

# The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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## Called by Christ, Formed by Faith: *Diocese to ordain two new priests June 28*

SCRANTON – After years of prayer, discernment, and formation, two transitional deacons who have already devoted their lives to service in the Church are preparing to take their final step toward the priesthood.

Rev. Mr. Thomas J. Dzwonczyk and Rev. Mr. Andrew T. McCarroll will be ordained to the Sacred Priesthood for the Diocese of Scranton on Saturday, June 28, 2025, at 10 a.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as principal celebrant, homilist, and ordaining prelate.

The Ordination Mass, one of the most joyful celebrations in the life of the local Church, will mark the culmination of each man's seminary journey and the beginning of a lifetime of priestly ministry.

"I'm looking forward to taking those gifts and talents that I've nourished in my time in formation in seminary and being able to share them with the people of God," Rev. Mr. McCarroll said.

Rev. Mr. Dzwonczyk echoed those sentiments, saying he is most looking forward to sharing the Holy

## Priesthood Ordination Mass

of

Rev. Mr. Andrew McCarroll and  
Rev. Mr. Thomas Dzwonczyk



**June 28, 2025  
10 a.m.  
Cathedral of Saint Peter**



Eucharist with the faithful that have supported him along his journey.

"It's the Eucharist, the celebration of the Mass, that drew me most forcefully into the attraction of the priesthood and now to be that humble, yet unworthy minister of Jesus Christ... I honestly tremble just thinking about it," he said. "I pray that God may make me a worthy minister of his mysteries at the altar."

Both men were ordained as transitional deacons by Bishop Bambera on May 25, 2024. At that time, the Bishop

reminded them that love, rooted in Christ's self-giving on the cross, is the essential call of ordained ministry.

"In short, God's people will look to you to see Jesus," Bishop Bambera said in his homily that day. "They will look to see Jesus in your prayerfulness, in your words, in your hard work, in the simplicity of your life, and in your love."

Over the past year, Rev. Mr. Dzwonczyk and Rev. Mr. McCarroll have tried their best to live those words.

*Continued on Page 3*

## Pope Leo XIV begins first month listening before acting

(OSV News) - Since his election to the chair of St. Peter one month ago, Pope Leo XIV has made efforts to learn the lay of the land in the world's smallest state.

Those who have had the chance to know and observe the new pope see both a continuity with his predecessor, Pope Francis, while tracing a different path that is his own.

Although no major curial appointments or announcements have been made, one person who had a chance to know then-Cardinal Robert F. Prevost during the Synod on Synodality said the new pope takes his time and listens before speaking or taking concrete action.

"He's reaching out and basically listening right now, and taking notes. And, well, that's what he did, not only in the synod," but also in the diocese he led in Chiclayo, Peru, said José Manuel De Urquidi, founder of the Juan Diego Network.

Urquidi, who was among the lay delegates attending the Synod of Bishops, was in the same group as the future pope and saw firsthand Pope Leo's *modus operandi*.

"He doesn't just want to listen, and that's it, but to listen to everyone as a first step. And to also see how to react in a good way, and work with everyone," he told OSV News earlier this month.

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## CHURCH PICNIC AND FESTIVAL LISTING



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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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## From Calling to Commitment Priest Jubilarians reflect on decades of ministry

SCRANTON — Thirteen devoted priests were honored for their collective 625 years of service to the Church during the 2025 Mass for Priest Jubilarians, held 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, served as principal celebrant and homilist for the joyful liturgy, which was attended by fellow clergy, family members and parishioners from across the Diocese. The Mass was also broadcast live by CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and streamed on the Diocese's website and social media platforms, allowing the wider community to participate in honoring the faithful service of these priests.

"Today the Church of Scranton has the unique and blessed privilege of honoring a group of men who have sought to live their lives and their love for Jesus Christ as faithful witnesses," Bishop Bambera said during his homily.

The longest-serving honoree, Reverend John J. Turi, was recognized for an extraordinary 70 years of priestly ministry. Ordained on June 4, 1955, Father Turi's dedication has touched countless lives over the decades.

During the Mass, Father Turi received a special round of applause and afterward many of his former parishioners crowded around him to take photos and congratulate him.

Father Turi, along with jubilarians celebrating 65, 60, 50, and 25 years since their ordinations, received the heartfelt gratitude and admiration of many.

Among those honored was Monsignor John A. Bergamo, who reflected on his decision



The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, celebrated the Diocese of Scranton's annual Mass for Priest Jubilarians on June 12, 2025. Participating were, front row, from left: Msgr. John A. Bergamo, J.C.L. (60 years); Rev. Paschal Mbagwu, S.T.D. (25 years); Rev. Christian Ekeh (25 years in 2024); Bishop Bambera; Rev. John J. Turi (70 years); Rev. William R. Culnane, Ph.D. (65 years). Back row, from left: Rev. John V. Polednak, Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; Rev. Fidelis Ticona Arcutipa (25 years); Rev. Gerald W. Shantillo, Vicar General; Rev. Joseph Sibilano, O.S.J. (60 years); Rev. John A. Doris (50 years); Rev. Thomas J. Petro, J.C.L. (25 years); and Rev. Bryan B. Wright (25 years). Four priests celebrating milestone anniversaries were unable to attend: Msgr. William J. Feldcamp (60 years); Rev. George A. Jeffrey (60 years); Rev. Francis L. Pauselli (50 years); and Rev. John S. Terry (50 years). (Photo/Mike Melisky)

to enter the priesthood with characteristic humility and grace.

"All my life, even when I was very young, I thought, 'I want to be a priest,'" Monsignor said. "I think a lot of it was my own family, the influence of my family but also the pastor of our parish, Father Michael Vetter. He was just a wonderful man, and he was such an example of what a priest was all about."

As he reflected on 60 years of service, Msgr. Bergamo said being with parishioners has been his greatest joy.

"Being able to celebrate the liturgy of the Mass, to celebrate the Sacraments with them. The priest gives the blessing to the people, but it works the other way too. The priest is blessed by the people that he serves. That is

one of the wonderful things of 60 years, for me to actually receive blessings from the people just because of the relationships and the interaction."

For Father John A. Doris, one of the 50-year jubilarians, the greatest joys of his priesthood have also come from walking with the people in every season of life.

"The priesthood is a real gift, but it comes from the people," Father Doris stated. "I have had so many joys with it."

As he looked out into the crowd at Mass to see all those gathered to wish him well, Father Doris felt grateful, and immediately through of Pope Leo XIV's reflection on the unification of the Church.

"We don't do this

individually. It's the sharing of all the gifts of the Spirit becoming one. The more we have those gifts, the more the shepherding and the priesthood becomes apparent in all of us," he added.

Following the Mass, the honorees gathered for photos and personal greetings from parishioners, many of whom had driven long distances to share in the special day.

"On behalf of the people of the Diocese of Scranton, I congratulate our Jubilarians and I thank them, and all of our priests, many of whom join with them today, and all of our priests throughout our 11 counties for their service to the Church and to the Lord Jesus, who is its heart and its very life," Bishop Bambera said.



# Bishop Bambera to ordain two to priesthood in Sacred Rite of Ordination

*Continued from Page 1*

Both men have been serving faithfully in their diaconal roles while completing their theological studies. They have preached the Gospel, celebrated the Sacraments, and walked with parishioners in moments both joyful and challenging.

As they prepare for their ordination to the priesthood, both men say they are especially grateful for the support they've received from their families, friends, and the parish communities they have served.

"If I can express my gratitude in one-tenth of what they've shown to me, it will be a worthwhile ministry," Rev. Mr. Dzwonczyk said.

Both Dzwonczyk and McCarroll have similar vocation stories. Both men were approached about pursuing a path to the priesthood by former Diocesan Vocations Director, Father Don Williams, while attending a local Catholic high school.

"I vividly remember in high school being called out of second period to meet with a priest because I was told that some of the faculty members at Holy Cross High School thought I might have a vocation. I didn't really know what to expect," Rev. Mr. Dzwonczyk said. "I would meet with Father Don regularly. We had a group of young men who were asking the same questions. We called it the 'God Squad.' We would meet once every two weeks just to discuss it, to pray, to read about vocations, and it really blossomed from



**Rev. Mr. Thomas Dzwonczyk**

Rev. Mr. Dzwonczyk is the son of Thomas and Stephanie Dzwonczyk of North Abington Township, Lackawanna County.

He attended Holy Cross High School in Dunmore and Saint Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, Md.

During his discernment process, Dzwonczyk completed a pastoral year assignment at Saint Jude Parish, Mountain Top, where he also assisted teaching eighth grade religion at Saint Jude School.

He has one younger sister, Katherine, and grew up attending Saint John Vianney Parish in Montdale.

there. I started to get more interested, and I stayed connected with Father Don throughout my time in college."



**Rev. Mr. Andrew McCarroll**

Rev. Mr. McCarroll is the son of Todd and Judy McCarroll of Lehman, Luzerne County.

He attended Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre, Saint John's University in Queens and Saint Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, Md.

Rev. Mr. McCarroll completed a pastoral year assignment at Saint Boniface Parish, Williamsport, and Saint Lawrence Parish, South Williamsport, and also served as Director of Religious Formation at Saint John Neumann Regional Academy.

He has two brothers, Nicholas and Will, and his home parish is Saint Robert Bellarmine in Wilkes-Barre.

After being heavily involved in his home parish since a young age, Rev. Mr. McCarroll had already thought about

becoming a priest when Father Don approached him while attending Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre.

"The conversation naturally rolled from there and it was through talking and meeting with Father Don that I realized, maybe the next step was to go into a formation program right out of high school to college seminary," Rev. Mr. McCarroll stated. "One year became two years and two years became nine years and here I sit before you."

The Ordination Mass on June 28 will include the Laying on of Hands and the Prayer of Ordination by Bishop Bambera – the essential rite through which the men will be consecrated priests. Each will then be vested in priestly garments – a stole and chasuble – and have their hands anointed with sacred chrism oil as a sign of their priestly identity.

In the days following the ordination, the newly ordained priests will celebrate their First Mass of Thanksgiving at their respective home parishes – Saint John Vianney Parish in Montdale for Dzwonczyk and Saint Robert Bellarmine Parish for McCarroll.

Everyone is invited to attend the Ordination Mass on June 28.

For those unable to attend in person, CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton will broadcast the Mass live and livestream the liturgy on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel and across all Diocesan social media channels.

## Study: Personal encouragement, Eucharistic adoration key to 2025 priestly vocations

(OSVNews)-Personal encouragement to consider the priesthood, along with regular Eucharistic adoration, continue to be key factors for young men seeking to become priests, according to a new report.

"Encourage a young man to consider the priesthood or to attend Eucharistic adoration; he could be your future pastor," said Bishop Earl Boyea of Lansing, Michigan.

The bishop, who chairs the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, shared his thoughts in

a statement announcing the release of the 2025 "Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood."

Since 2006, the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University, or CARA, has overseen the report, which is made directly to the USCCB.

In what would one of his final messages, Pope Francis - writing March 19 amid his final illness - stressed the need for prayer and communal support for men and women in discerning their vocations from Jesus Christ.

That call dovetailed with the data in CARA's report, which found that 78% of the survey participants had participated in regular Eucharistic adoration before entering the seminary, with 89% encouraged to consider priesthood by someone: either a parish priest (60%), friend (52%) or fellow parishioner (42%).

This year's survey was completed by 309 out of the 405 men being ordained priests this year, a response rate of 76%.

The ordinands represent 115 U.S. dioceses and eparchies and 36 distinct religious institutes.

**VOCATIONS  
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# **‘He has been found worthy’**

## ***Seminarian Jan Carlo Perez ordained as Transitional Deacon***

SCRANTON — 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, proclaimed during the Rite of Ordination on May 24, 2025, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

“When you’re on this road, you struggle a lot with unworthiness ... To hear ‘we have found him worthy’ to the acclamation of God’s Church, that was something special,” Rev. Mr. 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,” Rev. Mr. 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



**The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, lays his hands upon the head of Jan Carlo Perez while saying the Prayer of Ordination on May 24, 2025.**

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.

“God has given me everything and I can only give him so little back. I can give him back my life, that’s about it,” Rev. Mr. Perez added.

The Diaconate Ordination Mass was attended by clergy and seminarians, along with Perez’s

family and friends, who gathered to witness and support him in this sacred moment.

“Honestly, I feel great. This has been awesome. There were so many people that I just didn’t know would come and support me on this day,” he explained.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant, homilist, and ordaining prelate at the Mass. During his homily, the Bishop explained that the responsibilities of a deacon encompass three main areas: Ministry of the Word of God; Ministry of the Liturgy; and Ministry of Charity.

“If you want your ministry



**Rev. Mr. Jan Carlo Perez gives a hug to a friend outside the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton directly following his Diaconate Ordination Mass. (Photos/Mike Melisky)**

as a deacon to be fruitful, Jan, you must root yourself in Jesus’ life and love. The disciplines of prayer, obedience, and celibacy that you are called to embrace this day are meant to enable you to grow in the same spirit of service and mercy that so characterized Jesus’ ministry,” Bishop Bambera said. “These disciplines are not obstacles, hurdles or distractions that are somehow detached from what it means to be an ordained minister of the Church. They are not meant to set you up as being better or greater than others. Rather, they are the vehicles that will carry you to a deeper union with Jesus.”

While Perez is excited to begin preaching homilies and proclaiming God’s Word, he readily admits needing to serve

the poor in a greater way.

“I’ve been reflecting on service a lot because I think, if I can be a little vulnerable here, I think it’s probably one of the things I feel weakest in. I feel like I haven’t done enough for God’s Church and now I’ve been commissioned to do this by the Church, so I know I have to look for every opportunity to serve the homeless, the poor, and the suffering,” Perez added.

Perez was ordained as a transitional deacon, meaning he will now serve in various capacities within the diocese, gaining practical experience and deepening his spiritual life in preparation for priestly ordination, which is expected to take place next year.

His journey reflects the Church’s commitment to nurturing vocations and ensuring that those called to serve are well-prepared to lead and guide the faithful.

“I’m really looking forward to learning everything I can this year so that I can be as prepared as I can be for the priesthood,” Perez said. “The day of (priestly) ordination is just the beginning. It’s not like graduating where you’re done with school and now, you’re onto something completely different. No, it’s just the beginning of something and I look forward to being as prepared as I can be.”

## **‘Hope Never Fails’ will be theme for 2025 Solemn Novena to Saint Ann**

SCRANTON - Father Richard Burke, C.P., Rector of Saint Ann’s Monastery and Director of Saint Ann’s Shrine Basilica, has announced this year’s Solemn Novena to Saint Ann will take place from July 17-July 26, 2025.

As the Church continues

to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Hope, these days of special preaching and praying seek to foster the important virtue of hope in our lives.

Our society and our world are dealing with a great amount of uncertainty. Many people become anxious in such an atmosphere.

The gift of hope seeks to make firm the foundation of faith upon which we stand.

Father Richard is also announcing this year’s preachers, Father Curtis Kiddy, C.P., of North Palm Beach, Fla., and Father Cristian Martinez, C.P., of San Juan, Puerto Rico, will provide

encouragement for fostering hope in the everyday circumstances of our lives.

As we live in hope, we join together in prayer to Saint Ann seeking her intercession and companionship while praying for the people and the issues of our lives.

Please mark your calendars now and plan to join together in prayer, we look forward, day by day, with the wonderful gift of hope which only God is able to provide.

All are invited to join us at the Basilica for this special time of grace and blessings.



# SOLEMN NOVENA

IN HONOR OF

*Saint Ann*

**JULY 17 TO 26, 2025**

**PREACHERS: FR. CRISTIAN MARTINEZ, C.P. AND FR. CURTIS KIDDY, C.P.**

## NOVENA DEVOTIONS

After 8 & 11:45 A.M. & 5:30 P.M. Masses; w/Novena only at 3:30 • 7:30 P.M. Mass & Novena in Spanish

## DIVINE LITURGY - BYZANTINE RITE

Tuesday, July 22, 5:30 P.M.  
7:30 P.M. Mass and Novena in Spanish

## DAILY MASSES

7:00, 8:00 & 11:45 A.M. & 5:30 P.M.  
July 17-25: 7:30 P.M. Mass in Spanish  
Solemn Closing in Spanish: Fri., July 25, 7:30 pm

## CONFESSIONS

Lower Basilica for 30 minutes prior to each Mass & the 3:30 P.M. Novena Service, and after all services

## CHILDREN'S MASS & NOVENA PRAYERS

Saturday, July 19, 10:00 A.M.;  
Special Blessing for Families and Grandparents

## MASS OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Wednesday, July 23, 1:30 P.M.

## SUNDAY, JULY 20

### MASSES

7:00 A.M., 8:00 A.M., 11:45 A.M., & 5:30 P.M.  
7:30 P.M. Mass in Spanish

## SUNDAY, JULY 20

Celebration of Grandparents & Elderly at Mass

## NOVENA DEVOTIONS

After 8:00 & 11:45 A.M. & 5:30 P.M. Masses; w/Novena only at 3:30 P.M. • 7:30 P.M. Mass & Novena in Spanish

## SAINT ANN'S FEAST DAY SATURDAY, JULY 26

### CONFESSIONS 4:00 AM

### MASSES & DEVOTIONS

4:30, 7:00, 8:00, 10:00 & 11:45 A.M.  
3:30 P.M. (Novena only) & 5:30 P.M.

### LANGUAGE SERVICE

1:30 PM - POLISH in Upper Basilica

## *Individual Blessing with Relic of St. Ann After Each Devotion*

## SOLEMN CLOSING SATURDAY, JULY 26, AT 7:30 P.M.

Pontifical Mass celebrated by Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.

### CTV COVERAGE OF THE SOLEMN NOVENA

Every Day at 12:00 pm and 3:30 pm  
Weeknights at 7:00 pm (except Thursday July 24 at 8:00 pm)  
Closing Mass live Saturday July 26 at 7:30 pm,  
Rebroadcast Sunday July 27 at 12:00 pm

## BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF ST. ANN PASSIONIST MONASTERY

1239 SAINT ANN STREET

SCRANTON, PA 18504

For the convenience of the people attending the novena, refreshments will be available on the monastery grounds during the entire novena.







