



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

September 19, 2024

Catholic Ministries Appeal 2024 launches this weekend in parishes: *Will you answer 'Our Call to Serve?'*



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."

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

[Click Here to Donate Now to the 2024 Catholic Ministries Appeal](#)

Rising need for food pantries highlights urgent call for support



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.”

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Appeal donations help fuel faith formation efforts by supporting vital parish programs



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.”

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Mass for Suicide Healing & Remembrance underscores significance of mental health ministry in the Catholic Church



On Sept. 15, 2024, faithful from across the Diocese of Scranton gathered at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton to celebrate the annual Mass for Suicide Healing and Remembrance.

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

The Mass served not only as an opportunity for prayer, but also was a way for many parishes that have mental health ministry programs to showcase their important work.

Click on the link above or below to watch a short video from CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton, which includes highlights from the Mass and interviews with those engaged in this very important ministry within the Church.

[Click Here to Watch a Short Video from CTV: Catholic Television
Regarding the Importance of Mental Health Ministry](#)

Vatican sees spiritual value of Medjugorje, doesn't judge it supernatural



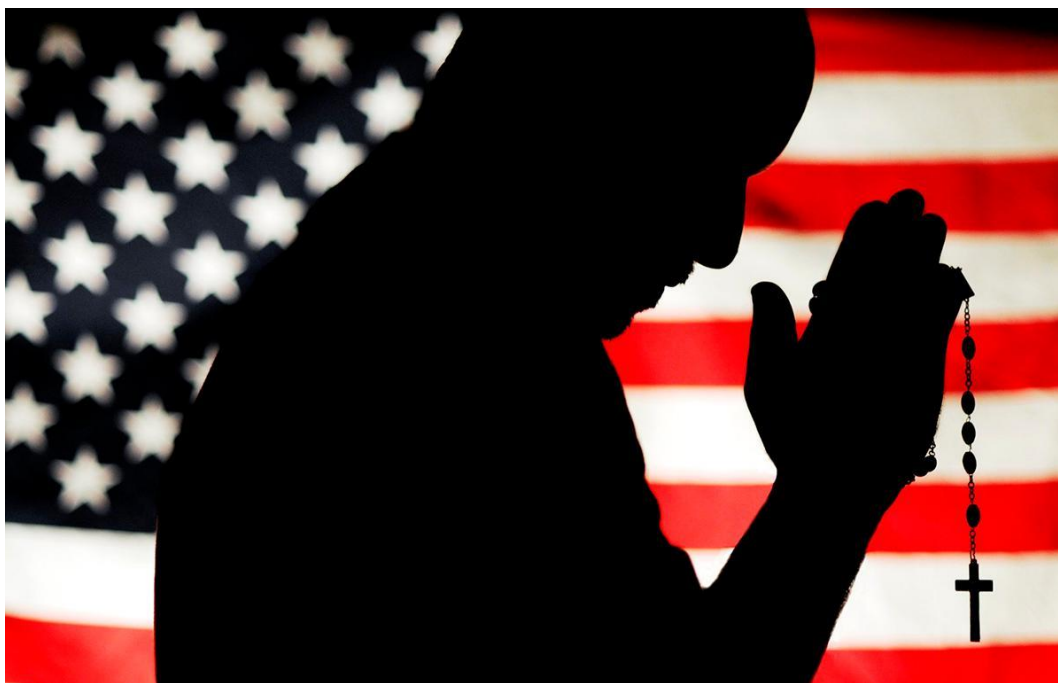
With some prudence, Catholics can benefit spiritually from the messages and spiritual practices associated with the alleged apparitions of Mary in Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina, said the Vatican Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith.

“This does not imply a declaration of the supernatural character of the phenomenon,” nor does it mean that the tens of thousands of alleged messages from Mary published by the supposed “seers” are authentic, the dicastery said in a long “Note About the Spiritual Experience Connected with Medjugorje,” released Sept. 19.

With the approval of Pope Francis, the dicastery did, however, recognize “the abundant and widespread fruits, which are so beautiful and positive,” associated with devotion to Mary, Queen of Peace, and with pilgrimages to Medjugorje.

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Report: Americans less polarized on faith, politics than generally thought



A new report identifies what researchers call “three big myths” about faith and politics in the U.S., concluding that the nation is less polarized around such issues than popularly believed — and that faith leaders are key to healing division in American society.

The findings were shared Sept. 17 by More in Common, a nonpartisan research and civic nonprofit based in New York, in a 140-page report titled “Promising Revelations: Undoing the False Impressions of America’s Faithful.”

The study drew on data collected from a representative sample of over 6,000 U.S. citizens polled at various intervals during the period September 2023 through August 2024. More in Common teamed up with polling companies YouGov and ROI Rocket for several rounds of surveys and focus groups, while also conducting online research, social media analysis and conversations with faith and community leaders.

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

Bishop Bambera announces new clergy appointments



On Sept. 10, 2024, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, announced a new set of clergy appointments.

Please click the link below to see the clergy appointments announced on Sept. 10, 2024.

[Click Here to See the Sept. 10, 2024 Clergy Appointments](#)

Encountering, following Jesus changes everything,
Pope Francis says



It is not enough to know about Jesus, one must encounter him, be changed by his Gospel and follow him, Pope Francis said.

“I can know many things about Jesus, but if I have not encountered him, I still do not know who Jesus is,” the pope told visitors and pilgrims who joined him in St. Peter’s Square Sept. 15 for the midday recitation of the Angelus prayer.

“It takes this life-changing encounter; it changes one’s way of being, one’s way of thinking, it changes the relationships you have with your brothers and sisters, your willingness to accept and forgive, it changes the choices you make in life,” he said.

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

Second Synod session to open with penitential liturgy



The second session of the Synod of Bishops on synodality, set to bring 368 bishops, priests, religious and laypeople to the Vatican, will begin by asking forgiveness for various sins on behalf of all the baptized.

As synod members did before last year's session, they will spend two days on retreat before beginning work; that period of reflection will conclude Oct. 1 with a penitential liturgy presided over by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Basilica, the Vatican announced.

The liturgy will include time to listen to the testimonies of three people: one who suffered from the sin of abuse, one from the sin of war and third from the sin of indifference to the plight of migrants, according to a Vatican statement announcing the liturgy.

Afterward, "the confession of a number of sins will take place," said the statement, released Sept. 16. "The aim is not to denounce the sin of others, but to acknowledge oneself as a member of those who, by omission or action, become the cause of suffering and responsible for the evil inflicted on the innocent and defenseless."

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Make a Difference in Our Community!



**Support the 2024
Diocesan Annual Appeal
This Weekend**

- Empowering Vital Catholic Ministries
- Strengthening Our Faith Community
- Serving Those in Need

*Every gift, no matter the size, helps us
live our mission of love and service*



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