

The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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Synod calls for quick steps to involve more people in church life

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Parishes and dioceses must move quickly to give life to the consultative bodies and broad participation in mission and ministry already foreseen by church law if the Catholic Church is to have any hope of becoming a more “synodal” church, members of the Synod of Bishops said.

“Without concrete changes in the short term, the vision of a synodal Church will not be credible and this will alienate those members of the People of God who have drawn strength and hope from the synodal journey,” the members said in the final document they approved Oct. 26.

Pope Francis convoked the synod in 2021 and called on parishes, dioceses and bishops’ conferences to hold listening sessions before the first synod assembly in Rome in 2023. The current assembly, including most of the same members, began with a Mass at the Vatican Oct. 2.

Members voted on each of the 155 paragraphs of the document, which made suggestions and requests to Pope Francis that included long-term projects, such as continuing discernment about the possibility of women deacons, the need to reform seminary training and the hope that more lay people would be involved in the selection of bishops.

But they also included actions that could and should be implemented immediately, including hiring more women and laymen to teach in seminaries or having bishops make pastoral councils mandatory for every parish and pastors



Pope Francis and members of the Synod of Bishops on synodality attend the synod's final working session Oct. 26, 2024, in the Paul VI Audience Hall at the Vatican. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)

ensuring those bodies are truly representative of the parish members and that he listens to their advice.

Synod officials said all the paragraphs were approved by the necessary two-thirds of synod members present and voting; 355 members were present and voting, so passage required 237 votes. A paragraph devoted to increasing women's profile in the church received, by far, the most negative votes of any paragraph with 97 members voting

no and 258 voting yes. The paragraph, which required 66% of the votes, passed with 72%.

“In simple and concise terms,” members said, “synodality is a path of spiritual renewal and structural reform that enables the Church to be more participatory and missionary, so that it can walk with every man and woman, radiating the light of Christ.”

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One bead at a time: Volunteers craft 328,250 rosaries to spread hope & faith



Over the last three decades, a parish volunteer group in Luzerne County has made nearly 330,000 rosaries by hand.

LARKSVILLE – A total of 328,250 rosaries and counting.

That is the astounding number of rosaries that a small group in Luzerne County has created over the last several decades.

Twice a month, the volunteers meet at Saint John the Baptist Parish to assemble each rosary by hand. Each is carefully crafted, using beads, wire, and clasps, and then sent to individuals in need – whether that be people facing illness, suffering, or those who simply seek to deepen their faith.

“I just love the Blessed Mother, and I’ll do anything for her. Making the rosaries just gives you such great satisfaction,” Barbara Morris said.

Morris began making rosaries more than thirty years ago at the former Saint Hedwig Church in Edwardsville. She says the rosary-making effort that has now moved to Saint John’s Church is a beautiful and peaceful way to serve others.

“The Blessed Mother needs us to do her work, and we just love doing it,” she added.

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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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Larksville rosary makers bring peace and prayer to those in need

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Maryann Suda still remembers joining the rosary makers group 21 years ago when she was looking for something to do in the evenings.

Suda considers each rosary she makes an offering of prayer, knowing it will find its way into the hands of someone who needs it.

"It just makes you feel good to know that you're able to give (out) these rosaries, or have these rosaries sent to others, so they can also learn of our Blessed Mother and her goodness and the love she has for us," Suda said.

While initially being sent all over the world, many of the rosaries that the group makes now stay in the United States. Rosaries have been donated to schools, pro-life efforts, soup kitchens and many other places, providing a tangible way for people to connect with their faith through prayer.

As the group continues its work over the decades, the commitment of its members remains unwavering. Gathering regularly, many of the volunteers have become friends, sharing a



A volunteer ministry group at Saint John the Baptist Parish in Larksville gathers together twice a month to create rosaries that are distributed all around the world. (Photos/Dan Gallagher)

sense of purpose and connection.

"You feel the love and feel the devotion that everybody has," Jessica Lee said.

"It is not just members of our parish. We have other parishes that come to help us. We all know

each other somehow," Rose Feddock added. "Everybody seems to know everybody."

With each bead strung, and every rosary sent out into the community, those participating in the rosary-making effort know

their work is a reminder that acts of faith, no matter how small they seem, can ripple out into the world in ways that are both profound and far-reaching.

"The rosary is our weapon of peace," Morris said.

Parishes participate in Diocesan Rosary Crusade

TOWANDA - Leading up to this weekend's Diocesan Rosary Rally at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, many parishes, like Saints Peter and Paul Parish in Towanda, participated in a Rosary Crusade, holding special

events to draw attention to the importance of the rosary and honoring Jesus through the intercession of His Blessed Mother.

On Oct. 27, Father Jose Kuriappilly led a procession from the Bradford County church to the grotto near Saint Agnes School to honor our Blessed Mother and pray the rosary.



DUPONT - In the days leading up to a Family Rosary Rally, held on Nov. 5 at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, faith formation students in kindergarten and first grade learned how to pray the rosary and even had the opportunity to make their very own rosaries.

At the Family Rosary Rally, the students, their families, and all parishioners, participated in a Holy Hour sponsored by the Scranton Section of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. Father Michael Wurtz, C.S.C., preached on Father Patrick Peyton and led the rosary.



Rosary Rally to take place Saturday at Cathedral of Saint Peter

SCRANTON - "The family that prays together stays together" has been an international Catholic catchphrase for decades.

It owes its origin to the late Father Patrick Peyton, a priest of the Congregation of Holy Cross, and longtime promoter of the family rosary.

This weekend, the Diocese of Scranton will celebrate Father Peyton's legacy with a large-scale Rosary Rally in downtown Scranton on Saturday, Nov. 16, 2024.

The festivities will be spread throughout the 300- and 400-blocks of Wyoming Avenue beginning at 10:30 a.m.

The highlight of the Nov. 16 Rosary Rally in Scranton will begin at 1:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter. Together, families will recite the rosary, and there will be inspiring talks, music and Eucharistic Adoration.

The reason for this year's celebration is 2024 marks the 75th anniversary of Father Peyton's first Rosary Rally in the United States, which was held in Scranton, and drew an estimated 50,000 people.

A display focusing on that event in 1949 will be set-up in the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Avenue. There will also be screenings of the movie "Pray," which focuses on the story of Patrick Peyton.

Throughout the latter half of the 20th century, Father Peyton was perhaps the best-known "media priest" because he hosted a nationally broadcast radio program for more than 22 years and produced more than 70 films and television programs through his Family Theater Productions, in addition to his numerous rosary rallies conducted around the globe.

At the age of 19, Patrick Peyton and his older brother, Thomas, immigrated to the United States from Ireland, joining their three older sisters who previously had made the move to Scranton.

Patrick Peyton got a job as a sexton (janitor) at the Cathedral of Saint Peter and a little more than a year later, answered the call to the priesthood and entered the seminary of the Congregation of the Holy Cross at Notre Dame, Indiana.

Two years from ordination, Patrick was stricken with tuberculosis and was given little hope for recovery. Inexplicably cured 15 months later, he credited the miracle to the intercession of Mary, to whom he had turned in prayer. By a special indult from the Vatican, Patrick was able to be ordained alongside his brother in 1941, despite the formation time lost because of the illness.

A mere seven months after his ordination, Father Patrick Peyton felt inspired by God to start the Family Rosary Crusade. He was motivated, in part, by his sincere belief that prayer was the answer to the breakdown of the American family, and, in part, by his eagerness to repay Mary for restoring his health.

Father Peyton died June 3, 1992, at the age of 83 and is buried in Easton, Massachusetts. Father Peyton's cause for canonization to sainthood was opened in 2001. Pope Francis declared him venerable in December 2017.

Today, 32 years after his death, Father Peyton's legacy of promoting prayer and the rosary continues through Holy Cross Family Ministries, which offers prayer events, formation ministries and family-focused media.

All individuals and families are invited to come

out on Saturday to learn more about Father Peyton and participate in the events listed below.

For those unable to attend in person, CTV: Catholic Television will broadcast and livestream the 1:30 p.m. event at the Cathedral.

ROSARY RALLY

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

November 16, 2024



Make a day of it! Lots of **FREE** activities to choose from!

FREE parking - all events within walking distance of the Cathedral
Visit ScrantonPrays.com for map and details

 10:30AM - 4:30PM	Fall refreshments ALL DAY <i>Diocesan Pastoral Center</i>
 10:30AM - 4:30PM	Visit the Cathedral Prayer Garden & Fr. Peyton Memorial Statue ALL DAY <i>Cathedral of St. Peter</i>
 10:30AM - 12:30PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation <i>Cathedral of St. Peter</i>
 10:30AM - 1:15PM	1949 Rosary Rally Display <i>Diocesan Pastoral Center</i>
 11:30AM - 12:45PM	Movie screening <i>PRAY: The Story of Patrick Peyton</i> <i>Diocesan Pastoral Center</i>
 11:30AM - 1:30PM	Book signing with Fr. Willy Raymond, CSC <i>The Family that Prays Together Stays Together</i> <i>Heaven & Earth Gift Shop & Cafe</i>
 12:30PM - 1:00PM	Mary Knew No Sin talk with Fr. Tugay <i>The Immaculate Conception & Artwork</i> <i>Cathedral of St. Peter</i>
 1:30PM - 3:30PM	ROSARY RALLY <i>Cathedral of St. Peter</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recitation of the Rosary• Music• Inspiring talks• Adoration







Only love will save humanity, pope says in encyclical on Sacred Heart

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - A world that has become “heartless” and indifferent to greed and war, and a Catholic Church in need of revitalizing its missionary joy need to open themselves up to Christ’s infinite love, Pope Francis wrote.

By contemplating Jesus’ Sacred Heart, the faithful can be filled with the “living water that can heal the hurt we have caused, strengthen our ability to love and serve others, and inspire us to journey together toward a just, solidary and fraternal world,” the pope wrote in his encyclical, “*Dilexit nos*” (‘He loved us’): on the Human and Divine Love of the Heart of Jesus Christ.”

While it is the pope’s fourth encyclical, he wrote that it is meant to be understood in tandem with his previous two encyclicals, “*Laudato Si*,” on Care for Our Common Home” and “*Fratelli Tutti*, on Fraternity and Social Friendship.”

“The present document can help us see that the teaching of the social encyclicals ... is not unrelated to our encounter with the love of Jesus Christ,” he wrote. “For it is by drinking of that same love that we become capable of forging bonds of fraternity, of recognizing the dignity of each human being, and of working together to care for our common home.”

The pope had said in June, the month the church traditionally dedicates to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, that he was going to release a document in the fall on the devotion to “illuminate the path of ecclesial renewal, but also to say something significant to a world that seems to have lost its heart.”

The encyclical includes numerous reflections from the Bible, previous magisterial texts and the writings of saints and his fellow Jesuits, to re-propose to the

whole church the centuries-old devotion. Since 1899, there have been four papal encyclicals and numerous papal texts dedicated to the Sacred Heart - a symbol of Jesus’ infinite love, which moves the faithful to love one another.

“In the deepest fiber of our being, we were made to love and to be loved,” the pope wrote.

However, he wrote, “when we witness the outbreak of new wars, with the complicity, tolerance or indifference of other countries, or petty power struggles over partisan interests, we may be tempted to conclude that our world is losing its heart.”

“It is heartbreaking,” he wrote, to see elderly women, who should be enjoying their golden years, experiencing the anguish, fear and outrage of war. “To see these elderly women weep, and not feel that this is something intolerable, is a sign

of a world that has grown heartless.”

“The most decisive question we can ask is, ‘Do I have a heart?’” the pope wrote.

The human being is more than an instrument, a material body and a carrier of intelligence and reason, the pope wrote.

The human person also embodies spiritual, emotional, creative and affective dimensions that are often undervalued, neglected or squelched in today’s world, he wrote. It is the heart that integrates all these dimensions that are so often fragmented or neglected.

The pope also emphasized how only a deep and abiding love in the Lord can inspire and fuel Catholics to share the Gospel and God’s love with the world.

Mission requires missionaries who are “enthralled by Christ” and are “impatient when time is wasted discussing secondary questions,” he wrote.

Synod process was a ‘call to joy and renewal of the Church’ according to members

Continued from Page 1

In a synodal church, the document said, members have different roles, but they work together for the good of all members and for the mission of the church.

Like the synthesis report from the first assembly of the synod in 2023, the final document did not use the term “LGBTQ” or even “homosexuality” and spoke only briefly about the need to reach out to people who “experience the pain of feeling excluded or judged because of their marital situation, identity or sexuality.”

The document repeatedly referred to the “equal dignity” of men and women by virtue of their baptism and insisted the Catholic Church needed to do more to recognize women’s contributions to the life and mission of the church and their potential to offer more.

“Women continue to encounter obstacles in obtaining a fuller recognition of their charisms, vocation and roles in all the various areas of the Church’s life,” it said. “This is to the detriment of serving the Church’s shared mission.”

Members of the synod called for the “full implementation of all the opportunities already provided for in Canon Law with regard to the role of

women,” and said, “there is no reason or impediment that should prevent women from carrying out leadership roles in the Church. What comes from the Holy Spirit cannot be stopped.”

“Additionally, the question of women’s access to diaconal ministry remains open,” they said. “This discernment needs to continue.”

The question of women deacons was among several questions Pope Francis assigned to study groups last spring. Synod members asked the General Secretariat of the Synod “to continue to watch over the synodal quality of the working method of the study groups,” which are supposed to report to the pope in June.

The synod process, members said, was a “call to joy and renewal of the Church in following the Lord, in committing to service of His mission and in searching for ways to be faithful.”

