

The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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Pilgrimage of Hope:

Bishop leads faithful on Jubilee Year journey to Italy

ROME – Nearly 100 faithful from the Diocese of Scranton embarked on the journey of a lifetime earlier this month, traveling to Italy as part of the Diocese’s official Jubilee Year of Hope Pilgrimage, led by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton.

From walking through the Holy Doors of Rome’s four major basilicas to celebrating Mass at the Tomb of Saint Peter, the pilgrimage offered a deep, personal, and transformative spiritual experience for those who participated.

The ten-day trip, organized in partnership with TravelWorld, spanned some of the most sacred and historic sites in the Catholic

faith – from Rome and Assisi to Florence, Lucca, and Gubbio.

“The pilgrimage exceeded my expectations, and the amount of ground we covered was remarkable,” Toni Ballenstedt, a pilgrim from Epiphany Parish in Sayre, said. “As a convert to the Catholic faith, it was truly enlightening.”

The group began their journey on Aug. 31, 2025, flying from Newark to Rome. Upon arrival, the pilgrims celebrated their first Mass in Italy at the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls, setting the tone for a week steeped in prayer, history, and community.

Over the course of the trip, Bishop Bambera and five other



Bishop Joseph C. Bambera greets Pope Leo XIV following the Holy Father’s General Audience in Saint Peter’s Square on Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025. The visit came as Bishop Bambera led nearly 100 Diocesan pilgrims on a Jubilee Year of Hope Pilgrimage to Italy. (Photo/Vatican Media)

priests who participated in the pilgrimage celebrated multiple Masses for the group, including one at the Basilica of Saint Mary at the Basilica of Saint Ubaldo in Major, another at Saint Francis’ Gubbio – the sister city of Jessup.

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A tapestry depicting St. Carlo Acutis hangs from the facade of St. Peter’s Basilica during his canonization Mass Sept. 7, 2025. (CNS photo/Lola Gomez)

New young saints encourage faithful to live life to the fullest

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The greatest risk in life is to waste it by not seeking to follow God’s plan, Pope Leo XIV said, proclaiming two new saints - two young laymen of the 20th and 21st centuries.

“Sts. Pier Giorgio Frassati and Carlo Acutis are an invitation to all of us, especially young people, not to squander our lives, but to direct them upward and make them masterpieces,” the pope said Sept. 7.

“The simple but winning formula of their holiness,” he said, is accessible to everyone at any time. “They encourage us with their words: ‘Not I, but God,’ as Carlo used to say. And Pier Giorgio: ‘If you have

God at the center of all your actions, then you will reach the end.’”

Before canonizing the first saints of his pontificate, Pope Leo greeted the more than 80,000 faithful who had gathered early in St. Peter’s Square because he wanted to share his joy with them before the start of the solemn ceremony.

“Brothers and sisters, today is a wonderful celebration for all of Italy, for the whole church, for the whole world,” he said before the Mass.

“While the celebration is very solemn, it is also a day of great joy, and I wanted to greet especially the many young people

who have come for this holy Mass,” he said, also greeting the families of the soon-to-be saints and the associations and communities to which the young men had belonged.

Pope Leo asked that everyone “feel in our hearts the same thing that Pier Giorgio and Carlo experienced: this love for Jesus Christ, especially in the Eucharist, but also in the poor, in our brothers and sisters.”

“All of you, all of us, are also called to be saints,” he said, before leaving to prepare for Mass and paying homage to a statue of Mary with baby Jesus and the reliquaries containing the relics of the two men.

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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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Bishop Bambera to celebrate Mass this weekend honoring 125+ year legacy of Larksville church

LARKSVILLE - On Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025, parishioners and friends of Saint John the Baptist Church in Larksville will gather in thanksgiving as the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate a special 4:00 p.m. Mass marking 125+ years since the founding of the parish.

All are welcome to attend.

The parish reached its 125th anniversary milestone last year, but did not wish to celebrate without its pastor, Rev. Gerald Gurka, who was recovering from an illness at the time.

The history of Saint John the Baptist Parish is one of faith, hope, hard work, and sacrifice.

It began in the late summer of 1898 when a group of Polish Roman Catholic men, most of whom were coal miners of very modest means, seized an opportunity to acquire a lot on the corner of Nesbitt and Third Streets in Larksville, then known as the East Plymouth section of Plymouth Township.

After they received permission from the Diocesan Bishop to begin building, they solicited the funds necessary to build the church.

The parish was organized in December 1898, and during the church construction, services were held at a building nearby.

The church was completed and dedicated with a Mass on Feb. 3, 1899.

Many pastors served the parish in its early years, and as more Polish immigrants settled in Larksville, the parish grew in size and vibrancy.

Rev. Paul A. Kopicki was named the ninth Pastor on Nov. 11, 1918. When the original church was destroyed by fire a year later on Dec. 18, 1919,

Father Kopicki led the project to construct a new church. Though it was a huge sacrifice, each parish family contributed \$75 to the construction of the new edifice.

It was completed in only seven months time, on the same site as the original church, and dedicated at the Christmas Midnight Mass on Dec. 25, 1920.

Throughout the early and middle part of the 20th century, the parish thrived under the leadership of Father Kopicki, who served as Pastor for 39 years until 1957. He was succeeded by Rev. John J. Piontek (1957-1965), and then by Rev. John J. Kowalkiewicz (1965-1971).

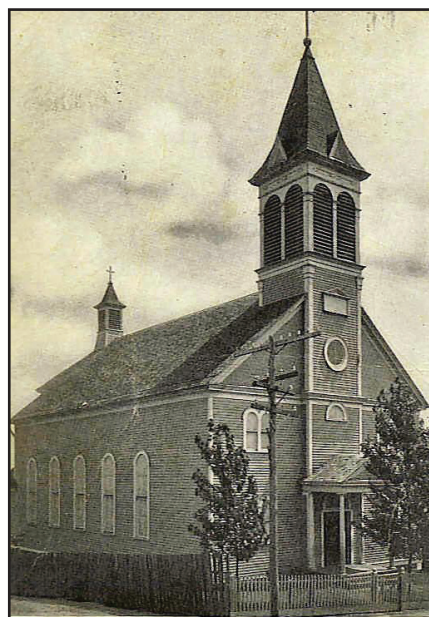
On Sept. 7, 1971, Monsignor John C. Masakowski became the twelfth Pastor of Saint John's, serving for 29 years.

During his tenure, he completely renovated and refurbished all parish buildings and secured land across the street from the church to insure a permanent location for the annual Saint John's Bazaar.

On Oct. 11, 2000, Rev. Gerald J. Gurka became the thirteenth Pastor of Saint John's.

The hallmark of his pastorate has been an emphasis on the spiritual development of his parishioners while maintaining and improving the physical infrastructure.

Upon arriving at Saint John's, Father Jerry reorganized all



The original Saint John the Baptist Church in Larksville, in a photo taken from 1907, is shown on the left. The photo on the right is the current church building in 2025.



parish activities around a Vatican II focus of Word, Worship, Community, and Service. He has continued the annual Saint John's Bazaar, a festival renowned in the Wyoming Valley, holding 21 festivals during his pastorate.

He has also brought his unique talent of writing and directing Nativity and Passion plays and has involved many parishioners in his productions over the years. His formal training in the culinary arts has made him a regular participant in the annual *Rectory, Set, Cook!* diocesan fundraiser for anti-hunger and anti-homelessness.

In 2004, he warmly welcomed parishioners from Saint Anthony's in Larksville and SS Cyril and Methodius in Edwardsville when those parishes closed, and in 2022, welcomed parishioners from All Saints Parish into a linkage with Saint John's.

He has led numerous physical renovations and improvements in his 25 years at Saint John's.

The parishioners look forward to the anniversary celebration to remember the past sacrifices, with a hopeful look to the future to continue good works for the honor and glory of God.



YOU'RE INVITED!

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SAINT EULALIA PARISH**

In celebration of 75 years as a parish

**SUNDAY, OCT. 12
10:30 A.M.**

214 BLUE SHUTTERS ROAD
ROARING BROOK TOWNSHIP



Historic church's bicentennial unites past and present

SILVER LAKE TOWNSHIP – On a picturesque September morning, with sun streaming through the historic stained-glass windows, Saint Augustine Church celebrated a momentous milestone: 200 years of Catholic faith and community.

The bicentennial Mass, held at 10:30 a.m. on Sept. 14, 2025, drew a packed church filled with current parishioners and returning families who came from far and wide.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as the principal celebrant and homilist for the special liturgy at the oldest Catholic church in the Diocese of Scranton.

“This is a big milestone in our history. It’s not a small thing,” said Father Thomas Augustine, Pastor of Saint Brigid Parish, of which Saint Augustine Church is a worship site. “It calls back the memories that were planted many years ago and now we can see the fruit of what was planted here.”



Parishioners filled the pews of Saint Augustine Church in Susquehanna County on Sept. 14, 2025, to celebrate a special Mass highlighting the 200th anniversary of the house of worship beginning to take shape. (Photos/Mike Melisky)



Saint Augustine Church, located in Silver Lake Township, is the oldest Catholic church in the Diocese of Scranton.

CELEBRATING MORE THAN A BUILDING

While the anniversary honored the physical structure built by Irish immigrants in the 1800s, the true celebration was much more about a celebration of faith that has withstood the test of time.

“Our biggest thing was to not just celebrate 200 years of a building, but to celebrate 200 years of faith,” parishioner Mary Homan said.

Homan represents the fifth generation of her family to worship at Saint Augustine Church.

“My grandchildren are the seventh generation of families who have been in this parish,” she added. “That is what the party is really about.”

Founded through the missionary efforts of Father Jeremiah Francis O’Flynn in the early 19th century, Saint Augustine Church began as a simple place of worship in what was then a rural frontier.

Despite hardships, including a devastating fire in the 1870s and even a temporary closure during diocesan consolidations, the church has endured.

“We’re the first to celebrate 200 years in our diocese,” Human said proudly. “What makes this so significant is the resilience of the people.”

Parishioner Cott Demaree, whose family has also worshipped at Saint Augustine Church for generations, also reflected on the church’s humble origins.

“To think what they went through 200 years ago. They didn’t have power tools. They didn’t have everything we’re used to now, but

all these Irish people came together and made this magnificent building, and it was also a community, which still stands right now,” she said.

A COMMUNITY STILL ALIVE AND THRIVING

Despite its rural location in Susquehanna County, Saint Augustine Church remains a vibrant, active parish with weekly Sunday Mass, an Adoration Chapel open daily, and events that continue to draw large crowds.

“We have a big following,” Homan said. “In the summer, the church is packed.”

“This is more than a church, it’s “Christ’s community,” Demaree added. “It’s a community of love, sharing, and endearment.”

Patti Dudock, who moved into the area and now has found herself involved in many parish initiatives, said the Mass highlighted the church’s universality.

“To hear Father Augustine, who is not from our country, to bring his insight and faith, shows this is a universal church,” she said. “When the Bishop spoke, what a blessing! The homily was phenomenal. Then he brought up a young boy whose birthday it was – that is our future – to watch that, I got goosebumps. I just got absolute goosebumps.”



The altar of Saint Augustine Church before the beginning of Mass on Sept. 14, 2025.

CELEBRATION TO REMEMBER

Following the anniversary Mass, the celebration moved outdoors, where guests enjoyed a catered buffet meal, live Irish music, dancing, and decades of memorabilia on display.

“It is better than Christmas,” Dudock said with a laugh. “This is where people were born and raised. This is where they made all their sacraments. It’s their hometown and they’ve come back.”

Even as the parish looked back on 200 years of history, parishioners of Saint Augustine Church remain focused on the future.

When asked what her favorite part of the day was, Demaree didn’t hesitate in her answer.

“I just think it’s all the love. People are just smiling. They’re thrilled to be here. It’s God’s graciousness in all its majesty,” she said.



At the conclusion of Mass, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera unveiled and blessed a bicentennial stone that will now hang inside the entrance of Saint Augustine Church.

Bishop Bambera to celebrate Respect Life Sunday Mass on Oct. 5

SCRANTON – The Catholic Church recognizes the month of October as Respect Life Month and the first Sunday in October is designated as Respect Life Sunday.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate Respect Life Sunday Mass on Oct. 5, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Mass is open to the public. Faithful from across the Diocese of Scranton are invited to attend the Respect Life Sunday Mass and focus on God's precious gift of human life and our responsibility to care for, protect and defend the lives of our brothers and sisters.

