



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

June 19, 2025

Diocese of Scranton to ordain two new priests June 28

Priesthood Ordination Mass

of

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



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



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 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."

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

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



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.

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

Ask Your State Lawmakers to support EITC & OSTC Programs



As budget discussions continue at the Pennsylvania Capitol in Harrisburg, 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, click on the link below.

[Click Here to Send an Email to Your State Lawmakers Regarding EITC & OSTC Programs Through the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference's "Voice Voice"](#)

DiPippa appointed Executive Director of the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of 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.

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

Holy water meets lake water at Harveys Lake Boat Blessing



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 Hvozdovic 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 Hvozdovic said, referring to the boaters.

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

New plaque brings visibility to Tomb of the Unborn at Cathedral Cemetery



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.

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

Pope sets Sept. 7 for joint canonization of Blesseds Acutis and Frassati



Pope Leo XIV will canonize Blesseds Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati together Sept. 7, the Vatican announced.

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 and set Oct. 19 as the date for the canonization of seven others. He announced the dates in Latin.

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 during the Jubilee of Teenagers. It was postponed following the death of Pope Francis April 21.

Born in 1991 and raised in Milan, Blessed Acutis used his tech skills to evangelize and was noted for his joyful faith and compassion for others before dying of leukemia in 2006 at age 15.

Blessed Frassati, born in 1901 into a prominent family in Turin, Italy, was admired for his deep spirituality, love for the poor and enthusiasm for life. A member of the Dominican Third Order, he served the sick through the St. Vincent de Paul Society. He died at age 24 after contracting polio, possibly from one of the people he assisted.

The two Italian laymen will be the first saints proclaimed by the new pope, who was elected May 8.

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

Pope Leo XIV will escape Rome's heat in July by going to Papal Villa



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.

Matteo Bruni, director of the Vatican press office, confirmed Pope Leo would be staying in the Villa Barberini, the former summer residence of the Vatican secretaries of state; Pope Francis turned the former papal palace on the town's main square into a museum, which opened in 2016.

All private audiences with the pope will be suspended during July, including the Wednesday general audiences, which will resume July 30, the prefecture said in a communique June 17.

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

Jubilee Year is a time to build bridges, not walls, Pope says



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.

Addressing thousands of pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Basilica June 14 for a special Jubilee audience, 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 which is rooted in Christ’s incarnation.

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

Scranton Block Party launches joyful season of church festivals across Diocese



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.

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

[Click Here to for the List of 2025 Church Festivals, Picnics and Bazaars](#)

Follow us on Social Media...



Diocese of Scranton
300 Wyoming Avenue,
Scranton, PA 18503-1279
(570) 207-2238
www.dioceseofscranton.org