



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

September 4, 2025

Nearly 100 Diocesan pilgrims on 'Jubilee Year of Hope' pilgrimage to Rome, Assisi and Montecatini Terme



Nearly 100 pilgrims from the Diocese of Scranton, including Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, and five other Diocesan priests, are on a ten-day pilgrimage in Italy for the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope.

Thursday marks Day 5 for the pilgrimage - and a change in location - as the pilgrims have left Rome for Assisi, which is home to Saint Francis and Saint Clare.

While in Rome, the pilgrims participated in many activities, including attending the General Audience with Pope Leo XIV on Wednesday morning. Following the Audience, Bishop Bambera did have the opportunity to greet the Holy Father.

The pilgrims also attended Mass at the Altar of the Tomb of Saint Peter, celebrated Mass at the Basilica of Saint Mary Major and the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls, visited the Basilica of Saint John Lateran and even had the rare opportunity to take the Scavi tour of the Necropolis under Saint Peter's Basilica.

Everyone at home is invited to participate in the Jubilee Year of Hope Pilgrimage via social media. Many of the pilgrims have been sending photos - which the Diocese of Scranton is posting to its Facebook page and social media channels.

[Click Here to Visit the Diocese of Scranton Facebook Page to Follow Along with Posts Regarding the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope Pilgrimage in Italy](#)

Mass for Suicide Healing and Remembrance to be held Sept. 21

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

MASS FOR
*Suicide
Healing
AND
Remembrance*



The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D. J.C.L.
Principal Celebrant

Sunday, **SEPTEMBER 21** | Cathedral of St. Peter
12:15 pm | 315 Wyoming Avenue
Scranton



This Mass is open to people all across the diocese and serves to remember loved ones lost by suicide and to promote healing for those who grieve their passing.



In observance of National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in September, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate a Mass for Suicide Healing and Remembrance on Sunday, Sept. 21, 2025, at 12:15 p.m. at the

Cathedral of Saint Peter, located at 315 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton.

The Mass will serve to remember loved ones lost to suicide, and to promote healing for those who grieve their passing.

Those attending the Mass will be invited to offer a flower in memory of a loved one who died from suicide. All are welcome.

In the United States, nearly 50,000 people died by suicide in 2023, which amounts to about one person every 11 minutes, according to numbers listed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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

**Bus trips available to the PA March
for Life on Sept. 22**

PA.MARCHFORLIFE.ORG

#whywemarch #pamarchforlife

keep
marching
for life!



*Life:
why we march*

PENNSYLVANIA MARCH FOR LIFE September 22, 2025

Adoration: 2:00 pm - 9:00 am (Begins Sunday Afternoon)

Holy Mass: Opening Mass 9:30 am | Closing Mass 1:30 pm

March for Life: Rally 11:00 am | March - 12:00 pm



The Diocese of Scranton invites you to attend the Pennsylvania March for Life on Monday, September 22 in Harrisburg!

The Office for Parish Life is coordinating a Bus Trip to the March that will pick-up and drop-off at a Scranton location (Divine Mercy Parish, Scranton) and a Wilkes-Barre location (St. Nicholas – St. Mary Parish, Wilkes-Barre).

The registration fee is \$20 and includes: the bus trip to and from the March, a t-shirt, bus snacks, and water. We will not provide meals on the trip, so please pack a lunch.

Space is limited on the bus, so be sure to register soon!

[Click Here for More Information on the Bus Trip to the PA March for Life](#)

**Catholic Charismatic Renewal to
hold prayer breakfast on Sept. 13**



CCR Autumn Prayer Breakfast Saturday, September 13

Saturday, September 13
9 am - \$15 per person

(First Time attendees are
FREE GUESTS)

Queen of Apostles Hall
Hawthorne St, Avoca



RSVP - Text to 570-983-6251
or
Call Joyce Hudak 570-704-9412
CCR Office 570-344-2214

True and lasting joy only comes
through **Jesus Christ**.

The world cannot give it and
circumstances cannot take it away.

You can't muster it up.

The Lord has to put it in you and it
comes from a personal relationship
with Jesus Christ.

It's a life-long journey we are
taking.

**Take another step along
your journey with the
Lord!!**



"ENJOYING THE JOURNEY"

Speaker - Karen McLain

*Where are you going?
Who are you going with?
How do you get there?*

Text Link



The Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the Diocese of Scranton
will be holding a prayer breakfast on Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025
at Queen of the Apostles Parish Hall in Avoca.

True and lasting joy only comes through Jesus Christ. The world cannot give it and circumstances cannot take it away. You are invited to take another step in your journey to having a personal relationship with the Lord by attending this event.

The theme of the prayer breakfast will be "Enjoying the Journey" and will feature speaker Karen McLain.

The breakfast event begins at 9 a.m. and is \$15/per person - but first time attendees are free guests!

For more information or to RSVP, text (570) 983-6251 or call Joyce Hudak at (570) 704-9412 or the CCR Office at (570) 344-2214.

Buried in Assisi, new saint is 'true disciple' of Saint Francis, rector says



Soon-to-be St. Carlo Acutis is a fresh “shoot” budding from the 800-year-old spiritual “vine” of Sts. Francis and Clare in Assisi, said the rector of the shrine housing the millennial teenager’s tomb.

“Assisi is clearly known for St. Francis and St. Clare, and this explosion of holiness in the 13th century is still incredibly fruitful today,” Father Marco Gaballo, rector of the Shrine of the Renunciation, told Catholic News Service in late August.

Pope Leo XIV was scheduled to canonize the teen Sept. 7 at the Vatican, together with Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati of Turin.