The theme for the 2025 Respect Life celebration is, "Life: Our Sign of Hope." The theme reflects the ongoing Jubilee Year of Hope. Through the gift of our Baptism, Our Lord Jesus Christ calls us to be a member of His body thereby, demonstrating the invaluable dignity of the human person. This mystery invites us to be witnesses to the hope of the resurrection by promoting and defending the precious gift of life.

Catholics are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of life to its end, and at

"Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us."

Romans 5:5

every point in between. During the month of October, the Church asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life.

For those unable to attend in-person, the Mass will be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and the Diocese of Scranton's YouTube Channel. The Mass will also be livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website with links provided on the Diocese of Scranton social media platforms.

RESPECT LIFE
SUNDAY MASS

DIOCESE OF
SCRANTON



CATHEDRAL OF
ST. PETER
315 WYOMING AVE. SCRANTON, PA 18503

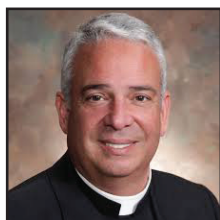
OCTOBER 5TH
10AM

Speakers announced for Pennsylvania March for Life in Harrisburg

HARRISBURG - The Pennsylvania March for Life is now just days away and several of the speakers who are expected to take the stage on Monday, Sept. 22 have been announced.

Among those expected to speak are the Most Reverend Nelson Perez, Archbishop of Philadelphia; Ryan Bomberger, founder, Radiance Foundation; Michael Geer, president, Pennsylvania Family Institute; Jennie Bradley Lichter, president, March for Life; Sarah Bowen, founding president, Pennsylvania Pregnancy Wellness Collaborative; Dr. Robby Waller, emergency medicine physician; along with numerous Pennsylvania lawmakers.

The events associated with the 2025 Pennsylvania March for Life will begin on Sunday, Sept. 21 at 12:15 p.m.



Archbishop Nelson Perez, Philadelphia



**Ryan Bomberger
Radiance Foundation**



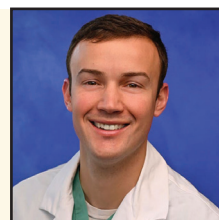
**Michael Geer
PA Family Institute**



**Jennie Bradley Lichter
March for Life**



**Sarah Bowen
Pregnancy Collaborative**



**Dr. Robby Waller
Physician**

Photos Courtesy: PA March for Life Website

as Saint Patrick Cathedral, 212 State Street, Harrisburg, will begin Eucharistic Adoration directly following their regular Mass. The Adoration will conclude with a Mass for Life on the day of the rally at 9:00 a.m., at which time a morning Mass for Life will be held.

At 10:00 a.m., pre-rally praise and worship will take place outside the

Pennsylvania State Capitol.

The rally with speakers with all of the announced speakers will begin at 11:00 a.m., and the Pennsylvania March for Life itself will begin at noon.

Following the march, another Mass for Life will be held at 1:30 p.m. at Saint Patrick Cathedral.

Individuals planning to travel to the

Pennsylvania March for Life are also encouraged to advocate for the unborn with their individual legislators while in Harrisburg. Interested individuals can contact their legislator prior to the March for Life and set up a time to meet with them before or after the rally or can stop by their member's office and leave a message for them with their staff.

Bishop Bambera’s Message for Respect Life Month 2025

Dear Friends,

“Life: Our Sign of Hope!”

For over five decades, the Catholic Church in the United States has dedicated the month of October as a special season to promote a culture of life throughout our land. This year’s theme is linked to the great Jubilee Year of Hope and emphasizes the belief that every human life is a precious gift from God, especially the most vulnerable. It encourages us to promote and defend life, recognizing it as a sign of God’s promise and love.

Despite the hope that was generated with the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* three years ago, the challenge to protect human life has not diminished. It has merely shifted from being a national issue to a state issue. Sadly, because our world is so often hostile to the truth of the Gospel of Life that we embrace, proclaiming the sanctity of human life can be challenging at best. In many arenas, defense of unborn lives, the lives of those who are disabled or dying, or the lives of any vulnerable human population is met with resistance. Proclaiming the Church’s teaching on topics like abortion, assisted suicide, and the death penalty can provoke challenging and emotional responses from those who disagree. And often, we may find ourselves afraid to speak up about these issues in our families, among our coworkers, or with students in our school community. We may fear disagreement, judgement, confrontation, or misunderstanding.



Photos on this page are from the 2024 Pennsylvania March for Life held in Harrisburg on Sept. 23, 2024. (Photos/Eric Deabill)

But as our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, encourages us, “How important it is that each and every baptized person feel himself or herself called by God to be a sign of hope in the world today.”

Brothers and sisters, we bring hope to our world whenever we lift our voices in opposition to threats to our belief in the dignity and value of the human person – from abortion to euthanasia to the death penalty, human trafficking, and unjust immigration laws. We bring hope to our world not merely through self-righteous criticisms of those whose beliefs may be different than our own – but through the respect and dignity that we afford to every person we encounter, regardless of their lifestyle, their country of origin or economic status.

In anticipation of our commemoration of this cherished month devoted to respect for human life, I invite you to join me in traveling to our state capital of Harrisburg on Monday, September 22, 2025, where we will join with thousands of faithful souls from around our Commonwealth for the annual Pennsylvania March for Life. On that day, the message of countless numbers of faithful disciples of Jesus and brothers and sisters from different faith traditions will once again proclaim the value of human life as the treasured gift of God that it is.

Shortly after his election, Pope Leo shared these words to diplomats from countries around the world: “It is the responsibility of world leaders to work to build harmonious and peaceful civil societies.” He continued, “No one is exempted from striving to ensure respect for the dignity of every person, especially the most frail and vulnerable, from the unborn to the elderly, from the sick to the unemployed, citizens and immigrants alike.”



Therein, we discover our responsibility as disciples of Jesus as well as our true and lasting hope!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Joseph C. Bambera

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



School shooting survivor embraces mission to help bring Jesus, healing to Annunciation youth

MINNEAPOLIS (OSV News) - Ellie Mertens huddled under a pew at Annunciation church in Minneapolis on the morning of Aug. 27 as a barrage of bullets screamed past her, mere inches from her head.

She had arrived a few minutes late for the 8:15 a.m. all-school Mass as the new school year began at Annunciation Catholic School.

After walking in, she went toward the front section of the church on the left side. As always, she wanted to be with the students, specifically the seventh and eighth graders she works with as the parish youth minister, a job she began right out of college three years ago.

That put her near the row of windows on the east side of the church, the bottoms of which were at the same level as the pews. The pew where she chose to sit was a few rows back from the first window.

It's the first window where the suspected shooter, later identified by police as Robin Westman, began to fire from outside the church upon the students, parents, staff members and other Mass attendees.

After the first four shots rang out, Mertens dropped to the ground and crawled under the pew where she had chosen to sit for Mass. Then, gunfire shattered the windows and bullets began pouring through for several minutes.

After more than 100 rounds tore through a church completed in 1962 and left violated and desecrated, the shooting stopped and was replaced by a brief and eerie silence. Quickly, school leaders, including Principal Matt DeBoer, rushed to clear everyone out of the church and to a safe place. En masse, everyone inside the church ducked and ran out of the church. In their wake were shards of broken glass, pools of blood and chips of wood from bullet-riddled pews. Mertens described the exit scene as "frantic." People inside were "confused, in utter shock" and also uncertain about what was happening and where to find shelter.

Like the other survivors, Mertens went to the elementary school's gym, where traumatized students waited for

"Jesus Christ can give hope and peace. I'm going to show up and tell kids about him more than ever before, and the hope that they can have in him."

*Ellie Mertens
Youth Minister, Annunciation Church*

their terror-stricken parents to find them, whisk them out of the building and take them home.

She watched as cries of joy and relief pierced the air when children and parents reunited. Gradually, the gym emptied. Mertens and a few others stood by, waiting to see if their help would be needed.

Finally, the last of the children made their somber exits from the gym.

Mertens will never forget the next scene: parents alone, without the children they hoped to see. These are things that are seared into her memory forever.

Two students died in the gunfire and 18 students between the ages of 6 and 15 were wounded, as were three adults in their 80s, police said.

But Mertens' story doesn't end there; nor does the story of Annunciation as a parish and school. A new chapter is beginning. She clearly sees a message from God in the fact that she survived.

Over the next two days, this 25-year-old woman of deep faith -- who attended Catholic elementary school herself - began intensely praying and pouring through her Bible searching for direction about what to do in the aftermath of an unimaginable and hideous act of violence against a school and students she has come to love and care for deeply.

Her search for spiritual and scriptural meaning landed on the Old Testament Book of Esther. One line jumped out at her: "(a woman) for such a time as this" (Est 4:14).

Fueled by this verse, Mertens has solidified her focus in going forward from



Ellie Mertens, left, youth minister at Annunciation church in Minneapolis, hugs Ella Bradburn (red shirt) and Isabella Manley, who are members of her youth group, during a prayer service at Academy of Holy Angels in Richfield Aug. 27 to support those affected by a shooting at the church that morning. Mertens was inside Annunciation church at the all-school Mass when the shooting occurred. (OSV News photo/Dave Hrbacek, The Catholic Spirit)

this tragedy. She believes God wants her to be part of the effort to help lead others to himself and toward healing.

In that mission, she is all in.

"Being here now is an answered prayer because I've just been praying to

be a vessel and an instrument," she said. "I know I survived this so I can help other people through it."

"How could there not be a call on my life?" Mertens' added, speaking of her role as youth minister at Annunciation.

She hopes to follow the example of Esther in the Old Testament and has made words from one verse of that book her own.

"I'm called," Mertens said, "for such a time as this."

"God doesn't want me to be scared," she added. "I survived that (shooting), so I can walk with damaged kids through this."

Here's what that will look like for her. "Jesus Christ can give hope and peace. I'm going to show up and tell kids about him more than ever before, about the hope that they can have in him, about the fact that he understands the pain (they are feeling)."

She said that "what sets our ministry apart is (that) we show up where kids are because that is what God did for us. He became human and showed up for us."

Just two days after the shooting rocked the Annunciation church and school communities, and rocked the entire Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis and beyond, Mertens has crafted a simple resolve and message, one that echoes the sentiment of her pastor, Father Dennis Zehren; her principal; and Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda of St. Paul and Minneapolis:

"Horror is not going to win. We are reclaiming our church."

Bishop Bambera's Statement on Annunciation School Shooting

"I was heartbroken and horrified to hear about the tragic shooting that took place Wednesday morning (Aug. 27, 2025) during Mass at Annunciation Church in Minneapolis. I ask all people of faith to pray for those who are suffering and for the healing of this deeply wounded community."

"The fact that such a violent act could happen in the middle of Mass is almost unimaginable. It is so profoundly distressing to know that such violence could erupt in a place meant for prayer and peace."

"As we pray for the victims, their families, the parish community, the first responders, and everyone now carrying the weight of sorrow and fear – we ask our Blessed Mother Mary – whose Annunciation gave hope to the world – to intercede for all of those whose lives have been impacted by this horrible tragedy."

Bishops, officials call for prayers after activist Charlie Kirk shot and killed

(OSV News) - Catholic bishops and public officials are calling for prayers following the assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk, who died after being shot Sept. 10 during an event at Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah.

Kirk was 31 and a married father with two young children. He was shot in the neck, reportedly by a sniper from a campus building.

Law enforcement officials named Tyler Robinson, 22, of Utah, as the shooter.

Bishop Oscar A. Solis of Salt Lake City said in a statement shared with OSV News, “My heart goes out to the family of Charlie Kirk, who was shot and killed today at Utah Valley University.”

“I will pray for the repose of his soul,” Bishop Solis said. “I am also praying for all who were affected, especially those who were present at the event on campus, the many people who admired Mr. Kirk, and most particularly his family. Meanwhile, I continue to pray for all the victims of gun violence throughout the years and their families.”

“It is appalling that senseless acts of violence such as this continue to occur,” he said. “It seems that our society has lost the sense of the sanctity of life, and I pray that our government will undertake appropriate measures to stop these horrible crimes.”

Bishop Robert E. Barron of Winona-Rochester, Minnesota, was also among those who called for prayer.

President Donald Trump directed flags to be flown at half-staff as “a mark of respect for the memory of Charlie Kirk.”

The widow of Kirk delivered an address Sept. 12, vowing that the legacy of her late husband would live on.

Erika Kirk urged the nation, particularly its youth, to embrace faith, family and the movement he had founded.