But the document repeatedly acknowledged the crime and sin of clerical sexual abuse and abuse of power, and insisted that a commitment to synodality, particularly to learning to listen and to necessary forms of transparency and accountability, were essential to preventing abuse.

Synodality, members said, “will also help to overcome clericalism, understood as use of power to one’s own advantage



Pope Francis speaks to members of the Synod of Bishops on synodality after they approved their final document Oct. 26, 2024, in the Paul VI Audience Hall at the Vatican. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)

and the distortion of the authority of the Church which is at the service of the People of God. This expresses itself above all in forms of abuse, be they sexual or economic, the abuse of conscience and of power, by ministers of the Church.”

Lay men and women have many talents that can and should assist bishops and parish priests in the smooth functioning of their dioceses or parishes, synod members said. Tapping into those talents can help bishops and priests, who often feel overworked.

Where church law requires the bishops to consult their priests’ or pastoral council

or pastors to consult the parish council, the document said, they “may not act as if the consultation had not taken place.”

“As in any community that lives according to justice,” it said, “the exercise of authority does not consist in an arbitrary imposition of will.”

Synod members also said listening, consulting, praying and discerning before making a decision is not the end of the process. “It must be accompanied and followed by practices of accountability and evaluation in a spirit of transparency inspired by evangelical criteria.”

Ensuring accountability and regularly evaluating all those who minister in the church’s name “is not a bureaucratic task for its own sake. It is rather a communication effort that proves to be a powerful educational tool for bringing about a change in culture,” synod members said.

One issue that prompted debate during the synod involved the authority of national bishops’ conference, particularly when it came to doctrinal matters.

The synod members, in the final document, called for a study of the theological and juridical status of bishops’ conferences and for a clear definition of “precisely the domain of the doctrinal and disciplinary competence” of the conferences.

Preparing your heart and home for Advent

(OSV News) - "When we let the world know that there is more to the holiday than presents and decorations, we fulfill our mission as Christians to evangelize the world."

Imagine expecting a new baby. For months, you prepare to welcome this addition, but in the last month, the preparations really step up. You make sure that the crib is clean, the diapers are in place, the car seat is installed, and family and friends are ready to meet the new baby.

That sense of joyful preparation combined with anticipation is the attitude we bring to Advent as we await the arrival of Christ the Lord. Christmas is the high point, but using the days leading up to Dec. 25 to prepare both spiritually and materially is what Advent is all about!

What sets Advent apart from the usual secular preparations for Christmas is the spiritual dimension: Advent is a time of both prayer and penance. As Catholics, we are called to exercise a more disciplined approach to our spiritual lives during the four weeks of Advent and to pay special attention to our words and deeds as we wait patiently for the coming of Christ.

Waiting is a challenge, but instead of just counting down the days, we are called to use Advent as a time to deepen our relationship with God. Keep things simple:

Read a Psalm as a bedtime prayer, go to confession, pray the rosary (especially on the special Marian feasts of the Immaculate

Conception (Dec. 8) and Our Lady of Guadalupe (Dec. 12)), spend some time in Eucharistic adoration, or go to daily Mass.

You could also say the traditional St. Andrews novena - 25 days of prayer for a holy Christmas, beginning on the feast of St. Andrew, Nov. 30. If you have children, make a "good deed" crèche: Put a slip of paper, acting as a piece of straw, in the manger each time you do a good deed so that the bed will be filled with "holy softness" for the Christ Child.

Some of the major signs of the season are decorations and lights, especially those on the outside of the house. As you decorate your house, think about how lights are more than just pretty objects. Lights, especially candles, have been used



A family lights an Advent wreath at their Maryland home. (OSV News photo/Tom McCarthy Jr., Catholic Review)

for centuries at Christmas time as a symbol of the star that showed the shepherds and wise men where to find the Christ Child. Your lights can serve as a witness to the "light of the world" that is both coming and arrived.

Each household develops their own traditions about when to put up a tree, stockings and other decorations. Some people like to do a little bit over the weeks; others prefer to make decorating a major part of Christmas Eve. (And in case you feel as if putting up decorations early is somehow improper, the Vatican puts up its Christmas scene, consisting of trees and a crèche, in very early December!)

St. Francis of Assisi is credited with creating the first nativity scene. Invest in having a crèche of your own. Some people put theirs under the tree, others make a special scene on a table. Some families

make the crèche into an ongoing tradition by adding a new figure each year.

Many families have special foods that they serve only at Christmas. As you prepare these treats, use the time to recall - and pray for - all those family members who have gone before us in death.

You might want to begin building some new and flavorful traditions. One idea from the Anglican tradition is to begin your holiday baking on the last Sunday before Advent. This Sunday is called "Stir-up Sunday" because traditional fruit cakes were mixed on this day and left to "mellow" until Christmas. The name comes from the collect prayer from the day's liturgy: "Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people." Put a new twist on the tradition by making and freezing batches of cookie dough to be baked later in the month.

Advent is a time of hope and light. It is a time when we reaffirm that "nothing is impossible with God," not even a virgin bringing forth a child. This Advent, find hope as you recommit yourself to spiritual renewal. This Advent, look for the Light in everything you do, from shopping for presents, to mailing cards, to making special food, to decorating the house.

This Advent, prepare your home and your heart for the coming of Emmanuel, God-with-Us, Jesus Christ.

Advent Penance Services Scheduled Around the Diocese

Thursday, Dec. 12
1:00 p.m.

Saint Boniface Church
326 Washington Boulevard
Williamsport, PA

Monday, Dec. 16
5:00 p.m.

Saint Nicholas-Saint Mary Parish
226 South Washington Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA

Tuesday, Dec. 17
6:30 p.m.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church
1101 Willow Street
Peckville, PA

Sunday, Dec. 15
2:00 p.m.

Church of the Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary
5973 Jacks Hollow Road
Williamsport, PA (Bastress)

Monday, Dec. 16
6:30 p.m.

Saint John the Evangelist Parish
35 William Street
Pittston, PA

Wednesday, Dec. 18
6:30 p.m.

Saint Joseph the Worker Parish
702 West Fourth Street
Williamsport, PA

Sunday, Dec. 22
4:00 p.m.

Holy Child Parish
240 South Main Street
Mansfield, PA

As of press time, some deaneries were still in the process of scheduling and publicizing their regional Advent Penance Services. Please visit the Diocese of Scranton website for the full listing when those are complete.

"Advent is a time of hope: the Lord is coming. Advent invites us to walk with Him, to listen to Him, to allow Him to transform our hearts and our lives."

Pope Francis
Homily, Nov. 28, 2021



Jubilee Mass for Religious recognizes 1,390 years of service

SCRANTON – In a gathering filled with gratitude, more than 20 religious sisters were recognized earlier this month for their remarkable milestones in consecrated life, marking anniversaries of 50, 60, 70, 75, and even 80 years of faithful service to the Church.

The Diocese of Scranton held its annual Jubilee Mass for Women & Men Religious on Nov. 3 at the Cathedral of Saint Peter. The celebration was a deeply moving tribute to those religious whose lives have been defined by their love of Christ, dedication to the community, and tireless commitment to education and service.

The Sisters, who this year collectively represent an astounding 1,390 years of service, were celebrated for their unwavering devotion to the Catholic faith and their openness to listening to the needs of God's people.

"Quite honestly, as I look at all of you who gather today in our Cathedral, you are amazing! You are living testimony of the power of faith and its ability to carry us through life with peace at our center, despite the ups and downs that we all endure," the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, said during his homily. "Thank you for reminding us of the treasure that is ours when we live not so much for ourselves, but for Christ, in service of our sisters and brothers."

Many of the jubilarians have spent decades teaching in schools, from elementary classrooms to universities, imparting not just academic knowledge, but the values of compassion and kindness.



Religious Sisters celebrating jubilee anniversaries in 2024 filled the front pew of the Cathedral of Saint Peter Nov. 3, 2024, as the Diocese of Scranton celebrated its annual Jubilee Mass for Women and Men Religious. (Photos/Mike Melisky)

"It was wonderful, wonderful work," Sister M. Alphonsa Concilio, I.H.M., explained.

Sister Alphonsa, who is now in her nineties, is celebrating 70 years of service this year.

"For the first half of my life, I was a piano teacher. Later in life, the community asked me to go to Marywood to teach voice. I never slowed down," she said with a smile.

Sister Richard Mary Peters, I.H.M., who professed her vows 60 years ago, decided to become a religious sister after seeing how joyful her formators were at a Catholic school in New York.

"For most of my teaching years, which would amount to about 28 years, I

taught second grade, and I had the joy of preparing the children for First Penance and First Eucharist, and I really did like that," she said.

In addition to their work as educators, the sisters have served in countless other ministries – including caring for the sick, visiting the elderly, leading retreats, and providing spiritual direction.

Sister Miriam Francis Stadulis, R.S.M., who is celebrating 70 years in religious life, joked that she entered religious life because she "couldn't get away from it."

"When I tried not to become a Sister, the Lord was speaking to me, and I felt I have a call and I need to answer that call," Sister explained. "I did, and here I am, 70 years later, I've answered the call!"

Following the Jubilee Mass, the Sisters enjoyed



Religious Sisters sing the entrance hymn, "For All the Saints," during the Jubilee Mass for Women and Men Religious on Nov. 3, 2024.



Left: Sister Miriam Stadulis, R.S.M., participates in the Mass. Right: Sister Marylin Grosselfinger, I.H.M., serves as lector.



2024 JUBILARIANS

SISTERS, SERVANTS OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY (I.H.M.)

80 Years

Sister M. Melissa Hester, I.H.M.

75 Years

Sister Catherine Anne Mullaly, I.H.M.

70 Years

Sister Joan M. Bastress, I.H.M.

Sister M. de Montfort Babb, I.H.M.

Sister M. Alphonsa Concilio, I.H.M.

Sister M. Annellen Kelly, I.H.M.

60 Years

Sister Beatrice Caulson, I.H.M.

Sister Marylin Grosselfinger, I.H.M.

Sister Agnes Panik, I.H.M.

Sister Richard Mary Peters, I.H.M.

Sister Mary Reap, I.H.M.

50 Years

Sister Kathleen Mary Burns, I.H.M.

Sister Sandra Grieco, I.H.M.

SISTERS OF MERCY OF THE AMERICAS (R.S.M.)

80 Years

Sister Timothy Galbraith, R.S.M.

75 Years

Sister Marise Fabie, R.S.M.

Sister Aileen Purvey, R.S.M.

Sister Ellen Kelly, R.S.M.

70 Years

Sister Elizabeth Gaynor, R.S.M.

Sister Miriam Francis Stadulis, R.S.M.

60 Years

Sister Mary Ann Dillon, R.S.M.

50 Years

Sister Mayon Sylvain, R.S.M.

a meal together at the Diocesan Pastoral Center which was filled with many memories.

For many, the day was not just a celebration of years passed, but a reaffirmation of their ongoing commitment to the Lord's work. While most of the jubilarians are now retired, they admit there is no retirement in religious life – they are always called to serve, and always called to love.

"I have met so many people and I hope I have affected them for the good," Sister Marylin Grosselfinger, I.H.M., said.

A Century of Compassion

Saint Mary's Villa celebrates 100 years of care inspired by faith

ELMHURST TOWNSHIP – Residents, staff, and administrators of Saint Mary's Villa gathered Oct. 23, 2024, to celebrate a significant milestone – one hundred years of compassionate care and service to the community.

The Founder's Day celebration began with a special Mass celebrated by Monsignor William J. Feldcamp, followed by a luncheon and mission ceremony for staff.

"It is an unbelievable time. It's a time to be invigorated with our mission and our ministry but also to be reminded of the beautiful love that we share here at the Villa," Adeline Rocco, Director of Mission and Spiritual Care for Saint Mary's Villa, said.

Saint Mary's Villa was founded in 1924 by a Passionist priest, Rev. Alphonsus



A statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary sits outside the entrance of Saint Mary's Villa in Elmhurst Township. (Photos/Eric Deabill)



Msgr. William Feldcamp celebrates Mass on Oct. 23, 2024, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Saint Mary's Villa.

Maria, who came to the United States from Lithuania. Father Alphonsus and the religious order he founded, the Poor Sisters

of Jesus Crucified and the Sorrowful Mother, established an orphanage and a home for the elderly, in what is now considered Lackawanna County's North Pocono region.

"At that time there was no Medicare, there was no health insurance," Rocco added. "Father Alphonsus saw men dying in the mines and their wives, the widowers, had no place to go. Their homes were owned by the coal company. They had no revenue, and they were given 24 hours to bury their husband and get out if they died ... so we took in their children and the motherhouse was on the hill right above the personal care home."

Saint Mary's Villa now consists of a skilling nursing and rehabilitation center and personal care home. Currently a member of Covenant Health, its mission statement still refers to continuing "the healing ministry of Christ" in the tradition of its founders.

In an ever-changing healthcare landscape of mandates and regulations, Saint Mary's Villa President, Nancy Newcomb, says the inspiration of the facility's first Sisters continues.

"It's in every room. It's in every hallway. Everywhere we can hang something to remind us of why we're here, we do that. It is throughout the building all the time. That is what makes us different, I think, than a lot of other facilities in the area, our mission," Newcomb said.

During his homily at Mass, Monsignor

Feldcamp, who serves as chaplain for Saint Mary's Villa, echoed those sentiments. As he reflected on the last century and looked ahead to the future, he focused on the key word of "accompaniment."

"Sometimes we forget about the goodness that happens here," Monsignor Feldcamp said. "The mission that the Sisters had in the past is still being carried on to this day and for that we are thankful, and we bless the Lord."

While the Poor Sisters of Jesus Crucified and the Sorrowful Mother no longer have a daily presence at the facility, Sister Mary Valliere, CJC, Superior General, traveled from their convent in Brockton, Mass., to attend the Founder's Day activities.

