

# The Catholic Light

DIocese OF SCRANTON

WWW.DIOCESEOFSCRANTON.ORG VOLUME 125 NUMBER 8 ISSN-0164-9418 THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2025

## SAINT AUGUSTINE CHURCH TO CELEBRATE 200 YEARS OF FAITH AND HERITAGE

### *Oldest Catholic Church in the Diocese of Scranton preparing for milestone Mass*

SILVER LAKE TOWNSHIP – As the Diocese of Scranton continues to celebrate the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope, one faith community is preparing to mark a milestone that connects the past, present and future of Catholic life in northeastern Pennsylvania.

On Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025, a special Mass will be held at Saint Augustine Church in Susquehanna County to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the beginnings of the church community.

Saint Augustine Church is the oldest Catholic church in the Diocese of Scranton.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will be the principal celebrant for the 10:30 a.m. liturgy.

“There is so much joy. Our people are really preparing to receive the Bishop,” Father Thomas Augustine, Administrator *pro tem*, Saint Brigid Parish, Friendsville, explained. Saint Augustine Church is a worship site of Saint Brigid Parish.

The celebration comes as Saint Augustine Church is also recognized as one of the eight pilgrimage sites designated by Bishop Bambera for the Jubilee Year of Hope, inviting the faithful to encounter Christ in historic places of worship and renewal.

“God has powerfully worked through this community,” Father Augustine added. “Since we are celebrating 200 years ... this is a big blessing!”

#### LEGACY ROOTED IN MISSION

The roots of Saint Augustine Church stretch back to 1825, when Father Jeremiah Francis O’Flynn responded to an urgent invitation from Robert Rose, a prominent Catholic layman in the Silver Lake area.

With the blessing of Bishop Henry Conwell of Philadelphia, Father O’Flynn invested his savings into purchasing a farm at Silver Lake, on which the first Catholic church in Susquehanna County was built.

It was not until Oct. 2, 1828, that Father O’Flynn was able to celebrate the first Mass in the vestry of the partly built church of Silver Lake – but after that time the congregation increased rapidly.

Father O’Flynn died while on a sick call in Danville, approximately 80 miles from Silver Lake, on Feb. 8, 1831. His body was brought back to Silver Lake and laid to rest in the cemetery of Saint Augustine Church.

From these humble beginnings, the Catholic presence continued to grow in the region long before the Diocese of Scranton itself was officially formed on March 3, 1868, when the Pope signed a decree to separate 10 counties from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Lackawanna County was formed 10 years later, bringing the Diocese of Scranton to its current number of 11 counties.



**Saint Augustine Church, located in Silver Lake Township, Susquehanna County, will commemorate the 200th anniversary of its beginnings as a church community with a special Mass on Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025. Saint Augustine Church is the oldest Catholic church in the Diocese of Scranton. (Photo/Dan Gallagher)**

#### PILGRIMS ON A JOURNEY

In anticipation of the bicentennial celebration, pilgrims from across the Diocese of Scranton have already started visiting Saint Augustine Church as part of the Jubilee Year of Hope.

On Sunday, Aug. 10, more than 50 parishioners from Saint John the Apostle Parish in East Stroudsburg made the two-hour journey from the Poconos to pray, worship, and learn about the sacred site.

Their pastor, Father Greg Reichlen, a native son of Susquehanna County, was excited to bring his parishioners to the oldest church in the diocese.

“It has been an incredible, beautiful and amazing day to celebrate our faith, to go on a journey, on a pilgrimage, to this very holy site,” Father Reichlen said.

The visit included participation in the Sunday Mass, a tour of the church grounds, and a shared parish picnic with

the community.

“Parishioners are very thrilled to learn about this little piece of history,” Father Reichlen added. “Our life is a journey, and I think it has been an incredible experience for every single one of us to be together on this journey.”

#### OUR FAITH IS ALIVE AND LIVING

For those who made the pilgrimage, it wasn’t simply about history – it was about witnessing how the Church remains alive in small rural communities, just as much as in large parishes.

“I think it’s really nice. I like the more simple vibe,” Tha’riann Daurilas, a young adult from Saint John Parish who made the trip up with family members, said. “I know it’s an older church and I like to see other pretty churches around the diocese.”

*Continued on Page 2*

## 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](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org)

# Celebrating 150 years of faith at Saint Thomas Aquinas Church

ARCHBALD – With prayers of thanksgiving and hearts full of gratitude, parishioners of Christ the King Parish gathered on Aug. 16, 2025, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the consecration and dedication of Saint Thomas Aquinas Church.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, returned to his former parish to celebrate the special Mass, a homecoming that stirred memories and pride in the enduring legacy of the church community.

“For 150 years, this church building has been a house of prayer, a gathering spot for the community, and has served as a sign of deep faith here in the Mid Valley,” Rev. Ryan Glenn, pastor of Christ the King Parish, said. “We were thrilled and very blessed to have the Bishop come and preach and celebrate the Eucharist as we commemorated this milestone anniversary.”

The anniversary gave many in the community a chance to reflect on the last century and a half of sacramental life in the church, along with the steadfast faith of a community that has weathered hardships and embraced new beginnings.



**Bishop Joseph C. Bambera celebrates the Liturgy of the Eucharist during a Mass to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the consecration and dedication of Saint Thomas Aquinas Church in Archbald on Aug. 16, 2025. (Photo/Dan Piazza)**

Bishop Bambera, who served as pastor of the parish when the ceiling collapsed at Saint Thomas Aquinas Church in 2009, reflected on his personal connection to the community in his homily – drawing a warm response from those who remembered those difficult days and the restoration that followed.

“It really was an extraordinary celebration of the Eucharist,” Father Glenn added.

Echoing what Bishop Bambera said in his homily, “This anniversary is about more

than just a building. It is about the community of faith that gathers and then goes out on mission.”

That sense of shared mission was felt deeply by parishioners like Ellen Faliskie, whose family history is woven into the very fabric of the church.

“Our family has been very blessed with the graces of this church,” she said. “We’ve had lots of happy memories here ... and I’m here in thanksgiving for all the blessings that this church has provided for me and my family.”

The Anniversary Mass drew longtime members and newer parishioners alike, all eager to celebrate a hopeful future.

“It was a beautiful celebration,” Brenda Sokoloski, who joined the parish about 25 years ago, said. “This parish is very welcoming. It’s very inclusive. There are so many opportunities to be involved.”

Chris Tomaszewski, who joined the parish with his wife 16 years ago, echoed that sentiment.

“We fell in love with this parish and fell in love with this church. Through the years, both my son and daughter have been baptized in this church, and we quickly became part of its community. It’s such a welcoming, loving community,” he said.

As the celebration concluded with a parish social in the church hall, there was a powerful sense that the spirit that built Saint Thomas Aquinas Church 150 years ago is still very much alive.

“We continue to strive to be faithful to our mission,” Father Glenn said. “This was a beautiful moment to pause and give thanks.”

## Susquehanna County church to mark bicentennial in September

*Continued from Page 1*

Bill Montgomery, a longtime Eucharistic Minister from Saint John the Apostle Parish, shared a similar sentiment.

“It has been a very rewarding day,” he said. “My wife and I travel to a lot of shrines and different areas. It’s really nice to come to a rural area like this and to see the beauty in the older churches. They are magnificent.”

Montgomery appreciated the pilgrimage as an opportunity to grow in faith.

“There is something about the smallness and the beauty

of this place, especially where our diocese grew from where it started. There is a lot of history there,” he added.

### ALL ARE STILL WELCOME

Though smaller in size, Saint Augustine Church continues to be a place of active worship, prayer, and community.

“I welcome everyone to come and visit this church and receive the blessings as the Diocese has selected it as a few pilgrimage churches,” Father Augustine added.

All are especially welcome



**Parishioners of Saint John the Apostle Parish, East Stroudsburg, attend Mass at Saint Augustine Church in Silver Lake Township on Sunday, Aug. 10, 2025. (Photo/Dan Piazza)**

to attend the upcoming 200th Anniversary Mass celebration on Sept. 14 with Bishop Bambera

to reflect on its history, mission, and the enduring presence of God.

# Saint Boniface marks 50 years since church rebuilding

WILLIAMSPORT – Fifty years ago, the people of Saint Boniface Parish faced unimaginable loss.

A catastrophic fire on Tuesday, Dec. 5, 1972, reduced their beloved church – a city landmark – to smoldering ruins.

The evening newspaper headlines stunned residents of Lycoming County and beyond with the headlines: ‘*St. Boniface Church Destroyed by Fire*’ and ‘*Spectacular Early Morning Blaze Ruins City Landmark.*’

But from that heartbreak rose a renewed spirit.

On Aug. 2 and 3, 2025, parishioners of Saint Boniface joyfully celebrated the 50th anniversary of the dedication of its new church building, which was formally dedicated on Aug. 3, 1975.

To mark the golden milestone, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, celebrated the Vigil Mass for the Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, joined by current pastor, Father Glenn McCreary, who also presided over Sunday morning’s anniversary liturgy.

“Quite immediately they began worshipping in the gymnasium (of Saint Boniface School),” Father McCreary said, noting the resiliency of parishioners right after the fire. “There was a sign up there that said: Saint Boniface Church is alive and active.”

## FROM ASHES TO ACTION

The rebuilding process was not



Saint Boniface parishioners attend Mass on Sunday, Aug. 3, 2025, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the dedication of their new church building in Williamsport. The former Saint Boniface Church was destroyed by fire on Dec. 5, 1972. (Photos/Dan Piazza)



merely a construction project. It was an effort to shape the future direction of the faith community.

Then-pastor Monsignor Eugene J. Clark led with vision and collaboration, forming the first parish pastoral council in the diocese, which empowered parishioners to help plan and guide the new church’s development.

Parishioners traveled to other communities to explore church designs and formed committees focused on finance, construction, and even organ research.

“It really became a project that the parish itself owned,” Father McCreary added. “It wasn’t a matter of just calling somebody up and saying build us a church in this spot.”

Some precious relics of the past still remain: weathered statues of Saint Boniface and Saint Joseph, a refurbished image of the Good Shepherd, and even a chalice that survived the fire and was used for the 50th anniversary celebrations.

## A CHURCH BUILT ON PEOPLE

For lifelong parishioners like Arnold Betts, who served the final Mass in the old church and the very first in the school gym, the memories remain vivid.

“I watched the steeple burn from my

parent’s bedroom,” he recalled. “The parish got together and said, ‘we will rebuild,’ and this is the result of it.”

Steve Sholder, another lifelong member, echoed that sentiment.

“It was devastating. It was like losing an old friend, quite honestly,” Sholder said. “It was a great building, but Monsignor Clark said the church is not really a building. He said the church is the people and that’s the way he wanted us to continue.”

During his homily, Bishop Bambera reemphasized that message and challenged parishioners to continue living that identity.

“I’m very grateful to be a part of this 50th anniversary because I watched this church being built,” Rosemary Dincher, a Eucharistic Minister, who has been part of the parish since her marriage in 1950, said. “I always felt like I was part of this new church.”

## A LIVING, GROWING COMMUNITY

While the parish is steeped in history, dating back to the 1830s and the first German Catholics to settle in Williamsport, it is also looking ahead. Saint Boniface Parish remains a vibrant center of faith and outreach in the city.

“When you come here, you feel like you

are family. Everybody picks you up,” Tom Engel said.

Even newer parishioners, like Joyce Jones, feel the warmth of the invitation being extended to all.

“Saint Boniface has become an icon in this community,” Jones explained. “They’re accepting and I’m comfortable here.”

For many, the 50th anniversary celebration is not just about looking back. It’s a recommitment to the mission of the parish.

“We’re celebrating the continuation of God’s grace flowing through Saint Boniface and all the people that have come through here,” Engel said. “We continue God’s work.”

“We’re moving forward with God’s will,” Betts added. “It’s a wonderful parish.”



Exterior of the fire damage to the old Saint Boniface Church in Williamsport, after flames swept through the 97-year-old structure on Dec. 5, 1972. (Photo/The Catholic Light archives)



Msgr. Eugene J. Clark, and fellow clergy, examine the ruins of the former Saint Boniface Church after a devastating fire on Dec. 5, 1972. (Photo/The Catholic Light archives)

# Catholic Ministries Appeal 2025-26 inspired by Jubilee Year of Hope

SCRANTON - Just over a week ago, you likely received a letter from Bishop Bambera inviting you to join us once again by responding to *Our Call to Serve*.

This year's Catholic Ministries Appeal takes its inspiration from the Jubilee Year of Hope and invites each one of us to join together in helping our sisters and brothers supported by the many Catholic ministries throughout northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

Gifts to the Catholic Ministries Appeal provide financial support to six critical areas of our local Mission. They help:

- Form our future priests and care for priests who have retired after decades of service to the Diocese of Scranton.
  - Proclaim the good news through Catholic Media
  - Support Catholic Education in our 19 Diocesan Elementary and High Schools
  - Strengthen Parish Life
  - Provide critical funding to Catholic Social Services to feed the hungry and shelter the homeless
  - Fund Faith Formation and Social Justice Grants awarded to our parishes working to expand the current reach of the Appeal in their local communities.
- Our celebration weekend for this year's Catholic Ministries Appeal is scheduled for the third weekend of September – Sept.



## OUR CALL TO SERVE

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

20/21 – though some parishes may move that to a weekend earlier or later, based on local needs.

We invite you to make your commitment to this year's Catholic Ministries Appeal earlier this year with the hope of ending the active solicitation phase by December 31, 2025.

We have so much to celebrate and to be hopeful for this year!

In late June, two men, Rev. Thomas Dzwonczyk and Rev. Andrew McCarroll were ordained to the priesthood and there are currently 13 seminarians in various stages of formation for the priesthood – the most at any point in recent years.

The Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System is actively implementing its Strategic Growth Plan and has seen its highest enrollment in many years!

Dozens of our parishes have put

together impressive programs that have been funded by Faith Formation and Social Justice Grants over the past year – ministries at the local level inspired by the unique needs of each of our parishes!

There are also great challenges – we saw increases in the numbers of individuals and families served by Catholic Social Services in our kitchens, food pantries and clothing closets; however, because of you and your financial contributions we were able to respond to these increased needs and help those who need help the most!

**None of this is possible without you!**

By increasing your commitment and notifying us earlier of your pledge this fiscal year (the Diocese of Scranton and all our parishes operate on a July through June fiscal year), you can send your gifts in installments at any point before June 30, 2026 – what matters most is to make

your commitment early to help your parish meet its goal quickly! This will also help us reduce costs on mailing and postage.

