



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

June 5, 2025

4,645 years of marriage celebrated at Diocese of Scranton's annual Wedding Anniversary Mass



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 110 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 4,645 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.

[Click Here to View a Photo Album from the 2025 Wedding Anniversary Mass](#)

NEPA Gives 2025: Diocese to rally support for Catholic education beginning at 7 p.m. tonight



NEPA GIVES 2025 NEPA GIVES SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE!

HAVE A FAMILY MEMBER ATTENDING A DIOCESE OF SCRANTON CATHOLIC SCHOOL? YOU CAN WIN THEM A SCHOLARSHIP!

Two generous benefactors who care deeply about Catholic education have made it possible for us to offer **THREE LUCKY NEPA GIVES DONORS** a chance to win! Enter automatically by using "Add A Public Message" to type "I Love My Catholic School" or "We Love Our Catholic School" when you make your online gift **between 7 p.m. Thursday June 5 and 7 p.m. Friday June 6!** Feel free to add your school name to show your pride! **Winners may gift their prize to a student of their choice.**

SCAN HERE TO DONATE! 

THREE PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED AT RANDOM:

- 1. Grand prize: A \$1,000 2025-'26 scholarship**
- 2. Second prize: A \$750 2025-'26 scholarship**
- 3. Third prize: A \$250 2025-'26 scholarship**

Three extra lucky donors will receive a Catholic Schools jacket or an alumni jacket – winner's choice. Shout out your alumni pride by adding a public message about the school you attended. **ALL ONLINE DONORS ELIGIBLE TO WIN JACKETS OR SCHOLARSHIPS!**



"NEPA Gives," an annual regional 24-hours-only giving challenge begins tonight at 7 p.m.

It will conclude at 7 p.m. on Friday.

This year's NEPA Gives campaign for the Diocese of Scranton is solely focused on Catholic education and many of our 19 Catholic schools are raising money for special projects.

By clicking on the link below, you'll be able to view all of the individual fundraising campaigns to see how each school is seeking support. You can also make a gift on that page beginning at 7 p.m. tonight.

As noted in the graphic above, donors will also have the opportunity to win one of three Catholic School scholarships (one \$1,000 scholarship, one \$750 scholarship; and one \$250 scholarship). Anyone making a gift of \$10 or more will be eligible.

We also invite you to join us for the NEPA Gives Block Party to be held on Friday beginning at 5 p.m. in the 100-block of Wyoming Avenue in downtown Scranton.

The Diocese will have a tent celebrating the election of Pope Leo XIV - which will feature Chicago-themed snacks and giveaways/raffles.

[Click Here to Visit the Diocese of Scranton's Giving Page for NEPA Gives 2025](#)

Bishop Bambera to honor 2025 Priest Jubilarians at Cathedral Mass next Thursday

2025 Priest Jubilarians



70 Years

Reverend John J. Turi

65 Years

Reverend William R. Culnane, Ph.D.

60 Years

Reverend George A. Jeffrey

Monsignor William J. Feldcamp

Monsignor John A. Bergamo, J.C.L.

50 Years

Reverend John A. Doris

Reverend Francis L. Pauselli

Reverend John S. Terry

25 Years

Reverend Fidelis Ticona Arocutipa

Reverend Thomas J. Petro, J.C.L.

Reverend Bryan B. Wright

Reverend Paschal Mbagwu



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

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

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

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

The 2025 Mass for Priest Jubilarians will be broadcast live by CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and will be available

for viewing on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel, and links will be made available across all Diocesan social media platforms.

Please join us for this special celebration!

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

**Tickets still available for Catholic
Women's Conference this weekend**



2025 Catholic Women's Conference

Heart to Heart Prayer



JUNE 6: FRIDAY EVENING
(OPTIONAL) WITH KARA KARDELL

JUNE 7: SATURDAY FULL DAY



MARYWOOD UNIVERSITY
Scranton, Pennsylvania



Kara Kardell
"Draw Near" Co-Founder



Sr. Maria Kateri
Sisters of Life



Sarah Hart
Musician/Songwriter

*CONFERENCE MISSION:
TO INVIGORATE AND ENRICH THE FAITH OF OUR SISTERS IN CHRIST*

The 2025 Catholic Women's Conference is just a few days away and tickets are still available!

There is still time to purchase your tickets for the Catholic Women's Conference: Refresh Your Faith Heart to Heart Prayer taking place on Saturday, June 7, at Marywood University.

Don't miss out on this inspiring, spirit-filled day designed to strengthen and renew your faith!

The conference will begin with Mass celebrated by Bishop Joseph Bambera. Keynote speakers include Sister Maria Kateri of the

Sisters of Life, Kara Kardell of the Draw Near podcast, award-winning singer and composer Sarah Hart, and Reverend Bryan Wright of Holy Child Parish in Mansfield.

Attendees will also have the opportunity for Reconciliation, a fellowship lunch, and browsing a vibrant marketplace.

In addition, there is a special Friday night dinner and event available with Kara Kardell for those who want to begin the weekend in community and reflection.

Don't wait any longer - register today and be a part of this joyful celebration of Catholic sisterhood and spiritual renewal!

[Click Here to Register Online for the 2025 Catholic Women's Conference](#)

**Last Call! Join us for the Diocese of
Scranton night at PNC Field**

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SCRANTON NIGHT SWB RAILRIDERS



Join us next Friday, June 13, as the Diocese of Scranton holds a community night at PNC Field.

We will enjoy the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders game as the team takes on the Syracuse Mets.

Gates open at 5:35 p.m. with first pitch at 6:35 p.m.

