The Catholic Light
DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

October 15, 2026

Pope Leo XIV starts respiratory physical therapy a day after lung cancer surgery



Pope Leo XIV underwent more medical exams and started respiratory physical therapy on Oct. 14, the day after the lung cancer surgery that removed the lower lobe of the pope's right lung.

In the first medical update provided by the Vatican since the late-night revelation of the pope's lung cancer diagnosis, the pope's doctors said Wednesday that the pope's "recovery is proceeding as expected" and the pope has begun walking around his hospital room.

"This morning, the Holy Father underwent the blood tests and chest X-ray scheduled following the surgery. The results confirm a normal postoperative recovery: the values are within the normal range for the type of surgery performed," the joint statement by Dr. Stefano Margaritora, the pope's surgeon, and Dr. Luigi Carbone, the pope's personal doctor, said.

"The Holy Father underwent respiratory physical therapy and has begun walking around his room. He has resumed his regular diet, having had breakfast and lunch. His recovery is proceeding as expected."

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Bishops, lawmakers in U.S. and Canada offer prayers for Pope Leo after lung cancer diagnosis



Following the Holy See's Oct. 13 announcement that Pope Leo XIV was diagnosed with lung cancer and had the lower lobe of his right lung removed, Church and civic leaders expressed their hope and prayers for his full recovery.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops urged the faithful to pray for Pope Leo in a post on X.

"Doctors at Gemelli Hospital removed a cancerous tumor from Pope Leo XIV's right lung, according to the Holy See Press Office," the post said. "The surgery was successful, with no complications, and the Holy Father has returned to his hospital room. We ask the faithful to continue praying for Pope Leo's recovery and for the doctors and staff caring for him. We also hold in prayer all who are living with cancer, their families, and those who care for them."

The following day, the Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops sent a letter to Pope Leo, assuring him of the prayers of the bishops and faithful of Canada, entrusting him to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph.

Individual bishops and dioceses in the U.S. also urged prayer.

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Catholic men gather for 11th annual 'Be A Catholic Man' conference



More than 300 men gathered at Holy Redeemer High School on Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026, for the 11th annual ‘Be A Catholic Man’ Conference, a day of prayer and fellowship which was centered on this year’s theme, “Just Be Catholic.”

The day began with an outdoor Rosary before a morning session featuring speakers Rob Marco and the Most Rev. Joseph Coffey, Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA. Following lunch, John Martignoni spoke and the conference

concluded with Mass celebrated by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton.

In his homily, Bishop Bambera challenged the men to recognize the dignity of every human person and to demonstrate their faith through their daily actions.

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Young adults invited to annual 'Leave a Mark' Mass on Nov. 1



Young adults are invited to join the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, and the Diocesan Vocations Office for the eleventh annual Leave a Mark Mass on Nov. 1, 2026, to kick off National Vocation Awareness Week!

Mass will take place at 5:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

Leave a Mark is the Diocese of Scranton's response to what Pope Francis said at World Youth Day in 2016: "Dear young people, we didn't come into this world to 'vegetate,' to take it easy, to make our lives a comfortable sofa to fall asleep on. No, we came for another reason: to leave a mark. It is very sad to pass through life without leaving a mark."

Now, every year on the Sunday before National Vocation Awareness Week, young adults from around our diocese come together to worship the Lord, meet one another, and discern how God is calling us to leave a mark in this world through our vocation.

There will be a reception following the Mass at the Diocesan Pastoral Center across the street from the Cathedral of Saint Peter featuring food trucks and interactive activities.

Click Here to Share this Information from the Diocese of Scranton website

Does AI make us more human? Parish discussion focuses on Pope Leo's encyclical



In a community that is at the center of the growing debate over artificial intelligence and data centers in northeastern Pennsylvania, the local Catholic parish recently turned to Pope Leo XIV for guidance.

Christ the King Parish in Archbald hosted a panel discussion Sept. 23 examining the impact of artificial intelligence on faith, health and the local community, using Pope Leo's first encyclical, Magnifica Humanitas, as its guide.

Released in May, Pope Leo's encyclical calls the Church and the broader world to approach rapidly developing technology through the lens of human dignity, conscience, freedom and the common good.

Father Ryan Glenn, Pastor of Christ the King Parish in Archbald, said the conversation was timely because of the ongoing discussions surrounding proposed data centers in his community.

“There is a lot of debate, a lot of dialogue, a lot of discord over that in our borough where our parish is located,” Father Glenn said. “I thought it was really important for the parish, on behalf of the Church, to provide a forum where we could think, discuss and really hear from the mind and the heart of the Church.”

