, Joe Latona, James Mack, Sr., John Moffitt, Mariann Moran, Charles Morell, Angelo Rose, Billy Saar, Sheriff John Szymanski, Sarah Marie Vecchi-Barrese, and Bill Weber.

For more information on the new Italian Colony of Saint Lucy non-profit that has been formed, call (570) 955-7469 or email TICOSL@gmail.com.

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Parishes in Diocese Announce Fall Festivals & Events

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 variety booths feature bountiful baskets, baked goods, and raffle drawings, including cash grand prize. For more information, call (570) 254-9502.

Saint Patrick's in Nicholson — Oct. 6. Annual Fall Festival held on Sunday afternoon from noon to 4 p.m. on the parish church grounds. Event features a pork loin dinner, served with several side dishes; large variety of soups, potato pancakes, hot dogs and baked goods; specialty theme basket raffle and multiple cash raffle drawings. For more information, call (570) 563-1622.

Saints Anthony & Rocco in Dunmore — Oct. 9 & 10. Parish's "Fall Takeout Food Festival" held on Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 5 to 7 p.m. on the parish grounds at Saint Rocco Church, 122 Kurtz St., Bunker Hill section of Dunmore. Menu offerings include pizza frita, hot or sweet sausage & pepper sandwiches, and pasta & meatballs. Tables available for outdoor dining. Drive-up orders accepted until food items are

sold out. Advance orders may be placed by calling the parish office (570) 344-1209.

Saint Ignatius Loyola in Kingston — Nov. 3. Autumn

Fling Bingo games party held on Sunday afternoon in the parish's Conlan Hall. Doors open at 11:45 a.m.; bingo games begin at 1 p.m. Event includes 15 regular games, five specials, and raffle

drawings, with cash and assorted gift prizes for all ages. Donations and volunteers are being sought for the games party; for more information, call (570) 287-6178.



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Stroudsburg Deanery, Diocese of Scranton

Save the Dates!
Weekend October 19-20th,
2024

Explore a variety of spiritual, intellectual, musical and culinary offerings.
A popular Autumn self-guided Pilgrimage through Catholic Parishes of the Pocono Mountains.

The Year of PRAYER

For more info, email livingwatertrail@gmail.com or search Facebook for iThirst Living Water Trail

Fr. Andrew Amankwaa and parishioners of
ST. JOHN VIANNEY PARISH
Montdale & Royal, PA, invite you to attend their

Harvest Festival

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH
at Corpus Christi Church in Montdale

TAKE-OUT TURKEY DINNER



NOON TO 4 P.M.



DINNER
\$15.00
With all the trimmings

Homemade Baked Goods • Monetary Raffle



Huge Array of Bountiful Baskets • Outdoor Tent



Coming from North take Route 81 South to Exit 201, turn left on Route 438, travel 2.2 miles
Coming from South take Route 81 North to Exit 201, turn right on Route 438, travel 2.2 miles

St. Ann's Basilica, Scranton, is sponsoring a fall conference series entitled:

Spirituality: Our Sacred Journey Through Life

The conferences will look at our lives and the world more deeply through the lens of the grace, the mercy, and the presence of the Lord.



1st Conference: Saturday, September 28.

Led by Fr. Don Ware, CP • Entitled: What is Spirituality?

2nd Conference: Saturday, October 26

Led by Deacon Peter Lemoncelli • Entitled: What is Prayer?

3rd Conference: Saturday, November 24

Led by Fr. Mark Ward, CP • Entitled: Catholic Spirituality - Enriched by the Sacraments.

To be held in St. Gabriel's Room in the lower Basilica • 9:30AM until noon.

All are welcome. Please register by visiting or calling the Shrine Office during business hours at 570-347-5691.



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Game tickets from upper level endzone to lower level 20-50 yard line!

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9/28—Illinois	11/2—Ohio State	11/30—Maryland

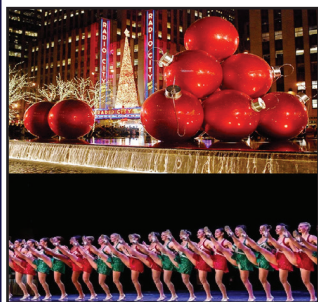
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Oct. 19 & Oct. 26



Notre Dame vs Army @ Yankee
Stadium - Nov 23—Starting from \$125



Woodbury Common Holiday
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Saint Patrick's Parish in White Haven marks 150 years

Continued from Page 8

“With the closing of the White Haven Center there are rumors that something will be going in there, maybe townhouses or apartments, something that will make the community bigger and hopefully we will get more people if that happens,” Price added. “But we’re actually getting more people from outside the area, Weatherly, Freeland, Hazleton and even Mountain Top, there are more people coming all the time. We hope that continues.”

