



# ***The Catholic Light***

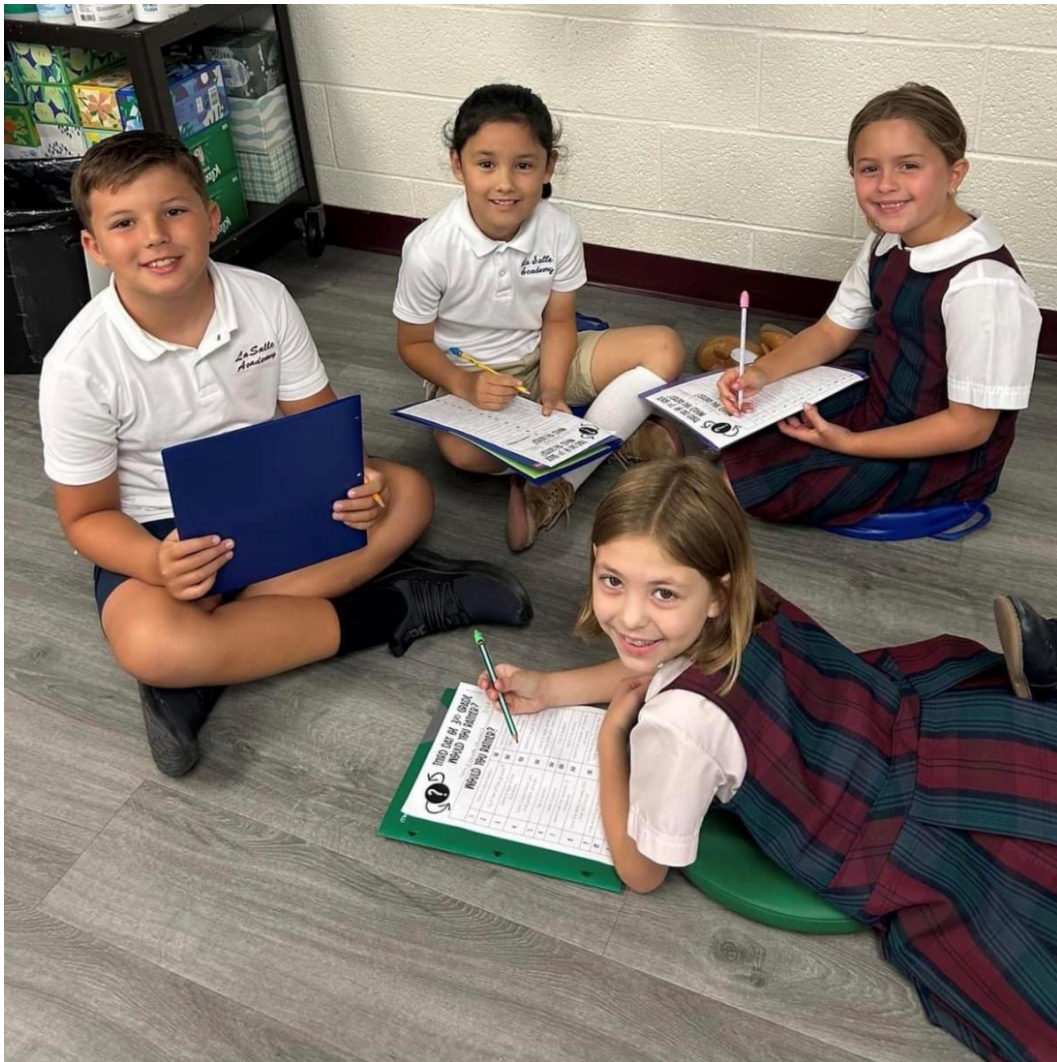
DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

**Weekly E-Newsletter**

**September 12, 2024**

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



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.”

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

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## **Hispanic Heritage Mass to be celebrated on Oct. 12**



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!**

*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!**

*¡Una celebración de La Herencia Hispana!*



[www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org)



**Para convertirse en patrocinador de este evento,  
envíe un email a [hispanicmin@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:hispanicmin@dioceseofscranton.org)**

*¡Incluyendo  
Procesión  
Eucarística!*

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.

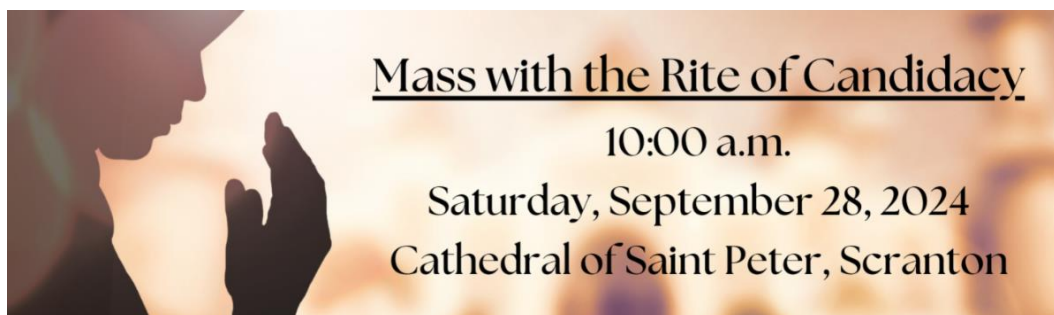
The theme for 2024 is “Pioneers of Change: Shaping the Future Together.”