Pope Leo XIV recently shared an important reminder with young people who were gathered for the Holy Mass for the Jubilee of Youth in Rome on August 3.

Pope Leo remarked that “the fullness of our existence does not depend on what we store up or [...] on what we possess. Rather, fullness has to do with what we joyfully welcome and share [...] And in this way we will grow in an ever deeper understanding of what it means that hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”

Please give generously to this year's Catholic Ministries Appeal. You can mail your commitment to Catholic Ministries Appeal, 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503 or visit [AnnualAppeal.org](http://AnnualAppeal.org) to make a gift through our secure online donation form.

You can also visit [AnnualAppeal.org](http://AnnualAppeal.org) to follow progress for this year's Appeal, and to view stories of impact throughout the year.

Thank you for responding to Our Call to Serve and for your participation in this critical call to stewardship. May God continue to bless you abundantly!

## Parish launches Mental Health Ministry with support of Diocesan grant

SCRANTON – On July 20, parishioners gathered in prayer at Divine Mercy Parish for a special Healing Mass – a liturgy that marked more than just the sacramental anointing of the sick.

It also highlighted a new and growing parish mission, one that seeks to minister to the mind and heart as well as the body.

With the help of a \$5,000 Social Justice Grant from the Catholic Ministries Appeal, Divine Mercy Parish has launched a Mental Health Ministry program in its parish, with a full calendar of outreach, education, and healing events planned over the next year.

From grief support groups and suicide prevention efforts to caregiver outreach and addiction

awareness, this ministry is answering a need that often goes unspoken but runs deep in every community.

“It has definitely grown organically here at the parish,” Rev. Paul McDonnell, O.S.J., pastor of Divine Mercy Parish, said. “It’s a great opportunity for people that are seeking any type of healing graces – physically, spiritually, emotional, psychologically – for them to be able to come to have that personal encounter with the Lord.”

Father McDonnell presided over the recent Healing Mass, which included the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Many of those in attendance came forward to be anointed, some for



**Father Paul McDonnell, O.S.J., pastor of Divine Mercy Parish, anoints the hands of a parishioner during a special Healing Mass July 20, 2025.**

physical ailments, others carrying burdens that are harder to see.

“It was the most beautiful healing Mass I’ve ever been to,” parishioner Patty Grendel said.

“From start to finish, everything was just so spiritual, so uplifting!”

Fellow parishioner Sharon Bender agreed.

“It was fabulous. I think it

was wonderful, and I hope that the parish has more and more every year,” she said.

The idea for the Mental Health Ministry began to take shape several months ago, inspired in part by Deacon Marty Castaldi and modeled after similar initiatives in other diocesan parishes, including the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

“There is a lot of stigma with mental illness,” Deacon Castaldi explained. “We’d like to bring it to people’s attention through education and awareness.”

According to Deacon Castaldi, roughly one in five people experience some form of mental illness.

*Continued on Page 5*

# More than a grant: How your Appeal donations empower parish outreach

WEST PITSTON – As the calendar hit mid-August, volunteers at Corpus Christi Parish were hard at work, assembling backpacks filled with essential school supplies for nearly 200 children in the local community.

With assistance from a \$5,000 Social Justice Grant from the Catholic Ministries Appeal, the annual back-to-school drive is helping ease the burden for families while reminding them that the church is present and ready to help them.

“The parish is helping 175 families in the community with backpacks for their children to go back to school,” Beccie June, who works for the Robinson Counseling Center in Wilkes-Barre, explained. “They’re filled with everything a child could need – from notebooks, pencils, folders, extra paper, scissors, glue – and we also gather toiletries to go back to school with as well.”

Knowing only the gender and grade level of each student, volunteers tailor each backpack accordingly. While the younger students might receive crayons or safety scissors, older students are given binders and even calculators.



**Parishioners of Corpus Christi Parish filled backpacks with school supplies in the hall of Immaculate Conception Church in West Pittston on Thursday, Aug. 14, 2025. (Photo/Eric Deabill)**

“Suppose you have a family with four children, at \$25 a backpack, you’re talking about \$100 for empty backpacks,” Mary Butera, a longtime member of the parish’s Social Concerns Committee, said. “Here you get binders, ink pens, markers, everything a student could need. We try to make sure they have whatever they might need.”

This project is just one example of how Corpus Christi Parish lives out its call to serve others.

Throughout the year, the parish is committed to a range of outreach efforts that address food insecurity, holiday assistance, and caring for the elderly and homebound.

Because of the Catholic Ministries Appeal, and donations from its parishioners, Corpus Christi Parish can turn compassion into concrete action.

“The Social Concerns Committee has a special place in my heart,” Butera added. “They

help so many people – not just at back-to-school time, but all year long.”

In addition to the backpack drive, the parish hosts seasonal food and gift distributions for Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, regularly serving more than 150 families throughout the year. Bags of groceries, holiday meals, and gift cards are regularly distributed to families who struggle with rising prices and food insecurity.

And every month, a dedicated team of volunteers gathers in the church hall kitchen to cook more than 90 quarts of soup from scratch – delivered with love to homebound parishioners and residents in nursing homes.

“When we started, the first time we were cooking for 28 (people),” said Cheryl Sempa Radkiewicz, who helped launch the soup ministry after retiring from teaching. “Now we’re up to 92.”

Volunteers like Carmen Altavilla and his wife, Debbie, are part of the team that makes it all happen.

“We have a group of 8-10 people that are here regularly and

then another five or six people that fill in from time to time,” Altavilla stated. “It’s a great activity.”

Even kids get involved in all the efforts.

Krista Medico, who teaches eighth-grade Confirmation prep, makes sure her students understand the deeper meaning behind service projects like the backpack distribution efforts.

“I think it’s so important for our kids to be a part of this,” she said. “Knowing that a child is going to open each of these backpacks and smile, it makes a difference.”

Medico also emphasized the importance of the Catholic Ministries Appeal, which makes efforts like these possible.

“I think it’s important for our parishioners to know where their money is going and what a difference it is making,” Medico added.

For many of the volunteers, their efforts are simply about doing the work God asks of us.

“There are a lot of people that need this stuff. We fill that niche that is needed,” Altavilla ended by saying.

## Parish answers call for mental health outreach with special Healing Mass

*Continued from Page 4*

“It could be the person sitting right next to you that has emotional or psychological issues going on in their life and bringing it to our parish community is very important,” he added.

The committee behind the ministry has already hosted several events, including a “Blue Christmas” prayer service last winter for those dealing with grief or depression during the holidays. This year, they plan to expand their efforts dramatically.

The \$5,000 Social Justice Grant, made possible through

generous donations to the Catholic Ministries Appeal, is helping to bring that vision to life.

“Our Diocese has always been very supportive of any different type of ministry or different type of program on the parish level, and I think that really resonates with the people who are so generous with the Appeal each year,” Father McDonnell said.

“That money is going to go a long way. We have a very aggressive agenda this year and I think the money will be helpful to a lot of people,” Deacon Castaldi added.

And that is the heart of it. Parish leaders know they will not be able to solve every problem – but can respond with compassion and the healing presence of Christ.

For longtime parishioner Mary Joan Gibbs, the Healing Mass held in July was deeply personal.

She came seeking prayer for leg pain but also carried the memory of losing her husband years ago while still raising young children.

“Christ took care of it,” Gibbs said.

Reflecting on the Mass itself,

she added, “I loved it. It gives you peace and security.”

“This ministry is essential,” Deacon Castaldi emphasized. “When you have God in your life, you’re not facing it alone.”

For more information on upcoming events that the Divine Mercy Mental Health Ministry



**Father Joseph Sibilano, O.S.J., anoints the forehead of Paul Miller during a special Healing Mass July 20, 2025.**

is planning, visit their parish website or call the parish office at (570) 344-1724.

# Honesdale parish hosts traveling icon of Sacred Heart of Jesus

HONESDALE – Saint Mary Magdalen Church, a worship site of Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Honesdale, welcomed a special visitor earlier this month.

On the evening of Aug. 7, a traveling icon of the Sacred Heart of Jesus made a special stop at the Wayne County church for a reverent and prayerful Holy Hour.

The event, hosted by the local Knights of Columbus Council 363, centered on the love and mercy of Christ symbolized in the Sacred Heart.

“We were privileged enough to have the traveling icon of the Sacred Heart visit our area,” Donald Vivacqua, Grand Knight of the Honesdale Council, said. “Our District Deputy arranged it.



**Knights of Columbus Council 363 members, along with the clergy of Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Honesdale, pose with the traveling icon of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on Aug. 7, 2025.**

They were looking for a place and we said, bring it here, so we had this wonderful event tonight.”

Vivacqua described the

experience as Pope Francis, through the Papal humbling and Almoner, and is one of more than 300 icons traveling the world deeply moving.

“It was a visual representation of how much Jesus loves us. (It’s) an image that I can use in my prayer when I think about the Sacred Heart,” he added.

The icon depicts the most famous image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, painted in 1767 by Pompeo Batoni and is now venerated in the Church of the Gesù in Rome. The reproduction bears the blessing of

For Vivacqua, the icon’s presence served as more than a religious symbol, he sees it as a teaching tool.

“The more exposure that we get and the more we talk about it – especially some of the prayers that we went through tonight – illustrated how people can view the Sacred Heart and how the Sacred Heart is for all of us,” he added. “Christ is just there for us to adore, and His heart loves us.”

Thomas Kurtek, District Deputy of the Knights of

Columbus, was instrumental in bringing the icon to Honesdale.

“I just hope it will encourage devotion to the Catholic faith,” Kurtek stated. “It makes me feel there is hope in this world.”

Both Kurtek and Vivacqua expressed gratitude to Father William J.P. Langan, pastor, Saint John the Evangelist Parish, for hosting the event.

Following the event, families were encouraged to enthrone the Sacred Heart in their homes by placing an image of the Sacred Heart in a place of honor. This devotion was inspired by Jesus’ promise to St. Mary Margaret Alacoque to “bless every place in which an image of [his] Heart is exposed and honored.”

# Father E. Francis Kelly, Diocesan priest for nearly 60 years, dies at age 83

SCRANTON — The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera served as principal celebrant of a Pontifical Mass of Christian Burial for Father E. Francis Kelly on July 23 in the chapel at Marywood Heights in Scranton.

Father Kelly died July 18 after faithfully serving as a priest of the Diocese of Scranton for 58 years. He was 83.

Born in Scranton on Dec. 10, 1941, son of the late Edmund Francis and Mary M. (Kelley) Kelly, Father Kelly was a graduate of South Scranton Catholic High School and Saint Meinrad College of Liberal Arts in Saint Meinrad, Ind., where he earned his bachelor’s degree in 1963.

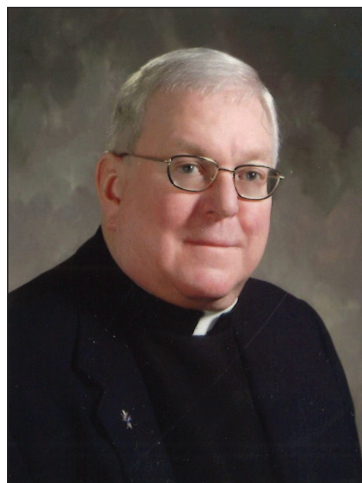
Having completed his seminary education and preparatory studies/training for the priesthood at Saint Meinrad School of Theology in Indiana, Father Kelly was ordained a priest for the Scranton Diocese on May 27, 1967, in the Cathedral of Saint Peter by the late Most Rev. J. Carroll McCormick, sixth Bishop of Scranton.

Following ordination, Father Kelly served briefly as assistant pastor pro tem at Saint Vincent Parish, Plymouth, before being assigned as assistant pastor of Saint Patrick Parish, Scranton, on June 22, 1967.

Father received subsequent appointments as assistant pastor of Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Carbondale, and Saint Thomas Parish, Archbald, followed by being named as chaplain of Saint Joseph’s Hospital in Carbondale in September 1980.

In September 1982, Father Kelly received his first pastoral appointment, at Saint Ann Parish in Freeland, where he served for nine years until being assigned the pastorate of Saint Francis of Assisi Parish in West Hazleton.

Three years later, in July 1994, he was named pastor of Holy Savior Parish, Wilkes-Barre. He would serve in the pastoral assignment for 11 years, after which he was appointed pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish, Harveys Lake, in September 2005.



**Father E. Francis Kelly**

From July 2009 until his retirement from active ministry in 2016, Father Kelly served in the Office of Chaplain for the Little Sisters of the Poor and Holy Family Residence in Scranton.

In addition to his parochial duties, he served the Scranton Diocese as area representative for the Commission on Ecumenism & Human Affairs in 1974, and Dean of the Freeland Deanery from 1989 to 1991.

During 1997-2003, Father

Kelly served three terms as Dean of the Wilkes-Barre/Plains Deanery. His priestly ministry also included fulfilling the roles of chaplain for Knights of Columbus Council 302 and auxiliary chaplain for the Ancient Order of Hibernians of Upper Lackawanna Valley.

Father Kelly celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood with a Pontifical Mass of Thanksgiving on June 22, 2017, with Bishop Bambera presiding.

Father John Doris, a longtime close companion of Father Kelly, said of his departed confrere in the funeral Mass homily, “Father Frank Kelly would manifest Jesus’ love as a priest. He brought the divine to many through Baptism, and nourished many with Jesus Himself, through the Eucharist. He would unite many in Jesus through Marriage, and provide new beginnings and forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.”

The homilist continued by extolling his priest-companion’s unique gift to empathize and exude

compassion for all those who were struggling in any capacity.

“What a call and what a beautiful way Jesus showed us the meaning of His life...through the gifts of Father Frank Kelly,” Father Doris related. “Frank would especially experience the Cross for the last two to three years,” explaining how his dear friend eventually became extremely immobile and suffered from eye and lung cancer.

“Truly, Frank became an example of weakness, so that the love of Jesus could make him strong,” Father Doris said in conclusion. “Now, Frank is relieved from his broken and shattered body and given the embrace of Jesus Himself. Frank is returning to his final call from Jesus — a final call to experience the totality of the Love of God.”

Father Kelly is survived by his brother, Joseph Kelly and wife, Patricia, Pomona, Calif.; niece, Melissa Shephard; and nephew, Matthew Berkley.

Interment was held at Saint Catherine’s Cemetery, Moscow.

## Bus trip available to PA March for Life on Sept. 22

SCRANTON - The Diocese of Scranton invites you to attend the Pennsylvania March for Life on Monday, September 22 in Harrisburg.

The Diocesan Office for Parish Life is once again coordinating a bus trip to the March that will pick-up and drop-off at a Scranton location (Divine Mercy Parish, Scranton) and a Wilkes-Barre location (Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary Parish, Wilkes-Barre).

