



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

July 30, 2026

Registration underway for 2026 'Be A Catholic Man' conference

11TH ANNUAL DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

BE A CATHOLIC MAN CONFERENCE



Saturday, OCT. 10, 2026

8 AM - 3:00 PM

Holy Redeemer High School
159 South Penna. Ave., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701



Bishop Joseph
Bambera



Bishop Joseph Coffey is the auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA. He has dedicated his life to ministry, focusing on spiritual guidance and pastoral care, especially for military personnel and their families. His compassionate leadership and commitment to strengthening faith communities have earned him widespread respect.



John Martignoni, author of Blue Collar Apologetics, is a full time evangelist. He hosts the "EWTN Open Line" radio show. He is the founder/president of Queen of Heaven Catholic Radio; 1480 AM in Birmingham, Alabama. He's founder/president of Bible Christian Society and director of the Office of the New Evangelization in the Diocese of Birmingham. He is married and has four children.



Brian Holdsworth, a convert to the Catholic Church, is a writer, speaker, commentator, and evangelist producing content in the service of the mission of the Church. He has a substantial online and social media presence including Youtube videos. He lives in Edmonton, Alberta with his wife and 7 children.

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

Contact: Mike Kilmer 570-721-0872 • mkilmer@thekilmergroup.com

\$40 (Early Bird \$30 until 9/21/26), Student \$15, Priest/Deacon FREE Morning coffee & box lunch included



Registration is underway for the 2026 'Be A Catholic Man' Conference which will take place on Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026, at Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre.

The conference will run from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

This will be the eleventh year for the 'Be A Catholic Man' Conference and this year's speakers will include the Most Rev. Joseph Coffey, Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA; author and full-time evangelist John Martignoni; and writer and speaker Brian Holdsworth.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will also celebrate Mass before the conference concludes.

The registration fee is \$40 (but there is an early bird discount currently underway of only \$30); students are \$15; priests and deacons are free.

[Click Here For More Information or to Register for the 11th annual 'Be A Catholic Man' Conference](#)

**Catholic Charismatic Renewal
hosting 44th annual conference this
weekend in Scranton**



Catholic Charismatic Renewal Diocese of Scranton

P.O. Box 3306 • Scranton, PA 18505-0306



CONFERENCE 2026

University of Scranton

Scranton, Pennsylvania

JULY 31, AUGUST 1 & 2, 2026

Full weekend and Single day
registrations, on-site meals, and
overnight accommodations available.



Together let us *experience*
the transforming love of God;
a renewed commitment to faith;
a new mission!



He will lead us to *holiness*
and empower our daily
walk with Him!



In Him we find *rest, joy,*
strength, peace, and grace!



Come and *experience* the
difference an entire weekend
spent with God can make!

NEW THIS YEAR!
SPANISH TRACK
ON SATURDAY,
AUGUST 1



***“Let everything that has breath
praise the Lord.”***

— Psalm 150:6



For Information:

570-344-2214



ccrscranton.org/conference



This weekend, the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the Diocese of Scranton will be hosting its 44th annual conference at The University of Scranton.

The goal of the conference is to spread the life-giving joy of God.

National and international speakers will be sharing the Word of God. Contemporary music ministry from Baltimore will also be participating in this special weekend.

Mass will be celebrated daily; Adoration and a Service of Prayer will be held on Saturday night.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will be celebrating the Conference's Closing Mass on Sunday at 1:30 p.m.

More information and full weekend registrations are available by clicking the link below. Day Registrations are also available all weekend at the Long Center on campus.

[Click Here to Visit the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Website](#)

Scranton parish's summer swim drive makes a splash in the community



Under two pop-up tents near the Connell Park pool, children and families browsed through brightly colored beach towels and swimsuits on Saturday, July 11, 2026, searching for just the right size and design.

But the display wasn't a summer sale.

