



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

October 10, 2024

Bishop Bambera's Message for Respect Life Month



Dear Friends,

“I came so that they might have life (Jn 10:10).”

Since 1972, the year before abortion was legalized in the United States, the Catholic Church has dedicated the month of October as a special season to promote a culture of life throughout our land. This year's theme is taken from Saint John's gospel discourse on the Good Shepherd.

This venerable image of the People of God as God's flock and Jesus as our Shepherd is significant for several reasons. First, the image of Jesus as our Shepherd is both consoling and hopeful as we reflect upon the selfless care and guidance of God who walks with us in this journey of life. Second, its context in John's gospel reminds us of the challenges that we confront as followers of Christ.

In this portion of the gospel, Jesus more precisely refers to himself as the gate for the sheep, the one who gives access to God, the source of all life. Today in our world, however, many sadly seek to redirect the values we hold as Christians. Quite intentionally, they attempt to convince us of the significance of determining our own way while simultaneously setting aside the recognition of the unique and treasured status of all forms of human life. Espousing a flawed notion of freedom, their goal is to diminish appreciation for the ultimate values of the gospel, thereby undermining our conviction as Christians that Jesus alone guides God's flock to life and salvation.

Despite the overturning of Roe v. Wade in 2022, the challenge to protect human life has not diminished at all. It's merely shifted from being a national issue to a state issue. Threats to human life are increasingly evident in our world today; threats that we often fail – or refuse – to recognize. And make no mistake about it, with the efforts of so many influential groups and organizations in our land that seek to undermine the value of human life while masquerading as supporters of freedom and champions of justice, we are on the precipice of a slippery slope that will eventually lead to even more heinous actions that disregard the sanctity of life. It should come as no surprise that in addition to the tragic and continued widespread scourge of abortion, we're also confronted with proposals and policies that favor assisted suicide, euthanasia, infanticide and human cloning. These too are dire threats to our belief in the dignity and value of the human person – as are the death penalty, human trafficking, and unjust immigration laws.

The good news, however, is that the voices of faithful, selfless disciples of Jesus and countless others from different faith traditions continue to be heard in our world, proclaiming the value of human life as the treasured gift of God that it is.

Pope Francis has often reminded us that “every person – from the most vulnerable unborn child to the sick, the elderly and the poor – has an inviolable right to life” and “is a masterpiece of God's creation, made in his

own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect.”

Though well beyond our ability to determine or control, life – from the moment of conception to natural end – is a gift to treasure and respect. We do so, however, not through our self-righteous criticisms of those whose beliefs may appear to be different than our own. ... We treasure and respect life when we are courageous enough to assert our commitment to such values, despite how some may regard us in the process. ... We treasure and respect life when we vote carefully and thoughtfully according to the beliefs that we treasure within our hearts. ... And we most effectively witness to life when we are humble enough to embrace the gospel message of Jesus and to treat the lives that come into our own with reverence and dignity as children of one and the same God.

Therein lies the essence of Jesus’ words, “I came so that they might have life (Jn 10:10).”

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Scranton

[Read and Share Bishop Bambera's 2024 Respect Life Month Message from the Diocese of Scranton Website](#)

**Registration for 'Gifts for Kids' Program
in the Scranton-area to take place
Tuesday, Oct. 15**

GIFTS FOR KIDS

A partnership of
Catherine McAuley Center,
Catholic Social Services
and Friends of the Poor



Connecting the community with those in need to provide holiday gifts
for children in Lackawanna County

All recipients must be pre-registered.

The online registration link will be shared on Tuesday, October 15
at 10 AM on the agency's Facebook pages.

To be eligible, families must:

- Live in Lackawanna County
- Have a household income under 200% of the Federal Poverty Level
- Have children under age 18

Families must be able to pick up gifts on December 15 or 16 in Scranton.

Toy donations are accepted M-F 9AM-5PM at 430 Pittston Ave in
Scranton.



REGALOS PARA NIÑOS

Una asociación de
Catherine McAuley Center,
Catholic Social Services
y Friends of the Poor

Conectando a la comunidad con aquellos que lo necesitan para brindar obsequios navideños a los niños del condado de Lackawanna

Todos los destinatarios deben estar registrados previamente.
El enlace de registro en línea se compartirá el martes 15 de octubre a las 10 a. m. en las páginas de Facebook de la agencia.

