

The Catholic Light

DIocese OF SCRANTON

WWW.DIOCESEOFSCRANTON.ORG VOLUME 125 NUMBER 7 ISSN-0164-9418 THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2025

A SIGN OF HOPE AND GROWTH

Five new seminarians accepted in the Diocese of Scranton

SCRANTON – “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.”

These words, known as the Great Commission from the Gospel of Matthew, are more than a final command from Christ – they are a call to action for every Catholic to foster a culture of vocations.

That call is bearing fruit in the Diocese of Scranton.

This year, five new seminarians have been accepted into the Diocese’s Program for Priestly Formation – marking the highest number of new candidates in several years. They come from three different countries, four counties, and represent five unique parishes, reflecting the rich diversity and shared faith of the Church in northeastern Pennsylvania.

“This is a sign of great hope,” Father Alex Roche, Diocesan Secretary for Clergy Formation, said. “Their willingness to discern a priestly vocation is a witness to the Holy Spirit actively working among us.”

The candidates accepted this year for the Diocese of Scranton include: Liam Barry, Epiphany Parish, Sayre; Antonio Ingargiola, Saints Anthony & Rocco Parish, Dunmore; Leonel Ojo Gonzalez, Saint Faustina Kowalska Parish, Nanticoke; Roberto Carlos Acevedo Ruiz, Saint Pius of Pietrelcina Parish, Hazleton; and Michael Sullivan, Saint Luke Parish, Stroudsburg.

VOCATIONS ROOTED IN ENCOUNTER

The path to the seminary for each of the men is as varied as their backgrounds.

For Antonio Ingargiola, the call began during a Holy Thursday Mass during his sophomore year of high school.

“I watched my pastor wash the feet of the twelve. As I watched this, something came over me and I felt that I could see myself doing that,” he said.

As a sacristan and altar server at his parish, Ingargiola is excited to begin



Five new seminarians have been accepted into the Diocese of Scranton’s Program for Priestly Formation, marking the highest number of new candidates in several years. Pictured, from left: Father Alex Roche, Diocesan Secretary for Clergy Formation; Roberto Carlos Acevedo Ruiz, Antonio Ingargiola, Liam Barry, and Leonel Ojo Gonzalez. Not pictured is Michael Sullivan. (Photo/Mike Melisky)

seminary life.

“Being around other guys discerning God’s calling in their life while striving to

grow in their faith is very exciting for me,” he added.

Continued on Page 2

Solemn Novena to Saint Ann begins in West Scranton

SCRANTON – Parishioners and visitors are once again descending on Saint Ann Basilica Parish in West Scranton for the annual Solemn Novena to Saint Ann.

This year’s Novena, which begins today and runs through July 26, is a tradition that many faithful look forward to each summer. It is now in its 101st year.

“Saint Ann has touched my life, and I think the Novena is a great thing,” parishioner Ken Weiksner said.

Weiksner, who joined Saint Ann Basilica Parish in 2013, will attend several Novena Masses throughout the next nine days.

“I remember my mom and dad, they used to come and brought me here a few times when I was young,” he added. “People from all over come. They walk, they come by car, it’s a great thing to see all these people here praying together.”

The theme for this year’s Novena

is ‘Hope Never Fails,’ echoing the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope.

“I’ve been coming to the Novena since my 20s,” parishioner Doreen Didario explained. “You come to thank God; you come to find peace and tranquility.”

The preachers for this year’s Novena are Father Curtis Kiddy, C.P., of North Palm Beach, Fla., and Father Cristian Martinez, C.P., of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Continued on Page 6

A graphic with a teal background and white text. It features a photo of people at a picnic and a dartboard. The text reads: "CHURCH PICNIC AND FESTIVAL LISTING" and "PAGES 19-22".

The Catholic Light

(ISSN 0164-9418)

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE
DIOCESE OF SCRANTON



DIOCESE OF SCRANTON MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Catholic community of the Diocese of Scranton, are called through Baptism to imitate the servant leadership of Jesus Christ. In union with Our Holy Father, the Pope, we proclaim the Gospel faithfully, celebrate the sacraments joyfully, and boldly promote life, justice and peace in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Catholic Light is our official diocesan journal. The publication of notices, regulations and extra-synodical decrees in said paper constitute legal promulgation for all the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton, Clergy and Laity.

Published monthly by:

Catholic Light Publishing Company
300 Wyoming Avenue
Scranton, PA 18503-1287

Offices:

300 Wyoming Avenue
Scranton, PA 18503-1287
Phone: (570) 207-2229
Fax: (570) 207-2271

Publisher:

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Scranton

Secretary for Communications/Editor-in-Chief:
Eric M. Deabill

Managing Editor:

Kevin G. McDonnell

Advertising Coordinator:

Eileen Manley

Circulation Coordinator:

Pamela Haebele

Yearly Subscription Rates:

Resident: \$10
Foreign: \$12

Your donation to the Catholic Ministries Appeal helps support *The Catholic Light*



Postal Information:

The Catholic Light (ISSN 0164-9418) is published monthly by the Catholic Light Publishing Company, 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503-1287. Periodicals postage paid at Scranton PA and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to *The Catholic Light*, 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503-1287

www.dioceseofscranton.org

2025 Seminarian class is largest in several years

Continued from Page 1

Liam Barry, one of the youngest of the group, traces his calling back to his Catholic elementary school and the influence of religious sisters and priests.

“I think altar serving and Quo Vadis (Days) were both really important and meaningful to me because of your ability to be close to priests, deacons, and seminarians,” Barry said.

Barry is particularly drawn to the liturgical prayer life of seminary formation and finds inspiration in Saint Thérèse of Lisieux and Venerable Fulton Sheen.

Michael Sullivan found his call while serving as youth minister for Saint Luke Parish.

“I taught the Confirmation class and was their leader for service hours. We visited the nursing homes, fed the underprivileged at community meals, and evangelized with our participation in the Saint Patrick’s Day parade,” he said.

Through the encouragement of his pastor, Father Michael Quinnan, and programs like Quo Vadis Days and the Ezra 10:4 Men’s Discernment Retreat, Sullivan said his desire to serve grew stronger.

“I look forward to meeting young men on the same journey as me, as we live together, learn together, and follow our call to the priestly vocation together.”

A native of the Dominican Republic, Roberto Carlos Acevedo Ruiz brings with him a wealth of ministry experience – from catechesis and youth missions to Charismatic Renewal and Emmaus retreats.

“I have been motivated by the call that God has made me through my pastoral services in the community where I worked,” he shared.



Seminarian Michael Sullivan from Saint Luke Parish in Stroudsburg, right, poses with Father Alex Roche, Diocesan Secretary for Clergy Formation, immediately after becoming the fifth man accepted into the Diocese of Scranton’s Program for Priestly Formation this year.

Leonel Ojo Gonzalez has been discerning for more than a decade.

Hailing from Panama in Latin America, his involvement in adoration, Hispanic Emmaus retreats, and parish ministry has steadily drawn him closer to the priesthood.

“I am motivated because I love the way they (priests) give themselves completely to the service of God and the community,” he said.

Inspired by Saint Paul the Apostle, Leonel added, “He is a great model because no matter what you did in the past, if God calls you, you have to be able to change your life.”

BROADER PICTURE OF GROWTH

The increasing number of seminarians for the Diocese of Scranton correlates to national trends noted in the 2025 CARA Report, which surveyed more than 300 men preparing for priestly ordination across the

through monthly Holy Hours for Vocations in three different counties.

The Vocations Office also continues to invest in programs like Quo Vadis Days, Fiat Days, Leave a Mark Mass, and Ezra 10:4 Retreats to help men and women discern their call in an atmosphere of prayer, fellowship, and guidance. Adult and youth discernment groups also meet regularly throughout the year.

HOPE, NOT HESITATION

While concern over declining vocations is real, the work of the Holy Spirit in the Diocese of Scranton is providing hope for the future.

“We often hear about the challenges,” Father Roche said. “But when young men give their lives to Christ in this way, it’s a powerful sign that the Church is alive and moving forward.”

If you or someone you know is discerning a vocation to the priesthood or religious life, visit dioceseofscranton.org/vocations for more information. You can also email vocations@dioceseofscranton.org or call (570) 207-1452.

Pray for Vocations!

Heavenly Father,

We give you thanks for bestowing your many gifts upon the Church of Scranton. Send your Holy Spirit upon the people of this diocese. Help them to hear your voice and respond to your call.

Raise up priests, religious sisters, deacons, and brothers from among your flock to serve your people. Give them the knowledge to recognize the gifts you have given them, the courage to answer you, the wisdom to follow you throughout their life, and the wonder and awe to see your hand in all things.

Conform this local church into the mystical body of your Son, each taking up their unique place so that we may proclaim Christ always through our preaching, our service, and our very lives. Amen.

'It is the greatest feeling in the world'

Standing room only at Cathedral as two new priests ordained in joyful celebration

SCRANTON – The Cathedral of Saint Peter was standing room only on Saturday, June 28, 2025, as two transitional deacons answered God's call in a profound way by being ordained priests for the Diocese of Scranton.

Every pew was filled – more than 800 people in all with an overflow gathered in the back of the Cathedral – as Rev. Mr. Thomas Dzwonczyk and Rev. Mr. Andrew McCarroll joyfully began their priestly ministry.

"Just seeing the church filled with people from across our diocese and around the country ... I'm blessed to be in this moment right now," Father McCarroll said.

"It is one thing to write a paper on the priesthood but to actually have it happen, there is no comparison," Father Dzwonczyk added. "It's the greatest feeling in the world."

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant, homilist, and ordaining prelate.

During his homily, Bishop Bambera delivered a moment of unexpected humor that brought laughter to the packed Cathedral.

Reflecting on the Gospel reading – Matthew 10:1-5a – the Bishop shared, "I asked Tom and Andrew why they chose it, presuming that they must have had some profound rationale for doing so. Their response: 'Both our names are mentioned in it!'"

Laughter erupted as the faithful



Father Andrew T. McCarroll, left, and Father Thomas J. Dzwonczyk, pose for a photo with the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, immediately following their Ordination Mass on June 28, 2025, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter. (Photos/Mike Melisky)

recognized the truth: both "Thomas" and "Andrew" are listed among the original Twelve Apostles named by Christ in the passage.

But Bishop Bambera quickly pivoted to a deeper message.

"In fairness to our ordinands, scratch the surface of this passage and probe its context within Matthew's Gospel and we discover so much more than merely a roster of names," the Bishop said, smiling. "We discover that the Apostles – and all of us – are called by the love of God as we are, from particular families and parishes and walks of life. We are called for a purpose: to embrace the great mission of evangelization – the mission of proclaiming Jesus, His life, and His saving grace."

"The Bishop was spot on in his homily. He said priests don't just fall out of a tree; they don't come out of the middle of nowhere. It truly is a whole church effort. It starts in the family, but then throughout people in religious education and the Catholic schools that I went through, to the parishes where I've been assigned," Father Dzwonczyk said.

The Mass, always rich in symbolism and sacred tradition, included the full Rite of Ordination. After the candidates were presented and affirmed by the Bishop, the Litany of Saints was chanted as both men lay prostrate before the altar – a powerful sign of their total surrender to God's will.

The centerpiece of the Rite of

Ordination came when Bishop Bambera laid his hands on heads of Rev. Mr. Dzwonczyk and Rev. Mr. McCarroll, invoking the Holy Spirit to consecrate them as priests. One by one, every other priest in attendance also placed their hands on both men.

Then, their hands were anointed with Sacred Chrism, marking their hands for the holy work they are now empowered to do: consecrate the Eucharist, anoint the sick, forgive sins, and shepherd the faithful. With hands newly anointed, the two new priests were each vested with a chasuble. The Rite concluded with fraternal greetings, as brother priests welcomed them into their shared vocation.

Father McCarroll said two moments during the Mass will always remain with him.

"The laying on the floor during the Litany of the Saints was significant. You feel the connection of the entire church – the people of God gathered there and the church in heaven, the saints of God – all connected in prayer at that moment," he said. "Also, when all the priests come and they lay their hands upon you. Just knowing that we're connected as brothers together, and we're really working together in the vineyard of our Lord."

Father Dzwonczyk highlighted another powerful gesture.

"For me, personally, I lost it when the Bishop was anointing my hands. He actually had to steady my hands they were shaking so badly. That is something

that I'm always going to remember," he explained.

Following the Mass, family members, parishioners, fellow clergy, and friends greeted both men outside the Cathedral. From the laughter and hugs that were shared, it was clear that the faithful were not only there to witness the Ordination Mass but to celebrate and support both men whom God had called.

While the day marked the end of years of discernment, prayer, and formation, it is only the beginning of their priestly ministry in service to the people of God.

Father Dzwonczyk has been assigned to serve as assistant pastor of the parish communities of Saints Anthony and Rocco, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, both located in Dunmore. Father McCarroll has been assigned to serve as assistant pastor of Saint Gregory Parish, Clarks Green, and Our Lady of the Snows Parish, Clarks Summit.

"It is a blessing to be with the people," Father McCarroll said. "Saint Gregory and Our Lady of the Snows are two great communities. They have a lot of ministries and a lot of energy and a lot of potential. I'm just excited to immerse myself into that and to be part of the fabric of those parish communities."

"I'm just so grateful to everyone who has been a part of this journey. Having the Cathedral packed, it shows the Catholicity of the Church. It is the Universal Church, and here in Scranton the church is alive and well," Father Dzwonczyk added.



Rev. Thomas J. Dzwonczyk said his hands were 'shaking badly' as Bishop Bambera anointed them during the Mass.



Rev. Andrew T. McCarroll hugs several family friends outside the Cathedral of Saint Peter immediately following Mass.

Three seminarians take step toward Priesthood during Rite of Candidacy

SCRANTON – Three seminarians for the Diocese of Scranton took another significant step on their path to the priesthood during a special Mass with the Rite of Candidacy at Marywood University on June 25, 2025.

Taking place on the final day of this year’s Quo Vadis and Fiat Days, each man pledged his intention to continue formation for the priesthood.

During the Mass, Esteban Marengo from Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish in Scranton, along with Daniel O’Brien from Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Pittston, and Nicholas Wasko from Saint Ann Basilica Parish, were formally accepted as candidates for Holy Orders through the Rite of Candidacy.

“All that was going through my mind was thank you Lord for putting me here,” O’Brien said. “Thank you for surrounding me with these wonderful young men who are on the same track as me.”



Three seminarians participated in the Rite of Candidacy during a Mass at Marywood University on June 25, 2025. The three seminarians pictured, from left, are: Esteban Marengo, Daniel O’Brien, and Nicholas Wasko. (Photo/Mike Melisky)

The Rite of Candidacy is an important milestone in seminary formation. It marks the Church’s formal recognition that a seminarian is progressing in his discernment and is considered suitable to be admitted to the next stages of preparation for the priesthood.

During the Rite, the candidates were questioned publicly by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton. They were asked whether they are prepared to “form your mind and heart in such a way that you will be able to faithfully serve

Christ the Lord and his Body, the Church.”

Each man then responded with “I do.”

“Leading up to Candidacy, the main focus has been growing in my relationship with Christ, just growing as a Christian man, growing in virtue, growing in faith – but there comes a point where you have to start becoming more intentional in your preparations,” Marengo said. “It is a public sign that I really am trying my best to discern properly, to discern seriously.”

Marengo said he was inspired to consider the priesthood after seeing his previous pastor, Father Scott Sterowski, always filled with joy when he was amongst the faithful. That helped him recognize the priesthood is about service.

“There is just something about giving the full gift of yourself, almost pouring yourself out for others,” he explained. “I would say that is what is most appealing to me. It would be an

absolute honor to one day be able to give the gift of myself to these wonderful, faithful people.”

The Rite of Candidacy taking place during Quo Vadis and Fiat Days, the Diocese’s annual vocations camps for high school students, was no coincidence. It allowed young people discerning their own paths in life to witness the beauty of vocational commitment.

“I’m a later vocation. There is no real set timeline for God’s call,” Wasko said. “Some people pursue it right out of high school when they’re young. Others wait a few years and say, ‘maybe I should be going down this path.’”

As the three men continue their formation, they expressed gratitude to everyone who has supported them with their prayers and encouragement.

“I am here because God has a plan for me,” O’Brien said. “I am so excited to be able to call Scranton home and serve the people of God.”

Students learn to ‘trust in God’ at Quo Vadis & Fiat Days 2025

SCRANTON – In a world that often demands quick answers, dozens of high school students from across the Diocese of Scranton took a bold step in the opposite direction this June.

They paused. They prayed. And they listened.

For many of the 66 young men and women who attended the Diocese’s annual Quo Vadis and Fiat Days camps, one message rose to the top of their experience: Trust in God.

Whether it came during quiet moments of Eucharistic Adoration, small group conversations or simply time with their peers, the call to trust – deeply and freely – left a lasting impression.

“No matter how hard the storm is, no matter how hard life will get, just trust in Him and

everything will go well,” Emily Lopez, a young adult from Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish in Scranton, said.

“Be humble and don’t say, ‘this is what I want,’ just listen to him and ask God ‘what do you want for me,’” Jacob Bryk, a young adult from Saint Theresse Parish in Shavertown, added.

Held June 23-25, 2025, at Marywood University, Quo Vadis Days (for high school boys) and Fiat Days (for high school girls) provided a space for teens to reflect on how God is calling them – not just in the future – but right now in their daily lives.