Saint Patrick Parish was incorporated in 1874. The first Catholic settlers in the White Haven area were Francis Lynch and Patrick Dolan and many of the first parishioners that followed were railroad workers.

Over the years, the parish experienced many changes but always focused on ecumenical projects and service-oriented opportunities.

“We’re the largest church in White Haven and because of that



Faithful from Saint Patrick Parish in White Haven celebrate the 150th anniversary of their parish Aug. 18, 2024. (Photo/Dan Piazza)

some of the other congregations look to us to take the lead,” Gower said. “We share in things like Vacation Bible School, the food pantry, the community lunch program, among many other things that happen in town. We do it well together.”

Wood-Karnatski grew up across the street from Saint Patrick Parish. While her family veered away from the church for a time, she has found her way back and is responsible for leading the parish choir.

“Any Sunday, you can come in and everyone is grateful to see you,” she said.

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!**



**DIOCESE OF
SCRANTON**

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

Visit catholicmhm.org/suicide

Diocesan Youth Rally Nov. 23 to feature Joe Melendrez

SCRANTON - The Diocese of Scranton is excited to announce that its Diocesan Youth Rally is back for a second year and it has already outgrown the Diocesan Pastoral Center!

Students in 7th - 12th grade are invited to join us on Saturday, Nov. 23, for our second annual Diocesan Youth Rally, *Living Hope: ¡Viva Cristo Rey!*

Come dive deep into who is our living hope as Catholics and learn how to be the living hope in today's world. It will be a day to deepen your faith, make new friends and experience fun and fellowship!

The Diocesan Youth Rally will take place at Holy Redeemer High School from 2:00 - 8:00 p.m., with registration starting at 1 p.m.

Young Catholics will hear from people such as Joe Melendrez, a well-known Catholic performer and inspirational speaker, and Chris Spilka, a dynamic speaker and Catholic Campus Minister from Virgina Commonwealth University, and many more. Additionally, participants will experience Mass and Adoration with other young Catholics.

Registration will be opening soon!

DIOCESSE OF SCRANTON

YOUTH

Living Hope

RALLY

1 PETER 1:12

SAVE THE DATE

SAT, NOV 23

2:00 - 8:00PM

HOLY REDEEMER HS

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Chris Spilka



Bishop Bambera

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Declaración de la Diócesis de Scranton Sobre la Suspensión del Ministerio del Padre John Ruth

Continúa de la página 10

Sus asignaciones anteriores incluyen: Párroco, Parroquia de los Sagrados Corazones de Jesús y María, Jermyn; Sacerdote Senior, Parroquia de San Patricio, Scranton; Vicario Parroquial, Parroquia de San Juan Neumann, Scranton; Administrador, Parroquia de Santa María de la Asunción, Scranton y Parroquia del Santo Nombre de Jesús, Scranton; Párroco, San Francisco de Asís, West Hazleton; Vicario Parroquial, Parroquia de San Juan Bosco, Conyngham; Coordinador del Ministerio Hispano en la Parroquia de San Gabriel, Hazleton; Capellán, Hospital Mercy, Scranton; Vicario Parroquial, Parroquia de Santa Ana, Williamsport; Vicario Parroquial, Parroquia de San Ignacio, Kingston; y Diácono, Parroquia de San José, Athens.

Durante más de treinta años, la Diócesis de Scranton ha tenido políticas relacionadas con

el abuso sexual de menores por parte de clérigos y ha trabajado continuamente para mejorar sus protocolos de ambiente seguro. Las medidas de seguridad incluyen verificaciones de antecedentes obligatorias, incluyendo historial criminal y de abuso infantil, y un código de conducta publicitado para todos los sacerdotes y diáconos, junto con empleados diocesanos, voluntarios y cualquier otro personal que tenga contacto regular con niños y jóvenes.

Para reportar una acusación de abuso sexual o cualquier otra actividad criminal perpetrada por un sacerdote, diácono, empleado o voluntario de la Diócesis de Scranton, comuníquese con su agencia de aplicación de la ley local y/o con la Coordinadora de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis de Scranton, Mary Beth Pacuska, al (570) 862-7551.

Para conocer más sobre las políticas de 'Promesa de

Protección/Compromiso de Sanar' de la Diócesis de Scranton, visite el sitio web de la Diócesis de Scranton en dioceseofscranton.org.



