



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

May 21, 2026

**As nation is consecrated to
Sacred Heart of Jesus in June,
Bishop Bambera to mark
Solemnity with two special
Masses**



CONSECRATION
TO THE SACRED HEART
OF JESUS



**SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST
SACRED HEART OF JESUS**

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

Vigil Mass with Bishop Bambera
7:00 p.m.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish
1101 Willow Street, Peckville

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

Mass with Bishop Bambera
5:30 p.m.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish
215 Lackawanna Avenue, Dupont

 **DIOCESE OF
SCRANTON**

On June 11, Catholic Bishops across the United States will take part in a rare and historic spiritual moment – consecrating the nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus as the country prepares to mark the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Locally in the Diocese of Scranton, Catholics are being invited to participate in this moment in a special way as well.

For the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate Masses at the Diocese's two parishes dedicated to the Sacred Heart – located in Peckville and Dupont – as Catholics throughout the country unite in prayer for healing, renewal, and hope.

The national consecration, organized by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), will take place on Thursday, June 11, 2026, during the Bishops' Spring Assembly in Orlando, Florida.

Because Bishop Bambera will be unable to attend the meeting due to a previously scheduled commitment connected to ecumenical dialogue in Rome, his absence from the gathering has created an opportunity for Catholics in northeastern Pennsylvania to celebrate the Solemnity with him close to home.

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U.S. Bishops' consecration of nation to Sacred Heart of Jesus affirms 'our reliance on God'



How might you help a nation in political turmoil celebrate its 250th anniversary and the unlikely creation of the first large-scale, self-governing republic in the modern world?

Dedicate it to the Sacred Heart of Jesus — as the U.S. bishops will do for the United States of America on June 11, marking the first such formal consecration of the country to Christ's heart.

The prelates made the decision to do this during a Nov. 11, 2025, session of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' fall plenary assembly in Baltimore — and while they were singularly focused on an exceptional gesture to mark our country's semiquincentennial, the consecration still probably can't come at a better time.

According to a CNN/SSRS poll released April 3, Americans are divided by intense levels of cynicism, viewing both the Democratic

and Republican parties in deeply negative terms. A full 77% of Americans, the Pew Research Center reported April 15, think the nation's political system needs major changes or complete reform.

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Memorial Day Masses planned at Diocesan Catholic Cemeteries

DIOCESAN CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

The Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Scranton offer complete and compassionate service and are prepared to provide for all your burial needs. It is our privilege to assist you in planning the final resting place for your loved ones.



Memorial Day Masses will be celebrated at each Diocesan Cemetery on Monday, May 25, 2026. All are welcome to participate in these liturgies to pray for and remember the faithfully departed, especially our veterans.

MEMORIAL DAY MASSES, MONDAY, MAY 25, 2026

CATHEDRAL CEMETERY • 10AM

1708 Oram St., Scranton
570-347-9251

Crypt Chapel at rear of cemetery

MOUNT OLIVET CEMETERY • 10AM

612 Mt. Olivet Rd., Carverton
570-696-3636

at St. Frances X. Cabrini Church

HOLY CROSS CEMETERY • 7:30AM

at St. Mary's Church,
Prince of Peace Parish, Old Forge
570-347-9251

ST. CATHERINE'S CEMETERY • 10AM

Main St., Route 435, Moscow
570-842-8411 • Outside Altar
(if inclement weather will be
at St. Eulalia's Church)

ST. MARY'S CEMETERY • 9AM

1594 S. Main St., Wilkes-Barre
570-822-6941

CALVARY CEMETERY • 10AM

Route 309, Drums
570-788-2150
at Good Shepherd Church



The faithful are invited and encouraged to attend Memorial Day Masses that will be celebrated at each of our Diocesan Cemeteries on Monday, May 25, 2026.

From Scranton to Moscow, Drums to Wilkes-Barre, and Carverton to Old Forge, the Masses will take place at the times according to the above graphic.

All are welcome to participate in these liturgies to pray for and remember the faithfully departed, especially our veterans.

The Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Scranton offer complete and compassionate service and are prepared to provide for all your burial needs. It is our privilege to assist families in planning the final resting place for their loved ones.

