



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

April 30, 2026

'Courageous Faith' is theme of 2026 Catholic Women's Conference



Catholic women from across northeastern and north central Pennsylvania and beyond are invited to gather at Marywood University for the highly anticipated 2026 Catholic Women's Conference on June 5 and 6, 2026.

With the powerful theme "Courageous Faith," this year's event promises to be an inspiring and transformative experience for every woman in attendance.

From moving talks to spiritual enrichment, the Catholic Women's Conference is an exciting event designed to fortify your faith, and help you suit up in your armor of truth and grab your shield of strength.

Courageous faith is more than just belief – it's action.

It is the kind of belief that pushes forward even when fear, doubt, or uncertainty threaten to stop you.

It is about trusting deeply in what you know to be true, even when there's no guarantee of success.

This faith shows up in your life when you stand firm in your values, when you choose to act in accordance with your beliefs and not just hold them inwardly. It's a faith that lives boldly, stepping forward despite opposition, and refusing to compromise on truth.

At the Catholic Women's Conference, courageous faith will come alive through inspirational talks, prayer, and community.

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

[Click Here to Visit the Catholic Women's Conference Website](#)

Young adults gather for 'Prayer Picnic' at Frances Slocum State Park



On Sunday, April 26, 2026, dozens of young adults gathered at Frances Slocum State Park in Luzerne County for a 'Prayer Picnic' hosted by the Diocesan Office for Parish Life.

Young adults and young families were invited to join together for prayer opportunities and a potluck picnic with spring now here.

"We worked very closely with The University of Scranton, with their praise and worship team, to come down and sing for us today," Bridget Maille, Program Coordinator for Family Life, explained. "Moments like this break down walls and open up conversations and faith opportunities."

[Click Here to Watch a Video from CTV: Catholic Television from the 'Prayer Picnic' at Frances Slocum State Park](#)

Diocese to celebrate annual Mother's Day Adoption Mass May 10



The Diocese of Scranton will celebrate its annual Mother's Day Adoption Mass on Sunday, May 10, at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

This liturgy prayerfully recognizes all mothers, with a special emphasis on adoptive and foster mothers. The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will be the principal celebrant and homilist.

The Mother's Day Adoption Mass is open to the public and all faithful are invited to attend.

CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton will broadcast the Mass live. A livestream will also be provided on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel and across all Diocesan social media platforms.

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

Father Jose Kuriappilly celebrates 25th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood



On Sunday, April 26, 2026, priests from around the Diocese of Scranton gathered in Towanda to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Father Jose Kuriappilly's ordination to the priesthood.

Father Jose is the pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Parish, Towanda, and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Wyalusing.

Following the Mass, a lovely gathering was held for the entire parish community - as parishioners and friends all attended this special event.

Father Jose will also be one of the many priests honored on Thursday, June 4 at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton - as the Diocese of Scranton holds its annual "Mass for Priest Jubilarians" at 12:10 p.m.

Blessing of the Swords Mass renews faith and brotherhood



The recent Blessing of the Swords Mass at St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Pocono Pines offered a powerful witness to faith, tradition, and unity within the Pennsylvania Central District.

Led by District Master Brian Hallock and celebrated by District Friar Rev. Michael J. Boris, the ceremony brought together Knights from across generations those who continue to carry swords in the current uniform and those who had not done so since the conclusion of legacy regalia in 2019.

In a deeply symbolic moment, each Knight presented his sword to Master Hallock who placed each one upon a prepared table before the altar for blessing, while families honored the memory of loved ones by bringing their swords as well.

In his homily, Fr. Boris drew from the writings of St. Paul, emphasizing that the physical sword carried by each Knight

reflects the “Sword of the Spirit,” the Word of God (Ephesians 6:17).

He reminded those present that just as a sword is a tool of strength and defense, so too is Sacred Scripture sharpening the mind, strengthening the soul, and equipping the faithful to stand firm in truth. This powerful connection between symbol and scripture invited every man present to not only carry the sword, but to live the Word it represents.

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

Scranton Spiritual Grief Support Group to meet on Wednesday evenings in May

SCRANTON SPIRITUAL GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

at the DIVINE MERCY PARISH HALL

A collaborative ministry of Divine Mercy Parish, Cathedral of Saint Peter Parish, and Immaculate Conception Parish



Open to everyone from any parish or part of the community

The grief support group ministry provides spiritual support to people who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

We know that our Catholic community and faith is an essential source of consolation, support, and hope during this difficult time.

The ministry is offered by a small group of dedicated individuals who have received instruction on how to offer spiritual support in a small group setting. They have a special empathy which is required when supporting those who are grieving.

When and Where

Wednesday Evenings in May
from 6:30 to 7:30

Starting May 6 and ending May 27
Divine Mercy Parish Hall

312 Davis Street, Scranton

Call 570-344-7231 with any questions
Or email deaconed@stpeterscathedral.org

The Scranton Spiritual Grief Support Group will meet on Wednesday evenings in May at Divine Mercy Parish Hall on Davis Street.

This group is open to anyone regardless of parish and will provide spiritual support to people who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

The first session will be May 6.

U.S. Bishops' head calls for prayer after gunman attacks White House press dinner attended by Trump



Following a gunman's attempted assault on the annual White House Correspondents' Association Dinner, forcing the

evacuation of the president, first lady and members of the Cabinet, the head of the U.S. Catholic bishops' conference denounced the violence and called for all to resort to prayer.

