



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

October 2, 2025

More than 600 faithful make Diocesan Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception



Twelve buses, carrying hundreds of pilgrims from across the Diocese of Scranton, made their way to Washington, D.C. on Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025, for a Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

"Marian Shrines are privileged spaces for the rebirth of hope, where the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of Hope, comes to our aid, sustains us and encourages us to persevere in hope and trust," Monsignor Walter Rossi, Rector of the Basilica and native priest of the Diocese of Scranton, said as he welcomed the crowd to "Mary's House."

The Pilgrimage featured tours of the Basilica, along with a Eucharistic Holy Hour with Rosary, and a Pontifical Mass celebrated by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton.

A photo album from the Pilgrimage is now available by clicking the link below. Look for more coverage of the Pilgrimage in the Oct. 16 edition of *The Catholic Light*.

[Click Here to View a Photo Album of the Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to Washington, D.C. on Oct. 1, 2025](#)

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

RESPECT LIFE
SUNDAY MASS



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

OCTOBER 5TH
10AM

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.

Catholics are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of life to its end, and at every point in between. During the month of October, the Church asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life.

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

Tenth annual Catholic Men's Conference set for Oct. 4



image credit: Fr. Lawrence Lew OP



One hundred years ago, Pope Pius XI instituted the Feast of Christ the King in response to growing secularism and atheism. He recognized that attempts to "thrust Jesus Christ and his holy law" out of public life would have disastrous consequences. Today, as our Catholic faith becomes increasingly marginalized by society, we publicly acclaim that Jesus Christ is King of our hearts, our homes, our work, and our public actions.

Viva Cristo Rey!

10TH ANNUAL DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

BE A CATHOLIC MAN CONFERENCE



Saturday, OCT. 4, 2025

8 AM - 3:00 PM

Holy Redeemer High School

159 South Penna. Ave., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701



Bishop Joseph Bambera



Mike Aquilina, originally from Kingston, Pa., is a Catholic author of more than 70 books, has hosted 11 television series on EWTN, and is co-founder of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology in Steubenville, Ohio. He has co-written songs performed by many headliners. He and his wife Terri have 6 children.



David Bereit founded 40 Days for Life, a movement responsible for 14,643 lives saved, 177 abortion employees quitting, and 96 abortion centers closing. Today he directs the Life Leadership Conference, a National coalition which seeks to maximize the impact of the Pro-Life Movement. David is a husband and father.



Fr. Charles Connor, a Scranton Diocesan priest, is an expert in Church history. He is the host of several television series on EWTN including Historic Catholic Converts. He has authored many books including Defenders of the Faith in Word and Deed and Classic Catholic Converts.

Information & Online Registration: **BeACatholicMan.com**

Contact: Mike Kilmer 570-721-0872 • mkilmer@thekilmergroup.com
\$40 (Early Bird \$30 until 9/15/25), Student \$15, Priest/Deacon FREE Morning coffee & box lunch included



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.

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.

[Click Here For More Information on the Catholic Men's Conference or to Register for the Oct. 4 Event](#)

Diocesan Youth Rally unites more than 250 young people



On Saturday, Sept. 27, 2025, approximately 250 young people came together at Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School for the 2025 Diocesan Youth Rally.

Students from more than 20 different parishes participated in the event - that focused on the theme of "Anchored in Hope."

Keynote speaker Dan Harms inspired the youth with a message of hope and purpose, while the Scally Brothers led praise and worship. As students participated in breakout sessions, small groups, and the Sacraments, the day overflowed with faithful energy and fun!

Mark your calendars - the date for the 4th annual Diocesan Youth Rally is already set. It will take place on Nov. 7, 2026.

[Click Here to Watch a Video from CTV: Catholic Television from the 2025 Diocesan Youth Rally](#)

Friends of the Poor and Catherine McAuley Center merge to expand services for vulnerable families



Two faith-based organizations dedicated to serving individuals and families in need have officially merged, combining their missions, resources, and staff under one unified entity: Friends of the Poor and Catherine McAuley Center (FOTP/CMC).

The merger brings together the complementary strengths of both organizations, sponsored by The Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, respectively.

“Our sponsoring organizations recognized that we share deep similarities in our Catholic missions, values, and service approaches,” said Sister Mary Ellen Fuhrman, RSM, Chair of the Corporate Members. “By combining our efforts, we can

significantly expand our reach to the most vulnerable members of our community.”