The businesswoman, podcast host and doctoral student in Bible studies, who was reportedly baptized and raised Catholic, urged people to join “a Bible-believing church,” and said, “Our battle is not simply a political one. Above all, it is spiritual. ... The spiritual warfare is palpable.”

Bishop Bambera’s Statement on Assassination of Charlie Kirk

“I was saddened to learn of the tragic and senseless shooting that claimed the life of Charlie Kirk on September 10, 2025. I offer my prayers for Mr. Kirk, his family, and all those impacted by the violence that occurred.”

“Violence – particularly violence rooted in political or ideological division – has no place in our society. As Americans, we cherish the freedom to express our thoughts and beliefs. As Christians, we believe that every human life is sacred, created in the image and likeness of God, and must be treated with dignity and respect. No matter our differences or political divide, every person deserves to be treated with dignity, not targeted with hate or violence.”

“Sadly, however, the increase of polarization within our land and the rhetoric that has emerged because of such division has led to a growing disregard for life, for cherished values, and for basic human decency that should be the hallmark of our society. As a result, within just the last few weeks, we have unfortunately witnessed the deadly violence at Annunciation Catholic School in Minneapolis, the murder of a Ukrainian refugee in Charlotte, and now the assassination of Mr. Kirk.”

“In addressing the consequences of such division, we cannot ignore the need to also address root causes of violence, the illegal possession of weapons, and mental health issues among other factors. Finally, I urge people to recommit themselves to the values of dignity, dialogue, and peace. Each one of us can be a voice for civility and compassion – not just through our words – but how we live our daily lives.”

“I fervently pray that, with God’s help, we may all grow to have a deeper respect for one another.”

‘There is no way we could have La Festa without La Messa’

Italian Mass unites hundreds in faith and heritage



Father David P. Cappelloni, Pastor of Saints Anthony & Rocco Parish and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, both in Dunmore, delivers the homily during the Mass in Italian, held at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Aug. 31, 2025. (Photo/Mike Melisky)

SCRANTON—As the smell of pizza and porketta swirled around Courthouse Square in Scranton Labor Day weekend, hundreds gathered inside the Cathedral of Saint Peter for something even more nourishing.

The annual Mass in Italian was held Sunday, Aug. 31, 2025, just one block away from where tens of thousands filled up on bowls of pasta and delicious cannoli.

“There is no way that we could have La Festa without La Messa,” Ashley Yando-DeFlice said.

DeFlice’s words struck at the heart of why so many return each year for the Mass: to honor their ancestors, celebrate their faith and anchor their weekend festivities in reverence and prayer.

“You can have a festival anytime and you can have Italian food and Italian music, but the Italian festival is a celebration of our entire culture, our entire tradition, and without acknowledging the fact that we are rooted in our faith, that is taking a big piece of the Italian American experience away from us,” she added.

Father David P. Cappelloni, Pastor of Saints Anthony & Rocco Parish and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, both in Dunmore, served as the principal celebrant and homilist for the liturgy.

Father Cappelloni reminded the hundreds in attendance about the importance

of traditions that keep people going.

“It reminds us of the fact that we’re united, one in God before we’re united as Italians or Americans or anything else. God needs to be first in our lives,” Father Cappelloni said. “The Mass reminds us of all that God has given us and all that God promises to give us, and we celebrate His bounty, especially the bounty of our heritage and all the wonderful things that we associate with being children of our parents and grandparents.”

Monsignor Constantine V. Siconolfi, chaplain emeritus of La Festa, concelebrated the Mass.

This year’s liturgy was once again celebrated in loving memory of members and friends of La Festa Italiana who passed away since last year’s gathering, including longtime ushers, parishioners, community leaders, and supporters.

As the Mass ended and the crowds walked one block away for lunch, those who gathered in prayer surely gave thanks for where they’ve come from and for the blessings they have received.

“God has blessed us with all that we have and the celebration that is on the Square with all the food, fun, and wonderfulness – it all comes from God, and the Mass reminds us of that,” Father Cappelloni emphasized.

From Saint Peter's tomb to Assisi's hills: Pilgrims renew faith in Italy

Continued from Page 1

One of the most spiritually moving moments for several pilgrims occurred on Sept. 4, when pilgrims attended Mass at the Altar of the Tomb of Saint Peter in Saint Peter's Basilica. Father Andrew McCarroll, one of the Diocese's newest priests, delivered the homily.

"That space, which is thousands of years in the making, coupled with the homily from Father Andrew was a spectacular experience for me," Renee Boland, a pilgrim from Our Lady of Victory Parish in Harveys Lake, explained. "In that moment, I felt the closest to Jesus."

Another unforgettable highlight of the pilgrimage took place on Wednesday, Sept. 3, when the group attended Pope Leo XIV's General Audience in Saint Peter's Square.

Pilgrims were elated as their group was acknowledged during the public ceremony – and the moment was made even more special when Bishop Bambera personally greeted the Holy Father.

"We were able to get within 15-20 feet of Pope Leo XIV when he was being driven around Saint Peter's Square," Rose Emmett, a pilgrim from Ascension Parish in Forest City said. "Just being in his presence was an overwhelming feeling of calmness and peace."

Throughout the pilgrimage, the faithful walked through the Holy Doors of the four papal basilicas in Rome: Saint Peter's, Saint Paul Outside the Walls, Saint John Lateran, and Saint Mary Major – a key act of devotion during the Jubilee Year of Hope, proclaimed by Pope Francis.

The pilgrimage was the first time that Boland had been to Europe, and she admits before the trip she didn't even know what a Jubilee Year was.

"The opportunity of walking through the Holy Doors was something that I will remember forever," she said. "Just the privilege of going to Rome during a Jubilee Year has renewed my faith."

Ballenstedt also highlighted the opportunity to visit

the tomb of Saint Carlo Acutis in Assisi just days before his canonization as another powerful experience.

"Every moment was meaningful. I had the opportunity to continuously pray and even light candles for many family members and friends," she said.

While each day of the pilgrimage was filled with sacred encounters, many pilgrims said there were also many moments of laughter, fellowship, and even new friendships.

"It was a grueling schedule each day, but well worth it," Boland said. "The holiness of the spaces made me feel closer to the Lord."

For many, the pilgrimage reaffirmed the universality and unity of the Catholic faith.

"This wasn't just a sightseeing tour," Emmett said. "There were nearly 100 of us seeking blessings and answers to our own prayers, but being able to experience it all together as a group was another blessing. I met many individuals who I am happy to now call friends."

ROME and SAINT PETER'S BASILICA



Mass at the Basilica of Saint Mary Major



Holy Door at Basilica of Saint John Lateran



Pilgrims visit Saint Peter's Basilica



Papal Audience in Saint Peter's Square



Scavi Tour of Excavations Below Saint Peter's Basilica



Father Andrew McCarroll preaches at Tomb of Saint Peter



The Colosseum in Rome

ASSISI and SIENA



Outside of Basilica of San Francesco



Mass inside Basilica of San Francesco



St. Carlo Acutis in Church of St. Mary Major



Piazza del Campo in Siena

FLORENCE and LUCCA



Mass at Basilica Santa Maria Assunta



Pilgrims pose for photos amid shopping



Church of San Michele in Foro, Lucca



Main altar at San Michele in Foro, Lucca

GUBBIO



Basilica of Saint Ubaldo



The "three ceri" used in Gubbio's race of the saints



Food and fellowship at Sean Pegula's restaurant

Our Call to Serve: Catholic Ministries Appeal 2025-26 is now underway

SCRANTON - On June 13, the Memorial of Saint Anthony of Padua, Patron Saint of the Poor, Pope Leo XIV released his message for the 9th World Day of the Poor, which will take place on Nov. 16, 2025.

In his message, Pope Leo remarked that “Poverty has structural causes that must be addressed and eliminated. In the meantime, each of us is called to offer new signs of hope that will bear witness to Christian charity, just as many saints have done over the centuries.”

These words are an appropriate reflection for this weekend, as the Diocese of Scranton publicly launches and celebrates *Our Call to*

Serve: Catholic Ministries Appeal 2025-26.

As an expression of love and service to those most in need throughout the eleven counties of the Diocese of Scranton, this Annual call to stewardship affords us the opportunity as Catholics to unite our parishes as one family living the faith.

In addition to providing critical financial support to meet the growing needs of serving the hungry and the homeless through kitchens, pantries and shelters run by Catholic Social Services, by making a financial commitment to the Appeal, you support work that strengthens our faith communities, educates our youth,

helps form our seminarians and care for our retired clergy, and provides direct financial support to important parish programming and social justice initiatives and helping them coordinate this work throughout their local communities.

None of this is possible without you! By increasing your commitment and notifying us earlier of your pledge this fiscal year, we hope to achieve the goal for each of our parishes and our overall goal of \$4.5 million by Dec. 31, 2025.

A commitment made now can be paid in installments at any point before June 30, 2026.

The Diocese is well on its

way to the overall goal thanks to so many who have generously increased their gifts, or made commitments for the first time, much earlier this year!

At press time for this edition of *The Catholic Light*, we have recorded approximately \$1.1 million in gifts (or nearly 25% of the overall goal)!

By starting earlier, we can end earlier! If you have not yet made your gift this year, at this time we invite you to make a commitment to this year’s Appeal; if you haven’t made a gift in recent years, we hope you will consider joining in this work that can be enhanced and magnified through increased participation!

You can mail your contribution to Catholic Ministries Appeal, 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503 or visit AnnualAppeal.org to make a gift through our secure online donation form. You can also visit the website to follow progress for this year’s Appeal, and to view stories of impact throughout the year.

All money raised through the Catholic Ministries Appeal supports initiatives throughout the eleven counties of the Diocese of Scranton. **No gift is too small and every gift matters!** Thank you in advance for your commitment to the Appeal – a sign of hope for our Church and our region!

Your Appeal Gifts at Work: A Shared Table, a Shared Mission in Sayre

SAYRE—A Catholic parish in Pennsylvania and a Presbyterian church across the state line in New York might seem unlikely partners.

But for Epiphany Parish in Sayre and Valley United Presbyterian Church in Waverly, N.Y., ecumenism is becoming a lived experience.

With the support of a \$4,500 Social Justice Grant from the Catholic Ministries Appeal, the two congregations have launched a unique and deeply spiritual ecumenical series, centered on community, shared meals, and the sacred gift of the five senses.

“As a Catholic church it is a blessing when we can work with other Christian brothers and sisters,” Father Dan Toomey, Pastor of Epiphany Parish, said. “Pastor Sharan and I (discovered) we held very common views and concerns about social justice.”

Since that first collaboration, the churches have held several events together. The most recent invited participants to reflect on how sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch connect us with God and one another.



With funding from the Catholic Ministries Appeal, Epiphany Parish in Sayre partnered with Valley United Presbyterian Church in Waverly, N.Y., for an ecumenical series focused on social justice. Pictured, at left, is Father Dan Toomey, Pastor of Epiphany Parish, with Rev. Sharan Knoell, Pastor of Valley United Presbyterian Church. At right, parishioners of both communities came together for a presentation on how to experience life through the senses on Aug. 27, 2025. (Photos/Dan Piazza)

Each session included Ignatian contemplative prayer, a meal, and a presentation from a guest speaker.

“We read a passage of scripture and reflected – putting ourselves in that passage and using the sense that was the topic of the evening,” Epiphany parishioner John Schoonover explained.

The format was intentionally multisensory. The sessions on taste and smell were accompanied

by meals designed to highlight flavors and aromas. Discussions of sight and sound included reflections on art and beauty.

The impact of the sessions has been deeply human.

“People are sometimes amazed. They say, you mean you’re working together with a Presbyterian church and I’m like, yeah, why not?” Epiphany parishioner Joan Schoonover said with a smile.

The initiative not only welcomed Catholics and Presbyterians, but also drew Lutherans, Episcopalians, and people with no church affiliation at all.

“This is good to try to break down some of those barriers between different groups,” Epiphany parishioner Rich Maggi explained.

“It has been a beautiful cross-section of the community,” Rev.



Sharan Knoell, pastor of Valley United Presbyterian Church added.

The grant from the Catholic Ministries Appeal made the entire series possible – from guest speakers and supplies to hospitality and outreach.

“It allows us to put things together, make sure we feed people, and enjoy the evening in this case because all of our events have been gathering people in the community,” Father Toomey stated.

“Catholics and Presbyterians are not necessarily known for denominations and traditions that work so well together – but we’ve made it work. The Diocese has had enough faith in what we are trying to do here, that they’ve financially supported this work,” Pastor Sharan added.

For those new to learning about Catholic traditions, the experience was eye-opening.