Through various activities, which included prayer, talks, Mass, and interactive games, the camps offered participants the opportunity to step away from the ‘noise’ of everyday life and



Marianne Guarnieri, Diocesan Director of Discipleship, talks with several young adults participating in Fiat Days.

be reminded of who they are as children of God.

“I really enjoyed it. I met a lot of new people, and everyone was just so nice,” Jade Quijandria, a young adult from Saint Pius of Pietrelcina Parish in Hazleton, said. “Being together here as one unit, helping each other find faith,

find that full trust in the Lord and trying to find what He’s calling them for was important.”

“You get to spend time with other guys your age who are in the same position,” Daniel Bordas, a young adult from Saint Matthew Parish in East Stroudsburg, added. “None of us really know



Young men participating in Quo Vadis Days listen during a panel discussion on vocations.

what we’re going to do (with our lives yet).”

The camps invited students to learn more about the many vocations available to them, including marriage, priesthood, and religious life.

Continued on Page 5

NEPA native ordained as Jesuit priest

WEST WYOMING – On Sunday, June 22, 2025, Rev. Douglas Jones, S.J., celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving at 11 a.m. at Saint Monica Parish. A reception was held for the lifelong member of the parish following Mass.

On June 14, 2025, Father Jones was one of five Jesuits ordained to the priesthood for the USA East Province at Saint Ignatius Church in Manhattan. New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan was the principal celebrant of the Ordination Mass.

Father Jones attended college at The University of Scranton, where he studied political science and international studies. It was during his college years that he got to know the Jesuits, especially through the Special Jesuit Liberal



Just one week after being ordained a Jesuit priest, Rev. Douglas Jones, S.J., center, held a Mass of Thanksgiving at Saint Monica Parish in West Wyoming on June 22, 2025. Also participating in the Mass were Deacon William G. Jenkins, left, and Rev. Peter A. Tomczak, pastor, both of Saint Monica Parish. (Photo/Ed Lewko)

Arts Program. Following his work in Lebanon, with Saint Joseph University of Beirut and a year doing research and pastoral the Jesuit Refugee Service.

Pope prays for conversion of those resisting climate action at new Mass

ROME (CNS) - "We must pray for the conversion of many people, inside and outside of the church, who still do not recognize the urgency of caring for our common home," Pope Leo XIV said while celebrating a new formulary of the Mass "for the care of creation."

Far from the pounding organ of St. Peter's Basilica or the throngs of faithful sprawled across St. Peter's Square, the pope celebrated Mass July 9 to the accompaniment of chirping birds in the gardens of the papal villa in Castel Gandolfo, the traditional summer residence of the popes some 15 miles southeast of Rome.

The formulary of the Mass "for the care of creation" was



Pope Leo XIV celebrates Mass for the Care of Creation on the grounds of the Borgo Laudato Si' ecology center in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, July 9, 2025. (CNS photo/Cristian Gennari, pool)

added to the Roman Missal - the liturgical book that contains the texts for celebrating Mass in the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church - by the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments June 8.

Quo Vadis and Fiat Days allow young adults time to listen to God's voice



A total of 66 young adults participated in the Quo Vadis and Fiat Days 2025. On the final day, they posed for a group photo with the priests, religious sisters, seminarians and Diocesan staff who helped organize this year's event. (Photo/Dan Gallagher)

Continued from Page 4

Angelo Ramos, a young adult from Saint Catherine of Siena Parish in Moscow, is considering a call to the Diocesan priesthood or religious life. He was thankful for the many opportunities he had to interact with seminarians and

priests throughout the three-day experience.

"You can ask questions and get good answers that you don't just type on Google," Ramos explained.

Throughout the three-day camp, 38 young men took part in Quo Vadis Days, which translates

from Latin to "Where are you going?" The name comes from the famous encounter between Saint Peter and Christ and invites campers to reflect on that same question in their own lives.

Fiat Days, which welcomed 28 young women in only its second year, draws its name

from Mary's "yes" to God – and encourages participants to open their hearts to how God may be calling them to serve and love others.

While both camps provided ample time for spiritual growth, the students also had plenty of time for sports, music, and

icebreakers to help them build long term friendships.

"I really enjoyed it," first time participant Johanna Davison of Scranton said. "Coming here has helped me learn to listen and just be willing and open to whatever God wants me to do."

Rocco appointed as new Safe Environment Coordinator for Diocese

SCRANTON – The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, has appointed Adeline (Addie) Rocco as the new Safe Environment Coordinator for the Diocese of Scranton.

She began serving in this new role on July 7, 2025.

As Safe Environment Coordinator, Rocco will assist the Diocese of Scranton in maintaining safe environments for the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton – especially our children and the most vulnerable among us.

Rocco will oversee child protection training programs, background checks, and compliance efforts across all parishes, schools, and diocesan institutions.

Bishop Bambera said Rocco brings a depth of experience to this important role. Her career spans law enforcement, education, healthcare, pastoral care, and public service.

Rocco has previously served as a police officer in Roaring Brook Township and Scranton. While working in the Scranton Police Department, she held the position of patrol corporal and was also a crisis negotiator. She has also served as the Director of Public Safety and was an adjunct professor at Keystone College.

The Bishop noted Addie also brings a strong pastoral dimension to her work, having most recently served as Director of Mission Integration and Spiritual Care at St. Mary's Villa in Elmhurst.

"I am so excited and honored to be able to serve in the Diocese of Scranton in this capacity," Rocco stated. "This role encompasses both my service and dedication to ensure the safety of others in my church community and my pastoral experience of walking with others through the safe environment process."

Rocco has served as a certified VIRTUS facilitator for 13 years, further demonstrating her deep commitment to

child protection and safe environment education.

"The Lord has always asked me to be part of the solution to challenges and to get involved. Over the past 13 years, providing VIRTUS education has allowed me to help others be more aware of their surroundings and be a better reporter. Continuing education in VIRTUS allows us all not to be complacent. When we become unaware, we allow things to happen under our watch," she explained.

Rocco is no stranger to the Diocese of Scranton. Her husband, Nick, is currently a Permanent Deacon at Saint Eulalia Parish in Roaring Brook Township. Addie also currently serves as Coordinator for Deacon

Wives and Families, accompanying women whose husbands are discerning and preparing for the diaconate.

In announcing her role as the new Safe Environment Coordinator for the Diocese of Scranton, Bishop Bambera noted that Rocco's broad experience, coupled with her civil service and Catholic ministry experience, make her

"uniquely qualified" to lead and support our safe environment efforts with professionalism and compassion.

"She is eager to work collaboratively with pastors, principals, parish staff members and our Diocesan offices to ensure we uphold our responsibility to protect all God's children," Bishop Bambera stated.

"I cannot wait to work with, and for all, the members of the Diocesan family. This is a ministry to me, and I look forward to working alongside every member to ensure the safety of all. With four teenage daughters and my experience as a Chaplain, I hope to bring an element of compassionate awareness to ensure the protection of all in our Diocese and community. This opportunity is such a blessing," Rocco added.



Adeline Rocco

Solemn Novena to Saint Ann returns to Scranton with message of hope

Continued from Page 1

Each day, the preachers will provide encouragement for fostering hope in the everyday circumstances of life.

"It's so great to come here and be able to pray and be with God," parishioner Lisa Killino stated.

Responding to growth in the Hispanic community throughout the Diocese of Scranton, the Novena will once again hold a daily Mass and Novena in Spanish at 7:30 p.m. from July 17 through July 25.

The Novena will conclude with the Solemn Closing Mass on Saint Ann's Feast Day, July 26, at 7:30 p.m., celebrated by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton.

All faithful are welcome and encouraged to attend Novena Masses



Thousands of faithful will visit the Basilica of the National Shrine to Saint Ann over the next ten days as the annual Solemn Novena takes place until July 26.

and devotions at the times that fit their schedule. Everyone in the community is also invited to visit the food stand located on the Basilica grounds. Proceeds from the sale of food and beverages benefit Saint Ann Basilica Parish.

"The food is very good, and I enjoy being with my family every year," Tommy Killino added.

Mass of Remembrance for victims of violent or tragic death to be held July 24

SCRANTON - The Diocese of Scranton is offering its annual Mass of Remembrance for victims of violent or tragic death. This Mass is offered for the families and friends of those who have died in tragedy, especially through murder, suicide, and accident.

The Mass will take place on Thursday, July 24, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter, 315 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton.

All persons who have lost a loved one through tragic and traumatic death are invited to this liturgy.

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

Names of deceased loved ones will be inscribed in the Book of Remembrance. Visit dioceseofscranton.org to register the name of a loved one by July 18, 2025.



SOLEMN NOVENA

IN HONOR OF

Saint Ann

JULY 17 TO 26, 2025

PREACHERS: FR. CRISTIAN MARTINEZ, C.P. AND FR. CURTIS KIDDY, C.P.

NOVENA DEVOTIONS

After 8 & 11:45 A.M. & 5:30 P.M. Masses; w/Novena only at 3:30 - 7:30 P.M. Mass & Novena in Spanish

DIVINE LITURGY - BYZANTINE RITE

Tuesday, July 22, 5:30 P.M.
7:30 P.M. Mass and Novena in Spanish

DAILY MASSES

7:00, 8:00 & 11:45 A.M. & 5:30 P.M.
July 17-25: 7:30 P.M. Mass in Spanish
Solemn Closing in Spanish: Fri., July 25, 7:30 P.M.

CONFESSIONS

Lower Basilica for 30 minutes prior to each Mass & the 3:30 P.M. Novena Service, and after all services

CHILDREN'S MASS & NOVENA PRAYERS

Saturday, July 19, 10:00 A.M.;
Special Blessing for Families and Grandparents

MASS OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Wednesday, July 23, 1:30 P.M.

SUNDAY, JULY 20

MASSES

7:00 A.M., 8:00 A.M., 11:45 A.M., & 5:30 P.M.
7:30 P.M. Mass in Spanish

SUNDAY, JULY 20

Celebration of Grandparents & Elderly at Mass

NOVENA DEVOTIONS

After 8:00 & 11:45 A.M. & 5:30 P.M. Masses; w/Novena only at 3:30 P.M. • 7:30 P.M. Mass & Novena in Spanish

SAINT ANN'S FEAST DAY SATURDAY, JULY 26

CONFESSIONS 4:00 A.M.

MASSES & DEVOTIONS

4:30, 7:00, 8:00, 10:00 & 11:45 A.M.
3:30 P.M. (Novena only) & 5:30 P.M.

LANGUAGE SERVICE

1:30 P.M. - POLISH in Upper Basilica



Individual Blessing with Relic of St. Ann After Each Devotion

SOLEMN CLOSING SATURDAY, JULY 26, AT 7:30 P.M.

Pontifical Mass celebrated by Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.

CTV COVERAGE OF THE SOLEMN NOVENA

Every Day at 12:00 pm and 3:30 pm; Weeknights at 7:00 pm (except Thursday July 24 at 8:00 pm)

Closing Mass live Saturday July 26 at 7:30 pm; Rebroadcast Sunday July 27 at 12:00 pm

LOCAL TV COVERAGE

WQMY - Thurs. 7/17 & Fri. 7/18 - 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm; Sat. 7/19 - 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm & Sun. 7/20 - Noon to 1:00 pm

Mon. 7/21 through Fri. 7/25 - 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm & Sat. 7/26 - Noon to 1:00 pm; Solemn Closing - 7/27 - Noon to 1:30 pm

Comcast/Channel #11 & #811 • Service Electric/Channel #11 • Dish/Channel #53 • DirecTV/Channel #53 • Over-the-Air/Channel #53.1

BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF ST. ANN PASSIONIST MONASTERY

1239 SAINT ANN STREET

SCRANTON, PA 18504

For the convenience of the people attending the novena, refreshments will be available on the monastery grounds during the entire novena.

Bishop to celebrate 150th anniversary of Saint Thomas Aquinas Church

ARCHBALD – On Saturday, Aug. 16, 2025, parishioners and friends of Saint Thomas Aquinas Church in Archbald are invited to gather in joyful thanksgiving as the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, returns to celebrate a special Mass marking the 150th anniversary of the church's dedication.

The liturgy will take place at 4:00 p.m. and all are welcome.

The anniversary celebration not only marks a milestone in bricks and mortar – but also an enduring legacy of faith and community that has defined the church community since the 1800s.

“It will be 150 years plus a day,” noted Father Ryan Glenn, pastor of Christ the King Parish, of which Saint Thomas Aquinas Church is a worship site. “It was originally consecrated by the First Bishop of Scranton on Aug. 15, 1875, and it really is a testimony to the faith of the people. They were primarily coal miners.”

Saint Thomas Aquinas Church was built during a time when nearly every man in the parish worked in the mines.

Historical records show that while the church was being constructed, the mines were on “half time.” A group of those early parishioners asked the officials of the D & H Gravity Mine to operate the mines an extra week so that the money could be turned over to the parish priest to meet the congregation's obligations.

The company agreed and approximately \$7,500 was paid into the church treasury to almost wipe out the debt of construction.



This early photo of Saint Thomas Aquinas Church reveals the majesty of the Archbald house of worship, jutting heavenward at the foothills of the borough's coal banks which dominated the modest landscape of the period. (Photo/The Catholic Light archives)



A Mass celebrating the 150th anniversary of dedication of Saint Thomas Aquinas Church in Archbald will be held on Saturday, Aug. 16, 2025. (Photo/Christ the King Parish)

“It's amazing to think of the faith of the people who really built such a magnificent church,” Father Ryan added.

WITHSTANDING TEST OF TIME

The deep connection between the church and its people has never been more evident than in moments of hardship.

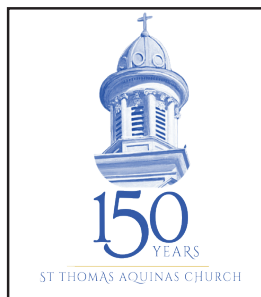
That was on display most significantly 15 years ago when the ceiling of the church collapsed. At the time, the pastor was none other than Monsignor Joseph Bambera, now Bishop of Scranton.

“That always comes up when people mention him here,” Father Glenn shared with a smile. “Saint Thomas Church has been through a lot ... (It) has been renovated back to its original glory.”

Today, the church stands not only as a stunning architectural landmark, but as a living home for generations of faithful.



The interior of Saint Thomas Aquinas Church in Archbald, as shown from the choir loft. At the center is a painting of the crucified Christ that has been hanging on the back wall for more than a century.



in 1949 and 1950, which reflect the life and concerns of Catholics in the mid-20th century.

One depicts Saint Maria Goretti, newly canonized at the time. Another includes a sickle and hammer symbol – an artistic reflection of prayer and hope for peace during the Cold War era.

“When you go in and pray and look around, it's reflective of a faith that is living and alive,” Father Ryan explained. “The art and architecture are reflective of a living community of faith.”

Even children are drawn into that history. During First Communion preparation, Father Ryan gives a tour of the church – and one detail always delights.

“There are two dogs depicted in the church murals,” he laughed. “One sits at the feet of Jesus in the home of Mary and Martha. There is another dog in the big mural of Saint Thomas Aquinas that reflects the legend of Saint Dominic.”

HOMECOMING AND HOPE

Following the anniversary Mass, all are invited to a social in the church hall.

Father Ryan said whether a person has worshipped at Saint Thomas Aquinas Church their entire life, or moved away years ago, the upcoming anniversary Mass is a moment to come home.

“It is a nice moment for us to recognize our history – but also to realize that we keep moving forward,” he said. “The mission of the Church continues: to serve the poor, to preach the Gospel, and to worship the Lord.”

“We have Mass every day in Saint Thomas Aquinas Church,” Father Ryan explained. “It's amazing to think of the countless individuals who have gone through here, were baptized, confirmed, had weddings and funerals. It's not just the beauty of the building; it's the extraordinary community housed here.”

One of the treasures inside is a painting of the Crucifixion that hangs on the back wall behind the altar – and is nearly as old as the building itself. Generations have prayed before it, creating an unbroken thread of devotion stretching across generations.

“To think for well over 100 years, people have been praying before that same image of the crucified Christ,” Father Ryan said. “It's really amazing to have that connection in faith with people that were here well before us.”

‘LIVING COMMUNITY OF FAITH’

Over the past 150 years, the church has seen renovations and additions, including the vibrant stained-glass windows installed

Pope names former King's College official to Vatican Dicastery position

VATICAN CITY - Three North Americans are among recent appointees to Vatican dicasteries that address issues of ecumenism and interreligious dialogue.

On July 3, Pope Leo XIV appointed Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski of St. Louis and Cardinal Frank Leo of Toronto as members of the Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue, along with 19 other bishops from around the world.

The same day, Pope Leo appointed Holy Cross Father Russell McDougall as a consultant of the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity. Father McDougall is executive director of the U.S. Conference

of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

From 2019-2023, Father McDougall served as assistant director of campus ministry, theology faculty member, and superior of the local Holy Cross community at King's College in Wilkes-Barre.

The Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity describes itself as promoting within the church "an authentic ecumenical spirit" and as "active in all areas that can contribute to promoting Christian unity by strengthening relationships with other Churches and Ecclesial Communities."

In addition to being a former rector



Father Russell McDougall, C.S.C.

M.Div. from the University of Notre Dame and S.S.L. from the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome. He made final vows in the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1990 and was ordained a priest in 1991.

As chair of the United States Bishops' Committee for Ecumenism and Interreligious Affairs, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, has worked closely with Father McDougall.

