



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

June 18, 2026

Bishop to ordain Rev. Mr. Jan Carlo Perez to Priesthood June 27

*Ordination Mass
of
Rev. Mr. Jan Carlo Perez*

*Saturday, June 27, 2026
10:00 a.m.*

*Cathedral of Saint Peter
315 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton*

 **DIOCESE OF
SCRANTON**

When Rev. Mr. Jan Carlo Pérez reflects on his journey to the priesthood, he is quick to acknowledge that it was anything but a straight path.

Raised in a family that was not especially active in the practice of the Catholic faith, Pérez says his understanding of God developed gradually over time.

“It wasn’t until really my First Communion that I heard anything about our faith,” he recalled.

Years later, after enrolling at Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg, he began to encounter Sacred Scripture and Catholic teaching in a deeper way.

“It was my first time hearing the stories about Adam and Eve, Moses and David,” Pérez explained. “I never got the Jesus part until later, until about sophomore year, but when I did, everything clicked.”

That newfound faith eventually led him to Eucharistic Adoration at Saint Matthew Church and a growing desire to know Christ more intimately.

“Over time, this desire to be like Jesus, to emulate the saints, just grew in me until it possessed me,” he said.

On Saturday, June 27, 2026, that journey will reach a significant milestone when the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, ordains Pérez to the Priesthood for service in the Diocese of Scranton during a 10:00 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

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

Bishop to ordain Oblate of Saint Joseph to Priesthood in Hazleton



Saint Gabriel Church, 122 South Wyoming Street, Hazleton, the primary worship site of Saint Pius of Pietrelcina Parish, will be the setting for the Sacrament of Holy Orders to be conferred upon Deacon Jose Luis Batista Castillo, O.S.J., by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, on Wednesday, July 1, 2026.

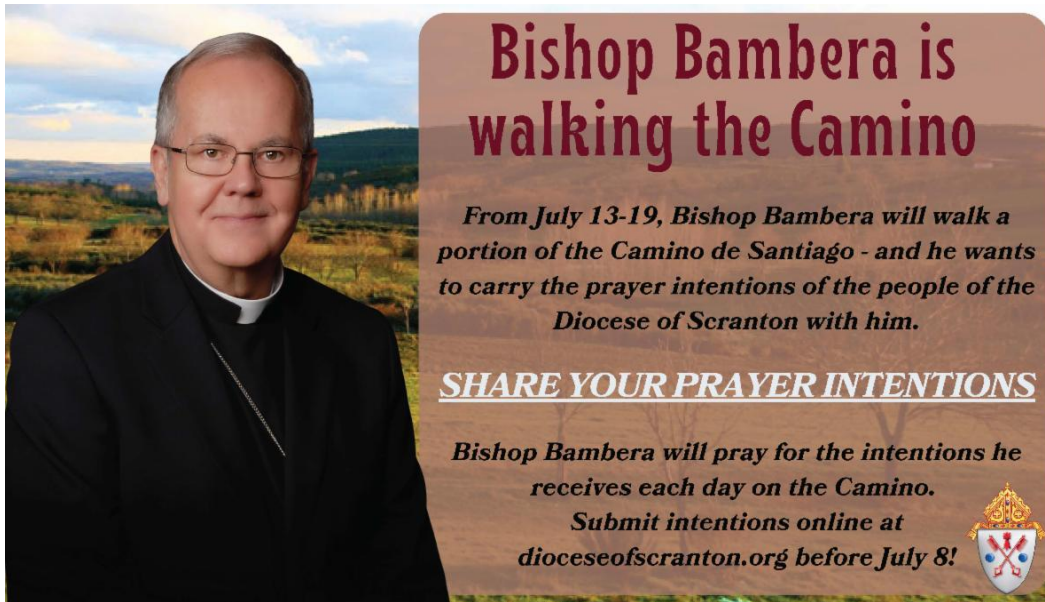
The Mass will take place at 5:00 p.m.

Concelebrants of the Mass will be Oblates of Saint Joseph priests of the “Holy Spouses” Province (USA) and Diocesan clergy.

A Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated the following evening, July 2, at 6:00 p.m. in the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laflin.

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

Bishop Bambera to carry Diocesan Prayer Intentions on upcoming Camino




Bishop Bambera is walking the Camino

From July 13-19, Bishop Bambera will walk a portion of the Camino de Santiago - and he wants to carry the prayer intentions of the people of the Diocese of Scranton with him.

SHARE YOUR PRAYER INTENTIONS

Bishop Bambera will pray for the intentions he receives each day on the Camino.