Space is limited on the bus, so be sure to register soon!

The registration fee is \$20 and includes: the bus trip to and from the March, a t-shirt, bus snacks, and water.

We will not provide meals on the trip, so please pack a lunch.

To register either by credit card or check, please visit the Diocese of Scranton website at [dioceseofscranton.org](http://dioceseofscranton.org).

The tentative schedule for Sept. 22, which is subject to change is as follows:

**8:15 a.m.**

**Pick-Up at Divine Mercy Parish**  
312 Davis St., Scranton  
Bus departs at 8:30 a.m.

**9:00 a.m.**

**Pick-Up at St. Nicholas/St. Mary Parish**  
226 S. Washington St. Wilkes-Barre  
Bus departs at 9:15 a.m.

**11:15 a.m.**

**Bus Arrives at PA State Capitol Complex**

**11:00 a.m.**

**Pre-March Rally Begins**

**Noon**

**PA March for Life**

**1:30 p.m.**

**Mass for Life**

Saint Patrick's Cathedral 212 State St,  
Harrisburg

**2:45 p.m.**

**Bus Pick-Up (departs at 3 p.m.)**

**5:00 - 5:45 p.m.**

**Bus returns to departure locations**

[PA.MARCHFORLIFE.ORG](http://PA.MARCHFORLIFE.ORG)

#whywemarch #pamarchforlife

**keep  
marching**  
*for life!*



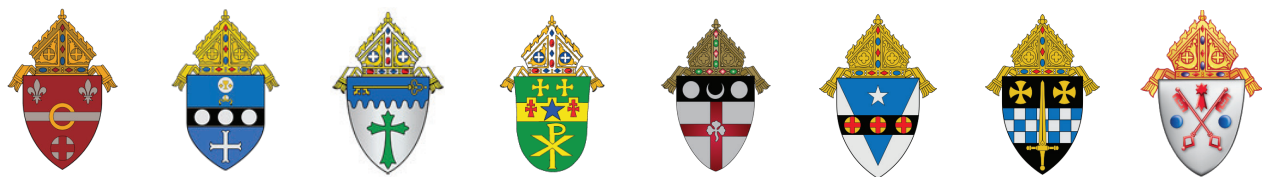
*life:  
why we march*

## PENNSYLVANIA MARCH FOR LIFE September 22, 2025

**Adoration: 2:00 pm - 9:00 am (Begins Sunday Afternoon)**

**Holy Mass: Opening Mass 9:30 am | Closing Mass 1:30 pm**

**March for Life: Rally 11:00 am | March - 12:00 pm**



# Mass in Italian to be celebrated Aug. 31 at Cathedral of Saint Peter

SCRANTON - The annual Mass in Italian will be celebrated on Sunday, Aug. 31, at 10:00 a.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter. All are welcome to attend.

The liturgy is celebrated in conjunction with La Festa Italiana, which occurs over the Labor Day weekend, Friday through Monday, Aug. 29 - Sept. 1, on Courthouse Square, one block away.

Reverend David P. Cappelloni, V.F., La Festa Chaplain and pastor of Saints Anthony and Rocco Parish and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Dunmore, will be the principal celebrant and homilist.

Concelebrants will include Monsignor Constantine V. Siconolfi, La Festa Chaplain Emeritus, and priests from the Diocese of Scranton. Deacons from the Diocese will also participate.

The Mass will be broadcast live by CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and will be rebroadcast on Tuesday, Sept. 2, at 10:30 a.m. and 8 p.m., and Friday, Sept. 5, at 10:30 a.m.

In addition to airing live on CTV, the Mass will be available on the Diocese of Scranton website, Diocese of Scranton YouTube channel and links will be provided on all social media platforms. It will also be available on demand after the live broadcast concludes.

This year's Italian Mass is being offered in memory of all those members and friends of La Festa Italiana who passed away since the last Mass was celebrated, including: Catherine Alu, Samuel "Danny" Argo, Sarah Marie Barrese, George Bieber, Angela Costanzi, Ralph DelPrete, Craig Friedman, Ann Azzeroni Kania, Paul LaBelle, Ron Leas, Joanne Ligorio, James P. Minicozzi, Bonnie Rosati, Tony "Red" Summa and Guy Valvano, who led the ushers for decades at the Mass.

Music ministry for the Italian Mass will be provided by the choirs of Saints Anthony and Rocco Parish and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Dunmore, accompanied by a brass quartet, all directed by Joseph Moffitt. Dominick DeNaples, mandolin; Patrick Loungo, Nicholas Luongo, Eugene Mentz, organist, and Monica Spishock, timpani, will also accompany.

Ashley Yando-DeFlice is the cantor and the leader of prayer. The featured soloist will be T.J. Capobianco from the New York City Metropolitan Opera.

The lectors are Dr. Fred Gardaphe and Ann Genett. The Prayer of the Faithful will be led by Diane Alberigi, Atty. Frank T. Blasi and Joseph Guido.

The offertory gifts will be presented by Marlene Summa and family, the family of Guy

Valvano, Robert W. Pettinato, the Honorable Robert Mazzoni and the Honorable Leonard Zito (Ret.).

Patrick Caramanno, Joshua Cillo, Carmen DiPietro Jr., Jonathan A. Eboli, Stephen A. Eboli, Richard Garofalo and

Joseph Wentline are the ushers.

At the conclusion of Mass, members of The Italian Colony of Saint Lucy will process out with the statue of Saint Lucy onto the festival grounds to the Heritage Piazza on Spruce Street.

For news and updates, including the festival entertainment schedule, visit [www.lafestaitaliana.org](http://www.lafestaitaliana.org), Facebook: La Festa Italiana di Lackawanna County, Instagram: lafestascranton.

# Have a ball!

Meatballs, Bocce and *everything* Italian.

Labor Day Weekend. Scranton, Pa.

Friday, Aug 29th to Monday, September 1st.

Courthouse Square.



# LAFESTA ITALIANA

Mass in Italian at 10 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 31  
Cathedral of Saint Peter  
Also televised live by CTV



Prior to the Mass in Italian, banners representing various regions of Italy are carried into the Cathedral of Saint Peter. (Photo/Mike Melisky)

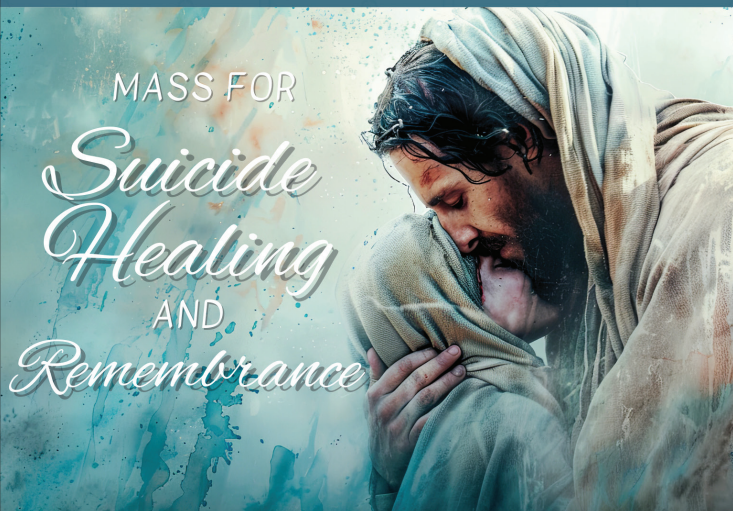


FOR INFORMATION AND DAILY SCHEDULE VISIT: [LAFESTAITALIANA.ORG](http://LAFESTAITALIANA.ORG)

PRESENTED BY  
**Lehigh Valley Hospital-Dickson City**  
part of **Jefferson Health**

# Mass for Suicide Healing and Remembrance to be held Sept. 21

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON



The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D. J.C.L.  
*Principal Celebrant*

Sunday, **SEPTEMBER 21** | Cathedral of St. Peter  
12:15 pm | 315 Wyoming Avenue  
Scranton



This Mass is open to people all across the diocese and serves to remember loved ones lost by suicide and to promote healing for those who grieve their passing.



SCRANTON - In observance of National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in September, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate a Mass for Suicide Healing and Remembrance on Sunday, Sept. 21, 2025, at 12:15 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, located at 315 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton.

The Mass will serve to remember loved ones lost to suicide, and to promote healing for those who grieve their passing.

Those attending the Mass will be invited to offer a flower in memory of a loved one who died from suicide. All are welcome.

In the United States, nearly 50,000 people died by suicide in

2023, which amounts to about one person every 11 minutes, according to numbers listed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The government agency also reported that an estimated 12.8 million adults seriously considered suicide, 3.7 million planned a suicide attempt and 1.5 million attempted suicide in 2022.

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

For more information, please contact the Diocesan Office for Parish Life at (570) 207-2213.

# Experts share six ways to help prevent suicide ahead of Suicide Prevention Month

(OSV News) - Everyday people, including Catholics and their churches, can help prevent suicide and save lives, according to experts on the issue.

Ahead of National Suicide Prevention Month in September, ministry leaders and crisis experts are listing practical steps that individuals, families and churches can take to help prevent suicide.

In the hopes of saving more lives, the experts shared their advice. Their comments also come before November, when the pope's prayer intention is for the prevention of suicide. Here are their recommendations:

## 1. Take mental health as seriously as physical health.

The experts emphasized the importance of mental health.

"If you're thinking of suicide, treat that the same way you would if you were having chest pains or maybe tingling in your arms," said

Deacon Ed Shoener, president of the International Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers, a lay association dedicated to helping people with mental illness and their families. Deacon Shoener is also the permanent deacon at the Cathedral of Saint Peter and Immaculate Conception Parishes.

## 2. Know the warning signs.

Learning the warning signs for suicide can help.

Possible signs include a person talking about wanting to die or to harm themselves or looking for a way to harm themselves, like searching online or buying a gun.

## 3. If you suspect someone is thinking about suicide, talk to them about it.

These experts encouraged people to reach out to those who may be considering suicide.

"If you think someone is suicidal or thinking of that, don't

be afraid to ask them," Deacon Shoener said.

## 4. Don't be afraid to take action.

Sometimes action is needed, experts said. If someone expresses struggle with suicidal ideation, listen nonjudgementally and stay with them until they find help.

If loved ones are exhibiting warning signs, remove any means, like weapons or pills.

## 5. Know the resources available for you and them.


The experts wanted people to know they are not alone.

Among other resources, they recommended 988 Lifeline, which helps millions of people annually.

## 6. Encourage your church to make a difference.

The experts say churches can make a difference with this issue.

Refer to the upcoming events below, all to be held in Scranton as an example of what can be done.



## Mental Health Awareness Series

OFFERED EACH THURSDAY EVENING THIS SEPTEMBER, 2025

Sponsored by the  
Catholic Mental Health  
Ministry  
at the Cathedral  
of Saint Peter

<p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">9/4</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">SPIRITUALITY &amp; MENTAL ILLNESS: A CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE</p> <p style="font-size: 12px; margin: 5px 0 0 20px;">Faith and spirituality bring peace and healing to people living with mental health challenges. We can find spiritual support in our Catholic communities and through Catholic mental health ministries.</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">9/11</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">COMMON MENTAL ILLNESSES: SYMPTOMS &amp; TREATMENT OPTIONS</p> <p style="font-size: 12px; margin: 5px 0 0 20px;">An introduction to common types of mental illnesses, with information about symptoms and treatment options. Presented by Colleen Griffin, LCSW, a mental health clinician from our local community.</p>
<p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">9/18</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">SHARED STORIES OF LIVED EXPERIENCE</p> <p style="font-size: 12px; margin: 5px 0 0 20px;">Members of our local community will share stories of their lived experience with mental illness, and of the experience of caring for a loved one with mental illness.</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">9/25</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES IN OUR COMMUNITY</p> <p style="font-size: 12px; margin: 5px 0 0 20px;">The focus will be on where to find and how to access mental health services in our region. Presented by Jessica Chelik, Lackawanna County Behavioral Health Coordinator/Early Intervention Supervisor.</p>

The series will be offered from 7:00pm to 8:00pm at the Diocesan Pastoral Center  
330 Wyoming Avenue in Scranton, PA

# At 100 days, Pope Leo's papacy rooted in St. Augustine, reflection, unity

(OSV News) - As the calendar marked 100 days of Pope Leo XIV's papacy Aug. 16, experts are scrutinizing his words and actions in hopes of pinpointing his leadership style, priorities and vision for the church's future.

But, unlike Pope Francis, whose novel decisions on domicile and dress - along with surprise phone calls, outings and remarks to journalists - flavored his first months in 2013, Pope Leo's papacy has been more tranquil, marked by his reflective and observant posture, scholars told OSV News.

Historian Joëlle Rollo-Koster, an editor of "The Cambridge History of the Papacy," a three-volume set published this summer by Cambridge University Press, sees Pope Leo, 69, using his first months as a period of receiving, observing and testing.

"He has been quiet and is less 'noisy' than Francis," said Rollo-Koster, who teaches at The University of Rhode Island and is the author of several books on the papacy.

"He is less Argentinian and very Peruvian ... in his behavior: calm, reflected," she added, nodding to the decades the U.S.-born Pope Leo spent in priestly and episcopal ministry in the coastal South American country. "He's smart. He's looking at everything. He is talking with everybody. And then we're going



**Pope Leo XIV greets visitors and pilgrims from the popemobile as he rides through St. Peter's Square at the conclusion of an evening Mass celebrated as part of the Jubilee of Youth at the Vatican July 29, 2025. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)**

to see him coming out with his real personality."

Since his May 8 election, however, Pope Leo has positioned himself as a figure of unity and peace, and a defender of humanity amid rapid changes in technology.

He first mentioned artificial intelligence in an audience with cardinals May 10, two days after they elected him pope. In explaining what inspired his choice of name, he told them that Pope Leo XIII in the 1891 encyclical "Rerum Novarum" addressed challenges amid the Industrial Revolution.

"In our own day, the church offers to everyone the treasury of her social teaching in response

to another industrial revolution and to developments in the field of artificial intelligence that pose new challenges for the defense of human dignity, justice and labor," he said.

Meanwhile, he has drawn attention to international crises and especially expressed concern about Russia's war in Ukraine and Israel's war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

Speaking to journalists Aug. 13, he described the Holy See's efforts as "soft diplomacy," always inviting, encouraging the pursuit of nonviolence through dialogue and seeking solutions - because these problems cannot be solved by war."

John Cavadini, director of the McGrath Institute for Church Life and a theology professor at the University of Notre Dame, said Pope Leo has presented himself as a "leader in whom you can have confidence."