***Saint Patrick Parish, Milford***



***Visitation of the BVM Parish, Dickson City***



***Saint Ann Parish, Shohola***



***Our Lady of the Abingtons Parish, Dalton;  
Saint Patrick Parish, Nicholson; and Saint  
Mary of the Lake Parish, Lake Winola***



***Mary, Mother of God Parish, Scranton***



***Saint John Neumann Parish, Lords Valley***



***Saints Peter & Paul Parish, Towanda & Our  
Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Wyalusing***



***Saint Vincent de Paul Parish, Dingman Twp.***



***Gate of Heaven Parish, Dallas & Our Lady of Victory Parish, Harveys Lake***



***Saint Ignatius Loyola Parish, Kingston; Holy Family  
Parish, Luzerne; and Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton  
Parish, Swoyersville***



# 4,880 Years of Love: Wedding Anniversary Mass honors marriage milestones

SCRANTON – When asked why he came to the Diocese of Scranton's annual Wedding Anniversary Mass, Brian Kelly didn't hesitate to be honest.

"My wife told me I was going to do it," he joked with a smile, glancing at Pat, his wife of 50 years.

The Kellys, parishioners of Saint Andrew Parish in Wilkes-Barre, were among 115 couples honored at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on June 1 for reaching milestone anniversaries – 25, 50, and even more years of marriage. Together, the couples represented an astounding 4,880 years of love, partnership, and commitment.

But for Brian, after starting with direction, the occasion turned more into reflection.

"The more I thought about it, the more I said, what an honor, what a wonderful day and I would not ever have missed today," he said.

His sentiment echoed throughout the Cathedral, which was filled with couples who've walked together through decades of joy, challenges, and struggles.

"Being married isn't a bed of roses. It is an endeavor that two people take and they have to meet the challenges along the way," Pat Kelly explained. "I believe God



**A total of 110 couples from parishes throughout the Diocese of Scranton gathered on June 1, 2025, for the annual Diocese of Scranton Wedding Anniversary Mass. (Photos/Mike Melisky)**

is right there with you, because between two people you have to have God with you, and he helps you get through everything."

The Wedding Anniversary Mass, celebrated by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, has become a beloved tradition in the Diocese of Scranton, honoring the sacred bonds of marriage.

In his homily, Bishop Bambera thanked couples for being living witnesses of love and perseverance.

"Christian marriage, your marriage, has endured because you come to see it as part of something much bigger than yourselves," Bishop Bambera said. "You see your marriage as something of a mystery – the mystery of God's love woven into creation, embraced in your lives and lived only through God's grace."

Each couple attending the Mass received a special certificate, but more than any memento, many said they were touched by the opportunity to come together and reflect on what it takes to build a marriage that lasts.

Many also appreciated the opportunity to renew their wedding vows during the Mass.

"It went by very quickly," Christine Kane, a parishioner of Saint Maria Goretti Parish in Laffin, said. "Renewing our vows was nice. It reminded me how long it has been since we've actually looked at each other in the eyes and said those vows."

Christine and her husband, Thomas, are celebrating their 25th anniversary this year.

"It is a nice reminder of how our marriage started with vows and being in church," Thomas

added. "Church has always been a big part of our lives, so it is a nice reminder to reemphasize that on our anniversary like this."

Asked what advice they might offer couples just starting their journey, this year's attendees had many things to offer.

"Love, patience, and always listening to what the other person has to say," Christine said.

"Communication is very important. Working together and knowing you're working together and having a sense of humor," Thomas added.

"I think it's having faith in God that he is going to help you



**At the prompting of the Bishop, Kathleen Crane looks into the eyes of her husband, Deacon Donald Crane, during the homily of the Wedding Anniversary Mass.**



**Senan and Mila Alday, parishioners of Saint John Parish in East Stroudsburg, pose for a photo.**

get through everything," Pat Kelly said.

"Love, big time, I've had that from day one," her husband Pat added with a smile.



**Leo and Amanda Kloss, parishioners of Saint Eulalia Parish, look into each other's eyes during the Mass on June 1, 2025.**



**A couple celebrating a milestone wedding anniversary has a photo taken during a reception following Mass at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton.**



# Religious sisters played role in pope's formation in grade school

MENDHAM, N.J. (OSV News) - As the Sisters of Christian Charity watched the white smoke rise from the Sistine Chapel in Rome May 8 and awaited the appearance of the new pope on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, they had no idea they had played a vital role in his early formation.

When Cardinal Robert F. Prevost's name was announced and he stepped onto the balcony as Pope Leo XIV, joy rippled through the crowd -- and among the sisters -- as the world learned that the new pope was an American. A Chicago native. An Augustinian. An alumnus of Villanova University and the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

Details emerged that he hailed from the South Side of Chicago, from the suburban town of Dolton, Illinois, and attended St. Mary of the Assumption Parish and School in nearby Riverdale. That revelation deepened the sisters' excitement: from 1918 to 1988, the Sisters of Christian Charity were educators at St. Mary School.

They quickly began poring over archives in search of records of those who had taught there during the grade school years of Pope Leo XIV. The North American province of the Sisters of Christian Charity is based in Mendham, in the Diocese of Paterson.



**This photo shows the second-grade class of Robert Prevost, now Pope Leo XIV, at St. Mary of the Assumption School in Riverdale, Ill., in 1962. He is the fourth boy standing next to the blackboard. The Sisters of Christian Charity taught the future pope at the school. (OSV News photo/courtesy Province of the Sisters of Christian Charity in Mendham, N.J.)**

The story of this connection traces back to the Sisters of Christian Charity's founding. Pauline von Mallinckrodt established the congregation in 1849 in Paderborn, Germany. Amid political upheaval under Otto von Bismarck and in response to calls from America for German-speaking sisters to educate immigrant children, the sisters arrived in the United States in 1873.

They established schools in many states across the country. Little could Pauline have imagined that one day, her community would help form a future pope's early faith and education.

In September 1961, young Robert began first grade at St. Mary School. Under the guidance of the sisters, he received the foundational education that would one day support him in leading the Catholic Church.

Two Sisters of Christian Charity who served at St. Mary's during Prevost's time were Sister Rosalie Erdmann, now a member of the Sisters of the Living Word, and Sister Leocadia Salbert, now known as Sister Jeanette Salbert, also of the Sisters of the Living Word.

Sister Rosalie taught sixth and seventh grades during Robert's eighth-grade year. Though she did not teach him directly, she remembers seeing him serve Mass and play on the school playground. She also fondly recalls his mother, Mildred.

"Robert's mother was wonderful. She was the school librarian and deeply involved with the school and parish," Sister Rosalie said in an interview for The Beacon, Paterson's diocesan news outlet.

Sister Jeanette arrived at St. Mary during the second half of Robert's eighth-grade year and taught science. Although she does not remember him, she recalls the school's nurturing environment.

"It was more than a school," Sister Jeanette said. "It was a family."

Even before Sister Jeanette arrived, the Prevost family had already made an impression. In 1964, Mildred organized the St. Mary's Altar Rosary Society and mobilized school families to collect S&H Green Stamps, which were used to purchase a car for the sisters.

Sister M. Alypia Schalkowski, who died in 2003 and was Robert's first-grade teacher, remained connected to him throughout the years. Her address books listed his successive addresses, first as the provincial of his Augustinian order in Illinois and later as the prior general in Rome.

The Sisters of Christian Charity joyfully celebrate Pope Leo XIV's pontificate and the path he will chart for the church. They are honored and proud to have played a small yet meaningful role in his early formation.

## Pope Leo XIV begins pontificate by listening first

*Continued from Page 1*

For Msgr. Roger Landry, national director of the Pontifical Mission Societies USA, the pope's missionary experience "and his 12 years traveling the globe as Augustinian prior general, have really prepared him well to steer the barque of Peter in the church's worldwide fishing expedition."

"The most striking thing about him is how poised he has been in everything he has been doing," Msgr. Landry said in an email to OSV News. "While his election may have been a shock to almost everyone else, he has seemed, from the moment he walked out on the balcony, to be ready and perfectly comfortable in his new and greatly expanded mission."

Urquidi echoed those sentiments,

noting that the pope's "missionary heart" gave him a unique perspective on leading by listening first and then acting.

"He has a universal approach - American but also Latin American - but also this very unique experience of being a superior for many years with the Augustinians," Urquidi told OSV News.

"A lot of people in the media, or even pundits, (try to) classify American bishops or cardinals on a spectrum, and he doesn't fit any of those at all. And we're seeing that in how he's approaching things during this first month."

In the first month of his pontificate, Msgr. Landry noted that Pope Leo repeatedly mentioned various themes "that seem to be the initial lines of his papal magisterium."

Among those themes are "the peace

of the risen Christ that the world urgently needs; the summons of everyone in the church to proclaim and give witness to Jesus as the Son of the Living God and the answer to man's restless heart; the call for the church to serve as the sacrament of communion for the human race in the one Christ who seeks to make us one," he told OSV News.

Msgr. Landry noted that Pope Leo also emphasized "the importance of Catholic teaching to respond to the social, anthropological, economic and intellectual revolution underway because of artificial intelligence; and a humble reaffirmation that the pope is indeed still Catholic with regard to gender ideology, marriage, family, human sexuality, and the dignity of every human life."

He also said the pope's experience

as an American can help "unite American Catholics" and inspire them to become "salt, light and leaven" both at home and abroad, while his Augustinian background can help reintroduce Catholics to St. Augustine's writings which "respond to many of the most pressing questions that are devouring the psyches and souls of so many in secular cultures."

However, he said, the pope's motto - "In Illo Uno Unum" ("In the One, we are one") - is a hopeful indication that the new pontificate will help heal divisions.

"I hope that he will help us to become one in the one Christ through helping the church overcome the theological, liturgical, and moral divisions that wound her and enfeeble her witness to Christ and his ongoing saving work," Msgr. Landry told OSV News.



# In video for Chicago celebration, Pope Leo speaks directly to youth

CHICAGO (OSV News) - In what started out as a cloudy afternoon, the then bright and sunny stadium of Pope Leo XIV's favorite baseball team, Chicago's faithful cheered on one of their own's election to the papacy.

The June 14 celebration, organized by the Archdiocese of Chicago, included a series of short video clips and first-ever airing of Pope Leo XIV's video message to the world's youth at Rate Field on Chicago's Southside.

In the message, Pope Leo encouraged young people to look inside themselves, recognize God's presence in their own hearts and "recognize that God is present and that, perhaps in many different ways, God is reaching out to you, calling you, inviting you to know his Son Jesus Christ, through the Scriptures, perhaps through a friend or a relative... a grandparent, who might be a person of faith."

He emphasized the importance of recognizing this, especially "that longing for love in our lives, for ... searching, a true searching, for finding the ways that we may be able to do something with our own lives to serve others."



**Pope Leo XIV delivers a video message during a public celebration hosted by the Chicago White Sox and the Archdiocese of Chicago for the election of the pontiff ahead of a Mass in his honor at Rate Field in Chicago June 14, 2025. (OSV News photo/Carlos Osorio, Reuters)**

Pope Leo also extended an invitation to join this Holy Year to the cheering crowd, which quieted down, eyes to the video monitors across the field.

"In this Jubilee Year of Hope, Christ, who is our hope, indeed calls all of us to come together, that we might be that true living example: the light of hope in the world today," he said.

The program before the scheduled Mass at the stadium included a three-way interview with the host Chuck Swirsky, known to locals as the announcer of the Chicago Bulls NBA team, and Pope Leo's classmate Augustinian Father John Merkelis, president of the Augustinian Providence High School in a south Chicago suburb, as well as St. Agnes Sister Dianne Bergant, his former professor at Catholic Theological Union, who said he was a very good student.

Father Merkelis talked about his friend "Bob" Prevost's down-to-earth and humble way. He shared his thoughts about what kind of pope his high school classmate and close friend would be.

"He's deliberate, he's thoughtful. He will listen to all sides, but he will make up his own mind. He'll be clear... He's

a canon lawyer, and he knows how to pastorally apply the law. He's a prayerful man. And having said all that, he's a regular guy," said Father Merkelis.

White Sox Senior Vice President Brooks Boyer addressed the pope directly, should he be watching the livestream.

"On behalf of the White Sox and all of our fans, we'd be honored to have you back here at Rate Field to throw out a ceremonial first pitch. The mound is waiting. Your crowd is certainly ready and your team, the White Sox, is here with open arms," he said.

During the Mass, Chicago Cardinal Blase J. Cupich preached a homily on people's inherent dignity, inviting the faithful to "live authentically" and taking a forceful stand against the country's immigration policy.

The cardinal reminded those present and watching via livestream that their worth comes from the fact that they are loved by God, that they are called to a life of self-giving service, and that life is to be lived not in isolation but through an interconnectedness with others, mirroring the relationship between the Holy Trinity.

## Blessed Carlo Acutis to be canonized Sept. 7



VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Pope Leo XIV will canonize Blesseds Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati together Sept. 7.

Meeting with cardinals living in and visiting Rome for an ordinary public consistory June 13, the pope approved the new canonization date for the two young blesseds.

The canonization of Blessed Acutis, a teenager known for his devotion to the Eucharist and creating an online exhibition of Eucharistic miracles, had originally been scheduled for April 27 but was postponed following the death of Pope Francis.

## Pope Leo XIV will go to Papal Villa in July



VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Pope Leo XIV will spend two weeks of July at the papal summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, bringing back a centuries-old tradition that had been suspended by Pope Francis.

Pope Leo also will celebrate the feast of the Assumption of Mary for the whole town and visitors Aug. 15 as per tradition, according to the Prefecture of the Papal Household.

All private audiences with the pope will be suspended during July, including the Wednesday general audiences, which will resume July 30.

## Jubilee Year is a time to build bridges, not walls



VATICAN CITY (CNS) - In a world marked by division and ideological conflict, Pope Leo XIV urged Catholics to reject walls of separation and embrace Jesus as "a door that unites," reminding pilgrims that true Christian hope lies in connecting rather than dividing.

During a special Jubilee audience June 14, the pope said the Holy Year 2025 must be lived as a mission of communion, rooted in the theological virtue of hope.

"To hope is to connect," he said, stating that the Jubilee is an "open door" to the mystery of God's connection with humanity.

## Vatican warns about fake pope quotes/videos



VATICAN CITY (OSV News) - All the speeches and messages Pope Leo XIV has given since becoming pope May 8 are available on the Vatican website, which should be checked before sharing supposed quotes and videos, Vatican News said.

The Vatican News site published the warning in several languages after a 36-minute "deep fake" - AI-generated - video was posted on YouTube.

The Vatican website, [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va), offers papal texts, including the texts of video messages, in multiple languages.



# 'Nothing that is loved by God is ever lost'

## Nativity of Our Lord Church closes with tearful, hopeful farewell

SCRANTON – After more than 120 years as a spiritual home to generations of Catholics in South Scranton, Nativity of Our Lord Church closed its doors for the final time on Sunday, June 8, 2025.

The church, filled to capacity with more than 500 parishioners, was filled with both sorrow and gratitude as the community gathered for the closing Mass.

"It was a solemn and sad occasion but one that was also filled with faith and love," Father Jonathan Kuhar, pastor of Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish, explained.

Father Kuhar served as principal celebrant of the Mass and was assisted by Deacon Albert Giacometti. Seven other priests who are either native sons or served at Nativity Church concelebrated the liturgy.

"I thought the nine priests and a deacon on the altar for the consecration was incredible. It was beautiful to see them all up there and consecrating the hosts together," parishioner Katie Kearney stated.

The final Mass, rich in symbolism and tradition, honored



**A standing room only crowd of more than 500 people attended the Closing Mass of Nativity of Our Lord Church in Scranton on June 8, 2025.**

the sacred history of the church. Following the Prayer after Communion, the congregation participated in the Church's traditional rites for the closing of a sacred space.

Together, the community prayed over the baptismal font that welcomed new life, the ambo from which the Word of God was proclaimed, and the Stations of the Cross that guided the faithful through the Passion and Death of Jesus.

But it was the final act of veneration – when parishioners were invited to approach the altar one last time – that brought the deepest emotion. One by one, young and old, families and longtime parishioners stepped forward.

Some touched the altar gently; others knelt and kissed it, a deeply personal goodbye to a place that had shaped their lives.

"As a Eucharistic Minister, I've been giving Communion out for 38 years now. That is the centerpiece of the church," parishioner George Schneider, Jr., said. "It was beautiful the way they closed it, acknowledging the baptismal font, stained glass, altar, and statue of Mary."

The closure of Nativity of Our Lord Church comes after several years of prayerful consultation and difficult discernment by parish leaders. With a decline in Mass attendance and growing financial pressures, it was concluded that the community could no longer sustain two worship sites.

In his homily, Father Kuhar acknowledged the heartbreak while pointing the community toward hope. He also thanked



**During the Closing Ritual, Msgr. Joseph G. Quinn, left, and Father Jonathan Kuhar, right, offer a prayer over the baptismal font.**

many people, including the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, who helped build the faith community.

"Nothing that is loved by God is ever lost. It might pass through our fingers for a moment, but it is never lost," Father Kuhar said. "Even though we say goodbye today, we entrust it to God's hands. We are a pilgrim people. We journey through this life, and we do as best we can the work of our God."

Following the Mass, many parishioners left Nativity together on foot, walking approximately 20 minutes to Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Church on Prospect Avenue – a symbolic procession from the past into the future. Following a prayer service, a reception allowed the faithful to share stories, memories and hope for the future.

### LOCKING THE DOORS

Four long-time parishioners were invited to serve as closing sacristans to lock the doors of Nativity Church and seal them with ribbon.

Paul Bracey, 92, never thought he would be asked to perform the important task.

