



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

October 9, 2025

**Eight men in preparation for
Diaconate to receive Rite of
Institution of Lector Saturday**



Diocese of Scranton
Diaconate Formation Program

INSTITUTION OF LECTORS

October 11, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Saturday of the Twenty-Seventh Week in Ordinary Time

On Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will designate eight deacon candidates for the Diocese of Scranton as Lectors in the Rite of Institution of Lectors.

The candidates are: William Chechel of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Brodheadsville; Daniel B. Cosacchi of Saint Gregory Parish in Clarks Green; Jeffrey R. Kovaleski of Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Dickson City; Thomas J. Krzan of Saint Jude Parish in Mountain Top; Kevin J. Martin of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Brodheadsville; Stephen O. Muntzenberger of Saint Jude Parish in Mountain Top; Justo Paula-Martinez of Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish in Scranton; and Paul M. Zwolan of Saint Therese Parish in Shavertown.

The Rite is a major step on the path to becoming a permanent deacon, allowing the candidates to read the Word of God, except for the Gospel, at liturgical assemblies. The next step will be the Rite of Acolyte.

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

Love for the poor is hallmark of faith, Pope Leo says in first exhortation



Many Christians “need to go back and re-read the Gospel” because they have forgotten that faith and love for the poor go hand in hand, Pope Leo XIV said in his first major papal document.

“Love for the poor – whatever the form their poverty may take – is the evangelical hallmark of a Church faithful to the heart of God,” the pope wrote in “Dilexi Te” (“I Have Loved You”), an apostolic exhortation “to all Christians on love for the poor.”

Pope Leo signed the document Oct. 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, and the Vatican released the text Oct. 9.

The document was begun by Pope Francis, Pope Leo said, but he added to it and wanted to issue it near the beginning of his papacy “since I share the desire of my beloved predecessor that all Christians come to appreciate the close connection between Christ’s love and his summons to care for the poor.”

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

[Read the Full Text of "Dilexi Te" \("I Have Loved You"\)](#)

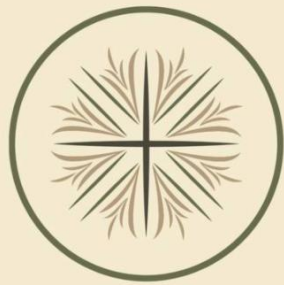


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Analysis: 'Dilexi Te' Defined by Charity, Continuity and Unity

At about 21,000 words, "Dilexi Te" in many ways further manifests Pope Leo's desire to bring unity to a fractured church.

**Saint Eulalia Parish to celebrate
75th anniversary on Sunday**



Saint Eulalia

1950 · PARISH · 2025

75TH ANNIVERSARY

*Celebrating 75 years of living and sharing
the Gospel values of faith, hope and love*



This Sunday, Oct. 12, 2025, Saint Eulalia Parish in Roaring Brook Township will celebrate its 75th Anniversary.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate a special liturgy at the church on Blue Shutters Road at 10:30 a.m. with its current pastor, Father Dave Cramer, and several former pastors concelebrating.

Following the Mass, more than 200 parishioners are expected to gather in the parish hall to celebrate an anniversary lunch and reflect on the parish's past, celebrate its present, and look forward to the future.

Saint Eulalia Parish began as a small mission church of Saint Catherine of Siena Parish in Moscow until it was established as a separate parish in 1950 by the Most Rev. William J. Hafey.

All are invited to attend the special Anniversary Mass on Sunday.

[Click Here To Read More about the Parish History of Saint Eulalia Parish](#)

Bishop Bambera announces additional clergy appointments



On Friday, Oct. 3, 2025, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, announced several clergy appointments that are taking place in October.

To see the latest list of clergy appointments announced on Oct. 3, click the link below.

[Click Here to View Bishop Bambera's Clergy Appointments Announced on Oct. 3, 2025](#)

President Trump says Israel, Hamas 'have both signed off' on first phase of White House peace proposal



Israel and Hamas “have both signed off” on the first phase of a White House peace proposal for Gaza, President Donald Trump said late Oct. 8 in a social media post.

Trump’s announcement came the day after the second anniversary of Hamas’ Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel.

During a White House meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Sept. 29, Trump released a 20-point peace plan to end the Israel-Hamas war. The proposal itself was met with cautious optimism from some world leaders — including Pope Leo XIV — and skepticism from others about whether Hamas, which is designated a terrorist entity by the U.S., would ultimately accept the agreement amid increasing international concern about humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip.

