



# **The Catholic Light**

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

**Weekly E-Newsletter**

**May 28, 2026**

## **In first encyclical, Pope Leo XIV urges humanity to build civilization of love in digital world**



At a time when digital technologies are developing at a rapid and unpredictable pace, every single person must decide if she or he will be: a passive bystander; an unhelpful commentator; an avaricious architect of a new “Tower of Babel”; or a patient, hope-

filled builder of a “civilization of love,” Pope Leo XIV said in his first encyclical, “Magnifica Humanitas.”

In the 82-page document, released May 25, the day after Pentecost, the pope also asked forgiveness for the Church’s long tolerance of slavery, and he declared that its “just war theory” was now outdated.

“Today, more than ever, without prejudice to the right to self-defense in the strictest sense, it is important to reaffirm that the ‘just war’ theory, which has all too often been used to justify any kind of war, is now outdated,” he wrote.

“Humanity possesses far more effective and capable tools for promoting human life and resolving conflicts, such as dialogue, diplomacy and forgiveness. The use of force, violence and weapons reflects a relational poverty that always has disastrous consequences for civilian populations,” the pope’s new document said.

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## **Bishops welcome encyclical as 'crystal' clear guidance for AI era**

Catholic Bishops are welcoming Pope Leo XIV's first encyclical, dedicated to safeguarding human dignity by invoking Catholic social teaching as a framework for anchoring artificial intelligence.

## Catholic Social Services to host traveling 'People of Hope Museum' on June 10 in Scranton



Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton is inviting residents to experience the national “People of Hope Museum” when the traveling exhibit visits Nay Aug Park in Scranton on Wednesday, June 10, 2026.

The free interactive museum experience will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in front of the Everhart Museum and will feature immersive exhibits, storytelling opportunities and reflections focused on poverty, compassion, and community service.

Presented by Catholic Charities USA, the museum recently began traveling the country in a 53-foot semi-tractor trailer, inviting visitors to step into the lives of others through learning about their stories.

Local organizers say the Scranton stop promises to be both meaningful and family-friendly – especially as schools across the region will just be beginning summer vacation.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for families, parishioners, students and our entire community to begin the summer with an experience that is both inspiring and eye-opening,” Joe Mahoney, CEO of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton, said. “The People of Hope Museum reminds us that every person has dignity, every story matters, and every one of us has the ability to make a difference in the life of a neighbor.”

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

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## **Celebrating faith and family at 2026 Saint Ubaldo Celebration in Jessup**



Last weekend's rain didn't stop an annual celebration of faith and family in the community of Jessup.

Hundreds gathered, as they do every Memorial Day weekend, for the Saint Ubaldo Festival or "Festa dei Ceri."

The highlight of the weekend includes racing through the streets carrying the "ceri" or wooden pillars dedicated to one of three saints - but at the beginning of the day - a Mass in honor of Saint Ubaldo is held on the steps of the Saint Ubaldo Cultural Center on Third Avenue.

The festivities are Jessup's version of the observance of La Festa dei Ceri in Gubbio, Italy.

Italian immigrants brought the tradition of the running of the saints, from Gubbio to Jessup in the early 1900s.

[Click Here to Watch a Video from CTV: Catholic Television on the 2026 Saint Ubaldo Celebration in Jessup](#)

## **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](#)

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**Greg Moyer, Notre Dame student  
who died during basketball game,  
inspires new AED legislation**



The family of Greg Moyer, along with community advocates, came together at Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg last Friday to announce the enactment of Greg Moyer's Law.

The legislation will require automated external defibrillators (AEDs) at all PIAA-sanctioned athletic events and practices and strengthening emergency action plans for sudden cardiac arrest.

Greg Moyer, a Notre Dame student, tragically passed away in 2000 after suffering sudden cardiac arrest during a high school basketball game. By the time emergency responders arrived with an AED nearly 40 minutes later, it was too late to save him.

“This law honors my son Greg and ensures that his legacy will continue to save lives,” Rachel Moyer said. “We are grateful to everyone who recognized the importance of protecting our children and ensuring schools are prepared to respond when every second matters. To all the families I have worked with who have lost a child to sudden cardiac arrest, or whose child was

saved because an AED was available, this law is for you and for every child who deserves the chance to come home safely.”

[Click Here to Watch a Video from CTV: Catholic Television on the Celebration of Greg Moyer's Law at Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School](#)

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**Registration deadline for 2026  
Wedding Anniversary Mass is June**

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**W**EDDING ANNIVERSARY  
MASS

Sunday, June 28th, 2026  
2:30pm  
Cathedral of St. Peter  
315 Wyoming Ave, Scranton PA 18503

Celebrating Milestone Anniversaries:

**10** YEARS   **25** YEARS   **40** YEARS   **50** YEARS

To register, please visit [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org)  
or call the Office for Parish Life at (570) 207-2213

Couples celebrating milestone wedding anniversaries this year are reminded that the registration deadline for the 2026 Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass is quickly approaching.

