



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

July 23, 2026

Rescued from fire scene, statue of Blessed Mother finds new home



More than three years after a devastating fire destroyed the former Saint Hedwig's Church in Kingston, a cherished symbol of the parish has found a new home.

On Sunday, July 19, 2026, former parishioners and members of the Knights of Columbus gathered at Saint Hedwig's Cemetery in Larksville to dedicate and bless a statue of the Blessed Mother, which was rescued from the fire scene, preserving an important piece of the parish's history for future generations.

The statue, which now stands near the entrance to the cemetery, has been placed on a new base that is inscribed with the words, "Mother of Hope ... Pray for Our Loved Ones."

When fire engulfed the vacant church in February 2023, many people praised the quick-thinking of members of the Edwardsville Public Works Department who saved the special statue which had graced the church grounds for decades.

[Click Here to Watch a Video from CTV: Catholic Television from the Blessing/Dedication Ceremony](#)

Bishop to celebrate Mass of Remembrance tonight



More than 30 new names have been inscribed in the Book of Remembrance ahead of the Diocese of Scranton's annual Mass of Remembrance of Victims of Violent or Tragic Death, which will be held tonight (July 23, 2026), at 7:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

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

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

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 Read the Full Story from The Catholic Light](#)

**Solemn Novena to Saint Ann
reaches its midway point; Closing
Mass scheduled for Sunday night**



Thousands of Catholics have spent the last several days visiting West Scranton as the Solemn Novena to Saint Ann has been underway.

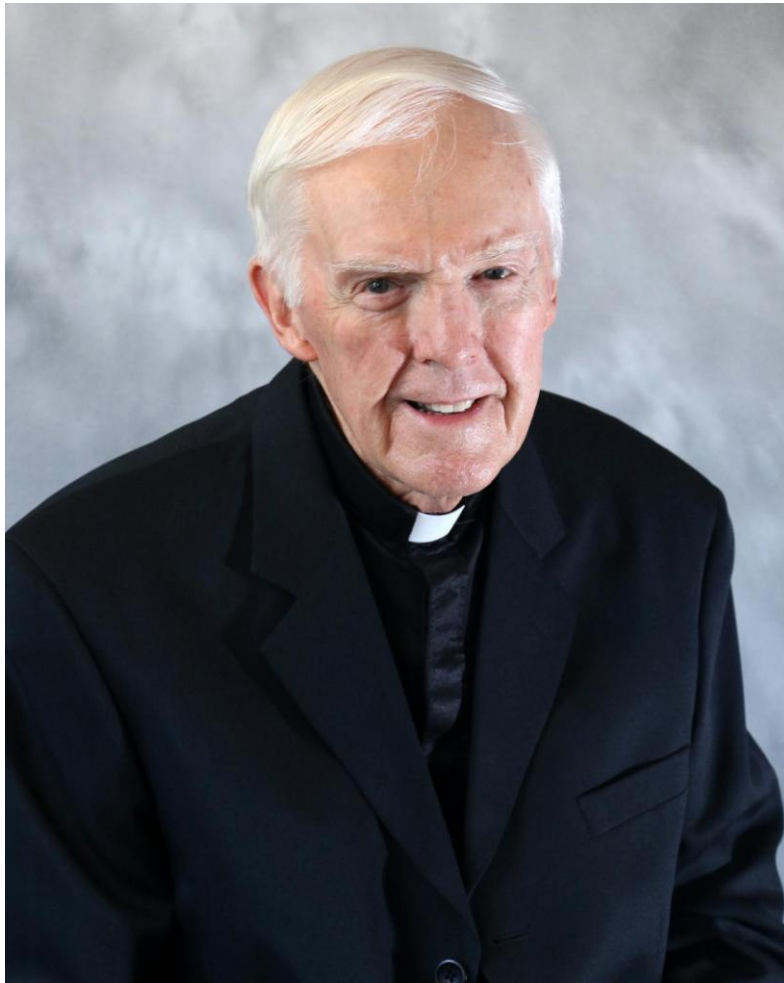
The pilgrims have brought prayers of thanksgiving, petitions for healing and hope and a deep devotion to the grandmother of Jesus Christ.

The ten-day pilgrimage will conclude on the Feast of Saint Ann, Sunday, July 26, with Masses celebrated throughout the day. The Solemn Closing Mass at 6:30 p.m. will be celebrated by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton.

CTV: Catholic Television visited the Novena on one of its first days this week and talked to numerous attendees as well as the young people who are helping to staff the parish food pavilion at the bottom of the hill that is open daily during the Novena for refreshments and food.

[Click Here to Watch a Video from CTV: Catholic Television of the Solemn Novena of Saint Ann 2026](#)

Reverend William R. Culnane (1934-2026)



Reverend William R. Culnane, Pastor Emeritus of Saint Dominic Parish, Wilkes-Barre, died on July 13, 2026, at Allied Services Skilled Nursing Center in Scranton.