“Without the parish social justice grant, I don’t know if this would have gotten off the ground,” Sally Hickey, a member of Valley United Presbyterian Church, said.



OUR CALL TO SERVE

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL



31,103
Households Served

by Catholic Social Services food
pantries
(an increase of 19% from 2024)



116,610
Meals Served

at Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen
in Wilkes-Barre
(an increase of 7.5% from 2024)



4,500
Students Educated

in our 19 Diocesan Catholic
Schools

Your Appeal Gifts at Work: Strengthening Family Bonds in Faith

CARBONDALE – Building strong families is at the heart of building a strong church.

The leadership team at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Carbondale recognizes that faith formation doesn't end with the final hymn of weekend Mass.

That is why in early August, the parish's faith formation activities spilled out into the parish parking lot with water balloons, face paint, grilled hot dogs – and the joyful sounds of children laughing, parents talking with one another, and a community building stronger bonds together.

With help from a \$1,500 Faith Formation Grant from the Catholic Ministries Appeal, the parish hosted a Family Fun Day – a celebration designed to bring together parents, grandparents, and children to share in their faith and have a little fun at the same time.

"Family Fun Day was an opportunity for our young families in both our religious education program here at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish and also families who go to Catholic



With funding from the Catholic Ministries Appeal, Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Carbondale hosted a Family Fun Day on Aug. 3, 2025. The day began with Mass, followed by outdoor activities and food, which included wrapping Father Joseph Mosley up in toilet paper (left) and enjoying ice cream (right).

schools to come together to share a day of faith and fellowship," Father Joseph Mosley, Assistant Pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, explained.

The day began with Mass, where many children stepped forward to serve as readers, ushers, and gift bearers.

For many of the children, the experience was both memorable and formative.

"It was fun. I got to participate in Mass," student Gwenevere Sheare said. "I read a reading. My brother got to pass the basket."

"It was pretty cool. I liked other kids being in the Mass and the games and the food, families coming to Mass. It was a great experience," student C.J. Lubash added. "I learned you can have fun at Mass."

After the liturgy, the celebration moved outdoors, where families enjoyed food, games, and a lot of laughter.

Students say some of the most memorable highlights included wrapping their priests up in toilet paper to make a "snowman" and a spirited water balloon fight.

"The water balloons were awesome," student Grayson Demchak said. Demchak also said he enjoyed playing games like Jenga with his friend Jack. "I liked spending time with him and the other kids."

For parents like Nicole Shayka, the day was an excellent example of what parish life can and should be.

"They haven't stopped talking about it," she said of her children. "For me, it was amazing to see my children, who attend Catholic school at La Salle

Academy, be able to integrate with children who attend the public schools – but we're all one parish family."

She also emphasized the importance of seeing money donated by parishioners to the Catholic Ministries Appeal return to the parish in visible, tangible ways.

"I think it's important for parishioners to be able to see money coming back to the parish. We always have a calling to give, and to continue to give, but to have that be fruitful back in our parish, and to have it be specific to children and our families, I think it's a beautiful example of that continuous circle of giving," Shayka added.

Looking ahead, the parish is hoping to build on the momentum. Plans are already underway for future family events – including the possibility of a Christmas-themed brunch.

The Catholic Ministries Appeal makes events like Family Fun Day possible. And thanks to the generosity of faithful donors across the Diocese, more families – like those in Carbondale – will be able to grow in faith, together.

Parish celebrates namesake becoming Church's first millennial saint

OLYPHANT — Just hours after Carlo Acutis was officially canonized by Pope Leo XIV at the Vatican, a parish community half a world away gathered in celebration and thanksgiving.

Parishioners at Blessed Carlo Acutis Parish — now Saint Carlo Acutis Parish — came together Sept. 7, 2025, to honor the young saint who has become both their patron and a symbol of their renewed identity in Christ.

“This is so exciting,” parishioner Liz Sandrowicz said. “He’s the saint that we chose for our parish and he’s the first millennial saint. I think that is wonderful.”

Following Masses at 9:30 a.m. in Throop and 11:00 a.m. in Olyphant, the faithful were invited to spend time in Eucharistic Adoration through 5 p.m., with the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary being prayed throughout the day.

Saint Carlo Acutis has captured global attention as a teenage tech-savvy Catholic who used his love for computers to spread Eucharistic devotion online. His life and legacy speak powerfully to many people — especially young people — and



Father Scott Sterowski, Pastor of Saint Carlo Acutis Parish, celebrates Mass on Sept. 7, 2025, at Saint Patrick Church in Olyphant. In honor of the millennial saint's canonization, the parish hosted several special activities that day. (Photo/Dan Piazza)

that has not been lost on the people of Olyphant and Throop.

“Our God is not just a God of the past or the present but also the future,” Sandrowicz added. “Saint Carlo — by utilizing technology and trying to reach people of all different ages, faiths and backgrounds, reminds us that God is with us, and the future is His.”

For the newly consolidated parish — formed just this past July 1 from the former Holy Cross Parish in Olyphant and Blessed Sacrament Parish in Throop —

Sunday marked more than a moment of global significance. It was also the day their parish officially transitioned from “Blessed” Carlo Acutis Parish to “Saint” Carlo Acutis Parish.

“We are a young, vibrant parish community. We have a lot of younger families that belong to the parish and to have a saint that passed away at the age of 15 and did so much in those 15 years, it really means a lot that we’re named after him,” parishioner Jonathan Eboli said.

Eboli sees the naming of the parish after a modern saint as a powerful symbol of new life for his local church.

“I really do think it gave us a fresh start,” he said. “Father Scott is an amazing leader who has the ability to really bring people together and encourage them to be a part of the church. We have an amazing CCD program here that is really full and vibrant and he’s a big part of that.”

In many ways, the life of Carlo Acutis offers a bridge between generations. His love for the Eucharist, his devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and his care for the poor are all timeless virtues — but his use of technology to evangelize speaks directly to the digital age.

Father Scott Sterowski, Pastor of Saint Carlo Acutis Parish, believes the new saint’s youthful witness is more than just inspirational — it’s contagious.

“There is a certain youthfulness, a certain dynamism, regarding Saint Carlo that is a bit contagious. We see that as we look around the world, as we look at how his life, his witness, his simple approach of living

the Christian faith has sparked a renewal of faith in the hearts and minds of so many people,” Father Sterowski said.

Father Sterowski emphasized that Acutis was a teenager like many others — he loved soccer, video games, music, and family dinners. What set him apart was his radical love for Christ and his desire to use even the simplest tools — like a website — to make the Eucharist known and loved.

“In a very special way, he is our special intercessor before the throne of God and also a role model — both for young and old — of what it means to be a disciple, a follower of Jesus Christ,” Father added.

The Midvalley parish will continue its celebration of their new patron saint on the weekend of Sept. 27-28 when it hosts a Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit in Throop. Originally created and written by Acutis, the exhibit has been translated into English and displayed in parishes all over the country.

The display will be open on Sept. 27 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and on Sept. 28 from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at Saint Anthony of Padua Church, 215 Rebecca Street, Throop.

Pope Leo XIV celebrates canonization of two young saints at the Vatican

Continued from Page 1

In his homily, the pope underlined Jesus’ call in the day’s Gospel reading “to abandon ourselves without hesitation to the adventure that he offers us, with the intelligence and strength that comes from his Spirit, that we can receive to the extent that we empty ourselves of the things and ideas to which we are attached, in order to listen to his word.”

That is what the two new saints did and what every disciple of Christ is called to do, he said.

Many people, especially when they are young, he said, face a kind of “crossroads” in life

when they reflect on what to do with their life.

The saints of the church are often portrayed as “great figures, forgetting that for them it all began when, while still young, they said ‘yes’ to God and gave themselves to him completely, keeping nothing for themselves,” the pope said.

“Today we look to St. Pier Giorgio Frassati and St. Carlo Acutis: a young man from the early 20th century and a teenager from our own day, both in love with Jesus and ready to give everything for him,” he said.

Pope Leo then dedicated a large portion of his homily

to sharing quotes from the two and details of their lives, which is something Pope Francis had shifted away from, preferring to focus more on the day’s readings.

“Pier Giorgio’s life is a beacon for lay spirituality,” Pope Leo said.

“For him, faith was not a private devotion, but it was driven by the power of the Gospel and his membership in ecclesial associations,” he said. “He was also generously committed to society, contributed to political life and devoted himself ardently to the service of the poor.”

“Carlo, for his part, encountered Jesus in his family,

thanks to his parents, Andrea and Antonia — who are here today with his two siblings, Francesca and Michele,” he said, as the crowd applauded, and Antonia smiled shyly at the camera.

St. Acutis also encountered Jesus at the Jesuit-run school he attended and “above all in the sacraments celebrated in the parish community,” he said. “He grew



Pope Leo XIV receives the offertory gifts from Antonia Salzano, mother of St. Carlo Acutis, and her family during the canonization Mass in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Sept. 7, 2025. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)

up naturally integrating prayer, sport, study and charity into his days as a child and young man.”

Red Mass to be celebrated Oct. 3

SCRANTON — The Diocese of guidance in the administration of justice. The public is invited to the Red Mass celebrated on Friday, Oct. 3, 2025, at 12:10 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter. The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will be the principal celebrant. Reverend Paul A. McDonnell, O.S.J., will be the homilist. Historically, the Red Mass is attended by judges, lawyers and legislators for the purpose of invoking God’s blessing and

Members of the county bar associations from across the 11-county Diocese and the Diocesan Tribunal staff are also invited to participate. Attendees will be asked to pray that decision-makers always serve the truth and to make and apply laws in ways that are right and just.



BISHOP BAMBERA’S SCHEDULE

- September 18** - Mass of the Holy Spirit for Chancery Staff
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.
- September 20** - 125th Anniversary Mass for Saint John the Baptist Parish
Larksville, 4:00 p.m.
- September 21** - Mass for Suicide Healing & Remembrance
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.
- September 22** - Pennsylvania March for Life
Harrisburg
- September 22-24** - Pennsylvania Catholic Conference & Provincial Meeting
Harrisburg
- September 25** - School Mass at Holy Rosary School
Duryea, 9:00 a.m.
- September 27** - Diocesan Youth Rally Mass
Notre Dame High School, East Stroudsburg, 7:00 p.m.
- September 28** - Mass at Prince of Peace Parish
Old Forge, 10:00 a.m.
- September 29** - Diocesan Teachers’ Institute Mass
Holy Redeemer High School, Wilkes-Barre, 9:00 a.m.
- October 1** - Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.
- October 3** - Red Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.
- October 4** - Catholic Men’s Conference Mass
Holy Redeemer High School, Wilkes-Barre, 1:45 p.m.
- October 5** - Respect Life Sunday Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.
- October 6-9** - Christian Churches Together Annual Ecumenical Forum
Philadelphia
- October 11** - Ministry of Lector for Permanent Diaconate
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.
- October 12** - 75th Anniversary Mass for Saint Eulalia Parish
Roaring Brook Township, 10:30 a.m.

APPOINTMENTS

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

PASTORS EMERITI

- Reverend Richard W. Beck**, from Pastor, Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Peace Parish, Hawley, to Pastor Emeritus, effective October 15, 2025.
- Reverend Michael J. Piccola, V.F.**, from Pastor, SS. Cyril & Methodius Parish, Hazleton, to Pastor Emeritus, effective October 1, 2025.
- Reverend John S. Terry**, from Pastor, Our Lady of Hope Parish, Wilkes-Barre, to Pastor Emeritus, effective October 1, 2025.

PASTORS

- Reverend Sean G. Carpenter**, to Pastor, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Montoursville, effective October 1, 2025. Father will continue as Pastor, Resurrection Parish, Muncy.
- Reverend Brian J. W. Clarke, V.F.**, from Pastor, Most Holy Trinity Parish, Cresco, to Pastor, SS. Cyril & Methodius Parish, Hazleton, effective October 1, 2025.
- Reverend William D. Corcoran**, from Administrator *pro tem*, Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Williamsport, and Saint Luke Parish, Jersey Shore, effective October 1, 2025.
- Reverend Paschal Mbagwu**, from Administrator, Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Pocono Pines, to Pastor, Most Holy Trinity Parish, Cresco and Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Pocono Pines, effective October 1, 2025.
- Reverend Michael S. McCormick**, from Pastor, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Montoursville, to Pastor, Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Williamsport, and Saint Luke Parish, Jersey Shore, effective October 1, 2025.
- Reverend Glenn E. McCreary, V.E.**, to Pastor, Saint Ann Parish, Williamsport, effective October 1, 2025. Father will continue to serve as Pastor, Saint Boniface Parish, Williamsport.
- Reverend Joseph J. Mosley**, from Senior Priest, Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Carbondale, to Pastor, Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Carbondale, effective October 1, 2025.
- Reverend Shawn M. Simchock**, from Administrator *pro tem*, Saint Ann Parish, Williamsport, October 1, 2025, to Pastor, Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Peace Parish, Hawley, effective October 15, 2025.

