The Catholic Light
DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

October 22, 2026

Pope Leo needs 'no further treatment' following lung cancer surgery



Doctors have confirmed Pope Leo XIV needs “no further treatment” following his Oct. 13 surgery for lung cancer.

In an Oct. 21 message, the Holy See Press Office announced that Drs. Luigi Carbone and Stefano Margaritora said “the final histological examinations and molecular biology tests on the material removed” during the surgery confirmed the tumor was a “localized lung adenocarcinoma.”

The doctors said that “subsequent oncological evaluation confirmed that no further treatment is necessary.”

“This is really good news,” Dr. Nirmal Veeramachaneni, professor of cardiothoracic surgery at St. Louis University School of Medicine, told OSV News moments after the Vatican released the papal health update.

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Jubilee Mass for Women and Men Religious to be celebrated Sunday



Faithful from across the Diocese of Scranton are invited to participate in a joyful celebration as we honor the dedicated contributions of women and men in religious life during the annual Jubilee Mass for Women and Men Religious on Sunday, Oct. 25, 2026, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Mass will begin at 12:15 p.m., with the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, serving as the principal celebrant.

This special liturgy offers an opportunity to give thanks for the invaluable witness, service, and commitment of those who have devoted their lives to God through religious vocations. From teaching in Catholic schools to providing hospital ministry, prayer and pastoral ministry, women and men religious have had a tremendous impact on the life of the Church and the communities they serve.

Following the homily, all those in consecrated life will be invited to stand to renew their vows. This year, more than 2,010 years of consecrated life will be honored and remembered – which will be

a powerful reminder of the ongoing importance of vocations to religious life – and our shared responsibility to pray for and support those who answer God's call in such generous and selfless ways.

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Seven men to be instituted as Acolytes at Cathedral Mass



Seven men in formation for the permanent diaconate in the Diocese of Scranton will take another important step in their journey of service to the Church when they are instituted as acolytes on Saturday, Oct. 24, 2026.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate the Rite of Institution of Acolyte at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The men to be instituted are William Chechel, Jeffrey R. Kovaleski, Thomas J. Krzan, Kevin J. Martin, Stephen O. Muntzenberger, Justo Paula-Martínez and Paul M. Zwolan.

The institution of acolytes represents an important milestone in the formation of men preparing for the permanent diaconate. Through this ministry, they are entrusted with assisting the priest and deacon at the altar, helping prepare the gifts for the celebration of the Eucharist and, when necessary, distributing Holy Communion as extraordinary ministers.

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Memorial Service for the Unborn to be held Sunday in Milford



Knights of Columbus John Paul II Council 13935, serving Saint Patrick and Saint Joseph Parishes in Milford and Matamoras, will

be hosting a Memorial for the Unborn on Sunday, Oct. 25, at Saint Patrick's Community Hall in Milford.

The day's events will include a memorial service at 4 p.m., followed by a free community dinner.

After the community dinner Ariel Toms, the director of Tri-State Family & Pregnancy Center, a pro-life pregnancy resource center, will speak about the work of the center and current programs and needs.

The memorial service will be officiated by Rev. Joseph Manarchuck and will include pro-life speaker Antonio Perito.

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Faithful gather for Rosary Rally to honor Fr. Patrick Peyton's legacy



The Cathedral of Saint Peter, where Venerable Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., once discovered his vocation to the priesthood, became a gathering place for prayer in his spirit on Oct. 17, 2026.

Catholics across the Diocese of Scranton were invited to participate in a Rosary Rally for Peace recognizing Father Peyton's enduring mission to bring families together in prayer.

The Rosary Rally's theme, "In the Silence, God Calls," celebrated the moments that helped shape Father Peyton's life and worldwide ministry.

It was while working in the city of Scranton – and as a janitor at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in particular - that Father Peyton heard God's call to the priesthood and began the journey that would lead him to promote family prayer around the world.

Click Here to Watch a Video from CTV: Catholic Television from the Oct. 17 Rosary Rally at the Cathedral of Saint Peter

U.S. Bishops' President urges Catholics to 'put their faith before politics' in November elections



Ahead of the Nov. 3 midterm elections, Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, issued a statement Oct. 14 reminding the faithful that "For citizens in a representative democracy such as our own,

participation in public life — including voting — is both a right and a responsibility."

"In a time of deep political division, the temptation is to be discouraged and to not participate in the election process. But discouragement is not a Christian virtue," Archbishop Coakley of Oklahoma City said.

The midterm elections will determine the balance of power in Congress, as well as governors' mansions and state legislatures across the country.

Archbishop Coakley said that as Catholics exercise their civic duty, "it is important to ensure that citizens not face unnecessary delays or complications in registering or exercising their right to vote."

"Together, we can contribute to the common good of our nation as faithful citizens by supporting free and fair elections," he said.

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Indianapolis chosen to host 2029 National Eucharistic Congress



The people gathered for a dinner in Indianapolis Oct. 20 erupted into cheers and applause when Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota, made the announcement: “I’m privileged to announce that in 2029, the 11th National Eucharistic Congress is going to be back here in Indianapolis.”

The dinner at the Omni Severin Hotel followed a Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis. Concelebrating were Bishop Cozzens and Bishop Timothy L. Doherty of Lafayette, Indiana, with Indianapolis Archbishop Charles C. Thompson as principal celebrant.