"In his own quiet, thoughtful, and prayerful way, Father Russ has demonstrated well his capacity as an informed ecumenist, an experienced leader, and a priest committed to fulfilling Jesus' prayer that his followers might all be one. He has earned the respect and appreciation not only of his Catholic colleagues but of our ecumenical and interreligious partners, particularly during unsettled and challenging times for many of our brothers and sisters of different faith traditions," Bishop Bambera said. "He will undoubtedly serve our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, and our Church well."

of the University of Notre Dame's Tantar Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem, Father McDougall also worked in parochial ministry at Holy Cross Parish in Nairobi, Kenya, and as formation director, academic dean, and lecturer in Old Testament at the Queen of Apostles Philosophy Centre in Jinja, Uganda.

Originally from Northwest Indiana, Father McDougall received his B.A. and

APPOINTMENTS

His Excellency, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, announces the following appointments, effective as indicated:

Reverend Benito Hierro Aquino, CSMA, to Parochial Vicar of the newly consolidated parish of Saint Pius of Pietrelcina Parish, Hazleton, effective July 1, 2025.

Reverend Thomas J. Dzwonczyk, to Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Dunmore, and SS Anthony & Rocco Parish, Dunmore, effective July 7, 2025.

Reverend Anthony Generose, to Pastor of the newly consolidated parish of Our Lady of Peace Parish, Hazleton, effective July 1, 2025.

Reverend Andrew T. McCarroll, to Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of the Snows Parish, Clarks Summit, and Saint Gregory Parish, Clarks Green, effective July 7, 2025.

Reverend Kevin M. Miller, to Pastor of the newly consolidated parish of Saint Pius of Pietrelcina Parish, Hazleton, effective July 1, 2025.

Reverend Rafael Ofarril Bermudez Gonzalez, to Parochial Vicar of the newly consolidated parish of Our Lady of Peace Parish, Hazleton, effective July 1, 2025.

Reverend Naftali Feliz Sena, to Parochial Vicar of the newly consolidated parish of Saint Pius of Pietrelcina Parish, Hazleton, effective July 1, 2025.

Reverend Scott P. Sterowski, to Pastor of the newly consolidated parish of Blessed Carlo Acutis Parish, Olyphant, effective July 1, 2025.

DEACONS

Deacon John P. Musyt, to Diaconal Ministry at the newly consolidated parish of Blessed Carlo Acutis Parish, Olyphant, effective July 1, 2025.

Deacon Robert Roman, from diaconal ministry at Queen of Heaven Parish, Hazleton, to Retirement, effective July 1, 2025.



BISHOP BAMBERA'S SCHEDULE

July 11-17 - Catholic-Pentecostal International Dialogue
Quebec City, Quebec, Canada

July 24 - Mass of Remembrance for Victims of Violent or Tragic Death
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 7:00 p.m.

July 26 - Closing Mass for the Solemn Novena to Saint Ann
Saint Ann Basilica, West Scranton, 7:30 p.m.

August 2 - Mass Celebrating 50th Anniversary of St. Boniface Dedication
Saint Boniface Church, Williamsport, 4:00 p.m.

August 3 - Closing Mass for Catholic Charismatic Conference
The University of Scranton, Scranton, 1:30 p.m.

August 4 - Catholic Charismatic Leadership Retreat
Nanticoke Retreat Center, Nanticoke, 11:00 a.m.

August 16 - Mass Celebrating 150th Anniversary of St. Thomas Aquinas Dedication
Saint Thomas Aquinas Church, Archbald, 4:00 p.m.

August 17 - Mass at Blessed Carlo Acutis Parish
Saint Patrick Church, Olyphant, 11:00 a.m.

Father Patrick McLaughlin dies after serving Scranton Diocese 51 years

HAZLETON — The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant of a Pontifical Mass of Christian Burial for Father Patrick J. McLaughlin on June 23 in Saint Gabriel Church at Saint Pius of Pietrelcina Parish, Hazleton.

Father McLaughlin, who was pastor emeritus of Immaculate Conception Parish in Scranton, died June 16 at Lehigh Valley Hospice Care, Allentown, following 51 years of faithful ministry in the Diocese of Scranton. He was 77.

Born in Hazleton on March 17, 1948, son of the late John and Claire McNertney McLaughlin, Father McLaughlin graduated from Saint Gabriel High School, Hazleton, and attended Saint Charles College, Catonsville, Md.

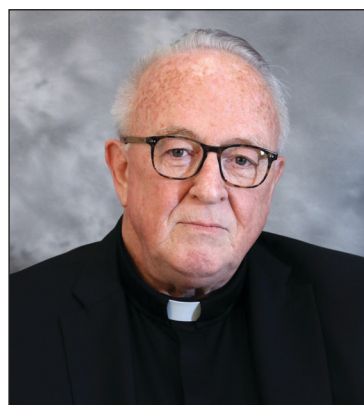
As a seminarian in priestly formation at Saint Pius X Seminary, Dalton, he graduated from The University of Scranton with a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy.

Father McLaughlin completed his preparatory studies and theological training at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, Md., and was ordained to the priesthood for the Scranton Diocese on May 18, 1974, in the Cathedral of Saint Peter by the late Most Rev. J. Carroll McCormick, sixth Bishop of Scranton.

Following ordination, Father served in a summer assignment as assistant pastor of Saint Patrick Parish, Milford, after which he was appointed assistant pastor at Saint Ignatius Parish, Kingston.

In June 1981, he was named to an assistant pastorate at Saint Matthew Parish, East Stroudsburg, where he served until his appointment as chaplain at Mount Saint Mary's College, Emmitsburg, Md., in March 1982.

Father McLaughlin returned to his home diocese in September 1988, when he was assigned his first pastorate, at Saint Basil Parish in Dushore. While serving



Father Patrick J. McLaughlin

as the pastor in Dushore, he was also appointed in May 1993 as administrator *pro tem* of Saint Francis Church in Mildred, where he assumed that pastorate two months later.

From 1998 to 2006, Father served as pastor of the Hazleton parishes of Holy Trinity and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, after which he assumed the pastorate of Saint Joseph Parish in Friendsville for one year.

After serving as pastor of

Christ the King Parish, Blakeslee, from July 2007 to October 2009, Father McLaughlin was assigned as administrator of Immaculate Conception Parish in the Hill section of Scranton.

He was appointed pastor of the parish community in July 2010, and served for 13 years until his retirement as pastor emeritus of Immaculate Conception on July 11, 2023.

In addition to his parochial duties, Father McLaughlin served the Scranton Diocese as Dean of Bradford-Sullivan Counties (1992-94) and Dean of the Hazleton Deanery (2001-06).

Father John Doris, a longtime friend and fellow retiree of Father McLaughlin — the two Diocesan priests stepped down from active ministry together in 2023 — delivered the homily for the Mass of Christian Burial.

"I believe a person's life is really one's own unique Gospel, and we are called to express Jesus in our own unique way,"

Father Doris related. "Father Pat possessed an outrageous sense of wit and humor. With this gift, he could attract so many to knowing the Lord with joy and laughter."

Referring to Father McLaughlin's well-known appreciation for fine art, artistry and design, the homilist continued, "Pat had a love for very fine paintings, and he could not only see beauty in art but help explain the very beauty of his Creator through the artist's perspective."

Father Doris added, "One of Father Pat's greatest gifts was that of floral design. He loved to beautify his parish surroundings and brought that love to the retirement Villa by providing floral designs all over."

Surviving are a sister, Anne Gennaro and her husband, Frank; brother, Timothy McLaughlin and his wife, Lori; and numerous nieces and nephews and great nieces and great nephews.

Interment was held at Saint Gabriel's Cemetery in Hazleton.

Monsignor William Feldcamp dies after marking 60 years of priesthood in Diocese

SCRANTON — The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant of a Pontifical Mass of Christian Burial for Monsignor William J. Feldcamp on June 30 at Saint Paul Church in the Green Ridge section of Scranton.

Monsignor Feldcamp, pastor emeritus of Saint Paul Parish, died June 24 at Saint Mary's Villa Nursing Home in Elmhurst, under the care of Sacred Heart Hospice, following 60 years of faithful priestly ministry in the Diocese of Scranton. He was 85.

Born in Scranton on Dec. 24, 1939, son of the late William and Mary Moriarity Feldcamp, Monsignor Feldcamp was a graduate of South Scranton Catholic High School and attended The University of Scranton.

He completed his seminary training and preparatory studies for the priesthood at Saint Mary's

Seminary in Baltimore, Md., and was ordained a priest for the Scranton Diocese on June 12, 1965, in the Cathedral of Saint Peter by the late Most Rev. Jerome D. Hannan, fifth Bishop of Scranton.

Following ordination, Monsignor Feldcamp served as assistant director of Camp Saint Andrew, Tunkhannock; assistant pastor of the parishes of Holy Rosary, North Scranton; Saint Clare, Scranton; and Our Lady of the Snows, Clarks Summit; and catechist at Kingston Central Catholic High School.

Monsignor received his first pastorate in 1979, at Saint Mary Parish in Wyalusing. Subsequent pastoral assignments included Saint Thomas More Parish, Lake Ariel, in 1982; and Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Honesdale, in 1985.

In 1992, he was appointed pastor of Saint Rose of Lima



Monsignor William J. Feldcamp

Parish in Carbondale, where he served for nine years, during which time he was named Prelate of Honor (with the title of Monsignor) on March 14, 1998, by Pope Saint John Paul II.

Monsignor Feldcamp was assigned as pastor of Saint Clare Parish, Scranton, in 2001. Six years later, in 2007, he also assumed the pastoral duties of nearby Saint Paul Parish, where

he continued to serve until his retirement and appointment as pastor emeritus on June 29, 2015.

Following his retirement from pastoral ministry, he continued to serve the Diocese as a sacramental minister at Saint Mary's Villa Personal Care and Nursing Home in Elmhurst.

In addition to his parochial duties, Monsignor held the Office of Episcopal Vicar for Consecrated Life from 2005 to 2009. He also served as Dean of Priests for Wayne County; director of religious formation at Bishop Hannan High School, Scranton; and as a member of the Diocesan Board of Consultors and the Office of Continuing Education of Priests Advisory Board.

"Through ordination and beyond, Monsignor's accomplishments as curate, pastor, member of the many diocesan and school boards,

and consultor, demonstrated his creative leadership and pastoral skills," Father Gerard McGlone offered in the funeral homily for his dear friend of nearly 40 years.

"In a very disciplined way, like an athlete or scholar, Monsignor tried to do his best in any situation. And Monsignor did his best. He 'caught' what it was to be a disciple of Christ in many ways throughout his life — as a man, as a friend, and as a priest."

The homilist continued, "He was really a priest's priest, and that is where many present here today can appreciate his pastoral friendship, his dedication and his sense of humor."

Father McGlone spoke of Monsignor Feldcamp's well-known visitation ministry at area nursing homes and hospitals, noting he, himself, experienced the Monsignor's kind and generous company at such times.

Continued on Page 11

Monsignor William Ward dies at age 94; served as Diocesan priest for 68 years

HAZLETON — The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant of a Pontifical Mass of Christian Burial for Monsignor William P. Ward on July 2 in Saint Gabriel Church at Saint Pius of Pietrelcina Parish, Hazleton.

Monsignor Ward, pastor emeritus of Saint Vincent de Paul Parish in Milford, died June 27 at Smith Health Care, Mountain Top, following 68 years of ministry as a priest of the Diocese of Scranton. He was 94.

Born April 30, 1931, in Hazleton, son of the late Patrick and Elizabeth Breslin Ward, Monsignor Ward graduated from Saint Gabriel High School, Hazleton, and attended Mount Saint Mary's College in Emmitsburg, Md.

Having completed his seminary training and preparatory/theological studies, he was ordained to the priesthood for the Scranton Diocese on June 15, 1957, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter by the late Most Rev. Jerome D. Hannan, fifth Bishop of Scranton.

Following ordination,

Monsignor Ward served as an assistant pastor at the parishes of Saint Patrick, Milford; Saint Mary of Mount Carmel, Dunmore; Saint Agnes, Forest City; and Saint Matthew, East Stroudsburg. In 1968, he was named assistant chaplain at Saint Francis Chapel in Eagles Mere, Sullivan County, where he was appointed chaplain in 1970.

Monsignor Ward assumed the role of spiritual director of the Pontifical North American College in Vatican City, Rome, in June 1970.

Upon return to his home Diocese in 1974, Monsignor was assigned as pastor of Sacred Heart of Mary Parish, Jermyn, where he served until being appointed pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Pittston, in 1979.

After serving in the Pittston pastorate for five years, during which he was named a Prelate of Honor (with the title of Monsignor) in March 1983, he received his pastoral appointment to Saint Jude Parish, Mountain Top, in 1984.

In 1992, Monsignor Ward



Monsignor William P. Ward

was named pastor of Saint Vincent de Paul Parish in Dingman Hills (Milford), serving for 14 years until his retirement as pastor emeritus on July 6, 2006.

During 2004-06, he also served as chaplain of Mercy Center in Dallas. He later filled administrative roles at the parishes of Saint Mary of the Assumption in Wyalusing (2007) and Saint Rita, Gouldsboro (2008).

Monsignor also served as Defender of the Bond in the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal; spiritual director and librarian at Saint Pius X Seminary, Dalton; chairman of Region VI for the "Follow Christ!" evangelization

program; chaplain of Marian Convent at Marywood University; and Dean of Pike County.

Deacon Bill Behm of Our Lady of Hope Parish in Wilkes-Barre served as homilist for the funeral liturgy of Monsignor Ward, his close friend and former spiritual director.

"At the very heart of the Gospels is Jesus' injunction to love God above all things — and to love your neighbor as yourself. Monsignor William Ward lived his life in the light of those words," Deacon Behm began, later relating that he first met Monsignor when he began his diaconate formation in 2011.

The Deacon related, "Sure (Monsignor Ward) preached God's word from the pulpit, but he also

preached the Gospel by the life he lived, and the love he shared."

The homilist continued by sharing a dramatic account of when a young Father Ward courageously saved the Blessed Sacrament from the burning parish church where he was serving as assistant pastor.

"I was surprised to learn this quiet and unassuming man actually ran into that church, even as it was already engulfed in flames," Deacon Behm explained. "He crawled to reach the tabernacle where he rescued the Real Presence of our God, our Savior, and our Brother."

Monsignor Ward is survived by several cousins.

Interment was held at Saint Gabriel's Cemetery, Hazleton.

Monsignor Feldcamp dies at Saint Mary's Villa

Continued from Page 10

"His ministry at Saint Mary's Villa brought the joy of the Gospel to so many residents and staff. And he brought that great smile and energy to all and to everything he did."

Monsignor Feldcamp is survived by numerous cousins.

He was also preceded in death by a sister, Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Mary Feldcamp.

Interment was held at Cathedral Cemetery in West Scranton.

Father Eugene Carr, Scranton Diocesan priest 62 years, dies at 90; Funeral Mass on Monday

SCRANTON — The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as principal celebrant of a Pontifical Mass of Christian Burial for Father Eugene R. Carr on Monday, July 21, at 11 a.m. in Holy Rosary Church at Mary, Mother of God Parish, 316 William St., North Scranton.

Father Carr, who faithfully served as a priest of the Diocese of Scranton for 62 years, died July 13 — three days after he marked his 90th birthday.

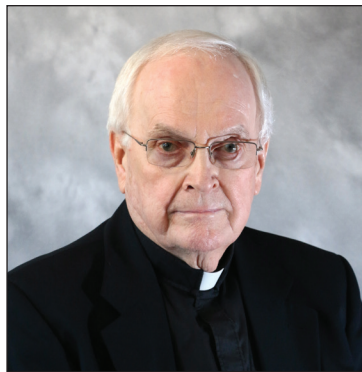
Born July 10, 1935, in Hazleton, son of the late Eugene "Gene" and Elizabeth Theresa "Betty" Trovitch Carr, Father Carr was a graduate of West Hazleton High School and Saint Bonaventure University in Olean, N.Y., where he earned his bachelor

of arts degree.

As a seminarian for the Scranton Diocese, Father Carr completed his theological/preparatory studies and priestly formation at Christ the King Seminary in Olean. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 8, 1963, in the Cathedral of Saint Peter by the late Most Rev. Jerome D. Hannan, fifth Bishop of Scranton.

Following ordination, Father Carr served in a summer assignment as assistant pastor *pro tem* at Christ the King Parish in Dunmore. In September of 1963, he was appointed chaplain at Saint Joseph's Hospital in Hazleton.

He was named assistant pastor of Saint Mary Parish, Avoca, in 1966, and three years later was



Father Eugene R. Carr

appointed to serve as assistant pastor of Holy Rosary Parish, North Scranton.

Father Carr received his first pastorate in July 1978, when he was assigned the pastoral duties of Saint Basil Parish in Dushore. He would serve in Dushore until he was named the pastor of Sacred

Heart of Mary Parish, Jermyn, in February 1985, where he served for 11 years.

In July 1996, Father received his last pastoral appointment, to Saint John the Evangelist Parish in South Scranton. Four years later, he was appointed Senior Priest and retired from active ministry on July 5, 2000.

Father Carr celebrated the 60th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on June 8, 2023, with a Pontifical Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Bishop Bambera.

Well known as an ardent follower of UConn (University of Connecticut) basketball, Father Carr also practiced his passion for planting trees — many of which still thrive and beautify the

grounds of his priestly assignments through the years — and enjoyed sharing his gardening knowledge with others.