Submit intentions online at dioceseofscranton.org before July 8!



This summer, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will embark on a unique spiritual journey that he has never undertaken before.

Beginning July 13, Bishop Bambera will walk a portion of the Camino de Santiago, an ancient Christian pilgrimage route that has drawn believers from around the world for centuries. Over the course of seven days, through July 19, he will walk approximately 100 miles across northern Spain, traveling toward Santiago de Compostela and its cathedral, the traditional burial place of Saint James the Apostle, the destination of all those pilgrims who walk the Camino.

For many pilgrims, the Camino is much more than a physical challenge. It is a time of prayer, reflection, renewal, and a deeper encounter with God. Each step becomes an opportunity to slow down, listen to the Lord's voice, and reflect upon the blessings and challenges of life.

Throughout his journey, the Bishop will be joined by Father Brian J.W. Clarke, Pastor of Saints Cyril and Methodius Parish in Hazleton.

As Bishop Bambera prepares for this pilgrimage, which has long been a personal goal and one that has special significance for him this year, having celebrated his 70th birthday and 16th anniversary as Bishop of Scranton, he would like to carry the people of the Diocese of Scranton with him in a special way.

The Bishop plans to pray for the intentions of parishioners, families, friends, and all those who call the 11 counties of northeastern and north central Pennsylvania home.

[Click Here to Submit a Prayer Intention to Bishop Bambera](#)

**Voter Voice: Contact Your
Lawmaker regarding Pennsylvania's
Educational Improvement Tax
Credit (EITC) Program**



Your help is needed to prevent legislation from advancing that could have a devastating effect on Catholic education across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Please ask your PA State Representative and Senator to oppose House Bill 2632, a measure put forth in the State House, which would have drastic consequences for the 19 Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Scranton and beyond.

HB 2632 seeks to end the **Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program** and attempts to recreate it in a way that harms students by establishing a series of bureaucratic administrative procedures while cutting \$102 million in funding.

Needy students would see their education interrupted with the closing of several Catholic schools. Only the wealthy would have opportunities to select the best educational choice for their child.

Pennsylvania families in every county have been leveraging scholarships averaging under \$3,000 per student with private

money to receive an education in an environment that is best suited to the needs of their children.

Please remember these children as you consider HB 2632.

Thank you in advance for **opposing** HB 2632 that seeks to rob our children of their ability to succeed in an educational environment that is best for them.

[Click Here to Send a Message to Your PA State Representative and Senator to Oppose HB 2632](#)

**World Refugee Day 2026
celebration is Saturday in Scranton**

World Refugee Day 2026

A World Where
Refugees Are Always Welcomed



Come Celebrate!

World Refugee Day honors the strength, resilience, and courage of millions of refugees throughout the world. Everyone is welcome to come to this free event to share in the rich cultural heritage of the refugee communities in Northeast Pennsylvania.

Saturday, June 20, 2026
2:00-5:00 p.m.

Diocese of Scranton
Pastoral Center

330 Wyoming Ave.
Scranton, PA 18503

Free Family Event ♥ Cultural Music & Dance
♥ Giveaways, Games & Activities for Kids
♥ Light Refreshments



EDWARD R. LEAHY JR.
CLINIC for the UNINSURED



M STARS
Marywood



St. Luke's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Scranton, PA

DIocese of
SCRANTON



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SCRANTON
A JESUIT UNIVERSITY



St. SAINT
GREGORY
Parish of Holy Spirit



Ignatian
Volunteer Corps
Experiencia. Service. Reflexion



Questions? Contact the Office of Community Relations at 570.941.4419 or email community@scranton.edu

On Saturday, June 20, 2026, the community is invited to participate in the 2026 World Refugee Day Celebration from 2-5 p.m.

The new location for this year's event will be the Diocese of Scranton Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton.

The celebration will include cultural music and dance performances, refreshments, giveaways, games, and activities for kids.

More than 25 community agencies are working together to plan this celebration.

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

Sacred Heart celebrations draw hundreds in Peckville and Dupont



Hundreds of Catholics from across the Diocese of Scranton gathered in Peckville and Dupont on June 11 and 12 to celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, taking part in two special liturgies highlighting one of the Church's most beloved devotions and its enduring message of God's love.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, first celebrated Mass at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Peckville on the Vigil of the Solemnity and visited Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Dupont for the feast day itself.

The celebrations coincided with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' consecration of the nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus as the country prepares to mark its 250th anniversary.

At the conclusion of the Vigil Mass in Peckville, Bishop Bambera consecrated the parish community to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and encouraged families to renew that devotion within their own homes.