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MISSION MESSAGE

Grandma's Attic Reveals Spiritual Treasure Trove

By Shannon Kowalski
Diocesan Director,
Pontifical Mission Societies



After my grandmother passed away in May, my aunt and I were tasked with sorting through her belongings. I approached the task with a mix of sorrow and curiosity, expecting to find old family photos and perhaps a few relics from a bygone era. What I did not anticipate was uncovering a treasure trove of letters that would deeply move me and reshape my understanding of my family's spiritual heritage.

A bundle of well-preserved letters bearing colorful stamps and postmarks from Leribe and Maseru, South Africa, was tucked away in a dusty box in the corner of my grandparents' attic. The handwriting on the envelopes was elegant and formal, addressed to my late grandfather and showed the return address of Archbishop

Emmanuel Mabathoana, O.M.I. As I carefully opened the first letter, I was struck by the warmth and respect in the Archbishop's words. He addressed my grandfather as a dear friend and a brother in Christ. It seems that a friendship was struck between them in 1958 after the Archbishop made a missionary appeal for his home diocese of Leribe at Saint Mary's Church in Plymouth. My grandfather and Archbishop Mabathoana exchanged dozens of letters from June 1958 to November 1969.

The letters chronicled Archbishop Mabathoana's efforts to establish schools, clinics, and churches in the remote villages of Leribe and Basutoland, bringing education, healthcare, and the sacraments to long-neglected communities and a relatively young diocese. Archbishop Mabathoana spoke of his challenges — disease, poverty, and the tensions of a society on the brink of change. Yet, despite these difficulties, his words were filled with gratitude and trust in God's providence. He wrote about the power of prayer and the importance of remaining steadfast in their mission.

As I continued reading, I realized that these letters were not just historical documents but a spiritual legacy. Through them, I could see the hand of God at work in my family's history, guiding my grandfather in his vocation and deepening his relationship with the Church. I felt a profound connection to my grandfather, who passed away when I was young, and a renewed sense of purpose in my own life. I pray that I can honor my grandfather's memory and legacy of supporting missionary work in South Africa and worldwide through my role with the Pontifical Mission Societies.

Finding those letters in my grandparents' attic was a gift I never expected. They reminded me that our lives are part of a larger story, one that is woven together by the threads of faith, friendship and service. Archbishop Mabathoana's words to my grandfather were a powerful reminder that even in the face of extraordinary challenges, we are never alone — God's grace is always with us, guiding and sustaining us on our journey.

Apostleship of Prayer

Pope's Intention for September 2024

For the Cry of the Earth —

We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and of victims of natural disasters and climactic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.

Candlelight Rosary Novena set for October at Scranton parish

SCRANTON — Now in its 45th year, the well-known Annual Candlelight Rosary Novena that has been offered in Lackawanna County to faithful celebrating the Marian month of October will be hosted this fall at Divine Mercy Parish in the Minooka section of Scranton.

The 2024 edition of the inspirational and moving devotion, which celebrates the month of the Holy Rosary and the annual Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary in October, will open on Saturday, Oct. 5, at the parish's Saint Joseph Church, 312 Davis St.

Serving as host pastor for the popular Rosary Novena will be Saint Joseph Oblate Father Paul McDonnell, who also serves as rector of the Oblates of Saint

Joseph community and chapel on Highway 315 in Laffin. He is assisted by the permanent deacon of Divine Mercy Parish, Deacon Martin Castaldi.

According to the Novena's longtime director, Deacon Carmine Mendicino, evening services for the nine-day Candlelight Rosary devotion begin at 7 p.m. from Oct. 5 through Saturday, Oct. 12, with the Novena closing scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 13, at 6:30 p.m. in Saint Joseph Church.

This year's Rosary Novena theme is "In God We Trust."

Nightly devotions include: Rosary recitation by candlelight; crowning of the statue of the Blessed Mother; Gospel reading followed by the homily; praying of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy; and solemn closing with benediction

of the Blessed Sacrament.

Music ministry for the Novena will be under the direction of Nicholas Katchur and Christopher Mendicino.

The Rosary Novena is open

to the public, with the parish church completely handicap accessible.

For more information, contact the Divine Mercy parish office at (570) 344-1724.



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Marian Devotion Rosary prayer services

Fostering prayerful devotion to Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary through recitation of the Holy Rosary, Marian Devotion Ministries in the Diocese of Scranton continues to lead its Fatima Journey, which began on the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima (May 13) and continues through October, the month of the Holy Rosary.

Prayer rallies and Rosary evenings are hosted throughout the Diocese and include the Rosary with chanted Scriptural mysteries, Fatima prayers, litanies, and Marian hymns.