Surviving are his sister, Marjorie Lestishock, Allentown; brother, James Carr, Lancaster; a niece, Lisa Lestishock and her husband, Alfonso Estrada, Oakland, Calif.; and several cousins.

He was also preceded in death by a brother-in-law, Joseph Lestishock, in 1977; and nephew, Joseph J. Lestishock, in 2003.

Viewing will be held Sunday, July 20, from 6 to 7 p.m. at Mary, Mother of God Parish (Holy Rosary Church), concluding with a Vesper service.

Interment is scheduled for Calvary Cemetery in Drums.

Pope leads Corpus Christi procession through streets of Rome

ROME (CNS) - In carrying Jesus through the city streets in a Corpus Christi procession, Christians are called to be witnesses of his love, sharing both their material and spiritual gifts, Pope Leo XIV said.

A procession with the Eucharist is a way to present Jesus “to the hearts of those who believe, so that they may believe more firmly” and “to the hearts of those who do not believe, so that they may reflect on the hunger present within them and the bread that alone can satisfy it,” the pope said in his homily June 22.

Pope Leo celebrated an early evening Mass outside Rome’s Basilica of St. John Lateran for the feast of the Body and Blood of the Lord before joining thousands of people - including children who had recently received their first Communion - for the Corpus Christi procession to the Basilica of St. Mary Major, about a mile away.

Pope Leo carried the monstrance with the consecrated host under a golden canopy held by eight members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. When he reached the Marian basilica about 45 minutes later, he presided over Benediction.



Under a canopy, Pope Leo XIV carries the Eucharist in a monstrance during a Corpus Christi procession from Rome’s Basilica of St. John Lateran to the Basilica of St. Mary Major June 22, 2025. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)

The Gospel reading for the Mass was St. Luke’s account of Jesus multiplying five loaves of bread and two fish to feed a crowd of thousands.

“Jesus responds to the appeal of hunger with the sign of sharing: he raises his eyes, recites the blessing, breaks the bread and feeds all present,” the pope said.

“The Lord’s actions are not some complicated magical rite,” he said. Rather, “they simply show his gratitude to the Father, his filial prayer and the fraternal communion sustained by the Holy Spirit.”

At the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, preached about the Body and Blood of the Lord being “the heart of our Catholic faith.”

“Our hearts should well up in praise of God for the sublime gift of His presence, found in the simple gifts of bread and wine,” Bishop Bambera said. “Likewise, our spirits should gratefully claim the promise of Jesus to be with us always and to give us food for the journey of faith that we are called to live with and for a broken world - our struggling sisters and brothers.”

The National Eucharistic Revival, a three-year initiative renewing U.S. Catholics’ devotion to the Real Presence, formally concluded on Corpus Christi Sunday.

But organizers say its mission continues.

Leaders plan to build on the revival with annual pilgrimages and future congresses, including a proposed 2029 event.

Corpus Christi Processions Throughout the Diocese of Scranton



Saint Michael Parish, Canton



SS Peter and Paul Parish, Towanda



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Wyalusing



Saint Ann Parish, Williamsport



Holy Child Parish, Mansfield



Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton

Registration deadline for Jubilee Year Pilgrimage approaching on Aug. 18

SCRANTON - The registration deadline for the Diocese of Scranton's upcoming Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is quickly approaching in just about one month.

In order to ensure that all bus transportation can be arranged, a registration deadline of Aug. 18 has been established.

On Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will lead a Jubilee Year of Hope Pilgrimage to the Basilica in Washington, D.C.

The day will include opportunities for public as well as private prayer, confessions, touring the National Shrine as well as the campus of The Catholic University of America, and conclude with Mass.

There are two ways to register.

The first way is to visit the Diocese of Scranton website (dioceseofscranton.org) and click on the "Jubilee Year Pilgrimage" tab. You can then fill in your information and pay by debit or credit card or PayPal account.

The second way to register is to contact your local parish office. Many parishes are



signing up pilgrims and will forward that information to the Diocese.

The cost of the bus trip is \$80 per person. Once all of the registration information is received on Aug. 18, bus roster and arrival/departure locations will be finalized and communicated to attendees at the end of August.

Please note: There is a list of Frequently Asked Questions regarding the Pilgrimage on the Diocese of Scranton website.

Anyone with questions can email Father Andrew Hvozdovic, Diocesan Director of Pilgrimages, at ahvoz87@gmail.com or call (570) 639-1535.

Mocanaqua parish Church-to-Church annual 'Walking Pilgrimage' slated

MOCANAQUA - Holy Spirit Parish announces its third annual "walking pilgrimage" will take place Saturday, July 26, starting at Saint Mary Church in Mocanaqua and concluding at Saint Adalbert Church in Glen Lyon.

The traditional pilgrimage will begin at 8:00 a.m. with sacramental confessions and prayers at Saint Mary Church, 130 Rectory Road, Mocanaqua.

The pilgrims will set out at 9:00 a.m. for their approximate six-mile trek through the Mocanaqua Tract of the Pinchot State Forest, which will culminate with the celebration of Holy Mass at Saint Adalbert Church.

Lunch will be served, and bus transportation back to Mocanaqua will be available.

The public is invited to participate in the pilgrimage, either by walking or submitting prayer requests carried by the pilgrims.

To register, contact Raphael Micca at (570) 301-9253 or email rdmicca@aol.com.



About 40 faithful made the trek from Mocanaqua to Glen Lyon during last year's Holy Spirit Parish 'Walking Pilgrimage.' This year's event will be held on July 26.

com prior to July 21.

The pilgrimage will be held rain or shine. Participants are asked to dress accordingly and modestly.

This local walk is reminiscent of the treks made by the early coal mining families of Mocanaqua. During the 1890s and early 1900s, Mass was offered in a chapel in town once a month by the pastor of St. Adalbert Church. On other Sundays, the faithful walked from Mocanaqua to Glen Lyon for Mass on a route similar to the one planned for this year's walking pilgrimage.

Vocations Golf Classic tees up support for seminarians

DORRANCE TWP. – Under a bright summer sky, more than 120 golfers teed off at the Blue Ridge Trail Golf Club on June 30, 2025, for the annual Vocations Golf Classic.

For more than a decade, the tournament has served a vital purpose: raising money to support the education, formation, and daily living expenses of Diocese of Scranton seminarians – young men discerning the call to the priesthood.

Held in honor of the late John Yourishen, a devoted supporter of vocations and a faithful friend of the tournament, this year's event continued to celebrate his memory with generosity and a shared commitment to the future of the Church.

Despite temperatures in the 80s, golfers enjoyed a full day on the course, grateful that rain showers stayed away, allowing everyone to complete their rounds.

Father Alex Roche, Diocesan Secretary for Clergy Formation, who also served as tournament chairperson, said the mission behind the tournament is always front and center.

"Our number of seminarians is increasing and with more seminarians means more responsibilities, more schools, more needs, so it's absolutely necessary that as we grow as a church, we continue to support these young men who feel called to be priests," Father Alex said.

Throughout the day,



Rev. Sudhir Toppo, pastor, Most Holy Trinity Parish, tees off during the Vocations Golf Classic.

seminarians had the opportunity to engage with attendees, whether by playing alongside them, assisting at various holes, or simply offering their heartfelt thanks.

"It's absolutely incredible to be able to meet people from all over the diocese, you really don't get that experience a lot," seminarian Antonio Ingargiola

said.

"I'm happy to see so many people coming out and supporting us, being able to talk and share conversations with us," seminarian Peter Stec added.

Participants were also eager to reflect on why they return year after year.

"I play in this every year with a bunch of my friends," Ned George, a parishioner at Queen of the Apostles Parish in Avoca, stated. "It's the fellowship. It's a great day for everyone. It helps the Vocations Office with education and it's good for all members of different parishes to come together."

"It's a good day to be out together," Tom Jones, a parishioner of Saint John Bosco

Parish in Conyngham, added. "We need to get good individuals who want to serve the Lord."

As the day wrapped up with dinner, a short program and awards, the tournament once again proved that the church's mission is not only built in chapels and classrooms but also on fairways and through friendships.

"The greatness of this day is contagious. Everybody seems to be in a good mood. It's for a great cause and we fully support it," Jim Glenn, a parishioner of Saint Jude Parish in Mountain Top, explained.

A list of sponsors and supporters are contained on the following two pages of *The Catholic Light*.



TO OUR
**ST. ANDREW,
 PATRON OF GOLFERS,
 PRESENTING SPONSORS**
Tom and Mari Hendrian



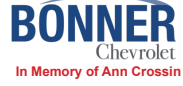
ST. ALPHONSUS, PATRON OF VOCATIONS, MISSION SPONSORS

Deacon Robert Sheils, Jr.; Atty. Robert Sheils, III; Dr. Albert Stofko;
 Our Lady of the Snows Parish, Clarks Summit; and St. Gregory Parish, Clarks Green



ST. JULIAN, PATRON OF HOSPITALITY, SPONSORS

Rita Ives Loyal Friend of the Vocations Golf Classic
 Frank & Sandy Orlando Dave & Maggie Roche SS Peter & Paul Parish, Plains



Mrs. Irene Bambara
 Msgr. David Bohr
 Sue & Joe Boris

ST. CHARLES SPONSORS

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Medico
 Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Duryea
 Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Dunmore
 SS Anthony & Rocco Parish, Dunmore
 St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish, Kingston

St. Jude Parish, Mountain Top
 St. Maria Goretti Parish, Lafflin
 St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Williamsport
 Tambur Family Foundation



Dr. Thomas Dzwonczyk Sr. & Dr. Stephanie Boyarsky
 Rev. Ryan P. Glenn – In Honor of Diocese of Scranton Seminarrians
 Sandy Insalaco, Sr.



St. Matthew Parish, East Stroudsburg - In Honor of Deacon Jan Carlo Perez and our seminarrians - Jacob Mutchler, Nicholas Wasko, and Cody Yarnall





Diocese of Scranton
VOCATIONS
John Yourishen Memorial Tournament
GOLF CLASSIC



LOYOLA SPONSORS

Mr. & Mrs. Joe Barry, in Memory of David F. Shaw
Charles A. Battenberg, Battenberg Furniture in Honor of Favorite Nephew/ Seminarian Jacob Mutchler
Tom & Renee Boland
Charles W. Grimm Construction, Inc.
Christ the King Parish, Archbald

Epiphany Parish, Sayre
Damage Control, Inc.
John H. Graham
Holy Family Parish, Luzerne
I&M Wealth Advisors
Rhoda Kuharchik, in Memory of Walt Kuharchik, Jack Yourishen, and Rev. Bill Healy
Lackawanna Mobile X-Ray
Msgr. Peter P. Madus, in Memory of Helen Madus Garvey
Oliver, Price & Rhodes, LLP

Mr. Sean Pittack, in Memory of Frank Ryczak
Rev. Alex Roche, in Honor of the Seminarians of the Diocese of Scranton Sisters of I.H.M., in Memory of Msgr. Anthony C. Marra
Jonathan A. Spohrer, Esq.
St. Ann Parish, Williamsport
Troy Mechanical, Inc.
Michael & Mary Wolf
Chris & Sherry Wood, in Memory of Richard & Jean K. Wood

Annunciation Parish, Hazleton, in Memory of Rick Felty
Msgr. John Bendik, in Memory of John & Helen Bendik
Msgr. John A. Bergamo, in Memory of Deceased Members of Class of 1965
Burgess Church Supply
Patrick & Maureen Carey, in Memory of Leo Carey
Mr. & Mrs. John Churnetski
St. Therese Parish, Shavertown
Corpus Christi Parish, West Pittston
Rev. Charles J. Cummings
Rev. Cyril D. Edwards
Donald C. Fenocchi, in Memory of Rev. John J. Kelly
Rev. J. Duane Gavitt
William Genello
Generose Plumbing & Heating, LLC, in Memory of Robert A. Generose, Sr.

VIANNEY ANGELS

Gerrity's the Fresh Grocer
Jonathan & Mary Kay Hubbard, in Memory of Marilouise & Tom Ruane; Martin A. Ruane
Joseph E. Janc
Deacon Ed & Mrs. Patti Kelly, in Memory of Marilouise Agnone Ruane
King's College
Deacon Matt & Carolyn Lorent, in Memory of Rev. William Healey
Kim Marchese, in Honor of Msgr. John Esseff
Marshall Machinery, Inc.
Rev. James E. McGahagan, in Memory of Rev. John Foley
Parish Families of All Saints, Plymouth & St. John the Baptist, Larksville

Rev. Joseph J. Pisaneschi, in Memory of Jean Marie Pisaneschi
Mrs. Karen Polednak, in Memory of my Dad, Michael T. Goskowski
Sharon Porcello, in Memory of Joseph Porcello, Sr.
Rev. Gerald Shantillo
Mark J. Sobek Roof Consulting, Inc.
St. Boniface Parish, Williamsport
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Swoyersville
St. Paul Parish, Scranton
St. Thomas More Parish, Lake Ariel
Joseph & Mallory Strubeck
Msgr. David Tressler, in Memory of Mr. David Tressler, Sr.



Rev. John T. Albosta
Rev. James J. Alco, in Memory of James D. & Grace Alco
George & Mary Andresky
Arcaro & Genell Restaurant & Catering
Bedwick's Pharmacy & Gifts
Rev. Joseph W. Bucolo, in Memory of Msgr. Stanley Piorkowski
Atty. Joseph Carmody, in Memory of Rev. William F. Hines
Deacon Tom & Sunny Cesarini, in Memory of Deacon Bill Dervinis
Deacon & Mrs. Joseph Chmiola, in Memory of William Murphy
Deacon Don & Kathy Crane
Ms. Carla M. Preate DeCarli
Toni Ann Divizio & Family, in Memory of Msgr. Anthony C. Marra
Michael & Mary Doherty
Rev. Joseph Elston
Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, Hanover Twp., in Honor of Rev. Andrew McCarroll
Rev. Sam J. Ferretti
Dorothy & Mario Fitzgerald, in Memory of Deceased Family Members

VIANNEY FRIENDS

James Glenn
Constance Hathaway, in Memory of Thomas E. Hathaway
Deacon Frank & Joan Hine, in Memory of All Souls in Purgatory
Deacon Walter Janoski
Christopher & Katlyn Joyce, in Memory of Barbara Magnotta
Rev. John J. Kilpatrick
Knights of Columbus Council 7403, Lake Ariel
Knights of Columbus Council 7622, in Memory of Deceased Members of 7622
The Kowalski Family, in Honor of Rev. Andrew McCarroll
Legacy Mark LLC
Deacon Leo & Nancy Lynn
Most Holy Trinity Parish, Susquehanna, in Memory of Deceased Members of Most Holy Trinity Parish
Queen of the Apostles Parish, Avoca
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald McCann

Todd & Judy McCarroll
Rev. Connell A. McHugh, in Memory of Rev. Harold Mulrooney
Diane Mosley, in Memory of Michael Mosley Jr.
Rev. Thomas Muldowney, in Memory of David A. Clarke
Jerome Musheno
Thomas & Roseann O'Connor
Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Carbondale, in Honor of Rev. Seth Wasnock, Episcopal Vicar for Clergy, Happy 10th Anniversary
Orloski's Wash & Lube
Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Parish, Freeland
Rev. Carmen J. Perry
Pesavento Monuments
Juli Reese
Msgr. Walter Rossi, in Memory of Loretta Rossi
Msgr. Dale Rupert
Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Conyngham, in Honor of Rev. Patrick McDowell

Sempa Family, in Memory of Frank Sempa
Rev. Joseph S. Sitko, in Memory of Mary T. Sitko
John & Roseanne Skaluba, in Memory of Msgr. George Demuth
St. John Bosco Parish, Conyngham, in Honor of Deceased Priests of St. John Bosco Parish
St. Joseph Marelo Parish, Pittston
St. John the Evangelist Parish, Pittston
Joseph W. Scotchlas Funeral Home, Inc., in Memory of Rev. Hilary Malinowski
Mark Soprano
Mr. Edward & Mrs. Deborah Steinbacher, in Memory of Robert G. Steinbacher
Mr. Thomas F. Torbik, in Memory of Gene Brady
George Vagelakos, in Memory of Leo Weir, and in Honor of Walter Dillon
Joan Walker, in Memory of Deceased Family Members
Wegman's
Robert & Sandra Wenzel, in Honor of Rev. Alex J. Roche
John S. White Insurance
Kieran Williams, in Honor of Rev. Don Williams

Diocese of Scranton
CATHOLIC
 SCHOOL SYSTEM
 FAITH • ACADEMICS • SERVICE

The Diocese of Scranton is committed to educating our students in an environment that is academically excellent and facilitates the development of moral judgment and Christian decision-making. We are proud to share the following successes of our students in the classroom and in their service to others. Each day, our schools are fulfilling their mission of preparing today's youth and young adults to become tomorrow's faith-filled leaders.



Introducing the 2025-2026 Student Council Officers for **Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg**: President Georggel Bioh, Vice President Matthew Vispo, Secretary Sarah Angelucci, and Treasurer Bryn Medina.



The administration of **Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston** celebrated with all the former GSA students who graduated from Holy Redeemer High School this past May.



Jaden Pimentel and Edeline Fernandez, students at **Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School in Wilkes-Barre**, help the less fortunate by packing non-perishable goods that will be used at the food pantry at Saint Nicholas Church.



The eighth grade class from **All Saints Academy in Scranton** visited Saint Ann's Basilica on their Rosary Walk a few weeks before they became ASA Alumni.



The sixth grade class at **Saint Agnes School in Towanda** celebrate its graduation with Father Jose Joseph Kuriappilly, pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Parish, who is actively involved with the school community.