After more than a year of collaborative operations at the Catherine McAuley Center’s administrative offices at 430 Pittston Avenue in Scranton, both organizations determined that a formal merger would best serve their shared mission.

“While working side by side, we discovered we were stronger together,” said Lee Termini, Board Chair. “We were already delivering a unified effort for our funders, partners, and the people we serve – formalizing that relationship was the natural next step.”

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

Pope's October prayer intention celebrates 'Nostra Aetate'

For collaboration
between different
religious traditions

OCTOBER 2025



THE POPE VIDEO
Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network



Pope Leo XIV has asked Catholics to join him in praying that members of different religions would work together to make life

better for everyone rather than allowing their different beliefs to be used “as weapons or walls.”

Choosing “collaboration between different religious traditions” as his prayer intention for the month of October coincides with the 60th anniversary of “Nostra Aetate,” the Second Vatican Council’s declaration on the church’s relationship to other religions. The document was promulgated Oct. 28, 1965.

The pope’s monthly video sharing his prayer intention for October was distributed Sept. 30 by the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network.

“Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice and human fraternity,” he said in the video.

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

Catholic groups serving the poor call for action to end federal government shut down



Congressional lawmakers failed to pass legislation to fund the federal government, resulting in a federal government shutdown at the end of September. Catholic groups that serve the poor urged lawmakers to end gridlock.

A government shutdown occurs when Congress fails to pass a budget or if that budget is not signed into law by the president. Some types of essential government services are exempt, including Social Security payments to older adults. But many other functions of government are suspended during shutdowns, such as paychecks for government workers, including members of the armed services. Hundreds of thousands of federal workers are subject to furloughs, meaning they must stop working and will not be paid until the federal government reopens.

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

Catholic Bishops mourn deadly attack on Latter-Day Saints Church in Michigan



Catholic bishops are expressing their sorrow over a deadly attack at a Michigan house of worship, which took place just weeks after a mass shooting at a Minnesota Catholic church.

At least four were killed when a gunman drove his truck into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Grand Blanc Township, Michigan, during a Sept. 28 service, then set the church building on fire while shooting with a semiautomatic rifle into the congregation.

Eight victims remain in the hospital, with one in critical condition.

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

U.S. Bishops' President begs Americans to see Christ 'in every person,' reject political violence



Five years after the release of Pope Francis' encyclical on fraternal love, and amid a rise in political violence, the leader of the U.S. Catholic bishops is pleading for a rediscovery of – and respect for – a common humanity.

“I ask every American to reflect on the value of every human life. I beg you to see Christ in every person, even those whose politics you oppose,” said Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The archbishop, who also leads the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, shared his thoughts in an Oct. 1 pastoral invitation for reflection ahead of the fifth anniversary of “Fratelli Tutti.” Pope Francis penned the encyclical and released it Oct. 3,

2020, as an exploration and exhortation on the issues of human fraternity and social friendship.

The late pope noted that his encyclical — which focused on a topic about which he had frequently spoken — was partly inspired by his own fraternal encounters with leaders of other faith traditions: Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I and Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Ahmad Al-Tayyeb, one of the pre-eminent Sunni Muslim scholars in the world.

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

Pope will declare St. John Newman Doctor of the Church Nov. 1



Pope Leo XIV announced he will proclaim St. John Henry Newman a doctor of the church Nov. 1 during the Jubilee of the World of Education.

Speaking after Mass Sept. 28 for the Jubilee of Catechists, the pope said St. Newman “contributed decisively to the renewal of theology and to the understanding of the development of Christian doctrine.”

The Dicastery for the Causes of Saints had announced July 31 that Pope Leo “confirmed the affirmative opinion” of the cardinals and bishops who are members of the dicastery “regarding the title of Doctor of the Universal Church which will soon be conferred on Saint John Henry Newman, Cardinal of the Holy Roman Church, Founder of the Oratory of Saint Philip Neri in England.”

St. Newman was born in London Feb. 21, 1801, was ordained an Anglican priest, became Catholic in 1845, was made a cardinal in 1879 by Pope Leo XIII and died in Edgbaston, near Birmingham, England, in 1890.

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

**2025 Catholic Ministries Appeal is
Underway!**



OUR CALL TO SERVE

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL



31,103
HOUSEHOLDS SERVED

**By Catholic Social Services' food pantries last year
(An increase of 19 percent from the previous year)**

Support the 2025 Catholic Ministries Appeal at: AnnualAppeal.org

[Click Here to Learn More about or Donate to the 2025 Catholic Ministries Appeal](https://AnnualAppeal.org)

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