



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

September 17, 2026

Catholic Ministries Appeal launches with goal of \$4.5 million



**OUR CALL TO
SERVE**

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

The 2026-27 Catholic Ministries Appeal marks the 40th Annual Appeal of the Diocese of Scranton, continuing a tradition of generosity and stewardship that began with the Bishop's Annual Appeal and transition to the Diocesan Annual Appeal and, most recently, the Catholic Ministries Appeal.

While much has changed over four decades, the purpose remains the same: when we unite as one local Church, we can accomplish far more together.

This year, we see that impact in a special way with the reestablishment of Saint Pius X Seminary in the former Cathedral Convent in Scranton.

Through your prayers and financial support, the Appeal also helps care for those most in need, strengthens our parishes and supports vital ministries throughout the Diocese's 11 counties.

For more on the many Catholic ministries funded by the Catholic Ministries Appeal, including Vocations and Seminarian Support, Catholic Schools, Catholic Social Services, Catholic Media and Communications, Parish Life and Parish Grant Support, refer to pages 3-6 of the Sept. 17 edition of *The Catholic Light*.

As parishes celebrate Commitment Weekend, we invite you to join us in answering this annual call to stewardship and to prayerfully discern your gift toward this year's \$4.5 million goal.

Thank you for helping us celebrate 40 years of generosity, ministry, and shared mission!

[Click Here to Learn More About the Catholic Ministries Appeal](#)

Hispanic Heritage Mass to be held Saturday in Brodheadsville



The Diocese of Scranton will bring together Hispanic Catholics from across northeastern and north central Pennsylvania on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2026, for the sixth annual Hispanic Heritage Mass & Celebration at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Brodheadsville.

This year's theme, "Unidos Somos Más" – "United We Are More," reflects both the rich diversity of the Diocese's Hispanic communities and the Catholic faith that unites them. Hispanic Catholics throughout the Diocese represent many countries, cultures and traditions, but together they form one community of faith and one Body of Christ.

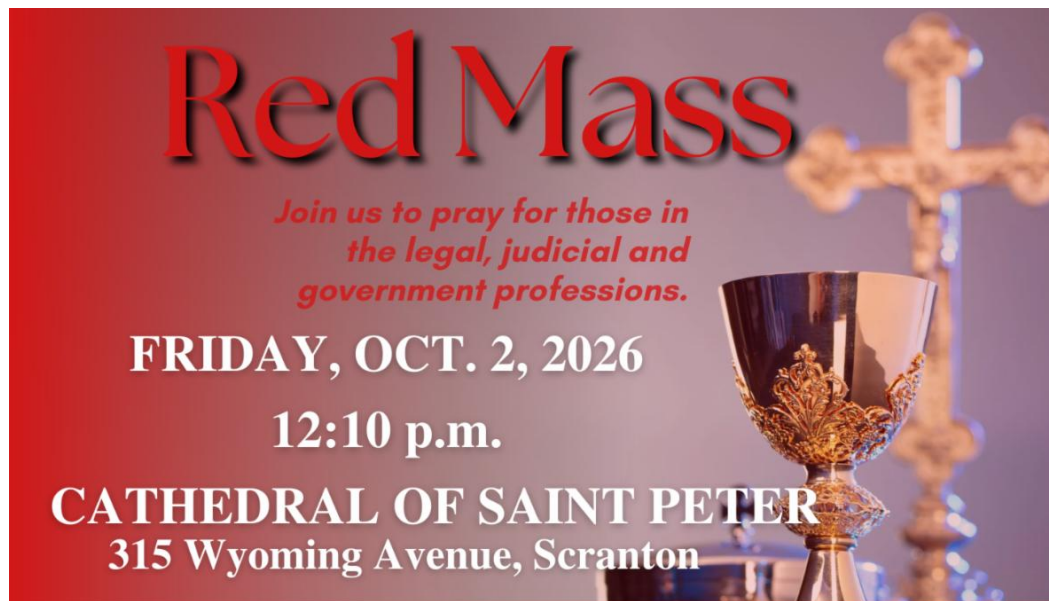
The celebration will begin with a noon Mass, with the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, serving as principal celebrant.

A Marian procession following Mass will recognize the deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary found throughout Hispanic and Latino cultures. Different communities may honor Mary through distinct titles and traditions, but their devotion points to

the same Mother of Christ and offers a beautiful expression of unity within the Church.