Upcoming Marian Devotion gatherings are scheduled as follows:

Saturday Afternoon Rosary Rally — Sept. 14, at 1 p.m. on the grounds of the Marian Prayer Garden at Saint Lucy Church, West Scranton.

Monday Evening of Marian Devotion — Sept. 16, at 6 p.m. at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laffin.

Rosary Evening with Alhambra Caravan 4 of Alhambra — Sept. 17, at 6 p.m. in Christ the King Chapel at King's College, Wilkes-Barre.

Saturday Noon Rosary Rally — Oct. 12, at St. Lucy Church Prayer Garden, West Scranton, in conjunction with "America Needs Fatima" Public Square Rosary.

Monday Evening of Marian Devotion — Oct. 14, from 6 to 7 p.m., hosted at Our Lady of the Abingtons Church, Dalton.

Saturday Rosary Devotion — Oct. 19, at 5 p.m. at the Fatima Shrine on the grounds of Saint Mary of Mount Carmel Church, Dunmore.

Monday Evening of Marian Devotion — Oct. 21, at 6 p.m. at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laffin.

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





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Hibernians celebrate annual Our Lady of Knock feast



Mary, Mother of God Parish at Holy Rosary Church in North Scranton recently hosted the annual Eucharistic celebration commemorating the Feast of Our Lady of Knock, Ireland, which was attended by members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) and the Ladies AOH of Lackawanna County. The annual Mass is offered in honor of the Blessed Mother's appearance in the summer of 1879 in Knock, County Mayo, Ireland. Remembering Hibernian sisters and brothers who have passed away since 2023, the photo at right shows, from left, Kate Angerson, LAOH past state president; Dot Crowley, Lackawanna County AOH Board president; and Conal McHugh, AOH Board vice president, displaying a memorial plaque honoring the recently deceased AOH and LAOH members.



Knights contribute to 'Voice of John' pro-life ministry


Knights of Columbus Council 8613 in Conyngham/Drums recently made a generous donation to benefit the pro-life educational efforts of "The Voice of John" Ministry in the Greater Hazleton area.

Presenting the monetary contribution to Maryann Lawhon, Voice of John CEO, were Grand Knight Bill Pendziwiatr and fellow Knight Tom Jones, who recently chaired a pro-life "Baby Bottle" fundraising drive at Saint John Bosco Church, Conyngham, and Sacred Heart Church, Weston.

The Voice of John mission, which has led the effort in developing pro-life curriculum in Pennsylvania schools, offers outreach ministry to men and women facing crisis pregnancies;

those suffering from post-abortive syndrome; patients and families dealing with end-of-life issues; and advocates for children with Down syndrome and other health challenges.

Shown, from left: Council Knight Tom Jones, Grand Knight Bill Pendziwiatr, Maryann Lawhon, and Ed Pane, Voice of John board member. For more information, contact: thevoiceofjohn1977@gmail.com or call (570) 788-JOHN (5646).



Pittston parishes hosting 'Evening of Song'

PITTSTON — The parishes of Saint John the Evangelist and Saint Joseph Marelo in Pittston will co-sponsor an "Evening of Song" on Saturday, Oct. 19, at 7 p.m. in Saint John the Evangelist Church on William Street.

The concert event is being presented jointly by the Saint Thomas Gospel Choir of Philadelphia and Cantores Christi Regis of King's College in Wilkes-Barre.

Under the direction of Walt

Blocker, the Saint Thomas Choir is accompanied by keyboards and drums and performs at more than 50 services, programs, concerts and celebrations each year. They will be joined by members of the Cantores Christi Regis chorus ensemble, directed by Rob Yenkowski.

The choirs will perform both individually and together throughout the evening. For more information, contact the Saint John parish office at (570) 654-0053.

National Remembrance Day for Aborted Children Sept. 14

The Scranton Diocese will participate in the 12th annual National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children on Saturday, Sept. 14, when pro-life Americans will honor the memory of the more than 65 million unborn victims of abortion since its legalization in 1973.

Diocese of Scranton observances on Sept. 14 will include Memorial Services for Victims of Abortion at two Scranton Diocesan cemeteries in Luzerne and Lackawanna counties, with all faithful welcome to participate.

Mount Olivet Cemetery, 612 Mount Olivet Road, Carverton, will be the site for a National

Remembrance Day service at 1 p.m.

The pro-life gathering will take place at Mount Olivet's Wyoming Valley Knights of Columbus "Tomb of the Unborn," located at the top of the hill on the cemetery grounds.