It was another act of quiet generosity by parishioners from Mary Mother of God Parish, who were distributing free swim supplies to local kids as part of the parish's 10th annual Summer Swim Drive.

The giveaway at Connell Park was the third of several poolside distributions coordinated by volunteers from the parish's Community and Service Coordinating Team. Throughout late spring, the group collected hundreds of new towels and swimsuits, along with sunscreen, goggles, flip flops, and other swimming essentials from parishioners.

[Click Here to Watch a Video from CTV: Catholic Television from the Swim Supplies Distribution](#)

Catholic Social Services holding 'Christmas in July' toy collection



**Gifts for Kids
Christmas Toy Drive**

Help us spread joy and love to teens and tweens this holiday season!

Catholic Social Services is once again teaming up with Friends of the Poor and Catherine McAuley Center to brighten Christmas for local kids.

Gift donations can be easily made by purchasing an item(s) from a special Amazon Wish List. Scan the QR code, select an item(s) and your donation will be delivered directly to Catholic Social Services.

Scan the QR Code for Scranton Area gifts



Monetary contributions can be sent to:
Catholic Social Services Development Office
ATTN: Christmas Gifts
300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503
Checks can be made out to Catholic Social Services
Please include "Christmas Gifts" in the memo



It is time for Christmas in July!

Please consider helping Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton get a "head start" on collecting toys for our annual "Gifts for Kids" Toy Drive this is now less than six months away.

In the greater-Scranton area, Catholic Social Services partners with Friends of the Poor and Catherine McAuley Center to help thousands of children, and in Carbondale, the same program helps hundreds of addition families in Lackawanna County's Up Valley.

To make the gift-giving as easy as possible, we have created Amazon Wish-Lists for each location - and the toys will be sent directly to our organization.

To help support the "Gifts for Kids" program in Scranton or Carbondale, click on the links below or scan the QR code available in the above graphics.

[Click Here to Donate to the Scranton Toy Distribution Event](#)

[Click Here to Donate to the Carbondale Toy Distribution Event](#)

CSS Bridges to Wellness Program holding photo exhibition next month

YOU'RE INVITED
to a special photo exhibition

Bridges to Wellness:

My New Life: Bright Moments of My Life in America

Join us as we celebrate the stories, memories, and moments that connect our communities.

Through photographs, conversation, and cultural sharing, we honor the journeys that have shaped our new lives in America.

DATE
Saturday, August 8, 2026

TIME
12:30 PM – 4:00 PM

LOCATION
IHM Center – Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Scranton, PA

ADMISSION
Free & Open to All
Individuals, families, and friends of all ages are welcome.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Community Photo Exhibition
- Stories of Hope & Resilience
- Refreshments & Cultural Sharing

Scan to Register!
Registration Requested



Scan with your phone camera

FEATURING OUR COMMUNITIES

Afghan | Muslim Community | Ukrainian | Congolese | Haitian | Hispanic | Bhutanese-Nepali

Catholic Social Services
OF THE DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

MOSES TAYLOR
FOUNDATION

Hosted by Bridges to Wellness, a program of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton.

The community is invited to join Catholic Social Services for the Bridges to Wellness Community Photo Exhibition, “My New Life: Bright Moments of My Life in America,” on Saturday, Aug. 8,

2026, from 12:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the IHM Center in Scranton.

This special event will celebrate the stories, memories, and experiences of the diverse communities we serve through meaningful photographs and personal stories.

How to participate:

- Register for the event.
- Upload one or more photos that represent your life in America.
- Share the story behind your photo.
- Join us with your family and friends for an afternoon of community, culture, and celebration.

Photo submission deadline: Tuesday, August 5, 2026.

[Click Here to Register and Upload Your Photos](#)

Interest surges in U.S. beatification of Georgia Martyrs who died defending marriage



The venue for the upcoming beatification of the Georgia Martyrs is expanding to accommodate thousands more people after a surge in interest from Catholics around the U.S. and the world.