"This is where our whole foundation began. It's just unbelievable that it has been one hundred years," she said. "The staff has carried our mission all the way though ... You can't deny it. It's here as soon as you walk through the building."

Over the last century, thousands of people have passed through the doors of Saint Mary's Villa receiving dedicated care. For those currently there, they are thankful for the staff who still serve as witnesses to what Jesus taught in the Gospels.

"The aides are wonderful to the patients," resident Helen Siconolfi, who has been at the facility for 20 months, said. "We have Mass twice a week and the chapel is filled with people. It's really wonderful."

Religious Retirement Fund collection slated for Dec. 7-8

SCRANTON - The Diocese of Scranton will hold the Retirement Fund for Religious collection Dec. 7-8.

The parish-based appeal is coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) in Washington, D.C. Proceeds help religious communities across the country to care for aging members.

Last year, the Diocese of Scranton donated nearly \$80,000 to the collection.

Expressing gratitude for the "profound generosity" of U.S. Catholics, NRRO Executive Director John Knutsen emphasized the importance of ensuring the "comfort and dignity" of those who have served tirelessly.

"As we prepare for this year's collection, we invite Catholics to join us in honoring the legacy of these dedicated women and men by contributing to their well-deserved care," Knutsen said.

Hundreds of U.S. religious communities face a large gap between the needs of their older members and the funds available to support them.

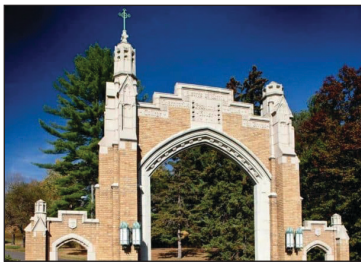
Escalating healthcare costs and a lack of traditional retirement plans have created financial challenges for many religious communities. The Retirement Fund for



Religious addresses this need, supporting more than 20,000 religious over the age of 70. In 2023, the average annual cost for their care was roughly \$59,700 per person. With skilled nursing care, the average cost was \$90,700.

Distributions are sent to each eligible order's central house and provide supplemental funding for necessities, such as medications and nursing care. Donations also help religious communities improve eldercare and plan for long-term retirement needs.

The 2023 appeal raised \$29.3 million, with funding distributed to 286 U.S. religious communities.



DALLAS — President Emeritus Michael MacDowell, whose 15-year tenure as Misericordia president currently stands as the longest in the institution's history, and the Religious Sisters of Mercy were among the special honorees as Misericordia University celebrated its 100th anniversary at the Centennial Trustee Associates Gala in October in downtown Wilkes-Barre.

Honoring those who have made the greatest impact in its first centenary, Misericordia University also presented the Mercy Mission Medal to Trustee Emeritus Sandy Insalaco Sr., during the recent testimonial tribute.

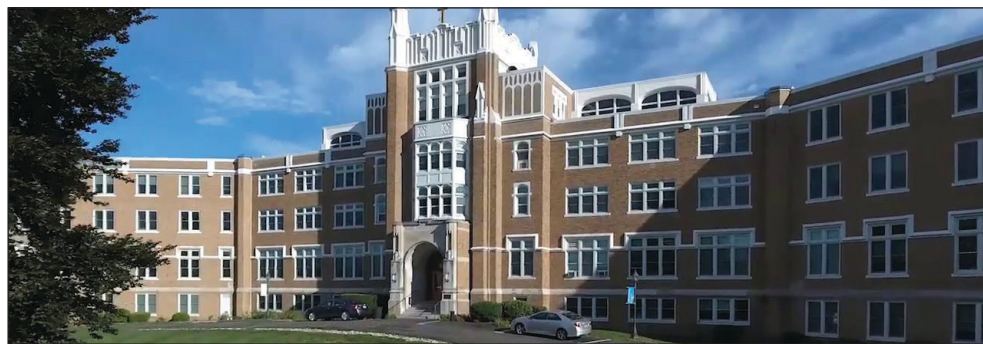
The program included a special commemoration of Misericordia's founders, the Sisters of Mercy, and those who carry on their 100-year-old mission.

"One hundred years of Misericordia University is truly an honor and a testament to the vision of the Sisters of Mercy, who believed in the power of accessible higher education to transform lives," Misericordia President Daniel J. Myers said.



Most Rev. Michael J. Hoban, second Bishop of Scranton, is pictured (foreground left) during the groundbreaking for College Misericordia in 1922.

'Mercy' at the Heart of Misericordia University's centennial celebration



"Our university has always been more than a place of learning — it's a close-knit, caring community where each student is known, supported, and challenged to excel not only in their profession but also in their character and compassion."

"As we honor our past, we are inspired to continue this mission with renewed dedication, helping every student to reach their fullest potential," he added.

Founded by the Sisters of Mercy on Sept. 15, 1924, the university has stood the test of time, first bearing the name of College Misericordia ("Heart of Mercy," in Latin).

Established to educate the women of the region, the university began its journey as Luzerne County's first four-year institution of higher learning in September of that year. The foundational moment was marked

Centennial Mass Dec. 15

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will celebrate a 100th Anniversary Mass for Misericordia University on Sunday, Dec. 15, at 10:30 a.m. in the Mercy Chapel on the university campus.

by the gathering of more than 2,500 individuals and the college's initial 37 students.

Ten years prior, in 1914, the Misericordia founders procured the original 100 acres of land in Dallas, where the university now proudly adorns 250 acres of the Back Mountain landscape.

Since the Mercy Sisters opened the doors to Misericordia, more than 24,000 alumni have passed through Misericordia's iconic arch on its rustic campus that currently serves nearly 2,250 students.

Starting with what is known today as Mercy Hall, the building included a chapel, a dining hall, dorms and classrooms, and a small art studio

Through trying times, Misericordia's resilience was tested during the economic throes of the Great Depression and lacking workforce outside of the war industry during World War II. Walsh Hall was built in expansion of McAuley Hall, the first separate dorm building. In the wake of the post-war boom, Misericordia's resilience paid off and the university expanded.

In the 1970s, the school became co-ed and, in 2007, College Misericordia acquired university status to become Misericordia University. The university's core values of Mercy, Service, Justice, and Hospitality underpin its more than 50 academic programs.

Misericordia's history of athletics stretches back to 1932, when the school introduced intramurals. Today, the university offers 31 Division III NCAA intercollegiate athletic programs.

Famous alumni include Michael Dunleavy, a Scranton native and the 12th governor of Alaska; David Kern, a Misericordia Hall of Famer and leader in wins and saves as a soccer goalie and a member of the Real Maryland Monarchs and the Baltimore Blast of the Major Indoor Soccer League; and Mary Joan Nielobuwicz, the only woman in the Navy Nurse Corps to earn the rank of Commodore, superior to Navy captain.

The Religious Sisters of Mercy, who founded the institution



Blessed Mother Grotto on the Misericordia campus.



following their mission to serve the ill and less fortunate since their establishment by Mother Catherine McAuley in Dublin, Ireland, in 1831, laid a strong foundation for Misericordia's ethos. Their arrival in the Wyoming Valley area of Pennsylvania in 1875 and subsequent efforts in education and healthcare paved the way for the university's creation.

"Our recent success in welcoming the second largest class in our history reminds us of the enduring value of what we offer: a place where students are guided, challenged, and empowered to achieve their dreams," Dr. Myers offered. "Here's to the next 100 years of growth and impact!"



Carol Smith Jobe, Ed.D., gives her inaugural address as Misericordia's tenth, and first lay president, in 1993.

Bishop's letter regarding dispensation for Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Every December 8, Catholics joyfully celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Patroness of the United States.

This year, December 8 will fall on a Sunday – specifically the Second Sunday of Advent.

As a result, the celebration of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is transferred to Monday, December 9th.

In the past, it was understood that when this situation occurred, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception did not maintain the obligation to attend Mass due to its proximity to the Sunday Mass obligation. However, the Holy See just recently clarified that the obligation must remain.

As we quickly approach the end of the liturgical year, I am keenly aware that many parishes have already finalized their schedules for December and many deaneries are planning communal penance services around that time. Furthermore, the short notice of this change might cause confusion.

Therefore, in accord with canon 87, §1, I am hereby granting a dispensation to the Catholic faithful from the obligation to attend Mass on Monday, December 9, 2024, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception throughout the territory of the Diocese of Scranton.

In granting this dispensation, I want to emphasize two things.

First, while the obligation will not be in effect this year, I strongly encourage all faithful who are able to make a special effort to attend Mass on December 9, or do some form of extra prayer, like praying the Rosary.

Second, this dispensation is for this year (2024) only. Next year, in 2025, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception will fall on a Monday and there will be NO dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on that day.

Please be assured of my prayers for you and your family as the sacred season of Advent approaches.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

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



APPOINTMENTS

His Excellency, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, announces the following appointments, effective August 8, 2024:

Reverend Christopher Mahowald, FSSP, from Pastor, Saint Michael the Archangel Church, Scranton to ministry with the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter North American Province.

Reverend Anthony Dorsa, FSSP, from Parochial Vicar, Saint Michael the Archangel Church, Scranton, to Pastor, Saint Michael the Archangel Church, Scranton.

Reverend Matthew Kane, FSSP, from ministry with the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter North American Province, to, Parochial Vicar, Saint Michael the Archangel Church, Scranton.



BISHOP BAMBERA'S SCHEDULE

November 9-14 - United States Conference of Catholic Bishops General Assembly
Baltimore, MD

November 16 - Rosary Rally
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 1:30 p.m.

November 23 - Diocesan Youth Rally Mass
Holy Redeemer High School, Wilkes-Barre, 6:00 p.m.

November 24 - Mass for the Solemnity of Christ the King
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.

November 25 - School Mass for All Saints Academy
Saint Patrick Church, Scranton, 9:00 a.m.

November 26 - School Mass for St. John Neumann Elementary & High School
Saint Boniface Church, Williamsport, 10:00 a.m.

November 27 - Family to Family Food Basket Blessing
Scranton Cultural Center, Scranton, 8:15 a.m.

December 2 - Advent Day of Reflection for Priests
Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton, Noon

December 4 - School Mass for Marian Catholic High School
Tamaqua, 10:00 a.m.

December 5 - School Mass for Saint Clare/Saint Paul School
Saint Paul Church, Scranton, 9:00 a.m.

December 7 - Mass at SCI Waymart
Waymart, 9:00 a.m.

December 8 - Mass to Celebrate Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:15 p.m.

December 12 - Mass to Celebrate Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Saint Nicholas Church, Wilkes-Barre, 6:00 p.m.

December 15 - 'Gifts for Kids' Christmas Toy Giveaway
Byron Center, University of Scranton, 9:00 a.m.

December 15 - Centennial Mass for Misericordia University
Mercy Center Chapel, Dallas, 10:30 a.m.

December 18 - School Mass for Holy Redeemer High School
Wilkes-Barre, 9:00 a.m.



*Creating Parish Communities
Rooted in the Life of Jesus Christ*

Saint Boniface Parish, Williamsport, and Saint Lawrence Parish, South Williamsport, consolidated effective **November 3, 2024**. The new name of the consolidated parish is: **Saint Boniface Parish**.

The primary worship site of the newly consolidated parish is Saint Boniface Church, 326 Washington Boulevard, Williamsport. Saint Lawrence Church, 800 West Central Avenue, South Williamsport, is now a secondary worship site of the new parish.

Mass schedules will remain the same at both churches.

Meshoppen church celebrates 150th Anniversary Mass



A Mass of Thanksgiving to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Saint Joachim Church in Meshoppen was held on Oct. 13, 2024. Serving as celebrants for the liturgy were, from left: Msgr. Robert Wargo; Rev. Patrick L. Albert, Pastor, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish; Deacon Ray Pieretti; and Rev. Edward Michelini. (Photo/Frances Stretch)

MESHOPPEN – Parishioners of Saint Joachim Church gathered on Oct. 13, 2024, to celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving to mark the 150th anniversary of their house of worship.

Father Patrick L. Albert, Pastor, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Tunkhannock, served as principal celebrant of the anniversary Mass. Saint Joachim Church is currently a worship site of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish.

Saint Joachim Church is comprised of parishioners who live in southwestern Susquehanna County, northeastern Wyoming County and southeastern Bradford County, an area that is rich in the early history of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Scranton.

“The celebration of the 150th year mark for Saint Joachim Church in Meshoppen is really an affirmation of the Catholic faith from its earliest beginnings in northeastern Pennsylvania,” parishioner Fran Storey Stretch wrote, as she compiled an extensive history of the church for the anniversary celebration.

Using historical records and newspaper articles, Stretch documented the missionary work of Rev. Jeremiah Francis O’Flynn, the first Catholic missionary priest who came to the territory of northeastern Pennsylvania, long before the Diocese of Scranton itself was established in 1868.

Many of the early settlers in the area were immigrants who left Ireland during the potato famine. They settled on a narrow strip north from the Susquehanna River at Meshoppen, through the eastern section of Auburn Township and west into Braintrim Township. They worked on the construction of the North Branch Canal along the Susquehanna River.

A few descendants of these early settlers and the welcome influx of Polish, Lithuanian and Slavic families in the 1900s made Saint Joachim Church a truly cosmopolitan community.

Saint Joachim’s survived three major floods and several major fires that have hit Meshoppen over its long history. The closest fire was the four mill fires across the street from the church. The heat from the 1923 fire threatened the church and the last fire in 1930 was so intense that it scorched the building. A 1943 fire in the center of Meshoppen took out 14 businesses, but the church remained safe and sound.

Over the last decade, Saint Joachim Church has welcomed many new members of the Hispanic community.