Para ser elegibles, las familias deben:

- Vivir en el condado de Lackawanna
- Tener un ingreso familiar inferior al 200 % del nivel federal de pobreza
- Tener hijos menores de 18 años

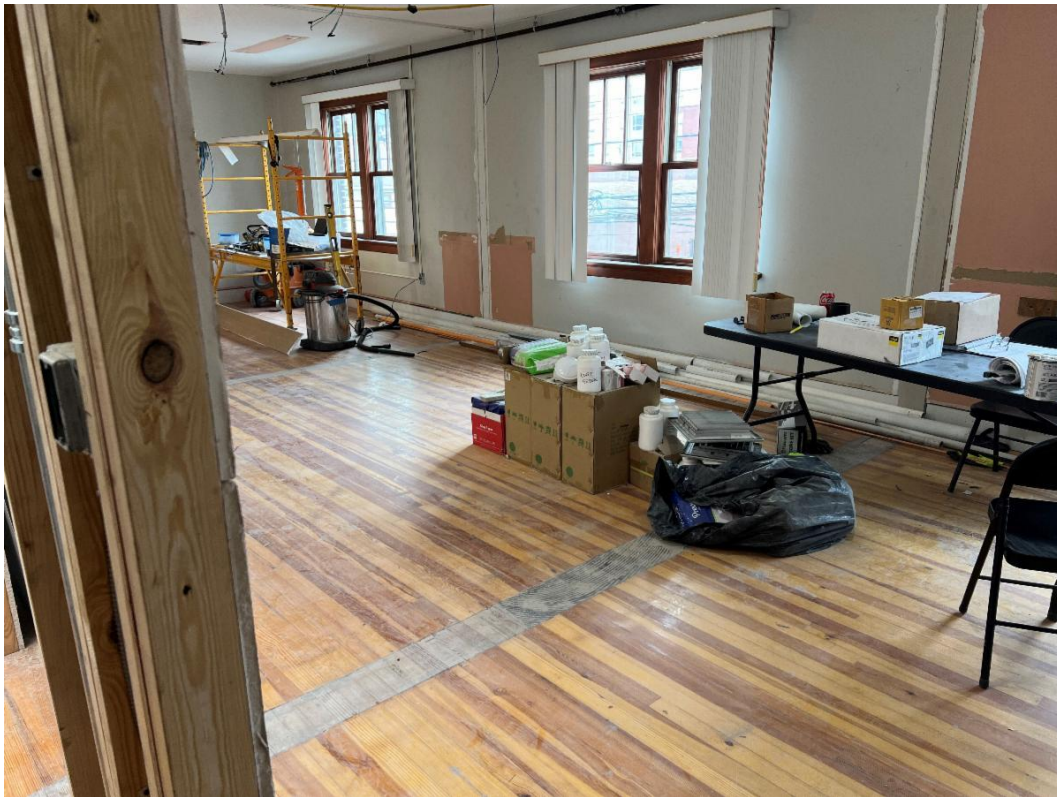
Las familias deben poder recoger los obsequios el 15 o 16 de diciembre en Scranton.

Las donaciones de juguetes se aceptan de lunes a viernes de 9 a. m. a 5 p. m. en 430 Pittston Ave en Scranton.



[Click Here to Find & Share This Information from the Diocese of Scranton Website](#)

Construction begins on permanent homeless shelter in Wilkes-Barre



WILKES-BARRE – With colder nights on the horizon, construction is now underway on the new, permanent location for Mother Teresa’s Haven, an emergency shelter for men experiencing homelessness, which is operated by Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton.

Located at 39 East Jackson Street, directly above Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen, the new facility will provide stability and essential services for those in need.

“I’m like a little kid as Christmas is approaching,” Joe Mahoney, Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Social Services, said while touring the facility Oct. 10. “I’m so ready to have our people move into this space. Panzitta Enterprises, our construction contractor, has been wonderful to work with on this whole project.”