“As we look toward the 11th National Eucharistic Congress in 2029, we do well to keep before us the continued outpouring of graces and blessings stemming from the National Eucharistic Revival that continues to bear fruit throughout the Church, local and universal,” Archbishop Thompson said in his homily.

Before announcing the location of the 2029 congress at the dinner, Bishop Cozzens, board chairman of National Eucharistic

Congress Inc., spoke of the impact of the 10th congress, held in Indianapolis July 17-21, 2024.

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Georgia martyrs' beatification is next big event for U.S. Church



While six years separate the two most recent U.S. beatifications of Blessed Michael J. McGivney in 2020 and Blessed Fulton J. Sheen on Sept. 24, mere weeks pass before the next: five Franciscan friars known as the Georgia Martyrs on Oct. 31.

Cardinal Frank Leo of Toronto will celebrate the 11 a.m. beatification Mass, which will be livestreamed on social media

channels and the diocesan website, diosav.org, as well as by EWTN.

Speaking about the Georgia Martyrs with OSV News, Cardinal Leo said, “We all have that same command from the Lord Jesus to go make disciples.”

“The Georgia Martyrs offered more than self-sacrifice,” he said. “They brought it to the next level in terms of self-gift. … It was a choice and a decision to make a gift to the Lord by becoming a gift to his people, who needed to know him and to live for him.”

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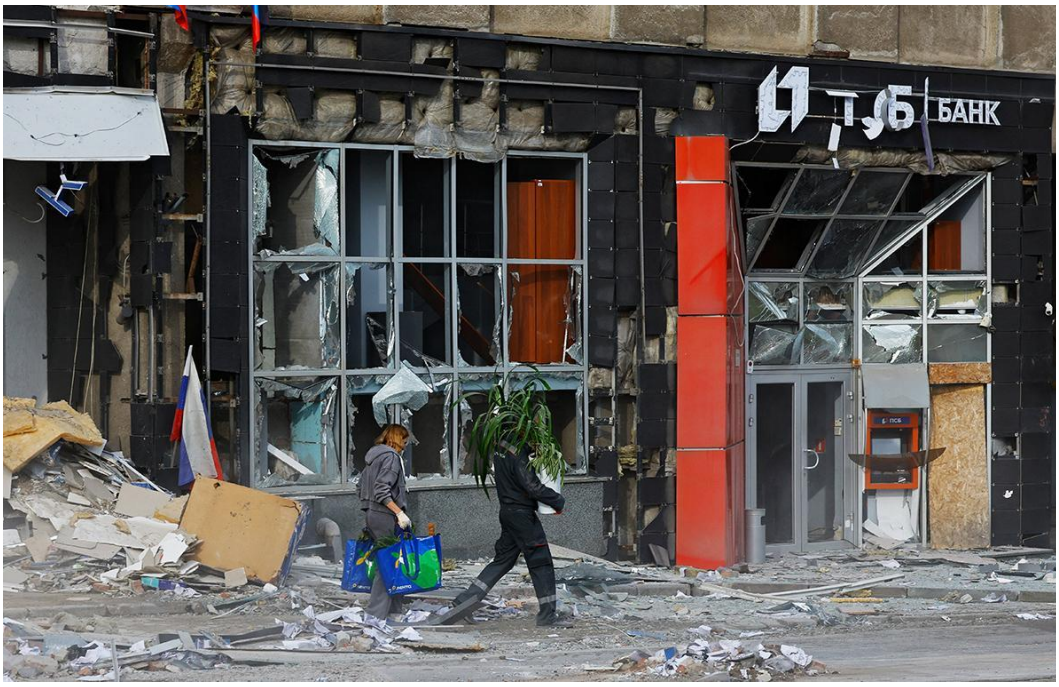
Pope Leo urges Ukraine-Russia humanitarian cooperation as Russian strike kills children at playground



Pope Leo XIV spoke by phone with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, expressing hope that Ukraine and Russia will cooperate on humanitarian aid and evacuations for civilians in the southern Ukrainian city of Oleshky, the Vatican said.

In an Oct. 19 statement, the Vatican press office said the conversation centered on “the grave situation” in the city, which has been under Russian military occupation since 2022.

Pope Leo’s phone call with Zelenskyy came less than a week after an Oct. 13 call with Russian President Vladimir Putin, while the pontiff was recovering from lung surgery at Rome’s Gemelli Hospital. In that call, the pope requested a humanitarian ceasefire, the Vatican said.

“His Holiness expressed the hope that cooperation between both parties will allow for the delivery of food and medical aid, and for the voluntary and safe evacuation of the civilian population,” the statement read.

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Trump administration extends TPS for Ukraine, Sudan, but uncertainty remains



The Trump administration on Oct. 18 extended protections from deportation to people from Ukraine and Sudan, allowing them to continue living legally in the U.S. for now.

Temporary Protected Status 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. The Trump administration has sought to end TPS for several countries, notably Haiti, which is racked by extreme levels of gang violence, but it also recently granted an extension to migrants from El Salvador.

In a written statement provided to OSV News, a spokesperson for DHS confirmed the extension without sharing a rationale. The

spokesperson stated an announcement on each country's TPS "will be made at the appropriate time," and until such announcements are made, nationals of those countries "present in the U.S. under TPS retain protection."

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Catholic Ministries Appeal reaches 53% of goal



Just one month after launching in parishes throughout the Diocese of Scranton, the 2026-2027 Catholic Ministries Appeal is now at 53-percent of 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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