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Independent audit again finds Diocese of Scranton in full compliance with child protection requirements



An independent on-site audit has once again determined that the Diocese of Scranton is in compliance with the Charter for the

Protection of Children and Young People established by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

StoneBridge Business Partners, an independent auditing firm based in Rochester, N.Y., recently completed an on-site audit of the Diocese's child protection policies, procedures and records.

In a July 13, 2026, letter addressed to the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, StoneBridge reported that the Diocese was found compliant with all audited Articles within the Charter for the audit period of July 1, 2023, through March 31, 2026.

According to StoneBridge, the conclusions regarding the Diocese's compliance were based on inquiry, observation and the review of specifically requested documentation provided during the course of the audit.

The audit examined the Diocese's protocols related to training, reporting and maintaining safe environments for children and young people in accordance with the requirements of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

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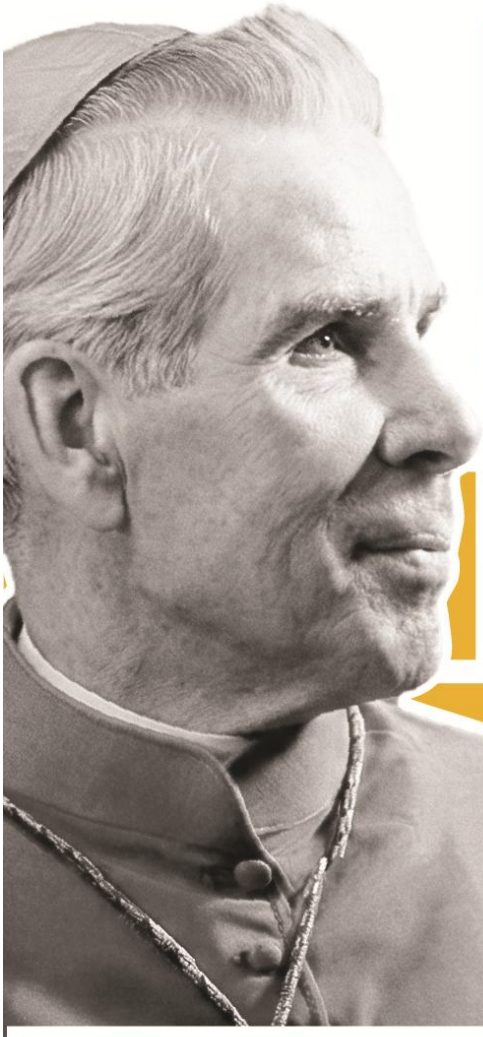
Bishop Bambera to hold Pontifical Mass for World Mission Sunday at Cathedral of Saint Peter

ONE IN CHRIST, *United in Mission*

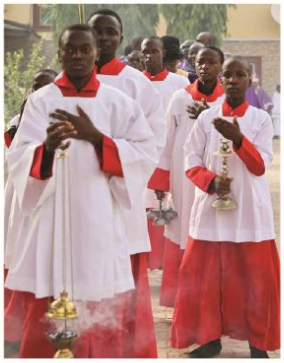
100 YEARS OF WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

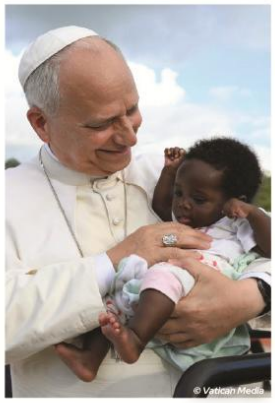
World Mission Sunday
October 18th, 2026



Pray
Sacrifice
Give







GIVE BY TEXT
"MISSIONS26"
TO 53555

pontificalmissions.org/wms-2026

On Sunday, Oct. 18, Catholics from across the Diocese of Scranton are invited to gather at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton for a Pontifical Mass celebrating World Mission Sunday. The Mass will begin at 12:15 p.m.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as principal celebrant. The homilist will be Father Sudhir Toppo, Administrator of Most Holy Trinity Parish in Susquehanna, who is one of more than 20 international priests currently serving in the Diocese of Scranton.

A native of India and member of the Heralds of Good News, Mother Theresa Province, Father Toppo was ordained to the priesthood in 2016. Before becoming Administrator in Susquehanna, he also served as Assistant Pastor of parishes in Shohola, Lords Valley, Dingman Township and Conyngham.