His use of traditional symbols of the papacy, such as wearing the papal cape known as a "mozzetta" when he first appeared as pope, establishing his residence in the papal apartments and seeking summer respite at Castel Gandolfo, indicates Pope Leo's aim to be "a leader because of his office and not so much of his personal charisma," Cavadini said.

"I think that gives people confidence and I think it's intended to give people confidence - confidence not just in himself personally, but in the office that he holds, which he obviously holds in high respect or high regard," he added. "He wants to be an interpretation of the papal office that's credible for everyone."

While some papal watchers have suggested that the first months of this pontificate have provided little fodder for evaluation, Cavadini said that Pope Leo instead appears to be "a very circumspect guy" exercising prudence, and who respects his role as representing something larger than himself.

"He doesn't want a personal preference to quickly define the office," he said.

Rollo-Koster said she sees an international character in Pope Leo's papacy, formed by his years of living in Peru and Rome, and his global travel while serving as the Augustinians' prior general.

Pope Leo has made obvious his Augustinian worldview, steeped in the writings and vision of St. Augustine, the renowned theologian and philosopher who was a bishop in Northern Africa during the fifth century, and whose thought shaped the founding of the Augustinian Order in 1244.

Pope Leo, who entered the order after college in 1977 and served 12 years as its international leader, frequently quotes St. Augustine in his homilies and public addresses.

Standing on St. Peter's balcony May 8, Pope Leo described himself as a "son of St. Augustine," and his first months as pope have underscored that identity, said Augustinian Father Kevin DePrinzio, Villanova University's vice president for mission and ministry.

"His leadership style is Augustinian. It's 'for' and 'with.' It's like, 'I'm with you in this,'" Father DePrinzio said. "I think it's a very accessible spirituality that people are going to get pulled in to. It's marked by things like hospitality, friendship ... the restless heart - you know, the heart on fire - and it's deeply, deeply human stuff."

## St. John Henry Newman to be formally named doctor of the church

ROME (OSV News) - St. John Henry Newman - the 19th-century theologian, intellectual and preacher who journeyed from Anglicanism to Catholicism, powerfully shaping religious thought in both faith traditions - will be named a doctor of the church by Pope Leo XIV.

The news was announced

by the Vatican shortly after Pope Leo's July 31 audience with Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, prefect of the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints.

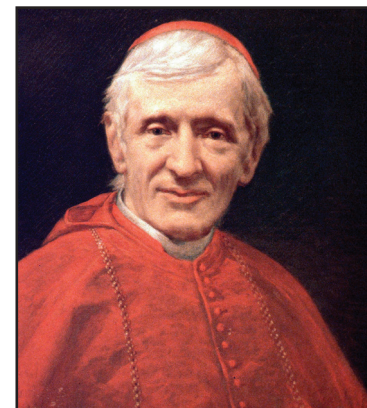
The Vatican press bulletin stated that the pope had "confirmed the affirmative opinion of the plenary session of cardinals and bishops, members

of the dicastery" for sainthood causes, on conferring the title, which since the early church has been bestowed on saints whose doctrinal writing and teachings are held to have special authority.

St. Ambrose, St. Augustine, St. Gregory the Great and St. Jerome were the first four doctors of the church, and excluding this

announcement, there have been 37 saints so named.

The move had been supported by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. They voted almost unanimously to support a request by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales that Newman be named a doctor of the church by Pope Francis.



# Bishop co-chairs Catholic-Pentecostal International Dialogue in Quebec

QUEBEC, CANADA - The fifth session of the seventh phase of the Catholic-Pentecostal International Dialogue took place at the Monastere des Augustines, Quebec City, Quebec, Canada, from July 11-17, 2025.

The Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity and the Pentecostal World Fellowship's Christian Unity Commission co-sponsor this Dialogue.

During this session the participants continued their work on the theme, *Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi* (the law of prayer is the law of faith).

The goal of the Dialogue, started in 1972, is to promote mutual respect and understanding in matters of faith and practice.

The group started to prepare the Final Draft of the current phase which includes among its topics: kerygma/proclamation and Christian faith; prayer/worship and Christian life; as well as sacramentality and Christian living.

The report will be finalized and presented to the respective constituencies by 2026.

Meeting in Quebec City gave the opportunity for participants to become acquainted with the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.

Participants acknowledged with gratitude the assistance provided by Rev. Gary and Gwen Connors as local hosts.

Particularly significant was the Sunday worship and visit at a local Francophone PAOC congregation, Le Carrefour Chrétien de la Capitale, led by Rev. Jean-Frederic Laroche, as well as worship facilitated by the Pentecostal team at the Chapel of the Monastère des Augustines.



**Members of the Catholic-Pentecostal International Dialogue, which is sponsored by the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity and the Pentecostal World Fellowship's Christian Unity Commission, met in Quebec, Canada, from July 11-17, 2025.**

The participants also engaged in a meaningful learning experience as they were exposed to the history and faithful ministry of the L'Ordre des Augustines du Miséricorde de Jesus in Quebec.

During the meeting, entirely devoted to the Final Report, the participants were informed about the participation of Rev. David Wells and Rev. Opoku Onyinah at the inauguration of the ministry of Pope Leo XIV. Morning and evening prayers each day were led alternately by Catholics and Pentecostals.

Co-Chairs of the Dialogue were the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, and Rev. Cecil M. Robeck, Jr, Senior Professor of Church History and Ecumenics, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California, USA (Assemblies of God).

They were assisted by Rev. David Wells, Chair of the PWF CUC, as well

as by Rev. Prof. David Cole, Liaison to the Greater Christian Community for the Pentecostal/Charismatic Churches of North America, and by Msgr. Juan Usma Gómez, DPCU, who served as co-secretaries.

Regarding this year's session, Bishop Bambera said, "Our time in Quebec City has afforded us the opportunity to experience the fruits of the tenant of faith upon which we've reflected the past

seven years: *Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi* - As we worship, so we believe! From our experience of a vibrant Pentecostal community to the very halls where we lived and worked in the Monastere des Augustines, whose founders established the first hospital in North America in 1639, we have been blessed to witness the fruits of discipleship lived in and through a deep respect and reverence for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Reflecting the heart of the work of Christian unity, Pope Leo XIV, shared these words on the day following his inaugural Mass with representatives of other churches and ecclesial communities. Recalling his episcopal motto, 'In the One - that is Christ - we are one,' Pope Leo encouraged us "to pray and work together to reach this goal, step by step, which is and remains the work of the Holy Spirit."

Rev. Robeck also noted, "Prayer is important to all of us. It is a primary means that we use to communicate with God. Are our prayers essentially self-centered or do they move us to greater love for God and for our neighbor? How we pray holds implications for how we face life, especially life in community. This Dialogue has helped us to see such questions more clearly as together, we express our desire for greater unity."



## BISHOP BAMBERA'S SCHEDULE

**August 31 - September 9** - Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to Italy

**September 13** - Hispanic Heritage Mass

Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.

**September 14** - 200th Anniversary Mass for Saint Augustine Church

Silver Lake Township, 10:30 a.m.

**September 15** - School Mass for St. John Neumann Elementary & High School

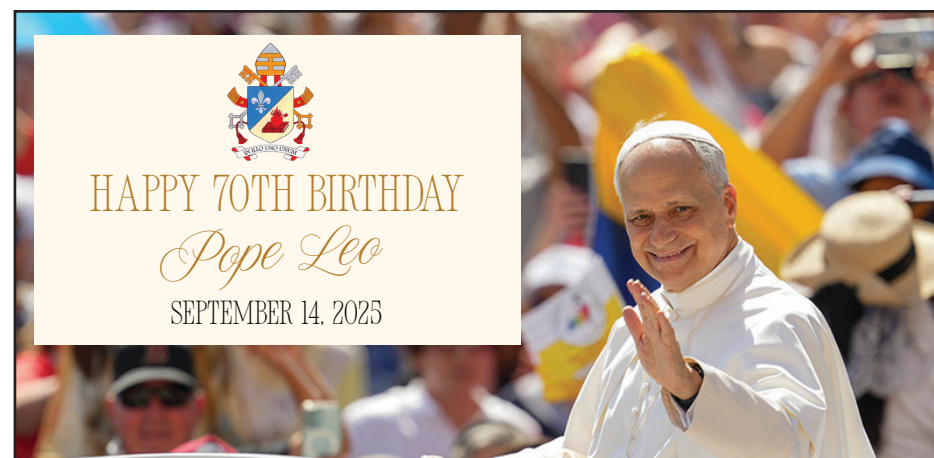
Saint Boniface Church, Williamsport, 10:00 a.m.

**September 17** - School Mass for Holy Redeemer High School

Wilkes-Barre, 9:00 a.m.

**September 18** - Mass of the Holy Spirit for Chancery Staff

Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.



**DIocese of SCRANTON**

*Anchored in Hope*

# YOUTH RALLY

**SAT, SEPT 27**  
**1:30 - 8:00PM**  
**NOTRE DAME JR/SR HS**  
 60 SPANGENBURG AVE, EAST STROUDSBURG, PA 18301

Open to Youth in Grades 7-12  
 \$30 Registration (covers dinner & t-shirt)  
**CONTACT US TO REGISTER BY SEPT 13**  
ALL REGISTRATIONS MUST COME THROUGH THE PARISH POINT PERSON

**IVIVA CRISTO REY!**

The Scally Brothers  
Dan Harms  
Bishop Bambera

For More Info

## Diocesan Youth Rally set to take place Sept. 27

SCRANTON - The Diocese of Scranton is pleased to announce that the Diocesan Youth Rally is back for a third year!

Students in 7th-12th grade are invited to participate in the event on Saturday, Sept. 27, at Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg.

The theme of this year's event is: "Anchored in Hope: ¡Viva Cristo Rey!

Participants are invited to dive deep into who we anchor our hope in as Catholics and learn how to be the anchor of hope in today's world. It will be a day for students to deepen their faith, make new

friends and experience fun and fellowship.

The 2025 Diocesan Youth Rally will begin at 1:30 p.m. and run through 8:00 p.m.

Check-in will open at 12:30 p.m.

Young adults will hear from several engaging speakers and musicians such as Dan Harms, a well-known Catholic performer and inspirational speaker.

Harms will serve as the Master of Ceremonies and Keynote Speaker.

Harms has served the church in 46 states and seven countries and is known for his joyfully

high energy stage presence. At home in the Diocese of Richmond, Va., Harms serves in the Office for Evangelization overseeing marriage, family, and life ministries. He regularly appears at conferences, retreat and parish missions and has released a number of albums with his Catholic-Acoustic-Humor-Rock band, *Popple*.

Music for the event will be handled by the Scally Brothers, a dynamic brother duo from Toledo, Ohio.

In addition, participants will have the opportunity to experience Eucharistic Adoration with all of the

other young Catholics who are participating in the event.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will also celebrate Mass with all of the young attendees at the Diocesan Youth Rally.

Registration includes dinner and a t-shirt.

Anyone who is interested in attending the 2025 Diocesan Youth Rally should contact their Director of Religious Education or Youth Minister because all registrations must come through a Diocesan parish.

The deadline for registrations will be Sept. 13.



### Holy Spirit Parish holds annual Walking Pilgrimage

MOCANAQUA - On Saturday, July 26, 2025, faithful from several different parishes journeyed six miles on foot from Saint Mary Church in Mocanaqua to Saint Adalbert Church in Glen Lyon.

The third annual Holy Spirit Parish Walking Pilgrimage allowed participants to walk in the footsteps of their ancestors, who made similar treks

on Sundays to attend Holy Mass before a church was established in town.

After journeying through the Mocanaqua Tract of the Pinchot State Forest, the walking pilgrimage ended with Mass at St. Adalbert Church.

Participants walked in a spirit of penance. They walked carrying their own prayer intentions and those of others.



### Montrose parish provides 'Blessing Bags' to Trehab

MONTROSE - Confirmation students from the Class of 2025 at Holy Name of Mary Church made 'blessing bags' recently as part of a community service project.

The students filled 20 bags with various toiletry items and delivered them to Trehab, a community action agency, to distribute in the local community.

Each bag contained

a note of encouragement and stated the bags were put together by the Confirmation students. This is the second year that Confirmation students have participated in this project.

Pictured above, from left: Stan Grochal; Penelope Follert; Vincent Follert; and Patti McRae, Trehab Food Bank Coordinator. Not pictured, Joni Host, Religious Education teacher.



### Summer music camp held at Gate of Heaven Parish

DALLAS - Gate of Heaven Parish recently hosted a Summer Music Camp with the theme of "Treasure Hunt."

Campers participated in daily choir rehearsals and games and received daily faith lessons presented by Deacon John Jorda of Gate of Heaven Parish, as well as by the pastor, Rev. Andrew Hvozdovic.

Camp participants

sang at a Youth Liturgy at the church on the weekend following the end of camp.

In addition to campers from Gate of Heaven Parish, participants came from Our Lady of Victory Parish in Harveys Lake; Saint Faustina Kowalska Parish in Nanticoke; Saint Nicholas-Saint Mary Parish in Wilkes-Barre; and Saint Therese Parish in Shavertown.

# Father Polednak steps down as Vicar for Clergy, ending storied career

SCRANTON - This summer saw the Diocese of Scranton bid farewell to a stalwart priest-administrator who became a major figure in shaping the local Church's ministerial landscape for many years - and for many years to come.

The recent retirement of Father John Polednak as Diocesan Episcopal Vicar for Clergy leaves behind the priest's thumbprint on the past, present and future of clergy and lay formation and ministry throughout the Scranton Diocese.

The well-known, affable cleric decided to step aside from active service following 49 years of priesthood - the last four as the chief officer of ordained Catholic clergymen ministering in northeast and north central Pennsylvania.

"It's been a great privilege to work in so many areas of our Diocese," Father Polednak commented, referring to the numerous and varied priestly roles he has filled since his ordination in 1976.

Acknowledging that he accepted the challenging position of Diocesan Vicar for Clergy at



**Bishop Joseph C. Bambera addresses Diocese of Scranton staff during the retirement celebration for Father John Polednak, pictured right, on June 26 at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton.**

age 71 - just four years shy of retirement from active ministry- Father Polednak remarked, "I accepted that challenge, and it has been wonderful."

"The role was a natural continuation of working in formation, working in the seminary, the permanent diaconate program, and formation programs for the laity over the years," he added.

In addition to several parochial

and pastoral appointments, Father Polednak has also served his Diocese as Episcopal Vicar for the Southern Pastoral Region, and in the multi-faceted assignments as Diocesan Secretary for Clergy Formation; director of the Permanent Diaconate; and director of Seminarians.