“Their devout faith and presence are great blessings,” Stretch noted in her history. Spanish Masses are said in the church on the first and third Sundays of each month.

To read the full history of Saint Joachim Church, visit the Diocese of Scranton website.

During Rite of Acolyte, eight men move closer to diaconate



Eight men were instituted in the Ministry of Acolyte during a Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on Oct. 19, 2024. Pictured after the Mass, front row, from left: Rev. Mark J. DeCelles, Diocesan Director of Permanent Diaconate Formation; Joel Marte; Michaelangelo Colaneri; Frank Fanelli; Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton; Jorge Roca; Christian Saunders; and Rev. John V. Polednak, V.E., Episcopal Vicar for Clergy. Second row, from left: Fernando Alves; Rafael Sánchez Velásquez; and Francisco Castelan. (Photo/Mike Melisky)

SCRANTON – Eight men in formation to become permanent deacons of the Diocese of Scranton were instituted in the Ministry of Acolyte during a special Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Oct. 19, 2024.

The Ministry of Acolyte includes assisting the priest and deacon at the altar during Mass. Acolytes serve during liturgies, help distribute Holy Communion and purify sacred vessels. Installation to this ministry marks the final step before ordination to the permanent diaconate, which will take place for this class Nov. 29, 2025.

“With each year, it gets more and more serious,” Fernando Alves of Saint Luke Parish in Stroudsburg, said. “We feel blessed to be here. It is a great responsibility to be able to serve the Church and our community.”

In addition to Alves, the seven others instituted as acolytes included: Francisco Castelan of Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish, Scranton; Michaelangelo Colaneri of the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton; Frank Fanelli of Saint Ann Parish, Shohola; Joel Marte, Jorge Roca and Rafael Sánchez Velásquez, all of Saint Matthew Parish, East Stroudsburg;

and Christian Saunders of Saint Paul Parish, Scranton.

“It’s a real honor to be able to walk in this path,” Saunders stated. “I’ve found it really fulfilling and I’m really excited about serving.”

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, who served as principal celebrant and homilist at the Rite of Acolyte Mass, discussed the importance of walking with Jesus as they continue their final preparation in the Permanent Diaconate Formation Program.

“Walk with Jesus through these challenging and polarizing days in which we find ourselves and know that you do not journey alone,” Bishop Bambera said. “Share the gift of Jesus in the Eucharist generously and so become Christ for one another in the sharing.”

After retiring as a detective in the New York City Police Department, Fanelli found himself called to serve the Church in a greater way after settling in the Pocono Mountains. He has been humbled to be able to help the three parishes in his community serve hundreds of free meals each month.

Continued on Page 18



THE EUCHARIST - A REFLECTION

- *A Priesthood Perspective by Father Bert Kozen, V.F. -*
Pastor, Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Williamsport &
Saint Luke Parish, Jersey Shore



These past years of Eucharistic Revival have given the Church an opportunity to not only become more aware of the importance of the Eucharist in our daily lives as Catholic Christians, but also to deepen our sense of reverence and hopefully develop a much deeper appreciation for this wonderful gift that God has given to us.

The ability to be nourished with the Body and Blood of Jesus truly sets us apart from other faith communities and should never be taken for granted.

I have been a priest for more than 40 years and have had the opportunity and privilege to celebrate the Eucharist in many different situations and environments: From the Holy Sepulcher and Calvary in Jerusalem to the Tomb of Saint Peter in Rome; from the War Room at the Pentagon to the desert of Iraq, these experiences have given me a unique perspective that I try to share with the people in my parishes.

The perspective is this - no matter where the Eucharist is celebrated and no



matter by whom - it is the same Eucharist. This means that every time we enter into the Mass, we enter into that sacred time that makes us one with the Paschal Mystery - not a reminder, not a symbol, but truly and mysteriously one with Jesus. Receiving the Eucharist further deepens that reality as we are given the opportunity to become what we have received, namely the Body of Christ.

The Eucharistic Revival has also given the Church an opportunity to enrich parishes with some additional opportunities for an increase in Eucharistic devotion.

In the parishes of the Immaculate Conception and Saint Luke, we have added additional hours of Eucharistic Adoration, coupled with the praying of the Liturgy of the Hours and Benediction.

Within our Williamsport Deanery, we celebrated a combined 40 Hours Eucharistic Celebration. During the season of Lent we resurrected (pardon the pun) the Road to Resurrection in the Deanery, consisting of Eucharistic Adoration, Evening Prayer and Benediction.

All of these events and celebrations have been well attended and I believe shows that the people are taking seriously the Eucharistic Revival.

We hear from the media how belief in the Real Presence and attendance at Mass is down. I personally take those surveys with more than a grain of salt. Who are they asking, and what is their agenda, are questions I ask of them.

My experience is that the belief in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and the desire of God's people - the Church - to be nourished with that Eucharist is alive and well. The Eucharistic Revival has certainly assisted us in that belief and desire.

Amid fall beauty, Stroudsburg deanery parishes unite for 'Living Water Trail'

GOULDSBORO – With the leaves in the Poconos a mixture of reds, oranges, and golds, the faithful were recently invited to not only enjoy the vibrant colors, but immerse themselves in a weekend of faith, fellowship, and spiritual renewal.

On the weekend of Oct. 19-20, 2024, the eight parishes of the Stroudsburg deanery joined together to host the second annual 'Living Water Trail.' On both days, each parish opened its doors to parishioners and visitors by hosting special events and activities.

"It is nice to have people travel around to see the different churches that are near them that they never get to," Amanda Proch, business manager of Saint Rita Parish in Gouldsboro, said. "This way, we get to meet people from all the churches around us."

Saint Rita Church hosted several events during the 'Living Water Trail' weekend. Throughout the weekend, parishioners recited the rosary together, hosted tours of the church and its 104-year-old stained glass windows and showcased its traveling statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

"We're such a small little parish and we're on the outside of the deanery so we don't get a lot of traffic," parishioner Diane Negri said. "Being Catholic is about sharing your faith with the community and what better way to get to meet other people from other churches."

As the weekend unfolded, each parish contributed unique elements to the trail, allowing for a variety of experiences.

From presentations on church

architecture and the Eucharist by clergy, to prayer rock painting, sing-a-longs, campfires, Visio Divina (Praying through art), Lectio Divina (Praying through Scripture), there were plenty to participate in throughout the weekend.

One of the favorites of young people quickly became a faith-based soccer clinic hosted by Father Paschal Mbagwu at Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Pocono Pines.

"Our eight parishes always have something great going on," Desiree Schulz, who helped to develop the idea and organize the 'Living Water Trail,' explained.

Schulz believes getting parishes familiar with one another only strengthens our faith collectively and allows for greater collaboration.



Saint Rita Parish in Gouldsboro hosted several events, including rosaries and informative talks on Oct. 20 as part of the 'Living Water Trail' weekend.

"To have us work together as one deanery family, instead of eight separate parishes, is a comfort," she added.

Lackawanna County parish launches new clothing closet to support community

Christ the King Parish aided in serving those in need by Appeal Social Justice Grant

ARCHBALD – When Amy Hassaj recently welcomed a man to Christ the King’s new clothing closet, she expected he might be looking for some new pants or a winter coat.

Instead, his request was much simpler.

“He looked through everything and said, ‘I just need two bars of soap,’” Hassaj recalled.

Touched by how deep his need was, and how something so simple can be a luxury for someone, Hassaj volunteers her time twice a month to be a part of her parish’s newest social justice outreach program.

“It is nice to be able to help out and give back to the community that I grew up in and was always so good to me,” she said. “I was baptized here and had all my sacraments here, so it just always has been a very special place and as an adult it’s nice to give back.”

Earlier this year, Christ the King Parish opened its new “Community Closet” to share new and gently used clothing items, toiletries, and household items with neighbors in need. The items have all been purchased or donated by parishioners and local community members.



Judy Rudalavage, front, and Amy Hassaj, sort clothing inside the new “Community Closet” at Christ the King Parish in Archbald. The clothing closet, which is open on Tuesday and Thursday, received a Social Justice Grant from the 2024 Catholic Ministries Appeal this fall. (Photos/Eric Deabill)

“Most people don’t think there are needy people in this community, but when you work this, you can see it,” volunteer Judy Rudalavage explained. “We are open to anyone.”

Rudalavage was touched by a different story.

Her friend, Bunny Chorba, recently encountered a man who just got out of prison, secured a full-time job, but only had two sweat suits to wear. The man does not have a washer or dryer available to him.

“He was washing his outfits

in his tub and rinsing them,” Rudalavage explained.

Just a few days before Halloween, Chorba visited the clothing closet to help the recently released inmate get back on his feet by providing him with some extra attire.

“He only wants a second chance,” Chorba said. “And we’re in a ministry here.”

The new “Community Closet” has two designated rooms on the second floor of the Christ the King Parish Center. The rooms are fully stocked with



Toiletry items are also available at the new clothing closet.

clothing of all sizes for women, men, and children. In addition, there are shoes, accessories, purses, toiletries, and other items.

“It is a great outreach program,” Rudalavage said.

Before opening its “Community Closet,” Christ the King Parish already has been feeding the hungry through its food pantry in collaboration with Bread Basket of NEPA and hosting a weekly community meal in conjunction with Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen.

At times, the food pantry serves up to 70 individuals and the community provides food for 40 people, both in person and the homebound, so providing clothing and hygiene projects was an extension of those efforts.

“When our parish formally inaugurated the Community Closet, I read the words of Jesus from Matthew 25, in which the Lord

identifies himself with the poor, the hungry, and the naked,” Father Ryan Glenn, pastor, Christ the King Parish, said. “The Community Closet gives our faith community another opportunity to respond to the call to serve Christ present in our brothers and sisters.”

Christ the King Parish was aided in its efforts to get the new “Community Closet” established with the help of a Social Justice Grant from the 2024 Catholic Ministries Appeal. The grant helped fund new signage so that people can be directed to the services available and publicize all the parish’s ministries.

“Thanks in part to the support of the Catholic Ministries Appeal, our parish is living out the gospel through acts of charity and service,” Father Ryan added. “This grant helps us make an impact for good in the lives of our neighbors.”

Christ the King Parish has also invited parishioners and residents to support the ministry by donating new or gently used clothing, toiletries or other items that can be given out to the community.

The new “Community Closet” is open on Tuesday from 10 a.m. until noon and Thursday evening from 6:00–8:00 p.m. Appointments can also be made by calling the parish at (570) 876-1701.

Parishes Receiving a Social Justice Grant for the 2024-2025 Cycle

A total of \$93,038.14 was distributed to 29 parishes in 2024-2025 Parish Faith Formation Grant Cycle. This funding directly assists with projects including: Parish Food Pantries, Hispanic Ministry, Homelessness, Care of the Earth, Care of the Elderly, Migrant/Refugee Outreach, Family Outreach, Legislative Outreach, Parish Nursing Ministry, Social Justice Education, Prison Ministry and/or Disability Ministry. Parishes receiving Social Justice Grant Funding in the 2024-2025 Cycle include:

All Saints Parish, Plymouth
Annunciation Parish, Hazleton
Christ the King Parish, Archbald
Corpus Christi Parish, West Pittston
Epiphany Parish, Sayre
Holy Child Parish, Mansfield
Most Holy Trinity Parish, Susquehanna
Our Lady of Hope Parish, Wilkes-Barre
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Wyalusing
Our Lady of the Snows Parish, Clarks Summit

Resurrection Parish, Muncy
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Peckville
Saints Peter and Paul Parish, Plains
Saint Ann Basilica Parish, Scranton
Saint Ann Parish, Williamsport
Saint Gregory Parish, Clarks Green
Saint John Neumann Parish, Lords Valley
Saint John the Apostle Parish, East Stroudsburg
Saint John the Baptist Parish, Larksville
Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Pittston

Saint Joseph Marello Parish, Pittston
Saint Joseph Parish, Matamoras
Saint Luke Parish, Stroudsburg
Saint Nicholas-Saint Mary Parish, Wilkes-Barre
Saint Patrick Parish, Milford
Saint Paul Parish, Scranton
Saint Peter Parish, Wellsboro
Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish, Scranton
Saint Therese Parish, Shavertown



Thank You to Everyone Who Has Supported the 2024 Catholic Ministries Appeal. We are currently at 55% of our Goal.

Visit AnnualAppeal.org or call (570) 207-2250 to make a gift!

