



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

July 2, 2026

'I'm still letting it sink in,' Father Jan Carlo Perez explains after Priesthood Ordination Mass



Surrounded by family, friends, fellow clergy, and faithful from across the Diocese of Scranton, Father Jan Carlo Perez was ordained to the Priesthood on Saturday, June 27, 2026, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Ordination was conferred through the imposition of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, at a joyful 10:00 a.m. liturgy.

The Ordination Mass marks the beginning of Father Perez's ministry as a priest of Jesus Christ in service to the Church.

Several hundred people were in attendance – including many from the East Stroudsburg area, where Father Perez grew up and has been formed in faith.

A bus carrying more than 30 parishioners from Saint Matthew Parish made the hour-long journey to Scranton, while many others traveled on their own, arriving early to sit together prominently near the front right side of the Cathedral.

The Mass itself was marked by both solemnity and beauty.

[Click Here to Watch the Video from CTV: Catholic Television from the Priesthood Ordination Mass](#)

Wedding Anniversary Mass honors the vocation of marriage



Married couples from across the Diocese of Scranton gathered at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Sunday, June 28, to celebrate the annual Wedding Anniversary Mass, where Bishop Joseph C. Bambera reflected on the enduring vocation of Christian marriage.

Drawing from the Gospel for the 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Bishop acknowledged that Jesus' words about placing Him above even family relationships may initially seem surprising.

He explained, however, that Christ's message points to the selflessness, sacrifice and faithful discipleship that are at the heart of both the Christian life and a lifelong marriage.

Bishop Bambera also noted that authentic discipleship calls believers to embrace the same self-giving love demonstrated by Jesus on the cross, welcoming others with compassion and looking beyond their own needs to serve those around them.

He said those same qualities have sustained the married couples gathered for the celebration, whose lives together have been

marked not by perfection, but by forgiveness, perseverance, generosity and a shared commitment to one another through every joy and challenge.

[Click Here to Read Bishop Bambera's Full Homily from the Wedding Anniversary Mass](#)

[Click Here to View a Photo Album from the 2026 Wedding Anniversary Mass](#)

Bishop Bambera to celebrate annual Mass of Remembrance July 23



The Diocese of Scranton's annual Mass of Remembrance will take place on Thursday, July 23, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

This Mass is offered for family and friends of those who have died in tragedy, especially through murder, suicide and accident.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as principal celebrant of the Mass.

To register the name of your loved one for this liturgy, please contact the Diocesan Office for Parish Life at (570) 207-2213, no later than Friday, July 10, 2026.

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

[Click Here to Share this Information from the Diocese of Scranton website](#)

Dozens of high school students attend Quo Vadis Days & Fiat Days



The Diocese of Scranton held its annual Quo Vadis Days and Fiat Days summer camps this week to provide a dedicated space for Catholic high school students to explore their faith and discern their future life callings.

Organized by the Diocesan Office of Vocations, these overnight retreats give young people the tools to pause, step away from

everyday distractions, and listen to how God is directing their lives.

[Click Here to View a Photo Album from the 2026 Quo Vadis & Fiat Days Summer Camps](#)

**Catholic Social Services in Hazleton
to hold monthly free baby clothing
giveaway July 21**

 Catholic Social Services
HAZLETON

*Helping People.
Changing Lives.*

FREE
BABY
Clothing
GIVE AWAY

GENTLY USED
BABY CLOTHING
FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS

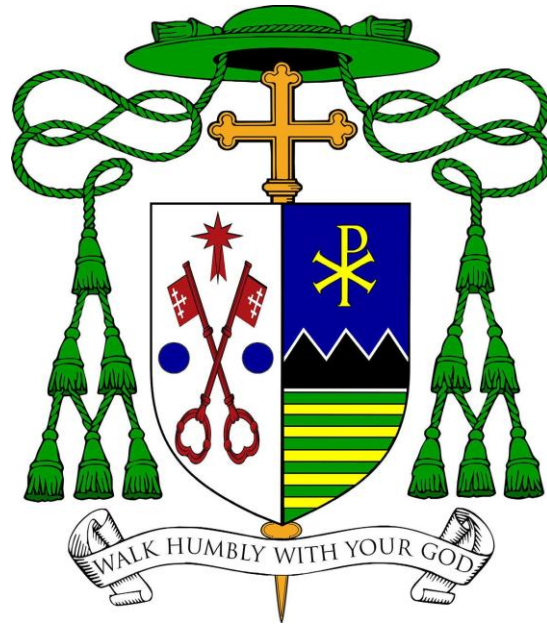
Tuesday,
JULY 21ST

 **Call 570-455-1521**
to schedule your appointment

Catholic Social Services Hazleton Office will hold its monthly baby clothing giveaway for infants and toddlers on Tuesday, July 21.