Students at **Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter** practiced reading a recipe, measuring ingredients while adding fractions, and creating delicious desserts while attending the school's summer baking camp. Sweets made included pancake muffins, mini cheesecakes, brownies in a cone, cake pops, brownie pizzas, monkey bread, and thumbprint cookies.



Congratulations to the 2025 graduating class at **La Salle Academy in Jessup**.



Big smiles all around from the students of **Saint Jude School in Mountain Top** who represented the school in the community's Independence Day parade.



Second graders at **Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport** celebrate their First Holy Communion at an end-of-the-year Mass.



The Pre-K 4 class at **Epiphany School in Sayre** celebrates the last day of school with camp day.



This summer, students from **Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore** attended art camp. The campers proudly show the mixed-media mushrooms they created.



The 2025 graduating class from **Holy Cross High School in Dunmore** is filled with legacy families. This year's graduates are shown posing with their parents and grandparents who also graduated from a Lackawanna County Catholic high school.



Under the watchful guidance of Mr. Bedford, students from **Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green** worked on their basketball skills through a variety of skill challenges.

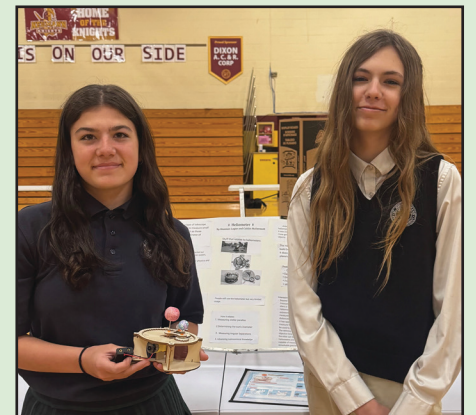


Students at **Holy Rosary School in Duryea** participated in a summer theatre camp where they designed & built sets, as well as performed a play for family and friends.



Students at **Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton** enjoyed the beautiful end-of-school-year weather and ate lunch outside together.

Seventh graders at **Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School in Williamsport** participated in an end-of-school-year STREAM Fair, where they built robots and mechanical devices.



Proclamations, performances highlight World Refugee Celebration

SCRANTON – Not even stormy skies could keep the joy and energy from the 2025 World Refugee Day celebration from shining through at Nay Aug Park on Sunday, June 22, 2025.

Just hours before the scheduled 2 p.m. start, heavy rain pushed through Scranton, but as if on cue, it stopped just in time for the ninth annual celebration to begin – ushering in a hot, humid afternoon filled with music, dancing, food, and an unmistakable sense of community.

Several hundred people turned out for the event, which brought together families, neighbors, and refugees from across northeastern Pennsylvania to celebrate resilience, culture, and the beauty of diversity under the theme: “A World Where Refugees Are Always Welcomed.”

This year’s celebration was extended by an hour due to its growing popularity. It featured a variety of cultural dance performances, international food, children’s activities and more.

During the event, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop



The World Refugee Day 2025 celebration at Nay Aug Park in Scranton featured several cultural dance performances. (Photo/Mike Melisky)

of Scranton, offered remarks that reminded everyone present that while the day is a celebration, it is also a moment of reflection.

“Let our prayer today be a simple prayer for peace. Let us pray, let us lift our voices and hearts in prayer for peace in the Middle East, in the Holy Land and in the areas that are facing the reality of war and conflict like never before,” Bishop Bambera said. “Let us also pray for peace at home, and I hope you call Scranton and northeastern Pennsylvania your home because you are most welcome here. May

God give you the peace and grace to live in harmony with your families, to work freely for them and for their well-being, and to protect them so that you can work with us so that we can continue to build a community based on love, fraternity and gratitude to God for all that we have been given.”

The Bishop’s message resonated with many in the crowd, especially as refugee families continue to face growing challenges – from navigating immigration systems to accessing housing, employment, and healthcare.

As of the end of 2024, the

UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) reported that nearly 124 million people have been forced to flee their homes globally due to persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations, or events seriously disturbing public order. Among them are nearly 43 million refugees.

“World Refugee Day is an opportunity to honor the strength and resilience to those who have been forcibly displaced,” Julie Schumacher Cohen, Assistant Vice President of Community Engagement and Government Affairs at The University of Scranton, said.

“The reason for this celebration is to let refugees know that we are here to support them and to let them know that they are appreciated and they are our neighbors, and they are welcome in Scranton,” Fikile Ryder, Director of Community for Catholic Social Services, added.

The World Refugee Day celebration brought together more than 25 community agencies that set up tables, offered interactive games and activities, or provided

resources or information.

“The diversity is beautiful. From the food to our clothing, to everything you see around us,” Ushu Mukelo from the Congolese Community of Scranton, said. “There is no United States without immigration. There is no United States without refugee resettlement. We help make this country what it is. We work in factories, we pay taxes, we buy property.”

“We are proud to be here,” Chandra Sitaula with the Bhutanese Cultural Foundation of Scranton, added. “Bhutanese are peace lovers. That is why the U.S. Government accepted us as refugees.”

Two proclamations were also read during the event – one from the City of Scranton and another from the Pennsylvania Governor’s Office – both recognizing World Refugee Day and reaffirming a shared commitment to inclusion, dignity, and opportunity for all.

“Refugees and immigrants bring different opportunities and skills into the United States. Their culture, their food, their dancing, it makes the United States richer and more welcoming,” Ryder said.

Holy Spirit moves powerfully at Second Diocesan Hispanic Charismatic Congress

SCRANTON – The Diocesan Pastoral Center was alive with music and heartfelt praise as several hundred people gathered for the Second Diocesan Hispanic Charismatic Congress on Saturday, July 12, 2025.

The event brought together Spanish-speaking Charismatic prayer groups from different parishes around the Diocese of Scranton for a powerful day of worship, learning, and renewal.

Attendees came from many corners of the diocese—Stroudsburg, Hazleton and beyond – united with the purpose of experiencing the presence of the Holy Spirit. The day was marked by vibrant music, animated preaching, and

spontaneous expressions of faith, a hallmark of the Charismatic Renewal.

“This one is magnificent,” Consuelo Corrales, a parishioner of Saint Luke Parish in Stroudsburg, said. “It is life changing. People are being touched by the Holy Spirit very deep in their hearts.”

For Corrales, the day was more than just a gathering, it was a spiritual encounter.

“This joy, I cannot withstand in my heart. It is so amazing. I would love for everyone to feel and recognize that the Holy Spirit is within us. It just needs to be awakened.”

The conference built on the success of last year’s inaugural



The Second Diocesan Hispanic Charismatic Congress took place in Scranton on July 12, 2025. (Photo/Dan Piazza)

event and reflects a growing movement within Hispanic communities in the Diocese.

“We’re trying to bring all the people from within our communities here to enjoy and grow in faith,” Brenda Bonilla,

who coordinates the Charismatic prayer group at Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish in Scranton, said. “We just share our faith; we live our faith and enjoy our faith together.”

The lively atmosphere included music provided by members of Our Lady of Peace Parish in Hazleton, and featured guest speakers, including one from Albany, N.Y.

But the focus remained firmly on spiritual renewal and community.

“We praise the Lord a lot,” Angeles Youells, coordinator

for the Hispanic Charismatic groups, explained. “We ask for the Holy Spirit to come and heal any bad feelings in the hearts of people.”

For Youells, who has been in the movement for 18 years, the Charismatic Renewal has brought her deeper into her faith.

“I’ve been Catholic my whole life, but I never knew the love of God until I found this group.”

Whether you speak English or Spanish, all are welcome to experience the power of the Holy Spirit at the 43rd annual Catholic Charismatic Conference, taking place Aug. 1-3 at The University of Scranton. For more information, visit CCRScranton.org.

Summer Guide to Church Festivals & Picnics

Saint Nicholas-Saint Mary in Wilkes-Barre — July 17-19. Annual Parish Bazaar held on the Saint Nicholas church grounds, 226 South Washington St., Wilkes-Barre, beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and following the 4 p.m. Vigil Mass on Saturday. Bazaar features a variety of ethnic foods and traditional American menu items, including Mexican & Caribbean specialties. Event includes cash prize raffle drawings, bingo, bountiful baskets, and picnic games for all ages. Giant flea market opens on Thursday at 1 p.m. Live musical entertainment nightly from 7 to 10:30 p.m. by Flaxy Morgan (Thursday); Popstar Drive (Friday); and Kartune (Saturday).

Saint Joseph Marelo in Pittston — July 17-19. Annual three-day summer picnic held on Thursday, Friday & Saturday from 5 to 10 p.m. on the grounds of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 237 William St., Pittston. Festival features ethnic and traditional food & beverage favorites, including porketta, pizza frita, potato pancakes, cannoli, pizza, and beer tent; also features picnic & children's games, basket raffles and large indoor flea market. Live nightly musical entertainment by The Taxmen (Thursday), Joyce School of Irish Dance, followed by Flaxy Morgan (Friday), and the Sperazza Band (Saturday).

Saint Eulalia in Roaring Brook Township — July 18 & 19 (5 to 10 p.m.). Summer Festival held on the church picnic grounds, 214 Blue Shutters Road, will feature homemade ethnic & picnic foods, Grandma's Attic flea market, and activities for all ages. Friday musical entertainment: Shio (Classic Rock Band), 5:45 to 8:45 p.m.; Saturday: Electric

City Steel Drum Project, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., followed by Alex "The Crooner" Nebraska, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Festival weekend includes the 15th Annual Jerry Mahon 5K race event on Saturday, beginning at 9 a.m. (rain or shine). Pre-registration required for all participants. For more information on the summer festival and race, visit: sainteulalias.com/festival-and-5K.

Exaltation of the Holy Cross in Hanover Township — July 18-20. "Big Tent Bazaar 2025" held on the church grounds, 420 Main Road, Buttonwood section, on Friday, 6 to 11 p.m.; Saturday (following the 4 p.m. Vigil Mass), 5 p.m. to midnight; and Sunday, 5 to 11 p.m. Featuring homemade ethnic foods & baked goods, theme baskets, assorted games, mega cash raffle, and "Wagon of Cheer." Live nightly entertainment features: Souled Out (Friday, 7 to 11 p.m.); OZ (Saturday, 5 to 7:30 p.m.), followed by Popstar Drive (8 p.m. to midnight); and Third Degree (Sunday, 5 to 7:

30 p.m.), followed by Tom Slick & The Converted Thunderbolt Greaseslappers (8 to 11 p.m.).

Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Hunlock Creek — July 25 & 26 (5 to 10 p.m.). Parish "Summer Fest 2025" held on the church grounds at Lake Silkworth, 2011 State Route 29. Tent-covered two-day event features a huge indoor flea market, theme baskets, festival games and homemade foods. Musical entertainment provided by Kartune (Friday) and Popstar Drive (Saturday). Flea market also open on Sunday following the morning Masses (8:30 & 11 a.m.).

Christ the King in Archbald/Eynon/Jermyn & Mayfield — July 25-27. Summer picnic held on the grounds of Saint Mary of Czestochowa Church, Betty & Main streets, Eynon, beginning on Friday & Saturday at 5 p.m., and Sunday, at 3 p.m. Festival includes ethnic & American food favorites, beer tent, children's games,

basket & cash raffle drawings, and "House of Treasures" market. Live musical entertainment features Pour Decisions (Friday, 6 to 10 p.m.); The JOB (Saturday, 6 to 10 p.m.); and Frost Duo (Sunday, 3 to 7 p.m.).

Saint Robert Bellarmine in Wilkes-Barre — July 31, Aug. 1 & 2. The "St. Al's Church Bazaar" held Thursday & Friday, from 6 to 10 p.m.; Saturday, 5 to 11 p.m., on the Saint Aloysius Church grounds, 143 West Division St. Picnic foods, including sausage & peppers, potato pancakes, halushki, and Gerry's Pizza; and games for all ages. Musical entertainment: Thursday, Triple Threat; Friday, Popstar Drive; and Saturday, Strawberry Jam.

Our Lady of Victory in Tannersville — Aug. 1 & 2 (5 to 9 p.m.). Annual Homecoming Bazaar held Friday & Saturday on the Our Lady of Victory parish grounds, 327 Cherry Lane Road, Tannersville. Festivities feature food, fun & games for the whole family, including popular ethnic food favorites: pierogi, halupki, potato pancakes, cannoli, and sausage & peppers. Festival attractions also include grand raffle drawing, theme basket raffles, used book tent, and bingo games; featuring new Beer & Wine Garden and casino games.

Blessed Carlo Acutis in Throop — Aug. 2 & 3. Throop parish's annual Family Festival held on Saturday & Sunday at

Continued on Page 20

The Parish Community of Saint Nicholas-Saint Mary
226 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET, WILKES-BARRE • 570-823-7736
(on the grounds of St. Nicholas Church)

Fr. Joseph Verespy, Fr. Fidel Ticona,
Deacon Michael Golubiewski, and Parishioners
Invite Everyone to the

PARISH BAZAAR

Thursday, Friday, Saturday
JULY 17, 18, 19

Opens 5:30PM Thursday & Friday • Opens after 4PM Mass on Saturday

Giant Flea Market (Opens at 1 PM Thurs.) • Games • Bingo
• Fun for All Ages • Ethnic Food • Bountiful Baskets
• Raffle (1st prize 50-50) + 49 prizes

Live Music 7:00 PM to 10:30 PM

Thursday: Flaxy Morgan • Friday: Popstar Drive • Saturday: Kartune

Bratwurst, Haluski, Pierogies, Potato Pancakes, Piggies, Pizza,
Chicken Wings, Mexican/Caribbean Food, Fried Dough,
Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, French Fries and more!



Saint Eulalia
— PARISH —

SUMMER FESTIVAL | JULY 18-19
5-10 p.m.

Homemade Food, Grandma's Attic, & more...

WEEKEND ENTERTAINMENT:

FRI., JULY 18	5:45-8:45 PM » Shio (rock band)
SAT., JULY 19	5:30-6:30 PM » Electric City Steel Drum Project 6:30-8:30 PM » Alex "the Crooner"

214 Blue Shutters Road, Roaring Brook Township
sainteulalias.com

Summer Guide to Church Festivals & Picnics

Continued from Page 19

Saint Anthony of Padua Church grounds & hall, 215 Rebecca Street, Throop. Festival features a

Saturday youth event at 9 a.m. on the grounds; live entertainment begins at 5 p.m. Traditional ethnic and picnic foods will follow from 3 to 9 p.m., including halushki,

potato pancakes, pierogi, sausage & peppers, pizza frita, wimpies, funnel fries, porketta & meatball sandwiches. Sunday bingo games start at 1 p.m. (doors open at noon) in the parish hall; featuring special food menu, theme basket raffles, and grand prize cash drawing at 4:30 p.m.

Saint Ann Basilica in Scranton — Aug. 3. Saint Ann Basilica Parish in West Scranton hosts its 11th annual “Car Show & Chicken BBQ” on Sunday, Aug. 3, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., beginning with the all-day car show. Featuring afternoon barbecue dinner, picnic foods, gift baskets, raffle drawings & prizes; entertainment for all ages. Dinner tickets available at the Saint Ann Parish Office & Shrine Gift Shop. Deadline for purchase is July 27.

Saint John the Evangelist in Pittston — Aug. 7-9. “Summer Fest ’25,” the three-night parish picnic, will be held Thursday thru Saturday from 5 to 10 p.m. at the pastoral center and parish grounds, Church & Broad streets in downtown Pittston. Festival attractions include ethnic & traditional picnic foods, variety booths, bingo, children’s games, raffle drawings, and baked goods.

Featured nightly entertainment: Thursday, The Taxmen; Friday, Joe Stanky & The Cadets; and Saturday, Flaxy Morgan.

Saint Matthew in East Stroudsburg — Aug. 8-10. Summer festival held on Friday & Saturday, from 5 to 10 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 6 p.m. on the parish grounds, 78 Ridgeway St., East Stroudsburg. Three-day event includes live entertainment, homemade international foods & desserts, beer & wine garden, bingo prizes, kids’ toy bingo & games, raffle drawings, and mega cash raffle. Featured music headliners include: Who Knows Band, Kevin MacIntire (The Elvis Show), Joey & The T Birds, Video Daze Band, Robbie Junior Music, Tempo Allegre, and Lori Woodward.

Our Lady of Peace in Hazleton — Aug. 8-10. Parish’s 126th annual “La Madonna del Monte Festival” honoring the Blessed Mother includes devotional services; festival food nights & live entertainment Friday & Saturday. Sunday pasta & meatball dinner served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the church hall (pre-orders preferred; walk-ins welcome). Sunday’s festivities open with celebration of Mass at 10:30 a.m., followed by the traditional “Madonna del Monte” procession through neighborhood streets, followed by benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto. Event also includes homemade ethnic & American picnic foods, games for all ages, bake sale, tricky trays and money wheel. Live musical entertainment: Jim Cerminaro (Friday, 5 to 7 p.m.) and Kartune (Saturday, 6 to 9 p.m.).

Saint John the Baptist in Larksville — Aug. 8-10. Saint John’s Church Bazaar returns on Friday, 6 to 11 p.m.; Saturday, 5 to 10 p.m.; and Sunday, 3 to 8 p.m. on the parish grounds, Nesbitt St., Larksville. Homemade Polish,

Slovak & American foods, games for all ages, bountiful theme baskets and live music nightly: John Stevens’ Doubleshot, 20 Lb. Head, and Chasing Ashlee.