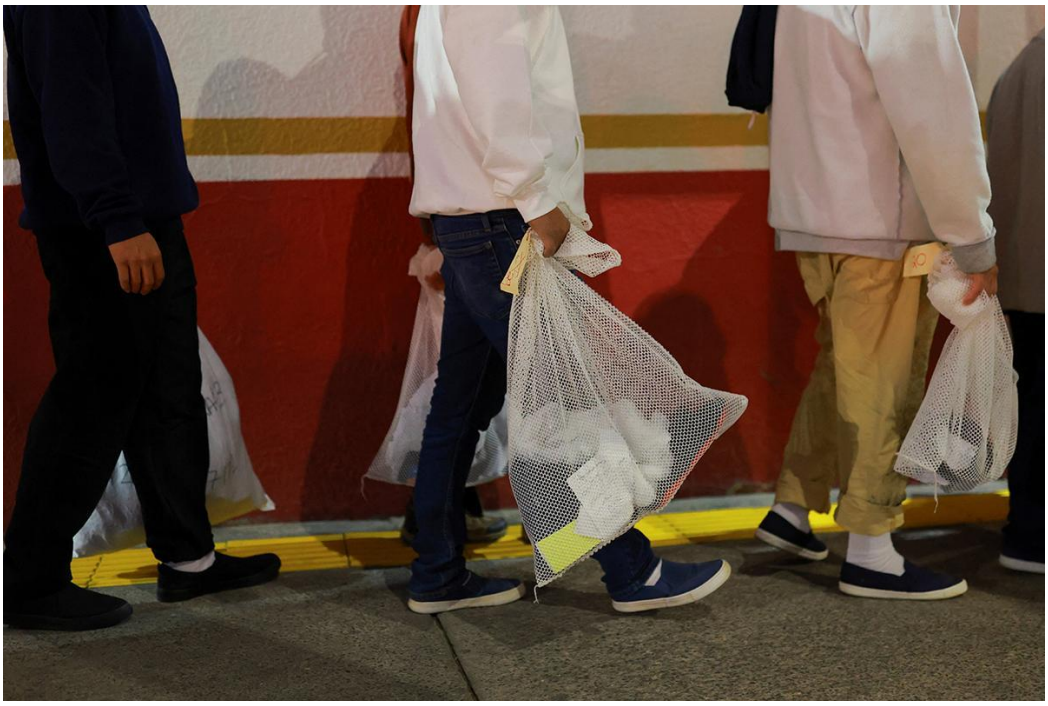
Religious Sisters from Africa will also play a significant role in the World Mission Sunday Mass, offering a musical prelude before the liturgy begins and participating in the Presentation of the Gifts.

Their presence at the Cathedral will offer a powerful reminder that the Catholic Church is truly universal – bringing together people, cultures and communities from around the world in one faith.

Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton will provide a live broadcast of the Mass. The Mass will also be livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel and across all Diocesan social media platforms.

Click Here for More Information on World Mission Sunday 2026

Catholic, evangelical leaders issue joint call for compassionate immigration reform



Catholic and evangelical leaders issued an ecumenical statement Oct. 13 as part of a joint effort to call for compassionate immigration reform.

Bishop Brendan J. Cahill, chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration, and Rev. Walter Kim, president of the National Association of Evangelicals, are the co-chairs of the Evangelical-Catholic Dialogue on Immigration. Their joint statement, "A Call for Christian Compassion and Wisdom in the Immigration Debate," marks the first such statement on immigration in U.S. history to be jointly issued by senior leaders of their respective traditions, they said.

The pair said that although they have "doctrinal differences," they are "united in our conviction that God calls us to stand both with our fellow Americans who are experiencing economic and cultural

anxieties and with our immigrant neighbors who are facing existential challenges."

The statement articulated shared principles that every human being is "created with dignity, bearing God's image," and that government "is responsible for protecting its citizens and providing for the common good, including the establishment and enforcement of reasonable immigration policies."

Click Here to Read the Full Story from Our Sunday Visitor

New online courses help Catholics comfort those struggling with mental health



A U.S.-based Catholic association dedicated to mental health ministry released two new online resources to help lay Catholics understand the signs of mental health struggles and how to better accompany those seeking help.