"I locked the doors many times through the years for different services. It was tough to see it go," he admitted.

Even though it has been more than 80 years since he received his First Holy Communion in Nativity Church, Bracey still remembers being part of the first class to receive the Holy Eucharist in the Upper Church.

"It was the first time they opened up the Upper Church to children," he said. "Before that, all the children's Masses were held in the Lower Church. The pastor even brought the children up on the top step to receive Communion. That sticks with me all these years."

### HONORING FOUNDING PASTOR

As part of its closing weekend, Father James O'Reilly, the founding pastor of Nativity Church was honored and remembered.

*Continued on Page 11*



**At the end of the Closing Mass, parishioners Paul Bracey and Mary Joan Burns lock one of the doors of Nativity of Our Lord Church. Sue Gilday and Marita McGoff locked the other door. (Photos/Eric Deabill)**



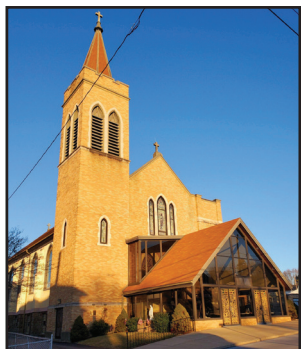
# Three new parish consolidations to take effect July 1

SCRANTON - For the last five years, the Diocese of Scranton has been working proactively to address the realities of our local church while striving to meet the opportunities and challenges of the coming decade. The Diocese created its *Vision 2030 Pastoral Planning Process* in order to create vibrant expressions of parish life rooted in the life of Jesus Christ.

This planning process addresses the ongoing needs of parishes through the lens of four distinct priority drivers: Vibrancy of Parish Life (Mass Attendance & Sacraments); Condition of Facilities; Financial Viability of a Parish; and Distribution and Availability of Clergy.

Over the last several months, conversation and consultation has taken place in several parish communities regarding how best to work together and grow together in faithfulness to Christ and His Church.

Beginning on July 1, 2025, three new consolidated parish communities will take shape. Each community will have a new name and the clergy assignments for the new parishes are listed below.



**St. Anthony of Padua Church**  
Throop

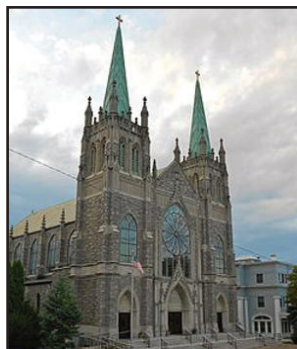


**St. Patrick Church**  
Olyphant

Beginning on July 1, Blessed Sacrament Parish, with its sole worship site of Saint Anthony of Padua Church, Throop, will be consolidated with Holy Cross Parish, with its sole worship site of Saint Patrick Church, Olyphant.

The name of the newly consolidated parish will be **Blessed Carlo Acutis Parish**, pending his canonization on Sept. 7, 2025, after which time the consolidated parish will be **Saint Carlo Acutis Parish**.

Father Scott Sterowski, current pastor of both Blessed Sacrament and Holy Cross Parishes, has been appointed pastor of the newly consolidated parish. Deacon John P. Musyt will also serve the newly consolidated parish.



**St. Gabriel Church**  
Hazleton

Beginning on July 1, Annunciation Parish, with its sole worship site of Saint Gabriel Church, Hazleton, will be consolidated with Holy Name of Jesus Parish, with its sole worship site of Transfiguration Church, West Hazleton.

The name of the newly consolidated parish will be **Saint Pius of Pietrelcina Parish** in honor of Saint Padre Pio.

Father Kevin Miller, current pastor of both parishes, has been appointed to serve as pastor of the newly consolidated parish. Father Neftali Feliz-Sena and Father Benito Hierro Aquino will serve as assistant pastors.



**Transfiguration Church**  
West Hazleton

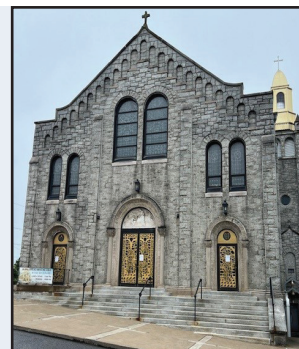


**Most Precious Blood Church**  
Hazleton

Beginning on July 1, Most Precious Blood Parish, with its sole worship site of Most Precious Blood Church, Hazleton, will be consolidated with Queen of Heaven Parish, with its sole worship site of Our Lady of Grace Church, Hazleton.

The name of the newly consolidated parish will be **Our Lady of Peace Parish**.

Father Anthony Generose, current pastor of both parishes, has been appointed to serve as pastor of the newly consolidated parish. Father Rafael Ofarril Bermudez Gonzalez will serve as assistant pastor. Deacon Robert A. Roman will also serve the consolidated parish.



**Our Lady of Grace Church**  
Hazleton

## Nativity of Our Lord Church in South Scranton celebrates its closing Mass

*Continued from Page 10*

On Saturday, June 7, parishioners prayed Morning Prayer together in remembrance of the former cleric who died in 1907. After his death, Father O'Reilly was interred in the lower chapel at his request so that he could remain with the community.

Following Morning Prayer, the parish community reinterred him at the Sacred Hearts Cemetery. He was buried in a place of honor on the hill next to Bishop Henry Klonowski, the longtime pastor of Sacred Hearts Parish.

"From there may they both watch over the flock of our parish

while we wait together for the Day of Resurrection," a note in the Closing Mass program stated.

### PARISHIONERS MOVE FORWARD IN FAITH

While Nativity Church will no longer be a location for liturgies, parishioners say the legacy of Nativity of Our Lord Church will continue to live on in the hearts of its people.

Two years ago, the faithful of Nativity Church and Sacred Hearts Church consolidated to form Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish serving South Scranton and East Mountain.

Since that time, the church congregations have merged and learned from one another.

"While the church is beautiful, it is a building," parishioner Victoria Ayala said. "But it is not just about a building. It's the faith inside of us and what we hold in God's love. That is what we transport from here to there."



**A stained glass window from Nativity of Our Lord Church is shown with the faithful gathered outside as shown through an open window. (Photo/Eric Deabill)**



# “Heart to Heart”: Catholic Women’s Conference inspires faith and fellowship

SCRANTON – For Shannon Andres of Reading, this year’s Catholic Women’s Conference was more than just a day of spiritual reflection – it was a deeply personal journey of faith shared with her mother.

Andres, who currently lives in the neighboring Diocese of Allentown, attended the June 7 event at Marywood University alongside her mother, who had come alone the previous year.

In the months since, the two women have grown closer in their spiritual lives – so much so that Shannon invited her mother to a women’s conference in the Allentown area earlier this year. In a beautiful return gesture, her mother brought her to this year’s “Refresh Your Faith: Heart to Heart Prayer” conference in Scranton.

“It’s just nice to be in a room full of women who just know the importance of Christ and the importance of our faith,” Andres said.

The day-long event, filled with prayer, powerful speakers, music, and community, left attendees like Shannon and her mother renewed and inspired in their Catholic faith.

“It’s just so moving and it’s just so great to hear people express what we can do to be closer to our faith and what we can do to reflect how much Jesus loves us,” she added.

Several hundred women attended the conference, saying the event radiated energy, inspiration, and a renewed sense of purpose.

“It has been such an incredible experience. I’m very touched. It had amazing energy. I can feel the Spirit, I can feel God’s presence here today,” Lizbeth Lamont, a first-time attendee from Saint John Parish in East Stroudsburg said.

“It is great talking to people that we



**Left: Attendees listen to musician Sarah Hart perform.**

**Above: During one presentation, women were encouraged to uplift each other by giving each other hugs and messages of support. (Photos/Mike Melisky)**

know and people that we don’t know and just sharing in the love of our Lord and just enjoying each other’s company for a great day of prayer,” Bridget Kennedy of Saint Paul Parish in Scranton added.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, kicked off this year’s conference with a special Mass, urging women to embrace the heart of prayer and the strength of their faith in today’s world.

“This gathering today, with its theme of *Heart to Heart Prayer*, is an invitation for all of us to engage in the vital practice of opening our hearts to God and placing before the Lord our lives – with all their blemishes, joys, blessings and brokenness – trust that God will ever and always receive us in his tender embrace,” Bishop Bambera said.

The day unfolded with a lineup of speakers that each offered a unique perspective on faith and spiritual growth.

Sister Maria Kateri of the Sisters of Life encouraged attendees to live with courage and conviction rooted in God’s love. Kara Kardell, host of the popular

*Draw Near* podcast, encouraged the women to take time to listen to God speak to them in silence. Acclaimed Catholic musician Sarah Hart moved the crowd with her music and message, blending song and storytelling in a way that brought tears, laughter, and reflection.

“My favorite part is when Kara had us close our eyes and say our name to ourselves,” Danita Evans of Saint Ann Parish in Williamsport said. “If we’re quiet and we silence ourselves and we listen, we can hear His voice.”

“Kara’s message about making sure that we have the time to listen to God speak in silence to us, I think that is what I’ll take away from today,” Teresa James of Most Holy Trinity Parish in Cresco added. “Also, Sarah’s encouragement that none of us have this figured out but God is with us and all will be well.”

Throughout the day, women also took advantage of opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, fellowship during a community lunch, and spiritual conversations in the lively Catholic

marketplace that featured vendors, local ministries, and other artisans.

As the day ended, many attendees left reinvigorated in their mission as women of the Church – ready to carry the light of Christ into their families, parishes, and communities.

That includes Shannon Andres and her mother – who shared the special spiritual journey together.

“The Holy Spirit works in mysterious and wonderful ways and just having a day where everyone can focus on how much they love Christ and love our faith is such an amazing thing,” she said.



**Musician Sarah Hart performs at the 2025 Catholic Women’s Conference on June 7.**



**More than 250 women attended the 2025 Catholic Women’s Conference at Marywood University on June 7, 2025.**



**Sister Maria Kateri prays during the conference.**



**Speaker Kara Kardell encouraged women to listen to God in silence.**

DIocese of SCRANTON

Women’s Retreat

## Bold and Beloved

January 30 – February 1, 2026

**SAVE THE DATE**

Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center  
1000 Seminary Rd, Dalton, PA 18414  
Ages 18+



# REGISTER NOW FOR OUR DIOCESAN JUBILEE YEAR

## *Pilgrimage*



## **Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Wednesday, October 1, 2025**

- 6:00 a.m. (approx) - **Buses depart from locations throughout Diocese**
- 9:30 a.m. - **Morning Prayer prayed on individual buses**
- 11:00 a.m. - **Bus Arrival begins at the National Shrine in Washington**
- 12:00 p.m. - **Welcome by Msgr. Vito Buonanno (Vice Rector of Shrine)**
- 12:15 pm. - **Free time for lunch, individual tours and private prayer**
- 1:15 p.m. - **Confessions begin in lower Crypt Church**
- 2:00 p.m. - **Eucharistic Holy Hour with Rosary in Upper Church**
- 3:00 p.m. - **Pontifical Mass celebrated by Bishop Bambera**
- 4:00 p.m. - **Depart the National Shrine for home**

**Trip Details and  
Registration  
available now at  
[dioceseofscranton.org](http://dioceseofscranton.org)**



# Sister Kathleen Kelly, I.H.M., retires after 33 years of devoted service at Epiphany School

SAYRE – Sister Kathleen Kelly, I.H.M., has never been one to seek the spotlight.

Quietly devoted, deeply faithful, and always focused on the students entrusted to her care, she has spent the past 33 years shaping the hearts, minds, and spirits of countless children at Epiphany School.

But on Monday evening, June 16, 2025, the spotlight turned toward her – and rightfully so – as the Sayre community gathered to celebrate her remarkable legacy as she retires from her position as school principal.

“I’m just grateful for the support I’ve had all these years. The parish has been tremendous. The community has been tremendous. They love their school. It is going to be 100 years old in 2029 and they have supported it with love and care all these years,” Sister Kathleen said. “I’m going to miss that support.”

Current students, alumni, faculty, families, and friends from across generations filled the pews of Epiphany Church for a special Mass of Thanksgiving to honor their principal – a woman whose presence has become synonymous with Catholic education in northern Bradford County.

Father Gerald W. Shantillo, Vicar General of the Diocese of Scranton, served as principal celebrant for the Mass representing the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, who could



**Sister Kathleen Kelly, I.H.M., center, is honored during a special Mass of Thanksgiving at Epiphany Church June 16, 2025, as she retires as principal of Epiphany School after having served the community for 33 years. (Photo/Dan Piazza)**

not attend because he was out of town at a meeting of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

“Sister, you have taught so many people about Jesus Christ, (about) how to pray, how to serve, how to love like Him, how to forgive like Him. You’ve touched countless people in this community, and they will never forget that,” Father Shantillo said at the beginning of Mass.

Father Dan Toomey, pastor, Epiphany Parish, who has collaborated with Sister Kathleen for the last four years, delivered an emotional homily. He indicated that

the long-time principal has had quite an impact, and the Mass is a special time to pray for her.

“Sister Kathleen has had an amazing presence as a principal,” Father Toomey said. “I saw her establishing standards. She didn’t have favorites and had poise and balance and was able to keep people focused.”

Throughout her career at Epiphany School, Sister Kathleen has brought with her the charism of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Many of her students say her religious order

affiliation has helped to bring a steady, compassionate presence to everyone who walked through the school’s doors.

“She is a great role model. She knows every student’s name,” student Evelyn Owen said. “She is always kind and generous to everyone.”

“She has very high standards, but she applies them to all students. She doesn’t pick favorites,” student Madeline Lincoln added. “I’m very grateful for having Sister Kathleen. She has always supported me.”

While many families say Sister Kathleen’s leadership style was marked by humility and grace, several students also say she was known for her sense of humor as well.

“I remember when she used to come into our classrooms. She would make funny jokes, and it always made me crack up,” student Ellen Heffron added.

As the Mass ended and reception in the church basement began, Sister Kathleen admitted the evening was “a little overwhelming.”

Though her official role as principal may be ending, her influence will continue to echo through the classrooms and hallways of Epiphany School for years to come.

“It is a real warm community and a giving community,” she reflected. “I’ll miss the people, the teachers, the students, the parents and the community.”

## Voter Voice Alert: Ask Your State Lawmakers to Support EITC & OSTC Programs

HARRISBURG - As budget discussions continue at the Pennsylvania Capitol, it is a very critical time for getting tax credit funding for Catholic schools across Pennsylvania.

In conjunction with the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, all faithful are encouraged to send messages to their state lawmakers to support funding for the EITC and OSTC Programs.


EITC stands for the Educational Improvement Tax Credit program and OSTC stands for the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit program.

Taxpayers are encouraged to reach out


to their state representatives and senators and ask them to support school choice and a meaningful increase in the budget for EITC and OSTC scholarships.

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Scranton and all across the Commonwealth do a tremendous job educating students despite having to deal with financial challenges that are not faced by public schools that benefit from tax dollars.

To easily send an email to your state lawmakers, visit the Diocese of Scranton website and click on the “Voter Voice” tile focused on EITC & OSTC Programs.



# THANK YOU!



**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION INITIATIVES  
DURING NEPA GIVES 2025!  
WITH BONUS DOLLARS, WE RAISED \$84,350 DURING THE 24-HOUR CHALLENGE**



# Mass of Remembrance for victims of violent or tragic death to be held July 24

SCRANTON - The Diocese of Scranton is offering its annual Mass of Remembrance for victims of violent or tragic death next month. The Mass will be televised on CTV: Catholic Television and also livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel and across all Diocesan social media platforms.

This Mass is offered for the families and friends of those who have died in tragedy, especially through murder, suicide, and accident.



We ask that the names of deceased loved ones are registered on registration forms that have been sent to all parishes. Names can also be registered through the Diocese of Scranton website (dioceseofscranton.org) or by calling Jennifer Andres in the Diocesan Office for Parish Life at (570) 207-2213.

The Mass is scheduled for Thursday, July 24, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter, 315 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton.

All persons who have lost a loved one through tragic and traumatic death are invited to this liturgy. The Mass will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 24, 2025.



## BISHOP BAMBERA'S SCHEDULE

- June 15-20** - United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Special Assembly San Diego, CA
- June 22** - Mass for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.
- June 22** - World Refugee Day Celebration Nay Aug Park, Scranton, 2:00 p.m.
- June 25** - Rite of Candidacy Mass during Quo Vadis & Fiat Days Marywood University, 11:00 a.m.
- June 27** - 80th Anniversary of the Founding of the Enthronement Guild of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Mass Divine Mercy Parish, Scranton, 4:00 p.m.
- June 28** - Priesthood Ordination Mass for Rev. Mr. Thomas Dzwonczyk & Rev. Mr. Andrew McCarroll Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.
- June 29** - Mass Supporting St. Joseph's Center Festival & 'Go Joe' Bike Ride Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.
- June 30** - Vocations Golf Classic Blue Ridge Trail Golf Club, Dorrance Twp., Noon
- July 11-17** - Catholic - Pentecostal International Dialogue Quebec City, Quebec, Canada

## APPOINTMENTS

His Excellency, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, announces the following appointments, effective as indicated:

**Reverend Andrew Amankwaa**, from Administrator *pro tem*, St. John Vianney Parish, Montdale, to Senior Priest, Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, Hanover Township, and St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, Wilkes-Barre, effective July 1, 2025.

**Reverend Michael J. Boris**, from Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of the Snows Parish, Clarks Summit, and St. Gregory Parish, Clarks Green, to Parochial Vicar, St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish, Kingston, and Holy Family Parish, Luzerne, effective July 7, 2025.

**Reverend Stephen Brenyah**, from Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, and Saint Anthony and Saint Rocco Parish, Dunmore, to Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Carbondale, effective July 7, 2025.

**Reverend Richard Gyansah-Tabiri**, from Parochial Vicar, St. Faustina Kowalska Parish, Nanticoke, and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Lake Silkworth, to Parochial Vicar, Most Holy Trinity Parish, Cresco, effective July 7, 2025.