Father Culnane, son of the late Charles Henry Culnane Sr. and Mary Jane Moran Culnane, was born in Susquehanna, on Aug. 3, 1934. He was a graduate of Laurel Hill Academy, Susquehanna, and attended Mount Saint Mary's College, Emmitsburg, Md.

Father received his seminary education at Saint Charles Seminary, Philadelphia, and was ordained to the priesthood on June 11, 1960, in the Cathedral of Saint Peter by the Most Reverend Jerome D. Hannan, D.D., late Bishop of Scranton.

A Pontifical Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, on Monday, Aug. 3, 2026, at 11:00a.m. at Saint John's Roman Catholic Church, Susquehanna.

Interment will be in St. John's Cemetery, Susquehanna.

[Click Here to Read the Father Culnane's Full Obituary](#)

**CYC helping students build a love of
reading one page at a time**



For many students, summer can mean taking a break from books.

Staff members at the Wyoming Valley Catholic Youth Center don't want that to be the case this year – and are working to build a lifelong love of reading with their youngsters.

This summer, a number of children participating in the CYC's summer camp program are taking part in a special literacy initiative designed to keep young minds engaged.

“This past school year, we partnered with the McGlynn Center for a tutoring program for our children which is very needed. To piggyback on that, we're doing a summer reading challenge,” CYC Executive Director Mark Soprano said. “They have 55 children there. We're selecting 55 children here at the CYC and we will see which group of kids reads more.”

Through a partnership with United Way, the CYC has several thousand books available, and students are allowed to bring them home and even keep them if desired.

“We’re encouraging parents to read with their children in the evenings and on the weekend. We want them to make it a habit of reading,” Soprano added. “We know that when kids leave school in the springtime, especially reading, regresses a little bit. We don’t want that to happen with our children.”

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

Natural Family Planning Awareness Week highlights timeless truth with creative approaches



When the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops first considered holding an annual educational campaign on natural family planning, there was some debate over the best timing for it. Ultimately, the bishops settled on July 25, the anniversary of the 1968 encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, in which St. Paul VI articulated

Catholic teaching on artificial contraception, human sexuality, marital love and parenthood.

Now, 24 years after the USCCB's first Natural Family Planning Awareness Week in 2002, Theresa Notare, assistant director for the NFP program in the USCCB's Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, said that while the weeklong effort has developed over the years, it remains important. The 2026 National NFP Awareness Week is July 19-25.

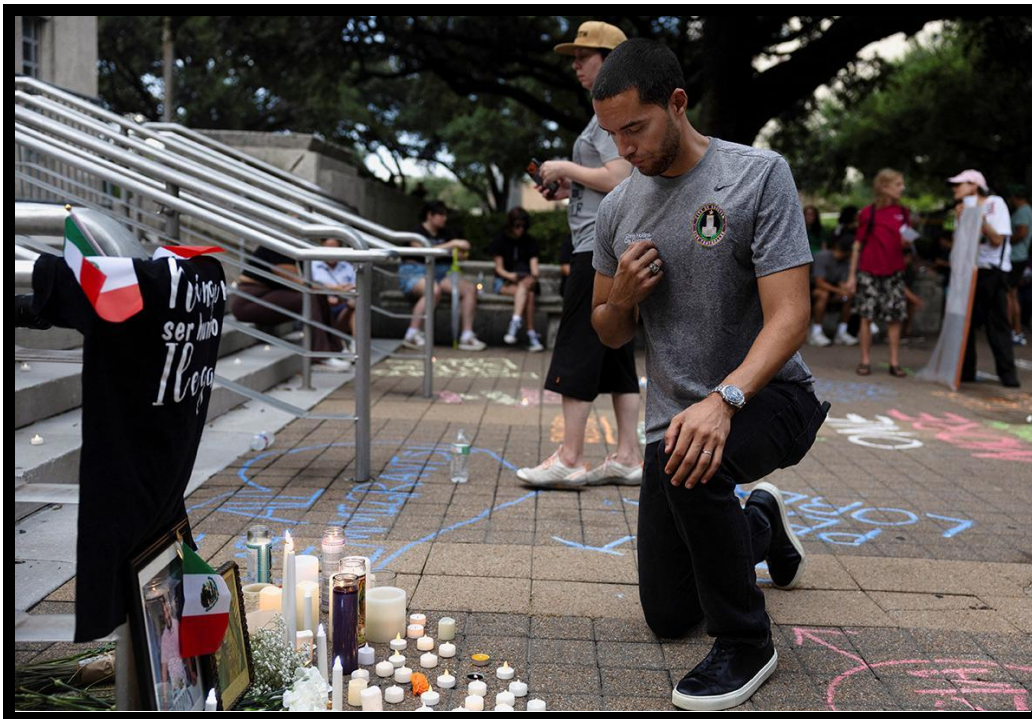
Notare said NFP methods offer "an ethical means to live out the Gospel."

"Sadly, the world does not know how valuable these methods are" and how they "can really strengthen a marriage," she said.