The northern Lackawanna County native's priestly career has also been accentuated by ministry in Catholic education and

evangelization.

Father Polednak has also been entrusted to serve as director of religious formation at multiple Catholic high schools; diocesan regional coordinator of religious education; spiritual director and faculty member at the former Saint Pius X Seminary, Dalton; and director of Fatima Center, the longtime diocesan home for Catholic retreats and programs.

"All these years later, I am very happy to have done what God asked of me in service to the Diocese," Father shared, as he reminisced about his "call" to a priestly vocation some 55 years ago — in 1970 — when he never considered becoming a priest.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, recalled his own early days of seminary formation for the Diocese when he first met Father Polednak.

"I have known him, appreciated him, and have deeply respected his ministry and friendship for all these years," Bishop Bambera said.

"Father John has been tapped to do ministry in so many unique ways," the Bishop continued.

"In addition to parish life, he has served so faithfully in various special assignments he was invited to participate in over the years. Many of which were dealing with the formation of priests and deacons."

For that very reason, Bishop Bambera explained, Father Polednak immediately came to mind when the Bishop was in need of a new Vicar for Clergy back in 2021.

"I knew he was somebody who would do the job generously and selflessly, and he has," the Bishop said.

Bishop Bambera also expressed his appreciation to Father for assuming such a "complicated and demanding role" so late in his active priestly ministry and with retirement in sight.

"He was willing to do it, and I will always be grateful to him for that."

Appointed to succeed Father Polednak and currently serving as Episcopal Vicar for Clergy in the Diocese of Scranton is Father Seth Wasnock, V.E., pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Carbondale.

**VOCATIONS**  
**EZRA 10:4**  
A RETREAT FOR MEN DISCERNING THE PRIESTHOOD  
Rev. Alex Roche

Holy Family Spiritual Renewal Center, Nanticoke  
151 OLD NEWPORT ST., NANTICOKE, PA 18634  
Hosted by the Diocese of Scranton Vocations Office  
**OCTOBER 24-25, 2025**

## Vocations Office to hold Ezra 10:4 Retreat in October

SCRANTON - The Diocese of Scranton Vocations Office is hosting its *Ezra 10:4 Retreat* for men discerning the priesthood Oct. 24-25 at Holy Family Spiritual Renewal Center in Nanticoke.

This preached retreat, named after the Book of Ezra verse that says, "Rise, then, for this is your duty! We are with you, so have courage and act!" is led by Father Alex Roche, Diocesan Secretary for Clergy Formation, Vocation Director, and Director of Seminarians.

Men who are over 18 and are interested in discerning a vocation to priesthood are invited to attend.

For those who have come to the *Ezra 10:4 Retreat* before, brand new talks and

discussion will be offered, so you are encouraged to come again!

This retreat will include Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, talks, group discussion, fellowship, rooming accommodations, and breakfast and lunch on Saturday.

This retreat is free to attend.

Check-in will be held from 6:00-7:00 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 24, and the retreat concludes after the Vigil Mass on Saturday.

Registration is available now on the Diocese of Scranton website at [dioceseofscranton.org](http://dioceseofscranton.org).

For more information, please email [vocations@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:vocations@dioceseofscranton.org).

The registration deadline is Oct. 20, 2025.

DIocese of SCRANTON VOCATIONS  
**YOUNG ADULTS**  
KICK OFF NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK

†  
**Leave a Mark 2025**  
NOVEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>  
5pm Mass - Cathedral of St. Peter, Scranton

Food Trucks and Reception after Mass!

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Leave a Mark Mass • Nov. 2**

# Devotion ran deep as the 101<sup>st</sup> Novena to Saint Ann concluded in Scranton

SCRANTON – As the sun set over the hillside at the Basilica of Saint Ann on July 26, the 101st annual Solemn Novena to Saint Ann ended with hundreds of faithful gathered for the closing Mass.

For many, the most powerful moments weren't simply confined to the final liturgy – they were found in the conversations and prayers given over the Novena's nine sacred days.

For Susan Scanland, a parishioner of Saint Gregory Parish in Clarks Green, this year's Novena was different.

"This is our first year without (my mother) here. She passed away last fall," Scanland said. "I'm sure she's with Saint Ann, just basking in her presence."

It is because of Scanland's mother that Susan says she has attended the Novena for more than six decades.

"We miss her. We love her and we thank her for her beautiful faith," she explained.

Like Scanland, many Novena attendees came with loved ones in mind – living and departed.

Claudia DeSavino, a parishioner of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Peckville, has been coming to the Novena since she was two years old.

"I just love coming here. It's peaceful. I'll come until the day



The faithful filled the grounds of the Basilica of the National Shrine to Saint Ann on Saturday, July 26, 2025, for the Closing Mass of the 2025 Solemn Novena in honor of Saint Ann. (Photos/Mike Melisky)



I die," DeSavino stated. "Saint Ann is so powerful in answering prayers."

The Novena, which began July 17 and spanned nine days leading up to the Feast of Saints Ann and Joachim, has always been more than tradition – it's about deep faith and personal connection.

Ann Marie Humisch, a parishioner of the Cathedral of Saint Peter Parish, appreciated this year's theme which centered around "hope" for the 2025 Jubilee Year.

"It really is amazing to see the faithful," she said. "We all need to pray a little bit more for our world and our country especially."

Throughout the course of the Novena, pilgrims braved the

summer heat and the occasional shower to attend Masses and devotions held throughout the day – from early morning until evening.

Some came for healing. Others came in thanksgiving. All came seeking God's grace.

At the closing Mass, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, reflected on that in his homily.

"Ask and you shall receive; seek and you shall find; knock and the door shall be opened to you," Bishop Bambera quoted from the Gospel. "They sound like the blueprint we've been following throughout this Novena."

The Bishop challenged the faithful to reconsider how they

see God in relation to their lives.

"Prayer is all about trust," he said, "trusting that the God who has given us life... is not about to let us go."

The Bishop encouraged those listening to remember that in the face of life's deep divisions and daily struggles, God's mercy is steadfast and present.

"We gather, not because we are righteous, but because we are all in need of God's mercy and love," Bishop Bambera explained.

As this year's Novena concluded, Father Jim O'Shea, C.P., Provincial of the Passionist community, reflected on its importance to the community, which now spans more than a century.



Bishop Bambera blesses a young parishioner with a relic of Saint Ann following the Closing Mass on July 26, 2025.

"Anything that lasts 101 years is something extraordinary," he said. "Life changes but the fidelity of God never changes. God's calling us to be a holy people never stops and we're always trying to respond to that."

And as the crowds left the hilltop shrine, many promised to return next year, like they always do.

"It is a blessing to those of us in Scranton. How lucky are we?" Scanland asked. "I have friends in Texas that come up sometimes to attend the Novena, so to have it in our own backyard is truly a blessing."



Bishop Bambera delivers the homily during the Closing Mass of the Solemn Novena to Saint Ann on July 26, 2025.



A woman gently touches a statue of Saint Ann inside the grotto at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Saint Ann on July 26, 2025.

## Second year of Spanish Novena Masses draws larger crowds

SCRANTON — For the second consecutive year, the Basilica of Saint Ann offered a Spanish-language Mass and Novena devotions each evening at 7:30 p.m. — a growing sign of welcome and inclusion for the area's Hispanic Catholic community.

“This is a great way to integrate communities,” Rufino Cano, a parishioner of Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish in South Scranton, said. “It’s a great opportunity to feel welcome, to feel that we belong. We are one community because we are one Church.”

Each night during the nine-day Novena, priests from several different parishes across the Diocese of Scranton celebrated the Spanish Mass, including priests from East Stroudsburg, Hazleton, Wilkes-Barre, and Archbald.

The effort to involve priests and parishioners from several different communities has been collaborative.

“Last year was my first year,” Francisco Castelan, a deacon



**A group of parishioners from Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish in South Scranton pose for a photo with Father Cristian Martinez, C.P., one of this year's preachers for the Solemn Novena to Saint Ann, following the 7:30 p.m. Spanish Mass and Novena on Friday, July 25, 2025.**



**For the second consecutive year, Spanish language Masses and Novena prayers were offered at the annual Solemn Novena to Saint Ann in West Scranton. During the 7:30 p.m. daily Mass, faithful gathered together in prayer and thanksgiving to the grandmother of Jesus.**

candidate, stated. “I feel blessed being here. We are all like a community — serving and praying together.”

The Spanish Masses serve as an invitation for those who have heard about the Novena but might not yet have taken part.

“It is a wonderful experience for us to come,” Jovita Saucedo, a parishioner of Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish, explained. “It makes me feel that we are part of the community ... Next year, I’m

planning to bring my mom. She is ninety-two.”

For many, worshipping in Spanish allows for a more intimate prayer experience. Each of the Masses was filled with beautiful music and devotion.

“The more the Word of God can spread, the better,” Joceyln Alcantar, a young singer from the choir ‘Coro Cristo Rey,’ explained. “I’m really honored to be singing here. Hopefully, for the next few years, we’ll be able

to continue taking part in this grand celebration.”

During this second year of Spanish Masses, enthusiasm was growing.

“The numbers (of attendees) are growing from last year to this year,” Cano noted. “More Spanish-speaking people are present at this Novena.”

Beyond just numbers, the presence of the Hispanic community has enriched the spiritual atmosphere of the Novena.

“They bring life, they bring family, children, hope,” Father Jim O’Shea, C.P., Provincial of the Passionist community, explained. “They bring a future.”

For Cano and others, those blessings are already being felt.

“Hopefully, the tradition continues. It is going to pass through generations,” he said. “It’s a great opportunity for people to be in this beautiful place, on top of the hill, it’s a beautiful church.”

## Children’s Mass brings generations together in prayer

SCRANTON — The Basilica of Saint Ann welcomed its youngest faithful on Saturday, July 19, 2025, as the annual Children’s Mass brought generations together in prayer during the Solemn Novena.

Traditionally held on the first Saturday of the Novena, the 10:00 a.m. Mass is more than just a moment for the youngest Catholics — it’s a celebration of the whole family.

“We celebrate families in a special way today,” Rev. Michael Rowe, C.P., said. “We do a blessing of children, and we do a blessing of grandparents. They are both valued, and they are special.”

The Mass included children participating in parts of the homily.



**Young people participate in the annual Children’s Mass during the Solemn Novena to Saint Ann on Saturday, July 19, 2025, at the Basilica to Saint Ann in West Scranton. (Photos/Dan Piazza)**



For Deacon Peter Ann’s,” he said. “Many of their grandparents and parents have been coming here for many years.”

“It introduces children to the whole idea of the Novena at Saint

Ann’s,” he said. “Many of their grandparents and parents have been coming here for many years.”

The Children’s Mass reflected the Novena’s 2025

theme of hope — hope that faith will take root in young hearts, and that the love and prayers of parents and grandparents will guide that growth.

“Saint Ann has always been there for many,” Deacon Lemoncelli added. “People come to her for healing and to protect their families. Saint Ann and her husband, Saint Joachim, prayed for the birth of Mary and they were blessed with that, and then they raised her in the faith, as most of our grandparents do here.”

Novena organizers encourage those families that missed this year’s Children’s Mass to make it a priority next year. Each year, the Children’s Mass reminds every generation where faith begins — at home, nurtured by love and tradition.

“They are being uplifted,” Father Rowe ended by saying.

# Catholic Men's Conference to be held in October

WILKES-BARRE - Members of 'Be a Catholic Man' Conference recently gathered to plan for this year's 10th annual event.

The theme will be "Christ is King."

The event will be held on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at Holy Redeemer High School, 159 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Wilkes-Barre.

The Conference will feature nationally known speakers, including Mike Aquilina, David Bereit, and Father Charles Connor.

Aquilina, who is originally from Kingston, Pa., is a Catholic author of more than 70 books and has hosted 11 television series on EWTN.

Father Connor, a priest of the Diocese of Scranton, has also hosted several television series on EWTN, and authored several books.

David Bereit is an internationally acclaimed pro-life leader, strategic advisor, coalition builder and dynamic communicator.

The 'Be A Catholic Man' Conference will conclude with Mass offered by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton.

Tickets are \$30 if ordered by Sept. 15, and \$40 if ordered after.

Student tickets cost \$15. Priests, Deacons, and Seminarians are free.

To order tickets, mail a check to 'Be A Catholic Man,' P.O. Box 669, Wyalusing, PA 18853.

Write "Men's Conference" on the memo line and include contact information and parish.

You can also register online at [BeACatholicMan.com](http://BeACatholicMan.com). For more information call (570) 721-0872.



image credit: Fr. Lawrence Lew OP



One hundred years ago, Pope Pius XI instituted the Feast of Christ the King in response to growing secularism and atheism. He recognized that attempts to "thrust Jesus Christ and his holy law" out of public life would have disastrous consequences. Today, as our Catholic faith becomes increasingly marginalized by society, we publicly acclaim that Jesus Christ is King of our hearts, our homes, our work, and our public actions.

*Viva Cristo Rey!*

**10TH ANNUAL DIOCESE OF SCRANTON**

**BE A CATHOLIC MAN CONFERENCE**



**Saturday, OCT. 4, 2025**

**8 AM - 3:00 PM** Holy Redeemer High School  
159 South Penna. Ave., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701



**Bishop Joseph Bambera**



**Mike Aquilina**, originally from Kingston, Pa., is a Catholic author of more than 70 books, has hosted 11 television series on EWTN, and is co-founder

of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology in Steubenville, Ohio. He has co-written songs performed by many headliners. He and his wife Terri have 6 children.



**David Bereit** founded 40 Days for Life, a movement responsible for 14,643 lives saved, 177 abortion employees quitting, and 96 abortion

centers closing. Today he directs the Life Leadership Conference, a National coalition which seeks to maximize the impact of the Pro-Life Movement. David is a husband and father.



**Fr. Charles Connor**, a Scranton Diocesan priest, is an expert in Church history. He is the host of several television series on EWTN

including Historic Catholic Converts. He has authored many books including Defenders of the Faith in Word and Deed and Classic Catholic Converts.

*Information & Online Registration:* **BeACatholicMan.com**

Contact: Mike Kilmer 570-721-0872 • [mkilmer@thekilmergroup.com](mailto:mkilmer@thekilmergroup.com)

\$40 (Early Bird \$30 until 9/15/25), Student \$15, Priest/Deacon FREE Morning coffee & box lunch included



# New school year brings familiar faces to leadership roles at two Catholic schools

SCRANTON – As the 2025-2026 school year begins in the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System, two Catholic school communities are welcoming new principals – both of whom bring deep roots and a strong commitment to Catholic education.