During the memorial observance, the Rosary will be recited in remembrance of all aborted babies.

Earlier that day, a Memorial Service honoring victims of abortion will be hosted at noon at Cathedral Cemetery, 1798 Oram St., West Scranton. For more information, contact Theresa Baux at (570) 687-5329, or Geri Featherbe at (570) 878-3397.

Healing Mass Sept. 29 at Oblates Chapel

LAFLIN — The Diocesan Enthronement Guild of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary will host the celebration of a Mass of Healing on Sunday, Sept. 29, at 4 p.m. at Saint Joseph's Oblate Seminary Chapel, Highway 315, Laflin.

Saint Joseph Oblate Father Joseph Sibilano will serve as celebrant for the Mass, which will include healing prayers and anointing for those in attendance.

Music for the liturgical celebration will be provided by the Sacred Heart Singers, directed by Ernie Pappa, with a prelude of contemporary selections beginning at 3:30 p.m.



Apostleship of Prayer

Pope's Intention for October 2024

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'Tomb of Unborn' 28th anniversary commemoration slated for Oct. 6

Prayerful commemoration of the 28th anniversary of the Knights of Columbus "Tomb of the Unborn," located at the top of Mount Olivet Cemetery in Carverton, will be held on Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 6, beginning at 2 p.m.

Father Thomas Petro, chaplain of Greater Pittston Knights of Columbus Assembly 948, will lead the gathering in the Order for Visiting a Cemetery, followed by recitation of the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary.

All Wyoming Valley Knights and area faithful are welcome to attend.

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Father Walter Ciszek Day Celebration set for Oct. 20

SHENANDOAH — The Father Walter Ciszek Prayer League announces the annual Father Ciszek Day celebration will be held on Sunday, Oct. 20, in Shenandoah.

The Prayer League is dedicated to promoting the canonization cause for Father Ciszek, who has been revered and venerated for his extraordinary faith and devotion to his priestly vocation.

The centerpiece of the daylong celebration will be a Divine Liturgy offered at 2 p.m. at Saint Casimir Church, 229 North Jardin St., Shenandoah.

Monsignor Ronald Bocian, president of the Father Walter Ciszek Prayer League, will serve as principal celebrant for the Eucharistic liturgy, with Jesuit Father Brian Miller as the homilist.

Prior to the liturgical celebration, the Father Walter Ciszek Prayer League Center, 218 West Cherry St., Shenandoah, will be open to visitors from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

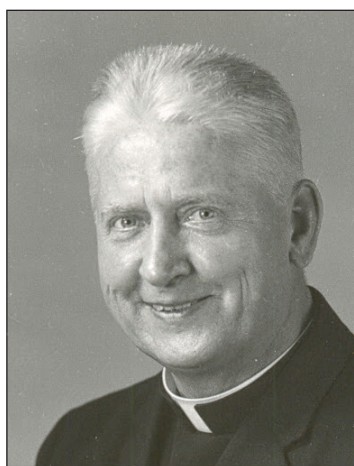
During that time, a video presentation on the life and legacy of Father Ciszek will shown. A social reception immediately

Alhamar to host Rosary devotion

WILKES-BARRE — Local Caravan Alhamar 4, of the Order of Alhambra, will host a Marian devotion Rosary prayer service on Tuesday, Sept. 17, from 6 to 7 p.m. at Christ the King Chapel on the campus of King's College, 29 W. North St., North Wilkes-Barre.

Recitation of the Holy Rosary prayers, accompanied by chanted Scriptural mysteries for the devotion, will also include Fatima prayers and Marian hymns. Devotional music will be led by Ernie Pappa.

All are welcome to unite in prayer to honor Our Lady of Fatima, patroness of the Alhambra Order.



Father Walter Ciszek

follows the Mass in the church hall.

Father Ciszek served the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) congregation as a teacher and missionary in Eastern Europe during the mid-20th century. It was during his missionary ministry the Catholic priest was arrested by Soviet authorities and held in confinement for 15 years in a Siberian labor camp.

Upon his release, Father Ciszek wrote two well-known defining books, *With God in Russia* and *He Leadeth Me*, offered as meditations on his acceptance and forgiveness after surviving horrific conditions as a prisoner of the Communists.