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

Red Mass to be celebrated Oct. 2



The Diocese of Scranton's annual Red Mass will be celebrated on Friday, Oct. 2, 2026, at 12:10 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

Historically, the Red Mass is attended by judges, lawyers and legislators for the purpose of invoking God's blessing and guidance in the administration of justice. Its traditional name is derived from the color of vestments worn by the celebrants of the Mass, symbolizing the tongues of fire, which indicate the presence of the Holy Spirit. Moreover, the robes of the attending royal judges were, in ancient days, bright scarlet.

The public is invited to the Red Mass to pray for those in the legal profession. Members of the county bar associations from across

the 11-county Diocese and the Diocesan Tribunal staff are also invited to participate.

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

Twenty-five years after 9/11, Avoca parish continues holding Blue Mass



Beneath a large American flag suspended between two fire trucks, a procession of Boy Scouts carrying the colors and first responders in full dress made their way through the streets of Avoca to Queen of the Apostles Parish on Sept. 11, 2026.

Twenty-five years after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the community continues to gather in prayer – remembering those who lost their lives, honoring the first responders who made the ultimate sacrifice and giving thanks for the men and women who continue to serve their communities today.

The annual Blue Mass and 9/11 Memorial Service at Queen of the Apostles Parish brought together local police, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, Scouts, elected officials, families, and parishioners for an evening of remembrance and gratitude.

“Since 1874, Christians have been coming to Saint Mary Church in Avoca to pray for their many needs,” Father Thomas Petro, Pastor of Queen of the Apostles Parish, said. “For the past 25 years, we’ve been gathering in prayer to pray for the victims and the heroes of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack.”

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

Three longtime Catholic educators honored for 25 years of service



For 25 years, Deborah Brady, Candice Lee and Jeanine Queralt have walked into Catholic school classrooms with a shared mission: to educate young people while helping them know, love and live their Catholic faith.

Their quarter-century of service was celebrated on Monday, Sept. 14, 2026, as the Diocese of Scranton held its annual Diocesan Teachers' Institute at Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre.

The day began with Mass celebrated by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, followed by a keynote address, lunch and breakout sessions for the educators.

At the conclusion of Mass, Bishop Bambera and Kristen Donohue, Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Education/Superintendent, presented the three long-time educators with the Saint John Paul II Awards, which recognize Catholic school educators who have completed 25 years of dedicated service in Catholic education in the Diocese of Scranton.

This year's honorees were Brady of Holy Rosary School in Duryea, Lee of La Salle Academy in Jessup, and Queralt of Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green.

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

La Salle Academy begins year celebrating its bi-ritual Catholic identity



As the new school year began at La Salle Academy, students did something that few other Catholic school students in the country can say they have done: They began their school year worshipping in two Catholic churches, experiencing two distinct liturgical traditions, but being reminded that both lead them to Christ.

On Thursday, Sept. 10, 2026, students began their day at Saint Michael Church in Jessup, the principal worship site of Queen of Angels Parish, which is located directly across the street from their school. The students gathered for a Roman Catholic Mass celebrated by Father Andrew Kurovsky, Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Peckville.

Father Roman Vasylynka, Administrator of Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church in Jessup, concelebrated the Mass.

But the morning did not end when the final blessing was given.

The students then crossed the street to Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church, located directly beside La Salle Academy, where they received a special blessing and an introduction to the Byzantine Catholic tradition from Father Vasylynka and Father Bert James Olechnowicz, Parochial Vicar.

The experience highlighted one of the things that makes La Salle Academy unique.

It is a bi-ritual Catholic school, where both the Roman Catholic and Byzantine Catholic traditions are recognized and celebrated. La Salle Academy believes it remains the only elementary school in the United States with this distinction.

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

Bishop from India finds vibrant faith during first U.S. visit



When the Most Rev. Ambrose Puthenveetil traveled from Kerala, India, to the United States for the first time as a Bishop, he came with a simple purpose – to see his priests.

But as he spent time visiting the priests from his Diocese, the Diocese of Kottapuram, who are serving across the United States, the Bishop said he left with something more: a renewed appreciation for the vibrancy of the Catholic Church in the United States.