**Reverend Bert S. Kozen**, from Leave of Absence for Reasons of Health, to Pastor, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Dushore, effective June 20, 2025.

**Reverend Philbert Takyi-Nketiah**, from Administrator, Holy Spirit Parish, Mocanaqua, to Pastor, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Lake Silkworth, with an additional worship site at Saint Martha Church, Fairmont Springs, effective January 12, 2026. Father will continue to serve as Chaplain, Holy Redeemer High School, Wilkes-Barre.

**Reverend Dias Antony Valiamarathungal**, from the Diocese of Kottapuram, India, to Parochial Vicar, St. Boniface Parish, Williamsport, effective July 7, 2025.

**Reverend Brian Van Fossen**, from Pastor, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Lake Silkworth, and Saint Faustina Kowalska Parish, Nanticoke, to Pastor, Saint Faustina Kowalska Parish, Nanticoke, with an additional worship site at Saint Mary, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Mocanaqua, effective January 12, 2026.

**Reverend Paul Yeboah**, from Parochial Vicar, Saint Ignatius Loyola Parish, Kingston, and Holy Family Parish, Luzerne, to Parochial Vicar, St. Faustina Kowalska Parish, Nanticoke, and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Lake Silkworth, effective July 7, 2025.

**Newly ordained Priest** to Parochial Vicar to Our Lady of the Snows Parish, Clarks Summit, and St. Gregory Parish, Clarks Green, effective July 7, 2025.

**Newly ordained Priest** to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, and Saint Anthony and Saint Rocco Parish, Dunmore, effective July 7, 2025.

## PERMANENT DEACONS

**Deacon David E. Marx**, to Diaconal Ministry, Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish, Pittston, effective July 1, 2025. Deacon Marx will continue in Diaconal Ministry at St. John the Evangelist Parish, Pittston and St. Joseph Mareello Parish, Pittston.

**Deacon James Rose**, from Diaconal Ministry, Queen of the Apostles Parish, Avoca, to Diaconal Ministry, Corpus Christi Parish, West Pittston, effective July 1, 2025.



## Saint John Neumann Regional Academy

WILLIAMSPORT — Graduation exercises were conducted for the Saint John Neumann Regional Academy Class of 2025 on May 27 in the George S. Klump Center at the Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport.

Saint John Neumann Principal Alisia McNamee presided over the presentation of diplomas to the 12 members of this year's graduating class, which were conferred by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, who also offered remarks and the closing benediction.

The Baccalaureate Mass was celebrated May 22 at Saint Lawrence Church in South Williamsport, where Father David Bechtel, high school chaplain, served as principal celebrant and homilist.

This year's Saint John Neumann valedictorian is Sophia Reid, daughter of Thomas and Sarah Reid, residents of Linden. Salutatorian honors were bestowed upon Kaidance Meixel, daughter of Sara and Heith Meixel of Williamsport.

Ten members of the senior class will be pursuing further education on the university/college level, including two graduates who plan to attend Catholic institutions of higher learning. As a class, the Saint John Neumann graduates earned seven academic scholarships worth more than \$420,000.



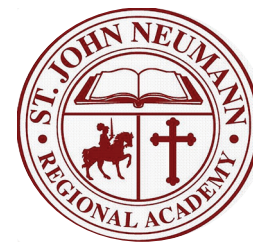
**Sophia  
Reid**



**Kaidance  
Meixel**

**“Class of 2025, the time has come...we are graduating and we have influenced one another in so many different ways and experienced so many different things together.**

**And for that, wherever we go, whatever we do, we'll always be a part of one another's journey.”**



**— Sophia Reid**  
*Valedictory Address*  
*excerpt*

**“As we prepare ourselves for the end of this chapter in our lives and begin a new one, I want us all to remember that we can't fast-forward through our lives. We are so anxious about starting our new lives...These school-day moments *are the story*. It is the friendships and the bonds we have made that will hopefully be everlasting.”**

**— Kaidance Meixel**  
*Salutatory Address*  
*excerpt*

## Holy Redeemer High School

WILKES-BARRE — Holy Redeemer High School was the second Diocesan secondary school to hold spring commencement exercises when the graduation ceremony was staged on May 28 at the F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts in Wilkes-Barre.

A total of 98 Holy Redeemer seniors, led by Principal Colin Martinson, were conferred their diplomas by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, who also addressed the graduates and offered benediction.

The Baccalaureate Mass was celebrated May 27 at Saint Nicholas Church, Wilkes-Barre, with Father Joseph Evanko, V.E., Episcopal Vicar for the Southern Region of the Diocese of Scranton, serving as principal celebrant.

The 2025 Holy Redeemer class valedictorian is Cole Bradley, son of Shane and Carla Bradley of Swoyersville. Earning salutatorian honors was Jenna Pipan, daughter of Method and Joann Pipan, who reside in West Wyoming.

Of the total number of graduates, 87 will be enrolling in colleges or universities to further their education, including 41 who will be attending Catholic institutions of higher learning. The 2025 Holy Redeemer senior class merited a total of 576 scholarship awards worth approximately \$34.2 million.



**Cole  
Bradley**



**Jenna  
Pipan**

**“I challenge each and every one of you to find your place and make your mark in the world, as ‘everything is possible for one who believes.’ All of us are capable of boundless accomplishments, and no group of people is more ready to take on what comes next than the Class of 2025 sitting before me tonight.”**



**— Cole Bradley**  
*Valedictory Address*  
*excerpt*

**“Know wherever you go, you will carry with you the lessons you have learned here. With the knowledge and values which have been instilled in us, and with the guidance of our Holy Redeemer, we can go out into the world with full confidence that we can achieve our dreams.”**

**— Jenna Pipan**  
*Salutatory Address excerpt*



# 210

*The total number of young men and women who graduated from the four Catholic High Schools in the Diocese.*

# \$63.6 million

*Graduates merited more than 1,160 scholarships, cumulatively earning this much toward their future schooling.*

# 93%

*The percentage of seniors who will continue their education in college. More than 80 graduates will attend Catholic institutions of learning.*

## Holy Cross High School



**Zachary Kovaleski**



**Gavin Monahan**

DUNMORE — The Sette La Vergetta Center for Performing Arts at Marywood University was the setting for the annual commencement of Holy Cross High School.

Graduation for the 75 members of the 2025 Holy Cross senior class were held on May 30, led by school Principal Benjamin D. Tolerico.

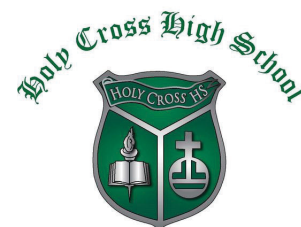
Presiding over the commencement exercises and conferring the high school diplomas was Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, who addressed the Holy Cross graduates and offered the benediction.

The Baccalaureate Mass was celebrated May 29 at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, with Father Cyril Edwards, high school chaplain, serving as principal celebrant and homilist.

The 2025 Holy Cross valedictorian is Zachary Kovaleski, son of Jeffrey and Brenda Kovaleski of Dickson City. Class salutatorian is Gavin Monahan, son of Michael and Kathryn Monahan of Throop.

Ninety-six percent of the Holy Cross graduating class will be attending institutions of higher learning, with 32 graduates planning to enroll at Catholic colleges or universities. As a whole, the class earned 516 post-secondary scholarship awards totaling nearly \$25 million.

**“Remember just weeks ago at prom — our final dance together — when we got in a circle and reached our hands up in the sky, trying to grasp something we can never reach? We all have the potential to do great things. Now it’s our time to go off on our own and chase our stars. The real dance is just beginning.”**



*— Zachary Kovaleski, Valedictory Address excerpt*

**“An integral part of our Catholic education was the fostering community of those around us who were willing to look past our faults and have faith in our God-given ability to succeed...This gift of faith that we were given by our Catholic school is something that we should carry with us and give back to those around us, as we believe in others who never felt like they were believed in.”**

*— Gavin Monahan, Salutatory Address excerpt*

## Notre Dame High School



**Matthew Ahnert**



**Madison Brown**



**Michael Peterson**

EAST STROUDSBURG — Commencement exercises were held May 31 for Notre Dame High School, during which 25 graduates received their diplomas from Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, who also offered the principal address and closing benediction.

The high school theater set the stage for the graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2025 at Notre Dame, led by school Principal Bryan Scotton.

The Baccalaureate Mass was celebrated May 27 in the school’s theater by Father Brian J.T. Clarke, chaplain of Notre Dame High School.

In addition to their valedictorian — Matthew Ahnert, son of Kevin and Dana Ahnert of Bushkill — this year’s Notre Dame graduating class includes co-salutatorians: Madison Brown, daughter of Kevin and Michelle Brown of East Stroudsburg; and Michael Peterson, son of Richard and Kathleen Peterson, Pocono Lake.

All 25 graduates of the Notre Dame Class of 2025 will continue their education at the university/college level, including six students who will be attending Catholic institutions of higher learning. The class received a total of 63 scholarship awards valued at more than \$4.1 million.

**“I am privileged...to belong to a community that values selflessness through deeds and good works. Participating in the drives and (National Honor Society) over the years has instilled the need for purpose in our lives. ”**



*— Matthew Ahnert Valedictory Address excerpt*

**“To our teachers: thank you for showing up, especially on the days we didn’t. You gave us your time, your patience, and way more chances than we probably deserved. To our families: thank you for your late-night pep talks...your grace and your love, even when we weren’t at our best.”**

*— Madison Brown, Salutatory Address excerpt*

**“We have so many memories as a class that have taught us valuable lessons, along with amazing memories. Class of 2025, don’t be afraid to take something from your past, whether it be a skill, a way of doing things, a frame of mind, or a lesson.”**

*— Michael Peterson, Salutatory Address excerpt*



# Congratulations Catholic High School Graduates!

## Class of 2025



### HOLY CROSS

Samichha Baniya  
Austin Anthony Bicking  
Lucien Bolola  
William Mark Boock  
Audrey Ella Borick  
Gavin Quinn Brennan  
Frederick Henry Ceccacci  
Natalie Elizabeth Charles  
Trista Chickeletti  
Andrew J. Cleveland  
Anthony Nicholas Colonna  
Gianna Sarah Coroniti  
Kyle John Cortazar  
Olivia Lucille DePrato  
Layla Ruth Dodgson  
John Michael Elko  
Conor Joseph Farrell  
Ethan Steven Flieger  
Mia Rose Galella  
Aayush Ghale  
Grace Marie Thérèse Gregorowicz  
Brenley Nicole Harashinski  
Megan Catherine Hassaj  
Gavin Andrew Hegedus  
Morgan Anne Hembury  
Michael Thomas Hughes

### ★ Valedictorians

David Anthony Jennings  
Evan James Juice  
Makenna Knight  
Kate Ann Kobierecki  
Zachary Jeffrey Kovaleski ★  
Elizabeth Susan Lalli  
Calder A. Lehman  
Joshua Noah Lentowski  
Mia Mary Lochie  
Ashley Lopez

### 🎓 Salutatorians

Allie Lynn Mozeleski  
Clinton James Muir  
Tyler Joseph Musso  
Elizabeth Christina Myronyuk  
Sara Ellen Nealon  
Rockne James O'Connor  
Jacob Stephen Paroby  
Anthony John Piestrak  
Hunter Pisanchyn  
Hannah Christine Pisarcik



Emma Isabella Luciani  
Matthew Thomas Lyons  
James Anthony Mancini, Jr.  
Connor Robert Martin  
Katie Martinez  
Mario George Matrone  
Lily Anne Matthews  
Chloe Lauryn Mendicino  
Sophia Marie Moffitt  
Gavin Michael Monahan 🎓  
Brayden William Moran  
Kendall Lora Morrison

Jacob Robert Pope  
Grace Catherine Rogers  
Roger Carl Rossi  
Christopher Julian Rotell-Tierney  
Nicholas John Rusinko  
Rocco Donato Sansone  
Richard Andrew Patrick Shelp  
Mia Sosa  
Olivia Jean Marie Strazzeri  
Nicholas Anthony Tunis  
Lucas James Urban  
Jacob Adam Villano



### HOLY REDEEMER

Megan Albrecht  
Christina Therese Marie Alesson  
Samara Anne Bellas  
Isabella Rose Bennett  
Parker Charles Berry  
Sakinah Diane Zohrah Bhatti  
Tristan Andrew Block  
Samuel Levi Blum  
Sara Rebecca Blum  
Max John Bowen  
Cole Taylor Bradley ★  
Jack Thomas Broda  
Anne Marie Carter  
Brandon Cegelka  
Andrew Brady Chase  
Andrew Paul Cisney Jr.  
Owen Henry Clark  
Aidan Everett Davies

Raina Ellen Deiter  
Kasey Michael Delaney  
Kimberly Dinh  
Thomas Michael Dugan IV  
Christopher Ryan Dutko  
Sophia Frances Fiedorczyk  
Hayden Jacob Richard Fleege  
Riley Deionarra Franks  
Samyiah Monica Gallagher  
Jacob William Gensel  
Mason James Gibson  
Jane Rose Gillespie  
Olivia Ava Glasson  
Kaylee Autumn Guard  
Josue E. Lua Guerrero  
Ian Michael Harris  
Lauren Marie Hayden  
Arianna Elizabeth Hines  
Caleb Walter Hoffman  
Daniel Liam Hughes







Maria Eleni Humen  
 Jack Reichen Hurst  
 Melody Rose Josefowicz  
 Lane Kelsall  
 Avery Rose Kozerski  
 Brooke Anna Kryptavich  
 Nicholas Stephen Latinski  
 Evan Scott Licari  
 Daniel Limongelli  
 Joseph Anthony Lipinski  
 Mary Lynn Lombardi  
 Andrew B. Long  
 Brenden Makarczyk  
 Isabelle Josephine Marosevich  
 Nicolas Anthony Mazzarella



Emily Abigail McGowan  
 Kacy Robert Miller  
 Aubrey Christine Mleczynski  
 Katherine Elizabeth Morgan  
 Kendall Morris  
 Jason Nazario  
 Greyson John Nehila  
 Nicholas Michael Nuss  
 Liam O'Malley  
 Michael Raymond Oncay  
 John F. Ondich Jr.  
 Ryan D. Ondich  
 Christian Jaycob Jose Luis-Oquendo  
 Kayla Ann Pekarovsky  
 Carolyn Marie Phillips  
 Jenna Ann Pipan  
 Amira D. Pirrone  
 David G. Popson  
 Grace Elizabeth Potrzuski  
 Emily Theresa Pugh  
 Angelina Victoria Ranieli  
 Jack R. Roberts

Joshua Rocha  
 Addison Rose Rosenko  
 Helena Cecilia Ruch  
 Katie Schell  
 Zachary William Schultz  
 Logan Sinjin Sekol  
 Sophia Marie Sereyka  
 Taylor Elyssa Skibitsky  
 Brayden Thomas Sock  
 Aleese Marie Stair  
 Kayden Michael Stevenson  
 Mia Rose Swaditch  
 Tyler Robert Tamalicki



Grade Tedford  
 Allison Frances Van Pelt  
 Jadon Anthony White  
 Abigail Elizabeth Williams  
 Adrienne Arline Wren  
 Abigail Grace Young  
 Dakota Souchak Young  
 Claire Elise Zdancewicz  
 Andrey Zeitner  
 Emma Zylo

**NOTRE DAME**  
 Matthew Terrence Ahnert  
 Blain Y. Assegid  
 Madison Kayla Brown  
 Cesar A. Carrasco  
 Audrey MW Craig  
 Olivia Fennell  
 Ashley Forsell  
 Ommy LeDee-Gonzalez  
 Athena R. Greco  
 Teresa Rose Gregory  
 Marc Patrick Jackett  
 Federico Mikael Kourakos  
 James Joseph Malone  
 Milai Michael Molina  
 Ciara Imari Ocasio  
 Amanda Ochoa  
 Briana Ciara O'Flaherty  
 LeAnn Mari Perez  
 Michael Allen Peterson  
 Preston John Protheroe  
 Thandiwe Ramone  
 Isabella Ia Rinaldi  
 Matthew Elijah Rivera  
 John Anthony Siciliano  
 Zy'Quirius La'Shaun Whitney



**ST. JOHN NEUMANN**  
 Angelo Francis Birch  
 Gino Charles Birch  
 Lucas Frederick Bloom  
 Lucas James Bower  
 Lajon Demetrius Dizard  
 Joshua David Lovell  
 Kaidance Eleanor Meixel  
 Joseph Michael Pontious  
 Sophia Rose Reid  
 Shanniyah Omariyah Tutler  
 Thomas Edmond Whaley  
 Jager Gregory Woodring



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

Mrs. Kristen Donohue, M.Ed. • Diocesan Secretary of Catholic Education/Superintendent of Catholic Schools  
 Mrs. Charlene Haggerty, M.S. • Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Schools  
 Mrs. Michele Long, M.Ed. • Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Schools

OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS • DIOCESE OF SCRANTON



# Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Award

The Diocese of Scranton Catholic Schools Office recognizes these Seton Award recipients. The Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Award is recognition of 8th grade students who are enrolled in one of our Catholic high schools for the 2025-26 school year and exemplify the traits of Saint Seton: devoutness to faith, compassion, and desire to help others. This award is also given to students in 5th Grade at St. John Neumann Elementary School, and students in 6th Grade at Notre Dame Elementary, Epiphany and St. Agnes Schools, who meet criteria determined by their principal. Families of these individuals are commended for their commitment to Catholic education, and the students are congratulated for this distinguished honor. For these students and for all young people in our Catholic schools, Catholic education impacts their formation by incorporating a strong emphasis on the spiritual that is evident in all components of the learning process. Our vision for these students is to provide them an educational experience that promotes a lifelong learning in the faith, and one that prepared them to be responsible, competent, and confident persons as citizens of our country and world. In addition, our schools are dedicated to providing a loving, safe and nurturing environment where the young learn respect for themselves and for all persons.