“The martyrs stood up for the sanctity of marriage,” Bishop Stephen D. Parkes of Savannah, Georgia, told OSV News of the five Franciscan friars from Spain who died in present-day Georgia in the 16th century. “It gives us an opportunity really to ... reinforce the Church’s teaching on marriage.”

The martyrs’ beatification Mass scheduled for Oct. 31 in Savannah, Georgia, is changing spaces within the Savannah Convention Center to welcome roughly 12,000 people instead of the 2,000 originally planned. The move comes as Catholics across the country and from Spain are expressing interest in attending, including some with historical connections to the martyrs. The relatives of one martyr may also travel from Spain.

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

Exhibit highlights St. John Paul II's U.S. visits, esteem for nation's foundational documents



In his seven visits to America during his papacy, St. John Paul II often shared his mastery of the nation's foundational documents — the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

“(He) really was a genius at researching and understanding,” Grattan Brown, the director of mission and ministry at the St. John Paul II National Shrine, told OSV News.

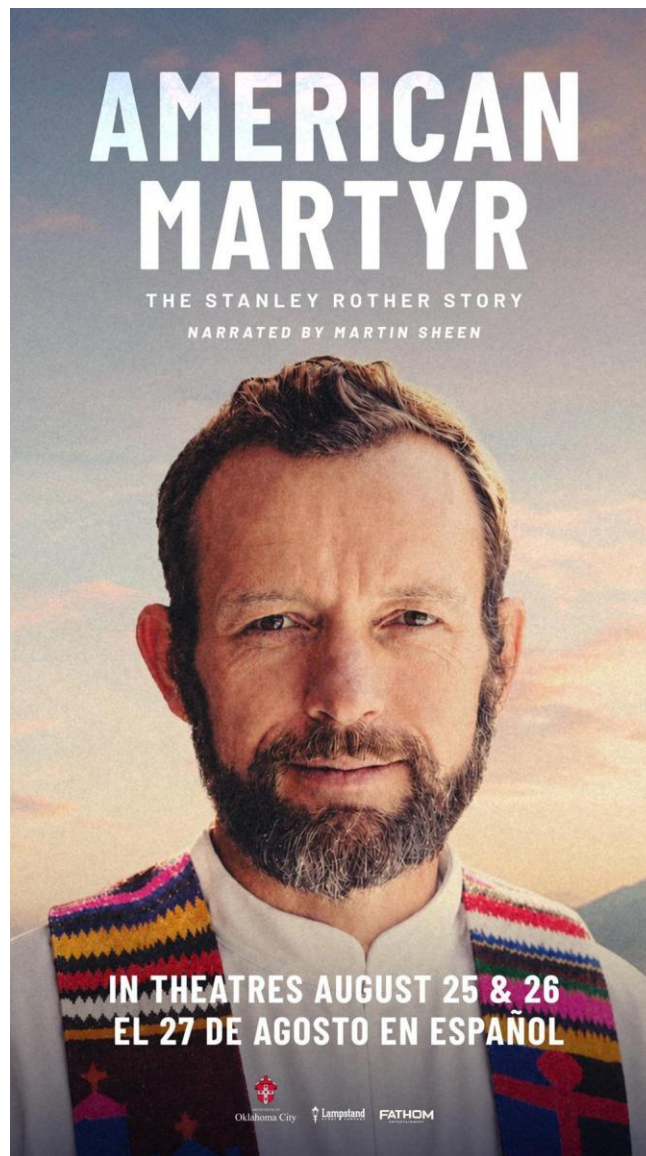
The message, reaffirmed in several ways, was that Americans are blessed to have the freedoms they have. And this merged with the pontiff's promotion of human rights.

The shrine, through Sept. 9, has an exhibit dedicated to those papal messages to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States.

Titled “A New Birth of Freedom,” the exhibit includes audio and video, photos and artifacts from his visits, including the future pope’s trip to America for its bicentennial in 1976. Two years later, Polish Cardinal Karol Wojtyla was elected the successor to Peter — on Oct. 16, 1978.

