



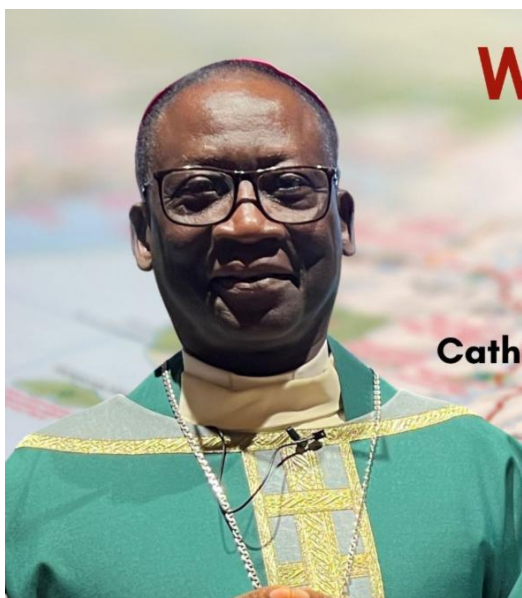
# **The Catholic Light**

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

**Weekly E-Newsletter**

**October 16, 2025**

## **World Mission Sunday Mass to be held Oct. 19 at Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton**



**WORLD MISSION  
SUNDAY MASS**

**Sunday, Oct. 19  
12:15 p.m.  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton**

**Special Guest Homilist  
Bishop Matthew Kwasi Gyamfi  
Diocese of Sunyani, Ghana**

World Mission Sunday is a special day that unites Catholics worldwide in prayer, solidarity, and support for the Church's mission efforts.

This year's theme, chosen by the late Pope Francis, is inspired by the Jubilee of Hope: "Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples."

It is an invitation to bring Christ's light and hope to the world, especially to communities where the Church is young, growing, and often struggling.

A Pontifical Mass in honor of World Mission Sunday will be celebrated at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, 315 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, on Sunday, Oct. 19, 2025, at 12:15 p.m.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as the principal celebrant, and the homily will be delivered by Bishop Matthew Kwasi Gyamfi of the Diocese of Sunyani, Ghana. All are invited to attend.

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## **Bishop Bambera's Letter for World Mission Sunday**



My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Each year, World Mission Sunday reminds us of something profound: we are not simply individual believers, but members of one family in Christ, called to share the hope that has been given to us. This year's theme, "Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples," speaks directly to the heart of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. These words take on deeper meaning under Pope Leo XIV, whose own life as a missionary in Peru gives witness to the very hope we are called to share.

It is worth remembering that the Catholic Church here in the United States was itself once mission territory. Just over a century ago, our parishes and schools were taking root through the generosity of Catholics from across the ocean who understood that faith shared is faith multiplied. They gave to families they would never meet, recognizing the urgency of living their faith in service to sisters and brothers beyond their own church walls.

Today, that same call comes to us. We are asked to extend our hands and hearts to the 1,124 mission territories where the Church is still taking root amid poverty, persecution, and tremendous challenges. These communities in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Oceania, and the Middle East depend on our prayers and support.

When we contribute to the World Mission Sunday collection, we become part of something beautiful. Our gifts help form seminarians, train catechists, build schools where children discover they are beloved by God, and support hospitals where healing becomes witness to Christ's love.

As Pope Francis reminded us, "We cannot be inactive Christians. To sit on the sidelines as a follower of Jesus makes no sense." The light of Christ we celebrate each Sunday is meant to reach the ends of the earth through our prayers, generosity, and willingness to see ourselves as missionaries right here, right now. I encourage you to respond with hearts open to the Spirit's call. Your sacrifice joins with thousands of others to ensure the Gospel reaches those who might otherwise never hear it, affirming that

we are one Church, one family, united in bringing God's love to all people.

May this World Mission Sunday inspire you to live as missionaries of hope in your homes, workplaces, and communities, discovering more fully who we are called to be as disciples of the risen Christ.