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

Mid Valley parish to celebrate the canonization of Blessed Carlo Acutis on Sunday

CELEBRATE THE CANONIZATION OF BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS

at

*Blessed Carlo Acutis Parish
Olyphant/Throop*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Celebrate the Canonization Day of Blessed Carlo Acutis

Sunday, September 7th

St. Anthony of Padua Church
215 Rebecca Street, Throop, PA 18512
9:30 am Mass followed by light reception

St. Patrick's Church
200 Delaware Ave. Olyphant, PA 18447
11:00 am Mass

After Mass, we invite everyone to spend time in Adoration
up until 5:00pm. Spend as much time in prayer as you desire,
and join us for any of the prayer services below.



Immediately following Mass: Exposition

1:00pm

Litany of the Eucharist

3:00pm

Divine Mercy Chaplet

4:00pm

5:00pm

Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary

Evening Prayer followed by Benediction

The parish community of Blessed Carlo Acutis Parish - soon to be Saint Carlo Acutis Parish - in Olyphant and Throop will be celebrating the canonization of their namesake this Sunday.

The public is welcome to celebrate the canonization day of Carlo Acutis by attending Mass either at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Throop at 9:30 a.m. or Saint Patrick Church in Olyphant at 11:00 a.m.

After Mass, everyone is invited to spend time in Adoration up until 5:00 p.m. when Evening Prayer with Benediction will take place.

[Click Here For More Information on Blessed Carlo Acutis Parish in Lackawanna County's Mid Valley](#)

Annunciation pastor calls first parish Mass after church shooting a 'humbling beginning'



Recalling the fear and the cries from students, parents and school staff to “get low, stay down, stay down, don’t get up” as bullets tore through Annunciation church at an all-school Mass in Minneapolis, Father Dennis Zehren, the pastor, said it marked a new beginning.

Four days after the now-desecrated church remained closed, the auditorium in the parish school next door was filled with more than 400 people on Aug. 30, hugging, talking, crying and even smiling.

They were celebrating the first weekend Mass since the attack Aug. 27 that killed two students at the elementary school, wounded 18 others and three adults, as Father Zehren was

presiding. The suspected shooter was found dead at the scene of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, police said.

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

You're invited to wish Pope Leo XIV a "Happy Birthday" and add your prayers to a 'spiritual birthday bouquet'



Pope Leo XIV turns 70 on Sept. 14, and OSV News is celebrating by gathering a host of prayers into a very special “spiritual birthday bouquet” for the Holy Father.

The best part? Everyone can participate.

In partnership with Pray More Novenas, Relevant Radio, the Daughters of St. Paul, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Pontifical Mission Societies, Sing the Hours and more, OSV News is encouraging an outpouring of prayer for Pope Leo and his intentions leading up to his milestone birthday – and his first birthday as pope.

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

As war nears two-year mark, Catholic leaders head to Holy Land



As the Israel-Hamas war nears the two-year mark, Catholic leaders have headed to Jerusalem, the Palestinian West Bank and Israel on a pastoral visit.

The delegation is headed by Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, who serves as vice president of the U.S. Conference of

Catholic Bishops; Msgr. Peter I. Vaccari, president of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association-Pontifical Mission; and members of the Knights of Columbus, including Supreme Knight Patrick E. Kelly and Supreme Secretary John A. Marrella.

In a Sept. 2 press release issued by CNEWA-Pontifical Missions, Msgr. Vaccari said the visit was meant to provide accompaniment and solidarity with those suffering from the war, sparked by Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, invasion of Israel.

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

Chicago stadium seat gains fame: It's where future pope saw first game of 2005 World Series



Since Aug. 22, Chicago White Sox fans have been able to easily spot the stadium seat where Pope Leo XIV sat when he watched the first game of the 2005 World Series.

The team put a plaque and markers including the pope's image on the back of the forest green seat in row 19 of section 140 inside Rate Field on Chicago's Southside.

"Not only the historical significance of the first pope from the United States, but just the historic significance of any time a new pope is elected and announced, it's such a momentous occasion," explained Christine O'Reilly, the White Sox vice president for community relations.

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

Williamsport parish to hold 57th annual carnival this weekend

ST BONIFACE PARISH

57TH ANNUAL

CARNIVAL

SEPTEMBER 4th, 5th, & 6th

NIGHTLY SIT-DOWN DINNERS in school gym

Served 4-7 pm Thursday-Friday-Saturday

FOOD ON THE GROUNDS:

**Beef, Hot Sausage, Meatball Sandwiches; Hot Dog,
Ham & Cheese on a Pretzel Roll; French Fries;
Pizza; Funnel Cakes; Ice Cream; Soda/Water &**

OUR OWN HOMEMADE PIEROGIES

**Annual Raffle Drawing @10pm Saturday,
need not be present to Win**

**WHITE ELEPHANT SALE IN SCHOOL GYM
every night 4pm - 8pm**

**St. Boniface Church Grounds,
326 Washington Blvd. Williamsport, PA 17701**

OUTSIDE GROUNDS WILL OPEN THURS & FRI 6PM & SAT 5PM

**FOOD-GAMES-RIDES-
BINGO-PIEROGIS**

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As the calendar turns to September and the fall season will be approaching, we invite you to continue supporting our parishes as they hold various picnics, bazaars and festivals.

The Diocese of Scranton Communications Office invited all parishes to share details of their upcoming events - and all of the submissions are posted on the Diocese of Scranton website.

If you do not see your local event listed yet, please submit it to info@dioceseofscranton.org.

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

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