PARISH LIFE COORDINATOR

- Deacon Stephen B. Frye**, from diaconal ministry, Saint Ann Parish, Williamsport, to Parish Life Coordinator, Our Lady of Hope Parish, Wilkes-Barre, effective October 1, 2025.
- Reverend Mark J. DeCelles**, from Parochial Vicar, Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish, Scranton, to Sacramental Minister, Our Lady of Hope Parish, Wilkes-Barre, effective October 1, 2025. Father will continue to serve as Director of the Permanent Diaconate for the Diocese of Scranton. Father will reside at Our Lady of Hope Rectory.
- Reverend Richard J. Cirba, V.F.**, to Priest Moderator, Our Lady of Hope Parish, Wilkes-Barre, effective October 1, 2025. Father will continue to serve in all his other current assignments.

PAROCHIAL VICAR

- Reverend Dias Antony Valiamarathungal**, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Ann Parish, Williamsport, effective October 1, 2025. Father will continue to serve as Parochial Vicar, Saint Boniface Parish, Williamsport.
- Reverend Richard Gyansah-Tabiri**, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Pocono Pines, effective October 1, 2025. Father will continue to serve as Parochial Vicar, Most Holy Trinity Parish, Cresco.

IN RESIDENCE

- Reverend Seth D. Wasnock, V.E.**, from Pastor, Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Carbondale, to Priest in Residence, Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Carbondale, effective October 1, 2025.

Faith, family, and culture shine at Hispanic Heritage Mass in Scranton

SCRANTON—The Cathedral of Saint Peter was nearly filled to capacity on Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025, as the Diocese of Scranton celebrated its annual Hispanic Heritage Mass.

The liturgy drew hundreds of Spanish-speaking Catholics from parishes across the diocese, uniting them in faith, fellowship, and the celebration of their shared heritage.

“This is not just a Mass – this is more like a family gathering,” Karla Andrade, a parishioner of Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish in Scranton, explained. “We bring our traditions and cultures and celebrate with different parishes of the Diocese of Scranton.”

Following the Mass, the celebration continued across the street at the Diocesan Pastoral Center with a huge festival featuring food, music, and dancing.

This year’s Mass was especially meaningful as it comes at a pivotal time in the Diocese’s engagement with its Hispanic communities. Over



Hundreds of people participated in the Diocese of Scranton annual Hispanic Heritage Mass Sept. 13, 2025, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

the last year, parish leaders have hosted listening sessions and parish assemblies with Spanish-speaking parishioners to hear their hopes, struggles, and vision for the future.

The insights gathered are being used to help shape a renewed and inclusive pastoral plan for Hispanic Ministry.

“It’s very important that the Diocese is listening,” Andrade added. “Especially in these difficult times – it’s comforting

to know that we have a family, a place to be, and a church that speaks our language. It helps us feel closer to our homes.”

The sense of “home” was echoed by Emmanuel Escoto, a parishioner of Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary Parish in Wilkes-Barre.

For Escoto and his family, finding a welcoming faith community in northeastern Pennsylvania was a gift.

“Two years ago, before we moved here, it was difficult for us



Following Hispanic Heritage Mass, a large celebration with food and music was held in the Diocesan Pastoral Center. (Photos/Mike Melisky)

to be close to our community and have a Mass in Spanish,” Escoto shared. “When we came here, the Scranton Diocese, there is a church offering Spanish Mass, confessions, and celebrations.”

Both Andrade and Escoto highlighted the Mass as an important way of passing down cultural traditions and faith to the next generation. They both also expressed deep hope that the Hispanic Ministry Planning Process will lead to even greater unity, growth, and opportunity for Hispanic Catholics.

“My hope is that Hispanic Ministry continues to grow,” Andrade said. “That it brings more activities like this one.”

Reflecting on the celebration, Escoto was particularly moved by being able to share the day with his own son, who joined him at the Mass.

“I went to do the reading, and I realized I’m setting an example for him,” he said. “Giving your faith is the best thing you can give to your son, daughter, or the future generation ... it will be your legacy.”

La fe, la familia y la cultura brillan en la Misa de la Herencia Hispana en Scranton

SCRANTON - La Catedral de San Pedro estuvo casi llena el sábado 13 de septiembre de 2025, cuando la Diócesis de Scranton celebró su Misa anual de la Herencia Hispana.

La liturgia reunió a cientos de católicos hispanohablantes de parroquias de toda la diócesis, uniéndolos en la fe, la fraternidad y la celebración de una herencia común.

“Esto no es solo una Misa – es más como una reunión familiar,” explicó Karla Andrade, feligresa de la parroquia Santa Teresa de Calcuta en Scranton. “Traemos nuestras tradiciones y culturas y celebramos junto con diferentes parroquias de la Diócesis de Scranton.”

Después de la Misa, la celebración continuó al otro lado de la calle, en el Centro Pastoral

Diocesano, con un gran festival lleno de comida, música y baile.

Esta Misa fue especialmente significativa ya que tuvo lugar en un momento clave para la Diócesis en su compromiso con las comunidades hispanas. Durante el último año, líderes parroquiales han organizado sesiones de escucha y asambleas en parroquias con feligreses hispanohablantes para conocer sus esperanzas, luchas y visión para el futuro.

Los aportes recogidos se están utilizando para ayudar a formar un plan pastoral renovado e inclusivo para el Ministerio Hispano.

“Es muy importante que la Diócesis esté escuchando,” añadió Andrade. “Especialmente en estos tiempos difíciles – es reconfortante saber que tenemos una familia, un lugar al que pertenecer, y una Iglesia que habla



A woman devoutly prays during the Hispanic Heritage Mass.

nuestro idioma. Eso nos hace sentir más cerca de nuestros hogares.”

Ese mismo sentido de “hogar” fue compartido por Emmanuel Escoto, feligrés de la parroquia San Nicolás/Santa María en Wilkes-Barre.

Para Escoto y su familia, encontrar una comunidad de fe acogedora en el noreste de Pensilvania fue un verdadero regalo.

“Hace dos años, antes



Three friends pose for photos at a selfie station in the Pastoral Center.

de mudarnos aquí, era muy difícil estar cerca de nuestra comunidad y tener una Misa en español,” compartió Escoto. “Cuando llegamos aquí, a la Diócesis de Scranton, vimos que en cada ciudad o pueblo hay una iglesia ofreciendo Misa en español, confesiones y celebraciones.”

Tanto Andrade como Escoto destacaron que la Misa es una forma importante de transmitir

las tradiciones culturales y la fe a la próxima generación. Ambos también expresaron una profunda esperanza de que el proceso de planificación del Ministerio Hispano conduzca a una mayor unidad, crecimiento y oportunidades para los católicos hispanos.

“Mi esperanza es que el Ministerio Hispano continúe creciendo,” dijo Andrade. “Que traiga más actividades como esta.”

Reflexionando sobre la celebración, Escoto se sintió especialmente conmovido por haber podido compartir el día con su hijo, quien lo acompañó en la Misa.

“Me tocó hacer la lectura, y me di cuenta de que estoy dando un ejemplo para él,” expresó. “Dar tu fe es el mejor regalo que puedes darle a tu hijo, a tu hija, o a la futura generación. ... será tu legado.”

Young adults from 16 parishes unite for Rosary hike

RICKETTS GLEN STATE PARK – On a cloudy, overcast Saturday morning with rain expected in the forecast, twenty young adults from across the Diocese of Scranton gathered undeterred by the gray skies.

With rain jackets packed and rosaries in hand on Sept. 6, the group came together for a Rosary Hike along the Falls Trail at Ricketts Glen State Park, a 3.2-mile loop featuring 17 breathtaking waterfalls.

Their goal was simple: to hike, pray, and connect – with God, with nature, and with each other.

“We stopped along the way at beautiful waterfalls and prayed the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary,” said Katie James of Christ the King Parish in Archbald, who is currently serving in the Diocese through the ECHO program at Notre Dame University. “It’s really easy to see this beauty and take it in, and really be able to recognize the beauty of God’s creation and how He is present in our lives.”

The hike, organized by the Diocesan

Office for Parish Life, brought together young adults from 16 different parishes.

Even though rain eventually fell, some in the group embraced it, even finding spiritual symbolism in the experience.

“A lot of people would consider the rain as a negative,” Jacob Federo of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Hunlock Creek, said. “But when you’re praying the rosary, there was something really special about it and the rain really didn’t matter. Honestly, I think it made it better!”

While Federo has taken part in other young adult activities, he made new friendships this time around.

“I got to meet three new guys who I’ve never met in my entire life before,” he added. “It was really great to meet with them, share our stories, and help pray for each other.”

That kind of connection – spiritual,

personal, and communal – was exactly what Bridget Guarnieri, Family Life Program Coordinator for the Diocese hoped to achieve.

“Our goal in young adult ministry is to encourage and help people understand that faith doesn’t just happen at church on a Sunday,” she said. “Faith can, and should,

be involved in every aspect of our lives.”

Guarnieri added that choosing to pray the rosary during the hike was intentional.

“Like a hike, the rosary is both active and contemplative,” she explained. “As you actively move through each bead, and you’re praying and meditating on the mysteries, it’s so much like a hike.”

For Patrick Cullen from Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Dushore, the hike was a meaningful opportunity to build community and grow spiritually.

“I think it’s great to have the ability to develop community and relationships with young adults throughout the Diocese. It’s a great way to get out there and meet people and do something fun,” Cullen said.

Following the hike, the group gathered for fellowship at Crooked Creek Pub and Restaurant, continuing conversations sparked on the trail.

“I loved every moment of this day. I loved meeting new people and I’m grateful to all the young adults that came out for this hike,” Guarnieri stated.



Bridget Guarnieri, Family Life Program Coordinator, right, leads the rosary during a young adult hike at Ricketts Glen State Park on Sept. 6, 2025.

Leave a Mark Mass to be held Nov. 2

SCRANTON - Young adults are invited to join the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, and the Diocesan Vocations Office for the tenth annual Leave a Mark Mass on Nov. 2, 2025, to kick off National Vocation Awareness Week!

Mass will take place at 5:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

‘Leave a Mark’ is the Diocese of Scranton’s response to what Pope Francis said at World Youth Day in 2016: “Dear young people, we didn’t come into this world to vegetate, to take it easy, to make our lives a comfortable sofa to fall asleep on. No, we came for another reason: to leave a mark. It is very sad to pass through life without leaving a mark.”

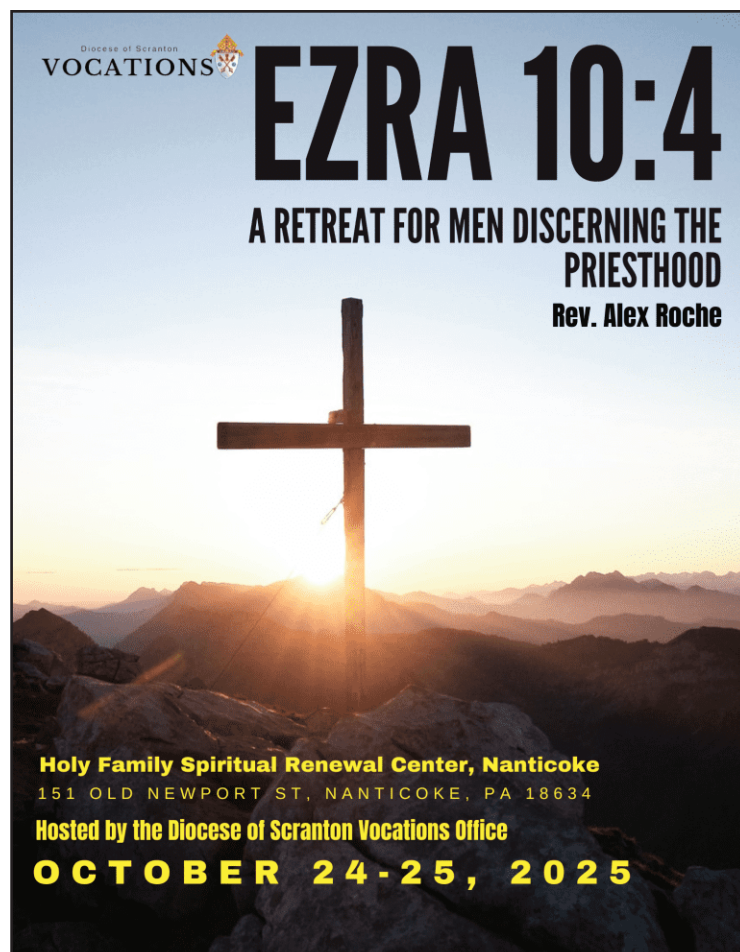
Now, every year on the Sunday before National Vocation Awareness Week, young adults from around our diocese come together to worship the Lord, meet

one another, and discern how God is calling them to leave a mark in this world through our vocation.