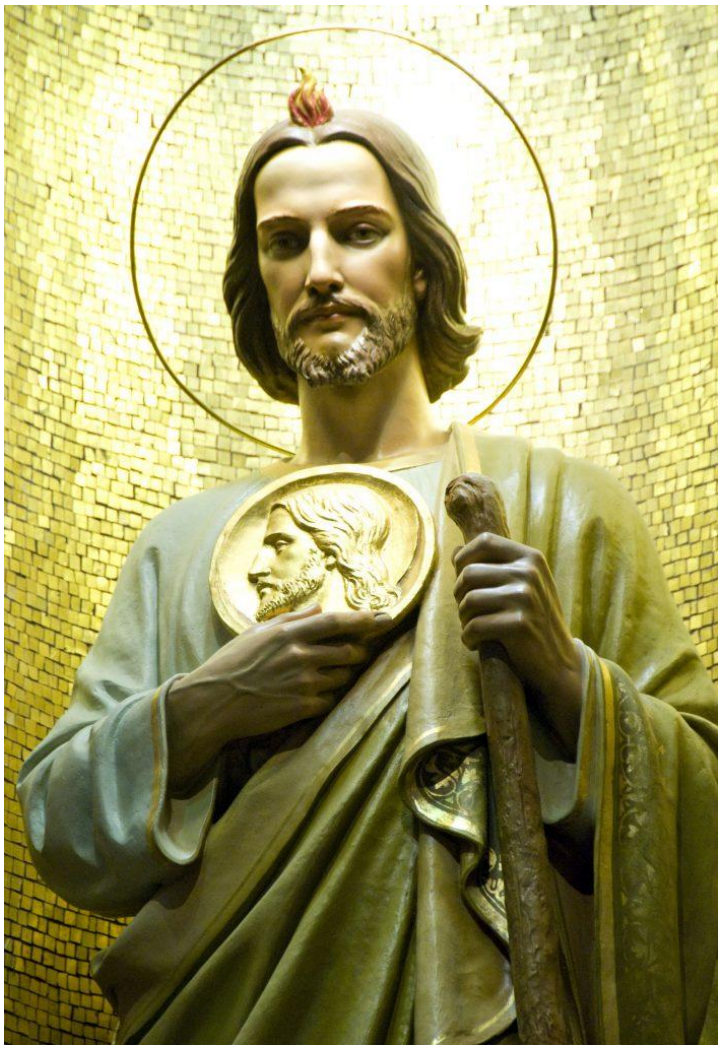
Sometimes a loved one or acquaintance seems “irritable, emotional or just absent from things they used to love. But you’re not sure what’s wrong. Most of us don’t. We weren’t trained to recognize mental illness,” a trailer for the free video courses said.

“We want to help. But we’re afraid of saying the wrong thing, making it worse,” it said, especially by offering the usual platitudes: “Time heals all wounds”; “God has a plan”; and “God never gives us more than we can handle.”

Different members of the International Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers presented the trailer for the courses at Vatican News headquarters Oct. 10, World Mental Health Day. The news conference was part of its international meeting being held in Rome and at the Vatican, dedicated to “A Healing Presence: The Church’s Call to Mental Health Ministry.”

Click Here to Read the Full Story from Catholic News Service

Pittston parish hosting 69th Saint Jude Novena



PITTSTON – Communion of Saints Parish will host the 69th Annual Novena to Saint Jude – patron saint of hopeless cases and things despaired of – at Saint Mary, Help of Christians Church, 535 North Main St., North Pittston.

The well-known, venerable tradition of the area's Saint Jude Novena continues this year on Monday, Oct. 19, and concludes on the Feast of Saints Simon & Jude, Wednesday, Oct. 28.

Mass, homily, Novena prayers and veneration of the relic of Saint Jude will be held Monday through Saturday at noon; and on Sunday at 8 a.m.

Sung Evening Prayer will be celebrated weeknights only (Monday to Friday) at 7 p.m. in Saint Mary's Church. There will be no Evening Prayer on Saturday or Sunday.

Sacramental confessions precede all Novena devotions (except Sunday), beginning at 11:30 a.m., and the Holy Rosary will be prayed before each noon Mass.

Prayer programs are provided at all the services during the Saint Jude Novena.

For more information, contact the Communion of Saints parish office, (570) 654-0053.

Catholic Ministries Appeal approaches 50% of goal



Just one month after launching in parishes throughout the Diocese of Scranton, the 2026-2027 Catholic Ministries Appeal is already approaching the halfway mark toward its $4.5 million goal, reflecting the generosity and commitment of parishioners supporting the vital Catholic ministries of our local Church.

The Diocese of Scranton extends its gratitude to the thousands of donors who have already made a gift or pledge. Every contribution helps sustain ministries that serve individuals and

families, strengthen parishes, educate young people and spread the Good News of the Gospel.

The Catholic Ministries Appeal supports Vocations, Seminarians and Retired Clergy; Catholic media and communications; Parish Life initiatives; Catholic Social Services; Catholic education; as well as Parish Faith Formation and Social Justice Grants.

Click Here for More Information or to Donate to the 2026-2027 Catholic Ministries Appeal

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