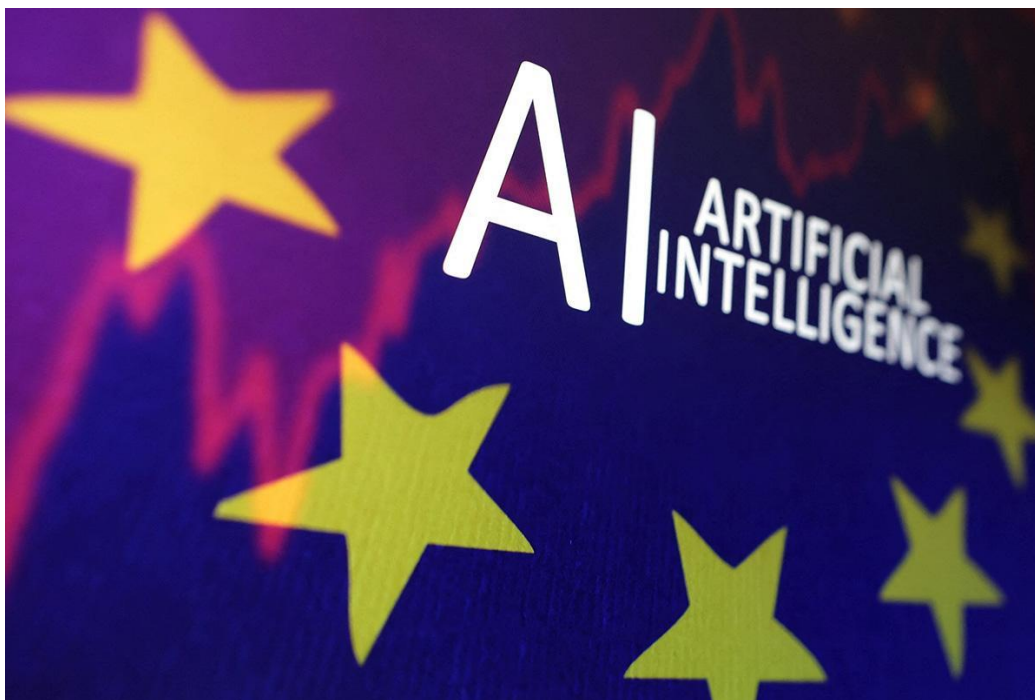
“I came especially to greet and meet my priests,” Bishop Ambrose said following Masses Sept. 13 at Saints Peter and Paul Parish in Towanda and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Wyalusing. “I also wanted to meet some of the people.”

The Diocese of Kottapuram currently has 11 priests serving in the United States. During his pastoral visit, Bishop Ambrose traveled to meet priests in Florida, Iowa, Colorado, and Michigan, while

also spending almost a full week in northeastern and central Pennsylvania.

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

U.S. Bishops form new task force over AI concerns, meet with tech leaders



Amid recent calls from several artificial intelligence leaders for a slowdown in the technology's development, the nation's Catholic bishops are engaging tech leaders and lawmakers to address concerns over AI and online child safety.

The bishops have also formed a task force to safeguard human dignity as AI rapidly evolves, echoing Pope Leo XIV's urgent message in his encyclical on AI, "Magnifica Humanitas."

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops announced the developments in a Sept. 16 press release, saying its Administrative Committee had met at the USCCB's Washington headquarters with "representatives from a variety of tech firms and specialists" in AI earlier that day.

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

Pope Leo visits Vatican library on his birthday, announces new building in Vatican City