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Father McGlone marks 40 years of Priesthood in the Diocese

Father Gerard McGlone, pastor of Queen of Angels Parish in Jessup for the past 14 years, celebrated his 40th anniversary of ordination to the Holy Priesthood with a concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving at the parish Church of Saint Michael, Jessup, on Sept. 1, 2024. The celebration took place exactly 40 years after he was ordained a priest for the Scranton Diocese on Sept. 1, 1984, in the Cathedral of Saint Peter. Father McGlone is pictured (center) with the concelebrants for his 40th Jubilee anniversary Mass: Monsignor William Feldcamp (right), retired priest of the Diocese, and Holy Cross Father Robert Lisowski, a native of Old Forge. Four other Scranton Diocesan priests are also



celebrating their 40th anniversary of ordination this year. They include Father Cyril Edwards, pastor, Mary, Mother of God Parish, Scranton; Father J. Duane Gavitt, retired; Father John Lambert, pastor, SS. Peter & Paul Parish, Plains; and Father John Lapera, pastor, Saint Gregory Parish, Clarks Green, and Our Lady of the Snows Parish, Clarks Summit. The Diocesan ordination class of '84 also included Father Timothy Hubbs and the late Father Alfred Vito.

Holy Cross priest from Old Forge merits coveted scholarship

Holy Cross Father Robert Lisowski, a native son of Old Forge who received his early education in Scranton Diocesan Catholic schools, has been bestowed the prestigious "Mastermind" scholarship by the government of Flanders in Belgium.

Awarded to outstanding scholars as they begin graduate studies at a Flemish university, the scholarship will support Father Lisowski in pursuing further education in philosophy at the Katholieke Universiteit in Leuven, Belgium.

was ordained a priest for the Congregation of the Holy Cross in 2021, recently completed his first assignment at the University of Notre Dame, where he served in student affairs in both residential life and campus ministry.



Father Robert Lisowski, CSC

During his biannual visits to his home Diocese of Scranton, Father Lisowski, who

the young priest enjoys offering sacramental assistance at parishes in Scranton and Jessup.

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 **Oct. 4** 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.

Music for the First Friday devotion is provided by Marian Devotion Ministries, led by Ernie Pappa.



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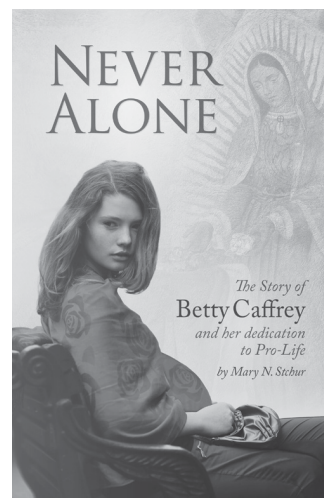
Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese of Scranton

Friday Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction — SEPT. 13, hosted by St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish at Our Lady of the Lake Church, 5112 Pocono Crest Road, Pocono Pines; Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament and benediction offered every Friday morning following the 9:15 a.m. Mass. All are invited to spend time in prayer & meditation with the Eucharistic Lord. St. Monica's

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, baked goods and refreshments for purchase.

Charismatic Renewal Regional Prayer Meeting — SEPT. 16, sponsored by the Scranton Diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal; begins at 7:30 p.m. in the social hall at Queen of the Apostles Parish, 715 Hawthorne St., Avoca. Father Phil Sladicka, host pastor of Queen of the Apostles, will provide a teaching; devotional event includes exultant songs of prayer & praise, and spiritual witness talk by Theresa Jones.

Tuesday Eucharistic Adoration — SEPT. 17, 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.



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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Weekly Eucharistic Adoration — SEPT. 13, 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.

Annual Flea Market — SEPT. 14-15 & 21, sponsored by St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic

29th Annual Lebanese Heritage Festival — SEPT. 15, hosted by St. Ann Maronite Church, 1320 Price St., West Scranton; held from noon to 7 p.m., featuring authentic Lebanese food & pastries. The festival's inaugural "Cigar & Scotch Night" will be offered on Saturday, Sept. 14, following the 4:30 p.m. Mass.

Continued on page 29

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CASH-DIAMOND

Thursday, Nov. 7 - \$115
Music of Johnny Cash,
Neil Diamond -Lunch
Silver Birches, Hawley

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Sept. 26: Tribute to Rat Pack
Oct. 2: Fall Foliage Train Ride @ Silver Birches
Oct. 4: Daniel at Sight & Sound
Oct. 7-11: Cape Cod Island Hopping
Oct. 13 & 23: Pumpkin Blaze
Oct. 20: Renaissance Faire
Oct. 29: 3 Troubadours at Penn's Peak
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. 6 & 11: Radio City Christmas Spectacular
Dec. 15: Miracle on 34th Street
Dec. 16-18: Cape May Christmas
Dec. 19 & 21: Radio City Christmas Spectacular
Dec. 22: Joy to the World at AMT
Dec. 28: Radio City Christmas Spectacular



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Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese of Scranton

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Weekly Rosary — SEPT. 18, 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.