Natural family planning encompasses several methods that use biomarkers in the woman's fertility cycle to help couples achieve or postpone pregnancy.

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

**Attacks on human dignity can never
be normalized, say 2 U.S. Bishops
after deadly ICE shootings**



Two U.S. Catholic bishops are lamenting recent deadly immigration enforcement encounters, calling for God-given human dignity to be respected in every individual.

“As Catholics, we believe that all persons are created in the image and likeness of God and, therefore, grieve all situations where human life is brought to an unnatural end. This is a core teaching of our faith and one we can never grow weary of proclaiming as disciples of Our Lord Jesus Christ,” said Bishop Daniel E. Garcia of Austin, Texas, and Bishop Brendan J. Cahill of Victoria, Texas.

The two issued a July 20 joint pastoral reflection as chairs, respectively, of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Subcommittee for the Promotion of Racial Justice and Reconciliation and the USCCB’s Committee on Migration.

Their statement follows three separate deaths recorded days apart in July amid operations by Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers as they implement the Trump administration’s hardline crackdown on immigration.

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

Pope Leo XIV in Castel Gandolfo: God's Kingdom grows in the 'little things of daily life'



Catholics from every inhabited continent gathered in Castel Gandolfo July 19 as Pope Leo XIV led the Angelus prayer from the papal summer palace in the small Italian hill town, where the pope reflected on how the kingdom of God grows through “the little things of daily life.”

For many in the crowd that stretched from the town square in front of the palace down its main street, it was their first glimpse of the American-born pope.

“It’s our first time outside Brazil. So it’s all amazing,” Vínicius Marques Diniz, 22, who traveled from Campo Grande, Brazil, with his family, told OSV News. “I’m very happy with this new pope.”

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

Women religious sue New York over law they say would force them to assist in patient suicides



Four orders of women religious and Catholic healthcare ministries sued the state of New York July 17 over a new law allowing physicians to aid terminally ill adults in dying by suicide.

In a lawsuit filed by Becket, a religious liberty law firm, the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm, the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne, the Missionary Sisters of St. Benedict and the Little

Sisters of the Poor argued the law would require them to facilitate such deaths in violation of their faith.

Mother Mary Rose Heery, prioress general of the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm, said in a July 20 statement, “At our homes, we bring Christ’s unbounded love to elderly New Yorkers of every background and walk of life.”

“We strive to bring His compassion to those entrusted to our care, ensuring that no resident ever has to die alone,” she said. “This law strikes at the heart of that vocation.”

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

USCCB urges Trump administration to 'advance real solutions' instead of IVF



The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and other Catholic groups submitted public comments in opposition to a proposed government regulation that would expand insurance coverage for in vitro fertilization.

IVF is a form of fertility treatment opposed by the Catholic Church because it separates procreation from the marital act and often involves the destruction of human embryos, among other concerns.

The proposed regulation, announced in May by the U.S. Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Treasury, aims to help implement President Donald Trump's February 2025 executive order to expand IVF access, the departments indicated. It would establish a new category of limited excepted benefits, similar to limited-scope dental or vision benefits, the departments said at the time.

In a 17-page public comment dated July 13 and addressed to the Labor Department, the Office of the General Counsel at the USCCB stated that it "appreciates the Departments' recognition of infertility as a serious matter and their intent to support family formation."

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

**Parishes in Archbald, Moscow
and Hunlock Creek holding
festivals and events this weekend**



PARISH PICNIC

Friday, July 24

(5-10pm)

Saturday, July 25

(5-10pm)

Sunday, July 26

(3-7pm)

Come join us for the Valley's favorite picnic!

Homemade Ethnic Foods - Pierogis - Piggies - Pizza -

Cabbage & Noodles - Porketta - Hamburgers -

Texas Weiners - Potato Pancakes - Pizza Frita

Baskets - Cash Raffle - Choice is Yours Prizes -

Kid's Games - House of Treasures - Live Music - Beer Tent

"The best Picnic up-da' Eynon"

St. Mary of Czestochowa Church grounds

417 Main Street, Eynon, PA 18403

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

Rummage Sale

JULY
23
4-8 PM

JULY
24
4-8 PM

JULY
25
11 AM-8 PM



220 CHURCH ST., MOSCOW, PA

570-842-4561

A decorative border of white palm tree silhouettes on a black background frames the entire poster. The top and bottom borders are thicker, while the sides are thinner.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

**AT LAKE SILKWORTH
STATE ROUTE 29
HUNLOCK CREEK**

Summer Fest 2026 JULY 24 and 25

FRIDAY, JULY 24 - OPEN 5 TO 10 p.m.

Kartune

SATURDAY, JULY 25 - OPEN 5 TO 10 p.m.

Popstar Drive

**RAIN OR SHINE - EVERYTHING UNDER COVER!
HUGE INDOOR FLEA MARKET, GAMES, BASKETS,
& LOTS OF DELICIOUS HOMEMADE FOOD!**

This will be another big weekend for church festivals and picnics - and we encourage you to visit as many of them as possible for great food and fellowship!

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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