



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

August 27, 2026

Diocese of Scranton re-establishes Saint Pius X Seminary



Forty-eight years ago, a young Joseph Bambera walked through the doors of Saint Pius X Seminary in Dalton as a seminarian on his own journey toward the priesthood.

On Sunday, Aug. 23, 2026, he stood on the other side of that journey, now as Bishop of Scranton, welcoming a new generation of seminarians as the Diocese of Scranton re-established Saint Pius X Seminary in the former Cathedral Convent building in downtown Scranton.

Four new seminarians have officially moved into the newly renovated building at 333 Wyoming Avenue, beginning the Propaedeutic Stage of their priestly formation and opening a new chapter in the history of a seminary that helped form generations of priests for the Diocese of Scranton.

“As we re-establish the ministry of Saint Pius X Seminary, what an incredible gift this is,” Bishop Bambera said during his welcome at the Seminary’s first Mass, offering thanks to God for the blessing of faith, families and the many ways people are called to a life of service in Christ and His Church.

The four men beginning their formation at Saint Pius X this fall are Kenneth Francis of Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Duryea; Matthew Kelly of Saint Gregory Parish, Clarks Green; Zachariah Levin of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Brodheadsville; and Stephen Chronowski of Saints Peter and Paul Parish, Plains.

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**Pennsylvania March for Life to be
held Sept. 21 in Harrisburg**



Pennsylvania
MARCHfor**LIFE**

September 21, 2026

PRE-RALLY PRAISE & WORSHIP 10AM
RALLY 11 AM | MARCH 12 PM
HARRISBURG, PA

We'll see you there!

 **PENNSYLVANIA**
MARCH FOR **LIFE**

MarchforLife.org/Pennsylvania



Scan the code for event details!

The Diocese of Scranton invites you to attend the Pennsylvania March for Life on Monday, Sept. 21, 2026, in Harrisburg.

The Office for Parish Life is 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 (St. Nicholas – St. 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 hat, bus snacks, and water. We will not provide meals on the trip, so please pack a lunch.

[Click Here for More Information on the Diocesan Bus Trip and Other Transportation Options from Around the Diocese of Scranton](#)

Rosary reflection seminars held in advance of Rosary Rally slated for October in Scranton



The Diocese of Scranton hosted two free seminars on Monday, Aug. 24, 2026, at the Diocesan Pastoral Center entitled “Rosary: The Way to Peace, Conversion and Deeper Love of Christ” to help Catholics rediscover the power of the Rosary during times of uncertainty and division.

Craig Dyke served as presenter for both seminars. One was held in the afternoon and the other was held in the evening.

Dyke is the Director of Programs and Mission Outreach for Holy Cross Family Ministries, a ministry founded by Venerable Patrick Peyton. He travels around the country speaking to ministry leaders, adults and youth about the power of prayer, the Rosary

and the importance of a relationship with Jesus Christ in building the Domestic Church.

His presentations help set the stage for a second Rosary Rally that will be held at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on Sunday, Oct. 17 at 1:00 p.m. All are invited.

[Click Here For Early Information on the October 2026 Rosary Rally](#)

Forest City parish holds 'Family Fun Day' before kids go back to school



Last weekend, Ascension Parish in Forest City held a 'Family Fun Day' at Saint Joseph Church to bring the local community together before the new school year begins.

The event was designed to build supportive connections between children and adults.

It featured community-building activities, food, and student resources.

[Click Here to Watch a Video from CTV: Catholic Television from the Family Fun Day](#)

What young Catholics say draws their peers to the Church and gives them a reason to stay



Teenagers and young adults serving at St. John's Summer Program at St. John Francis Regis Parish in Hollywood told the Catholic Standard, Washington's archdiocesan news outlet, what

draws young people to the Church and gives them a reason to stay.

They talked about friends who invited them, Catholics they admired, communities where they felt at home and moments that helped the faith become their own.

For many, those experiences helped them come to know Christ personally.

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

World Day of Prayer for Creation is Sept. 1

*Conversion of heart needed to end wars, heal
earth, Pope says*



The social and ecological devastation wrought by war represents not just a political failure, but a moral crisis rooted in a divided heart in need of conversion, Pope Leo XIV said.

Violence, injustice and environmental damage are not just “the result of flawed systems or structures; it is ‘a symptom of the deeper dichotomy that is rooted in humanity itself,’” the pope said in his message for the 2026 World Day of Prayer for Creation, which will be celebrated Sept. 1.