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Bishop Bambera to honor 2026 Priest Jubilarians at June 4 Cathedral Mass



2026 Priest Jubilarians

70 Years
Reverend Joseph J. Adonizio

65 Years
Reverend John J. Kilpatrick
Reverend Theodore L. Obaza

50 Years
Reverend John B. Boyle
Very Reverend Richard W. Burke, C.P.
Reverend Michael J. Kirwin
Reverend Kevin P. Mulhern
Reverend William B. Pickard
Reverend John V. Polednak
Reverend Phillip J. Sladicka

25 Years
Reverend Jose Joseph Kuriappilly
Reverend Joseph J. Pisaneschi

Twelve priests who are celebrating milestone anniversaries of their ordination year will be recognized during the 2026 Mass for Priest Jubilarians at 12:10 p.m. on Thursday, June 4, 2026, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as principal celebrant and homilist. During the Mass, the Bishop will recognize a combine 600 years of service to the priesthood.

For generations, these faithful priests have baptized our children, celebrated our marriages, comforted us in times of loss and guided countless souls closer to Christ.

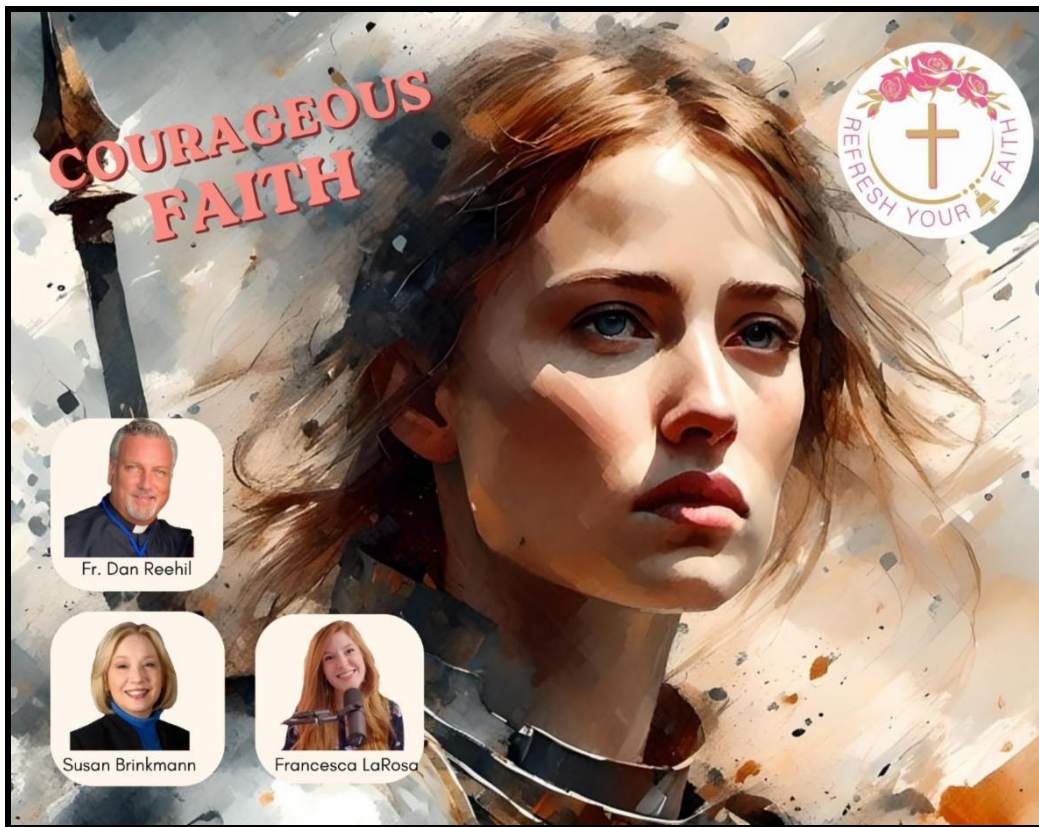
The faithful are encouraged to fill the Cathedral with gratitude and prayer as we honor the extraordinary witness and lifelong service of these dedicated shepherds.

Reverend Joseph J. Adonizio will be recognized for 70 years of priestly service. Father Adonizio was ordained a priest on May 29, 1956.

In addition to Rev. Adonizio, priests who are celebrating 65-, 50- and 25-year ordination anniversaries will be honored at the Mass.

[Click Here for More Information for The Catholic Light](#)

Only 90 tickets remain!
Don't miss out on the 2026 Catholic
Women's Conference on June 6



There are now just 90 tickets available for the 2026 Catholic Women's Conference that will take place on June 6, 2026.

With just over two weeks to go, act fast to make sure you and your friends are able to attend!

The day will begin with Mass with the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, and offer opportunities for Reconciliation and Eucharistic Adoration along with powerful speakers.

The theme of this year's conference, which will be held at Marywood University, is 'Courageous Faith.'

This year's conference will feature dynamic talks from Fr. Dan Reehil, Susan Brinkmann, O.C.D.S., and music by Francesca LaRosa.

