



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

May 29, 2025

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

'He has been found worthy' *Seminarian Jan Carlo Perez ordained as Transitional Deacon*



Despite all the rich symbolism and sacred rituals of a Diaconate Ordination Mass, it was just eight words that held the deepest meaning for Jan Carlo Perez.

“I testify that he has been found worthy,” Father Alex Roche, Diocesan Secretary for Clergy Formation/Diocesan Vocations Director, testified during the Rite of Ordination on May 24, 2025, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

“To hear ‘we have found him worthy’ to the acclamation of God’s Church, that was something special,” Perez said just minutes after the Mass concluded. “It has been eight years since I started, three years in minor seminary, a pastoral year, theology, I left for a year and I came back, it has been a long road.”

A road that Perez admits was filled with prayerful discernment.

“I’ve grown a lot in ways that I never expected to grow. I just thank God. To God, be all the glory,” Perez added.

Perez, 26, is the son of Dr. Alex and Mrs. Liana Perez of Stroudsburg. He is a parishioner of Saint Matthew Parish in East Stroudsburg. Perez graduated from Notre Dame High School in East Stroudsburg in 2016 and attended Temple University for one year before transferring to Cathedral Seminary in Queens, N.Y., later graduating from St. John’s University in Queens in 2020.

For the last several years, Perez has been attending St. Mary’s Seminary and University in Baltimore, Md., where alongside his normal seminary studies he is getting a specialization in sacred scripture.

[Click Here to Read Bishop Bambera's Homily from the Diaconate Ordination Mass](#)

[Click Here to Watch a Short Video from Catholic Television from the Diaconate Ordination Mass of Jan Carlo Perez](#)

[Click Here to View a Photo Album from the Diaconate Ordination Mass
of Jan Carlo Perez](#)

**2025 Wedding Anniversary Mass
Sunday to celebrate 4,645 years of
marriage**



WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Congratulations to married couples from these parish communities

All Saints Parish - Plymouth	Saint Ann Basilica Parish - Scranton
Ascension Parish - Forest City	Saint Ann Parish - Shohola
Blessed Sacrament Parish - Throop	Saint Catherine of Siena Parish - Moscow
Cathedral of Saint Peter - Scranton	Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish - Swoyersville
Christ the King Parish - Archbald	Saint Elizabeth Parish - Bear Creek
Corpus Christi Parish - West Pittston	Saint Eulalia Parish - Roaring Brook Township
Divine Mercy Parish - Scranton	Saint Gregory Parish - Clarks Green
Epiphany Parish - Sayre	Saint Ignatius Loyola Parish - Kingston
Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish - Hanover Twp.	Saint John Bosco Parish - Conyngham
Holy Cross Parish - Olyphant	Saint John Parish - East Stroudsburg
Holy Family Parish - Luzerne	Saint John Vianney Parish - Scott Township
Immaculate Conception Parish - Scranton	Saint Joseph Marella Parish - Pittston
Mary, Mother of God Parish - Scranton	Saint Jude Parish - Mountain Top
Most Holy Trinity Parish - Cresco	Saint Katharine Drexel Parish - Pleasant Mount
Most Holy Trinity Parish - Susquehanna	Saint Luke Parish - Stroudsburg
Nativity of Our Lord Parish - Duryea	Saint Maria Goretti Parish - Lallin
Nativity of the B.V.M. Parish - Tunkhannock	Saint Mary of the Lake Parish - Lake Winola
Our Lady Help of Christians Parish - Dorrance	Saint Mary Parish - Waymart
Our Lady of Hope Parish - Wilkes-Barre	Saint Matthew Parish - East Stroudsburg
Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish - Pittston	Saint Nicholas - Saint Mary Parish - Wilkes-Barre
Our Lady of the Rosary Parish - Carbondale	Saint Patrick Parish - Milford
Our Lady of the Snows Parish - Clarks Summit	Saint Patrick Parish - Scranton
Our Lady of Victory Parish - Harveys Lake	Saint Paul Parish - Scranton
Our Lady of Victory Parish - Tannersville	Saint Robert Bellarmine Parish - Wilkes-Barre
Prince of Peace Parish - Old Forge	Saint Teresa of Calcutta - Scranton
Queen of Heaven Parish - Hazleton	Saint Therese Parish - Shavertown
Queen of the Apostles Parish - Avoca	Saints Anthony & Rocco Parish - Dunmore
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish - Peckville	Saints Peter & Paul Parish - Plains
Saint Andrew Parish - Wilkes-Barre	Visitation of the B.V.M. Parish - Dickson City