Saint Jude in Mountain Top — Aug. 8-10. Parish’s 72nd annual “Picnic in the Grove” held Friday & Saturday, from 4 to 10 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 8 p.m., at the Saint Jude Grove, 420 South Mountain Boulevard (Route 309), Mountain Top. Features ethnic & traditional picnic foods, including homemade pierogi and halushki; games, basket raffles and entertainment for all ages. Chicken BBQ Dinner starts at noon on Sunday. Live nightly music: DGM (Friday, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.); Rockaholic (Saturday, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.); and DJ Mike (Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.).

Saints Anthony & Rocco/Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Dunmore — Aug. 8-10. The Dunmore parishes’ annual three-day “Italian Festival” hosted on the grounds and pavilion area at Saint Rocco Church, 122 Kurtz St., Bunker Hill section of Dunmore. Festivities — including homemade ethnic & picnic foods, games & activities, theme baskets, cappuccino & cookie stand, designer purse stand, plush animal stand, and live daily entertainment — get underway on Friday and Saturday at 5 p.m., and Sunday following the noon Mass & procession.

BVM of the Visitation in Dickson City — Aug. 9. Saint Mary Parish will participate in the “Dickson City Days” celebration of the borough’s 150th Anniversary. The parish will sponsor a food & soft drink stand at the “Dickson Day” festival on Saturday, Aug. 9, at the Eagle Hose Co., 1 Eagle Lane, Dickson City.

Continued on Page 21

Homecoming Bazaar Friday & Saturday Aug 1st & 2nd .. 5 PM-9 PM

FOOD

Tables & Tents
Take Out

Cheese Steak
Pierogi
Halupki
Potato Pancakes
Chicken Sandwich
Sausage & Peppers
Kids Menu
Ice Cream
Cannoli

RAFFLES

Big \$\$\$ Raffle Tickets
\$2. Chance...
Top Prize \$2000.00

Basket Raffles
Mystery Packages
Games
Children’s Area
Big 6
Poker Table
Used Book Tent
Bingo is back

New!
-Beer n
Wine Garden
-Big 6 &
Poker Table

Our Lady of Victory Church, Tannersville Pa

Our Family...Your Family...One Family!

www.olvchurch.com or 570-629-4572 for more information.

(GPS) 327 Cherry Lane Rd, Bartonsville Pa 18321

CHRIST THE KING PARISH PICNIC

The Catholic Community of Archbald, Eynon, Jermyn, & Mayfield

JULY 25, 26, 27, 2025

Friday— Pour Decisions

6:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.
Picnic starts at 5:00 P.M.

Saturday— The JOB

6:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.
Picnic starts at 5:00 P.M.

Sunday— Frost Duo

3:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.
Picnic starts at 3:00 P.M.

Beer Tent, Bake Sale, and the following Ethnic and American cuisine:

Cabbage & Noodles, Potato Pancakes, Pierogi with onion & butter or deep fried, Pigs in the Blanket, Pagach, Sausage Plain, Sausage with peppers, Steak & Cheese, Steak & Cheese with Peppers and Onions, Steak Sub Hoagie, Texas Burger, Kielbasa with Kraut, Texas Weiner, Wimpie, Porketta, Clam Chowder, French Fries, Hamburger, Hot Dog Plain or Hot Dog with Kraut, Pizza, Pizza-Frita, Funnel Fries

Visit the

Choice is Yours Raffle Stand, Children’s Games, Florence’s Basket Raffles, Match-for-Cash, Pull Tab Games, House of Treasures

PLUS CASH RAFFLE!!

Held on the grounds of St. Mary of Czestochowa Church, corner of Betty & Main Streets, Eynon.





Summer Guide to Church Festivals & Picnics



Prince of Peace in Old Forge — Aug. 10. The Old Forge parish is sponsoring its annual Chicken Barbecue & Basket Raffle/Cash Drawing event on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the parking lot of nearby Arcaro & Genell restaurant, located on Main Street. Dinner is prepared by Arcaro & Genell's and is take-out only. Cost for the dinner is \$15 per person and includes a barbecued half-chicken, corn, pasta salad, roll & dessert. Walk-ins are limited and advance orders are encouraged. For advance tickets, contact the parish rectory at (570) 457-5900 by Aug. 4. Tickets also sold before and after all weekend Masses.

Saint Boniface in Williamsport — Aug. 10. Annual Sunday Summer Picnic gathers at

noon, with lunch served at 1 p.m., at the South Williamsport Picnic Pavilion & Sports Complex on East Central Avenue. Parish provides hamburgers/hot dogs, drinks, games & prizes. All are welcome to bring their favorite covered-dish foods and desserts. For more information, call Christine Dell (570) 326-1544.

Saint Ann in Williamsport — Aug. 13-24. Saint Ann Parish will participate once again in the Little League concessions fundraiser held in conjunction with the Little League World Series in South Williamsport from Wednesday, Aug. 13, thru Sunday, Aug. 24. The parish will introduce their official Saint Ann Little League Pins for \$5 each, available at the parish office.

Saint Juliana Rock Lake Picnic — Aug. 16. Sponsored by Saint Katharine Drexel Parish, the 187th Anniversary Summer Festival held on the grounds of Saint Juliana Church, 2048 Creamton Drive (Route 247), Pleasant Mount. "Old Fashioned Church Picnic" features a variety of homemade foods and traditional festival & ethnic menu items. Saturday picnic also includes Finders' Market, theme basket & cash drawings, pie/bake sale, art tent, and games for all ages.

Saint Elizabeth/Saint Mark in Bear Creek — Aug. 23, (noon to 7 p.m.). Parish's Sunday "SummerFest" held at the Bear Creek Community Charter School Pavilion. Summer festival features chicken dinner, live

music, theme baskets raffles, cash drawing, bake sale and bingo.

Saint Mary of the Lake in Lake Winola — Aug. 27-Sept. 1. Lake Winola parish will sponsor a basket raffle at the annual Wyoming County Fair held through Labor Day on the county fairgrounds at 9141 US 6 in Meshoppen. Saint Mary of the Lake Booth at the Wyoming County Fair will feature raffle drawings on a variety of beautiful theme baskets. For more information, contact Liz Dempsey at (570) 563-1622.

Holy Spirit in Mocanaqua — Aug. 29-31. Two parish churches hold their summer festivals during Labor Day Weekend. Saint Martha Church, 260 Bonneville Road, Fairmount Springs, hosts its Festival & Chicken Dinner on Friday, Aug. 29, from 5 to 9 p.m.; Saturday, Aug. 30, 5 to 10 p.m.; and Sunday, Aug. 31, noon to 11 p.m. Dinners available both days; event includes ethnic

& picnic foods, basket raffle, flea market and live music. The Saint Mary Church Homecoming Picnic, at Saint Mary Park, Lee Road, Mocanaqua, will be held Saturday Aug. 30, 5 to 9:30 p.m., and Sunday, Aug. 31, 1 to 9:30 p.m. Picnic opens with Saturday Mass at 4 p.m. in the park. Weekend festivities include homemade ethnic food favorites pigs-in-blanket, pierogi, halushki, potato pancakes, turkette, and desserts; picnic refreshments, basket raffles & prize stands. Live entertainment on Saturday by The Music Room, and Flaxy Morgan on Sunday, 5 to 9:30 p.m.

Saint Boniface in Williamsport — Sept. 4-6. The 57th annual Parish Carnival held on the grounds of Saint Boniface Church, 326 Washington Blvd., Williamsport. Featuring nightly sit-down dinners (take-outs available) from 4 to 7 p.m. in the school gym; white elephant sale, 4 to 8 p.m.; and annual raffle

Continued on Page 22

SUMMER FEST '25

The Parish Community of
Saint John the Evangelist, Pittston, PA

AUGUST 7 • 8 • 9, 2025

Thursday, Friday, Saturday • 5:00 to 10:00 PM

Parish Grounds and Pastoral Center on Church and Broad Streets - Rain or Shine

ENTERTAINMENT NIGHTLY

Thurs. - *The Taxmen*

Fri. - *Joe Stanky and the Cadets*

Sat. - *Flaxy Morgan*

Delicious Food • Variety Booths
Bingo • Children's Games • Raffles



St. Joseph Melkite Greek-Catholic Church Lebanese-American Food Festival

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
AUGUST 8	AUGUST 9	AUGUST 10
4-9pm	4-9pm	1-7pm



Stuffed grape leaves, kibbee, kabobs, baklava, potato pancakes, sausage/peppers & more!

Baskets - 50/50

130 N. Cabrini Ave (off lower Jackson St.)

WEST SCRANTON

570-343-6092 • melkitescranton.org

\$1 OFF FOOD ITEM WITH THIS AD



Summer Guide to Church Festivals & Picnics

Continued from Page 21
drawing on final night at 10 p.m. Carnival includes homemade ethnic/picnic foods & treats, games, rides and bingo. Outside grounds open

Thursday & Friday at 6 p.m., and Saturday at 5 p.m.

Saint Thomas the Apostle in Elkland — Sept. 13. Parish "Fall Fest" held Saturday, 10

a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Knoxville Firemen's Field. Featuring chicken BBQ dinner (prepared by Knoxville VFW), Chinese basket raffle, picnic foods & games, arts & crafts vendor displays, flea market, cow pie bingo, and free play area for kids. Vendors wanted; call rectory at (814) 258-5121 for more information.

Saint Patrick in Nicholson — Oct. 5. Parish's Sunday afternoon Fall Festival held from noon to 4 p.m. on the church grounds. Festivities include a pork loin dinner & dessert; assorted festival foods, soups, pastries & basket raffle. For more information, call Liz Dempsey at (570) 563-1622.

Resurrection in Muncy — Sept. 19 & 20. Resurrection Parish will host its annual Fall Festival on Friday, from 4 to 7 p.m., and Saturday, from 1 to 7 p.m., on the parish grounds. Festival foods featuring homemade ethnic favorites, including kielbasa, stuffed cabbage, potato pancakes, pierogi & halushki, in addition to hot dogs, burgers & fries. Games for all ages include a candy wheel, Big Six and bingo; prize, quilt, cooler of cheer & basket raffle drawings. Also featuring homemade baked goods, fall mums sale and silent auction. Live musical entertainment: Friday, Rich Ahearn; Saturday, Catawissa Military Band.

For the full list of church picnics & festivals, visit: dioceseofscranton.org

SAINT JOHN'S Church Bazaar

Friday: 6PM-11PM Saturday: 5PM-10PM
Sunday: 3PM-8PM

ON THE PARISH GROUNDS, NESBITT STREET, LARKSVILLE, PA

FRIDAY - SATURDAY - SUNDAY
AUGUST 8 • 9 • 10



Live Music Nightly

Friday - John Stevens' Doubleshot 7pm-10pm
Saturday - 20 Lb. Head 7pm-10pm
Sunday - Chasing Ashlee 5pm-8pm

REFRESHMENTS ♦ AWARDS ♦ GAMES

50+ THEME BASKETS

Large Variety of Polish, Slovak & American Foods, including Sausage, Funnel Cakes & More!

We make our own Potato Pancake batter, Haluski Noodles, Pierogies, Clam Chowder, Rice Pudding, Desserts & More.
We even peel and cut our own French Fries.



St. Elizabeth/St. Mark SummerFest
Saturday, August 23, 2025
Noon - 7:00 p.m.
Bear Creek Community Charter School Pavilion
Bear Creek Twp.

- Live MUSIC
- Cornhole Tournament
- Basket Raffles
- 50/50 Drawings
- Bake Sale
- BINGO
- Homemade Foods
- Pierogi Piggy
- Chicken Dinner
- Pork BBQ
- Haluski and MUCH more.

August workshops to focus on discipleship and evangelization

SCRANTON - Just before He ascends to heaven, Jesus leaves His disciples with final directions: "Go and make disciples" (Matthew 28:19).

The Diocesan Office for Parish Life invites you to two different events next month focused on discipleship.

A registration link for both events is available on the Diocese of Scranton website (dioceseofscranton.org) or you can call the Diocesan Office for Parish Life at (570) 207-2213.

The first workshop on Wednesday, Aug. 6, is "The Characteristics of a Disciple."

What does it mean to be a disciple? What does a disciple look like, think like, act like? How can we know if we are making disciples?

This evening workshop with Fr. Jon Bielawski and Michele Thompson, Genesis Mission founders, will answer these questions and more.

Join us for an evening of inspiration whether you are a new disciple, a disciple-in-progress, or someone who wants to be a disciple maker.

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton

Cost: \$10, payable at door.

The second workshop on Thursday, Aug. 7, is "How to Evangelize."

We know we are supposed to share our faith, but how comfortable do we feel? What if we don't use the right words, or say the right thing? Even the word "evangelization" makes most of us cringe!

This workshop with Fr. Jon Bielawski and Michele Thompson, Genesis Mission founders, will show you how to build a culture of encounter. Throughout the day, they will illustrate methods to introduce our faith into everyday conversations.

This workshop is perfect for parish staff, catechetical leaders, catechists, youth ministers, adult formation leaders, and disciples of all ages and stages!

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton

Cost: \$30, payable at the door. Includes lunch and materials.

'Christmas in July' effort aims to brighten holidays for teens in need

SCRANTON – While most people are thinking about barbecues and beach trips this time of year, Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton is already thinking about Christmas – and the thousands of children who would otherwise go without gifts this holiday season.

This July, the Scranton and Carbondale offices of Catholic Social Services have launched a special 'Christmas in July' toy drive.

The goal?

To get a jump start on collecting donations for the annual 'Gifts for Kids' program, which brings hope and joy to families in need across northeastern Pennsylvania each December.

"People are often strapped around the holidays. They don't always have extra cash or extra time, so we thought if we can get ahead in July it will help us be prepared, Jolette Lyons, Director of Lackawanna County Offices for Catholic Social Services, explained.

Each year, with the help of



local parishes, generous donors, and volunteers, the 'Gifts for Kids' initiative provides presents to more than 5,000 children in the greater Scranton area. Families who pre-register for the program get the chance to personally choose gifts their children will love.

This summer's focus comes with a special request.

"Our focus age group is adolescents – ages 11 to 17 – because they're often the overlooked group," Lyons added.

Teenagers are often the most difficult age group to shop for –

and unfortunately, they're also the most likely to be left out. That's why the 'Christmas in July' appeal is specifically focused on collecting age-appropriate gifts for adolescents, such as sports equipment, Bluetooth speakers, makeup kits, art supplies and more.

"We have set up a QR Code and have a link to an Amazon Wish List where the gifts get shipped directly to our office. We keep an inventory of everything that comes in and we will use it for 'Gifts for Kids' in December," Lyons said.

Monetary donations are also welcome and will go directly toward purchasing gifts for children in need.

To donate or learn more, visit dioceseofscranton.org or click on the QR codes on the graphic below.



Gifts for Kids Scranton Program



Gifts for Kids Carbondale Program

AROUND THE WORLD TRAVEL

SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 1, 2025

Join Msgr. Patrick Pratico

on a trip to Washington D.C. to attend Bishop Bambera's Jubilee Pilgrimage Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

The trip will include transportation, hotel, full breakfast and visits to the St. John Paul National Shrine, the Capitol, Vietnam Memorial and Smithsonian Museum.

• \$299 PP/DBLE OR \$389 SINGLE •

For reservations call Around the World Travel 570-383-0544 or the parish office at 570-489-2091

AUGUST 27 - Penns Peak for the Jersey Beach Boys tribute to the Beach Boys & Frankie Valli with lunch and tour of Jim Thorpe \$125.

MAY 13-23, 2026 - Greece and the Greek Islands include a 7 day cruise on the Celestyal Journey. FOR MORE INFO CALL: 570-383-0544.

STUCKER TOURS

570-655-8458 • For a complete list of tours • www.stuckertours.com

Atlantic City Resorts Casino
Aug. 24-25 • \$225 \$15 Slotplay & \$25 Food credit.

Sept. 14-17 • \$409

\$30 Slotplay & \$75 Food credit.
Oct. 26-28 • \$309/\$20 Slotplay & \$50 Food credit.

Resorts World Catskills Casino
July 27, Oct. 5
(\$25 Slot & \$15 food credit) \$63

Wind Creek Casino • Aug. 30 & Nov. 30 (\$25 Slotplay) \$58

Dutch Apple Dinner Theater
Sept. 6 • "The Buddy Holly Story" relive the life of a legend. Follow the story & hear your favorite songs such as "Maybe Baby" & "That'll be the Day". Incl. a buffet, visit to Village Farm Mkt. \$199

THE GREEN DRAGON Farmers & Flea Market
Sept. 26, Over 100 local vendors, a shoppers delight of great bargains, plus a delicious meal on an authentic Amish dairy farm • \$149

Autumn in New England, Vermont & New Hampshire

Sept. 28-Oct. 2 • Luncheon cruise, train ride, 9 meals & 2 nights with beer, wine & entertainment, candy demo & tasting at Lake Champlain Chocolates, plus visit to Lake George, NY • \$1,299

Myrtle Beach, Savannah & Jekyll Island, GA Oct. 11-19 • Plantation tour, riverboat luncheon cruise, visit to St. Augustine, FL lighthouse & 3 narrated tram tours, 2 shows, 12 meals & much more • \$2369

Turning Stone Casino & Bingo Overnight • Great rebate package!
Nov. 16-17, \$55 in casino play or bingo plus \$20 food • \$299

"Elf" at Bucks County Playhouse & Peddlers Village • Nov. 29
A fun Christmas Musical based on the popular movie. Includes dinner (chicken francaise or glazed salmon) & time for shopping & enjoying the Christmas lights and displays • \$229

AUBURN TREE & SHRUB

Bringing knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to every job!