Jason Tribett has been named the new principal of Saint Nicholas-Saint Mary School in Wilkes-Barre, while Brenda Quatrinni has been appointed to lead Epiphany School in Sayre.

Both leaders are no strangers to the mission of Catholic education. Each has lived it both personally and professionally.

For Tribett, taking the helm of Saint Nicholas-Saint Mary School is a homecoming of sorts.

“My kids have gone to school at Saint Nicholas-Saint Mary School for the past six years, so when the opening happened there, I felt a connection to the school from being a parent,” he said. “I know the history through tradition and the quality of the staff, and I felt like it was a good fit to come back.”

Tribett previously served as principal of Holy Family Academy in Hazleton from 2018 to 2021, and has held other various roles in education, including assistant principal, dean of students, athletic director, and health and physical education teacher. Most recently, he worked in leadership at a cyber charter school.

“I got into education to help children, and I felt like my most rewarding years were when I was at Holy Family



**As the 2025-2026 academic year gets underway, the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System is welcoming two new principals. Jason Tribett has been named the new principal of Saint Nicholas-Saint Mary School in Wilkes-Barre, while Brenda Quatrinni has been appointed to lead Epiphany School in Sayre. Pictured, from left are: Christopher Tighe, Assistant Superintendent; Jason Tribett; Brenda Quatrinni; Charlene Haggerty, Assistant Superintendent; and Kristen Donohue, Diocesan Secretary of Catholic Education/Superintendent of Catholic Schools. (Photo/Eric Deabill)**

(Academy), when I was principal there, and I wanted to get back to that,” he added.

As the new school year begins, Tribett looks forward to engaging with the entire school community.

“I’m just looking forward to meeting everybody as the educational leader of the school, figuring out what is going well and what things we might be able to do better, and trying to help our students continue to be the best versions of themselves they can

possibly be,” Tribett added.

A new chapter is also beginning this year at Epiphany School after the recent retirement of Sister Kathleen Kelly, I.H.M., who led the Bradford County Catholic school for 33 years.

For Quatrinni, the transition from second grade teacher came after a lot of prayer and reflection.

“I’ve been at Epiphany (School) for 26 years. This will be my 27th year. I started

there in second grade and I’ve been second grade ever since,” she shared. “When this opportunity came up, I decided, let’s try it, maybe I need a new challenge, maybe this would be good for me to be in a leadership position.”

Stepping into the big shoes of Sister Kathleen, Quatrinni says the transition has been smooth thanks to her predecessor’s organization and kindness.

“She left me lots of notes,” Quatrinni joked. “It has been wonderful because I know all the people. I know all the families.”

Epiphany School is known for its close-knit, family-oriented atmosphere – something that Quatrinni treasures deeply. While she’ll miss daily interaction with students in the classroom, she’s excited about the new perspective her role will bring.

“I know I’m going to miss the kids, being in front of them in the classroom, but I’ll get to see all of them that I’ve taught along the way, so that will be neat to see them in a different light and to see the teachers in a different light,” she added.

As the new school year begins, The Catholic Light offers prayerful best wishes to Tribett, Quatrinni, and all Catholic school administrators and educators across the region. May this year be filled with growth, learning, and joy – as our 19 Catholic schools continue to prepare our students to be faith-filled leaders and life-long learners dedicated to serving the church and society.

## Don’t settle for less; God is waiting to transform your life, pope tells youth

ROME (CNS) - The fullness of life depends on how much one joyfully welcomes and shares in life while also living with a constant yearning for those things that only come from God, Pope Leo XIV told young people.

“Aspire to great things, to holiness, wherever you are. Do not settle for less. You will then see the light of the Gospel growing every day, in you and around you,” he said in his homily during Mass concluding the Jubilee of Youth Aug. 3.

The outdoor Mass, held in Rome’s Tor Vergata neighborhood on the outskirts of the city, marked the culmination of a week-long

series of events for the Jubilee of Youth.

More than 1 million people were estimated to be gathered across the 130 acres that had been prepared for the morning Mass, the prayer vigil the evening before, and for the hundreds of thousands of people sleeping overnight.

After touching down by helicopter less than 12 hours after leaving the evening vigil, the pope rode in the popemobile throughout the open areas - dotted with tents and tarps, and filled with young people, cheering, waving their nation’s flag, and sometimes launching at him shirts and gifts.



**Pope Leo XIV waves to the crowd following Mass for the Jubilee of Youth in Rome Aug. 3, 2025. (CNS photo/Lola Gomez)**

“Good morning!” he said in six languages from a massive stage set up for Mass.

“I hope you all rested a little bit,” he said in English. “We will shortly begin the greatest celebration that Christ left us: his very presence in the Eucharist.”

He said he hoped the concluding Mass would be “a truly memorable occasion for each and every one of us” because “when together, as Christ’s church, we follow, we walk together, we live with Jesus Christ.”

In his homily, the pope again highlighted the Eucharist, as “the sacrament of the Lord’s total gift of himself to us.”

It is Christ, he said, “who transforms our lives and enlightens our affections, desires and thoughts.”

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.*



Two students from the Individualized Instruction (II) program at **All Saints Academy in Scranton** proudly hold their certificates, which informed them that they received the Mrs. Doreen Dougherty Scholarship for the upcoming school year.



The summer maintenance team at **La Salle Academy in Jessup** excelled this year under the tutelage of Mr. Frank Ligi, who guided the crew as they prepared the school for the new academic year.



Students from **Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green** had a magical time at 'Wicked Camp' over the summer with their teachers, Mrs. Orr and Mrs. Yanul.



Delaney McGlynn, Pre-K 4 student at **Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School in Wilkes-Barre**, enjoyed serving guests during orientation with the school's lemonade stand theme.



Students, their families, and the faculty of **Saint John Neumann Regional Academy in Williamsport** participated in the annual Little League World Series Grand Slam Parade, which celebrates the beginning of the Little League World Series. Rachell Abbott and her children, Liam, Lydia, and Louis, proudly wear their SJNRA "Family" shirts to the parade.



Students and their families, along with faculty and staff, gathered on a gorgeous summer evening for 'Outdoor Movie Night' at **Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore**.



Students at **Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter** take a break from their summer camp excitement for a quick photo to capture all the fun they are having!



With the start of the new school year already underway in the northern tier, students from **Epiphany School in Sayre** will surely reminisce about the 'Beach Day Picnic' they had at the end of 2024-25.



Students from **Holy Rosary School in Duryea** took part in a week-long baking camp this summer where they learned new recipes and prepared desserts for family and friends (and certainly utilized some of those all-important math skills).



Congratulations to Emily Strand, third grader at **Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg**, who placed first in a poster contest sponsored by the Pennsylvania Dental Association in the spring. Her artwork was chosen from more than 350 entries, earning her a custom framing of her poster and a monetary gift. Her poster and an accompanying article were featured in the May/June issue of the Pennsylvania Dental Journal.



Members of the Class of 2026 from **Holy Cross High School in Dunmore** traveled to The Romero Center in Camden, N.J., this summer for service work.



# Summer Guide to Church Festivals & Picnics



**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 bountiful theme baskets. For more information, contact Liz Dempsey at (570) 563-1622.

**Holy Spirit in Mocanaqua — Aug. 29-31.** Two of the churches of Holy Spirit Parish 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, from 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, from 5 to 9:30 p.m., and Sunday, Aug. 31, from 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 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.

**Our Lady of Lourdes in Montoursville — Sept. 12 & 13.** Annual Parish Festival on the grounds at 100 Walnut St., Montoursville, held Friday & Saturday from 5 to 9:30 p.m. Featuring live music, basket raffle, cake wheel, pumpkin stand, wine wheel, and children's games. Nightly dinner specials (tickets available at parish office): Friday — Barbecued chicken, baked potato, vegetable sides, rolls & dessert; cost: \$15. Featured entertainment: Leo & KG with Family Traditions; Saturday — Homemade pierogi, stuffed cabbage, halushki & dessert; cost: \$15. Featured entertainment: Lenny Weber playing classical favorites. Traditional picnic foods include hot sausage, walking tacos, funnel cakes, egg rolls, fresh lemonade & ice cream. Basket raffle in the parish hall on Sunday at 11:30 a.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.

**Our Lady of the Abingtons in Dalton — Sept. 13 & 14.** Annual Fall Festival held on Saturday, from 5 to 10 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 6 p.m., on the church grounds, located at 207 Seminary Road in Dalton (behind the parish office). Festival attractions include a Saturday pork barbecue dinner, and chicken barbecue dinner on Sunday. Weekend musical entertainment: QBall (Saturday) and The Quietmen (Sunday). Also featuring wine-tasting from three regional wineries; festival foods, including pizza and homemade baked goods; and bountiful theme baskets, silent auction & white elephant sale. For more information, call (570) 351-6842.

**Blessed Carlo Acutis in Olyphant — Sept. 14.** Olyphant parish's Chicken Barbecue dinner & festival held from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the grounds of Saint Patrick Church, 200 Delaware Ave., Olyphant. Featuring chicken dinners for adults and children served with sit-down or takeout service. Cost: adults, \$12, includes half chicken, potato, vegetable & dessert; children, \$6, includes chicken nuggets & fries. Festivities also include live music, bake sale, basket & cash raffles; picnic foods available for purchase, including chicken nuggets, fries, hot dogs, soda, water & ice cream. Advance dinner tickets available by contacting the parish rectory (570) 489-0752.

## HOLY SPIRIT PARISH - ST. MARY CHURCH

### Homecoming Picnic

St. Mary Park, Lee Road, Mocanaqua, PA

### LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Saturday, August 30 - 5:00-9:30 PM

Sunday, August 31 - 1:00-9:30 PM

### HOMEMADE ETHNIC FOODS

(pierogi, haluski, piggies, potato pancakes, turkette, desserts), refreshments, basket raffles, prize stands and much more!

### Live Entertainment

Saturday - The Music Room

Sunday - Flaxy Morgan

Mass at 4:00 PM at the park on Saturday, August 30.

• FREE PARKING •

# Lebanese Heritage Festival



**Saint Ann Maronite Church**  
**Sunday Sept. 14, 2025**  
**Noon-7 p.m.**

**Authentic Lebanese Food & Pastry**  
**Music and Entertainment**

**1320 Price Street • West Scranton**

Continued on  
Next Page

# Summer Guide to Church Festivals & Picnics

**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 (4 p.m.), Rick Kerstetter & Rich Ahearn; and Saturday (3:30 p.m.), Catawissa Military Band.

**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.

**Saint John Vianney in Scott Township** — Oct. 5. Annual Harvest Festival held on the grounds of the parish's Corpus Christi Church, 704 Montdale Road, Scott Township, from noon to 4 p.m. Event features a full-course turkey dinner, with drive-thru/takeout service

only. Dinners cost \$15; tickets available on site. Tent-covered outdoor variety booths feature bountiful baskets, baked goods, and raffle drawings, including cash grand prize (drawings begin at 3:30 p.m.). For more information, call (570) 254-9502.

## Photos showcasing festival fun!



Father Thomas Dzwonczyk, Assistant Pastor of Saints Anthony and Rocco Parish, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, both in Dunmore, found himself cooking up pizza fritta on Aug. 9, 2025, at the annual Italian Festival in honor of Saint Rocco, which is held each year on the grounds of Saint Rocco Church.



The Family Festival Youth Event, held at Blessed Carlo Acutis Parish in Lackawanna County's Mid Valley was a huge success with nearly 50 participants. Children under the age of 15 were invited to participate in soccer, basketball, and baseball events. The Family Festival Youth Event, held on the grounds of Saint Anthony of Padua Church in Throop on Aug. 2, 2025, also featured the presentation of participation medals of soon-to-be Saint Carlo Acutis. Acutis is set to be canonized on Sept. 7, 2025.

## TRAVELWORLD

GROUP TOURS & CRUISES | EST. 1975



WWW.ASKTRAVELWORLD.COM

Find Us On

CALL US FOR DETAILS! 570-288-9311 | 601 MARKET STREET – KINGSTON  
570-352-5790 | 435 GREEN RIDGE STREET – SCRANTON

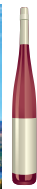
check out our new website!  
www.asktravelworld.com

### NEW HAMPSHIRE'S MOUNTAIN TRAINS VARIOUS SCENIC RAILWAY TOURS + MEALS.



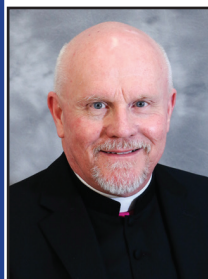
12 SEATS LEFT!

OCTOBER 5-9, 2025  
**\$1699/PP**



### 1-DAY SENECA LAKE WINE TASTING LUNCH CRUISE

OCTOBER 12, 2025  
**\$169/PP**



Msgr. Patrick J. Pratico

## FRENCH RIVIERA

WITH MSGR. PATRICK PRATICO

### Paris ♦ Lourdes ♦ Cannes

Tour the City of the Light, travel through Chateaux Country, and more!

MAY 4-13, 2026  
**\$5,995/PP**



Fr. Ryan P. Glenn

## PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY

WITH FATHER RYAN GLENN

### Rome ♦ Sienna ♦ Florence

Visit the Vatican Museum, Mass at the Basilica, and more!

AUG. 31 - SEPT. 9, 2026  
**\$4,295/PP**





# FOUR SAMs

**PLASTER STATUE  
RESTORATION &  
CONCRETE STATUARY**

• <http://www.foursams.com> •

■ **570-343-8844** ■

## ANNUAL NOVENA IN HONOR OF

- *St. Therese of the Little Flower* -

**QUEEN OF ANGELS PARISH**  
WORSHIP SITE: 320 1<sup>ST</sup> AVE., JESSUP

**SEPTEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup> - OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>**  
Weekday Masses: 5:30 P.M.

Saturday: 4:00 P.M. Sunday: 8:00 & 10:30 A.M.

- Prayers and blessing with relic each day -

Healing Mass: Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 P.M.



## Parishes asked to take up special collection for humanitarian crisis in Gaza

SCRANTON - All parishes in the Diocese of Scranton have been asked to take up a special collection for humanitarian aid to Gaza in the coming weeks.

On Monday, Aug. 18, 2025, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, sent a message to all pastors asking for them to hold the collection in their parish on a weekend of their choosing before Sept. 14, 2025.

"I write to you today with deep pastoral concern for the growing humanitarian crisis in Gaza - a tragedy that continues to unfold with heartbreaking suffering for countless innocent families and individuals," the Bishop wrote.

