



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

September 26, 2024

Thousands attend fourth annual Pennsylvania March for Life in Harrisburg



Rain showers did not dampen the spirit of thousands of pro-life Pennsylvanians rallying at the State Capitol Complex on Sept. 23, 2024.

The fourth annual Pennsylvania March for Life brought another massive crowd of people to Harrisburg from every corner of the commonwealth to voice their support for protecting the human dignity of every life – including the unborn.

“I have been here every year since it has been going on and it’s just uplifting to see all the people that believe we need to protect the unborn because it is a slippery slope. Once we start killing babies, we don’t value human life,” Doris Bush of Williamsport said.

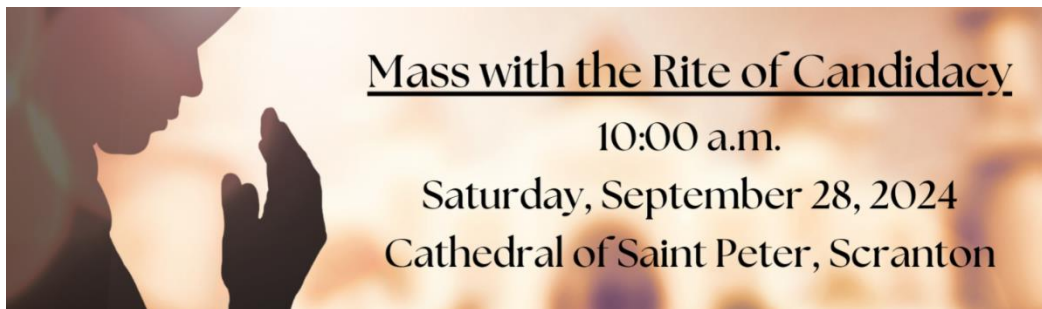
Bush, a parishioner at Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Bastress, attended the Pennsylvania March for Life with several of her sisters.

“We are never going to stop until we stop killing babies in the womb,” she explained.

Several groups across the Diocese of Scranton sponsored bus trips to bring people to the PA March for Life.

[Click Here to Watch Video Highlights from the 2024 Pennsylvania March for Life in Harrisburg from Catholic Television](#)

Bishop 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 this Saturday (Sept. 28) 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.

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Centennial celebration of beloved Saint Bernard Church in Wayne County planned for Sept. 29



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.

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



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.

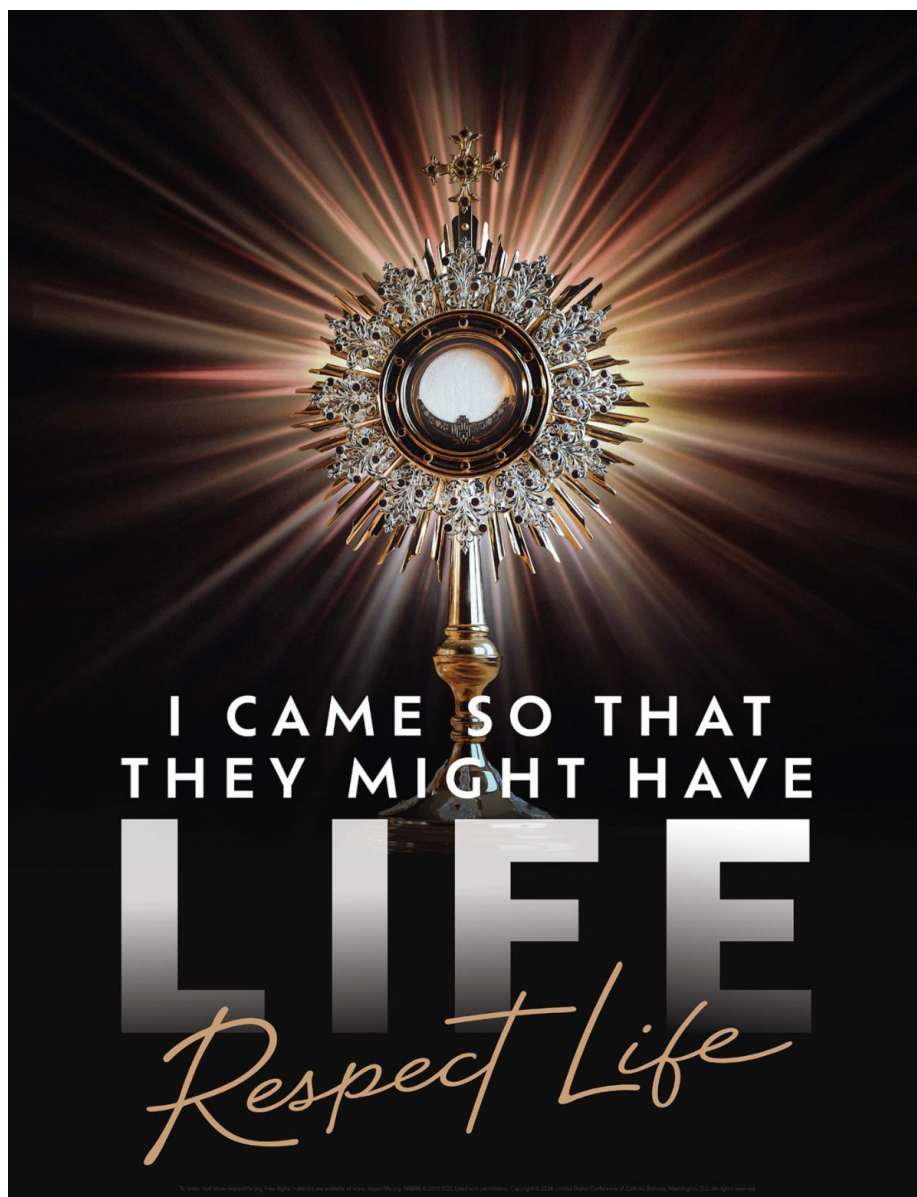
Historically, the Red Mass is attended by judges, lawyers and legislators for the purpose of invoking God's blessing and guidance in the