“The wounds of war and the degradation of the earth, then, are profoundly linked to the condition of the human heart,” Pope Leo wrote. “The conflicts that torment humanity are in many ways the outward expression of interior discord and division. When the heart is distorted, relationships suffer, and the structures we build begin to reflect that disorder.”

The World Day of Prayer for Creation marks the start of the ecumenical “Season of Creation,” which concludes Oct. 4, the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of ecology.

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

One year after Annunciation school shooting, Archbishop Hebda encourages faithful to be "beacons of light"



Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda is encouraging the faithful of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis and all community members to be “beacons of light” as the one-year mark of a fatal shooting during an all-school Mass at Annunciation School and Church in Minneapolis is observed.

In a newsletter released Aug. 24, the archbishop wrote that Aug. 27, 2025, “continues to have an impact on so many others connected with the parish, its school, and its families.”

In reflecting on the loss of 10-year-old Harper Moyski and 8-year-old Fletcher Merkel that day, the archbishop wrote that “I have no doubt that their absence will be forever felt. My heart continues to go out to all who feel their loss.”

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

To experience true relationship with God in the liturgy, faithful's participation cannot be passive, pope says



“Firmly rooted” in the Church’s living tradition, the liturgical reform put forth by the Second Vatican Council grew from the need for the faithful to celebrate the liturgy more “consciously and actively,” and not “as strangers and silent spectators,” Pope Leo XIV said.

“The faithful ‘cannot and must no longer remain silent and passive. Their physical presence cannot be reconciled with their spiritual absence,’” he said, quoting Cardinal Giovanni Battista Montini of Milan, the future Pope Paul VI and saint, who was attending the council’s first session at the time in 1962.

The Council Fathers expressed “a renewed awareness of the value of the liturgy,” Pope Leo said during his general audience talk in

St. Peter's Basilica Aug. 26, which focused on the constitution on the sacred liturgy, "Sacrosanctum Concilium," and why the council sought to promote the liturgy's reform.

[Click Here to Read the Full Story from Catholic News Service](#)

More than 270 faith leaders urge Trump administration to extend TPS for El Salvador



Hundreds of faith leaders and organizations urged the Trump administration to extend Temporary Protected Status, or TPS, for El Salvador before it expires in September.

A TPS designation grants the U.S. government the power to shield eligible migrants from deportation if they are from countries experiencing dangerous conditions such as war, disaster, or other

unrest. El Salvador's TPS designation is scheduled to expire Sept. 9, according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. The removal of that legal status would impact about 170,000 Salvadoran nationals in the U.S., according to the Congressional Research Service.

In an Aug. 21 letter to President Donald Trump, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and Department of Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin, more than 270 faith leaders and organizations — including several U.S. bishops and many Catholic groups including the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, also known as CLINIC — argued that Mullins should extend El Salvador's TPS designation to prevent disruption to U.S. communities where Salvadoran migrants have established ties and prevent family separation due to remaining dangerous conditions in that country.

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

East Tennessee Diocese mourns Dolly Parton as 'one of our own'



The Diocese of Knoxville, Tennessee, is remembering the late Dolly Parton — whose career as a singer, songwriter, actress, businesswoman and philanthropist spanned decades — as “one of our own.”

Bishop Mark Beckman said he was “very sorry to hear of her passing” and “praying for those who are mourning her loss.”

“She made a wonderful contribution to our world and our community, and she will be greatly missed,” said Bishop Beckman.

The 80-year-old Parton, whose many honors included 10 competitive Grammy Awards, a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, and a National Medal of the Arts, died Aug. 25 at Nashville’s Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, following what her representatives described as a “brief battle with cancer.”

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

Canton Parish holding motorcycle rally on Saturday



Saint Michael Parish in Canton is sponsoring its "Saint Michael the Archangel Motorcycle Rally" on Saturday, Aug. 29, 2026.

The event begins with registration at 8:00 a.m. at Saint Michael Church. Following breakfast, kickstands will go up at 9:00 a.m. for the nearly 80-mile ride on paved roads.

The event concludes with a BBQ chicken lunch and "Show Me the Money" bingo party at the Troy American Legion.

The cost, including breakfast, ride and lunch is: \$45/rider and \$15/passenger at the door. Day of registrations will be accepted beginning at 7:00 a.m.

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

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Diocese of Scranton
300 Wyoming Avenue,
Scranton, PA 18503-1279
(570) 207-2238
www.dioceseofscranton.org