We invite you to call 570-455-1521 to schedule an appointment.

Bishop Bambera announces additional Clergy Appointments



On Monday, June 29, 2026, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, announced additional Clergy Appointments that would take effect on July 1, 2026.

Many of the clergy appointments involve the three parish consolidations that went into effect on July 1 in the communities of Dunmore, Pittston and Freeland.

[Click Here to View Bishop Bambera's Clergy Appointments from June 29, 2026](#)

America at 250: Celebrating both a birthday and a history of religious liberty



As the United States indulges in a star-spangled celebration of its 250th birthday, a cornerstone of historical significance that stands out is religious freedom, and unlike for many other nations, it is a unique founding principle of this nation.

“From the beginning, we’ve had this quarrel — that’s why I call it the Founders Quarrel — which is, on the one hand, there was agreement that we should have religious liberty. But what that actually meant — was what?” Linda Przybyszewski, associate professor of history at the University of Notre Dame, told OSV News.

“They argued about it,” she said of the Founding Fathers, “because so many of them believed that some form of belief in God was necessary to teaching people virtue and morality — since we need virtue and morality in order to be a self-governing republic. The question then became, ‘Who’s going to teach the religion?’ ... And I don’t think that has ever gone away.”

The variety of religious traditions in the U.S. also complicated matters.

“At the founding of the United States, we saw a fascinating mix of groups who argued for religious liberty,” explained Przybyszewski. “There were deists — people who believed in God, but had their doubts about Christ — like Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. There were also sort of ‘orthodox’ churches, which were in some cases newer — like the Baptists, or the Presbyterians — and they had been actively persecuted by colonies that had established churches; that is, churches with privileges.”

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

Pope Leo to address National Eucharistic Pilgrimage during Closing Mass in Philadelphia



The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage ends July 5 with a closing Mass, procession and celebration in Philadelphia, which will begin with a special video message from Pope Leo XIV.

Pope Leo will speak to “pilgrims gathered in Philadelphia, those participating virtually, and the larger Church in the United States of America, and to viewers around the world as the United States marks the 250th anniversary of its founding,” according to a June 29 announcement from the National Eucharistic Congress Inc., which organizes the national pilgrimage.

“Pope Leo XIV’s message will come at a moment of particular significance for Catholics in the United States,” according to the statement. “The Holy Father will offer a word of spiritual closeness, peace, unity, and hope, inviting the faithful to look to Christ in the Eucharist as the source of communion and renewal.”

The pope’s message will be shared at the opening of the 2026 pilgrimage’s final Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul, scheduled for 11 a.m., with Philadelphia Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez presiding.

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

Supreme Court finds Trump executive order on Birthright Citizenship unconstitutional



The U.S. Supreme Court struck down President Donald Trump's executive order limiting birthright citizenship on June 30, finding the order violated the 14th Amendment.

A cornerstone of his efforts to restrict immigration, the ruling comes as a loss for Trump, who even attended oral arguments in the case, *Trump v. Barbara*, in person, marking the first time a sitting president has done so, according to records from the high court and the nonprofit Supreme Court Historical Society.

Writing for the majority, Chief Justice John Roberts wrote, “Citizenship, then and now, was the right to have rights – to freely participate in our political community.”

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



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'Injustice': Catholic Bishops urge Congress to extend TPS for Haiti, Syria

Catholic leaders are warning the Supreme Court's decision allowing the Trump administration to deport hundreds of thousands of Haitians and thousands of Syrians currently under protected status in the U.S. will have dire consequences - including for the U.S. itself.

Archbishop calls for prayer, solidarity after twin earthquakes devastate Venezuela



The archbishop of Caracas called for prayers and solidarity after back-to-back earthquakes struck Venezuela, killing at least 188 people and injuring hundreds more.

“We ask God that we may all face this together, finding comfort in God, and in solidarity and charity,” Archbishop Raúl Biorde Castillo said in a video posted on Instagram June 25.

According to The Associated Press, the twin earthquakes, which struck in the evening June 24, measured 7.2 and 7.5 magnitude and were the strongest to hit Venezuela in more than a century.

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

Parish picnics to resume in full force after July 4th holiday weekend



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

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

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

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