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.

Altar & Rosary Birthday Tea — SEPT. 22, hosted by the Altar & Rosary Society women of Gate of Heaven Parish, Dallas, and Our Lady of Victory Parish, Harveys Lake; begins at 3 p.m. in the Gate of Heaven Parish Center. Cost: \$18 per person. Reservations requested by Sept. 15.

Annual Novena in Honor of St. Therese of Lisieux — SEPT. 22-OCT. 1, hosted by Queen of Angels Parish, 320 First Ave., Jessup; annual Novena celebrating the Feast of St. Therese on Oct. 1. Weekday Masses offered at 5:30 p.m.; weekend Masses on Saturday at 4 p.m., and Sunday at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Liturgies include St. Therese Novena prayers and blessing with the saint's relic.

"40 Days for Life" Pro-Life Rosary Gatherings — SEPT. 25-NOV. 1, offered for the special intentions of an end to abortion and closure of the Planned Parenthood location in Wilkes-Barre; Rosary is prayed each weekday, Monday to Friday, at 10 a.m. in front of the Planned Parenthood offices at 101 North Main St., Wilkes-Barre. The pro-life campaign draws attention

to the evil of abortion through prayer & fasting, constant vigil, and community outreach.

Venerable Father Patrick Peyton Monthly Rosary — OCT. 2, 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.

Parish Cash Bingo — OCT. 6, sponsored by St. Monica Parish in West Wyoming; doors open at 1 p.m. and games begin at 2 p.m. in the parish hall, 363 West 8th St., West Wyoming. Food items will be available for purchase. All are welcome; for more information, contact Tom Tomsak (570) 237-2188.

"Ezra 10:4" Men's Discernment Retreat — OCT. 11 & 12, open to men age 18 & older discerning a vocation to the priesthood; two-day retreat begins Friday evening at 6 p.m. at Holy Family Spiritual Renewal Center, 151 Old Newport St., Nanticoke. Preached retreat led by Father Alex Roche, Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians; include Sacred Scripture, Mass, Eucharistic adoration, prayer, fellowship & discussions. For information/registration: www.dioceseofscranton.org/vocations/mens-discernment-retreat/.

"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, Sister Clare at (570) 745-3334.

"America Needs Fatima" Public Square Rosary Crusade — OCT. 12, hosted at St. Jude Parish in Mountain Top; held in conjunction with more than 20,000 Rosary rallies across America, offered as a penitential/conversion prayer gathering for blessings on the United States through the

intercession of the Blessed Mother. The public Rosary Rally begins at noon under the portico of St. Jude Church, Route 309, Mountain Top. For more information, contact Carmen at (570) 262-7373.

Rummage Sale — OCT. 14 & 15, sponsored by the Confraternity of Christian Mothers of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, 116 Hughes St., Swoyersville; held

Continued on page 30

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Catholic Happenings in the Diocese

Continued from page 29

in the school gymnasium. Sale hours: Monday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Tuesday (\$2 Bag Day), 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Event includes bake sale and refreshments for purchase, including hoagies, hot dogs & wimpies.

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.

Artisan Craft Show — OCT. 19, sponsored by Our Lady of Victory Parish, Cherry Lane Road, Tannersville; held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Showcase event features handmade arts & crafts from numerous artisans, including watercolor art, wooden bowls, decorative wreaths & ceramics; homemade foods, tricky tray and cash drawings also available. Admission fee: \$2 donation to the 1000 Pink Lights initiative to benefit breast cancer patients; sit-down or takeout lunch offered. For more information, contact Fran Prebish at fransbottles@hotmail.com or (973) 809-3184.

Annual Rigatoni & Meatball Dinner — OCT. 27, sponsored by Queen of Angels Parish in Jessup; dinner is drive-thru and takeout only, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at 607 Church St., Jessup. Cost: adults, \$12; children (under age 12), \$5. Tickets available by calling the parish office at (570) 489-2252.

Annual Election Day Pasta & Meatball Dinner — NOV. 5, hosted by St. John Bosco Parish in Conyngham; served in the parish hall. Sit-down dinners from 4 to 7 p.m.; take-out orders available from 3 to 7 p.m.