Bishop Bambera will be the principal celebrant of the Mass, and Father Alex Roche, Director of Vocations and Seminarians, and Pastor of Saint Maria Goretti

Parish in Laffin, will be the homilist.

There will be a reception following the Mass at the Diocesan Pastoral Center across the street from the Cathedral of Saint Peter featuring The Greek Shack and All Belgium food trucks!





Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter



Holy Family Academy in Hazleton



All Saints Academy in Scranton



Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School
 in Wilkes-Barre



Saint Agnes School in Towanda



Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre



Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton



Good Shepherd Academy
 in Kingston



**Saint Mary of Mount Carmel
School in Dunmore**



**Our Lady of Peace School in
Clarks Green**



Saint Jude School in Mountain Top



Holy Rosary School in Duryea



**Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr.
High School in Williamsport**



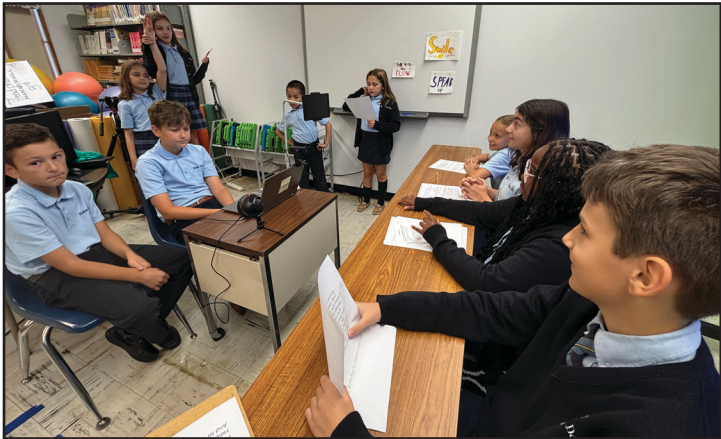
Holy Cross High School in Dunmore



Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg



Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport



Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg



La Salle Academy in Jessup



Epiphany School in Sayre

The Miracle of James — A brother's story of unfathomable faith & love

PITTSTON — It was the mid-1940s, and Angelo Anzalone, one of ten children, and his wife, Rosarii Gaughan Anzalone, seemed to have it all.

Born of hearty Italian- and Irish-American stock, both of which came with an unshakable devoutness to their Catholic faith, the Pittston couple was blessed with Angelo's successful beer distributor business — built from the ground up — and two beautiful young daughters.

Their world only seemed to get better in 1947 when Rosarii gave birth to their third child, an adorable baby boy they named James. God, however, had other plans for the Anzalone family — plans that, nearly 80 years later, many still believe led Angelo and Rosarii to become “living saints.”

In the midst of the family's celebration, Rosarii's primary care doctor came to visit with devastating news: Little baby James had suffered paralyzing hydrocephalus during childbirth.

The diagnosis — which roughly means “water on the brain” — is manifested by a buildup of fluid in the ventricles deep within the brain. With newborns, the ramifications are an unusually large head, that grows very rapidly and alarmingly disproportionate to the rest of the body; the soft spot on top of the baby's head is firm or bulging; chronic irritability; vomiting or poor feeding; and violent seizures.

Determined to get answers and help for their son, whose seizures, crying and sleeplessness were nonstop, the Anzalones decided Angelo would make the

arduous road trip with his baby boy to the Cleveland Clinic for a complete examination.

With his Rosary firm in hand, and breath held, the Pittston father was told there was, at the time, no treatment for hydrocephalus and it was unlikely his son would live past his fourth birthday. The doctor advised Angelo that he and his wife place James in an institution and to basically “get on with your lives.”

Given the culture at the time, along with limited medical treatments for such overwhelming mental and physical disabilities, the Anzalone family were strongly discouraged to have any more children.

Steeped in their rich, unconditional faith, the couple would never entertain thoughts of not raising their invalid son on



The Anzalone Brothers — Little Billy plays with his older brother James in their West Pittston home.

their own — despite the hardships of having to care for him as a helpless infant for the rest of his life — and not bringing another child into the world.

James would live until age 54, and his younger brother, William, would be born in 1951. Attorney Bill Anzalone, one of the area's most successful trial lawyers, has written about everything in between those dark days and how his brother lived 50 years longer than he was supposed to. And

he put it in a book he titled *The Miracle of James*.

“This book is my story about my brother and how my family was blessed to have him in our lives,” Anzalone explained. “It is a story about hardship, sacrifice and dedication. A story about love, laughter, and miracles.”

Bill Anzalone was born in the same home as his father, in the shadows of Saint Rocco Church (in the Oregon section of Pittston),

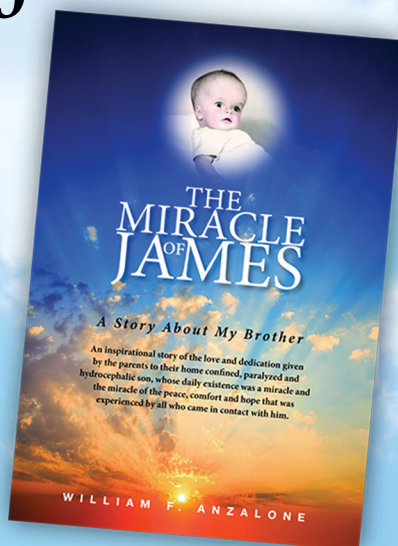
Continued on Page 23

A Must Read for all Catholics

The Miracle of James

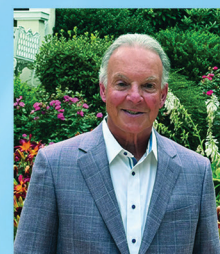
By William F. Anzalone

This is a story of my brother, who was injured at his birth. A story of a hydrocephalic, paralyzed, home confined, bedridden baby who was 100 percent dependent on my mom, dad, my sisters and me for survival. An inspirational story of young parents who were living the American dream, who had the financial means to do what they wanted and to go where they wanted and passed it all up to care for their invalid son for fifty four years. It is a story of love, dedication and sacrifice, and the belief in God, Jesus Christ and the Church, that lead my family and those who came in contact with James to witness The Miracle of James.



About the Author

Bill Anzalone is the managing partner of Anzalone & Doyle Trial Lawyers. In this book, Bill wants to share the special experience that he had living with his hydrocephalic, bedridden, home confined brother. He shares the heartache and also the joy the family experienced living with and caring for James.



Bill Anzalone is donating 100% of the net proceeds from the purchase of this book to charities and organizations associated with special needs of children and adults.

**TO ORDER THE BOOK VISIT:
WWW.WFANZALONE.COM
OR SCAN THE QR CODE**



10th annual Catholic Men's Conference set for Oct. 4 in Wilkes-Barre

WILKES-BARRE - The 10th annual 'Be a Catholic Man' Conference will be held on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at Holy Redeemer High School, 159 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Wilkes-Barre.

This year's conference theme, "Christ is King," recalls 100 years ago when Pope Pius XI instituted the Feast of Christ the King in response to growing secularism and atheism.

The Conference will feature nationally known speakers, including Mike Aquilina, David Bereit, and Father Charles Connor.

Aquilina, who is originally from Kingston, Pa., is a Catholic author of more than 70 books and has hosted 11 television series on EWTN. He is also co-founder of the Saint Paul Center for Biblical Theology in Steubenville, Ohio.

Father Connor, a priest of the Diocese of Scranton who serves as the Diocesan historian, has also hosted several television series on EWTN, and authored several books, including *Defenders of the Faith in Word and Deed* and *Classic Catholic Converts*.

David Bereit is an internationally acclaimed pro-life leader, strategic advisor, coalition builder and dynamic communicator. He currently serves director of the Life Leadership Conference, a national coalition that seeks to maximize the impact of the pro-life movement.

The 'Be A Catholic Man' Conference will conclude with Mass offered by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton.

Tickets are \$40 and include morning coffee and a box lunch.

Student tickets cost \$15.

Priests, Deacons, and Seminarians are free.

To order tickets, mail a check to 'Be A Catholic Man,' P.O. Box

669, Wyalusing, PA 18853.

Write "Men's Conference" at BeACatholicMan.com. For more information call (570) 721-0872.

INSPIRING FAITH, BUILDING FOR GENERATIONS

As fall begins, September is an ideal time to consider a gift that strengthens our Catholic community while also aligning with your financial planning. The Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Scranton offers several ways to give wisely and with purpose:

Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs): If you're 70½ or older, make a qualified IRA gift to satisfy your RMD and potentially lower taxable income.

EITC: Businesses and individuals can support Catholic schools through PA's EITC program and earn significant tax credits.

Year-End Gifts: Cash, securities, or other contributions by Dec. 31 may provide tax benefits while supporting the Church's mission.

We encourage you to consult your professional advisor to guide your planning.

For more information or assistance, please contact: Mark DiPippa-Executive Director

Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Scranton
300 Wyoming Ave, Scranton, PA 18503

catholicfoundationscranton.org | 570-207-2212



Annual Candlelight Rosary Novena



SATURDAY, OCT. 4 *thru* SUNDAY, OCT. 12
AT 6:30PM EVERY EVENING

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Theme: "Peace be with you"

- The Rosary will be said by candlelight in the Church.
- The crowning of Our Lady takes place each night.
- The Novena will close each evening with Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

- Everyone is invited to attend -

Rev. Paul A. McDonnell, O.S.J., Pastor; Deacon Martin Castaldi; Deacon Carmine Mendicino, Director; Nicholas Katchur & Christopher Mendicino, Choir Directors



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Proceeds benefit the Lackawanna Blind Association, a registered 501(c)(3) organization. FED ID: 24-0795466

Byzantine Church to host Marian icon honoring maternity

JESSUP — Father Tim Kennedy, director of the Respect Life Office for the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic, N.J., and pastor of Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church in Jessup, announces the church will host the Icon of Mary, Helper of Mothers, a sacred image known for its consoling presence and miraculous intercession.

In observance of October as Respect Life Month, the holy icon will be the centerpiece for a two-day celebration at Holy Ghost Church honoring all human life, titled “Mary, Helper of Mothers: A Wonder-working Icon of Hope in the Jubilee Year.”

The Mary, Helper of Mothers icon has been hailed as a source of great devotion and consolation,



‘Mary, Helper of Mothers’ icon

especially for women who struggle with infertility, endure difficult pregnancies, or suffer the grief of miscarriage or abortion.

The icon will be revealed at the Divine Liturgy on Wednesday, Oct. 1 — Feast of the Theotokos,

Protector of the Church — at 6 p.m. in Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church, 313 First Ave., Jessup.

On Thursday, Oct. 2, at 6 p.m., the church will host a prayer service invoking the Blessed Mother’s intercession, through the Mary, Helper of Mothers icon, for all mothers, especially for families hoping to conceive.

Holy Ghost Byzantine Church will be open for private prayer each day from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. All are welcome to attend and seek healing through Mary’s maternal intercession.

For more information, call the rectory office (570) 489-2353.

Knights serve as ‘Pilgrim Silver Rose’ host



Knights of Columbus John Paul II Council 13935 in Milford served as participants in the international “Pilgrim Silver Rose” program, whereby eight silver rose adornments travel from Canada through the United States to Mexico. During their journey, local Knights of Columbus councils serve as custodians for the silver roses and host public ceremonies in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The roses represent the Blessed Mother’s gift to Saint Juan Diego during her apparitions to the Mexican peasant farmer in Tepeyac Hill, Mexico City, in 1531.

‘Tomb of Unborn’ 29th anniversary commemoration slated for Oct. 5

Prayerful commemoration of the 29th anniversary of the Knights of Columbus “Tomb of the Unborn,” located at the top of Mount Olivet Cemetery in Carverton, will be held on Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 5, beginning at 2 p.m.