**DIOCESE OF
SCRANTON**

A total of 110 couples who are celebrating milestone anniversaries this year will be recognized at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Sunday, June 1, 2025.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as principal celebrant and homilist for the Diocese of Scranton's annual Wedding Anniversary Mass that recognizes married couples who are celebrating their 25th and 50th anniversaries. The Mass will begin at 2:30 p.m.

In all, the couples registered to attend the Mass will signify 4,645 years of married life.

Marriage is a vocation to holiness. All marriages can grow in knowledge, faith, joy, and love. Whether a married couple is just starting or has fifty years (or more) under their belt, the church can always help strengthen and bless your marriage.

CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton will broadcast the Mass live and provide a livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website and all Diocesan social media platforms.

[Click Here for More Information on the 2025 Wedding Anniversary Mass](#)

Bishop Bambera to honor 2025 Priest Jubilarians at June 12 Cathedral Mass

2025 PRIEST JUBILARIANS

70 Years - 1955

Reverend John J. Turi

65 Years - 1960

Reverend William R. Culnane, Ph.D.

60 Years - 1965

Monsignor John A. Bergamo, J.C.L.
Monsignor William J. Feldcamp
Reverend George A. Jeffrey

50 Years - 1975

Reverend John A. Doris
Reverend Francis L. Pauselli
Reverend John S. Terry

25 Years - 2000

Reverend Fidelis Ticona Arocutipa
Reverend Paschal Mbagwu
Reverend Thomas J. Petro, J.C.L.
Reverend Bryan B. Wright

Twelve priests who are celebrating milestone anniversaries of their ordination year will be recognized during the 2025 Mass for Priest Jubilarians at 12:10 p.m. on Thursday, June 12, 2025, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as principal celebrant and homilist. During the Mass, the Bishop will recognize a combine 565 years of service to the priesthood.

Reverend John J. Turi will be recognized for 70 years of priestly service. Father Turi was ordained a priest on June 4, 1955.

In addition to Rev. Turi, priests who are celebrating 65, 60, 50, and 25 year ordination anniversaries will be honored at the Mass.

The 2025 Mass for Priest Jubilarians will be broadcast live by CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and will be available for viewing on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel, and links will be made available across all Diocesan social media platforms.

Please join us for this special celebration!

[Click Here for More Information on the 2025 Priest Jubilarian Mass](#)

**Community invited to participate in
World Refugee Day celebration
June 22 in Scranton**



The community is invited to join together for an afternoon of unity, culture, and belonging at the ninth annual World Refugee Day Celebration, taking place on Sunday, June 22, 2025, at Nay Aug Park in Scranton. (The event will be held near the Mulberry Street entrance, across from GCMC and the Everhart Museum)

Due to the popularity of the event over the last several years – the 2025 World Refugee Day Celebration is expanding by an extra hour – and will be celebrated this year from 2-5 p.m.

The free, family-friendly event is open to all and offers a number of festivities, including a lively mix of cultural music, dance performances, international food, refreshments, games, giveaways, and engaging activities for children.

World Refugee Day is an annual commemoration established by the United Nations to honor the strength and resilience of refugees and displaced persons who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict, persecution, and violence. It is also a moment to

reaffirm our shared responsibility to support and welcome displaced individuals seeking safety and a new beginning.

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

Bishop Bambera offers prayers, peace and healing to the community impacted by the fatal shooting at the Capital Jewish Museum in Washington



“With hearts burdened by sorrow and a renewed commitment to solidarity, we express profound grief and outrage at the shooting that occurred outside the Capital Jewish Museum in Washington,” said Bishop Joseph C. Bambera and Archbishop Borys Gudziak.

Bishop Bambera, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, and Archbishop Gudziak, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development offered their prayers in response to the May 21 shooting.