Kyla Brunson  
All Saints Academy



Olivia Madore  
All Saints Academy



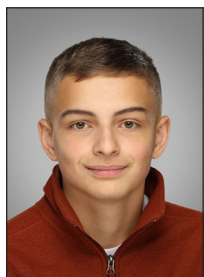
Ellen Heffron  
Epiphany School



Alec Groncki  
All Saints Academy



River Northup  
Epiphany School



Jacob Michael Kolcharno  
All Saints Academy



Nicholas Kovalesski  
La Salle Academy



Abigail Uhrin  
La Salle Academy



Giuliana Matrone  
Our Lady of Peace School



Monroe Bellows  
St. Agnes School



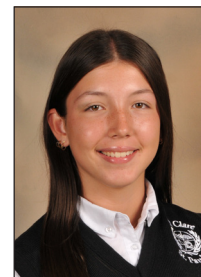
John Harris Santiago  
St. Agnes School



Luigi Cicco  
St. Clare/St. Paul School



Nishila Williams  
St. Clare/St. Paul School



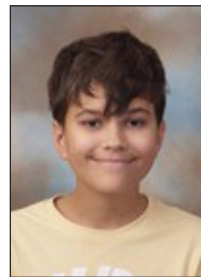
Maya DeSantis  
St. Clare/St. Paul School



Mary Grace Brooks  
St. Mary of Mount Carmel School



Katarina Morris  
St. Mary of Mount Carmel School



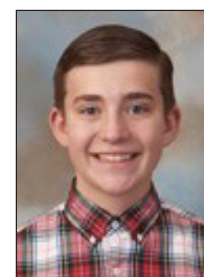
Bohdan Podlaszewski  
Good Shepherd Academy



Grace Morgan  
Good Shepherd Academy



Mason Williams  
Good Shepherd Academy



Nicholas Pokrifka  
Good Shepherd Academy





To the students who have benefited from a Catholic education, and to those who  
continue their educational journey in a Catholic environment,  
we salute you and pray that God, through the intercession of  
Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, guides you in

*Faith, Hope and Love.*



Keira German  
Holy Family Academy



Brody Sharkey  
Holy Family Academy



Eli Licari  
Holy Rosary School



Frederick Roughsedge, V  
Holy Rosary School



Leah Smith  
St. Jude School



Gabriella Gonzalez  
St. Jude School



Dominic Donato  
St. Nicholas/St. Mary School



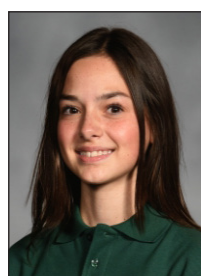
Ryan Pugh  
St. Nicholas/St. Mary School



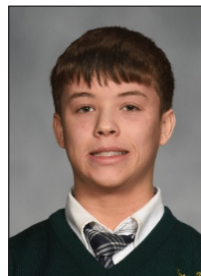
Julianna O'Hop  
Wyoming Area Catholic School



Cayden Richards  
Wyoming Area Catholic School



Emilee Thompson  
Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School



Trennen Kless  
Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School



Jakob Jablonski  
Notre Dame Elementary School



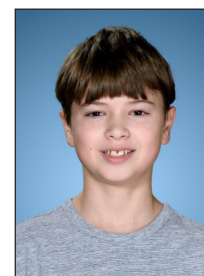
Leilanie Caamano  
Notre Dame Elementary School



Savannah Snyder  
St. John Neumann Jr./Sr. HS



Brycen Rauch  
St. John Neumann  
Jr./Sr. High School



Mason Knepley  
St. John Neumann  
Elementary School



Zale McPherson  
St. John Neumann  
Elementary School



# Block Party launches joyful season of church festivals across Diocese

SCRANTON — With the smell of potato pancakes in the air and the sound of music echoing down Wayne Avenue, the summer festival season officially kicked off this past weekend at the annual Mary, Mother of God Parish Block Party.

Held on June 14 and 15, the beloved neighborhood tradition drew thousands of people from near and far.

Whether they came for the food — favorites like pizza frita, hot dogs and hamburgers — or for the fellowship, games, and basket raffles, there was something for everyone.

“We got very lucky. The weather, which had been predicted to be very bad all week, on Friday, turned out to be one of

the nicer days of the year,” Father Cyril Edwards, pastor, Mary, Mother of God Parish, said.

While describing Block Party Weekend as a little “chaotic,” Father Edwards says the work is well worth it.

“No other event brings as many people to the streets of North Scranton as our Block Party. Friday night was a mad house with people,” he said. “You make a profit and introduce people to church who may have very little or no connection to any church.”

The Block Party — like other church festivals, picnics, and bizzarres being planned around the Diocese of Scranton this summer — is a powerful reminder of community, tradition and shared joy.



The line for potato pancakes extended down Wayne Avenue in Scranton on June 15 at the Mary, Mother of God Parish annual Block Party. (Photo/Eric Deabill)

“We get to see people that we haven’t seen all winter and people come from all over. It’s wonderful,” Mary Claire Boylan, co-chair of the Mary, Mother of

God Block Party, explained. “What we do brings so many people together.”

Boylan, who has co-chaired the Block Party since 2009, says the events allow parishioners of all ages and abilities to get involved.

“We usually start planning in February. We start having committee

meetings because we have a phenomenal group of people,” she added.

Throughout the summer months, dozens of other parishes

across the Diocese will open their doors — and their parking lots — to host festivals, picnics, and bazaars. While each has its own unique flavor, from homemade ethnic foods to live music and games for kids.

Whether you’re craving a taste of tradition or simply looking for a fun evening out with family and friends, the following listing of parish festivals offer something meaningful for everyone.

The list below is not a complete list, but only the events scheduled through the next publication of *The Catholic Light* on July 17. To view a full list of upcoming church festivals submitted by parishes, visit the Diocese of Scranton website at [dioceseofscranton.org](http://dioceseofscranton.org).

## More Upcoming Church Festivals & Picnics

**Saint Faustina Kowalska in Nanticoke — June 20 & 21 (5 to 11 p.m.).** Parish’s Annual Homecoming Festival held on the grounds of Saint Faustina Grove, located on Old Newport Street in the Sheatown section. Two-night event features bake sale & ice cream stand and traditional picnic foods: pierogi, potato pancakes, halushki, hot dogs/hamburgers and french fries. Also includes theme basket raffle, games for all ages, and children’s face-painting, pony rides and bounce house. Live musical entertainment features Lost at the Rodeo (Friday) and Lance Thomas Band (Saturday). Weekend vigil “Mass in the Grove” celebrated on Saturday at 4 p.m., with music provided by Joe Stanky & The Cadets.

**Divine Mercy in Scranton — June 20-22.** Annual Parish Picnic held Friday, Saturday & Sunday, beginning each night at 5 p.m. on the parish church grounds, 312 Davis St., Minooka section of Scranton. Three-day summer festival

features homemade picnic foods, beverages, live music, specialty theme baskets, big cash & quilt raffle drawings, games and activities for all ages.

**Our Lady Queen of Peace in Brodheadsville — June 20-22,** Annual Parish Flea Market hosted at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Route 209 & Weir Lake Road, Brodheadsville; market hours: Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and

Sunday, 12:30 to 4 p.m. Sale items at bargain prices include collectibles, furniture, arts & crafts, jewelry, fashion accessories, tools, toys, books, frames/prints, lawn & garden and more. Basket raffle and lunch food menu also available. Information, call (610) 681-6137.

**Saint Mary’s in Dorrance — June 21 & 22.** Saint Mary Church, 3529 Saint Mary’s Road, Dorrance, will host its Annual Bazaar on Saturday, from 4 to

10 p.m., and Sunday, 2 to 9 p.m. Event features homemade foods, games, theme baskets, hay rides and bake sale. Musical entertainment provided by Flaxy Morgan (Saturday, 6 to 10 p.m.), and The Legends Band (Sunday, 5 to 9 p.m.).

**Sacred Heart of Jesus in Dupont — June 27 & 28 (5 to 9 p.m.).** Traditional Polish Picnic held Friday and Saturday beginning at 5 p.m. in the parish’s Picnic Grove, 215 Lackawanna Ave., Dupont. Homemade ethnic

*Continued on Next Page*

*Rain or Shine!* OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE *Rain or Shine!*  
**Annual Flea Market**  
**June 20 • 21 • 22**  
**Friday: 8 AM-3 PM • Saturday: 9 AM-3 PM • Sunday: 12:30-4PM**  
 Something for everyone — Collectibles, furniture, jewelry, clothes, handbags, tools, shoes, toys, holiday, books, crafts, frames, prints, lawn & garden, and much more.  
*Stop in and purchase your lunch while you check out the basket raffle!*  
**Sausages & Peppers, Hamburgers & Hotdogs, Pastries, and so many more tasty treats!**  
[www.qopchurch.org](http://www.qopchurch.org) or 610-681-6137 • Our Lady Queen of Peace Church  
 Route 209 & Weir Lake Road, Brodheadsville, PA.

**St. Faustina Parish, Nanticoke**  
*Annual Homecoming Festival*  
 on the grounds of St. Faustina Grove,  
 Old Newport Street, Sheatown  
**Friday, June 20 • 5pm-11pm • Lost at the Rodeo**  
**Saturday, June 21 • 5pm-11pm • Lance Thomas Band**  
  
*Pierogies, Potato Pancakes, Halushki, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, French Fries.*  
**BAKE SALE & ICE CREAM STAND**  
 Fun & Games for All Ages, Including Basket Raffle, Bingo, Instant Bingo, Children's Games, Face Painting, Pony Rides, Bounce House and Much More!  
**SATURDAY MASS AT GROVE 4pm with music by JOE STANKY & THE CADETS**





# Summer Guide to Church Festivals & Picnics



*Continued from Previous Page*

foods include pierogi, golombki, halushki, kielbasi, and potato pancakes. Also featuring theme baskets, games of chance, beer tent, and live music by Carl Smichina & The Shoreliners (Friday) and Accordionist Ron Figel (Saturday). Mass for the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus celebrated on Friday at 4 p.m. in Sacred Heart Church.

**Saint Leo the Great in Ashley — June 27 & 28.** Summer Festival held on the parish grounds, 33 Manhattan St., Ashley, on Friday (5 p.m.) and Saturday (6 p.m.). Featured attractions include plant & candle stands, kids' fun stand, Ashley Boutique, children's arts & crafts,

bingo games (air-conditioned), games of chance, homemade ethnic foods & bake sale. Live musical entertainment nightly: Friday, Alibi; Saturday, Hangin' with F.O.G.

**Immaculate Heart of Mary in Dushore — July 6 (noon to 5 p.m.).** Annual "Old Time Picnic" is tent-covered on the grounds above Saint Basil Church; featuring light fare, ethnic foods and various refreshments. Attractions include games for all ages, cash & whiskey raffles, and bountiful theme baskets. Shuttle service provided to and from the church parking lot. Knights of Columbus chicken dinner (eat-in or take-out) with homemade side dishes and desserts, precedes

the picnic on Friday, June 27, beginning at 11 a.m.

**Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton in Swoyersville — July 10-12 (5 to 11 p.m.).** Summer Festival held on the parish grounds, 116 Hughes St., Swoyersville. Three-day event features homemade ethnic foods, pizza, clam chowder, porketta, wimpies, bake sale, theme baskets, bingo, games & prizes for all ages. Nightly entertainment provided by: John Stevens' Doubleshot (Thursday); Picture Perfect (Friday); and Daddy-O & The Sax Maniax (Saturday). For information, call (570) 287-6624.

**Our Lady of the Rosary in Carbondale — July 10-12.** Carbondale parish sponsoring its "Feast 2025" summer festival Thursday, Friday & Saturday on the parish grounds at 37 Fairview St., Carbondale. Annual event features homemade ethnic foods,

games for all ages, entertainment, and giant cash raffle. Festival weekend procession through the West Side of Carbondale held on Sunday, July 13, following the 10 a.m. Mass.

**Nativity of Our Lord in Duryea — July 11 & 12.** Hosted on Friday, from 5 to 10 p.m., and Saturday, 5 to 11 p.m., on the parish picnic grounds at Holy Rosary Church, 127 Stephenson St., Duryea. Festival attractions include cash bingo, indoor flea market, theme baskets, kids' games & face painting, ethnic foods, baked goods, and desserts; adult beverages feature beer, wine & spirits. Live entertainment: CC Music (Friday, 6 to 10 p.m.) and Sperazza Band (Saturday, 7 to 11 p.m.).

**Good Shepherd in Drums — July 11-13.** Summer Festival held at the parish church grounds, 87 South Hunter

Highway, Drums, on Friday, 5 to 10 p.m.; Saturday, 1 to 10 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 to 7 p.m. Event features festival food favorites, beer, wine coolers and soft beverages. Activities for all ages include raffle drawings, tricky trays, bake sale and kids' face painting. Live musical entertainment: Kartune (Friday, 6 to 9:30 p.m.) and North of 40 (Saturday, 6:30 to 10 p.m.).

**Sisters of SS. Cyril & Methodius in Danville — July 12 (10:30 to 5 p.m.).** The 50th anniversary Summer Festival will be held on Saturday at Villa Sacred Heart, 1002 Railroad St., Danville. Event includes food trucks, Sisters' bakery, flea market, arts & crafts, religious articles, bingo, silent auction, children's games, and cornhole tournament. Weekend Vigil Mass celebrated on Saturday at 5 p.m. in the SS. Cyril & Methodius Basilica.

*Continued on Page 24*

## ST. LEO THE GREAT

# Summer Festival!

PARISH GROUNDS  
33 Manhattan Street, Ashley

**CASH PRIZES!**

**June 27 & 28**  
**FRIDAY • 6PM**  
**SATURDAY • 5PM**

*Live Entertainment!*  
Friday: Alibi  
Saturday: Hangin' With F.O.G.

**STANDS INCLUDE:**  
Pot Luck • Plant Stand  
Candle Stand • Ashley Boutique  
Show Me The Money • Children's Arts & Crafts  
Fun For Kids • Instant Bingo  
Big Six Wheel • Groceries & More!

**AIR CONDITIONED BINGO**

**~ HOMEMADE ETHNIC FOOD ~**  
**~ BAKE SALE ~**  
**~ FREE PARKING! ~**

## Sacred Heart of Jesus Church

215 LACKAWANNA AVENUE, DUPONT PA

# POLISH PICNIC

Friday, June 27 • 5 PM – 9 PM  
Saturday, June 28 • 5 PM – 9 PM

Located in the Picnic Grove

**FOOD OFFERINGS INCLUDE:**  
Pierogi • Golombki • Halushki • Kielbasi  
Potato Pancakes • and more!

**THIS FAMILY FRIENDLY PICNIC OFFERS:**  
Delicious Ethnic Foods • Theme Baskets • Games of Chance  
Beer Tent • Music: Carl Smichina & "The Shoreliners" (Friday) and  
Accordionist Ron Figel (Saturday)

Join us for Mass  
on the Feast of the  
Sacred Heart,  
Friday, June 27,  
at 4 PM!





# Summer Guide to Church Festivals & Picnics



**Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Saint Mary's) in Wyalusing — July 13 (11 a.m. to 3 p.m.).** Annual "Old Fashion Picnic" held on Sunday on the grounds of Saint Mary of the Assumption Church, 245 State St., Wyalusing. Festival food menu includes sausage & peppers, meatball subs, salads, pasta, beverages and homemade pies. Games and attractions feature cash, theme basket, and "Happy Wagon" raffle drawings; face-painting and corn hole tournament. For information, call (570) 746-1006.

**Saint Nicholas-Saint Mary in Wilkes-Barre — July 17-19.** Annual Parish Bazaar held on the Saint Nicholas church grounds, 226 South Washington St., Wilkes-Barre, beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday and

Friday, and following the 4 p.m. Vigil Mass on Saturday. Bazaar features a variety of ethnic foods and traditional American menu items, including Mexican & Caribbean specialties. Event includes cash prize raffle drawings, bingo, bountiful baskets, and picnic games for all ages. Giant flea market opens on Thursday at 1 p.m. Live musical entertainment nightly from 7 to 10:30 p.m. by Flaxy Morgan (Thursday); Popstar Drive (Friday); and Kartune (Saturday).

**Saint Joseph Marello in Pittston — July 17-19.** Annual three-day summer picnic held on Thursday, Friday & Saturday from 5 to 10 p.m. on the grounds of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 237 William St., Pittston. Festival features ethnic

and traditional food & beverage favorites, including porketta, pizza frita, potato pancakes, cannoli, pizza, and beer tent; also features picnic & children's games, basket raffles and large indoor flea market. Live nightly musical entertainment by The Taxmen (Thursday), Joyce School of Irish Dance, followed by Flaxy Morgan (Friday), and the Sperazza Band (Saturday).

**Saint Eulalia in Roaring Brook Township — July 18 & 19 (5 to 10 p.m.).** Summer Festival held on the church picnic grounds, 214 Blue Shutters Road, will feature homemade ethnic & picnic foods, Grandma's Attic flea market, and activities for all ages. Friday musical entertainment: Shio (Classic Rock Band), 5:45 to 8:45 p.m.; Saturday: Electric City Steel Drum Project, 5:30

**St. Mary's of Dorrance**  
**BAZAAR**

**GPS: 3529 St. Mary's Road, Wapwallopen • 868-5855**

<b>SAT, JUNE 21</b> <b>4:00 - 10:00 PM</b>	<b>SUN, JUNE 22</b> <b>2:00 - 9:00 PM</b>
<b>Sat: Flaxy Morgan</b> <b>6:00 - 10:00 PM</b>	<b>Sun: The Legends Band</b> <b>5:00 - 9:00 PM</b>

*Homemade Pierogi • Potato Pancakes • Theme Baskets*  
*Bake Sale • Hay Ride • Covered Seating Area*

**FUN AND FOOD FOR ALL AGES!**

to 6:30 p.m., followed by Alex to 8:30 p.m. Festival weekend "The Crooner" Nebraska, 6:30

*Continued on Next Page*



**FATHER PAUL MCDONNELL, O.S.J. & PARISHIONERS**

*invite everyone to their annual*

## DIVINE MERCY PARISH PICNIC

312 DAVIS ST., SCRANTON (MINOOKA)

### JUNE 20 - 21 - 22

**FRIDAY: 5:00PM-10:00PM • SATURDAY: 5:00PM-10:00PM • SUNDAY: 3:00PM-8:00PM**

**PLENTY OF DELICIOUS FOODS & BEVERAGES, BIG CASH RAFFLE DRAWING, AND MUCH MORE!**

*Join the fun as we kick off the summer parish bazaar season!*





# Summer Guide to Church Festivals & Picnics



Continued from Previous Page

includes the 15th Annual Jerry Mahon 5K race event on Saturday, beginning at 9 a.m. (rain or shine). Pre-registration required for all participants. For more information on the summer festival and race, visit: [sainteulalias.com/festival-and-5K](http://sainteulalias.com/festival-and-5K).