For several decades, Mother Teresa’s Haven has been ‘nomadic’ in nature, operating out of various churches in Wilkes-Barre. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been housed in the basement of Saint Mary’s Church of the Immaculate Conception. Having a permanent site will not only enhance the quality of services offered but will also enable better coordination with other local providers.

Look for the full story and more photos of the construction project in the Oct. 17 edition of *The Catholic Light*.

**Diocese of Scranton's Hispanic
Heritage Mass to be celebrated
Saturday at noon**



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



**Para convertirse en patrocinador de este evento,
envíe un email a 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 this Saturday, Oct. 12, 2024, at Noon.

National Hispanic Heritage Month began 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](#)

Statement of the Diocese of Scranton on Martin M. Boylan being dismissed from the clerical state



On Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2024, the Diocese of Scranton released a statement regarding Martin M. Boylan being dismissed from the clerical state at the conclusion of a disciplinary process authorized by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith at the Holy See.

This penalty concludes a canonical process that began eight years ago.

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

Catholic Charities USA launches Hurricane Milton relief fund



As Hurricane Milton moves away from Florida just days after Hurricane Helene, Catholic Charities USA has launched a dedicated disaster relief donation campaign.

CCUSA – the official domestic relief agency of the Catholic Church in the U.S. and a member of Caritas Internationalis, the church's global network of humanitarian outreaches – announced the fund Oct. 9, as the Category 4 Milton churned across the Gulf of Mexico toward Florida with maximum sustained winds of 130 miles per hour.

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

Synod seeks to expand consultations on women's ministry, diaconate



The Vatican group studying the question of women's ministry, including the ordination of women to the diaconate, will expand its consultative phase to include women who do not serve as consultors to the dicastery in charge of the study group, synod officials announced.

Cardinal Víctor Manuel Fernández, prefect of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith which is in charge of the study group, announced in a message to synod members Oct. 9 that in addition to receiving input from the dicastery's appointed consultors, the dicastery will consult other women as well as receive input from participants in the Synod of Bishops. It was not specified who the outside women consultors are.

Among the 27 consultors to the dicastery listed in the Vatican yearbook, four are women, and among the 28 new consultors appointed by Pope Francis Sept. 23, six are women.

In his message to synod members, read to journalists at a news conference Oct. 9, Cardinal Fernández said the dicastery would also receive input

from all members and theologians of the Synod of Bishops in the coming months. Among synod participants, 82 non-member experts are participating in the synod as theologians, facilitators and communicators.

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

As wider war threatens Middle East, pope asks Mary to intercede



As fighting in the Middle East intensified and spread, Pope Francis turned to Mary, begging her to “intercede for our world in danger.”

With members of the Synod of Bishops, pilgrims, ambassadors accredited to the Vatican and Catholics from the Diocese of Rome, the pope led the recitation of the rosary for peace Oct. 6 at Rome’s Basilica of St. Mary Major.

The prayer service took place on the eve of the one-year anniversary of the deadly Hamas attack on Israel and Israel’s massive retaliation in Gaza.

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

Pope announces he will create 21 new cardinals in December



Pope Francis announced he would create 21 new cardinals Dec. 8, including a 99-year-old former nuncio and the 44-year-old Ukrainian bishop who heads his church's eparchy in Melbourne, Australia.

The 21 cardinals-designate named by the pope Oct. 6 hail from 18 nations. Eight of the cardinals come from Europe, five from Latin America, five from Asia, two from Africa and just one from North America — Archbishop Francis Leo of Toronto.

“Their origin expresses the universality of the church, which continues to proclaim God’s merciful love to all people on earth,” the pope said after reciting the Angelus prayer at midday with visitors in St. Peter’s Square.

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

Attack in rectory a 'turning point' in faith, says Philadelphia priest



A Philadelphia priest assaulted in his rectory said the attack marked a “turning point” that forced him “to reflect deeply on life, faith and the forces of evil” – as well as justice and mercy.

On Oct. 2, Father Andrawos El-Tabchi, a Maronite Catholic priest, was assaulted in his rectory, located across the street from St. Maron Maronite Catholic Church in Philadelphia.

Police reported that the suspect approached the priest’s home just before 9:30 a.m. and began kicking and banging on the door before gaining access. Inside the rectory, the man physically attacked Father El-Tabchi before fleeing.

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

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click this QR code



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