Father Thomas Petro, chaplain of Greater Pittston Knights of Columbus Assembly 948, will lead the celebration of the Order for Visiting a Cemetery, followed by recitation of the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary.

All Wyoming Valley Knights of Columbus and area faithful are welcome to attend.

Reverend August A. Ricciardi and parishioners of

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Knights of Columbus donate to 'Voice of John' pro-life ministry



Knights of Columbus, Our Lady of Fatima Council 8613, recently donated \$1,000 to The Voice of John (VOJ) Ministry, enabling the pro-life apostolate to continue its mission in promotion and education of the value and dignity of all human life. The VOJ is currently producing its own curriculum on life issues, including abortion and its alternatives, euthanasia, unplanned pregnancy, living with disabilities, receiving negative prenatal diagnoses, caring for and respecting the elderly, and dying with dignity. The ministry continues its visits to schools, churches, and community events, and will sponsor a bus to the PA March for Life in Harrisburg on Monday, Sept. 22. For more information on The Voice of John, contact MaryAnn Lawhon (pictured receiving the donation) at 570-788-JOHN or the ministry website: www.thevoiceofjohn2.org

Marian Devotion Rosary prayer services

SCRANTON — Fostering prayerful devotion to Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary through recitation of the Holy Rosary, Marian Devotion Ministries in the Diocese of Scranton continues its 2025 Fatima Journey.

This year's monthly schedule of devotions to the Blessed Mother began on the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima (May 13) and continues through October, the Month of the Holy Rosary.

Prayer rallies and Rosary evenings are hosted throughout the Diocese and include the Rosary, with chanted Scriptural mysteries, Fatima prayers, litanies, and Marian hymns.

Upcoming Marian Devotion gatherings are as follows:

Rosary Evening with Alhambra Caravan 4 of Alhambra — Sept. 18, at 6 p.m. in Christ the King Chapel at King's College, Wilkes-Barre.

Saturday Rosary Devotion — Sept. 20, at 5 p.m. at the Fatima Shrine on the grounds of Saint Mary of Mount Carmel Church, Dunmore.

Monday Evening Marian Rosary Devotion — Sept. 22, at 6 p.m. at Saint Patrick Church, 205 Main St., Nicholson.

'America Needs Fatima' Public Rosary Rally — Oct. 11, co-sponsored by the Knights of Columbus; noon at the outdoor prayer area behind Saint Patrick Parish rectory, Scranton.

Rosary Evening of Marian Devotion — Oct. 13, at 6 p.m. at Our Lady of the Abingtons Church, 207 Seminary Road, Dalton.

Monday Evening Rosary Devotion — Oct. 20, at 6 p.m. at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laffin.

For information, contact Ernie Pappa at (570) 241-8171, or email: singtomary@aol.com.

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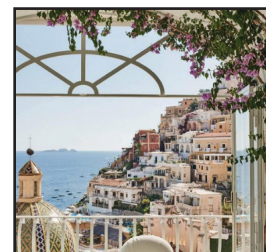
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Prayers & Devotion to Our Lady of Fatima, Queen of Peace



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“The Most Holy Virgin in these last times in which we live has given a new efficacy to the recitation of the Rosary to such an extent that there is no problem, no matter how difficult it is, whether temporal or above all spiritual in the personal life of each one of us, of our families....of the life of peoples and nations that cannot be solved by the Rosary. There is no problem. I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot resolve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary.”

– Sister Maria Lucia of Fatima

JOIN OUR PRAYERS FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD!

The Miracle of James — A brother's story of unfathomable faith & love

Continued from Page 18

an Italian parish staffed by the Oblates of Saint Joseph religious congregation.

Not surprisingly, the Anzalone family produced a religious vocation. Angelo and his family were blessed when his brother Sam was ordained an Oblate priest, serving the order in the 1950s.

"My family's belief in God, Jesus Christ, and the Catholic Church (kept) them grounded...to meet the challenges of their daily lives," Anzalone said.

James' condition meant he would spend his entire life lying flat on his back, which posed the almost certain occurrences of choking while being fed and the onset of bedsores.

"During all those years, though there were many scares, James never fully aspirated," the author shared. "This was only because mom and dad, on their knees, bent over

carefully and fed James tiny amounts of very soft food, which he would move around in this mouth until he was able to swallow."

He continued, "My mom, after bathing James, would give him an olive oil bath. In those 47 years he was cared for at home, he never experienced a bedsore."

Anzalone stated his family also claimed that James' severe convulsions suddenly stopped when his younger brother arrived.

However, that came to an horrific end one fateful night when James was five years old.

As Anzalone related, "One night...(James) went into an uncontrollable convulsion. My mom woke my sisters and brought him to his crib thinking this would be his last night. My sister Patsy had the idea to run over to the convent and wake up the Mother Superior" at the Sisters' convent next to Saint Rocco's Catholic

school where Patsy attended.

He further wrote in his book that the Mother Superior had keys to the church and located keys to the tabernacle. With his parents and sisters present, along with several nuns, the tabernacle doors were opened and James was placed before the presence of the Holy Eucharist.

"The convulsions stopped," Anzalone told. "There was dead silence in the darkened church. It was though James had awakened from a bad dream and was now ready to go back to sleep. There were no medications...or any type of medical intervention. Only prayer."

James Joseph Anzalone was born on the Saturday of Easter week, April 12, 1947, and died in the Wesley Village Nursing Home in Jenkins Township on Palm Sunday, March 24, 2002.

Anzalone said of his big brother that he never demanded care, but always waited patiently to be fed his

meal and have his diaper changed.

"I was a witness to the effect my brother had on all who held his hand or touched him, and were overwhelmed with the feeling of peace, comfort and hope," he said. "I called this book *The Miracle*

of James. I leave it to the reader to decide whether his ability to survive was a miracle, and that those who came into contact with him experienced a miracle."

If so, perhaps the miracles of James will continue.



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Bill Anzalone and his wife, Tina Medico Anzalone, visit with James.



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Saint Therese Novena in Wilkes-Barre

WILKES-BARRE — Saint Anthony & Saint George Maronite Catholic Church, 311 Park Ave., Wilkes-Barre, will host its annual nine-day Novena in honor of Saint Therese, the Little Flower of Jesus, from Tuesday, Sept. 23, through to the Feast of Saint Therese on Wednesday, Oct. 1.

Novena prayers will be offered each day following the 6 p.m. Mass, except on Saturday, Sept. 27, when Mass will be celebrated at 4 p.m.

On the Oct. 1 feast day, Mass will be celebrated at 6 p.m.

Healing Mass Sept. 21 at Oblates Chapel

LAFLIN — The Diocesan Enthronement Guild of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary will host the celebration of a Mass of Healing on Sunday, Sept. 21, at 4 p.m. at Saint Joseph's Oblate Seminary Chapel, Highway 315, Laflin.

Saint Joseph Oblate Father Joseph Sibilano will serve as celebrant for the Mass, which will include healing prayers and anointing for those in attendance.

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Prayer Requests for Priests

The Daily Prayer Request for Priests schedule is as follows:

September 18, Father William Langan; September 19, Father John Lapera; September 20, Saint Peter Priestly Fraternity Father William Lawrence; September 21, Passionist Father John Lee; September 22, Jesuit Father John Levko; September 23, Father Michael Litchek; September 24, Holy Cross Father Thomas Looney; September 25, Holy Cross Father Robert Lozinski; September 26, Father Edward Lyman; September 27, Monsignor Peter Madus; September 28, Father Joseph Manarchuck; September 29, Capuchin Franciscan Father Pio Mandato; September 30, Father Michael Marchetti; October 1, Pope Leo XIV; October 2, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; October 3, Jesuit Father Joseph Marina; October 4, Jesuit Father Leonard Martin; October 5, Bishop Emeritus Joseph F. Martino; October 6, Father Paschal Mbagwu; October 7, Father Andrew McCarroll; October 8, Father Michael McCormick; October 9, Father Glenn McCreary, V.E.; October 10, Saint Joseph Oblate Father Paul McDonnell; October 11, Father Patrick McDowell; October 12, Father James McGahagan; October 13, Father Gerard McGlone; October 14, Monsignor Stephen McGough; October 15, Father John McHale; October 16, Father Connell McHugh; October 17, Jesuit Father Bernard McIlhenny; October 18, Jesuit Father Ronald McKinney; October 19, Jesuit Father Joseph McShane; October 20, Father Edward Michelini; October 21, Father Kevin Miller; October 22, Father Joseph Mosley; October 23, Father Joseph Motsay.

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MISSION MESSAGE

Go and Make Disciples: Celebrating World Mission Sunday 2025

By Shannon Kowalski
Diocesan Director of Pontifical Mission Societies



Each year, World Mission Sunday marks the renewal of the Church's great commission to "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations" (Mt 28:19). This call is not an option but a mandate from Jesus woven into the very heart of our faith.

To be Catholic is to be missionary — to share the Gospel in word and deed, near and far, so that every person may encounter the saving love of Christ. On Sunday, October 19, the Diocese of Scranton will join Catholics across the globe in celebrating World Mission Sunday, a day to deepen our awareness of this sacred duty and to recommit ourselves to the task of evangelization.

This celebration is more than a yearly collection; it is a spiritual moment to remember who we are as the People of God. The missionary spirit is not reserved for distant places alone. It is alive in our own Diocese, where priests and religious sisters — many of whom left their homelands to serve here — give witness to the Gospel through their tireless dedication. Their presence reminds us that the Church is truly universal and that the faith we profess connects us to believers across cultures, languages, and nations.

World Mission Sunday also

offers us the chance to reflect on the global dimension of our faith. The Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV — the first Pope native to the United States — embodies this missionary spirit. Before his election to the Papacy, he served as a missionary in Peru, walking with communities and proclaiming Christ's hope amid hardship. His story reminds us that the missionary mandate is not confined to geography. Instead, it is a way of life, rooted in openness, service, and sacrifice.

World Mission Sunday challenges each of us to ask: *What is my connection to the missions? How am I called to share in this great work of evangelization?*

Perhaps your family once had a relative who served abroad. Maybe your parish has welcomed a missionary priest who spoke passionately of the faith communities he serves. Or perhaps you have discovered the joy of supporting the missions and realized that your generosity has touched the lives of people you may never meet. These connections remind us that the mission of the Church is not someone else's work — it is ours.

How, then, can we live out this call? First and foremost, we can pray. Missionaries often labor in difficult, even dangerous,

circumstances, and our prayers sustain them in their witness. We can also give generously. The annual World Mission Sunday collection directly supports mission Dioceses around the world, providing for churches, schools, clinics, and pastoral programs that bring Christ's love to those most in need. We can also learn about the missions by listening to the stories of missionaries and allowing their witness to challenge and inspire us.

As Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies for the Diocese of Scranton, I am deeply moved by the generosity of the faithful in our Diocese year after year. Your prayers, sacrifices, and gifts truly make a difference.

On World Mission Sunday 2025, may we give thanks for the missionaries among us and renew our commitment to live as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ.

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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.

Es la norma de la Diócesis defender todas las regulaciones civiles y del estado. Al fin de que la Diócesis esté comprometida igualmente a defender las normas del Código de Derecho Canónico y defender los principios de la Carta Para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes (Conferencia de los Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos), lo cual incluye apoyar a las víctimas de abuso sexual en pos del bienestar emocional y espiritual.

Por eso, información respecto a una alegación del asunto sexual de un menor de edad, debe ser reportada a la Coordinadora Diocesana de Asistencia para Las Víctimas, Mary Beth Pacuska, a (570) 862-7551.

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Parishes Announce Fall Festivals Around the Diocese


Resurrection in Muncy — **Sept. 19 & 20.** Resurrection Parish will host its annual Fall Festival on Friday, from 4 to 7 p.m., and Saturday, from 1 to 7 p.m., on the parish grounds. Festival foods featuring homemade ethnic favorites, including kielbasa, stuffed cabbage, potato pancakes, pierogi & halushki, in addition to hot dogs, burgers & fries. Games for all ages include a candy wheel, Big Six and bingo; prize, quilt, cooler of cheer & basket raffle drawings. Also featuring homemade baked goods, fall mum sale and silent auction. Live musical entertainment: Friday (4 p.m.), Rick Kerstetter & Rich Ahearn; and Saturday (3:30 p.m.), Catawissa Military Band.

Saint Patrick in Nicholson — **Oct. 5.** Parish's Sunday afternoon Fall Festival held from noon to 4 p.m. on the church grounds. Festivities include


a pork loin dinner & dessert; assorted festival foods, soups, pastries & basket raffle. For more information, call Liz Dempsey at (570) 563-1622.