[Click Here for More Information or to Register for the 2026 Catholic Women's Conference](#)

New Saint Pius X Seminary taking shape in downtown Scranton



In just a few months, the former Cathedral Convent building in downtown Scranton will welcome its first seminarians as the new

Saint Pius X Seminary officially begins its mission of forming future priests for the Diocese of Scranton.

Located in the 300-block of Wyoming Avenue, directly across from the Diocesan Pastoral Center and steps away from the Cathedral of Saint Peter, the new seminary will house men beginning the “propaedeutic” stage of priestly formation – a preparatory year focused heavily on prayer, fraternity, human formation, and spiritual growth.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, recently announced several key appointments for the seminary. Father Alex J. Roche, S.T.L., will serve as Rector of Saint Pius X Seminary beginning June 1, 2026. On the same date, Father Mark J. DeCelles has been appointed to begin serving as Academic Dean; and Father Brian Van Fossen, V.F., has been appointed as Head Spiritual Director.

For Father Roche, the work underway is about much more than preparing a building for occupancy. It is about laying the groundwork for the future priests of the Diocese of Scranton.

“We’re starting something new. We’re beginning something,” Father Roche said. “Throughout the Diocese, I think there should be a lot of excitement for this new initiative that can benefit us in a lot of ways.”

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2026 National Eucharistic Pilgrimage to begin Sunday in Florida



Before the Declaration of Independence was boldly signed in 1776, before pilgrims feasted at what became popularly regarded as the “First Thanksgiving” in 1621, there was St. Augustine, Florida.

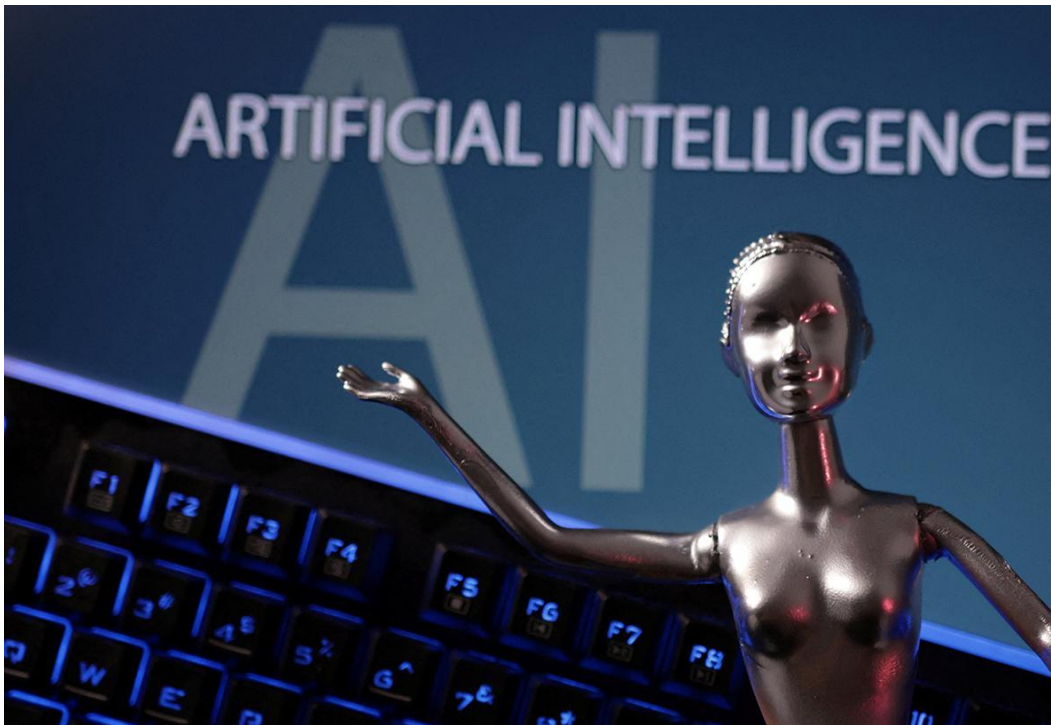
The coastal Florida city was founded in 1565 by Spanish Catholic explorer Pedro Menéndez de Avilés, is celebrated as the longest continually inhabited European-founded city in the U.S., and is home to the United States’ oldest continuously operating parish, the Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine.

It is also the May 24 starting point for the 2026 National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, themed “One Nation Under God” in honor of America’s 250th year.

The pilgrimage begins on the historic grounds of America’s oldest Marian shrine: the National Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche at Mission Nombre de Dios, which Bishop Erik T. Pohlmeier of St. Augustine has described as “the oldest site of continuous Catholic presence in the United States.”