PARISH GOAL REPORT TO DATE (Nov. 9, 2024)

All Saints Parish - Plymouth.....	\$13,146.00 / \$31,286.00 (42%)	St. Ann Parish - Shohola.....	\$8,985.00 / \$19,945.00 (45%)
Annunciation Parish - Hazleton.....	\$10,620.00 / \$42,838.00 (25%)	St. Ann Parish - Williamsport.....	\$35,341.00 / \$48,050.00 (74%)
Ascension Parish - Forest City.....	\$10,860.00 / \$22,965.00 (47%)	St. Boniface Parish - Williamsport.....	\$30,765.00 / \$51,636.00 (60%)
Blessed Sacrament Parish - Throop.....	\$14,562.50 / \$19,093.00 (76%)	St. Brigid Parish - Friendsville.....	\$27,306.00 / \$23,474.00 (116%)
BVM Queen of Peace Parish - Hawley.....	\$35,812.00 / \$52,577.00 (68%)	St. Catherine of Siena Parish - Moscow.....	\$54,209.00 / \$62,284.00 (87%)
Christ the King Parish - Archbald.....	\$42,812.00 / \$79,534.00 (54%)	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish - Swoyersville..	\$32,152.00 / \$55,801.00 (58%)
Corpus Christi Parish - West Pittston.....	\$40,967.00 / \$76,066.00 (54%)	St. Elizabeth Parish - Bear Creek.....	\$8,232.81 / \$17,694.00 (47%)
Divine Mercy Parish - Scranton.....	\$41,482.98 / \$46,472.00 (89%)	St. Eulalia Parish - Roaring Brook Township....	\$12,540.00 / \$54,380.00 (23%)
Epiphany Parish - Sayre.....	\$52,326.00 / \$53,497.00 (98%)	St. Faustina Kowalska Parish - Nanticoke.....	\$19,403.00 / \$56,918.00 (34%)
Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish - Hanover Twp..	\$13,710.00 / \$23,844.00 (58%)	St. Frances X. Cabrini Parish - Carverton.....	\$10,915.51 / \$16,889.00 (65%)
Gate of Heaven Parish - Dallas.....	\$24,655.00 / \$38,351.00 (64%)	St. Gregory Parish - Clarks Green.....	\$45,934.00 / \$86,601.00 (53%)
Good Shepherd Parish - Drums.....	\$7,035.00 / \$32,364.00 (22%)	St. Ignatius Loyola Parish - Kingston.....	\$33,855.00 / \$78,424.00 (43%)
Holy Child Parish - Mansfield.....	\$17,460.00 / \$26,929.00 (65%)	St. John Bosco Parish - Conyngham.....	\$31,095.00 / \$60,677.00 (51%)
Holy Cross Parish - Olyphant.....	\$23,788.00 / \$43,621.00 (55%)	St. John Neumann Parish - Lords Valley.....	\$16,670.00 / \$21,487.00 (78%)
Holy Family Parish - Luzerne.....	\$27,632.50 / \$30,097.00 (92%)	St. John Parish - E. Stroudsburg.....	\$28,552.00 / \$52,044.00 (55%)
Holy Name of Jesus Parish - West Hazleton.....	\$4,465.00 / \$25,791.00 (17%)	St. John the Baptist Parish - Larksville.....	\$13,520.00 / \$33,560.00 (40%)
Holy Name of Mary Parish - Montrose.....	\$16,011.00 / \$19,324.00 (83%)	St. John the Evangelist Parish - Honesdale.....	\$38,825.00 / \$59,874.00 (65%)
Holy Rosary Parish - Hazleton.....	\$12,566.00 / \$25,047.00 (50%)	St. John the Evangelist Parish - Pittston.....	\$40,950.00 / \$53,607.00 (76%)
Holy Spirit Parish - Mocanaqua.....	\$9,645.00 / \$21,374.00 (45%)	St. John Vianney Parish - Montdale.....	\$25,443.00 / \$38,560.00 (66%)
Immaculate Conception Parish - Scranton.....	\$28,742.00 / \$49,769.00 (58%)	St. Joseph Mareello Parish - Pittston.....	\$22,409.00 / \$40,660.00 (55%)
Immaculate Conception Parish - Williamsport.....	\$6,675.00 / \$29,111.00 (23%)	St. Joseph Parish - Matamoras.....	\$25,185.00 / \$23,046.00 (109%)
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish - Dushore.....	\$29,866.25 / \$35,273.00 (85%)	St. Joseph the Worker Parish - Williamsport....	\$48,900.00 / \$78,712.00 (62%)
Mary, Mother of God Parish - Scranton.....	\$33,816.00 / \$51,626.00 (66%)	St. Jude Parish - Mountain Top.....	\$53,578.00 / \$97,156.00 (55%)
Most Holy Trinity Parish - Cresco.....	\$21,345.00 / \$48,549.00 (44%)	St. Katharine Drexel Parish - Pleasant Mount..	\$6,830.00 / \$15,070.00 (45%)
Most Holy Trinity Parish - Susquehanna.....	\$10,785.00 / \$28,616.00 (38%)	St. Lawrence Parish - S. Williamsport.....	\$10,020.00 / \$22,478.00 (45%)
Most Precious Blood Parish - Hazleton.....	\$13,251.00 / \$36,585.00 (36%)	St. Leo Parish - Ashley.....	\$12,310.00 / \$38,760.00 (32%)
Nativity of Our Lord Parish - Duryea.....	\$23,461.00 / \$44,982.00 (52%)	St. Luke Parish - Jersey Shore.....	\$4,722.00 / \$20,244.00 (23%)
Nativity of the BVM Parish - Tunkhannock.....	\$17,645.00 / \$33,004.00 (53%)	St. Luke Parish - Stroudsburg.....	\$68,613.00 / \$92,320.00 (74%)
Our Lady Help of Christians Parish - Dorrance.....	\$14,695.00 / \$19,021.00 (77%)	St. Maria Goretti Parish - Laffin.....	\$17,580.00 / \$40,587.00 (43%)
Our Lady of Hope Parish - Wilkes-Barre.....	\$16,711.00 / \$36,122.00 (46%)	St. Mary of the Lake Parish - Lake Winola.....	\$3,275.00 / \$12,951.00 (25%)
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish - Montoursville.....	\$21,295.00 / \$41,857.00 (51%)	St. Mary Parish - Waymart.....	\$6,030.00 / \$16,306.00 (37%)
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish - Dunmore.....	\$23,205.00 / \$58,784.00 (39%)	St. Matthew Parish - E. Stroudsburg.....	\$52,505.00 / \$68,474.00 (77%)
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish - Lake Silkworth...	\$5,955.00 / \$24,387.00 (24%)	St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish - Pocono Pines....	\$13,901.00 / \$34,389.00 (40%)
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish - Wyalusing...	\$4,175.00 / \$18,963.00 (22%)	St. Michael Parish - Canton.....	\$7,410.00 / \$19,238.00 (39%)
Our Lady of the Abingtons Parish - Dalton.....	\$5,826.00 / \$12,849.00 (45%)	St. Michael Parish - Scranton.....	\$8,408.86 / \$23,868.00 (35%)
Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish - Pittston.....	\$6,825.00 / \$21,763.00 (31%)	St. Monica Parish - West Wyoming.....	\$20,295.00 / \$24,486.00 (83%)
Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception - Freeland..	\$10,002.00 / \$29,784.00 (34%)	St. Nicholas-St. Mary Parish - Wilkes-Barre....	\$47,266.34 / \$90,962.00 (52%)
Our Lady of the Rosary Parish - Carbondale.....	\$36,750.00 / \$78,343.00 (47%)	St. Patrick Parish - Milford.....	\$43,346.40 / \$20,273.00 (214%)
Our Lady of the Snows Parish - Clarks Summit....	\$41,939.00 / \$91,891.00 (46%)	St. Patrick Parish - Nicholson.....	\$5,879.98 / \$13,120.00 (45%)
Our Lady of Victory Parish - Harveys Lake.....	\$16,445.00 / \$35,213.00 (47%)	St. Patrick Parish - Scranton.....	\$15,599.00 / \$67,467.00 (23%)
Our Lady of Victory Parish - Tannersville.....	\$24,715.00 / \$52,332.00 (47%)	St. Patrick Parish - White Haven.....	\$5,735.00 / \$21,328.00 (27%)
Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish - Brodheads ville..	\$39,652.00 / \$69,328.00 (57%)	St. Paul Parish - Scranton.....	\$30,205.00 / \$55,312.00 (55%)
Prince of Peace Parish - Old Forge.....	\$8,870.00 / \$26,615.00 (33%)	St. Peter Parish - Wellsboro.....	\$17,934.00 / \$35,673.00 (50%)
Queen of Angels Parish - Jessup.....	\$6,718.00 / \$25,877.00 (26%)	St. Peter's Cathedral - Scranton.....	\$62,427.00 / \$51,364.00 (122%)
Queen of Heaven Parish - Hazleton.....	\$5,535.00 / \$32,404.00 (17%)	St. Rita Parish - Gouldsboro.....	\$4,035.00 / \$12,326.00 (33%)
Queen of the Apostles Parish - Avoca.....	\$10,201.00 / \$35,752.00 (29%)	St. Robert Bellarmine Parish - Wilkes-Barre....	\$18,935.00 / \$31,555.00 (60%)
Resurrection Parish - Muncy.....	\$8,285.00 / \$43,961.00 (19%)	St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish - Scranton.....	\$22,316.00 / \$62,962.00 (35%)
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish - Dupont.....	\$8,605.00 / \$32,953.00 (26%)	St. Therese Parish - Shavertown.....	\$39,028.00 / \$72,531.00 (54%)
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish - Peckville.....	\$40,867.00 / \$50,990.00 (80%)	St. Thomas More Parish - Lake Ariel.....	\$23,874.00 / \$50,146.00 (48%)
SS Anthony & Rocco Parish - Dunmore.....	\$23,100.00 / \$52,831.00 (44%)	St. Thomas the Apostle Parish - Elkland.....	\$2,575.00 / \$11,501.00 (22%)
SS Cyril & Methodius Parish - Hazleton.....	\$26,269.00 / \$46,735.00 (56%)	St. Vincent de Paul Parish - Milford.....	\$12,102.73 / \$36,520.00 (33%)
SS Peter & Paul Parish - Plains.....	\$43,266.00 / \$60,932.00 (71%)	Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Dickson City	\$45,090.00 / \$47,831.00 (94%)
SS Peter & Paul Parish - Towanda.....	\$54,095.00 / \$28,529.00 (190%)		
St. Andrew Parish - Wilkes-Barre.....	\$4,435.00 / \$19,046.00 (23%)		
St. Ann Basilica Parish - Scranton.....	\$25,819.00 / \$55,819.00 (46%)		
		TOTAL TO DATE (as of Nov. 9, 2024)	\$2,470,913.36 / \$4,500,000 (55%)

Catholic elementary students explore Vocations: Diocesan Director talks faith, service, and God's calling

DUNMORE – In a classroom inside Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School, seventh graders listened attentively as Father Alex Roche, Diocesan Secretary of Clergy Formation, shared stories of his journey to the priesthood.

When one student asked what the best part of being a priest was, Father Alex quickly responded it was being with them and being able to talk about God.

“Sometimes, the best thing that you can do for a kid is to remind them that God loves them, and he has a plan for them,” Father Alex later told *The Catholic Light*.

For many years, staff from the Diocesan Vocations Office has visited Catholic high schools to meet with students that might have an interest in the priesthood or religious life.

Father Alex is now also making it a priority to visit Catholic elementary schools to talk to younger students about prayer, discerning God's call and recognizing the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Father Alex's visits to local Catholic elementary schools have become a cornerstone of his mission to plant seeds of vocation in the hearts of young students, particularly in second and seventh grades, “pivot point” ages when studies show children are developing a new sense of self,



Father Alex Roche, Diocesan Secretary for Clergy Formation, talks to seventh graders at Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore on Oct. 17, 2024. (Photo/Dan Gallagher)

discovering their gifts, and open to listening to God in prayer in a more mature way.

The visits are not just an opportunity to speak with children about the priesthood or religious life, but to emphasize the importance of following God's calling in whatever form it might take.

“They are moments in life when things are starting to shift. They're thinking about God and themselves in different ways, so I've found they're important moments to get in and have some of these conversations,” Father Alex explained.

During each visit, Father Alex takes time to engage with students, answering their questions and helping them explore the idea of a ‘vocation’ in a way that is relatable to their age.

“I thought his talk was very informative,” seventh grader Molly Fox said after a recent presentation. “I learned there is more than one way to pray,

and everybody has their own style.”

“I'm actually thinking about high school and college and what I want to do,” her classmate Sophia Triano admitted.

Triano said a vocation to religious life has crossed her mind, but she currently wants to be an actress.

“I always know that God is with me, and he'll take care of me,” she added.

Traigh Sottile, who also participated in the presentation has also thought about the possibility of being a priest – mostly at the encouragement of his mother – but

recognizes whatever his future holds, he will always need God's guidance and assistance.

“You have to pray, and you have to ask for forgiveness,” he said.

All of Father Alex's efforts are already inspiring young people to think about their own faith journeys and be open to the possibility of serving the Church.

Antonio Ingargiola, a former student from Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School, accompanied Father Alex on his recent trip. He has been discerning a call to the priesthood for more than a year.

“It's really been a continuation of many different things, little comments that people would say, the external confirmation, people saying, ‘you'd be a great priest,’ and the internal stuff, really feeling that desire for God and feeling that this is something I could see myself doing,” Ingargiola stated.

Ingargiola says his Catholic faith is the center of his life. Despite all the challenges young people face in today's world, he hopes when they listen to Father Alex, they will be reminded of Christ's love for them.

“Before anything, we need to remember that we are God's children. I think people become indifferent to God's love and that is something we can't allow to happen,” he added.

Young adults reminded to ‘make Jesus Christ present in this world’ during annual ‘Leave a Mark’ celebration

SCRANTON – At her home parish, Gina Morgese recognizes that she is one of the youngest people in the pews.

While attending the Diocese of Scranton's annual ‘Leave a Mark’ Mass on Nov. 3, the Carbondale native found herself surrounded by many other young Catholics her age, all gathered to joyfully celebrate their shared faith.

“It gives me so much hope that the Church is alive, and God is present,” Morgese said. “I look forward to it every year.”

Held at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, this year marked the ninth annual ‘Leave a Mark’ Mass, which kicks off National Vocation Awareness Week. The name of

the Mass originates from Pope Francis' words to young people during the 2016 World Youth Day in Poland.

“I just always feel like I can be myself

at these gatherings and connect with other people who have similar beliefs,” Morgese



Students from The University of Scranton participate in the ninth annual ‘Leave a Mark’ Mass on Nov. 3, 2024, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter. (Photos/Mike Melisky)



Following Mass, many young adults, including Gina Morgese, front center, attended a social at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in downtown Scranton.

added. “It can be hard in our secular world, but I love moments like this, where I can

connect with other young Catholics.”