Saint John Vianney in Scott Township — **Oct. 5.** Annual Harvest Festival held on the grounds of the parish's Corpus Christi Church, 704 Montdale Road, Scott Township, from noon

to 4 p.m. Event features a full-course turkey dinner, with drive-thru/takeout service only. Dinners cost \$15; tickets available on site. Tent-covered outdoor variety booths feature bountiful baskets, baked goods, and raffle drawings, including cash grand prize (drawings begin at 3:30 p.m.). For more information, call (570) 254-9502.



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Monthly Meeting of the Lay Carmelites — SEPT. 20 & OCT. 18, 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.

Spiritual Support Group Initial Gathering — SEPT. 21, sponsored by Mary, Mother of God Parish in Scranton, to support the spiritual needs of LGBTQ community; first organizational

meeting will be held after the Sunday 11 a.m. Mass, in the parish school meeting room, 312 William St., North Scranton. Group plans to provide support & fellowship, including information on speakers and other community resources. All are welcome to attend.

St. Joseph Fraternity of Third Order Secular Franciscans — SEPT. 21 & OCT. 19, 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.

Annual St. Therese of the Little Flower Novena & Healing Mass — SEPT. 22-OCT. 1, hosted by Queen of Angels Parish in Jessup; annual Novena devotion, concluding on the Feast of St. Therese, held at the parish worship site of St. Michael Church, 322 First Ave., Jessup. Novena schedule: weekday Masses at 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, 4 p.m.; and Sunday, 8 & 10 a.m. Devotions include Novena prayers and blessing with the saint's relic. Healing Mass

Continued on Page 29

Peace/Justice series to focus on WWII

WILLIAMSPORT — The Adult Faith Formation ministry at Saint Boniface Parish will sponsor a special five-part Peace & Justice series presentation this fall on "World War II — 80th Anniversary of the War's End."

The weekly series programs will be offered on five consecutive Wednesdays, Oct. 22 to Nov. 19, at 2 & 7 p.m., in Saint Lawrence Parish Hall in South Williamsport.

With regard to the Second World War, the presentations will examine the historical context, ethical dilemmas, and the Roman Catholic Church's response, while integrating discussion, reflection

and Catholic moral/social teaching.

Topics of discussion will also explore: applying faith and historical insights to contemporary challenges; Church's teachings on establishing universal peace in truth, justice, charity, and liberty; and advocating for peace, human rights, and social justice.

The series schedule is as follows: **Oct. 22** — The Road to World War II; **Oct. 29** — The Horror of War; **Nov. 5** — The Role of the Church; **Nov. 12** — The Aftermath; and **Nov. 19** — Lessons for Today: Pope Saint John XXIII and his 1963 Encyclical, *Pacem in Terris*.

Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese of Scranton

Continued from Page 28

celebrated on Monday, Sept. 29, at 5:30 p.m. All faithful welcome.

Cathedral Grief Support Group Session — **SEPT. 24**, offered by the St. Peter Cathedral grief support ministry, the sessions address topics dealing with the grief process to enable participants to find healing; the Bereavement Support Group hosts seasonal meetings on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave., Scranton (across from St. Peter's Cathedral). Anyone interested in attending is asked to contact the Cathedral Parish office at (570) 344-7231.

"40 Days for Life" Pro-Life Rosary Gatherings — **SEPT. 24-OCT. 31**, offered for the special intentions of an end to abortion and closure of the Planned Parenthood location in Wilkes-Barre; Rosary is prayed each weekday, Monday to Friday, at 10 a.m. in front of the Planned Parenthood offices at 101 North Main St., Wilkes-Barre. The pro-life campaign draws attention to the evil of abortion through prayer & fasting, constant vigil, and community outreach.

Parish 26th Annual Craft Fair — **SEPT. 27**, hosted by the Women's Guild of Divine

Mercy Parish, 312 Davis St., Minooka section of Scranton; held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the parish center. Fair features grand display of handmade jewelry, seasonal decorations, ceramics, and gifts from local crafters. Event also includes door prizes, bake sale & cash raffle; refreshments available for purchase. Admission fee: \$2.

"Nazareth Group" Days for High School Girls — **SEPT. 27**, hosted by the Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth in Tunkhannock and Williamsport; Saturday programs are presented by the Nazareth Group. Open to all girls in grades 9-12; the experience is offered from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Capuchin Sisters' two convent locations: Mother of God Convent, 215 Wellwood Drive, Tunkhannock; and Mother of the Eucharist Convent, 6100 Jacks Hollow Road, Williamsport. Day's program fosters faith, friendship, and increased love of Jesus through prayer and inspirational talks. Reservations are required by Sept. 25. For Tunkhannock, contact Sister Angela of the Capuchin Sisters at (570) 836-2737; for Williamsport, contact Sister Clare at (570) 745-3334.

Saint Jude Parish to honor patron in October

MOUNTAIN TOP — Saint Jude Parish will host a special three-day mission retreat to prepare for the upcoming Feast of Saint Jude in late October.

The theme for the parish mission honoring its patronal saint is "Hope in The Body of Christ," coinciding with the Jubilee Year of Hope and the Eucharistic Revival movement.

The mission schedule planned for Saint Jude Church, with each day's theme, is as follows:

Sunday, Oct. 26 — "It is the Body of Christ," with opening Mass presided over by newly

ordained Scranton Diocesan priest Father Tom Dzwonczyk, who served Saint Jude Parish as a transitional deacon.

Monday, Oct. 27 — "You are the Body of Christ," night of adoration, music, and sacramental confessions, with guest talk by Father Stephen Robbins, associate vocation director for the Diocese of Camden, N.J.

Tuesday, Oct. 28 (Saint Jude Feast Day) — "We are the Body of Christ," with Mass celebrated by Father Joe Evanko, host pastor, followed by a potluck dinner social.

Saint Carlo Acutis Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit — **SEPT. 27 & 28**, hosted by Saint Carlo Acutis Parish at St. Anthony Church, 215 Rebecca St., Throop; exhibit hours: Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Sunday, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Traveling exhibit, displayed through the United States, chronicles Eucharistic miracles from around the world, originally created and written by Blessed Carlo Acutis, whose canonization took place Sept. 7 in Rome. All are welcome; for more information, call the parish office (570) 489-0752.

Chicken Barbecue Dinner — **SEPT. 28**, sponsored by St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church in Scranton; held from noon to 5 p.m. at St. Mary's Center, 320 Mifflin Ave., Scranton, with dine-in or takeout service. Event includes bake sale and raffle drawings. Dinner cost: \$15 per person; advance

reservations recommended. Tickets available at the door. For information, call (570) 343-5151.

'Theology on Tap' Young Adult Series — **OCT. 9**, sponsored by the Young Adult Ministry of the Scranton Diocese, for ages 21 to 40; Catholic speaker series

combines faith and fellowship with seasonal gatherings at Sabatini's Bottle Shop, 1901 Wyoming Ave., Exeter. Doors open at 7 p.m.; cash cover charge of \$5 includes pizza and soft drinks. October speaker: Jessica Freyne. For

Continued on Page 30



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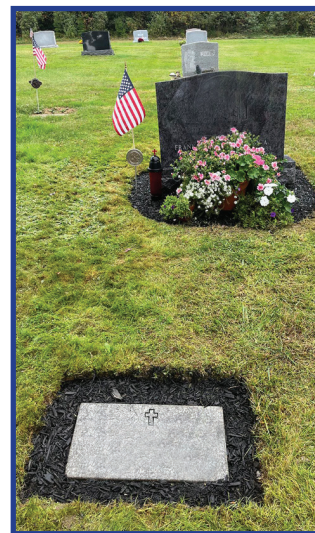
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Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese

Continued from Page 29

registration information, call (570) 207-2213 or contact familylife@dioceseofscranton.org.

"America Needs Fatima" Public Square Rosary Crusade — OCT. 11, hosted by St. Jude Parish in Mountain Top; held in conjunction with more than 20,000 Rosary rallies across America, offered as a penitential/conversion prayer gathering for blessings on the United States through the intercession of the Blessed Mother. The public Rosary Rally begins at noon under the portico of St. Jude

Church, Route 309, Mountain Top. For more information, contact Carmen at (570) 262-7373.

St. Padre Pio Shrine Pilgrimage — OCT. 12, sponsored by Good Shepherd Parish in Drums; bus excursion for daylong pilgrimage to the National Centre for Padre Pio in Barto, Pa., departs Good Shepherd Church at 9:30 a.m., with return trip leaving Barto at 5 p.m. Visit includes Mass & procession at 12:30 p.m.; guest Capuchin Friars from Italy and numerous relics of St. Padre Pio. Participants responsible for their lunch accommodations; dinner stop/break scheduled for trip home. Cost: \$50 per person; to register, contact Pat at (570) 788-0457, or Ann at (302) 753-7156.

Pilgrimage to St. Padre Pio Shrine — OCT. 14, sponsored by Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church in Jessup; motorcoach transportation for daylong pilgrimage to the National Centre for Padre Pio in Barto, Pa., departs Holy Ghost Church at 7:45 a.m., with return to Jessup at approximately 5 p.m. Pilgrimage includes Mass at 10:30 a.m. with Bishop Alfred E. Schlert of Allentown as principal celebrant. Cost: \$45 per person (meals not included). For information & reservations, call Holy Ghost rectory at (570) 489-2353.

Artisan Craft Show — OCT. 18, sponsored by Our Lady of Victory Parish, Cherry Lane Road, Tannersville; held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Showcase event features handmade arts & crafts from numerous artisans, including candles, wooden bowls, decorative wreathes & ceramics; homemade foods, tricky tray and cash drawings also available. Admission fee: \$2 donation to aid the Pocono Twp. Fire Company; sit-down or take-out lunch offered. For more information, contact Fran Prebish at fransbottles@hotmail.com or (973) 809-3184.

Cash Bingo Bonanza — OCT. 19, hosted by Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Dickson City; doors open at noon and games begin at 2 p.m. Admission cost: \$30, in advance; \$35, at door. Games party includes 17 bingo games, each with a minimum prize of \$300, and special games. Event also features bonus gift card & basket raffles and cash drawings; food and beverages for sale. For advance tickets and more information, contact the parish office (570) 489-2091.

Bingo Spectacular — OCT. 19, hosted by Mother, Mary of God Parish in Scranton; doors open at 12 noon and games begin at 1 p.m. in Holy Rosary Center, 300 W. Market St., North Scranton. Admission fee: \$30, includes 16 regular games; more available for \$10. Featuring guest callers, mystery specials, and scratch-off lottery tickets prize. Advance reservations only; for tickets, call the parish rectory (570) 342-4881.

41st Annual Prayer Breakfast for Life — OCT. 25, sponsored by the Scranton Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life (PHL); annual celebration begins at 9 a.m. (doors open 8 a.m.) at Fiorelli's Catering, 1501 Main St., Peckville. Guest speakers include Bobbie Schindler, passionate pro-life advocate for the medically vulnerable, in honor of his sister Terri Schiavo; breakfast buffet event also features basket raffles. Breakfast cost: \$25 for adults; all children & students admitted free of charge. For more information and reservations, call the Scranton PHL office at (570) 343-5099, or email: pahumanlife@yahoo.com.

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.

Elder Law

- Guardianships
- Asset Protection Planning
- Medicaid Application Assistance

Estate Administration

Probate :

Settle all estate matters and distribute inheritances.

Inheritance Tax :

Utilize all discounts and proper deductions.

Meet all requirements and deadlines.

- Powers of Attorney • Living Wills • Wills
- Trusts Guardianships • Asset Protection Planning
- Medicaid Application Assistance

Estate Planning

- Powers of Attorney • Living Wills
- Wills • Trusts Guardianships



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Knights of Columbus support vocation efforts



SCRANTON – The Pennsylvania State Council of the Knights of Columbus presented two donations to the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, on Aug. 26 in support of vocations and other diocesan needs.

The funds were drawn from the Knights' long-standing Labels Program and the Christopher Fund, both of which are dedicated to furthering the charitable and spiritual mission of the Church.

Bishop Bambera said the contributions will help enhance programs that inspire and sustain men who are discerning the priesthood and religious life.

Pictured above at the presentation were, from left: Art Bobbouine, Diocesan Membership Chairman; George Schneider, Former State Advocate; Bishop Bambera; Brian Hallock, Master of the Pennsylvania Central District; and John Fitzpatrick, State Star Tracker and Awards Chairman.

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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.)