"It was glorious to see so many people here," Father Andy Kurovsky, Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Peckville, said. "When you know and you believe that you are loved, it becomes so much easier to act in a more loving way in your day to day lives."

Throughout both celebrations, Bishop Bambera emphasized a simple but profound message rooted in Scripture: We love, because God first loved us.

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

**Archbishop Lori: Sacred Heart
reconciles divisions and transforms
hardened hearts**



A sea of white robes and zucchetto of pink and magenta in the pews. A statue of Jesus welcoming the faithful with his exposed Sacred Heart upon the foot of the altar.

A setting fit for a June 11 Mass that united U.S. bishops gathered for their spring plenary June 10-12. After concluding the second of two days of public sessions, they left the Omni Resort in ChampionsGate for a half-hour drive up Interstate 4 for the spiritual refuge that is the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe in Orlando.

And the Mass was a momentous one as it served to formally consecrate the United States to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, as part of the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City incensed the altar after processing in from the thick humidity and cloudy skies of a typical Orlando afternoon outside the shrine. The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops was joined on the altar by bishops and deacons of the Orlando Diocese.

“Clothe us, Lord God, with the virtues of the heart of your son, and set us aflame with his love,” the archbishop prayed in opening the Mass.

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

Pope Leo XIV approves new statutes for Child Protection Commission



Pope Leo XIV approved new statutes for the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors that seek to balance its integration with the Roman Curia while preserving its independence.

The updated statutes, which were published by the Vatican June 13, detail the commission’s role within the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, which was mandated by Pope Francis’ 2022

apostolic constitution on the reform of the Roman Curia, “Praedicate Evangelium” (“Preach the Gospel”).

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

Papal Spain Trip: 2.5 million participants, revenue over \$174 million, spiritual boost priceless



Despite minor setbacks, including the last-minute thwarting of a separatist demonstration and the grounding of the papal flight to Rome, organizers said Pope Leo XIV’s weeklong visit to Spain was an overwhelming success.

At a June 16 press conference in Madrid, Archbishop Luis Argüello of Valladolid, president of the Spanish bishops’

conference, admitted that “the visit has overwhelmed us in our expectations and in what we have lived.”

“The trip had a heart, which was seeing the evangelization of the Church in action. It was an apostolic journey in which the Word was proclaimed, the liturgy was celebrated, and the charity of the Church was exalted with harmony in the various places where the visit took place,” Archbishop Argüello said.

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

Two summer festivals planned for this weekend in Nanticoke and Scranton

St. Faustina Parish, Nanticoke

Annual Homecoming Festival

on the grounds of St. Faustina Grove,
Old Newport Street, Sheatown

Friday, June 19 • 5pm–11pm • *The Tommy Guns Band*

Saturday, June 20 • 5pm–11pm • *The Idol Kings*



*Pierogies, Potato Pancakes, Halushki,
Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, French Fries.*

BAKE SALE & ICE CREAM STAND

Fun & Games for All Ages, including
Basket Raffle, Bingo, Instant Bingo,
Children's Games, Face Painting, Pony
Rides, Bounce House and Much More!

**SATURDAY
MASS AT
GROVE • 4PM**



Divine Mercy PARISH PICNIC 2026

FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY
★ JUNE 19 - 20 - 21 ★
5:00PM to 10:00PM

- 
**DELICIOUS
FOOD**
- 
**CHILDREN'S
GAMES**
- 
**BAKE
SALE**
- 
**THEME
BASKETS**
- 
BAR
- 
**BIG 6
WHEEL**
- 
BINGO

★ DON'T MISS OUR DELICIOUS ★
POTATO PANCAKES!

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
★ *Friday* ★
BY
**BROADWAY
ON THE BOULEVARD
AND
FLAXY MORGAN**

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
★ *Saturday* ★
BY
**VELEZ STUDIO
OF DANCE
AND
THE IMPASTAS**

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
★ *Sunday* ★
BY
STRANGERS

📍 312 Davis St., Scranton PA 18505 ☎ 570-344-1724

 **OUTDOOR MASS** *will be held*
SUNDAY, JUNE 21 *at 4:00PM*

The 2026 summer festival, picnic and bazaar season has kicked off and you and your family are invited to enjoy great food and fellowship all summer long!

All parishes in the Diocese of Scranton have been invited to send their picnic information to the Diocese of Scranton Communications Department for promotion.

[Click Here for the Full Listing of 2026 Parish Festivals, Picnics and Bazaars](#)

Follow us on Social Media...



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