Continued on Page 21

Turn Your PA Tax Dollars Into Student Scholarships

Yes, it is easy to designate the taxes you have to pay through the EITC Program!

DUNMORE – After having watched his older brother attend Holy Cross High School, Christopher Rotell-Tierney always knew he wanted to attend the Dunmore school as well.

“I love the environment. Everyone cares about each other. The faculty genuinely cares about us, not just our academics,” he said.

Now in his senior year, Rotell-Tierney is thankful for scholarship money that has made his dream a reality.

“Our world today is very expensive wherever you turn and the scholarships I have received have helped me not only attend HCHS but has softened the financial blow of everyday life,” he added.

For many students, receiving a scholarship or financial aid makes a Catholic school education possible.

That is why the Diocese of Scranton recently partnered with RedefinED, a company that has proven success in maximizing Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) contributions.

The EITC program is a Pennsylvania initiative that allows both individuals and businesses to direct their state income tax money to benefit students instead of sending that funding to Harrisburg.

“Not only can it change the lives of students, but it can help make Catholic schools more financially sound, by having



Christopher Rotell-Tierney, right, a senior at Holy Cross High School in Dunmore, is one of many students who are thankful for the scholarship money they have received.

PARTICIPATING IS AS EASY AS 1-2-3!

Step 1 Sign-Up

Determine your current year PA State Income tax liability, found on Line 12 of the PA-40 form. Then sign the one-page pledge form with the amount of your contribution.

Step 2 Donate

Once you receive your approval for the tax credit, you will send in the pledge amount, a minimum of just 10% of your tax liability.

Step 3 Claim Your Credit

After your contribution is made, you will receive a K-1 tax form to file with your taxes, providing you with a 90% tax credit on the contribution you made.

In simple terms, the EITC program is a way to direct the tax dollars that you already pay to a Catholic school's financial aid program instead of directing those dollars to the state. When you participate, your tax dollars are turned into scholarships for students in the school that you designate!

more dollars and funding the gap that exists between what they charge (in tuition) and what it actually costs,” Alyse Maslonik, founder and CEO of RedefinED, explained.

This mission is personal for Maslonik, who personally was able to attend a Catholic school because of someone else's EITC contribution. Since founding her company in January 2022, RedefinED has already raised more than \$28 million in tax credit scholarship funding.

“It's really important for me to simplify the process for the everyday person because so many people don't know about the program even though it has been around since 2001,” Maslonik said.

The new Diocesan partnership with RedefinED makes the process easy. The company oversees the work – including all the paperwork after a participant signs a pledge form.

“So often, parents say, ‘it's too good to be true,’” Maslonik admitted. “The biggest push-back that we get is that people can't believe that this exists.”

Getting Involved in the EITC Program in 3 Easy Steps

Anyone who is interested in supporting Catholic education, or students in one of the Diocese of Scranton's 19 Catholic schools, can participate in the EITC program. People do not have to have a child or grandchild enrolled in a Catholic school to participate.

Maslonik said many people appreciate knowing the tangible impact their tax dollars can have on a student's life.

“There's not usually a human connection with the tax dollars that we pay but EITC provides that human connection,” she explained. “They can know, I helped Sally Smith through her education and look at her now.”

Following RedefinED's program, the first thing a participant needs to do is determine what they're currently paying in state taxes.

“Once you figure out what your taxes are, you sign up, write your check, and

get your refund. That is how easy it is,” Maslonik added.

The impact is life changing.

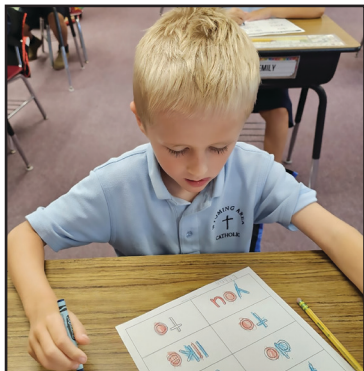
For Rotell-Tierney, being immersed in theology classes and attending Masses regularly at Holy Cross High School has made him a better person.

“The everyday environment, where I am able to experience my Catholic faith, has definitely changed my view of life and myself and has made me realize that part of what we should be doing is helping in our community, giving back to others when we can,” he said.

For more information or to participate in the EITC tax credit program, contact Hayley Youngkin, donor relationship manager for RedefinED covering the Scranton area, at (814) 419-5505 or Hayley@redefiningeducation.org. For general information, you can visit RedefinED's website at redefiningeducation.org.

Diocese of Scranton
CATHOLIC
 SCHOOL SYSTEM
 FAITH • ACADEMICS • SERVICE

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.



Since the beginning of the school year, students in Mrs. Dana Ungureit's first grade class at **Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter** have been learning ways to differentiate between vowels and consonants during their reading class.



At the beginning of November, students at **Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School in Williamsport** hosted a Mock Presidential Election, learning all about the voting process and the importance of making their voices heard.



First graders at **La Salle Academy in Jessup** organized a fundraiser to benefit the cats and dogs waiting for adoption at Griffin Pond Animal Shelter.



The seventh grade class at **Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green** presented skits based on the Beatitudes at the school's All Saints Day Liturgy.



Grades 6-8 at **Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore** designed and painted a Pennsylvania Department of Transportation plow, as part of the Paint the Plow Program, under the guidance of their art teacher, Mrs. Lubinski. The plow will be used this winter to enhance public awareness, promote safety, and foster a greater appreciation of both PennDOT and our school's art program.



To celebrate the beginning of November, fifth graders at **Holy Family Academy in Hazleton** created a project for the whole school to enjoy entitled "A Latte To Be Thankful For."



Kindergarten students at **Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton** enjoyed tasting different apples in honor of Johnny Appleseed Day.



Newly elected officers and homeroom representatives from **Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston** recently participated in the school's Student Council Induction Ceremony.

Students in the second grade at **Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School in Wilkes-Barre** recently completed a project where students built a bridge out of basic paper products and office supplies that needed to be strong enough for a model car to cross.





When you're in a pinch, call Pinch Designs! The newly added entrepreneurship class at **Holy Cross High School in Dunmore** is hard at work learning what it takes to run a business, including branding, budgeting, and speaking with customers. The students have been fulfilling requests from teachers and taking orders for different school events, which includes making banners.



With trumpets and the sound of the horn, shout with joy to the King, the Lord! (Psalm 98:6)

Students at **Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport** are sharpening their musical talents and creating a school band, including this fifth grader practicing his saxophone.



During Fire Prevention Month, the Scranton Fire Department met with pre-kindergarten to second grade students at **All Saints Academy in Scranton** to share their wisdom about remaining safe in case of a fire or other emergency.



Mr. David Durham gave a presentation on National Parks to the fifth grade class at **Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg**.



Students in the first grade at **Epiphany School in Sayre** celebrated the 50th day of school with a sock-hop dance party and 1950s-themed activities.



The Excelsior Hose Company No. 2 visited the pre-kindergarten class at **Holy Rosary School in Duryea** as students learned about fire safety and had the chance to tour the fire truck.



Junior Georggel Bioh, Senior Matthew Ahnert, and Junior Alana Jackson volunteered with their fellow students to greet visitors, provide refreshments, and serve as tour guides during the fall open house at **Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg**.



There's no better way to read than with a (stuffed) furry friend by your side as demonstrated here by a student at **Saint Agnes School in Towanda**.

Diocese of Scranton Presents 2025 Jubilee

Pilgrims of Hope

PILGRIMAGE TO ROME

with Bishop Joseph C. Bambera

AUGUST 31 — SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

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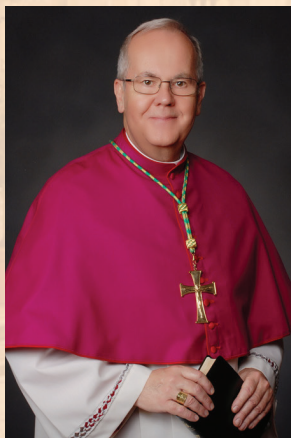


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Bishop celebrates Inauguration Liturgy at Marywood

SCRANTON - The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, celebrated an Inauguration Liturgy on Nov. 8, 2024, as Marywood University officially installed its 13th President, Lisa A. Lori, J.D.



The Mass took place at the Sette LaVerghetta Center for Performing Arts on campus. During his homily, Bishop Bambera said that, as a Catholic university, Marywood must continue to fulfill the mission of Jesus in an authentic manner.

"It is hardly by accident that the values and attitudes that are so integral to Jesus' mission reflect both the mission and core values of Marywood University," Bishop Bambera said. "As a Catholic university founded by the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary 109 years ago, Marywood

is rooted in the Catholic intellectual tradition and promotes not only academic excellence but leadership in service to others. It prepares women and men to live responsibly in and for our world. And Marywood seeks to achieve this noble end as a result of those values that are integral to its very existence: its Catholic identity; its respect for the dignity of the human person and for the blessings of creation; its commitment to the empowerment of students to achieve their full potential; its belief in the value of service and social responsibility; and its enduring pursuit of excellence."

Men in diaconate formation move one step closer to ordination

Continued from
Page 10

"I just want to continue helping people," Fanelli said about his preparation to become a deacon. "It is a lot of work, but the rewards are incredible."

This permanent diaconate class is historic because it will mark the first time the program has both English and Spanish-speaking candidates learning together at the same time.

Using technology, the men have spent several years of discernment and study together despite language differences.



Bishop Joseph C. Bambera institutes the Ministry of Acolyte on eight men at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on Oct. 19, 2024.

"I'm very happy and overwhelmed and joyful about the Institution of Acolyte," Roca said in Spanish. "I know that it comes with a big responsibility, and I am trusting in the Lord that I am prepared."

Wyalusing parish provides donation to area food pantry



Members of the Ministry of Mercy Committee at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Wyalusing recently presented a \$2,000 check to the Helping Hands Food Pantry. Presenting the donation are, from left: Father Jose Kuriappilly, Pastor, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish; Peg Huyck, Director, Helping Hands Food Pantry; Lou Ann Kilmer; Michael Kilmer; and Marilyn Burke.

WYALUSING - Parishioners from Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Bradford County have seen first-hand the need that exists in their community.

Many currently volunteer at the Helping Hands Food Pantry, located at 137 Main Street, Wyalusing.

Currently, the pantry is distributing 240 food bags every weekend throughout the school year in its backpack program. In addition to the backpack program, the agency also serves 80 families every week by distributing bags of pre-packaged groceries - including eggs, milk, meat, canned goods, bread and other staples.

The Ministry of Mercy Committee at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish received a Social Justice Grant from the 2024 Catholic Ministries Appeal to help the food pantry continue its efforts.

Helping Hands is not government funded and continues to serve the Wyalusing Area only by the generosity of the community.

Anyone interested in sponsoring the backpack program, it is \$25/student and your donation can either be dropped off at the food pantry in Wyalusing or can be mailed to: Helping Hands Food Pantry, PO Box 233, Wyalusing, PA 18853.

Attendance numbers finalized for Catholic Men's Conference

WILKES-BARRE - Organizers of the 2024 Catholic 'Be A Man' Conference report that a total of 369 people attended this year's conference, held Oct. 5, at Holy Redeemer High School. This year's conference attendance is a ten-percent increase over last year. Organizers are asking people to save the date for the tenth annual conference, which is scheduled to take place on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025.

Gifts for Kids Christmas Toy Drive

Help us spread joy and love to teens and tweens this holiday season!

Catholic Social Services is once again teaming up with Friends of the Poor and Catherine McAuley Center to brighten Christmas for local kids.

Gift donations can be easily made by purchasing an item(s) from a special Amazon Wish List. Scan the QR code, select an item(s) and your donation will be delivered directly to Catholic Social Services.



Monetary contributions can be sent to:
Catholic Social Services
ATTN: Christmas Gifts
504 Penn Avenue, Scranton, PA 18509
Checks can be made out to Catholic Social Services
Please include "Christmas Gifts" in the memo



Giving Thanks



Together with our dedicated volunteers and staff, and the generous support of so many individuals, businesses, schools, civic organizations and community partners, we are able to provide food and clothing to people in need every single day.

As we do always, and especially at this time of year, we reflect on our blessings and we offer all of you our sincere gratitude for helping us to carry forth our mission!



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— 570-342-5556 —
www.stfranciskitchen.org
www.facebook.com/stfranciskitchen

Lackawanna, Luzerne parishes collaborating for Advent services of word and song

Four regional Catholic parishes in the Diocese of Scranton are continuing their annual tradition of collaboration in presenting two devotional programs during the Advent season.

“Wise Men Still Seek Him,” an Advent service of word and song, will be presented at churches in Lackawanna and Luzerne counties during the First and Second weeks of Advent.

Both services are open to the public free of charge.

This year marks the 15th year for the collaborative effort among the parishes in the two neighboring counties, who join together to enhance the joyful anticipation of Christmas.

The first service will be held on Thursday, Dec. 5, at 6:30 p.m., hosted at Saint Anthony of Padua Church, 208 Smith St., Dunmore.

The second program will be presented on Wednesday, Dec. 11, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Holy

Family Church, 574 Bennett St., Luzerne.

Music for the Advent programs features a combined choir from Holy Family Parish, Luzerne, and Saint Ignatius Loyola Parish, Kingston (Monsignor David Tressler, pastor); and the Dunmore parishes of Saints Anthony and Rocco and Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Father David Cappelloni, pastor), as well as several soloists and an instrumental ensemble.

The Directors of Music at the

participating parishes are Linda Houck, Joseph Moffitt and Geri Seitzinger, respectively.

“Wise Men Still Seek Him” offers an opportunity to embrace the season of Advent and its spirit of preparation for Christmas through Scripture readings and musical selections.