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Pope Leo XIV to publish encyclical on Artificial Intelligence May 25



Pope Leo XIV's first encyclical, "Magnifica Humanitas," will be published May 25, addressing artificial intelligence and the protection of human dignity, the Vatican has announced.

The encyclical, the title of which is Latin for "Magnificent Humanity," was signed by the pope on May 15, the 135th anniversary of "Rerum Novarum," Pope Leo XIII's foundational 1891 social encyclical on labor and capital written during the first Industrial Revolution.

In an unprecedented first, Pope Leo XIV will be present in person at the Vatican press conference to mark the publication of the

social encyclical, along with a tech founder from one of the world's fastest growing AI companies.

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San Diego mosque shooting an 'attack on the sacred dignity of all human life,' says local Bishop



Bishop Michael M. Pham of San Diego said the faithful there “stand united in solidarity and prayer with the Muslim community” after a deadly May 18 shooting at a mosque complex in that city killed three adults, including a security guard.

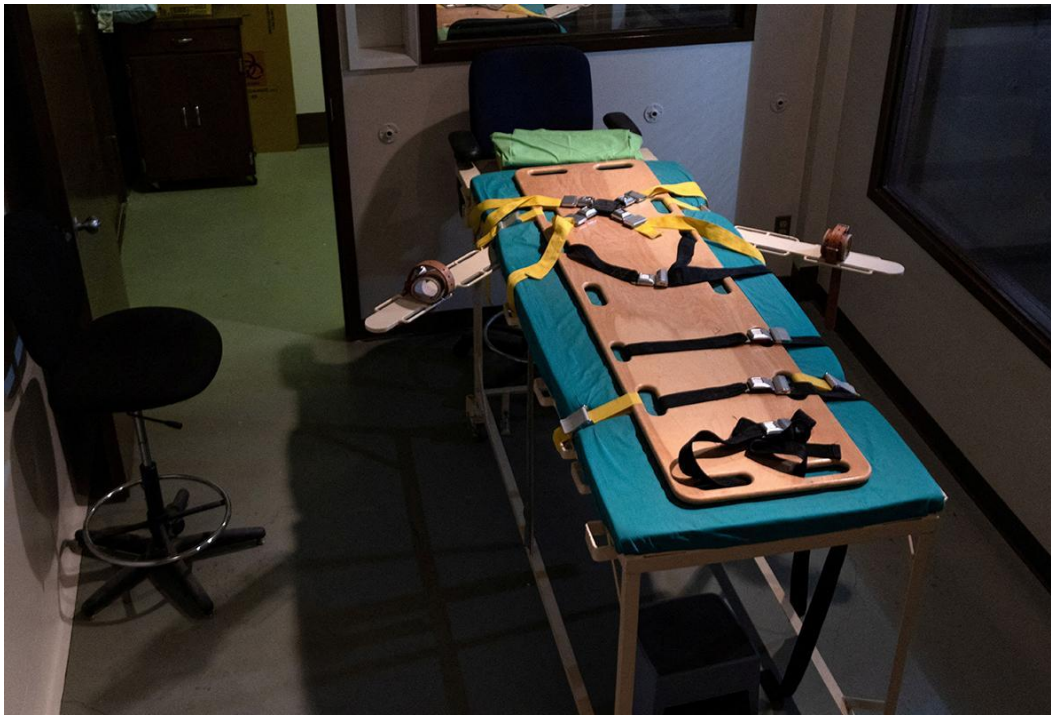
The two teen suspects were later found dead of apparent self-inflicted gunshot wounds.

A nearby landscaper was also reported to have been shot at during the attack, but, according to police, was expected “to be OK.”

No children from the mosque’s school and no officers were injured, according to San Diego police.

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Global executions surge to highest recorded figure in 44 years, Amnesty International Report says



The number of executions around the globe in 2025 surged to the highest recorded figure in 44 years, a new Amnesty International report said.

The May 17 report, titled “Death Sentences and Executions 2025,” comes soon after a recent video message from Pope Leo XIV marking 15 years since the abolition of the death penalty in his home state of Illinois, and shortly after the U.S. Department of Justice said in court filings it would seek the death penalty for the man charged with the fatal shootings of two people outside a May 21, 2025, event at the Capital Jewish Museum in Washington.

Amnesty International recorded executions of 2,707 people across 17 countries in 2025, the highest number recorded by the group since 1981. However, the group cautioned that its tally does not include what it believes to be thousands of executions carried out in China, adding that the country therefore remained the world’s top executioner.

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