- ✓ **All types of tree and shrub pruning.**
- ✓ **Large shade trees to tiny ornamentals and everything in between.**
- ✓ **Proficient and technical tree climber.**
- ✓ **Beautifying landscapes for over 20 years.**
- ✓ **Specializing in fruit tree care.**

WORKING ALL YEAR ROUND!

Call Tim: 570-240-5161



TIM MORRIS
ISA
Certified
Arborist
MA-4561A

MISSION MESSAGE

Answering the Call to Mission: Pack Lightly & Walk Faithfully

By Shannon Kowalski
Diocesan Director of Pontifical Mission Societies



“Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals...” This is the directive from Luke’s Gospel we heard a few Sundays ago when Jesus commissioned 72 followers to go out two-by-two and evangelize. I don’t know about you, but that *is not* the way I travel... I am a notorious over-packer, cramming as much into my suitcase as the zipper (and airline weight restrictions) allows — always fearful that I won’t have enough clothes or necessities. I follow the “I’d rather have it and not need it, than need it and not have it” rule.

I am certain that I am not alone in my approach to travel. No money, no suitcase, no shoes is not only impractical — it’s downright dangerous in today’s world. Thankfully, the perks of travel efficiency are not what Jesus was trying to convey to His disciples. Rather, He was giving them a blueprint for mission. Missionaries are not tourists. They *must* travel light — not just materially but emotionally and spiritually — to remain fully available to the people and the Holy Spirit.

As I sat in Mass on the Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary time, Jesus’ words in Luke’s Gospel came to life for me as I listened to Father Tom Muldowney’s homily. He told the story of his great-aunt, who was a Religious Sister of Mercy who served as a missionary in British Guiana (now Guyana), South America.

Sister M. Consolata Muldowney was born in White Haven in 1903 and entered the Religious Sisters of Mercy in 1924, professing her first vows in 1927. Shortly after professing final vows, she volunteered for an assignment as a teacher at Saint Joseph Mercy High School — an all-girls boarding school in Georgetown, Guiana.



Sister Consolata
Muldowney, RSM

She was allowed to bring just one small suitcase containing only the essentials: a family photo, two spare habits, and a few personal belongings.

As a young nun, Sister Consolata was nervous and unsure of what was ahead of her in British Guiana. But convinced that the Holy Spirit was calling her to serve in a radical way, she went to Guiana for what she thought would be a four-year term, only to return to the United States 27 years later.

During her tenure, she served as principal and oversaw the expansion of Saint Joseph High School, including the institution of a Board of Governors and the groundbreaking of a new school. The construction of the new school opened the way for greater success for its students by allowing for an expanded curriculum and extracurricular activities, such as drama and ballet. Also, through the hard work of Sister Consolata, university boards gave permission for the Oxford and Cambridge examinations to be written at the school.

Her successful tenure is proof that evangelization isn’t self-directed ambition — it’s obedience to a call. Sister Consolata responded

generously to God’s invitation to serve the people in British Guiana and made a difference in the lives of thousands of students. She returned to Dallas, Pennsylvania, in 1964 with the very same suitcase she took with her 27 years earlier.

Like the 72 disciples and like Sister Consolata, we too are called to mission — not always across oceans, but often across the street, into our communities, classrooms, workplaces, and homes. The call to travel light reminds us to let go of what weighs us down: fear, control, pride, or self-interest.

When we loosen our grip on those things, we become freer to follow where Christ leads and more open to the people He places in our path. Evangelization isn’t about what we carry with us — it’s about the presence we bring and the Gospel we embody. May we have the courage to answer the call, pack lightly, and walk faithfully wherever the Spirit sends us.

PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES IN THE UNITED STATES

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith
Missionary Childhood Association
The Society of St. Peter the Apostle
Missionary Union of Priests and Religious

www.onefamilyinmission.org

VOLKSWAGENS
SALES - SERVICE - PARTS



KELLY MOTOR CO.
AUTHORIZED VOLKSWAGEN DEALER

S. Main at Elm, Scranton
570-347-5656

LOCAL CEMETERY MONUMENT DEALERS

MJ JUDGE MONUMENT COMPANY, INC

Call for appointment

▪ 570-829-4881 ▪

ST. MARY'S MONUMENT COMPANY, LLC

975 S Main St-Hanover Twp., PA

▪ 570-829-8138 ▪

CEMETERY MONUMENTS · MARKERS
LETTERING · CLEANING · RESTORATION

— www.stmarysmonumentcompany.com —

— stmary975@aol.com —



MESKO
glass

mesko.com

SCRANTON | WILKES-BARRE
HONESDALE | ALLENTOWN

Your *clear glass choice* for over **90 years.**

AUTO | COMMERCIAL | RESIDENTIAL



ROBERT RITTERBECK

Church Painting and Decorating

(570) 343-2899

Please visit our website at www.Ritterbeck.com

STATUES + STENCILS + GOLD LEAF + MURAL RESTORATION

MCDADE - CHICHILLA APARTMENTS

230 Lackawanna Avenue, Olyphant, PA 18447

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

- 62 or older, handicapped or disabled
- Apartments designed for the mobility handicapped

Rent based on 30% of your income.

Includes all utilities except cable and telephone.

Telephone: (570) 489-4756

- CLOSE TO ALL AMENITIES •



BUYING

Baseball • Football • Basketball
& Non-Sports Cards

Call John at 570-430-6633



Advertise in

The Catholic Light

570-207-2229

Eileen-Manley@DioceseofScranton.org

KEYSTONE ANTIQUES

WE BUY: Costume Jewelry – Coin Collections – Antiques & Old Furniture

If you are settling an estate, or have any: Gold; Silver; Coins; Mining or RR items; Dental Gold; Old Sewing Machines; Bookcases; B/R or D/R Furniture; Old Magazines, Toys; Pocket Watches; Guns; Baseball Cards - **ANYTHING OLD**, please give us a call!

- We have been in the estate furniture business since 1972 -
(no other antique dealer in this valley has been in business longer) **AND WE DO IT FULL TIME!**

— 570-498-6068 —

Complete Estate Cleanout Service • Keystone Antiques, Paul L. Cicon

S&K ANTIQUES

We buy old Christmas & Halloween items, as well as old toys, old advertising, military, mining & railroad items, musical instruments, beer items, lamps & clocks, sewing machines, watches, jewelry & more.

WE BUY ANYTHING OLD!

570-954-4023 • FREE APPRAISALS

ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES WANTED

1 ITEM OR COMPLETE ESTATES

Post Cards	Guns	Sewing
Books	Sporting Items	Machines
Military	Glassware	Light
Mining Items	Toys	Fixtures
Tools	Clocks	Magazines

570-430-2370



JMJ CATHOLIC RADIO HAS MOVED

FROM 98.9 FM TO 104.5 FM

The new station will reach over
300,000 listeners!

JMJ RADIO an EWTN Affiliate

Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement.

It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the *Code of Canon Law* and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator, Mary Beth Pacuska at (570) 862-7551.

Aviso al Respecto de Reportar el Abuso Sexual de Un Menor de Edad

Es la norma de la Diócesis de Scranton reportar cualquier alegación de abuso sexual de un menor de edad a las autoridades. Si usted es una víctima de abuso sexual cometido por un sacerdote, diácono, religioso o empleado laico, o voluntario de la Diócesis de Scranton, usted está obligado a reportar el asunto inmediatamente a las autoridades de la ley.

Si algún sacerdote, diácono, religioso, empleado laico o voluntario de la Diócesis de Scranton tiene sospecha de que un menor de edad ha sido sujeto a cualquier forma de abuso, incluyendo abuso sexual de menor de edad, el asunto será reportado a las autoridades de la ley.

Es la norma de la Diócesis defender todas las regulaciones civiles y del estado. Al fin de que la Diócesis esté comprometida igualmente a defender las normas del Código de Derecho Canónico y defender los principios de la Carta Para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes (Conferencia de los Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos), lo cual incluye apoyar a las víctimas de abuso sexual en pos del bienestar emocional y espiritual.

Por eso, información respecto a una alegación del asunto sexual de un menor de edad, debe ser reportada a la Coordinadora Diocesana de Asistencia para Las Víctimas, Mary Beth Pacuska, a (570) 862-7551.

Classifieds • Classifieds • Classifieds •

COUNSELING SERVICES

Patrick F. Cioni, M.S., M.A., L.P.C.
Individual & Marriage Counseling. Most
Insurances Accepted. 570-848-7272.

HAULING

JUNK REMOVAL WE HAUL FOR LESS

Senior citizen and Veteran discounts.
PA license #112108. Insured
Free Estimates • 570-687-7687
WEDOCLEANOUTS.com

WANTED TO BUY

Old books, postcards, cigarette lighters,
mining & railroad items, match box toys, all
antiques & anything old. 570-430-2370.

Looking to buy old cars or trucks.
Any condition. Cash paid.
Please call 570-575-1184

ADVERTISE

570-207-2229

EManley@DioceseofScranton.org

WANTED TO BUY

KEYSTONE ANTIQUES - We Buy:
Costume Jewelry; Coin Collections; Antiques
& Old Furniture. If you are settling an estate,
or have any: Gold; Silver; Coins; Mining or
RR items; Old Sewing Machines; Bookcases;
B/R or D/R Furniture - **ANYTHING OLD**,
please give us a call. We have been in the
estate furniture business since 1972 (no
other antique dealer in this valley has been in
business longer) and we do it full time. **Complete Estate Cleanout Service-Keystone
Antiques, Paul L. Cicon. 570-498-6068.**

Vacation Bible Camp held at Milford Parish



MILFORD - Area children recently enjoyed Vacation Bible Camp at Saint Patrick's Hall in Milford, Pike County.

Directed by Laurie Barcia, with the able assistance of both senior and young adult volunteers, it was a three day "getaway" filled with outdoor games and activities, arts and crafts, creative bracelet making, chalk art, kickball, hula hoop action and, of course, Bible-themed stories, songs and lively discussion.

The camp afforded the youngsters a chance to make new friends, grow in faith and celebrate God's creation under the summer sky.

Knights of Columbus host inaugural district-wide BBQ



MILFORD - Knights of Columbus John Paul II Council 13935 in Milford hosted a first-ever Knights' district-wide summer barbecue event over the Fourth of July Weekend on the grounds of Saint Patrick Parish, Milford.

Brother Knights in attendance hailed from Our Lady of the Mountain Council 9832, Saint John Neumann/Good Shepherd Council 12571 & Saint John Council 11935.

CORRECTION: In the June 19, 2025, edition of The Catholic Light, we misidentified the woman who helped lock the doors of Nativity Church in a photo. Sue Gilday is the woman who helped lock the door that was pictured. Mary Joan Burns helped lock another door that was not pictured. We regret the error and apologize for any confusion.

Looking for the Perfect Monument?

Stop by to see why we are the preferred memorial provider.

SELECTION

• Tri-state area's largest • Over 400 memorials on display • More than 25 color choices

QUALIFICATION

• Family owned and operated for over 130 years • Recommended by more than 15 funeral homes • Superior workmanship

PRICE

• Buy direct from the manufacturer
• **NO MIDDLEMAN!**

Serving All Catholic Cemeteries in NE PA

The clear choice for all your memorial needs



Martin Caufield Memorial Works

249 Sunrise Ave., Honesdale, PA 18431

1-800-824-5293 • 570-253-3300 • FAX: 570-253-3360

www.martincaufieldmemorialworks.com

mcmwphil@ptd.net

Full Service Granite Company Since 1877

MARTZ
EST. 1908 **BUS**



Make Friends & Memories With Us



ROCKETTES

December 13, 15 & 27

A Holiday Classic - Orchestra 5 & 6

\$241 - \$299



CAPITAL CHRISTMAS

December 1-4

4 Days/3 Nights • DC-VA-MD

\$975 - \$1,345 based on occupancy



CAPE MAY CHRISTMAS

December 16-18 • 3 Days/2 Nights

Tours - Meals - Winery

\$700 - \$850 based on occupancy

Use Code HOLLY20
& **SAVE \$20** on any
Christmas trip.
EXPIRES 7/31/2025

Save \$20 now on all of these holiday tours:

Nov. 12: Christmas Candy Caper
Nov. 28: "A Christmas Story-The Musical"
Nov. 29: "Deck the Halls" at AMT
Dec. 2: Country Christmas Jamboree

Dec. 3: "Holiday Inn" at Dutch Apple
Dec. 4: An Elvis Christmas
Dec. 11: "Elf-The Musical"
Dec. 12: A Mount Hope Holiday

Check www.MartzTours.com — Join our email list for tour specials! Call 570-361-9668 for more information.

Marian Devotion Rosary prayer services

Upcoming Marian Devotion gatherings are scheduled as follows:

Monday Evening Marian Rosary Devotion — July 21, at 6 p.m. at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laffin.

Thursday Evening Bilingual Rosary Devotion — Aug. 14 (Vigil of the Assumption of the Blessed Mother), at 6 p.m. at Most Holy Trinity Parish in Cresco.

Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Rosary

& Mass — Aug. 15, begins 5 p.m. at the Marian Grotto on the grounds of Our Lady of the Abingtons Church in Dalton.

Saturday Afternoon Rosary Rally — Aug. 16, at 12:30 p.m. on the grounds of the Lourdes Shrine at Saint Anthony of Padua Church, Smith Street, Dunmore.

Monday Evening Rosary Devotion — Aug. 18, from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laffin.

For information, contact Ernie Pappa (570) 241-8171.

Prayer Requests for Priests serving the Diocese

The Daily Prayer Request for Priests schedule is as follows:

July 17, Jesuit Father Vincent Conti; July 18, Father William Corcoran; July 19, Father David Cramer; July 20, Father William Culnane; July 21, Father Charles Cummings; July 22, Father Richard Czachor, V.E.; July 23, Father Vincent Dang; July 24, Father Mark DeCelles; July 25, Father John Doris; July 26, Saint Peter Priestly Fraternity Father Anthony Dorsa; July 27, Father Michael Drevitch; July 28, Father Cyril Edwards, V.E.

July 29, Father Christian Ekeh; July 30, Father Joseph Elston; July 31, Monsignor John Esseff; August 1, Pope Leo XIV; August 2, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; August 3, Father Joseph Evanko; August 4, Father Neftali Feliz Sena; August 5, Father Samuel Ferretti; August 6, Father Richard Fox; August 7, Saint Peter Priestly Fraternity Father Thomas Fritschen; August 8, Father Martin Gaiardo.

August 9, Father J. Duane Gavitt; August 10, Father Anthony Generose; August 11, Father Richard Ghezzi; August 12, Father Ryan Glenn; August 13, Father Joseph Greskiewicz; August

14, Holy Cross Father Richard Gribble; August 15, Monsignor Vincent Grimalia; August 16, Father Louis Grippe; August 17, Father Gerald Gurka.

August 18, Father Richard Gyansah-Tabiri; August 19, Passionist Father Lee Havey;

August 20, Saint Michael the Archangel Father Benito Hierro Aquino; August 21, Father Robert Hochreiter; August 22, Father Thomas Hudak; August 23, Father Andrew Hvozdovic; August 24, Holy Cross Father Daniel Issing.



BEDWICK'S

Pharmacy & Gifts

RELIGIOUS ITEMS

FOR EVERYDAY & SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Patron Saint Medals, Statues, & Prayer Cards
Rosaries, Scapulars, Bracelets, Lapel Pins, & Auto Visor Clips
Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, & Irish Items
St. Joseph the Homeseller Kits, Last Suppers, & Crucifixes

- Browse our beautiful, diverse, & extensive selection of religious items •

HOOURS: Mon, Wed, Fri: 9 a.m.-6 p.m. • Tues: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. • Thurs: 1 p.m.-6 p.m. • Sat: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Full-Service Pharmacy... Free Delivery to Local Area

452 Hazle Street - Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702 - 570-823-3818

TRAVELWORLD

GROUP TOURS & CRUISES | EST. 1975

5-STAR SOUTH AFRICAN CAPE TOWN CITY TOUR & SAFARI

ALL INCLUSIVE LUXURY SAFARI LODGE ACCOMMODATIONS, GUIDED CITY TOURS, MULTIPLE GAME DRIVES
APRIL 12-22, 2026

\$9950/PP



TRAVELWORLD 50TH ANNIVERSARY SALE

11-Night Southern Caribbean Cruise
Onboard the Royal Caribbean Odessey

JANUARY 15 - 26, 2026
\$2,399 PP

ST. MAARTEN, ST. LUCIA, BARBADOS, AND MORE!

RIU PALACE TROPICAL BAY JAMAICA

ALL MEALS & DRINKS

LAST CALL! 10 SEATS
OCTOBER 18-24, 2025
\$1599/PP

FARO, PORTUGAL CLUB MED ALL-INCLUSIVE DA BALAIA RESORT
MANY EXCURSIONS AND ACTIVITIES - ALL AGES

MAY 17-25, 2026
\$3195/PP

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S WHITE MOUNTAINS. VARIOUS SCENIC RAILWAY TOURS + MEALS.

OCTOBER 5-9, 2025
\$1699/PP

www.askTRAVELWORLD.com
435 Green Ridge Street, Scranton, Pa 18509
570-342-5790

DISCOVER IRELAND. BLARNEY STONE + CLIFFS OF MOHER + KILLARNEY + DUBLIN.

OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 6, 2025
\$2495/PP

ARUBA WINTER GET-A-WAY ALL INCLUSIVE, ADULTS ONLY INCLUDES AIRFARE, JR. SUITE OCEAN VIEW ROOM

JANUARY 25-31, 2026
\$2795/PP

WILDWOOD CREST PAN AMERICA HOTEL 3 DINNERS + MUCH MORE

SEPT 14-18, 2025
\$799/PP

9-DAY SPRING TOUR OF THE Italian Riviera

MARCH 25 - APRIL 2, 2026
\$4,595 PP

Explore Cinque Terre and The Leaning Tower

601 Market Street, Kingston, Pa 18704
570-288-9311

LOOKING FOR A CD ALTERNATIVE?

6 Year Fixed Annuity
6 Year Term

5.00%

\$5000 Minimum
Tax Deferred

Surrender Charge (Yr1-6%, Yr2-5%, Yr3-4%
Yr4-3%, Yr5-2%, Yr6-1%)
Form Nos. AA-09, ASQ-1

Park 2 Annuity
2 Year Term

4.50%

\$1000 Minimum
Tax Deferred

Surrender Charges (Yr1-6%, Yr2-5%)
10% Free Withdrawal per Year
Form Nos. AA-09, ASQ-1, 12012010

Plans provide full withdrawal at the end of the stated term. Rates are subject to change. Annuity contracts issued by First Catholic Slovak Union, a fraternal benefit society founded in Cleveland, OH in 1890. Not available in all states. Not FDIC or NCUSIF Insured.

Michael J. Ricci, CRPC
P.O. Box 100, Olyphant, PA 18447
800-324-2890



FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION

"FOR GOD & NATION"

IN MEMORIAM

**Deacon
Frank J. Sehn**

*Entered Life:
September 14, 1928*

*Entered Eternal Life:
June 28, 2025*



**Immaculate Heart
of Mary Sister
Ann Belz**

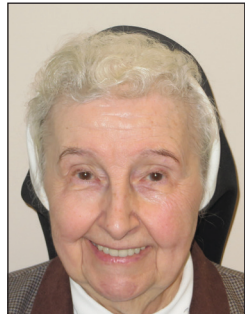
*Entered Life:
March 24, 1937*

*Entered Eternal Life:
July 4, 2025*

**Bernardine
Franciscan Sister
Immaculé Zdanowicz**

*Entered Life:
September 5, 1933*

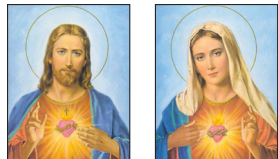
*Entered Eternal Life:
June 29, 2025*



Blue Army Reparation Vigil

The next monthly First Friday Reparation Vigil, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary and sponsored by the Blue Army, will be held **Aug. 1** at Saint Joseph's Oblate Chapel, 1880 Highway 315, Laffin (Pittston).

Devotions begin Friday evening at 8 p.m. with recitation of the Rosary, during which time confessions are heard. Mass of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is celebrated at 8:55 p.m., followed by benediction and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and consecration to the Sacred Heart.



The vigil continues with the crowning of the Blue Army Pilgrim Virgin Statue, the Blue Army Pledge, Fatima prayers and Marian hymns, followed by litany and consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The vigil concludes with scapular enrollment at 10:15 p.m.

Music for the First Friday devotion is provided by Marian Devotion Ministries.

DIVINE MERCY PARISH HEALING MASS

312 Davis Street
Scranton, PA 18505



COME JOIN US ON
JULY 20, 2025

ROSARY BEFORE MASS AT 4:00PM
MASS AT 5:00 PM
WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK



N.E.P.A. CARPET CARE
\$30 PER ROOM
SERVING NORTHEAST PA

570.591.6414



BUILDING YOUR BRAND

570.343.0414 • Taylor, PA 18517

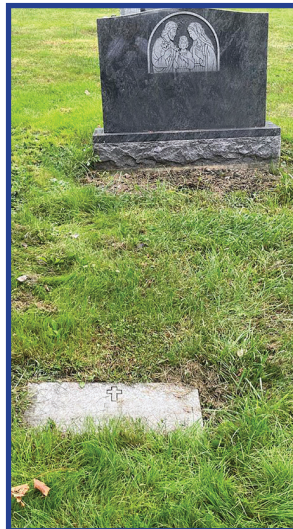
Print, Mail, Fulfillment & Promotional Items

www.pdqprint.com

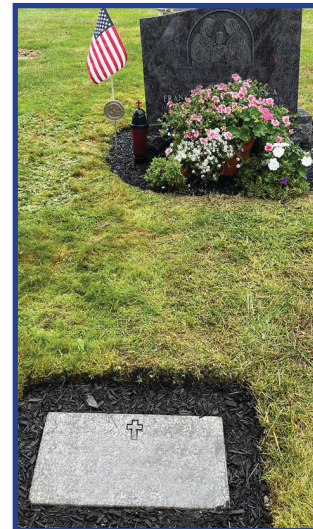
PRESENT THIS COUPON FOR A DISCOUNT

Loving Memories Monument Care, LLC
Spruce up your loved ones grave for the summer!

- 570-575-1184 -



↑ **BEFORE**



AFTER ↑



Seniors & Veterans Discounts!

↑ **BEFORE** **AFTER** ↓



Make sure your loved one's memory is never forgotten!

LAMONICA LAW FIRM LLC

CARLO A. LAMONICA — ATTORNEY AT LAW

- Probate & Estate Administration
- Estate Planning
- Powers of Attorney
- Advance Health Care Directives
- Estate & Inheritance Taxes
- Veterans Disability Claims

Prepare for your Future, Protect Your Family.
Schedule your FREE CONSULTATION today!

• (570) 751-1571 •
www.LaMonicaLawFirm.com



Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese

Monthly Meeting of the Lay Carmelites — JULY 19 & AUG. 16, hosted by Our Lady of the Mountains Lay Carmelite Community on the third Saturday of each month; gatherings are held from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Oblates of St. Joseph Seminary/Chapel, 1880 Highway 315, Laflin. For more information, contact Chris at (570) 239-8094.

Healing Mass & Anointing — JULY 20, sponsored by the Mental Health Ministry at Divine Mercy Parish in Scranton;

Sunday afternoon Healing Mass will be celebrated at the parish's St. Joseph Church, 312 Davis St., Minooka section. Devotion begins with recitation of the Rosary at 4 p.m., followed by Mass, with anointing of the sick, at 5 p.m. All faithful are welcome.

St. Joseph Fraternity of Third Order Secular Franciscans — JULY 20 & AUG. 17, Lay Franciscan Canonical Order meets on the third Sunday of each month; meetings hosted from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Oblates of St. Joseph Seminary/Chapel, 1880 Highway 315, Laflin. All interested men and women and visitors are welcome. For more information, contact Michele at (570) 807-7996.

Weekly Bereavement Support Group Sessions — JULY 21-AUG. 11, sponsored by St. John Neumann Parish in Lords Valley; bereavement support group meets on consecutive Monday afternoons from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in St. John parish hall, 705 Route 739, Lords Valley. Weekly gatherings address topics dealing with the grief process, enabling participants to find healing following the loss of a loved one. All are welcome; advance registration required at stvgriefgroup@att.net or by calling the parish office (570) 775-6791.

Summer Youth Music Camp: "Weeklong Treasure Hunt" — JULY 28-AUG. 1, hosted by Gate of Heaven Parish, 40 Machell Ave., Dallas; music camp for children held daily throughout the week from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., concluding with a Youth Liturgy on Sunday, Aug. 3. Camp is open to youth singers ages 8 to 15; camper gatherings will include choir rehearsals, snacks and other activities. For information/registration, contact the parish at (570) 675-2121, or parishoffice.goh@goholv.org.

CSS Program: "Cops, Coffee & Conversation" — AUG. 1, sponsored by Catholic Social Services (CSS) of the Scranton Diocese and the Hazleton Police Department; Friday morning program begins at 11 a.m. at the CSS Family Center, 106 S. Church St., Hazleton. Event offers an open & respectful dialogue between law enforcement and individuals experiencing homelessness; dialogue session aims to build trust, strengthen relationships, and foster a safer, more connected community. Lunch will be provided.

Venerable Father Patrick Peyton Monthly Rosary — AUG. 6, hosted by the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton; Rosary devotion is held on the first Wednesday of each month following the 12:10 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral. Recitation of Rosary prayers is offered for the special intention of furthering the cause for canonization of Venerable Father Patrick Peyton.

22nd Annual Memorial Blood Drive — AUG. 7, sponsored by the North Pocono Blood Council of American Red Cross and St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Moscow; held from 1 to 6 p.m. at St. Catherine of Siena Church, 220 Church St., Moscow. Annual Red Cross Blood Drive honors the memory of John Paul Ruggiero, a young parishioner of St. Catherine's who passed away while attending the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., in 2002. Donors receive complimentary refreshments. For appointment registration, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org and enter "Moscow." Walk-ins welcome.

Continued on
Next Page

Who makes house calls?

As of October 2015, I will now meet clients either at their home, or at a location they choose and no longer require clients to meet at my office. I have decided that I would change the way I meet with people so it will be as easy and as convenient as possible for the client.

Based on my practice, which consists of estate planning and administration along with elder law, I find that clients are more comfortable discussing such matters in familiar surroundings. While I know this may seem unconventional to some, I believe I will be able to serve clients much better in this fashion.

If anyone is uncomfortable with home visits, I have a few locations where I can meet in an office setting. I look forward to meeting with my existing clients and especially meeting new clients that are looking for any assistance in estate or elder law matters.



Elder Law

- Guardianships
- Asset Protection Planning
- Medicaid Application Assistance

Estate Administration

Probate :

Settle all estate matters and distribute inheritances.

Inheritance Tax :

Utilize all discounts and proper deductions.

Meet all requirements and deadlines.

- Powers of Attorney • Living Wills • Wills
- Trusts Guardianships • Asset Protection Planning
- Medicaid Application Assistance

Estate Planning

- Powers of Attorney • Living Wills
- Wills • Trusts Guardianships



Michael J. Bendick

Attorney At Law

(570) 901-1254

www.bendicklaw.com

Located in Shavertown
(Covering Luzerne, Lackawanna,
& Wyoming Counties)

Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese

24th Annual Lebanese-American Food Festival — AUG. 8-10, hosted by St. Joseph Melkite Greek-Catholic Church, 130 North St. Frances Cabrini Ave. (off lower Jackson Street), West Scranton; event held on the church grounds Friday & Saturday, from 4 to 9 p.m., and Sunday, 1 to 7 p.m. Featuring homemade Lebanese/Middle Eastern foods & pastries and traditional American picnic food favorites; includes gift baskets & cash raffles. For more information, call (570) 343-6092 or visit the Facebook page.

Cash Bingo — AUG. 9, hosted by St. Maria Goretti Parish in Laflin; bingo games held from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. (doors open at 10 a.m.) in the parish hall, 42 Redwood Drive, Laflin. Admission cost: \$25 (in advance) or \$30 (at door), includes 20 games. Regular game prizes of \$100; prizes for special games (\$5 each) range from \$200 to more than \$500. Event also includes basket raffle, bake sale and cash drawing; food and beverages available for purchase. For tickets, contact the parish office at (570) 655-8956.

Blessed Father McGivney Cause for Canonization Mass & Devotion — AUG. 10, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus of St. Michael Parish in Canton; annual feast day observance begins with Rosary and Litany prayers at 8:45 a.m., followed by Mass at 9:30 a.m. in St. Michael Church to further the cause for canonization of Blessed Father Michael McGivney, Knights of Columbus founder. All faithful are invited. For more information, call David Beahm (570) 673-4838, or the parish office (570) 673-5253.

IHM Foundation annual 'Sisters Celebration' set for Aug. 2

SCRANTON — The Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary invites the community to their 2025 Sisters Celebration on Saturday, Aug. 2, at 6 p.m. at Upper Main, Nazareth Hall, on the campus of Marywood University.

The celebration, returning to an in-person event for the first time in several years, will honor the IHM spirit and support the retired

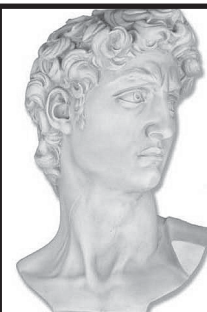
Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters. This year's gathering holds special significance as it commemorates the 180th anniversary of the founding of the IHM congregation.

The evening will feature the presentation of the Spirit of IHM Awards to two prominent area individuals for their commitment to and embodiment of the IHM spirit and mission:

Kathleen Munley, Ph.D.,

retired Marywood University professor, and Monsignor John Jordan, a 56-year priest of the Diocese of Scranton who is a nationally recognized leader in Catholic education.

For information about attending the event, honoring a Sister or loved one, or becoming an event sponsor, visit www.sistersofihm.org.



FOUR SAMs

CONCRETE STATUARY

• <http://www.foursams.com> •

• **570-343-8844** •



A Different Kind of Lawyer

Real Estate
Living Wills
Estate Planning & Administration
Municipal Law

JONATHAN A. SPOHRER

Attorney at Law

279 Pierce Street, Kingston
570.287.1156

TRAVELWORLD
PRESENTS

6-Day Cape Cod-Martha's Vineyard & Mystic Seaport

AUGUST 24-29, 2025

\$1,699pp/dble occ.

Enjoy this late summer Bus Tour

5-Nights at the Cape Cod Fairfield Inn
8-Meals & 1-Lobster Dinner, All Tours,
Whale Watch plus much more.
Full Day to Martha's Vineyard

**LAST CALL
10 SEATS LEFT**

Call for Flyer!

Book now!

435 Green Ridge Street
Scranton, Pa. 18509
570-342-5790

TRAVELWORLD
www.asktravelworld.com

601 Market Street
Kingston, Pa. 18704
570-288-9311

Catholic Charismatic Renewal Diocese of Scranton

University of Scranton, Scranton, Pennsylvania



CONFERENCE 2025

REPENT - RENEW - REVIVE

Say "No More!!" to the darkness that seems to surround us!

AUGUST 1-2-3, 2025

Full weekend or single session registration, meal plans and overnight housing on campus, and single meal purchases on campus during the weekend are all available.

Come and see the difference a weekend spent with God can make!

For information: call 570-344-2214 or visit our website:
[HTTPS://WWW.CCRSCRANTON.ORG/CONFERENCE](https://www.ccrscranton.org/conference)

Come join in this celebration and renewal of faith with Praise, Worship, Daily Mass, Adoration, & Inspired Teachings by an International Group of Speakers!

'Parents as Teachers' to hold back-to-school event Aug. 2

WILKES-BARRE – All families are invited to join Catholic School Services and its Parents as Teachers program for an afternoon of indoor fun and education on Aug. 2, 2025.

The free event, with a back to school focus, will be held from noon to 4:00 p.m. at the King's College Scandlon Gymnasium, 150 N. Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, 18711. (Free parking available at 133 S. Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, 18711)

There will be face painting, free haircuts and eye exams, along with performances and demonstrations by community groups. Several dozen local organizations have committed to participating in the event.

The first 100 children will get free water bottles and dental

hygiene kits. There will also be an interactive scavenger hunt to be turned in for prizes, and interactive demonstrations by Kerri Berri kids yoga.

The Parents as Teachers program of Catholic Social Services will also be highlighting its program. The program is open for participation from conception until a child reaches kindergarten. A child must be enrolled at least one year prior to kindergarten. There are no income qualifications to participate but families must live within Luzerne County to participate in the Catholic Social Services program.

For more information on the event, or to register your community group to participate, please contact Montie Ford at MFord@cssdioceseofscranton.org.

BENNINGTON AND SON CHURCH SPECIALISTS INC.

INTERIOR

- ✦ Plastering
- ✦ Painting
- ✦ Stencil Work
- ✦ Gold Leafing
- ✦ Refinishing of Woodwork and Pews
- ✦ Professional Wall Washing
- ✦ Marbleizing
- ✦ Stained Glass Work
(Restoration and New)

PO Box 845 • Scranton, Pa 18501
570-342-8878 • Fax 570-344-0541
www.benningtonandson.com
e-mail: bennington90@verizon.net

EXTERIOR

- ✦ Steeple Work
(Restoration and New)
- ✦ Painting
- ✦ High Pressure Cleaning
- ✦ Masonry Restoration
- ✦ Water Proofing/Caulking
- ✦ Roofing and Flashing
- ✦ Metal Fabrication
- ✦ Fiberglass Work

Providing church restoration services for 75 years.

The Catholic Light

MAILING LABEL - Please be sure to enclose this label with any address changes and mail to The Catholic Light, 330 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503

Register today at dioceseofscranton.org for the Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine in Washington on October 1!

19th Annual St. Mary's Villa GOLF TOURNAMENT

GLEN OAK COUNTRY CLUB, CLARKS SUMMIT, PA

MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2025

All proceeds from the event benefit resident equipment and activities at St. Mary's Villa in Elmurst Township, PA.



• 570-842-7621 •
www.stmarysvilla.com



WANTED WWII MILITARY SOUVENIRS

Paying **CASH** on the spot
for U.S./German/Japanese:

Medals, Uniforms, Helmets, Hats, Armbands, Flags, Daggers, Swords, Bayonets, Knives, Pistols, Rifles, Equipment, Pictures, Letters, Currency, Coins, etc...

Contact Sam at (570) 814-8287
Please leave a message if I'm unavailable.

(I am a private collector not a dealer and would be honored to purchase your military souvenirs to display in my collection.)