For more information about the upcoming events, contact the parish offices at Holy Family (570) 287-6600; Our Lady of Mount Carmel (570) 346-7429; or Saints Anthony and Rocco, Dunmore (570) 344-1209.



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Dupont parish to host Advent Concert Series

DUPONT — Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish will host a series of classical piano music reflections during the first three Sundays of the upcoming Advent season at

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 215 Lackawanna Ave., Dupont.

The Advent Concert Series performances will be offered prior to the parish's Sunday morning 10:30 a.m. Masses and will focus on the Baroque, Classical, and Romantic eras.

The first recital on Sunday, Dec. 1, at 10 a.m., will feature the Baroque Era of classical music highlighted by preludes, fugues, and other works by Johann Sebastian Bach.

On Sunday, Dec. 8, at 10 a.m., the second music recital will feature excerpts of piano sonatas by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Ludwig Van Beethoven, among

others.

The final concert performance, held on Gaudete Sunday, Dec. 15, at 10 a.m., will illustrate the romantic era of classical music and feature the works of Russian composer Sergei Rachmaninov and German composer Johannes Brahms.

Performing all three piano recitals will be Anthony J. George Jr., Sacred Heart Parish music director/organist, who studied piano performance under renowned concert pianist Thomas Hrynkiw.

All are welcome to attend the Advent concert programs free of charge.

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AS MORE PARISH ADVENT EVENTS ARE FINALIZED...



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'Leave a Mark' Mass focuses on young adults

Continued from Page 14

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant of the Mass, and Father Alex Roche, Diocesan Secretary for Clergy Formation, delivered the homily.

From the moment the opening hymn, "Lift Up Your Hearts," filled the Cathedral, it was clear that this was no ordinary Mass – it was a celebration of youth, hope, and the power of the Church to unite.

"We are reminded that if we seek to know where we're going in life, our vocation, our calling, if we want a sense of peace and purpose and joy, we must build our lives on the rock that is Jesus," Father Roche said during his homily.

Speaking directly to his young audience, Father Roche reminded the young Catholics that each one of them is created in God's image and has a unique purpose.

He also challenged them to be witnesses of Christ in

our world – using examples of Christ the Good Shepherd, Christ the Healer, and Christ the Teacher.

"Your calling is to make Jesus Christ present in this world, and you're all called to do that in a different way," he explained.

Following the Mass, the celebration continued with a lively social at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, which featured food trucks, seasonal treats and more. Young adults from different parishes and universities mingled, shared stories, and made new connections.

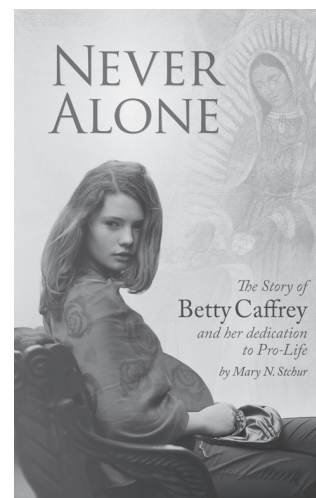
"I really enjoy seeing how many young adults and people are interested in proclaiming their faith and not hiding it behind anything," Chloe McDougall of Marywood University said. "It's exciting to meet new people and connect the universities and churches that have people here today."

Michael Garcia attended the 'Leave a Mark' Mass with several other young adults from his young group at

Saint Matthew Parish in East Stroudsburg.

"I love it over here," he said. For Garcia and many others who attended, the night was filled with faith, fun, and fellowship, and was a reminder of the importance of providing opportunities for young adults to connect, grow in their faith, and experience the love of Christ in meaningful ways.

"My message for everyone is to go to your parish and see if there is a youth group. If not, see if a neighboring parish has a youth group because youth group is awesome. It's very fun and you definitely have to experience it," Garcia said.



Never Alone

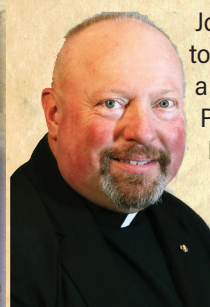
by **Mary N. Stchur, M.Ed.** is the Biography of **Betty Caffrey** who has dedicated over 45 years as Founder and President of the Wyoming Valley Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life. It features historical photos and news stories recalling the Pro-Life successes, efforts, and challenges which the 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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For a Photo Album from the 2024 'Leave a Mark' Mass, visit the Diocese of Scranton on Facebook

Father Bert Kozen Holy Year Italy Pilgrimage



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MISSION MESSAGE

**In Memory of a
Missionary Martyr**

**By Shannon Kowalski
Diocesan Director,
Pontifical Mission Societies**



For Catholics, November is a sacred time dedicated to remembering and praying for all souls, particularly our loved ones who have gone before us. The month begins with All Saints Day on Nov. 1, celebrating the saints in heaven; followed by All Souls Day on Nov. 2, which is focused on praying for the souls of all who have gone before us.

This month serves as a heartfelt reminder of the communion of saints and the belief that we stay spiritually connected to our loved ones even after they have passed. We are encouraged to visit cemeteries, offer Masses, and say prayers for the deceased throughout the month.

Who are the people who have gone before you — family members, friends, or even historical figures — whose lives, values, or faith have deeply inspired or influenced your own journey? Let

me tell you about one of my role models of faith.

In May 2016, I had the privilege to travel to San Lucas Tolimán, Guatemala, for a mission trip with Marywood University. Our group spent a week at San Lucas Mission — a Catholic mission known for its commitment to social justice and community development. Founded in 1962 by American missionary priests Father Greg Schaffer and Father John Goggin, and the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Friends of San Lucas Mission supports various community initiatives, including healthcare, education, and sustainable agriculture.

Witnessing and participating in the day-to-day operations of each of the mission's programs cemented in me a realization of the enduring impact that faith-driven social work has in transforming lives. But the true highlight of my trip was standing on the holy ground where Blessed Stanley Rother was martyred in Santiago Atitlán, just across the lake from San Lucas Tolimán.

Born in Oklahoma in 1935, Father Stanley Rother was a devoted Catholic priest whose unwavering faith and compassion led him Guatemala in 1968 to serve as a missionary. Despite facing initial language barriers, Father Rother learned both Spanish and the indigenous Tz'utujil dialect to better connect with his parishioners. He supported his community through practical projects, such as agricultural initiatives and the production of a local radio station, which played a crucial role in disseminating educational and faith-based programs.

Rother's mission unfolded

amid intense violence and political unrest during the Guatemalan Civil War. During this time, Catholic missionaries were often seen as adversaries by the government due to their advocacy for the poor and marginalized. Father Rother witnessed the abductions and murders of his parishioners and fellow clergy but, despite warnings and escalating threats, chose to stay with his people in Santiago Atitlán, saying, "a shepherd cannot run at the first sign of danger."

On July 28, 1981, Father Rother's steadfast commitment cost him his life when armed assailants entered his parish house and killed him, making him the first American-born martyr of the Catholic Church. His death was



**Blessed
Stanley Rother**

a devastating blow to the community he had served so faithfully and a powerful testament to faith and resilience. In 2017, Father Stanley Rother was beatified and honored as a martyr who gave his life for his faith and his people. His beatification serves as a reminder of the heroic sacrifices made by missionaries who work under dangerous conditions to spread the love and teachings of Christ.

Father Rother's life and death give witness to the often-overlooked reality that missionary work is not only about evangelization, but also about standing in solidarity with oppressed communities and advocating for justice and peace.

As Catholics honor all souls in November, the memory of Father Rother and countless other missionaries who have given their lives in service invites us to reflect on the call to live our faith with similar devotion and courage. May we all be bold enough to embody the principles of mercy, solidarity, and hope in our everyday lives.

Blessed Stanley Rother, pray for us!

Vatican's World Day of the Poor features medical care, lunch with pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Before Pope Francis presides over Mass Nov. 17 for the World Day of the Poor, he will bless 13 keys to represent the 13 new houses he has pledged to pay for in Syria during the Holy Year 2025, the Vatican said.

The Famvin Homeless Alliance, a network of religious orders and charitable organizations inspired by St. Vincent de Paul, said the 13 keys also represent the 13 countries where they will build houses for the homeless. The countries are: Australia, Brazil, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chile, Costa Rica, Italy, Tonga, Senegal, Syria, Tanzania, United Kingdom and Ukraine.

The "13 Houses Campaign" is an homage to St. Vincent de Paul and his decision in 1643 to use an endowment from French King Louis XIII to build 13 small houses near the Vincentian headquarters in Paris to care for abandoned children.

Pope Francis began the annual celebration of the World Day of the Poor in 2017. Traditionally, it has included Mass, lunch with Pope Francis and more medical care for the poor at the clinic run by the Dicastery for the Service



Pope Francis greets a woman and child during a lunch in the Vatican audience hall Nov. 19, 2023, the World Day of the Poor. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)

of Charity.

Flu shots and other vaccines, blood tests and visits with general practitioners, internal medicine specialists and dentists are regularly offered at the clinic.

The Dicastery for the Service of Charity also said Pope Francis will have lunch with 1,300 people

in the Vatican's Paul VI Audience Hall after Mass.

The Italian Red Cross will provide each of the 2024 sponsor of the meal, pope's guests with a backpack and the national Red Cross marching band will provide items to take home.

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.



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Secular Discalced Carmelite Order seeks new members

The Holy Annunciation Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites (OCDS) announces membership in the confraternity continues to be open to all practicing Catholics who are at least 18 years of age.

The Discalced Carmelite Secular Order gathers each month at the Oblates of Saint Joseph residence and chapel, located at 1880 Highway 315 in Laflin.

Members of the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites observe the Rule of Saint Albert, and trace the order's origins to Mount Carmel and the holy prophet Elijah.

Under the patronage and protection of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and her Brown Scapular,

the lay members fulfill their Carmelite vocation in daily life, following the teachings of various Carmelite saints, including Saint Teresa of Avila, Saint John of the Cross, and Saint Therese of Lisieux (The Little Flower).

The family of Carmel includes friars, women religious, and secular order faithful who share in the contemplative mission of Carmelite spirituality. Secular members engage in community life with regular meeting attendance and participation in various Church apostolates.

For more information, contact Gina Romancheck, OCDS President of Holy Annunciation Secular Community, at (570) 956-9272.



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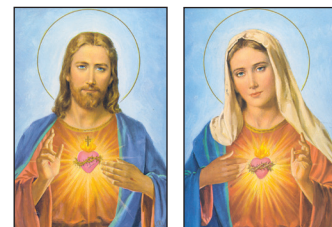
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Blue Army Reparation Vigil

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 **Dec. 6** at Saint Joseph's Oblate Chapel, 1880 Highway 315, Laflin (Pittston).

Devotions begin Friday evening at 8 p.m. with recitation 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 and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 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.

Apostleship of Prayer

Papal Intention for November 2024

For Anyone Who Has Lost A Child —

We pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.

Marian Ministries completes 'Fatima Journey'



The Blessed Mother Prayer Garden Grotto at Saint Lucy Church in West Scranton recently served as the final stop for the “Fatima Journey 2024” of Marian Devotion Ministries. The Marian prayer service was offered in conjunction with the thousands of “America Needs Fatima” Saturday public Rosary rallies held throughout the country on Oct. 12. Members of the Saint Patrick Parish, West Scranton, Fatima group and the Knights of Columbus participated in the noontime Rosary gathering — the 27th sponsored by Marian Devotion Ministries in 2024.



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Parish to host ‘National Night of Prayer for Life’

HUNLOCK CREEK — Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, 2011 State Route 29, Hunlock Creek, will serve as the host for a National Night of Prayer for Life in observance of the upcoming Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The four-hour devotion begins on the Second Sunday of Advent, Dec. 8, at 9 p.m. and continues until 1 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 9, for the celebration of the Immaculate Conception Solemnity. Dec. 9 is also the traditional Feast of Blessed Juan Diego, commemorating the

first apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe to the Mexican peasant farmer in 1531.

Observed to atone for the sin of abortion that claims the lives of thousands of children in the womb each year in the United States, the

National Night of Prayer for Life service will include Eucharistic adoration, Rosary recitation, and prayers of reparation and healing for the nation and the world.

For more information, call (570) 332-2963.

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NOVEMBER 14, 2024 • The Catholic Light 25

Saint Elizabeth Seton Shrine pilgrimage planned for May 2025

SWOYERSVILLE — A one-day pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg, Md., in 2025 has been announced by organizers from Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Swoyersville.

The round-trip bus excursion to the Mother Seton shrine, which venerates the first native-born U.S. citizen to be canonized by the Catholic church, is being offered

on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, with departure from the Swoyersville parish at 7:30 a.m. The group is scheduled to return later that day at 7:30 p.m.

The pilgrimage will be highlighted by Mass at the Basilica of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton and visits to the tomb of Mother Seton and the Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto on the shrine grounds.

Total cost for the religious experience is \$100 and includes a full buffet dinner at the well-known Mountain Gate Restaurant outside of Emmitsburg.

A deposit of \$50 is required as soon as possible; the remaining \$50 balance will be due on Feb. 14, 2025.

For more information, contact Chris Calore, trip coordinator, at (570) 328-2430.



Parish 'Pierogi for Life' fundraiser supports Family/Pregnancy Center

MILFORD — The Saint Patrick Parish Respect Life Committee held a successful "Pierogi for Life" fundraiser, selling over 450 pierogis and raising \$527 for the Tri-State Family & Pregnancy Center (TSF&PC).

The event was met with overwhelming support from the community, whose contributions will directly assist TSF&PC in providing essential resources and compassionate support to families in need.

The Tri-State Family & Pregnancy Center, a local pregnancy resource center, plays a vital role in supporting children, mothers, and families across the tri-state area. TSF&PC provides a variety of material services, including diapers, wipes, baby formula, clothing, and furniture to families facing financial hardships.