Pre-registration for the celebration must be completed by Sunday, June 7, 2026.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate the annual Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, June 28, 2026, at 2:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

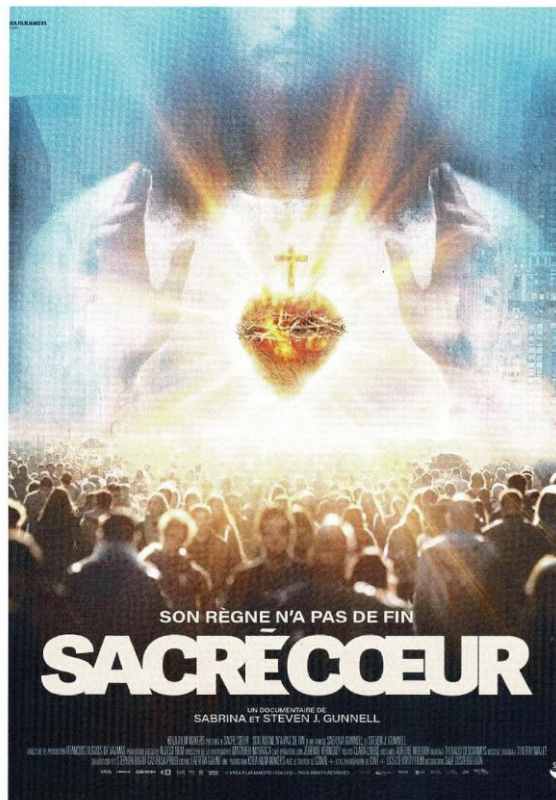
This year, the Diocese of Scranton is inviting couples celebrating their 10th, 25th, 40th and 50th wedding anniversaries to participate in the special liturgy, during which couples will renew their marriage commitment. A reception will follow the Mass.

Registration is available through the Diocese of Scranton website ([dioceseofscranton.org](http://dioceseofscranton.org)). Couples may also contact Bridget Maille, Program Coordinator for Family Life, at 570-207-2213, ext. 1133, or email [familylife@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:familylife@dioceseofscranton.org) for additional information.

[Click Here to Register for the 2026 Wedding Anniversary Mass](#)

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## **Sacred Heart film's U.S. showings coincide with Bishops' national consecration**



A French blockbuster is coming to theatres in the U.S. just in time for the consecration of the nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and premieres for U.S. audiences in June.

Released in France on Oct. 1, 2025, the docudrama “Sacré Coeur,” subtitled “His Reign Will Have No End” focuses on the apparitions of Jesus Christ to a French Visitation religious sister, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, showing his heart to her between 1673 and 1675, in Paray-le-Monial, in the French region of Burgundy.

“Sacré Coeur” will be shown in theaters June 9-11 and June 14 via KREA Film-Makers, Saje Distribution and Fathom Entertainment. Tickets and theater information is at [sacredheartfilm.us](http://sacredheartfilm.us).

The showings coincide with the U.S. bishops’ June 11 consecration of the United States to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Produced to mark the 350th anniversary of the apparitions, the docudrama combines historical reenactments, testimonials and expert analysis. It gives ample space to accounts of personal encounters with Jesus Christ, often during adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

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

## **New U.S. Eucharistic Pilgrimage sets out on Pentecost 'praying for a fresh outpouring' of the Spirit**



A softening of hearts toward the Eucharist, a greater sense of unity in the Church, and a “fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit” — these were the intentions held in the hearts of perpetual pilgrims

as they set out on the third National Eucharistic Pilgrimage from St. Augustine May 24.

Under the bright Florida sun, on the grounds of the Mission Nombre de Dios and the National Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche, Bishop Erik T. Pohlmeier of St. Augustine celebrated Mass to kick off the 2026 pilgrimage on the feast of Pentecost — nearly 500 years after the first Mass of Thanksgiving there in 1565 in what is now “the oldest site of continuous Catholic presence in the United States.”

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

## **Holy Spirit opens doors of peace, truth and forgiveness, Pope Leo XIV says on Pentecost**



Pope Leo XIV celebrated Pentecost by highlighting the role of the Holy Spirit in his repeated calls for peace in recent months, saying the spirit also guides the Church to truth amid a world marked by war, division and ideological fragmentation.

During Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, the pope said the Holy Spirit continues Christ's work in the world by restoring peace through forgiveness and transforming fear and confusion into communion with God and others.

"Pentecost truly appears as the feast of the New Covenant, the Covenant between God and all the peoples of the world," the pope said May 24 in his homily marking the end of the Easter season.

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

## **As Ebola epidemic spreads, Uganda postpones Martyrs Day celebrations**



Catholic bishops in Uganda have urged the people to remain calm after the government postponed the annual Martyrs Day celebrations, following an Ebola outbreak in the East African region.

The epidemic caused by Bundibugyo virus — one of the several that cause the disease in humans — has hit Congo and Uganda.

By May 20, at least 139 people had died out of the suspected 600 cases in Congo. Of the 600 suspected cases, the WHO said 51 had been confirmed in the country's northern provinces of Ituri and North Kivu.

An American doctor who contracted Ebola in Congo has been flown to Germany for treatment, along with his wife and four children. Peter Stafford, a surgeon and leader of the Christian missionary group Serge, operated on a patient with Ebola — not knowing the patient was infected and before the outbreak was detected, The Guardian reported.

But as the disease spreads, its impact is being felt among the Catholic community in Africa, as it forces the postponement of the Uganda Martyrs Day celebration. The event, marked every year on June 3 at Namugongo Shrine near Kampala, the capital, is one of the most important in the African Catholic and Christian calendars.

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