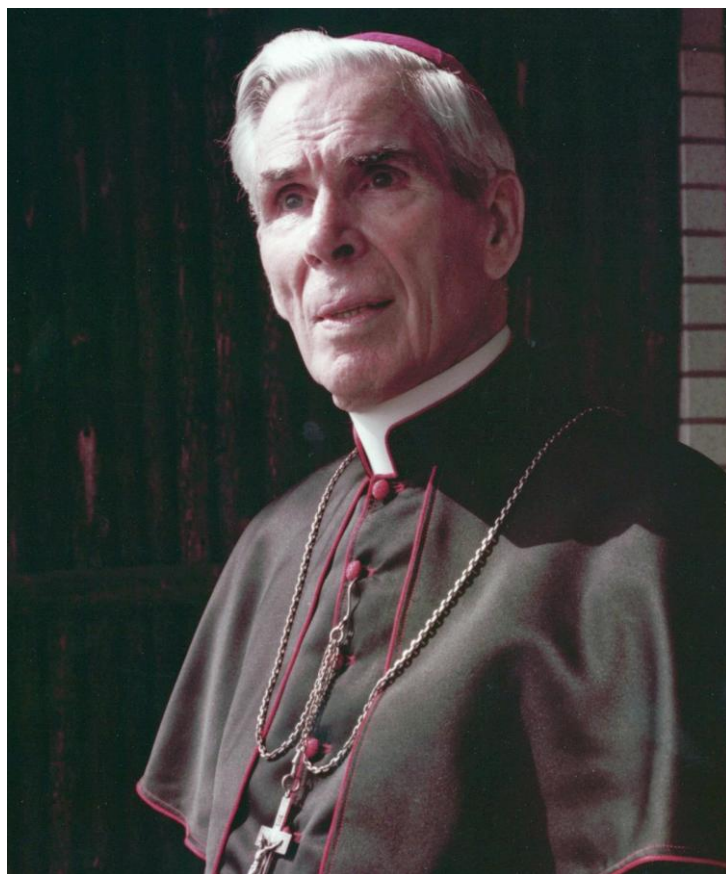
Pope Leo XIV visited the Vatican Library for the first time as pope on his birthday, Sept. 14, and announced plans for the construction of a new modern building in Vatican City to house the holdings of the library and the Vatican Apostolic Archive.

The pope said it seemed providential to celebrate his 71st birthday at the Vatican Library because his mother was a librarian.

On the day of his visit, the pope also issued a decree ordering the construction of a new building in Vatican City State on the site of what is now a parking lot. The facility, to be shared by the Vatican Library and the Vatican archives, will be built “according to the most modern architectural and technological principles.”

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

Sheen beatification offers U.S. Bishops a model of holiness and mission



The much-anticipated beatification of Venerable Fulton J. Sheen is set for Sept. 24 in St. Louis, marking a historic moment for the Catholic Church in the United States. Not only is Sheen the first television host to be formally recognized by the Church as “blessed,” but he also will become the first American-born bishop to be beatified.

For many of the nation’s bishops, however, Sheen’s beatification is about more than historical firsts. In interviews with OSV News, several bishops described a man whose influence as an evangelist and communicator flowed from a deeply rooted life of prayer and sacrifice — and whose example remains relevant to the Church’s mission today.

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

Montoursville and Dalton parishes holding festivals this weekend

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH ANNUAL PARISH FESTIVAL

100 Walnut Street, Montoursville, PA
570-368-8598

September 18 & 19, 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.



**Live Music - Basket Raffle - Cake Wheel
Pumpkin Stand - Wine Wheel - Children's Games**

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Friday Night

1/2 BBQ Chicken, Potato,
Coleslaw, Roll & Dessert ~ \$15
*Entertainment: Featuring
Leo & KG with Family Traditions*

Saturday Night

Spaghetti & Homemade Meatballs,
Salad, Roll, & Dessert ~ \$15
*Entertainment: Kevin Mix ~
Local Musician*

Dinner Tickets Available at Parish Office



Plus our regular delicious food!

Hot Sausages ~ Hamburgers ~ Hotdogs
French Fries ~ Pizza ~ Funnel Cake
Fresh-Squeezed Lemonade ~ Ice Cream

Sunday at 11:30 a.m. ~ Basket Raffle in the Parish Hall

ANNUAL FESTIVAL

FREE PARKING!

2 DAYS!

Church of
OUR LADY
of the
ABINGTONS
(Dalton, PA – Seminary Road)

FREE PARKING!

2 DAYS!

SAT. SEP 19

5 - 10 PM

PORK BBQ

('till sold out)

~ MUSIC ~

**Megaband
Duo**

SUN. SEP 20

Noon - 6 PM

Chicken BBQ

~ MUSIC ~

Quietmen

HANDICAP PARKING AVAILABLE

**RAFFLES, LOTS OF BASKETS!
PLENTY OF FOOD...FUN FOR ALL!**

While the calendar has turned the page to September and fall is quickly approaching, there are still several parishes holding events this coming weekend.

From Lycoming County to Lackawanna County - there is something close to many people this holiday weekend!

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

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