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

Many Catholics, not just Pope Leo, are praying the rosary every day in October: Here's why



At the end of his Sept. 24 audience, Pope Leo XIV issued an invitation to Catholics worldwide — and he hopes they'll accept it.

“I invite everyone to pray the rosary every day during the coming month — for peace — personally, with your families, and in your communities,” the pontiff said.

On the Catholic Church’s Roman calendar, October is designated as the Month of the Holy Rosary, with the liturgical Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary falling on Oct. 7 – and indeed, it’s a traditional practice to pray the rosary all 31 days.

But according to a 2025 Pew Research Center survey, only 22% of white Catholics and 37% of Hispanic Catholics pray it “at least monthly.”

So is it wishful thinking to expect the faithful will offer a calendar full of rosaries during October? And why should the rosary be a regular – or even daily – part of a believer’s prayer life?

OSV News spoke with both experts and devotees, and the answer is basically this: Because it’s a time-tested way to grow closer to Jesus Christ and his mother Mary, who points men and women of every age to follow her son as his disciples.

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

Man arrested outside Washington Cathedral ahead of Red Mass found to have explosives



Court documents show that a New Jersey man arrested Oct. 5 outside of St. Matthew's Cathedral just hours before the start of the annual Red Mass had a "fully functional" arsenal of explosives that he threatened to detonate.

According to the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department, after officers took Louis Geri — a 41-year-old resident of Vineland, New Jersey — into custody, they discovered he had "multiple suspicious items, including vials of liquid and possible fireworks" inside a tent he erected on the steps of the cathedral.

Geri had previously been barred from the cathedral premises and was encountered when authorities were making a security sweep several hours in advance of the annual Mass to mark the start of the Supreme Court's new term.

Published reports indicate that Geri had in his tent 200 incendiary devices including handmade grenades, bottle rockets, Molotov cocktails and vials of nitromethane, the compound used in the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995.

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

Vatican confirms papal trip to Turkey, Lebanon Nov. 27-Dec. 2



Pope Leo XIV's first papal trip abroad will be to Turkey and Lebanon Nov. 27-Dec. 2, the Vatican press office announced.

The trip was built around Pope Francis' promise to join Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople in celebrating the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea and the beginnings of the Nicene Creed, recited by all mainline Christians.

While not releasing a detailed itinerary for the trip, the Vatican said Oct. 7 that Pope Leo would be in Turkey Nov. 27-30, and his visit would "include a pilgrimage to Iznik," the modern site of the ancient Nicaea.

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

Elderly are a gift, blessing to be welcomed, Pope Leo says



Getting old is part of the wonder of creation and is a sign of hope, Pope Leo XIV said.

“Instead of being ashamed of human weakness, we will, in fact, be led to ask for help from our brothers and sisters and from God, who watches over all his creatures as a Father,” he said during an audience at the Vatican Oct. 3 with people taking part in an international conference on the pastoral care of the elderly.

Organized by the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life, the Oct. 2-4 conference brought together about 150 delegates from 65 countries, representing 55 bishops’ conferences as well as

members of associations and religious congregations engaged in the pastoral care of the elderly.

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

Late president of Latter-Day Saints, Catholics found common ground in serving vulnerable



Catholics involved in interfaith efforts have offered their condolences to the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of

Latter-day Saints on the death of their president, Russell M. Nelson, Sept. 27 at age 101.

Nelson's death came the same weekend as a Latter-day Saints church in Michigan was attacked by a gunman who also lit the building on fire in which five people were killed and eight people injured.

"The Catholic community in the U.S. joins members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in mourning the passing of President Russell M. Nelson, and as a Church, we offer our deep sympathy and prayers at the loss of life and the destruction of the LDS church in Michigan on Sunday," said Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Ecumenism and Interreligious Affairs.

While the USCCB does not maintain an official theological dialogue with the Latter-day Saints, Bishop Bambera said, "we have worked with the church on some shared policy concerns and are grateful for the church's support of local Catholic initiatives that have benefitted people in need."

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

YOUR GIFTS MATTER
Support the 2025 Catholic Ministries
Appeal!

“ To know that these funds are being used and returned on the parish level - it assists and helps people in a very individual way! ”

-Father Paul McDonnell, O.S.J.
Pastor, Divine Mercy Parish
Scranton



Divine Mercy Parish was awarded a Social Justice Grant from the Appeal to help launch a Mental Health Ministry Program in its parish.

Support the 2025 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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