Don't run out too quick, either, as the RailRiders will be shooting off Post-Game Fireworks into the summer sky that is a sure fire way to end a perfect night at PNC Field!

[Click Here for More Information on the Diocese of Scranton's Night at PNC Field in Moosic](#)

Ahead of Pentecost, parishes invited to share Confirmation photos



Confirmation deepens our baptismal life and calls us to be missionary witnesses of Jesus Christ in our families, neighborhoods, society, and the world.

Through Confirmation, our personal relationship with Christ is strengthened. We receive the message of faith in a deeper and more intensive manner with great emphasis given to the person of Jesus Christ, who asked the Father to give the Holy Spirit to the Church for building up all communities in loving service.

With this in mind, all parishes have been invited to send their photos of their Confirmandi to be posted on the Diocese of Scranton website.

May each and all go forward strengthened by the Spirit of God to be ever faithful followers of Christ.

[Click Here to View Parish Confirmation Photos Submitted for the Diocese of Scranton Website](#)

Reach out to families; let them know God loves them, pope says



The Catholic Church, its ministers and its members must find new ways to reach out to and welcome families who are distant from the church and have no understanding of how much God loves them, Pope Leo XIV said.

Writing to 40 theologians and pastoral ministers participating in a seminar on evangelizing with families, the pope said the first goal of outreach is to help people longing for love and meaning to find that in Jesus.

“How often, even in the not too distant past, have we forgotten this truth and presented Christian life mostly as a set of rules to be

kept, replacing the marvelous experience of encountering Jesus — God who gives himself to us — with a moralistic, burdensome and unappealing religion that, in some ways, is impossible to live in concrete daily life,” the pope wrote in a June 2 message.

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

Pope speaks by phone with Russian leader Putin



Pope Leo XIV and Russian leader Vladimir Putin held their first telephone conversation June 4 with the pope encouraging Putin to make a gesture to show he is serious about peace with Ukraine, the Vatican press office said.

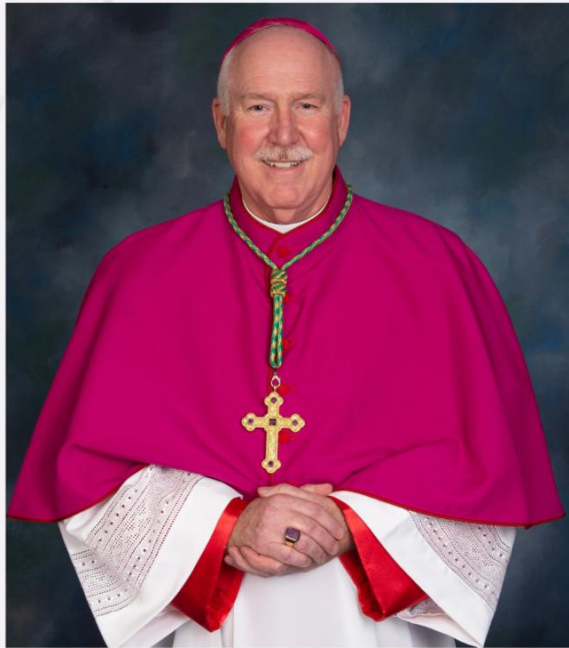
“I confirm that this afternoon there was a telephone conversation between Pope Leo XIV and President Putin,” said Matteo Bruni, director of the Vatican press office.

While they spoke of several “matters of mutual interest,” Bruni said that “special attention was paid to the situation in Ukraine and peace.”

“The pope made an appeal for Russia to make a gesture that would promote peace, stressed the importance of dialogue for the realization of positive contacts between the parties and seeking solutions to the conflict,” Bruni said.

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

Pittsburgh Bishop Zubik, 75, resigns; pope names Auxiliary Bishop Eckman as successor



Prayerful Best Wishes

The Diocese of Scranton
congratulates

Bishop Mark Eckman

on his appointment as
the 13th Bishop of the
Diocese of Pittsburgh

Pope Leo XIV has accepted the resignation of Bishop David A. Zubik of Pittsburgh, 75, and has appointed Auxiliary Bishop Mark A. Eckman of Pittsburgh as his successor.

Bishop Zubik, a native of Pennsylvania, has headed the Pittsburgh Diocese since 2007. At 75, he is at the age canon law requires bishops to submit their resignation to the pope.

Bishop Eckman, 66, was named a Pittsburgh auxiliary Nov. 5, 2021, by Pope Francis and his episcopal ordination was Jan. 11, 2022.

The resignation and appointment were publicized in Washington June 4 by Msgr. Veceslav Tumir, chargé d' affaires of the apostolic nunciature, in the temporary absence of Cardinal Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

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

Video of Brazilian nuns beatboxing goes viral, boosts interest in their ministry



A video of Brazilian nuns beatboxing and dancing hip-hop, a scene taken from a local TV show and defined by celebrities like Whoopi Goldberg as “a real life ‘Sister Act,’” went viral on May 28, with millions of views all over the world.

Sisters Marizele Isabel Cassiano Rego, 46, and Marisa de Paula Neves, 41, were taking part May 20 in a TV show of the Catholic network Pai Eterno (Eternal Father), in Goiás state, in order to talk about a vocational encounter the two were attending in the region.

As they mentioned their artistic ways of reaching the youth, they presented a song they wrote about God’s calling. Sister Marizele sang it and Sister Marisa began to dance — the whole act had a noticeable hip-hop nature. That’s when Sister Marizele began beatboxing.

The short clip went viral on social media and was reproduced by international news agencies on May 28. Actress Viola Davis shared it on her Instagram account, mentioning Sister Mary Clarence, Whoopi Goldberg's character in the 1992 movie "Sister Act."

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

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