The center also offers peer counseling and referral services to other supportive organizations and agencies, helping to ensure families



Antonio Perito, representing the Respect Life Committee at Saint Patrick Parish, Milford, presents the proceeds from the committee's "Pierogi for Life" fundraiser to Elvia Toombs, director of the Tri-State Family Pregnancy Center.

receive holistic, continuous care through all stages of pregnancy and early parenthood.

The Saint Patrick Respect Life Committee is dedicated to promoting the sanctity of life through prayer, advocacy, and community outreach. Through events like "Pierogi for Life," the committee raises awareness and support for local organizations that serve mothers, children and families in need.

'Generations Sing' Concert slated Nov. 17

SCRANTON — The Catholic Choral Society announces the annual celebration of its "Generations Sing" concert will be presented Sunday, Nov. 17, at 3 p.m. at Holy Rosary Church, 316 William St., North Scranton.

As in years past, the Generations Sing event celebrates both ecumenical diversity and multi-generational singers.

Since the inaugural "Generations" performance in 2003, the Choral Society has hosted singing groups of all ages from public and private schools throughout the region, presenting several different age groups at each event.

This year the Catholic Choral Society will host the following fellow choral groups: All Saints Academy

Choir, Scranton, directed by Tony Wozinski; Riverside Elementary East Viking Voices, directed by Melissa Lingle; Wyoming Valley West HS Concert Choir, directed by Justin Davis; and King's College Cantores Christi Regis, Wilkes-Barre, directed by Rob Yenkowski.

Ann Manganiello serves as music director for the Catholic Choral Society, and Linda Houck is the accompanist.

The concert is open to the public free of charge; however, there will be an opportunity for a free-will offering to support the performance.

For more information about Catholic Choral Society events and membership, call (570) 575-1040 or visit: www.catholichoralsociety.org.

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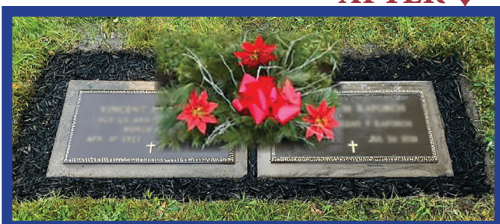
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Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

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 Respecto 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.

Classifieds • Classifieds • Classifieds •

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Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese of Scranton

Parish Holiday Bazaar — **NOV. 15 & 16**, sponsored by Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Brodheadsville; two-day event held Friday & Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the parish's McCawley Hall. Holiday Bazaar features sale of Christmas decorations, religious items, clothing, holiday linens, greeting cards & gift-wrapping supplies, jewelry & cosmetics, and seasonal



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movies and records; event also includes bake sale, basket raffle & silent auction of holiday items, and food & refreshments for purchase. Santa & Mrs. Claus will visit and be available for pictures on Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information, contact Diane Kasten at (718) 757-0645.

Vocation Discernment Weekend: "Come and See" — **NOV. 15-17**, sponsored by the Sisters of the IHM; weekend experience begins Friday at 6:30 p.m. and concludes Sunday following Mass and brunch. Program designed for women (ages 18-35) interested in deepening their faith and getting to know others living in community and offering a life of service to God's people. For information & registration, contact the IHM Sisters at williamsk@sistersofihm.org or (570) 346-5414.

Chicken Parmesan Dinner — **NOV. 17**, hosted by SS. Peter & Paul Church, 1309 W. Locust St., West Scranton; dinner is take-out only, served from 1 to 4 p.m. in the church hall. Dinner includes chicken parmesan, pasta, salad and dessert. Cost: \$15 per person. For tickets, call (570) 343-7015.

Toyland Bingo — **NOV. 17**, hosted by SS. Peter & Paul Parish, 13 Hudson Road, Plains; doors open at noon. Advance tickets cost \$15 per person. Contact the parish office at (570) 825-6663, or email parishoffice@sspeterandpaulplains.com.

Bereavement Support Group Session — **NOV. 18**, sponsored by St. John Neumann Parish in Lords Valley; bereavement support group meets Monday afternoon from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the St. John parish hall, 705 Route 739, Lords Valley. Gatherings

address topics dealing with the grief process to enable participants to find healing following the loss of a loved one. All are welcome; advance registration required at stvgriefgroup@att.net or by calling the parish office (570) 775-6791.

Tuesday Eucharistic Adoration — **NOV. 19**, 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. All faithful are welcome to spend time in prayerful meditation and reflection in the presence of the Eucharistic Lord.

Novena Devotion to Saint Anthony of Padua — **NOV. 19-DEC. 17**, hosted by Our Lady of Hope Parish, 40 Park Ave., Wilkes-Barre; Saint Anthony Novena

Continued on page 30

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WINTER GETAWAY IN AC

Jan. 26-27

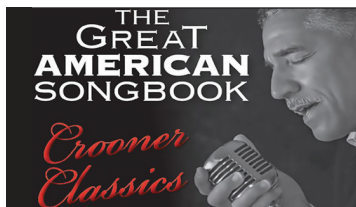
Margaritaville @ Tropicana
Hotel, food & slots vouchers



PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

March 3-7

5 Day Trips
Admission included



CATSKILLS CASINO

Feb. 11-12

"Great American Songbook"
Hotel, Show, slots & food vouchers



RIVERDANCE

Feb. 26

Orchestra seating & dinner
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THE 60S SHOW

Friday, Feb. 6

Penn's Peak
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Jan. 4: Broadway

Jan. 11: PA Farm Show

Jan. 17: Fire & Frost @ Peddler's Village

Jan. 23: Driving Miss Daisy-Dinner & Show

Feb. 1: Groundhog Festival

Feb. 2: Great Outdoor Show

Feb. 7: The 60s Show

Feb. 16: A Hershey Valentine

Feb. 17: American Dream Mall

March 12-13: Bally's AC Overnight

March 13: The Irish Show

March 21-23: Springtime in DC

March 23: Murder Mystery Dinner

March 29: Peddler's Peeps

April 8: Brooklyn Chocolate Tour

April 9: Noah @ Sight & Sound

April 13: Cape May NJ

April 17: Gettysburg

April 21: Murder Mystery

April 23-24 Benny & Jets @ Tropicana

April 24-27: Military Bands in Va.

May 7: Fiddler on the Roof

May 12: Finger Lakes Wine Tour

May 14: 911 Museum & Memorial

May 21: Bronx Zoo

May 24: Flavor Fest Wine Event

May 27-29: Comedy Center Tour

May 31: Liberty & Ellis Islands

June 1: Lehigh Valley Zoo/ost River Caverns

June 7: Noah @ Sight & Sound

June 8: Houdini's Whodunnit Mystery

June 8: Philly Food Tour

June 15-19: Homes of the Presidents

June 21: Windmill Farm Market

June 21: Mount Laurel Parade, Wellsboro

June 22: Franklin Institute

June 23: Cape May

June 25-26: Atlantic City Overnight

June 27: Medieval Times

June 28: Brooklyn Pizza Tour

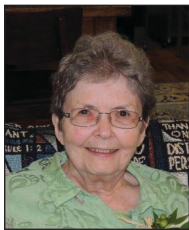
June 29: Bronx Zoo

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Shaun Patrick Mulligan

Entered Eternal Life:
September 10, 2024

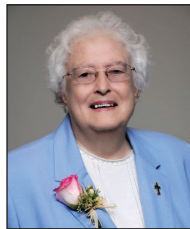


Religious Sister
of Mercy
Alice Marie Sanders

Entered Eternal Life:
September 24, 2024

Religious Sister
of Mercy
Ellen Mary Bringenberg

Entered Eternal Life:
September 29, 2024



Religious Sister
of Mercy
Mary Linus Loesch

Entered Eternal Life:
October 9, 2024

Religious Sister
of Mercy
Rose Tomlinson

Entered Eternal Life:
October 21, 2024



Immaculate Heart
of Mary Sister
Sandra Grieco

Entered Life:
May 26, 1949
Entered Eternal Life:
October 26, 2024

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Catholic Happenings in the Diocese

Continued from page 28

devotions are held on Tuesday evenings, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the parish church. Novena theme: "The Mystery of Suffering & The Saints." Novena services include blessing with the Saint Anthony relic. All faithful are welcome.

Christ the King Solemnity Eucharistic Adoration — NOV. 24, hosted by the parish community of St. Nicholas-St. Mary in Wilkes-Barre; exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament honoring the Solemnity

of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. at St. Mary Immaculate Conception Church, 134 South Washington St., Wilkes-Barre. The Eucharistic adoration will conclude with benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 4 p.m. All are welcome during the hours of adoration to spend time in prayer, praise and meditation before the Eucharistic Lord.

Parish 'Breakfast with Santa' Party — DEC. 7, hosted by Holy Cross Parish, 200 Delaware Ave., Olyphant; held from 9 to 10:30 a.m. in the parish's Kelley Hall. Breakfast menu includes scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausage, French toast casserole, coffee, milk & orange juice. Cost: (in advance), adults, \$8; children, \$5; (at door), adults, \$9; children, \$6. Tickets available after weekend Masses and at the rectory office.

Parish Basket Raffle & Bake Sale — DEC. 7, sponsored by Holy Cross Parish, 200 Delaware Ave., Olyphant; raffle drawings follow the parish's "Breakfast with Santa" event from 9 to 10:30 a.m. in Kelley Hall. Theme baskets on display: Nov. 30, 10 a.m. to noon & 4:45 to 5:45 p.m.; Dec. 1, 8:45 to 9:45 a.m. & 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.; Dec. 3, 5 to 8 p.m.; and Dec. 7. Tickets for variety baskets are 3 for \$1; 20 for \$5; and 100 for \$20. Featured raffle prizes include Hallmark Christmas Basket (\$200+ value) and 50/50 cash drawing. For more details, visit the parish website holycrossblessedsacrament.org or contact the rectory office (570) 489-0752.

"Nazareth Group" Days for High School Girls — DEC. 7, 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, contact Sister Clare at (570) 745-3334.

Feast of St. Nicholas Celebration — DEC. 8, hosted by the Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania; celebration will be held at 2 p.m. in St. Ignatius Church at St. Ignatius Loyola Parish, 339 North Maple Ave., Kingston. The Sunday afternoon event features Slovak Christmas carols and sharing of Christmas memories & traditions, concluding with Slovak hospitality and refreshments. All are welcome; for more information, contact Anna Hudock at (570) 510-1655.

Christmas Cookie Walk — DEC. 14, hosted by Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Dupont; held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the church hall, 215 Lackawanna Ave., Dupont. Featuring dozens of homemade Christmas cookies available for \$10 per pound; event also includes lottery theme basket and 50/50 cash raffle drawings.

Christmas Bake Sale — DEC. 18, sponsored by the Monastery Pantry at Holy Annunciation Monastery, 403 West County Road, Sugarloaf; sale benefits the religious sisters at the monastery. Order deadline is Monday, Dec. 9; pick-up day is Wednesday, Dec. 18, from noon to 5 p.m. at St. Mary's Center, 320 Mifflin Ave., Scranton. For more information and complete listing of sale items & pricing, call 1-800-882-0028 or email: giftfromthenuns@ptd.net (include phone number).

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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Prayer Requests for Priests

The Daily Prayer Request for Priests schedule is as follows:

November 14, Father Rafael Ofarril Bermudez Gonzalez; November 15, Father Jacek Bialkowski; November 16, Monsignor David Bohr; November 17, Passionist Vincent Boney; November 18, Father Michael Boris; November 19, Father Stephen Bosomafi; November 20, Father John Boyle; November 21, Father Stephen Brenyah; November 22, Father Michael Bryant; November 23, Passionist Father Richard Burke; November 24, Jesuit Father Timothy Cadigan; November 25, Father David Cappelloni; November 26, Passionist Father Robert Carbonneau; November 27, Father Sean Carpenter; November 28, Father Eugene Carr; November 29, Father Edward Casey; November 30, Father John Chmil; December 1, Pope Francis; December 2, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; December 3, Father Richard Cirba; December 4, Father Brian J.T. Clarke; December 5, Father Brian J.W. Clarke; December 6, Father Charles Connor; December 7, Jesuit Father Vincent Conti; December 8, Father William Corcoran; December 9, Father David Cramer; December 10, Father William Culnane; December 11, Father Charles Cummings; December 12, Father Richard Czachor, V.E.; December 13, Father Vincent Dang; December 14, Father Mark DeCelles; December 15, Father John Doris; December 16, Saint Peter Priestly Fraternity Father Anthony Dorsa; December 17, Father Michael Drevitch; December 18, Father Cyril Edwards, V.E.; December 19, Father Christian Ekeh; December 20, Father Joseph Elston; December 21, Monsignor John Esseff; December 22, Father Joseph Evanko, V.E.; December 23, Monsignor William Feldcamp; December 24, Father Neftali Feliz-Sena.

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WHITE CHRISTMAS

Friday, Nov. 29

Dutch Apple • \$125-\$155



MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET

Sunday, Dec. 15

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Lunch & Show



JOY TO THE WORLD

Sunday, Dec. 22 • \$99-\$125

American Music Theatre

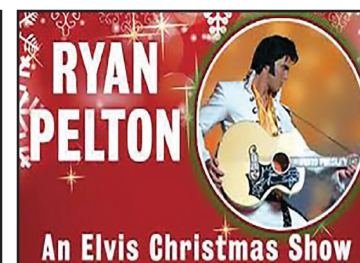
Dinner/Kitchen Kettle



PA GIFT SHOW

Wednesday, Dec. 4

Harrisburg • \$90



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Thursday, Dec. 5

Penn's Peak • \$110-\$130

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