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

New documentary brings 'farm boy' martyr Blessed Stanley Rother to wider church



Francisco Bocel remembers the night three assassins forced him to bring them to Father Stanley Rother. Bocel shared how he still carries that traumatic moment with him – one of many being featured – in an upcoming documentary on the life of the slain priest.

“American Martyr: The Stanley Rother Story,” scheduled to be released in theaters nationwide Aug. 25-27, tells the story of Blessed Stanley Rother through those who knew him –

parishioners, catechists and family members – as well as those currently involved in his cause for canonization.

Born and raised in the small town of Okarche, Oklahoma, about an hour northwest of Oklahoma City, Stanley Rother became a priest of what was then the Diocese of Oklahoma City-Tulsa in 1963. Five years later, he joined the diocese's mission staff in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala, where he spent the remainder of his life and ministry. By helping improve the lives of the people he served, Father Stanley – or “Padre Aplá’s” as the Tz’utujil Maya called him – was considered a threat. In the early morning hours of July 28, 1981, the three gunmen killed him.

His cause was opened in 2007, and in 2016, Pope Francis officially recognized his martyrdom, clearing the way for his beatification the following year. The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City built a shrine to Blessed Rother and dedicated it in 2023.

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

Venezuelan bishops urge faithful to reject superstitious view of earthquakes



The bishops of Venezuela called on the faithful to reject the superstitious notion that the twin earthquakes that struck the country were a divine punishment.

In a pastoral letter published July 22, the Venezuelan bishops' conference said that amid the death and destruction wrought by the natural disaster, Christians are called to instead become witnesses of hope that comes from Christ's victory over death.

"For this reason, we must reject the manipulation of those who, guided by superstition and fundamentalism, have claimed that the earthquakes are a punishment from God, a kind of divine vengeance," the bishops wrote.

Although humans can "aggravate or accelerate the causes of such phenomena and their consequences," the bishops said it was important "to understand what God asks of us at a personal and community level."

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

**Stroudsburg parish to host 'Faith
& Fun' night tonight; Weekend
festivals planned in Tannersville
and Wilkes-Barre**

A Night of
FAITH & FUN

YOUTH & FAMILY NIGHT

EVERYONE WELCOME!
BRING YOUR FAMILY!

CHURCH OF ST. LUKE'S
PARKING LOT
818 MAIN STREET
STROUDSBURG

THURSDAY
7/30

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

HOT DOG COOKOUT

S'MORE'S

BONFIRE

CORNHOLE

MUSIC

YOUTH & FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

☆ *Good food. Great company. Growing in faith together!*

☆ This is a family event. Children must be present for the entire event with parent/adult supervision. ☆

ST. AL'S

CHURCH

MUSIC, FOOD,
GAMES, BINGO,
FLEA MARKET
& MORE!

**DON'T
MISS IT!**

FUN FOR
THE WHOLE
FAMILY!

BAZAAR

JULY 30, 31 & AUG 1

**THURS 6-10
TRIPLE FRET**

**FRIDAY 6-11
POPSTAR DRIVE**

**SATURDAY 5-11
STRAWBERRY JAM**

(BEGINNING AT 7PM)

St. Aloysius Church, 143 W. Division St. Wilkes-Barre
(corner of Barney & Division) • Follow us on facebook!!



Our Lady of Victory Church

Cherry Lane Road, Tannersville

Saturday August 1st 4-8pm

Sunday, August 2nd 11:30-3pm

Summerfest 2026

- Grand 50/50 Raffle
 - International Foods
 - Huge Basket Raffle Bonanza
 - Drawing Sunday August 2nd at 2pm

- Used Book Sale

- Mystery Packages

Bake Sale

www.olvchurch.com

570-629-4572



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](#)

Follow us on Social Media...



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