**Exaltation of the Holy Cross in Hanover Township — July 18-20.** “Big Tent Bazaar 2025” held on the church grounds, 420 Main Road, Buttonwood section, on Friday, 6 to 11 p.m.; Saturday (following the 4 p.m. Vigil Mass), 5 p.m. to midnight; and Sunday, 5 to 11 p.m. Featuring homemade ethnic foods & baked goods, theme baskets, assorted games, mega cash raffle, and “Wagon of Cheer.” Live nightly entertainment features: Souled Out (Friday, 7 to 11 p.m.); OZ (Saturday, 5 to 7:30 p.m.), followed by Popstar Drive (8 p.m. to midnight); and Third Degree (Sunday, 5 to 7:30 p.m.), followed by Tom Slick & The Converted Thunderbolt Greaseslappers (8 to 11 p.m.).

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Hunlock Creek — July 25 & 26 (5 to 10 p.m.).** Parish “Summer Fest 2025” held on the church grounds at Lake Silkworth, 2011 State Route 29. Tent-covered two-day event features a huge indoor flea market, theme baskets, festival games and homemade foods. Musical entertainment provided by Kartune (Friday) and Popstar Drive (Saturday). Flea market also open on Sunday following the morning Masses (8:30 & 11 a.m.).

**Christ the King in Archbald/Eynon/Jermyn & Mayfield — July 25-27.** Summer picnic held on the grounds of Saint Mary of Czestochowa Church, Betty & Main streets, Eynon, beginning on Friday & Saturday at 5 p.m., and Sunday, at 3 p.m. Festival includes

ethnic & American food favorites, beer tent, children’s games, basket & cash raffle drawings, and “House of Treasures” market. Live musical entertainment features Pour Decisions (Friday, 6 to 10 p.m.); The JOB (Saturday, 6 to 10 p.m.); and Frost Duo (Sunday, 3 to 7 p.m.).

**Saint Robert Bellarmine in Wilkes-Barre — July 31, Aug. 1 & 2.** The “St. Al’s Church Bazaar” held Thursday & Friday, from 6 to 10 p.m.; Saturday, 5 to 11 p.m., on the Saint Aloysius Church grounds, 143 West Division St. Picnic foods, including sausage & peppers, potato pancakes, halushki, and Gerry’s Pizza; and games for all ages. Musical entertainment: Thursday, Triple Threat; Friday, Popstar Drive; and Saturday, Strawberry Jam.

**Our Lady of Victory in Tannersville — Aug. 1 & 2.** Annual Homecoming Bazaar held Friday & Saturday on the

Our Lady of Victory parish grounds, 327 Cherry Lane Road, Tannersville. Festivities feature food, fun & games for the whole family. Festival also includes grand raffle drawing, nearly 100 theme baskets, and bingo games.

**Saint John the Evangelist in Pittston — Aug. 7-9.** “Summer Fest ’25,” the three-night parish picnic, will be held Thursday thru Saturday from 5 to 10 p.m. at the pastoral center and parish grounds, Church & Broad streets in downtown Pittston. Festival attractions include ethnic & traditional picnic foods, variety booths, bingo, children’s games, raffle drawings, and baked goods. Featured nightly entertainment: Thursday, The Taxmen; Friday, Joe Stanky & The Cadets; and Saturday, Flaxy Morgan.

**Saint Matthew in East Stroudsburg — Aug. 8-10.** Summer festival held on Friday & Saturday, from 5 to 10 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 6 p.m. on

the parish grounds, 78 Ridgeway St., East Stroudsburg. Three-day event includes live entertainment, homemade international foods & desserts, beer & wine garden,

bingo prizes, kids’ toy bingo & games, raffle drawings, and mega cash raffle. Featured music headliners include: Who Knows

Continued on Page 26

*All ages are welcome! Come celebrate the 4th!*

**IHM Parish, Dushore**

## ANNUAL PICNIC

**SUNDAY, JULY 6 • NOON TIL 5**

Under the tent in Dushore above St Basil’s Church on the Hill  
Shuttle service to & from church parking lot

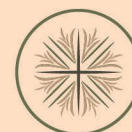
**Chicken Dinner with all the fixins & Homemade Desserts**  
— EAT IN OR TAKEOUT —

**Finger and Ethnic Foods • Refreshments**

*Kid’s Games All Day, Fish Pond, Ring Toss, Theme Baskets,  
Cash & Whiskey Raffles, Big 6, Instant Bingo*

*Don’t feel like cooking?*

KOC Chicken BBQ, Friday, June 27 • 11am til sold out - at the Red light in Dushore, Pa



**Saint Eulalia**  
— PARISH —

## SUMMER FESTIVAL

**JULY 18-19**  
**5-10 p.m.**

*Homemade Food, Grandma’s Attic, & more...*

**WEEKEND ENTERTAINMENT:**

**FRI., JULY 18**

**5:45-8:45 PM**

» Shio (rock band)

**SAT., JULY 19**

**5:30-6:30 PM**

» Electric City Steel Drum Project

**6:30-8:30 PM**

» Alex “the Crooner”

**214 Blue Shutters Road, Roaring Brook Township**  
**[sainteulalias.com](http://sainteulalias.com)**

**The Parish Community of Saint Nicholas-Saint Mary**  
**226 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET, WILKES-BARRE • 570-823-7736**  
(on the grounds of St. Nicholas Church)

Fr. Joseph Verespy, Fr. Fidel Ticona,  
Deacon Michael Golubiewski, and Parishioners  
*Invite Everyone to the*

## PARISH BAZAAR

**Thursday, Friday, Saturday**  
**JULY 17, 18, 19**

**Opens 5:30PM Thursday & Friday • Opens after 4PM Mass on Saturday**

**Giant Flea Market (Opens at 1 PM Thurs.) • Games • Bingo**  
**• Fun for All Ages • Ethnic Food • Bountiful Baskets**  
**• Raffle (1st prize 50-50) + 49 prizes**

**Live Music 7:00 PM to 10:30 PM**

*Thursday: Flaxy Morgan • Friday: Popstar Drive • Saturday: Kartune*

**Bratwurst, Haluski, Pierogies, Potato Pancakes, Piggies, Pizza,  
Chicken Wings, Mexican/Caribbean Food, Fried Dough,  
Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, French Fries and more!**



# Church Festivals & Picnics

Continued from Page 25

Band, Kevin MacIntire (The Elvis Show), Joey & The T Birds, Video Daze Band, Robbie Junior Music, Tempo Allegre, and Lori Woodward.

**Our Lady of Peace in Hazleton — Aug. 8-10.** Parish's 126th annual "La Madonna del Monte Festival" honoring the Blessed Mother includes devotional services; festival food nights & live entertainment Friday & Saturday. Sunday pasta & meatball dinner served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the church hall (pre-orders preferred; walk-ins welcome). Sunday's festivities open with celebration of Mass at 10:30 a.m., followed by the traditional "Madonna del Monte" procession through neighborhood streets, followed by benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto. Weekend event also includes homemade ethnic & American picnic foods, games for all ages, bake sale, tricky trays and money wheel. Live musical entertainment: Jim Cerminaro (Friday, 5 to 7 p.m.)

and Kartune (Saturday, 6 to 9 p.m.). For more information, contact Mary Maher (570) 454-8714.

**Saint John the Baptist in Larksville — Aug. 8-10.** Saint John's Summer Picnic returns with more than 40,000 homemade pierogi, other traditional festival foods, games for all ages, theme baskets and live entertainment.

**Saint Jude's in Mountain Top — Aug. 8-10.** Parish's 72nd annual "Picnic in the Grove" held Friday & Saturday, from 4 to 10 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 8 p.m., at the Saint Jude Grove, 420 South Mountain Boulevard (Route 309), Mountain Top. Features ethnic & traditional picnic foods, including homemade pierogi and halushki; live music, games and entertainment for all ages.

**Saints Anthony & Rocco/Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Dunmore — Aug. 8-10.** The Dunmore parishes' annual three-day "Italian Festival" hosted on

the grounds and pavilion area at Saint Rocco Church, 122 Kurtz St., Bunker Hill section of Dunmore. Festivities — including homemade ethnic & picnic foods, games & activities, theme baskets, cappuccino & cookie stand, designer purse stand, plush animal stand, and live daily entertainment — get underway on Friday and Saturday at 5 p.m., and Sunday following the noon Mass & outdoor procession starting from Saint Rocco's.

**Saint Juliana's Rock Lake Picnic — Aug. 16.** Sponsored by Saint Katharine Drexel Parish, the 187th Anniversary Summer Festival held on the grounds of Saint Juliana Church, 2048 Creamton Drive (Route 247), Pleasant Mount. "Old Fashioned Church Picnic" features a variety of homemade foods and traditional festival & ethnic menu items. Saturday picnic also includes Finders' Market, theme basket & cash drawings, pie/bake sale, Art Tent, bingo, and games for all ages.

## Holy Water meets lake water at Harveys Lake Boat Blessing



**Father Andrew Hvozdozovic sprinkles holy water on a boat during the annual Blessing of the Boats at Harveys Lake on June 15, 2025.**

HARVEYS LAKE — Neither gray skies nor the threat of rain could dampen a beloved tradition in Luzerne County.

On Sunday, June 15, 2025, local boaters gathered once again on Harveys Lake for the annual Blessing of the Boats, an event that has taken place on the popular waterway for more than 70 years.

Held at the Warden Place dock on Lakeside Drive, the Blessing of the Boats draws family boats, sleek jet skis, colorful kayaks, and everything in between.

Despite overcast skies, Father Andrew Hvozdozovic offered blessings for a safe, joyful, and peaceful season on the lake to each family that participated.

"Just like we offer a blessing for cars and houses, we just ask for God's safety and for God's protection to be upon them," Father Hvozdozovic said, referring to the boaters.

As Father Hvozdozovic, pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish in the community, sprinkled holy water on each vessel, he also joked with each person that the blessing only takes effect if he gets to ride on the boat.

"They get a chuckle out of that," he said.

Locals say the boat blessing marks the unofficial start of lake season, bringing together year-round residents and weekend visitors alike.

For many families, it's a multi-generational tradition.

"I've had my boat blessed. I've had my wave runner blessed multiple times, so today I brought over my paddleboat to get that blessed and get a little exercise," Merry Ann Edwards said.

Despite the chance of rain at any moment, the spirit of those participating was still high.

"It's just one of the fun things of summer. We have a very short season here at the lake. The winters are hard, so we look forward to our summers and to allow our wonderful faith to be a part of our wonderful summer," Edwards added. "It just makes for a wonderful time here on the lake."

As summer officially approaches, Harveys Lake is once again ready to welcome days of sunshine, laughter, and safe adventures on the water - with just a little extra divine protection.

"I've grown up coming to this every year," resident Jack Herron said. "It's a good tradition and something that we always look forward to each year."

### St. Elizabeth/St. Mark SummerFest

**Saturday, August 23, 2025**

**Noon – 7pm**

**Bear Creek Community Charter School Pavilion  
Chicken Dinner, Live Music, Basket Raffles, 50/50,  
Bake Sale, BINGO**



## Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen holds Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

## Bishop to celebrate Enthronement Guild 80th Anniversary Mass

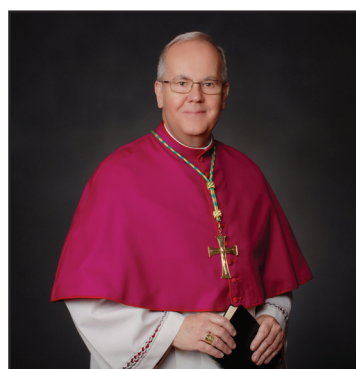


Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre held a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, May 31, 2025. The dinner was held in recognition of the many volunteers that help serve more than 100,000 meals per year at the kitchen to those in need. The dinner was organized by the St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen Advisory Board and sponsored by Highmark. Shown in the above photo are Chris Bedwick, and advisory board member Gary Lambert Jr., with some of the volunteers that won raffle prizes at the dinner. For information about volunteering at St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen or becoming a meal Sponsor of the Day, call (570) 829-7796.

SCRANTON — The Diocese of Scranton Sacred Heart Enthronement Guild will commemorate its 80th anniversary at the annual Eucharistic celebration on the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus on Friday, June 27, at 4 p.m. at Divine Mercy Parish in the Minooka section of Scranton.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as principal celebrant and homilist for the Pontifical Mass, during which he will renew the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in the Scranton Diocese.

Concelebrants will include Saint Joseph Oblate Father Paul McDonnell, pastor of Divine Mercy Parish; Father Daniel Toomey, spiritual moderator of the Sacred Heart Enthronement Guild; Saint Joseph Oblate Father Joseph Sibilano; and other priests



**Bishop Joseph C. Bambera**

serving the Diocese.

Music ministry for the Mass will be provided by the Sacred Heart Singers, Ernie Pappa, Vanessa James and Robert Zito, who will be joined by Maryanne DeMark on keyboard and vocals. A musical prelude will begin at 3:45 p.m. in the parish's Saint Joseph Church, located at 312 Davis St.

A dinner reception in the

Divine Mercy Parish Center will follow the liturgical celebration. Patrick Williams, Enthronement Guild board president, will serve as master of ceremonies.

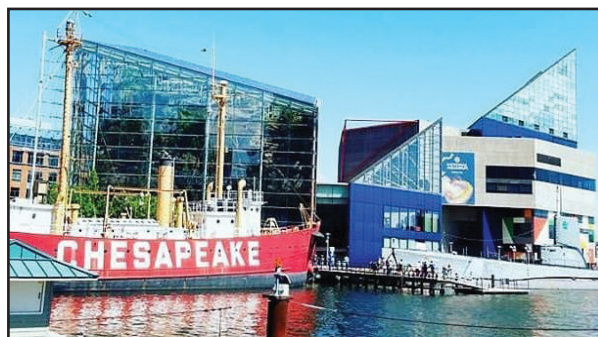
The Enthronement of the Sacred Heart apostolate enables families and individuals to consecrate their homes to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Homes that are enthroned become an extension of the Mass, whereby faithful can follow up their Eucharistic celebration in church with prayerful devotion in their own private settings.

For reservations or further information on Enthronement of the Sacred Heart, contact Maria Pappa, coordinator of the Enthronement Guild, at (570) 241-8172 or email: [sacredheartenthronement@yahoo.com](mailto:sacredheartenthronement@yahoo.com).

**MARTZ**  
EST. 1908 **BUS**



## Make Friends & Memories With Us



### BALTIMORE-ANNAPOLIS

Aug. 14-15 • Overnight - 3 Meals  
Lighthouse Cruise - Naval Academy Tour  
\$370-\$540 based on occupancy



### 1,000 ISLANDS

Sept. 8-10 • Hotel - 6 Meals - 2 Cruises  
Winery - Boat Museum  
\$665-\$899 based on occupancy



### NH BY RAIL

Sept. 22-26 • Hotel - 9 Meals - 2 Train Rides  
Moose Tour - Museums  
\$1,675-\$2,335 based on occupancy



### BEACH DAY TRIPS

Dates in June, July, Aug.  
Cape May, Wildwood,  
Rehoboth Beach  
\$120-\$125

### BROOKLYN PIZZA TOUR

3 Available Dates  
2 Pizzerias, Coney Island  
Brooklyn Highlights  
\$125-\$175

### ADVENTURE AQUARIUM

Saturday, Aug. 9  
Admission  
Lunch Voucher  
\$115-\$135

Check [www.MartzTours.com](http://www.MartzTours.com) — Join our email list for tour specials! Call 570-361-9668 for more information.



# World Refugee Day Celebration to take place Sunday in Scranton

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.

The theme of the 2025 World Refugee Day Celebration in Scranton is, “A World Where Refugees Are Always Welcomed.” This theme was chosen because it is a call to action, urging us all to embrace refugees as neighbors, friends, and contributors to our shared future.

More than 20 community agencies are working together to put on the 2025 World Refugee Day Celebration, including Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton; The University of Scranton; City

of Scranton; Scranton Area Multifaith Ministerium; Temple Hesed; Friends of the Poor; Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary; Muslim Association of Wyoming Valley; United Neighborhood Centers of Northeastern Pennsylvania; Ignatian Volunteer Corps; S.T.A.R.S. Program at Marywood University; Islamic Center of Scranton; and Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit.

Additional partners include the Congolese Community of Scranton, Bhutanese Cultural Foundation Scranton Association; Saigon Corner Vietnamese Restaurant; Pennsylvania Department of Education – Migrant Education Program; Church of Saint Gregory, Clarks Green; Our Lady of the Snows Parish, Clarks Summit; Maternal & Family Health Services; and NeighborWorks Northeastern Pennsylvania.



On Sunday, June 22, the community is invited to participate in the 2025 World Refugee Day Celebration at Nay Aug Park (Mulberry Street entrance, across from GCMC and Everhart Museum) in Scranton from 2-5 p.m. The celebration will include cultural music and dance performances, refreshments, giveaways, games, and activities for kids. More than 20 community agencies are working together to plan this celebration.