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.

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**Respect Life Sunday Mass to be celebrated
at Cathedral of Saint Peter on Oct. 6**



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.

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'Revival of prayer and action' needed to end abortion, says U.S. Bishops' Pro-Life chair



Ahead of Respect Life Month, the pro-life committee chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is urging "a revival of prayer and action" to end abortion and uphold the sanctity of human life.

A statement for the October observance, written by Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Virginia, was released by the USCCB Sept. 19 and posted to the website of the USCCB's Respect Life Month initiative. The effort traces its origins to 1972, just prior to the U.S. Supreme Court rulings on *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*, the two 1973 decisions that broadly legalized abortion.

In his message, Bishop Burbidge stressed that “Jesus, truly present in the Eucharist, gives us the fullness of life,” and “calls each of us to respect that gift of life in every human person.”

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Novena for Mental Health seeks healing, awareness, action on issue



The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops invites the faithful to join in a novena for mental health as part of the second year of the USCCB's ongoing National Catholic Mental Health Campaign.

The nine days of prayer will commence on Oct. 10, which marks the international observance of World Mental Health Day, and conclude on Oct. 18, the feast of St. Luke, the evangelist and a patron of health care, who in the Letter to the Colossians is referenced as “the beloved physician” (Col 4:14).

Each day of the novena, which opened the USCCB campaign in October 2023, focuses on a particular aspect of mental health, addressing stigma, social relationships, and the impact of factors such as racism and poverty. Saints and others invoked during the novena include St. Dymphna, patron of those with mental illness; St. Martin de Porres, who experienced racial discrimination throughout his life; and Dorothy Day, a servant of God who twice attempted suicide as a young woman.

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Pope calls escalation of conflict in Middle East 'unacceptable'



Pope Francis called the escalation of the conflict in the Middle East “unacceptable,” after Israel and Hezbollah exchanged increased airstrikes, with Israeli missiles killing hundreds in Lebanon.

“I am saddened by the news from Lebanon, where in recent days the intense bombings have claimed many victims and caused destruction,” the pope said at the end of his general audience Sept. 25. “I hope that the international community will make every effort to stop this terrible escalation. It is unacceptable.”

Fighting on the Israeli-Lebanon border escalated Sept. 21 when Israeli forces launched a campaign of airstrikes against Hezbollah, an Islamist militant group based in Lebanon. As of Sept. 25, more than 550 people had been killed in the bombings including 50 children, according to Lebanon’s health ministry.

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World Day of Migrants and Refugees to be celebrated Sept. 29

Meet Christ in migrants, and respond with compassion, says U.S. Bishop echoing Pope's call



In a message ahead of the 110th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, the U.S. bishops' migration chair stressed Pope Francis' call for solidarity with migrants, "reminding us that their journeys mirror the biblical Exodus, with God as their guide and companion."

"(The pope) emphasizes that every encounter with migrants is an encounter with Christ, urging us to respond with compassion, recognizing their struggles as a reflection of our shared journey toward the Kingdom of Heaven," said Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas, chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration, according to a Sept. 19 news release.

The USCCB release highlighted the beginning of National Migration Week, observed Sept. 23-29 this year. During the time leading up to World Day of Migrants and Refugees — which takes place on the last Sunday of September — the Catholic Church in the U.S., it said, calls "attention to the challenges confronting migrants and refugees, from their country of origin to their destination, and how Church teaching calls on Catholics to respond with compassionate acts of love."

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**Ending poverty, arms race and
regulating AI are key priorities,
Cardinal Parolin tells United Nations**



Ending poverty, ensuring nuclear disarmament and regulating artificial intelligence, or AI, were among the issues highlighted by the Holy See at the 2024 United Nations Summit of the Future, held Sept. 22-23 in New York at U.N. headquarters.

The summit – preceded by “action days” Sept. 20-21, and proposed by U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres in his 2021 report, “Our Common Agenda” – convened world leaders to “forge a new international consensus on how we deliver a better present and safeguard the future,” according to the U.N.’s dedicated webpage for the event.

That report and the summit pointed to “an atmosphere of mistrust” that undermines effective global cooperation, something Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Holy See’s secretary of state, also underscored in his Sept. 23 address at the gathering.

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- Bishop Joseph C. Bambera

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