"Pope Leo XIV, like Pope Francis before him, has expressed great concern for the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza,



**Palestinians gather to receive food from a charity kitchen amid a hunger crisis in the central Gaza Strip July 29, 2025. (OSV News photo/Hatem Khaled, Reuters)**

where the civilian population is suffering from severe hunger and remains exposed to violence and death," he continued.

In communion with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and other dioceses around the country, the Bishop said funds raised will

be directed to two trusted Catholic organizations already on the ground: Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA).

"Both organizations are already actively providing emergency food, medical and psychological care, hygiene supplies, and shelter to those most in need - including children, the elderly, and the wounded. These agencies have longstanding partnerships with the local Church in the region, enabling them to respond quickly and compassionately," Bishop Bambera stated in his message.

As of late July, Catholic Relief Services and its partners have already reached 1.7 million people in Gaza under near-impossible circumstances.

# 33<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



**CAPTAIN & CREW**

Friday, September 12, 2025

**STONEHEDGE GOLF CLUB**  
Tunkhannock, PA

\$120/person includes: Green Fees, Motor Cart, Lunch, Dinner, Beverages, & Prizes!

Contact:

Mike & Merry Ann @ 570-639-5426

Email: olvh1309@aol.com

**Make Check Payable to Our Lady of Victory**  
Mail to: OLV, 16 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Harveys Lake, PA 18618

Registration & Breakfast: 9:00 A.M.

10:00 AM - Shotgun Start

Dinner at Stonehedge Golf Club

Awards & Prizes to follow

Dinner Guests welcome: \$25.00/person

## CAPTAIN & CREW GOLFER REGISTRATION FORM

1.) Name & Phone

2.) Name & Phone

3.) Name & Phone

4.) Name & Phone

DIOCESE OF  
SCRANTON

## Young Adult Hike Day

Connect with God through Nature

**Ricketts Glen State Park**

Falls Trail Loop

**Sat, Sept. 6th**

To Register,  
Scan the QR



### Schedule:

9:30 AM - Meet at Lake Rose Trailhead Parking

9:45 AM Welcome & Opening Prayer

10 AM Rosary Hike - Falls Trail Loop Approx. 3 hours

Fellowship to follow at The Crooked Creek Pub & Restaurant (Optional)

\*Ages 21-40\*

\*please pack water and snacks, food is not provided\*



## Oblates to honor Saint Joseph the Worker with Labor Day Weekend Mass devotions

LAFLIN—The Congregation of the Oblates of Saint Joseph, located at 1880 Route 315, Lafin, will host their annual Triduum and Labor Day Mass celebrations honoring Saint Joseph the Worker.

A three-day preparation of Masses over the Labor Day Weekend will be offered on Friday, Saturday & Sunday, Aug. 29-31, with liturgies celebrated daily at noon in the Oblates seminary chapel.



Devotions to Saint Joseph, with special intentions for all workers and the unemployed, will follow each Mass. A blessing with the first-class relic of Saint Joseph Marello, founder of the Oblate religious order, will conclude the devotions.

A special morning Mass will be celebrated on Labor Day, Sept. 1, at 11 a.m., honoring the Patron Saint of Workers.

Following the Mass, bread will be blessed and distributed to all the faithful as a symbol of the “fruit of our labor.”

Serving as celebrant and homilist for this year’s Labor Day Mass will be Oblate Father Joseph D. Sibilano, who founded the annual Saint Joseph the Worker devotional event in 1983, and is also celebrating the 60th anniversary of his priesthood this year.

The Triduum Masses and Labor Day liturgical celebration will be broadcast live on JMJ Catholic Radio 104.5 FM.

For more information, contact the Oblates main office at (570) 654-7542 or email: [osjseminary@comcast.net](mailto:osjseminary@comcast.net).

## IN MEMORIAM

### Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Rita Ann Naughton

*Entered Life:*  
March 20, 1937

*Entered Eternal Life:*  
July 23, 2025



### Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Damian Marie Dlugos

*Entered Life:*  
September 6, 1930

*Entered Eternal Life:*  
July 29, 2025



### Bernardine Franciscan Sister Andrea Michalczyk

*Entered Life:*  
June 9, 1935

*Entered Eternal Life:*  
August 3, 2025



MAYLATH  
**Valley Health Systems inc.**

**Home Health, Hospice and  
Outpatient Therapy**

P.O. Box 103  
750 State Route 93  
Sybertsville, Pa. 18251

[www.maylathhealth.com](http://www.maylathhealth.com)

570-708-2929 phone  
570-708-1010 fax  
1-877-751-0080 toll free

[info@maylathhealth.com](mailto:info@maylathhealth.com) email



- ✓ Skilled Nursing
- ✓ Nursing Aides
- ✓ Social Work
- ✓ Pastoral Care
- ✓ Registered Dietary
- ✓ Physical Therapy
- ✓ Occupational Therapy
- ✓ Speech Therapy

**C.H.A.P. Accredited**

Training Provided in:  
CPR, First Aid and AED

Outpatient Therapy in  
Two Locations:

Sybertsville and The Laurels, Hazleton

# NJ C INVESTMENTS

Helping to take the mystery out of your financial future

**Nicholas J. Colarossi, CRC®**

College Planning - Retirement Planning  
[www.njcinvestments.com](http://www.njcinvestments.com) - **570-586-5030**

Securities offered through Leigh Baldwin & Co., LLC. Member FINRA/SIPC

## INSPIRING FAITH, BUILDING FOR GENERATIONS

### August is “Make a Will Month”

Your legacy of faith can support the mission of the Diocese of Scranton for generations to come. If you are making or updating your will, please consider using the following suggested wording:

*“I, (your name), of (city, state, zip), give and bequeath to the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Scranton, (written amount, percentage of estate, or description of specific property) for its unrestricted use and purpose (or, if applicable, to support a specific parish or ministry).”*

We encourage you to consult your professional advisor to guide your planning.

For more information or assistance, please contact: Mark DiPippa-Executive Director

Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Scranton  
300 Wyoming Ave, Scranton, PA 18503

[catholicfoundationscranton.org](http://catholicfoundationscranton.org) | **570-207-2212**





570.343.0414 • Taylor, PA 18517

Print, Mail, Fulfillment & Promotional Items

www.pdqprint.com

## 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

## Hundreds lift their voices, hands, and hearts at Charismatic Conference

SCRANTON – With arms raised and voices lifted in praise, approximately 700 people from across the country gathered at The University of Scranton Aug. 1-3, 2025, for the annual 2025 Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference in the Diocese of Scranton.

This year's theme, "Repent – Renew – Revive," echoed through three days of spirited worship, stirring talks, Eucharistic adoration, and healing prayer.

Those attending this year's event say the message was clear – no matter where you are on your faith journey, God is calling you deeper.

"God is alive. God is good and we meet God here," Anne Marie Pierre of Brooklyn, N.Y., who has been attending for more than three decades. "It's like going up the mountain to meet with the Lord."

Participants came from throughout the Diocese of Scranton and beyond – New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia – as well as across the east coast.

Deborah DeRosia, a speaker from Trinidad and Tobago,



Faithful participate in the Closing Mass for the 2025 Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference Aug. 3, 2025. (Photo/Mike Melisky)

encouraged attendees to embrace God's mercy and respond to His call to relationship.

"God runs out to meet them because of His love. Therefore, they can't stay away from Him. He wants to be reconciled. That's why He sent His son," she said.

The weekend was filled with testimonies and teachings designed to help Catholics grow in their relationship with Christ, especially through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Father Gus Ricciardi, the conference's spiritual moderator, called it a "spirit-filled" experience.

"We give a lot of glory and praise. There are different speakers, witness talks and a healing service," he explained. "It's something people need to experience."

The energy and love for Christ is palpable each year.

"I get so inspired and uplifted and it brings you back to the first time you came to know the Lord. It's wonderful," Karen Burkavage from Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Honesdale, said.

During his homily at the Closing Mass on Sunday, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, reminded the faithful of the cost – and the reward – of true discipleship.

"None of us will find a life of meaning, purpose and lasting peace if we refuse to look beyond ourselves, our own needs and our own priorities," he said.

Reflecting on a personal encounter with a homeless man, Bishop Bambera challenged everyone to live the Gospel authentically.

"The cost of discipleship comes at a considerable price ... but it is the only way in which we will find our peace."

For many attendees, that message – of radical, self-giving love – is why they keep coming back.

"The Lord keeps reminding me of what goes on here. He won't let me stay home. It's really wonderful. It's very inspirational. This has been a fantastic weekend," Dianne Spotts, from Lansdale, explained.

Dara Dirhan, a parishioner of Saint Maria Goretti Parish in Laflin, said the conference offers exactly what many in the world are seeking: "rest and restoration in our Lord Jesus Christ."

"It makes me feel really joyful to see other Catholics being so expressive with their faith. There's nothing better than being able to throw our hands up with praise and worship to the Lord and sing the songs we sing together as a group," Dirhan said.

As the weekend ended, attendees said God revived their spirit over the course of the weekend and they are returning home to share His love with the world.

"I wish every church was like this," Audrey Branz of Berwick said.

## 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

### Scranton IHM Sisters Answer Call to Serve Peru with Courage, Conviction

By Shannon Kowalski  
Diocesan Director of Pontifical Mission Societies



When Pope John XXIII called for religious communities to bring their gifts to mission territories, the Scranton IHM Sisters answered with courage and conviction.

What began as a small mission to serve poor children in Lima, Peru, has grown into a decades-long commitment high in the Andes Mountains, where the Sisters continue to walk alongside some of the country's most marginalized communities.

Their work in the remote region of Sicuani has brought education to girls who were once left behind, faith formation to distant parishes, and comfort to the sick and dying.

From 1976 to 1984, two IHM Sisters served in the rural mountain village of Yanoaca in the Diocese of Sicuani.

Sister Joel Marie Sheehy and Sister Mary Martha Gardiner both played a vital pastoral and educational role in an area rarely visited by priests or healthcare professionals. They left in the late 1980s due to widespread terrorism in the country.

In 1992, Bishop Albano Quinn of Sicuani invited the Sisters to return, asking them to serve in a new parish on the city's outskirts, where families were migrating from the Andes in search of better education and job opportunities.

Four Sisters accepted the bishop's invitation - Sister Eileen Egan became Pastoral Administrator of San Felipe Parish and continues to serve in that role today. She was later joined by Sister Ancilla Maloney (2012-2024) and Sister Norma Poma-Arpi (since 2015).

Sicuani, situated 11,500 feet high in the Andes, posed



Children of Sicuani

immediate challenges.

The Sisters noticed that while boys attended high school, girls were largely absent. Mountain communities had no local high schools, and families didn't prioritize girls' education. The Sisters wrote grants and founded the IHM House of Studies, a residence that allowed girls to move to the city to attend school. Many of these students have gone on to earn advanced degrees.

Mass is offered at San Felipe parish by a visiting priest from the Cathedral Parish once a week. That parish also oversees 35 remote mountain communities, often reaching each only once a year.

San Felipe parish is responsible for six mission communities. In one of them, AccoAccoPhalla, the local church had fallen into disrepair. While the Sisters wait for grant approval for reconstruction, locals began making adobe bricks - over 6,000 of them - to prepare for building, hoping to complete the foundation before the October rainy season.

To strengthen Catholic education, Sister Eileen began a Theology Program for religion teachers. Since Peru's agreement with the Vatican allows religion to be taught in schools, Sister Eileen travels across the diocese's four provinces, sometimes 8 hours

away, to lead workshops. These are often conducted in Quechua, the first language of many catechists.

Before volunteering for the IHM mission in Sicuani, Sister Ancilla spent 18 years teaching high school in the Bronx.

In Peru, she took charge of the parish library, which had a collection of books but lacked basic recreational materials like games, coloring books, and puzzles.

Noticing this gap, Sister Ancilla introduced arts and crafts projects, which quickly became a favorite activity among the local children.

Each summer, after visiting home in the U.S., she would return with suitcases full of supplies to bring joy and variety to the children's lives. Holidays became special occasions, marked by visits from St. Nicholas or Santa Claus and Easter egg hunts.

*Continued on Page 32*

### 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](http://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](http://www.stmarysmonumentcompany.com) —

— [stmary975@aol.com](mailto:stmary975@aol.com) —



**MESKO**  
glass

[mesko.com](http://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](http://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.

Advertise in

**The Catholic Light**

570-207-2229

EManley@DioceseofScranton.org

#### WANTED TO BUY

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

#### WANTED TO BUY

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

#### 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.**

## Marian Devotion Rosary prayer services

SCRANTON — Fostering prayerful devotion to Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary through recitation of the Holy Rosary, Marian Devotion Ministries in the Diocese of Scranton continues its 2025 Fatima Journey.

This year's monthly schedule of devotions to the Blessed Mother began on the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima (May 13) and continues through October, the Month of the Holy Rosary.

Prayer rallies and Rosary evenings are hosted throughout the Diocese and include the Rosary with chanted Scriptural mysteries, Fatima prayers, litanies, and Marian hymns.

Upcoming Marian Devotion gatherings are as follows:

**Monday Evening Marian Rosary Devotion** — Sept. 15, at 6 p.m. at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laflin.

**Rosary Evening with Alhambra Caravan 4 of Alhambra** — Sept. 18, at 6 p.m. in Christ the King Chapel at King's College, Wilkes-Barre.

**Saturday Rosary Devotion** — Sept. 20, at 5 p.m. at the Fatima Shrine on the grounds of Saint Mary of Mount Carmel Church, Dunmore.

**Monday Evening Marian Rosary Devotion** — Sept. 22, at 6 p.m. at Saint Patrick Church, 205 Main St., Nicholson.

For information, contact Ernie Pappa at (570) 241-8171, or email: [singtomary@aol.com](mailto:singtomary@aol.com).

## Prayer Requests for Priests

The Daily Prayer Request for Priests schedule is as follows:

August 21, Father Robert Hochreiter; August 22, Father Thomas Hudak; August 23, Father Andrew Hvozdovic; August 24, Holy Cross Father Daniel Issing; August 25, Father George Jeffrey; August 26, Monsignor John Jordan; August 27, Father Joseph Kakareka; August 28, Father Louis Kaminski; August 29, Saint Peter Priestly Fraternity Father Matthew Kane; August 30, Father Binesh Joseph Kanjirakattu; August 31, Father William Karle; September 1, Pope Leo XIV; September 2, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; September 3, Father Joseph Kearney; September 4, Jesuit Father Herbert Keller; September 5, Father Brian Kelly; September 6, Father John Kilpatrick; September 7, Monsignor Shane Kirby; September 8, Father Michael Kirwin; September 9, Father Michael Kloton; September 10, Holy Cross Father Charles Kociolek; September 11, Father Bert Kozen; September 12, Father Jonathan Kuhar; September 13, Father Jose Joseph Kuriappilly; September 14, Father Andrew Kurovsky; September 15, Father Joseph Kutch; September 16, Father Arun Lakra; September 17, Father John Lambert; September 18, Father William Langan; September 19, Father John Lopera; September 20, Saint Peter Priestly Fraternity Father William Lawrence; September 21, Passionist Father John Lee; September 22, Jesuit Father John Levko; September 23, Father Michael Litcheck.