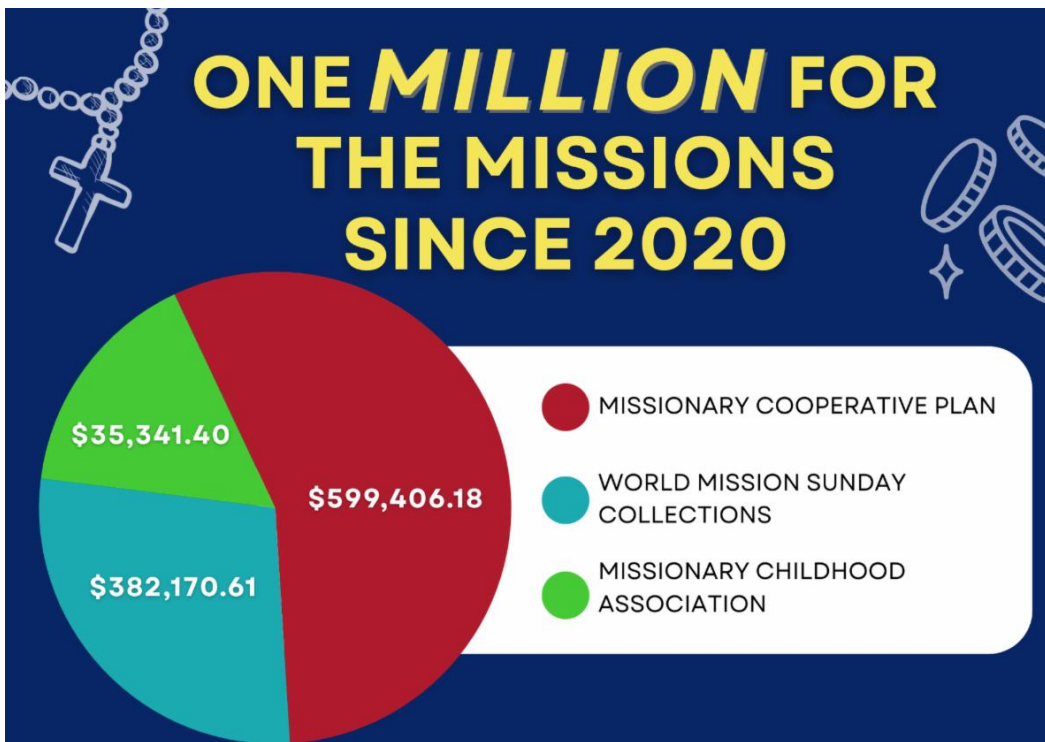
Faithfully yours in Christ,

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

[Click Here to Share Bishop Bambera's Mission Message from the Diocese of Scranton Website](#)

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**In last five years, Diocese of  
Scranton surpasses \$1 million in  
Mission collections**



Since 2020, the Diocese of Scranton has raised \$1,016,918.19 to support mission territories around the world!

This impressive total comes from participation in three programs of the Pontifical Mission Societies: World Mission Sunday, the Missionary Cooperative Plan, and the Missionary Childhood Association.

Each of these offers us a unique way to live out our faith by supporting those who serve in some of the poorest and most remote areas of the world.

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## **Eight men in Diaconate Formation instituted as Lectors**



Eight men in the Diocese of Scranton's Permanent Diaconate Formation Program were instituted as Lectors on Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025, during a special Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter celebrated by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton.

The men receiving the ministry of Lector were: William Chechel of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Brodheadsville; Daniel B. Cosacchi of Saint Gregory Parish in Clarks Green; Jeffrey R. Kovaleski of Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Dickson City; Thomas J. Krzan of Saint Jude Parish in Mountain Top; Kevin J. Martin of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Brodheadsville; Stephen O. Muntzenberger of Saint Jude Parish in Mountain Top; Justo Paula-Martinez of Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish in Scranton; and Paul M. Zwolan of Saint Therese Parish in Shavertown.

As a part of the Rite, each man knelt before the Bishop and received a Book of Holy Scriptures – a powerful moment marking

their call to not just proclaim the Word of God during liturgical celebrations but to live that Word through their daily witness.

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## **Saint Eulalia Parish marks 75 years with celebration of faith and community**



With the beautiful colors of the changing autumn season providing a picturesque backdrop outside its church, the community of Saint Eulalia Parish gathered in prayer, thanksgiving, and celebration to mark a milestone 75 years in the making.

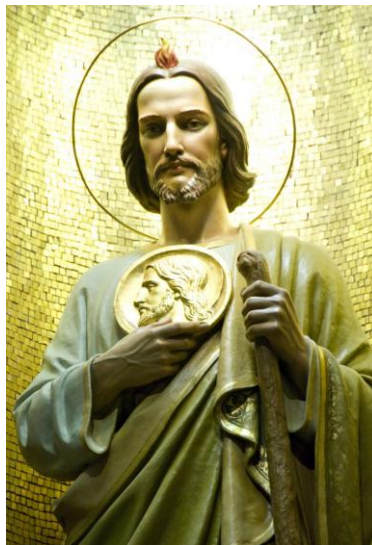
The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, was the principal celebrant and homilist of a special 75th Anniversary Mass at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 12, 2025.

The pews of the church were filled with several hundred faithful, including longtime parishioners older than the parish itself and young children who will carry it into the future.

Following Mass, a catered luncheon in the parish hall drew more than 220 guests.