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.

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

## **Bishop Bambera calls eight men to Candidacy for Permanent Diaconate**



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

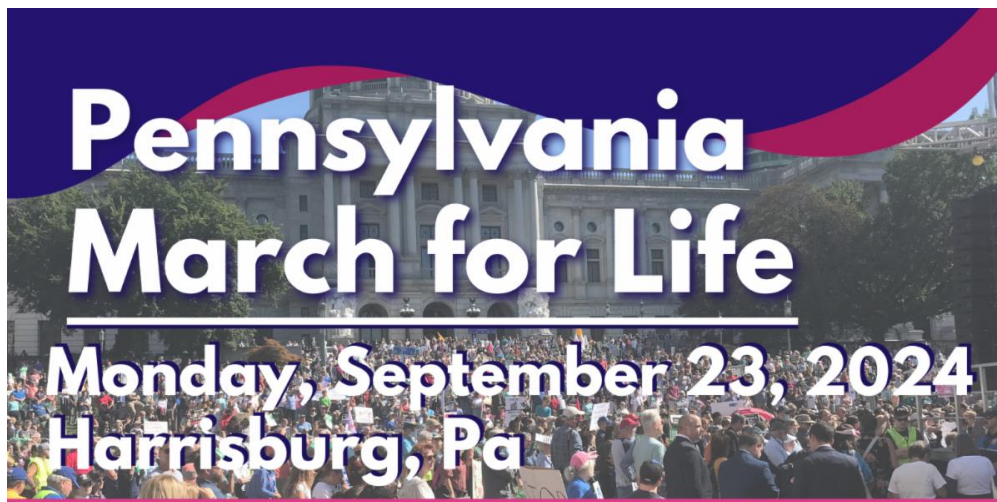
formation, and upon completion, will be called to ordination as permanent deacons.

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

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

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## **Speakers announced for PA March for Life in Harrisburg on Sept. 23**



***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

[WWW.DIOCESEOFSCRANTON.ORG](http://WWW.DIOCESEOFSCRANTON.ORG)

### 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](mailto:Skowalski@dioceseofscranton.org)  
or (570) 207-2238.

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.

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

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## **Pennsylvanians for Human Life hold 'Pro-Life Rally' outside Bradford County Courthouse**



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.

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

## Nearly 1,000 college students gather for 'Mass of the Holy Spirit' at The University of 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."

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

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



On Thursday, Sept. 5, 2024, the Diocese of Scranton released a statement regarding the removal from ministry of Father John Ruth.

To read the full statement, please click on the link below.

[Click Here to Read the Full Statement from the Diocese of Scranton](#)

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## In wealthy Singapore, Pope Francis urges care of the poor and migrants



Pope Francis praised Singapore and its citizens for their hard work and ingenuity, but he urged them to be mindful of the poor and of the migrant workers who do much of the hard labor.

“I hope that special attention will be paid to the poor and the elderly — whose labors have laid the foundations for the Singapore we see today — as well as to protecting the dignity of migrant workers,” the pope told government and civic leaders Sept. 12. “These workers contribute a great deal to society and should be guaranteed a fair wage.”

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

## **International Eucharistic Congress begins in Ecuador with call to fraternity**



The 53rd edition of the International Eucharistic Congress began Sept. 8 in Quito, Ecuador, with a strong call to build fraternity as a way of healing the wounds of a world full of fractures and violence.

The opening celebration included a message sent by Pope Francis, in which he emphasized that “we’re one and only in such unity we can serve the world and heal it.”

The encounter, which will conclude Sept. 15, was planned to promote — in line with the Eucharistic invitation — human brotherhood, despite many divides, under the theme “Fraternity to Heal the World.”

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

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**Montoursville parish to hold parish  
festival this weekend**

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
ANNUAL PARISH FESTIVAL**

100 Walnut Street, Montoursville, PA  
570-368-8598

**September 13 & 14, 5:00 - 9:30 p.m.**



**Live Music - Basket Raffle - Cake Wheel  
Pumpkin Stand - Wine Wheel - Children's Games**

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**Friday Night**

1/2 BBQ Chicken, Baked Potato, Applesauce,  
Coleslaw, Roll & Dessert ~ \$13  
*Entertainment: Featuring  
Leo & KG with Family Traditions*

**Saturday Night**

Homemade Pierogies, Stuffed Cabbage,  
Haluski and Dessert ~ \$13  
*Entertainment: Featuring Lenny Weber  
One Man, One Guitar, One Good Time*

**Dinner Tickets Available at Parish Office**



***Plus our regular delicious food!***

Hot Sausages ~ Hamburgers ~ Hotdogs ~ French Fries  
Walking Tacos ~ Funnel Cake ~ Fresh-Squeezed Lemonade  
Ice Cream ~ Homemade Cobblers  
**Sunday at 11:30 a.m. ~ Basket Raffle in the Parish Hall**

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

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Diocese of Scranton  
300 Wyoming Avenue,  
Scranton, PA 18503-1279  
(570) 207-2238  
[www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org)