## 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](http://www.martincaufieldmemorialworks.com)  
[mcmwphil@ptd.net](mailto: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



### HAUNTED GETTYSBURG

Oct. 13-15

3 Days/2Nights

\$560-\$910 based on occupancy



### DC GETAWAY

Nov. 3-5

3 Days/2 Nights

\$735-\$999 based on occupancy

**BEST OF BROADWAY**

Great seats! All shows!

DATES ON OUR WEBSITE

### Check out these coming tours:

Sept. 11: Finger Lakes Wine Tour

Sept. 24: 911 Museum & Memorial

Sept. 29-Oct. 1: Cape May

Oct. 6-10: Lobsters & Lighthouses

Oct. 7: PA Grand Canyon

Oct. 12: Great Pumpkin Blaze

Oct. 21: Olivia Newton-John Tribute

Oct. 26: Renaissance Faire

Nov. 20: "Noah" at Sight & Sound

Check [www.MartzTours.com](http://www.MartzTours.com) — Join our email list for tour specials! Call 570-361-9668 for more information.

## Milford Knights donate to Veterans Affairs, Special Olympics



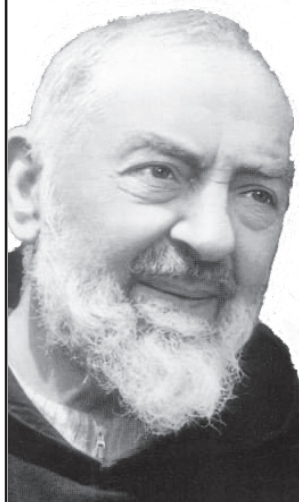
Knights of Columbus, John Paul II Council 13935 in Milford, recently contributed to two charitable organizations, with donations of \$750 to the Pike County Veterans Foundation and \$1,225 to Pennsylvania Special Olympics. Shown above, in the photo at left, are Tony Perito (right), K of C Council financial secretary, and Jesiah Schrader, director of Pike County Veterans Affairs. In the accompanying photo, Bill Reed, Council treasurer, is pictured with NEPA Special Olympics representatives Heather Schreider and Sarah Driscoll.

## THE ITALIAN COLONY OF ST. LUCY

*Pilgrimage to the*  
**NATIONAL CENTRE**  
*for*  
**PADRE PIO**

**Saturday, October 4th • \$80pp**  
 Includes round trip bus transportation to Barto, PA, and a box lunch.

*- A Destination Honoring One of the Most Beloved Saints of Our Time -*



PLEASE CONTACT JOE GUIDO AT 570-955-7469 FOR MORE DETAILS

## STUCKER TOURS

570-655-8458 • For a complete list of tours • [www.stuckertours.com](http://www.stuckertours.com)

**Atlantic City Resorts Casino**  
 Oct. 26-28 • \$309/\$20 Slotplay & \$50 Food credit.

**Resorts World Catskills Casino**  
 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. Indoor/Outdoor buildings: Amish items, baked goods & more, 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, maple sugar & candy demo, 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

**BEDWICK'S**  
*Pharmacy & Gifts*  
**RELIGIOUS ITEMS**  
 FOR EVERYDAY & SPECIAL OCCASIONS

**CLEARANCE TABLES**  
 INSIDE THE STORE  
 THROUGHOUT AUGUST!!!  
 NEW MERCHANDISE ADDED DAILY!

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

— PLEASE CALL 570-823-3818 FOR STORE HOURS —  
**Full-Service Pharmacy... Free Delivery to Local Area**  
 452 Hazle Street - Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702 - 570-823-3818

**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.**

## Wilkes-Barre Grotto to host Birthday Party for Mary



The Lay Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, caretakers of Our Lady of Fatima Blessed Grotto in North Wilkes-Barre, will host a celebration marking the birthday of the Blessed Mother on Sunday, Sept. 7.

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary is commemorated in the Catholic Church on Sept. 8.

Festivities will begin at 6 p.m. on the Grotto grounds, 51 W. North St., Wilkes-Barre, with singing around a birthday cake for Our Lady, followed by Marian hymns and prayerful recitation of 15 decades of the Holy Rosary.

Prayers will be offered for world peace, the salvation of souls, and special/private intentions.

Street parking is available adjacent to the Grotto and at the nearby church. All are welcome.

# Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese

**An Evening with Carlo Acutis** — AUG. 28, hosted by Blessed Carlo Acutis Parish in Olyphant at St. Patrick Church, 200 Delaware Ave., Olyphant; joy-filled evening exploring the life and legacy of Blessed Carlo Acutis begins at 6:30 p.m. Presentation includes inspiring 30-minute film on the life story and mission of the future saint; featured guest speakers will also reflect on Blessed Carlo's exceptional faith and enduring impact. All are welcome; for more information, contact the parish office (570) 489-0752.

**Venerable Father Patrick Peyton Monthly Rosary** — SEPT. 3, 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.

**Cathedral Grief Support Group Sessions** — SEPT. 3, 10, 17 & 24, offered by the St. Peter Cathedral grief support ministry, the sessions address topics dealing with the grief process to enable participants find healing; the Bereavement Support Group hosts seasonal meetings on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave., Scranton (across from St. Peter's Cathedral). Anyone interested in attending is asked to contact the Cathedral Parish office at (570) 344-7231.

**Young Adult Ministry 'Rosary Hike'** — SEPT. 6, sponsored by

the Young Adult Ministry of the Scranton Diocese, for ages 21 to 40; held at the Ricketts Glen State Park in Benton. Group meets at 9:30 a.m. at the Lake Rose Trailhead lot for Rosary Hike of the Falls Loop Trail starting at 10 a.m.; hike takes approximately three hours, spanning 3.2 miles and featuring 17 waterfalls. Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary will be prayed along the trail; fellowship follows at the Crooked Creek Pub & Restaurant. For information/registration, contact familylife@dioceseofscranton.org.

**25th Annual Parish Golf Tournament** — SEPT. 10, sponsored by Our Lady of Victory Parish in Tannersville; held at the scenic Hideaway Hills Golf Club in Kunkletown. Golfer registration begins at 10 a.m., with shotgun start at noon. Cost: \$100 per player, includes 18-hole tournament, riding cart, boxed

*Continued on Page 30*

Whether You're Buying or Selling  
Experience Matters!



CALL ANTONIO DEROSA

OFFICE: 570-474-9801 CELL: 570-262-7652

ANTONIODEROSA.LEWITH-FREEMAN.COM

**LEWITH & FREEMAN** | LEWITH-FREEMAN.COM  
REAL ESTATE, INC.



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

**570.591.6414**

To Honor the Gravesites of our Unborn Brothers and Sisters

**National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children** Saturday Sept. 13, 2025

On Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, pro-life Americans will honor the memory of the more than 66 million unborn victims of abortion during the National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children.

Solemn prayer services will be held simultaneously at gravesites around the country where abortion victims have been buried as well as at other Memorial sites dedicated in their honor.

Join us for the National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children and ensure that our unborn brothers and sisters will not be forgotten.

**Memorial Service for Victims of Abortion**

*Date & Time*  
Saturday, September 13, 2025 at 5pm  
(Immediately following the 4pm Mass)

*Location*  
St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish  
5110 Pocono Crest Rd  
Pocono Pines, PA 18350

*Special Details*  
• Guest Speaker - Jessica Freyn, e.  
Founder and Director, Providence Pregnancy Center, Scranton  
• Musical Performance by  
Mr. Dodie Peratta

*Local/Media Contact*  
James Cunningham  
732-778-7762 jamesc117@icloud.com

Copyright © 2025 National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children, a joint project of Citizens for a Pro-Life Society and the Pro-Life Action League.

For more information on this event, visit [NationalDayOfRemembrance.org](http://NationalDayOfRemembrance.org)

PRESENT THIS COUPON FOR A DISCOUNT

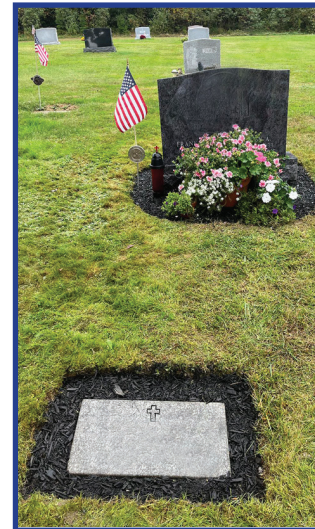
**Loving Memory Monument Care, LLC**

**Spruce up your loved ones grave for the summer!**

**- 570-575-1184 -**



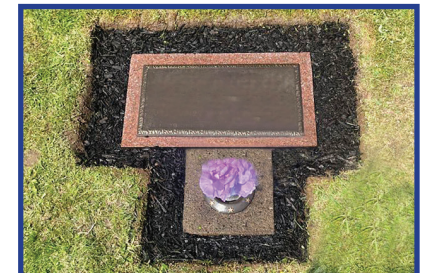
↑ **BEFORE**



**AFTER** ↑



↑ **BEFORE** **AFTER** ↓



**Seniors & Veterans Discounts!**

**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

Continued from Page 29

lunch, and buffet awards dinner at 5 p.m. Event includes “hole-in-one” contests, and putting competition with \$50,000 prize. Hole sponsorships available for \$100 each. For more information/registration, contact Our Lady of Victory Church at (570) 629-4572 or victory2@ptd.net.

**‘Theology on Tap’ Young Adult Series — SEPT. 11 & OCT. 9**, sponsored by the Young Adult Ministry of the Scranton Diocese, for ages 21 to 40; Catholic speaker series

combines faith and fellowship with seasonal gatherings at Sabatini’s Bottle Shop, 1901 Wyoming Ave., Exeter. Doors open at 7 p.m.; cash cover charge of \$5 includes pizza and soft drinks. Monthly speakers: Addie Rocco (Sept. 11) & Jessica Freyne (Oct. 9). For registration information, call (570) 207-2213 or contact familylife@dioceseofscranton.org.

**Annual Flea Market — SEPT. 13-14 & 20**, sponsored by St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Old Forge; held in the church hall, 320 Vine St., Old Forge. Three-day flea market hours: Saturday, Sept. 13, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, Sept. 14 (half-price sale), 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and Saturday, Sept. 20 (bag & box sale), 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sale features antiques, household goods, furniture, children’s items, and gift card raffle; includes a variety of ethnic foods, baked goods and refreshments for purchase.

**30th Annual Lebanese Heritage Festival — SEPT. 14**, hosted by St. Ann Maronite Church, 1320 Price St., West Scranton; held from noon to 7 p.m. Ethnic festival features authentic Lebanese food & pastries; live music and entertainment.

**Monthly Meeting of the Lay Carmelites — SEPT. 20 & OCT. 18**, 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.

**St. Joseph Fraternity of Third Order Secular Franciscans — SEPT. 21 & OCT. 19**, 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.

**Annual St. Therese of the Little Flower Novena & Healing Mass — SEPT. 22-OCT. 1**, hosted by Queen of Angels Parish in Jessup; annual Novena devotion, concluding on the Feast of St. Therese, held at the parish worship site of St. Michael Church, 322 First Ave., Jessup. Novena schedule: weekday Masses at 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, 4 p.m.; and Sunday, 8 & 10 a.m. Devotions include Novena prayers and blessing with the saint’s relic. Healing Mass celebrated on Monday, Sept. 29, at 5:30 p.m. All faithful welcome.

**Blessed Carlo Acutis Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit — SEPT. 27 & 28**, hosted by Blessed Carlo Acutis Parish in Olyphant, at St. Anthony Church, 215 Rebecca St., Throop; exhibit hours: Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Sunday, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Traveling exhibit, displayed through the United States, chronicles Eucharistic miracles from around the world, originally created and written by Blessed Carlo Acutis, whose canonization to sainthood is scheduled for Sept. 7 in Rome. All are welcome; for more information, call the parish office (570) 489-0752.

**St. Padre Pio Shrine Pilgrimage — OCT. 12**, sponsored by Good Shepherd Parish in Drums; bus excursion for daylong pilgrimage to the National Centre for Padre Pio in Barto, Pa., departs Good Shepherd Church at 9:30 a.m., with return trip leaving Barto at 5 p.m. Visit includes Mass & procession at 12:30 p.m.; guest Capuchin Friars from Italy and numerous relics of St. Padre Pio. Participants responsible for their lunch accommodations; dinner stop/break scheduled for trip home. Cost: \$50 per person; to register, contact Pat at (570) 788-0457, or Ann at (302) 753-7156.

### 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)

**MICHAEL W. SMITH**

**LIVE IN  
CONCERT**

**BEYOND THE FAR HORIZON TOUR**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3**

  
**F.M. KIRBY CENTER**  
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

**TICKETS: TICKETMASTER.COM & THE F.M. KIRBY CENTER BOX OFFICE | 570-826.1100**



[MICHAELWSMITH.COM](http://MICHAELWSMITH.COM)



## Mission Message: IHM Sisters Answer Call

Continued from Page 25

Every library day started with reading and homework - a lifeline for many children whose homes lacked space or even a table to study. The library became a cherished refuge in the neighborhood.

As two of the few English speakers in the region, Sisters Eileen and Ancilla were often asked to write grants for vital projects.

Besides the new church for AccoAccoPhalla, they helped the Franciscan Sisters launch a residence for elderly individuals who were abandoned, ill, or abused. The local Quechua community donated land, and construction is currently underway.

The IHM Sisters in Sicuani remind us that mission is not a concept, it's a calling lived out through daily acts of love, resilience, and presence.

Whether in a mountain village



Parishioners of San Felipe Parish

without a priest, a dusty library filled with eager children, or a church built brick by handmade brick, their impact is real and enduring.

As we reflect on their ministry, we are invited to ask ourselves: How are we supporting missions today? Whether through prayer, financial support, or simply spreading awareness, we each have a role to play. The mission field may be far away, but our connection to it - and our responsibility toward it - is closer than we think.

## 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

Stay Up to Date on the Latest News from the Diocese of Scranton  
Visit [dioceseofscranton.org](http://dioceseofscranton.org)

## 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](http://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.)