Members of the planning committee pictured are, front row, from left: Smriti Sitaula, Bhutanese Cultural Foundation of Scranton Association; Daysi Carreto, The University of Scranton; Chandra Sitaula, Bhutanese Cultural Foundation of Scranton Association; Audrey Golosky, United Neighborhood Centers of NEPA; Fatima Ashraf, Muslim Association of Wyoming Valley; and Dr. Maria Vital, The University of Scranton. Second row, from left: Ushu Mukelo, Congolese Community of Scranton; Fikile Ryder, Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton; Julie Schumacher Cohen, The University of Scranton; Sister Donna Korba, I.H.M., Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary; Jenny Gonzalez, S.T.A.R.S. Program at Marywood University; and Phil Yevics, Scranton Area Multifaith Ministerium. (Photo/Eric Deabill)

## TRAVELWORLD

GROUP TOURS & CRUISES | EST. 1975

### USA

**NEW ENGLAND ESCAPE  
CAPE COD + MARTHA'S  
VINEYARD + MORE  
AUGUST 24 - 29, 2025  
\$1,699/PP**



**YANKEES VS. RED SOX. VIP  
EXPERIENCE IN JIM BEAM SUITE  
AT YANKEE STADIUM!  
ROUNTRIP BUS. ALL-INCLUSIVE  
FOOD/DRINKS.  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2025  
\$329/PP**



**NEW HAMPSHIRE'S WHITE  
MOUNTAINS. VARIOUS SCENIC  
RAILWAY TOURS + MEALS.  
OCTOBER 5-9, 2025  
\$1699/PP**



### JAMAICA

**RIU PALACE TROPICAL BAY  
IN NEGRIL.  
ALL MEALS & DRINKS.  
OCTOBER 18-24, 2025  
\$1599/PP**



### EUROPE

**DISCOVER IRELAND. BLARNEY  
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# New plaque brings visibility to Tomb of the Unborn at Cathedral Cemetery

SCRANTON – Many people in the community may not know that located near the entrance of Cathedral Cemetery in West Scranton is a quiet, sacred space dedicated to the unborn.

Due to the efforts of the Knights of Columbus Council 12572, that space is now more visible and welcoming to the public.

On Saturday, June 14, 2025, the Knights of Columbus held a special dedication ceremony for a newly installed three-foot plaque at the Tomb of the Unborn, inviting the public to recognize the peaceful spot as a place of prayer, reflection, and healing.

“As people drive by seeing the plaque, knowing it’s the Tomb of the Unborn, they can offer a prayer quickly, or if they want to stop and kneel here at the foot of the monument, they can do so,” Master Brian Hallock, Knights of Columbus Pennsylvania Central District, said.

John Scandale, Knights of Columbus District Deputy, said prior to the plaque being installed there was only a small name plate at the top of the monument that often went overlooked.

“It got very little notice. People generally don’t look up, so it got missed,” Scandale explained. “We thought this needed identification.”

Through the generosity of Monuments by Parise, a company based in Lackawanna County’s Up Valley, the plaque was donated and installed.

“They did an excellent job,” Patrick Williams, one of the project organizers explained.

Williams said the Tomb of the Unborn was also power washed, and new shrubbery was planted around its base, including two new rose bushes.

“We’re working with J&L Construction on replacing some



**Father Michael Boris offers a blessing June 14, 2025, at a dedication ceremony for a new plaque at the Tomb of the Unborn at Cathedral Cemetery in Scranton. (Photo/Dan Piazza)**

of the stone and pointing the joints of the monument because they’re starting to leak a little bit,” Williams added.

The work is very meaningful for Theresa Baux who visits the site regularly.

“I’ve come here for years and years, being a post-aborted woman,” Baux explained. “I would always come here and pray because I didn’t have a monument for my own child. I would just come here and pray.”

Baux now works with other women who have had abortions and provides information and resources to pregnant women hoping they choose life.


“The unborn that are killed in the womb in this day and age is a terrible tragedy,” Baux stated.

Father Michael Boris, assistant pastor, Our Lady of the Snows Parish, Clarks Summit, and Saint Gregory Parish, Clarks Green, attended the dedication ceremony and provided a blessing.

Located just to the first left as you enter Cathedral Cemetery on Oram Street, the new plaque stands not only as a memorial, but also as a reminder of the Knights’ ongoing mission to support life

and family in all stages.

“We’re trying to build up our activities, get more members and do more work in the community,” Scandale ended by saying.



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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.

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# DiPippa appointed Executive Director of the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Scranton

SCRANTON - The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, has appointed Mark A. DiPippa as the new Executive Director of the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Scranton.

He began serving in this new role on June 2, 2025.

DiPippa was selected for the position after an extensive interview process and brings a depth of experience in philanthropic development, strategic leadership, and mission-driven service to this role.

His career includes more than three decades of work in education, fundraising, and nonprofit management.

"Stepping into this role feels like coming home for me. I have received a warm welcome from all of the staff and leadership at the Diocese and I am looking forward to traveling to meet others in the eleven counties we serve," DiPippa stated.

For the last decade, DiPippa has been working at Misericordia University, most recently serving as Director of Development for Individual, Corporate and Foundation Giving. During his time there, he was instrumental in securing the largest living alumni gift in the university's history and led a revitalization of the development team that strengthened donor engagement.

A graduate of The University of Scranton with a Master of Science in Educational Administration, and Lock Haven University with a Bachelor of Science in Health and Physical Education, DiPippa has continually demonstrated a heart for service, has inspired trust



Mr. Mark A. DiPippa

through building partnerships, and has maintained a deep respect for Catholic values.

His leadership roles at institutions such as MMI Preparatory School in Freeland, Wyoming Valley Montessori School in Kingston, and Rock Solid Academy in Shavertown, have also given him broad insight regarding cultivating alumni and donor relationships.

"My time in working with nonprofit agencies has allowed me to gain a vast knowledge of board, staff and constituent relationships, DiPippa said. "My prayer is that all of my skills and talents would be used to build upon the wonderful footing that the Foundation's first executive director, Jim Bebla, left me. The cornerstone has been set for the Foundation, and we have already established multiple endowed funds, which will benefit the Diocese for years to come."

In announcing the appointment, Bishop Bambera said DiPippa's commitment to the mission of the Church, along with his proven ability to cultivate donor activity, and his passion of

pastoral, educational, and service ministries, make him well-suited to guide the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Scranton into the future.

"I am confident that under his leadership, the Foundation will continue to experience growth in its charitable efforts for the long-term sustainability for the Diocese of Scranton," Bishop Bambera said.

"The future is bright for the Foundation. There is a great sense of momentum and my hope and prayer is that we can build something that spans far beyond my lifetime. The Foundation and the endowed funds we establish will have the potential to impact the Diocese in perpetuity," DiPippa added.

For more information on the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Scranton, or to contact Mark DiPippa, visit catholicfoundationscranton.org.



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# *A Vision for a Future Full of* HOPE

To Our Dear Neighbors,

As Catholic Sisters, vowed women religious, we deeply value the relationships and encounters we have had with so many of you while serving in schools, hospitals, parishes, retreat centers, nursing homes, food pantries, and outreach centers. Even if we do not know each other personally, we feel compelled to reach out to you today and express our heartfelt sadness, grief, and lament as we witness sudden and devastating changes severely impacting people in our communities – people we know, love, and who are our neighbors.

Many actions we observe in our nation today seem to contradict values that underlie our shared humanity, values which we have nurtured and endeavored to embody in our actions – although not always successfully – over our lifetimes as Catholic Sisters. Love, compassion, empathy, radical hospitality, and mercy are central to our lives. These values shared among all the world religions make us genuinely human. We firmly believe these values must ground us as a nation if there is to be a future full of hope for ALL generations to come.

Imagine a future centered on principles that allow for the full flourishing of all humanity and our common home, Earth. We know these principles as Catholic Social Teaching. Although you may use different words, the essence of this teaching transcends faith traditions and resonates in the lives of all people of goodwill. Adopting these principles can guide us in the days ahead.

We believe that:

- Every person is an expression of God. All life is sacred.
- We must prioritize the needs of those who are the most vulnerable.
- There is dignity in all work, and the rights of all workers must take precedence over profit.
- Earth is God's gift to us, and we have the privilege to cherish, defend, and protect her for future generations.
- Justice is the path to lasting peace.

Today, we ask you to join us in living these values with courage. Love our neighbors! Welcome the stranger! Care for the most vulnerable among us! Speak the truth! Work for justice! Only when "We the people" lead with compassion and empathy will a future filled with hope for all generations be possible.

May God continue to bless us on this journey.

With love and hope,

Your Sisters,

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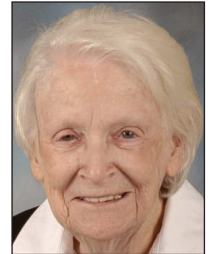
Papal Intention for July 2025

*For Formation in Discernment —*

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## Prayer Requests for Priests

*The Daily Prayer Request for Priests schedule is as follows:*

June 19, Monsignor Thomas Banick; June 20, Father Richard Beck; June 21, Monsignor John Bendik; June 22, Monsignor John Bergamo; June 23, Father Eric Bergman; June 24, Father Rafael Ofarril Bermúdez Gonzalez; June 25, Father Jacek Bialkowski; June 26, Monsignor David Bohr; June 27, Passionist Father Vincent Boney; June 28, Father Michael Boris; June 29, Father Stephen Bosomafi; June 30, Father John Boyle; July 1, Pope Leo XIV; July 2, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; July 3, Father Stephen Brenyah; July 4, Father Michael Bryant; July 5, Passionist Father Richard Burke; July 6, Jesuit Father Timothy Cadigan; July 7, Father David Cappelloni; July 8, Passionist Father Robert Carbonneau; July 9, Father Sean Carpenter; July 10, Father Eugene Carr; July 11, Father Edward Casey; July 12, Father John Chmil; July 13, Father Richard Cirba; July 14, Father Brian J.T. Clarke; July 15, Father Brian J.W. Clarke; July 16, Father Charles Connor; July 17, Jesuit Father Vincent Conti; July 18, Father William Corcoran; July 19, Father David Cramer; July 20, Father William Culnane; July 21, Father Charles Cummings; July 22, Father Richard Czachor, V.E.



# Bishops urge renewed efforts to end antisemitism after Israeli staffers killed

(OSV News) - Two U.S. Catholic bishops expressed their “profound grief and outrage” over the May 21 killing of two Israeli Embassy staffers in Washington.

“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,” said Bishop Joseph C. Bambera of Scranton, and Metropolitan Archbishop Borys A. Gudziak of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia in a May 23 joint statement.

The bishops - who respectively chair the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs and Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development - said their hearts were “burdened by sorrow” over the murders of 26-year-old Sarah Lynn Milgrim and 30-year-old Yaron Lischinsky, who were fatally shot at close range while leaving a young diplomats reception at the Capital Jewish Museum in Washington.

The couple was set to become engaged in Jerusalem the following week, with Lischinsky purchasing the ring only days ago, according to Yechiel Leiter, Israel’s ambassador to the U.S.

Suspect Elias Rodriguez, a 31-year-old Chicago resident, was filmed chanting, “Free, free Palestine,” following the attack. He was detained and has been charged with both federal and local murder offenses, including the murder of foreign officials and two counts of first-degree murder.

The attack has been widely condemned as an act of antisemitism.

In their statement - which joined similar outcries from Cardinal Robert W. McElroy of Washington, Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York and Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of



**A man, with an Israeli flag with a cross in the center, kneels next to emergency personnel early May 22, 2025, as they work at the site where two Israeli Embassy staff were shot dead in Washington (OSV News photo/Jonathan Ernst, Reuters)**

Arlington, Virginia - Bishop Bambera and Archbishop Gudziak said, “As Catholics, we are called not only to reject such hatred, but to actively foster mutual understanding, respect, and solidarity with the Jewish people.”

They pointed to Catholic teaching on the church’s relationship to 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,” they said, referring to the landmark conciliar document that is currently marking its 60th anniversary this year.

“Nostra Aetate” (“In Our Time”) is believed by scholars to have been inspired by a brief but pivotal 1960 encounter between renowned French Jewish historian Jules Isaac and St. John XXIII, during which Isaac presented his research demonstrating a centuries-long “teaching of contempt” toward the Jewish community by Catholic and other Christian theologians.

Regarding the murders of Milgrim and Lischinsky, Bishop Bambera and Archbishop Gudziak said, “The suffering generated by this senseless and

violent action against the Jewish community wounds us all and compels us toward renewed vigilance and action.”

The bishops also acknowledged “the grave responsibility we all share in the language we use, especially when speaking about the conflict in the Holy Land,” pointing to the Israel-Hamas War, which began after the latter’s Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel that killed at least 1,200 and saw some 250 taken hostage. According to the Hamas-run Gaza health ministry, at least 53,655 have been killed in Gaza as of May 21.

“Complex political realities can never justify rhetoric that demonizes a people, faith, or community,” said Bishop Bambera and Archbishop Gudziak. “Harsh or dehumanizing language, even when unintended, can sow seeds of suspicion and fear, which too easily bear the fruit of violence. In our public discourse, as in our prayers, we must choose the path of truth spoken in love (Ephesians 4:15), never allowing geopolitical tensions to justify antisemitism or any form of hatred.”

In December, the USCCB and the American Jewish Committee released “Translate Hate: The Catholic Edition,” a resource to confront antisemitism by cataloging anti-Jewish slurs, while providing Catholic teaching that counters such hatred.

Bishop Bambera worked closely with Rabbi Noam Marans, the AJC’s director of interreligious affairs, on the 61-page glossary of antisemitic terms and commentary, which built on the AJC ongoing “Translate Hate” initiative, launched in 2019.

“To our Jewish neighbors, partners and friends: We walk with you. We grieve with you. We stand with you,” said Bishop Bambera and Archbishop Gudziak in their statement. “May the God of justice and peace

comfort the wounded, strengthen the fearful, and bring healing to all affected by this violence. Let us together be instruments of peace, as we heed the words of the prophet Micah: ‘Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.’”

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**MISSION MESSAGE**

**June's Missionary Saints:  
Ordinary People,  
Extraordinary Witnesses**

By Shannon Kowalski  
Diocesan Director,  
Pontifical Missions Societies



As we settle into the rhythm of Ordinary Time and the early days of summer, the Church offers us quite a few stories of missionary saints who said “yes” to the call of Christ. June is rich with missionary witnesses: people who left home, faced opposition, and gave everything to share the Gospel.

Their lives might seem far removed from our own, but the truth is, their missionary spirit is meant for all of us. Baptized into Christ, we are all called to be missionaries — whether across the world or across the street. This June, consider getting to know these saints a little better — and let their bold witness inspire your own small missionary practice.

**Saint Boniface – June 5**

Saint Boniface, born in England in the late 7th century, is remembered as the “Apostle to the Germans.” A Benedictine monk known for his wisdom and leadership, he left behind the comforts of monastic life to bring the Gospel to the people of what is now Germany. He endured unfamiliar languages and rugged landscapes to preach the faith, renewing struggling Christian communities. He also boldly confronted pagan customs. One of the most well-known moments of his mission was when he cut down the sacred oak tree dedicated to the god Thor. This was a powerful act that revealed the emptiness of false idols and led many to embrace the Christian faith.

Boniface was eventually martyred, but his legacy lived on through the churches and monastic communities he built. His life reminds us that mission is often uncomfortable, but also deeply fruitful.

*Missionary practice idea:* Choose a country where the Church is still growing and struggling. Learn one or two facts about it and commit to praying for the people and missionaries there.

**Saint Barnabas – June 11**

Though not one of the original twelve apostles, Barnabas earned the name “apostle” through his evangelizing work. Born a Jew in Cyprus, he sold his land and gave everything to the Church, and later served as a crucial bridge between Jewish and Gentile Christians. He was one of the first to trust the sincerity of Paul’s conversion, even when others doubted. Paul and Barnabas embarked on the Church’s first great missionary journey from Antioch to Pisidia, Iconium, and other regions.

Barnabas’s name means “son of encouragement” — a beautiful reminder that sometimes the most missionary thing we can do is walk with someone, listen to their questions, and be a voice of hope.

*Missionary practice idea:* Encourage someone in their faith journey — send a note, text, or prayer to someone you know who might need support or reassurance.

**The Ugandan Martyrs – June 3**

In the late 1800s, Christianity began to take root in Uganda, thanks to the efforts of Catholic missionaries. Among the converts was Charles Lwanga, a young man working as a royal page in the court of King Mwanga II.

When the king began to persecute Christians and demand immoral behavior from his pages, Charles stood up in defense of purity and faith. Charles not only protected younger boys from abuse but also secretly baptized and catechized them. His faith, courage, and leadership inspired

*Continued on Page 35*

**Apostleship of Prayer**

Papal Intention for June 2025

*For the World to Grow in Compassion —*

Let us pray that each one of us might find consolation in a personal relationship with Jesus, and from his Heart, learn to have compassion on the world.



## Missionary Saints

*Continued from Page 34*

many others to stay strong in their faith. On June 3, 1886, Charles and 21 companions were martyred — burned alive, speared, or tortured for refusing to renounce Christ.

The Ugandan Martyrs were canonized by Pope St. Paul VI in 1964. Most of them were teenagers. Their example has left a lasting legacy of faith in Africa, where the Church continues to thrive and grow today.

*Missionary practice idea:* Share a saint's story or a scripture verse on your social media or in a conversation. Even a small act of evangelization can plant a seed!

### **Saints John Fisher & Thomas More – June 22**

Missionary work doesn't always mean going far away. Sometimes, the Gospel calls us to stand firm right where we are. That's what happened with St. John Fisher, a bishop, and St. Thomas More, a lawyer and statesman. When King Henry VIII broke from the Catholic Church in the 16th century, both men refused to go along with it. Their fidelity cost them their lives, but their example still echoes today. These two saints remind us that missionary witness can happen in courtrooms, homes, classrooms, or anywhere truth, conscience, and Christ intersect.

