



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

November 21, 2024

**Young adults to gather Saturday for
2024 Diocesan Youth Rally**



DIOCESE OF
SCRANTON

YOUTH *Living Hope* RALLY

1 PETER 1:12

SAVE THE DATE

SAT, NOV 23
2:00 - 8:00PM
HOLY REDEEMER HS
159 S PENNSYLVANIA AVE, WILKES-BARRE, PA 18701

Viva Cristo Rey



Joe Melendrez



Chris Spilka



Bishop Bambera

An estimated 400 young adults and chaperones have registered to participate in the 2024 Diocesan Youth Rally that will be held this Saturday at Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre.

The event, geared for students in 7th-12th grades, has the theme, "Living Hope: ¡Viva Cristo Rey!"

The youth attending the event will hear from people such as Joe Melendrez, a well-known Catholic performer and inspirational speaker, and Chris Spilka, a dynamic speaker and Catholic Campus Minister from Virginia Commonwealth University, and many more.

Additionally, the participants will experience Adoration with other young Catholics and Mass with Bishop Bambera.

[Click Here for More Information and the Schedule of the Day for the 2024 Diocesan Youth Rally](#)

Hundreds attend Diocesan Rosary Rally at Cathedral of Saint Peter



“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.

On Nov. 26, 2024, more than 400 people from across the Diocese of Scranton gathered to celebrate Father Peyton's legacy with a large-scale Rosary Rally in downtown Scranton.

Festivities, including book signings and a screening of the movie "Pray," were spread throughout the 300- and 400-blocks of Wyoming Avenue.

The highlight of the event began at 1:30 p.m. as families gathered to recite the Rosary together.

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.

[Click Here to Watch a Short Video from CTV: Catholic Television from the Rosary Rally Held Nov. 16](#)

**Religious retirement fund collection
slated for Dec. 7-8**



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.

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

Reverend Eugene L. Gunning (1930-2024)



Reverend Eugene L. Gunning, Pastor Emeritus of St. John the Evangelist, Scranton, died on the 18th day November, 2024 at Marywood Heights, Scranton, after having faithfully served the Diocese of Scranton for fifty years.

A Pontifical Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, on Saturday, November 23, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. in St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton.

Interment will be in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Minooka.

[Click Here to Read the Full Obituary for Father Gunning](#)

With Synod in mind, U.S. Bishops focus on advancing core mission priorities



The U.S. bishops' annual fall assembly in Baltimore saw the shepherds of the Catholic Church in this country make intentional steps toward

integrating their work with the synodal missionary style called for by the global church's recently concluded Synod on Synodality.

At the outset of the Nov. 11-14 plenary assembly, Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, delivered a homily in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – “the mother church of the synodal activity of the hierarchy in this country” – where he called upon the bishops to beg for wisdom “because we recognize that we are servants of the truth and charged to find ways to help those entrusted to our care.”

At the opening public session, Cardinal Christophe Pierre, the papal ambassador to the U.S., told the bishops that Pope Francis' recent encyclical “Dilexit Nos,” on the Sacred Heart of Jesus, is a call to “return to the heart” of Jesus — and key to understanding the church's call to synodal evangelization, Eucharistic revival and the upcoming Jubilee 2025.

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

**Laity, women do not 'rank' last in the Church,
Pope Francis says at general audience**



There are no second-class Christians, Pope Francis said. The laity, including women, and the clergy all have special gifts to edify the church in unity and holiness.

“The laity are not in last place. No. The laity are not a kind of external collaborator or the clergy’s ‘auxiliary troops.’ No! They have their own charisms and gifts with which to contribute to the mission of the church,” the pope said Nov. 20 at his general audience in St. Peter’s Square.

Continuing a series of talks on the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the church, Pope Francis looked at how the Holy Spirit builds up the Body of Christ through the outpouring of charismatic gifts.

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

Notre Dame de Paris returns to her Cathedral
with thousands walking her home



Miraculously missed by burning beams falling from the roof on April 15, 2019, and waiting for five years to make it back to Notre Dame Cathedral, the 14th-century statue of the Virgin of Paris made it back home Nov. 15, accompanied by thousands of Parisians praying, singing and lighting candles as they walked their Virgin to Paris' most iconic church, restored after the fire.

Since the fire, the statue, also referred to as Virgin and Child, or the Virgin of the Pillar, has been housed near the Louvre in the Church of Saint-Germain l'Auxerrois, from where the procession started at 6 p.m. local time.

For Auxiliary Bishop Philippe Marsset of Paris, the statue represents “a kind of miracle.”

“Many Christians saw the fire as a sign of the purification God was asking his church to experience,” he told OSV News. “The statue of the Virgin was spared in the flames and the waters. It remained standing, as a sign that heaven was watching over us, and that this disaster would not have the last word.”

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

Pope calls for investigation of possible genocide in Gaza



Pope Francis said the international community should investigate whether Israel's military actions in Gaza constitute genocide.

"According to some experts, what is happening in Gaza has the characteristics of genocide. It should be investigated carefully to determine whether it fits into the technical definition formulated by jurists and international bodies," he said in a new book.

An excerpt from the book, "Hope Never Disappoints: Pilgrims Toward a Better World," written with the journalist Hernán Reyes Alcaide, was published Nov. 17 by Vatican News, the Italian newspaper La Stampa and the Spanish newspaper El País.

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

Pope asks parishes, religious orders to help alleviate housing crisis



Pope Francis is asking parishes, Catholic institutions and religious congregations in Rome to celebrate the Holy Year 2025 by offering a home to someone who is without.

“In view of the Jubilee, I am asking my diocese to give a tangible sign of attention to the housing problem so that, alongside the welcome given to all the pilgrims who will come, forms of protection are activated for those who do not have a home or are in danger of losing it,” Pope Francis said in a letter dated Nov. 8 and released by the Vatican press office a week later.

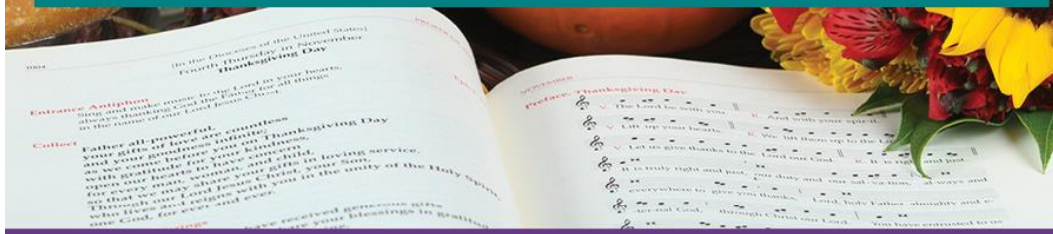
Addressed specifically to “the superiors of religious orders, the legal representatives of church entities, pastors and the clergy,” the pope’s letter requested that any church body in Rome that owns real estate contribute to alleviating the city’s housing crisis.

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

Support the 2024 Catholic Ministries Appeal!

"Bless the God of all, who has done wonders on earth" (Sirach 50:22)

As we gather in gratitude this Thanksgiving, prayerfully consider sharing your blessings. Your gift to the Catholic Ministries Appeal provides care, support and love to those who need it most.



Donate now at
AnnualAppeal.org,
call (570) 207-2250 or
click this QR code



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