“We are grateful the lives of the President, those who protect him, and everyone in attendance last night were spared from serious harm,” Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said in a statement April 26.

“Let us all pray for our elected leaders and public officials that they may receive God’s blessings,” he said. “Because human life is a precious gift, there is no room for violence of any kind in our society.”

President Donald Trump, first lady Melania Trump, Vice President JD Vance and several Cabinet members were whisked out of the annual dinner with the White House press corps April 25, after a man rushed toward the main ballroom where the event was held and briefly exchanged gunfire with law enforcement.

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

King Charles invokes faith, ‘shared values’ as he calls for peace in address to Congress



King Charles III appealed to the Christian faith and invoked “shared values” between the United Kingdom and the United States as he called for peace around the globe during an address to a joint meeting of the U.S. Congress April 28.

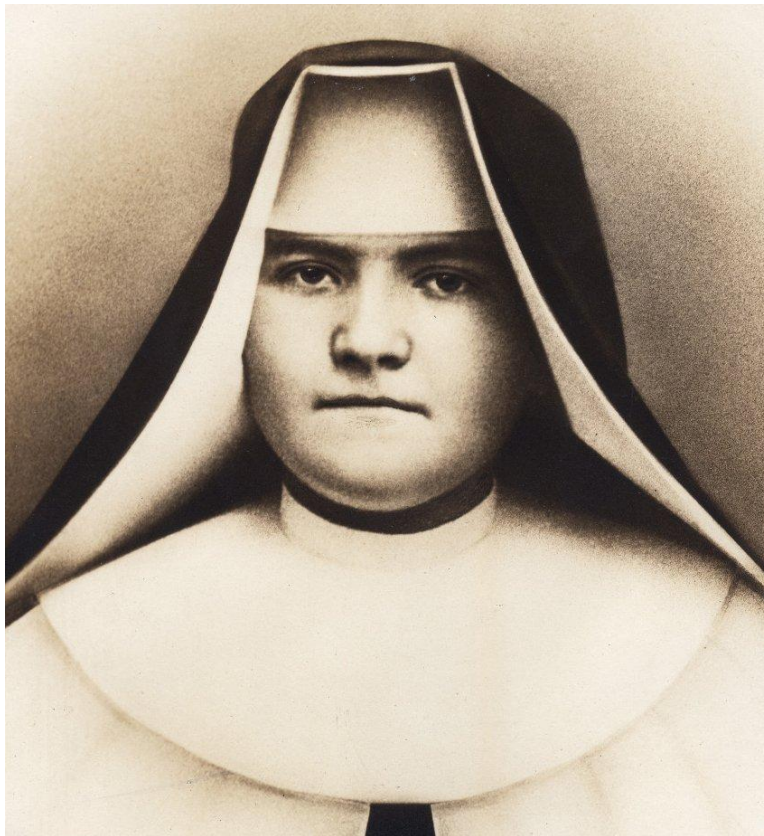
“Mr. Speaker,” Charles said, directing his comments to House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., “for many here, and for myself, the Christian faith is a firm anchor and daily inspiration that guides us, not only personally, but together as members of our community.”

“Having devoted a large part of my life to interfaith relationships and greater understanding, it is that faith in the triumph of light over darkness which I have found confirmed countless times. Through it I am inspired by the profound respect that develops as people of different faiths grow in their understanding of each other,” he said.

“It is why it is my hope — my prayer — that in these turbulent times, working together and with our international partners, we can stem the beating of plowshares into swords,” he continued.

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Pope Leo XIV advances sainthood causes, including Dutch nun who served in Missouri



Pope Leo XIV issued decrees advancing the sainthood causes of five candidates, including a Dutch nun who served in St. Louis in the early 20th century.

During a meeting April 27, with Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, prefect of the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, the pope signed a decree recognizing the heroic virtues of Carmelite Sister Teresia of

the Most Holy Trinity, born Teresa Ysseldijk, who died from an illness just a little over six years after arriving in the United States.

Born in the Netherlands in 1897, she entered the Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus at age 19 and professed her vows in 1919. Eager to join her missionary sisters, the young nun traveled that same year to the United States.

However, she fell ill and was diagnosed with severe kidney disease. Despite her illness, she continued to serve at her convent in St. Charles, Missouri. According to her congregation's website, Sister Teresia "wanted to serve God in the order, working in silent union with Him."

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Patron saints named for World Youth Day 2027



Organizers in Seoul, South Korea, announced five patron saints for World Youth Day 2027 that reflect the themes of truth, peace and love that are at the heart of the youth gathering.

The five saints selected by the WYD Organizing Committee include: St. John Paul II, who founded the World Youth Day celebration; St. Andrew Kim Taegon, the first Korean Catholic priest, and companions who were martyred; St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, patron saint of immigrants; St. Josephine Bakhita, patron saint of victims of human trafficking and modern slavery; and St. Carlo Acutis, the millennial saint known for his use of technology to evangelize.

According to the Asian Catholic news site Licas News, organizers said the lives of the patron saints reflected on issues relevant today, including persecution, migration and social struggle, making them appropriate guides for the global event.

The process of choosing the event's patron saints began in late 2024, including a survey of young people, youth ministers and pastoral workers, followed by deliberations by the organizing committee, Licas News reported.

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