*Missionary practice idea:* Speak the truth in love, even if it's difficult. Whether defending the dignity of life, the poor, or your Catholic faith, don't be afraid to stand up with humility and hope.

These missionary saints of June weren't superheroes. They were ordinary people who trusted an extraordinary God. They made mistakes and had doubts. But they also had faith — and that faith became action, even when the cost was high.

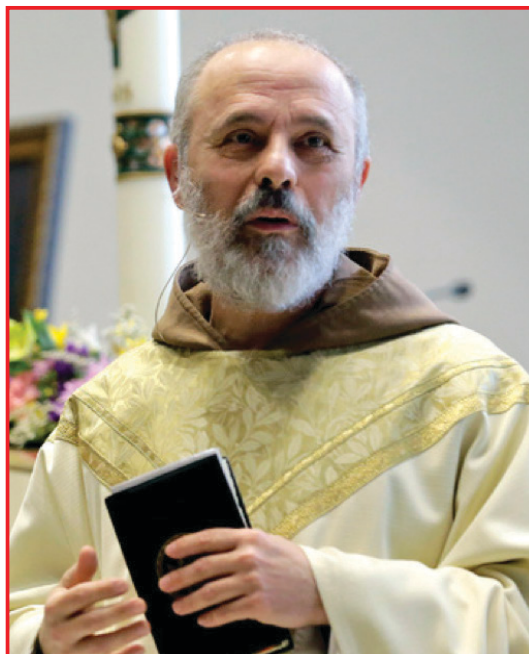
The Gospel spreads through people like Boniface, Barnabas, Charles Lwanga, Thomas More, and John Fisher. It also spreads through people like you. Let this be the month where you say "yes," just as they did.



# THE ORDER OF MALTA

## SCRANTON CHAPTER

PRESENTS



**FR. PIO MANDATO, FMHJ**  
**MAIN CELEBRANT & HOMILIST**

**MSGR. NEIL VAN LOON**  
**MASS CONCELEBRANT &  
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### **FR. PIO MANDATO, FMHJ**

Fr. Pio Mandato, FMHJ is a Franciscan priest living as a missionary hermit. He was born in Italy and along with his brother Vincenzo, received his first holy communion from Saint Pio before coming to the USA. He grew up in New Jersey and entered the Capuchin Franciscans at the age of 17, and was ordained in 1985. In 1998 he was accepted in the Diocese of Scranton, Pa., and now lives a life of solitude, prayer and intercession. He is also Chaplain to the Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth and at times is engaged in the preaching apostolate.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2025**

**1:00 PM - CONFESSIONS**

**1:30 PM - ROSARY**

**2:00 PM - MASS & ANOINTING OF THE SICK**

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## Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese

**Gigantic Rummage Sale** — JUNE 19-21, sponsored by St. Boniface Parish in Williamsport; held Thursday & Friday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Saturday, 8 a.m. to noon., at St. Lawrence Church Hall, 800 W. Central Ave., South Williamsport. Sale features housewares, tools, holiday items, toys, clothing/shoes, and books. Breakfast and lunch available for purchase.

**Friday Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction** — JUNE 20, hosted by St. Maximilian Kolbe

Parish at Our Lady of the Lake Church, 5112 Pocono Crest Road, Pocono Pines; Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament and benediction offered every Friday morning following the 9:15 a.m. Mass. All are invited to spend time in prayer & meditation with the Eucharistic Lord. St. Monica's Army hosts prayerful recitation of the Holy Rosary on the First Friday of each month at 6:30 p.m., followed by adoration.

**Weekly Eucharistic Adoration** — JUNE 20, hosted by St. Thomas More Parish in Lake Ariel; exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held every Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Chapel of St. Thomas More Church, 105 Gravity Road, Lake Ariel. Weekly adoration of the Eucharistic Lord includes recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet during the 3 p.m. hour, evening prayers at 5:30 p.m., concluding with benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 6 p.m. All faithful are welcome.

**Monthly Meeting of the Lay Carmelites** — JUNE 21, hosted by Our Lady of the Mountains Lay Carmelite Community on the third Saturday of each month; gatherings are held from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Oblates of St. Joseph seminary/chapel, 1880 Highway 315, Laflin. For more information, contact Chris at (570) 239-8094.

**Tuesday Eucharistic Adoration** — JUNE 24, 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.

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Weekly Rosary** — JUNE 25, hosted at SS. Peter & Paul Church, 1309 West Locust St., West Scranton; weekly Rosary devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help offered every Wednesday morning following the 9 a.m. Mass. All are welcome.

**Sacred Heart of Jesus Solemnity Celebration** — JUNE 27, hosted by Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Dupont; Mass for the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus celebrated at 7:30 p.m. in Sacred Heart Church. Eucharistic adoration with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament follows the liturgy from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., concluding with benediction and devotional prayers. Afternoon Mass celebrating the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus will be offered at 4 p.m.; parish's Polish Picnic follows on the church grounds from 5 to 9 p.m.

**Parish Cash Bingo** — JUNE 29, sponsored by St. John the Evangelist Parish, 35 William St., Pittston; games party hosted from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Monsignor Bendik Pastoral Center Auditorium (entrance on Church Street). Doors open at noon; admission fee: \$25, includes 20 regular games. Special games cost \$5 each. Event includes raffle & cash drawings, door prizes, and food sales; prizes value more than \$4,000. Those attending with a new PA Lottery scratch-off ticket (\$5 or more) eligible for special drawing. For ticket information, contact the parish office at (570) 654-0053.

**Rib Barbecue Dinner** — JUNE 29, sponsored by St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church in Scranton; held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Mary's Center, 320 Mifflin Ave., Scranton, with

*Continued on Page 37*

### 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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- Medicaid Application Assistance

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# Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese of Scranton

*Continued from Page 36*

dine-in or takeout service. Event includes bake sale and raffle drawings. Dinner cost: \$18 per person; advance reservations recommended. Tickets available at the door until sold out. For information, call (570) 343-5151.

**Venerable Father Patrick Peyton Monthly Rosary** — **JULY 2**, hosted by the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton; Rosary devotion is held on the first Wednesday

of each month following the 12:10 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral. Recitation of Rosary prayers is offered for the special intention of furthering the cause for canonization of Venerable Father Patrick Peyton.

**Healing Mass & Anointing** — **JULY 20**, sponsored by the Mental Health Ministry at Divine Mercy Parish in Scranton; Sunday afternoon Healing Mass will be celebrated at the parish's St. Joseph Church, 312 Davis St.,

Minooka section. Devotion begins with recitation of the Rosary at 4 p.m., followed by Mass, with anointing of the sick, at 5 p.m. All faithful are welcome.

**St. Joseph Fraternity of Third Order Secular Franciscans** — **JULY 20 & AUG. 17**, Lay Franciscan Canonical Order meets on the third Sunday of each month; meetings hosted from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Oblates of St. Joseph Seminary/Chapel, 1880 Highway 315, Laflin. All interested men and women and visitors are welcome. For more information, contact Michele at (570) 807-7996.

**Summer Youth Music Camp: "Weeklong Treasure Hunt"** — **JULY 28-AUG. 1**, hosted by Gate of Heaven Parish, 40 Machell Ave., Dallas; music camp for children held daily throughout the week from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., concluding with a Youth Liturgy on Sunday, Aug. 3. Camp is open to youth singers ages 8 to 15; camper gatherings will include choir rehearsals, snacks

and other activities. For more information and registration, contact the parish office at (570) 675-2121, or parishoffice.goh@goholv.org.

**24th Annual Lebanese-American Food Festival** — **AUG. 8-10**, hosted by St. Joseph Melkite Greek-Catholic Church, 130 North St. Frances Cabrini Ave. (off lower Jackson Street),

West Scranton; event held on the church grounds Friday & Saturday, from 4 to 9 p.m., and Sunday, 1 to 7 p.m. Featuring homemade Lebanese/Middle Eastern foods & pastries and traditional American picnic food favorites; includes gift baskets & cash raffles. For more information, contact the rectory office at (570) 343-6092 or visit the Facebook page.

## Pro-Life Baby Shower aids Wilkes-Barre Center



The Altar & Rosary Society of Holy Family Parish in Luzerne recently held a benefit baby shower, resulting in the collection of a large variety of new infant clothes — and a generous monetary donation — for the Pro-Life Center in Wilkes-Barre. Pictured during their May meeting, during which Rosary prayers were offered for the pro-life apostolate, are Society members with the pro-life volunteers. Shown, from left: center volunteers Stephanie Walski, Sharon Yale, Christopher Calore and Maureen Roughsedge; and Altar & Rosary members Anna Wasilowski, President Donna Mazaika, Carol Cardoni, Marie Stefanitis and Inez Brinola.

## Concert to celebrate Independence Day

**PITSTON** — The music ministries from the Pittston parishes of Saint John the Evangelist, Saint Joseph Marello and Our Lady of the Eucharist, accompanied by musicians from the community, will present a concert celebrating the Independence Day holiday on Monday, June 30, at 7 p.m. in Saint John the Evangelist Church, 35 William St., Pittston.

Members and friends of the combined parish choirs will perform, with opportunities for all

in attendance to sing along.

Guest instrumentalists for this year's concert include the brass quartet of Dale Chase, Dan Coyle, Chuck Smith and Geoff Speicher.

They will be accompanied by flutist Cindy Thomas and percussionist Monica Spishock.

All veterans of the U.S. Armed Services in attendance will receive special recognition during the concert.

A free-will offering will be accepted.



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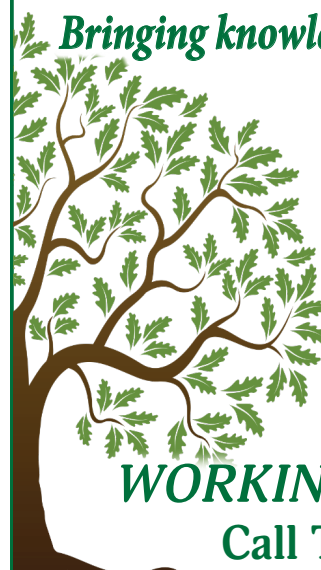
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## Mother's Day May Crowning at Fatima Grotto in Wilkes-Barre



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and May Crowning  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
on Mother's Day  
at the Marian shrine.**



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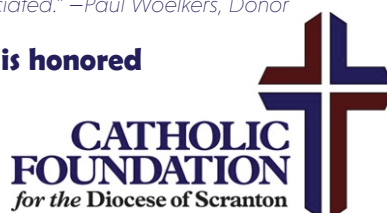


*"Irene and I decided to support the Catholic Foundation by creating the Paul and Irene  
Woelkers Endowment Fund for the Care of Retired Priests because we respect the  
commitment and the ministry of our retired priests. We have been blessed by many good  
and faithful priests who have affected our lives and the lives of our family. We want to  
ensure that these men are cared for in their retirement and know that their lives of service  
to God and His people are greatly appreciated." —Paul Woelkers, Donor*

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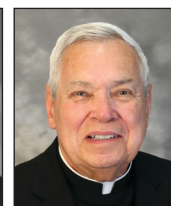


## IHM Foundation to host annual 'Sisters Celebration' at Marywood

SCRANTON — The  
Congregation of the Sisters,  
Servants of the Immaculate Heart  
of Mary invites the community  
to their 2025 Sisters Celebration  
on Saturday, Aug. 2, at 6 p.m.  
at Upper Main, Nazareth Hall,  
on the campus of Marywood  
University.



**Dr. Kathleen  
Munley**



**Msgr. John  
Jordan**

The celebration, returning  
to an in-person event for the first  
time in several years, will honor  
the IHM spirit and support the  
retired Immaculate Heart of Mary  
Sisters. This year's gathering  
holds special significance as  
it commemorates the 180th  
anniversary of the founding of  
the IHM congregation.

The evening will feature the  
presentation of the Spirit of IHM  
Awards to two prominent area  
individuals for their commitment  
to and embodiment of the IHM  
spirit and mission:

Kathleen Munley, Ph.D.,  
retired Marywood University  
professor and community  
advocate; and Monsignor John  
Jordan, a 56-year priest of the  
Diocese of Scranton who is a  
nationally recognized leader in  
Catholic education.

For information about  
attending the event, honoring a  
Sister or loved one, or becoming  
an event sponsor, visit [www.sistersofihm.org](http://www.sistersofihm.org).

Hosted by the Sisters of  
IHM Foundation, the event was  
established in 2013 to support  
retired IHM Sisters who require  
varying levels of care.

"As healthcare costs  
continue to rise, we rely on  
your generosity to care for the  
women who gave their lives  
in service, asking for nothing  
in return," said Robert Brown,

chair of the Foundation Board.  
"This celebration is a chance to  
honor them and hear the stories  
of those who embody the IHM  
mission."

Dr. Munley served nearly 50  
years at Marywood University as  
a professor of history and chair  
of the Department of Social  
Sciences. She was instrumental  
in founding the university's pre-  
law and paralegal programs and  
served as a dedicated advisor to  
students.

A native of Carbondale, Dr.  
Munley is the widow of U.S.  
District Judge James M. Munley  
and the mother of two daughters.  
Her lifelong commitment to  
education and community  
advocacy reflects the heart of  
the IHM mission.

Monsignor Jordan, a native  
of West Pittston, has dedicated  
a majority of his priesthood to  
Catholic education, having led  
three Scranton diocesan high  
schools as principal.

He later served as  
Superintendent of Catholic  
Schools in the Diocese, and was  
a leader in national initiatives  
to revitalize Catholic education.

Monsignor later helped  
found the NativityMiguel School  
of Scranton in partnership with  
the IHM Sisters. His decades of  
service have shaped generations  
of students and exemplify the  
IHM spirit.

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## Diocesan faithful pilgrimage to Mother Seton Shrine in Maryland



**SWOYERSVILLE** - A bus excursion pilgrimage was held May 14 from Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Swoyersville to Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Basilica and Mount Saint Mary's Grotto in Emmitsburg, Md.

The group travelers prayed at the various Grotto shrines; attended Mass at the Basilica; prayed at the tomb of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton (Mother Seton); and toured a newly constructed museum in honor of the Saint.

## K of C scholarship benefits La Salle graduate



**Knights of Columbus Council 7622 in Jermyn** continues its tradition of awarding a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating eighth-grade student from La Salle Academy in Jessup who plans to continue his or her Catholic education in Lackawanna County. This year's award recipient is Michael Peregrim, who will continue his academic career as an incoming freshman at Holy Cross High School, Dunmore, in the fall. Shown during the scholarship presentation are, from left: Council Deputy Grand Knight Mario Fitzgerald, Grand Knight Kevin Pittack Sr., Michael Peregrim, Council Chaplain Father Ryan Glenn, and Financial Secretary Ron Ryczak.

Pilgrims from the Diocese included the Swoyersville parish staff; and representatives from the local Knights of Columbus, Pro-Life apostolates, Our Lady of Fatima Shrine and Saints Anthony/George Maronite Parish in Wilkes-Barre.

Other participants included members of the area Ukrainian Catholic Church; students from King's College and Marywood University; and devotees of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton.

## Report: Abuse allegations down, but complacency a threat

**WASHINGTON** (OSV News) - The U.S. Catholic bishops' latest annual report on child and youth protection shows abuse allegations continue to decline - but authors warned of the dangers of complacency among dioceses and the laity in upholding key aspects of bishops' safe environment protocols.

In particular, said the report, lack of functioning diocesan review boards to review protocols and allegations, along with an increase in parents opting their children out of safe environment training, could erode progress in addressing and preventing abuse.

The report was released June 6 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection.

For the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, the report counted 902 allegations reported by 855 victim-survivors of childhood sexual abuse by clergy, a decrease of 406 (31%) from last year.

Dioceses and eparchies provided assistance to 146 victim-survivors and their families over the past year, while continuing to support 1,434 who had reported

abuse in previous audit periods.

The report included a tally of the 2024 costs of abuse settlements (\$242,799,401) and prevention efforts (\$32,864,402), which made for a combined total of \$275,663,803 - a 7% decrease from last year's \$295,466,752.

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USCCB president: Bishops stand with immigrants 'in this challenging hour'

WASHINGTON (OSV News) - "No one can turn a deaf ear to the palpable cries of anxiety and fear heard in communities throughout the country in the wake of a surge in immigration enforcement actions," said the leader of the nation's Catholic bishops in a June 16 statement that assured all impacted of their shepherds' support.

Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, issued a reflection ahead of the USCCB's weeklong retreat in California, expressing "a profound concern in the hearts of the Shepherds of the Church in our Country" over the Trump administration's immigration policies.

While he commended law

enforcement actions "aimed at preserving order and ensuring community security" as "necessary for the common good," Archbishop Broglio said, "The current efforts go well beyond those with criminal histories."

Pointing to the nation's "gravely deficient immigration system," he said that "the mass arrest and removal of our neighbors, friends and family members on the basis of immigration status alone, particularly in ways that are arbitrary or without due process, represent a profound social crisis before which no person of good will can remain silent."

Speaking on behalf of the nation's bishops, Archbishop Broglio said, "I want to assure all of those affected by actions which tear at the fabric of our communities of the solidarity of your pastors."

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Register today at dioceseofscranton.org for the Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine in Washington on October 1!

19th Annual St. Mary's Villa

GOLF TOURNAMENT

GLEN OAK COUNTRY CLUB, CLARKS SUMMIT, PA

MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2025

All proceeds from the event benefit resident equipment and activities at St. Mary's Villa in Elmhurst Township, PA.



www.stmarysvilla.com



WANTED WWII MILITARY SOUVENIRS

Paying CASH on the spot for U.S./German/Japanese:

Medals, Uniforms, Helmets, Hats, Armbands, Flags, Daggers, Swords, Bayonets, Knives, Pistols, Rifles, Equipment, Pictures, Letters, Currency, Coins, etc...

Contact Sam at (570) 814-8287

Please leave a message if I'm unavailable.

(I am a private collector not a dealer and would be honored to purchase your military souvenirs to display in my collection.)