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## **Pittston parish's 68th Saint Jude Novena to begin Oct. 19**



Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish in Pittston will host its 68th annual Novena to Saint Jude – patron saint of hopeless cases and things despaired of – at Saint Mary, Help of Christians Church, 535 North Main St., Pittston.

The well-known and time-honored Saint Jude Novena begins Sunday, Oct. 19, and concludes on the Feast of Saint Jude, Tuesday, Oct. 28.

Mass, homily, Novena prayers and veneration of the relic of Saint Jude will be held Monday through Saturday at noon & 5:30 p.m.; and on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Recitation of the Rosary and sacramental confessions (except Sunday) precede all Novena devotions.

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## **Rooney appointed to Board of Directors of Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Scranton**



The Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Scranton is pleased to announce the appointment of Paul H. Rooney, Jr. to its Board of Directors effective Aug. 20, 2025.

Rooney, a longtime banking executive and community leader from Williamsport, brings nearly four decades of leadership experience and a deep commitment to faith-based service to the Foundation's growing mission.

"I am very honored to have been asked to be a part of the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Scranton," Rooney said. "I believe the Foundation is the long-term answer to the viability of our Diocese. Our success will depend on strategic planning, commitment and support of board members, parishioners, priests, and administration."

Rooney joins the Board at a pivotal moment, as the Catholic Foundation continues to expand its impact by building and managing endowments that will sustain Catholic ministries across the 11 counties of the Diocese of Scranton.

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

## Three Catholic educators honored with Saint John Paul II Award



With deep gratitude for their decades of faithful service, three long-time educators in the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System were recognized with the Saint John Paul II Award during the Diocesan Teachers' Institute Mass on Sept. 29, 2025.

This year's recipients are Colleen Gatrone and Kimberly Kanuik of Holy Cross High School in Dunmore, and Barbara Greenway of Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport.

The Saint John Paul II Award is given annually to educators who have dedicated 25 years of service to Catholic education in the Diocese of Scranton. The award honors the legacy of Saint John Paul II, who inspired generations with his unwavering faith, commitment to young people, and deep love for the Church.

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## **CNEWA Director: Sense of relief as hostages freed, ceasefire holds - but peace vulnerable**



Scenes of joy, relief and tearful welcomes flooded media across the world Oct. 13 as the remaining Israeli hostages were freed from Hamas captivity in the Gaza Strip as part of the U.S.-brokered ceasefire agreement.

As part of the U.S.-proposed deal, 250 Palestinian prisoners were also released by Israel, with 1,650 more to be freed.

Minutes before the U.S. President Donald Trump addressed the Knesset on Oct. 13, Joseph Hazboun of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association-Pontifical Mission spoke to OSV News and said that with the deal reached, he was “very happy at long last” but “not optimistic enough to say” it’s “a peace agreement” but “a ceasefire.”

“This is the day that we’ve been waiting for for two years,” said Hazboun, regional director for CNEWA-Pontifical Mission’s Jerusalem office.

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

## **New saints highlight power of faith amid spiritual, personal challenges**



When Pope Leo XIV raises three women and four men to the altar Oct. 19, he will canonize a diverse group of religious and lay men and women, all bound by the virtue of holding on to their faith amid personal, spiritual, and external challenges.

The canonizations, which were announced by the Vatican June 13 during the pope’s first ordinary public consistory, will elevate to

sainthood seven candidates who hail from Venezuela, Turkey, Papua New Guinea and Italy.

Blessed María Carmen Elena Rendiles Martínez, who was born without a left arm, overcame physical challenges and founded a religious congregation, the Servants of Jesus of Caracas, which was dedicated to pastoral ministry and education.

Blessed Maria Troncatti, an Italian Salesian, dedicated her life as a missionary to Indigenous peoples in the Amazon rainforest, earning her the informal title of “doctor of the jungle,” while Blessed Vincenza Maria Poloni dedicated her ministry to the sick and the poor, whom she deemed as “our masters.”

Others, such as Blessed Ignazio Choukrallah Maloyan, an Armenian Catholic archbishop, and Blessed Peter To Rot, were martyred for their faith.

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**YOUR GIFTS MATTER**  
**Support the 2025 Catholic Ministries**  
**Appeal!**



# OUR CALL TO SERVE

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL



## YOUR GIFT MATTERS!

**A gift of \$180 (which is \$15/month or \$0.50/day)  
helps to regularly provide one week of meals for a family in need  
through food pantries managed by Catholic Social Services.**

**Support the 2025 Catholic Ministries Appeal at: [AnnualAppeal.org](https://AnnualAppeal.org)**

[Click Here to Learn More about or Donate to the 2025 Catholic  
Ministries Appeal](https://AnnualAppeal.org)

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