Homemade Meatloaf Dinner & Basket Raffle — NOV. 9, hosted by Gate of Heaven Parish in Dallas; the take-out only dinner will be served from 4 to 7 p.m. in the parish gymnasium, 40 Machell Ave., Dallas. Meal includes meatloaf & mashed potatoes/gravy, vegetable, dinner roll and dessert. Cost: \$14. Basket raffle drawing follows the dinner; raffle tickets are 7 for \$5. For more information, call (570) 675-2121.

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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Gate of Heaven Parish in Dallas hosted its annual Summer Music Camp, with the young campers actively participating in this year’s theme: “On Pilgrimage with Jesus.” Camp activities included choir rehearsals, games & crafts, daily teachings, and refreshments. The music camp concluded with a youth liturgy in which the children filled active roles. This summer’s young camp participants shown above include: Mitchell Rakos, Nora Ubaldini, Evelyn Rakos, Owen Singer, Elle Ubaldini, Brynlee Singer and Matthew Rakos. Also pictured are the adult volunteers, Cindy Brin, Connie Cramer, Mary Ann Hardisky, Carol Carroll and Marilyn O’Connell. Camp music director was Anthony Kubasek, assisted by Deacon John Jorda.

IN MEMORIAM

**Immaculate Heart
of Mary Sister
Mary Jane Maloney**

*Entered Life:
June 7, 1932*

*Entered Eternal Life:
August 21, 2024*



**Immaculate Heart
of Mary Sister
Mary Newett**

*Entered Life:
August 24, 1928*

*Entered Eternal Life:
September 5, 2024*



Prayer Requests for Priests

The Daily Prayer Request for Priests schedule is as follows:

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; September 18, Father Robert Simon; September 19, Father Andrew Sinnott; September 20, Father Joseph Sitko; September 21, Father Phillip Sladicka; September 22, Father Stephen Stavoy; September 23, Father Scott Sterowski; September 24, Jesuit Father Daniel Sweeney; September 25, Saint Joseph Oblate Father Raymond Tabon; September 26, Father Philbert Takyi-Nketiah; September 27, Father John Terry; September 28, Father Fidel Ticona; September 29, Father Peter Tomczak; September 30, Jesuit Father Sean Toole; October 1, Pope Francis; October 2, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; October 3, Father Daniel Toomey; October 4, Father Rawel Toppo; October 5, Father Sudhir Toppo; October 6, Father Peter Tran; October 7, Monsignor David Tressler; October 8, Father Jeffrey Tudgay, J.V., V.E.; October 9, Father John Turi; October 10, Father Anthony Urban; October 11, Father Brian Van Fossen; October 12, Monsignor Neil Van Loon; October 13, Father Shinu Vazhakkootathil John; October 14, Father Joseph Verespy; October 15, Father John Victoria; October 16, Saint Peter Priestly Fraternity Father Matthew Vierno; October 17, Father James Walsh; October 18, Passionist Father Mark Ward; October 19, Monsignor William Ward; October 20, Monsignor Christopher Washington; October 21, Father Seth Wasnock; October 22, Father Donald Williams.

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WHITE CHRISTMAS

Friday, Nov. 29

Dutch Apple - \$125-\$155



MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET

Sunday, Dec. 15

Surflight Theatre, \$155-\$185
Lunch & Show



JOY TO THE WORLD

Sunday, Dec. 22 • \$99-\$125

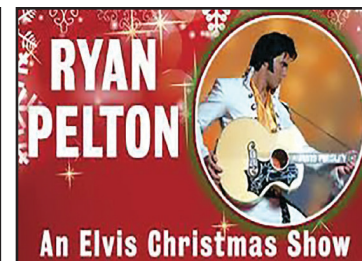
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Dinner Show/Kitchen Kettle



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Pope Francis wrapping up longest trip of his pontificate

INDONESIA - Pope Francis will wrap up the longest foreign trip of his papacy on Sept. 13.

The 87-year-old pope covered more than 20,000 miles during a four-nation apostolic visit to Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and Singapore.

Pope Francis encountered massive crowds throughout his trip to Asia and Oceania.

In Timor-Leste, a nation of 1.3 million people, 96-percent of whom are

Catholic, local authorities estimated 600,000 people gathered for Mass with the pope Sept. 10.

In Papua New Guinea, Pope Francis spent time with an estimated 10,000 young people and heard their concerns.

About 60-percent of Papua New Guinea's population is under the age of 25.

Monsignor Christopher



Pope Francis, accompanied by Msgr. Christopher Washington, a priest of Scranton, is greeted after landing in Papua New Guinea on Sept. 7, 2024. (CNS photo/Lola Gomez)

Washington, a priest of the Diocese of Scranton, is accompanying Pope Francis on his foreign trip.

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