"We stand in prayerful mourning with our Jewish brothers and sisters and denounce this act of violence and antisemitic hatred in the strongest possible terms. As Catholics, we are called not only to reject such hatred, but to actively foster mutual understanding, respect, and solidarity with the Jewish people. With urgency and clarity, we renew the commitment made through the Second Vatican Council's declaration *Nostra Aetate* to affirm our common patrimony with the Jews and stand against any and all forms of antisemitism..."

[Click Here to Read the Full Statement from Bishop Bambera](#)

**Communion requires prayer,
listening, conversion, pope says**



Celebrating his first Mass in Rome's diocesan cathedral, Pope Leo XIV said communion is built primarily "on our knees," through prayer and a constant commitment to conversion.

He reaffirmed Pope Francis' dedication to listening, first and foremost to the Holy Spirit, as it then leads to listening to and understanding others "as our brothers and sisters."

The pope's remarks came during his homily at Mass at the Basilica of St. John Lateran, where he took possession of the cathedral as the bishop of Rome May 25.

The pope arrived in the late afternoon to the cheers and applause of those who turned out to welcome the U.S.-born pontiff as he stepped out of the black Volkswagen SUV in front of the basilica. He smiled and waved to those outside before being greeted by Cardinal Baldassare Reina, papal vicar for Rome, and then he walked through the basilica's Holy Door.

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

Future pope helped found Villanovans for Life, marched against Roe v. Wade



The four years Robert F. Prevost spent at Villanova University in Philadelphia – from the fall of 1973 until May 1977, when he graduated with a degree in mathematics and began his novitiate with the Augustinian order – included the opening salvos of the pro-life movement.

On Jan. 22, 1974, the first anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision, which enshrined abortion on demand as a

constitutional right, Villanova students, including Prevost, the future Pope Leo XIV, were part of a pro-life demonstration at Independence Mall in Philadelphia. The principal speaker was Cardinal John J. Krol of Philadelphia, who was then president of the U.S. bishops' twin conferences, now called the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

That same day in Washington Nellie Gray, a Texas-born former government lawyer renowned for her bluntness, led, along with the Knights of Columbus, the first national March for Life, which drew many thousands of marchers and included the formation of a "circle of life" around the U.S. Capitol.

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

Padre Pio's habit, rare relics coming to US – along with his fellow Capuchins



A habit worn by St. Pio of Pietrelcina and other rare relics are coming to the U.S., brought by Capuchin friars from the very monastery that was home to the beloved saint known as Padre Pio.

The National Center for Padre Pio in Barto, Pennsylvania, and the Padre Pio Foundation of America in Cromwell, Connecticut, announced the visit in a May 19 joint press release.

Capuchin Father Francesco Dileo, provincial minister of the Capuchin Friars Minor of San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy — the monastery at which the saint served — will lead the relics tour, which will take place Oct. 11-14 at the Barto center and Oct. 15-18 at St. Pius X Church in Middletown, Connecticut.

The friars will bring with them a full-size habit worn by the saint, one that has previously never left Italy, along with a second relic.

Padre Pio's habit is "far more than a simple garment," and is rather "a sacred symbol of his vocation, humility, and total devotion to Christ," said Christina Calandra Rocus, whose late mother, Vera

Calandra, founded the National Center for Padre Pio after a profound encounter with the saint during his earthly life.

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

With blessings by land, air and water, 2025 Eucharistic pilgrimage gets underway



In their first week of pilgrimage, eight young adults witnessed a bishop blessing his diocese with the Blessed Sacrament via helicopter, visited key sites in the life of sainthood-tracked Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, and boated across the Mississippi River from Illinois to Iowa — all in the company of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

The 2025 National Eucharistic Pilgrimage launched May 18 from St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis — the same church where last year’s inaugural National Eucharistic Pilgrimage ended in July ahead of the National Eucharistic Congress. Following Mass celebrated by Indianapolis Archbishop Charles C. Thompson, the pilgrimage’s eight “perpetual pilgrims” immediately set out in a van for the Diocese of Joliet, Illinois.

“To journey with Christ in this tangible, holy way – adoring him in silence as the countryside replaced the skyscrapers of downtown – was deeply moving,” said Charlie McCullough, the only 2025 perpetual pilgrim who was also a perpetual pilgrim last year, in a post on OSV News’ live blog featuring the pilgrims’ daily reflections.

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

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