



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

October 8, 2026

**'Be A Catholic Man' Conference
set for Saturday in
Wilkes-Barre**

JUST BE CATHOLIC



Stand fast with the Church founded by Jesus Christ, Who "is the same yesterday, today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

Through the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, God has called men, not to be lukewarm, but to become strong in order to contend with a hostile world.

Christus Vincit!

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 9/15/26), Student \$15, Priest/Deacon FREE. Morning coffee & box lunch included.
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This message appears ONLY in the Free Edition



Members of the 'Be a Catholic Man' group recently gathered to plan for its 11th annual Catholic Men's Conference under the theme, 'Just Be Catholic.'

The event will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026, at Holy Redeemer High School, 159 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Wilkes-Barre.

The Conference will feature nationally known Catholic speakers and will conclude with Mass offered by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton.

This year's conference speakers include the Most Rev. Joseph Coffey, Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA; author and evangelist John Martignoni; and commentator Brian Holdsworth.

All men are invited and encouraged to attend to go further in their imitation of Christ for the sake of themselves and their loved ones.

Tickets are \$40. Students are \$15. Priests, Deacons, and Seminarians are free.

[Click Here for More Information on the 'Be A Catholic Man' Conference](#)

Faithful gather for annual Rosary Novena in a new location



A beloved annual tradition of prayer is continuing this year in a new location as faithful from across the Diocese of Scranton gathered for the annual Rosary Novena at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel.

On Oct. 3, a nine-day Novena began, bringing the faithful together each evening for the Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament and a spiritual reflection from a priest or deacon.

The annual Rosary Novena continues each night through Oct. 11 - so there is still time to take part!

The theme of this year's Rosary Novena was "To Jesus through Mary."

[Click Here to Watch a Video from CTV: Catholic Television from this year's Rosary Novena](#)

Voter Voice - Urge Governor Shapiro to "opt in" to new federal tax credit program



A new federal tax credit has been created to provide funds for Pennsylvania students and families—but only if Governor Shapiro opts our state into the program by December 31st.

Want help for your K-12 student with education expenses like tuition and school supplies?

Generous individuals can donate \$1,700 a year to scholarship-granting organizations and receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit.

Those funds can then be made available to students in need. If our state doesn't opt in, the funds will go to other states.

Urge Governor Shapiro to take action now and say “yes” for Pennsylvania students before the December 31st deadline to support our students in both public and non-public schools.

[Click Here to Send an Email to Governor Shapiro Regarding the Education Freedom Tax Credit](#)

**Deadline for Ezra 10:4 Retreat is
Friday**

Diocese of Scranton
VOCATIONS

EZRA 10:4

A RETREAT FOR MEN DISCERNING THE
PRIESTHOOD



Holy Family Spiritual Renewal Center, Nanticoke

151 OLD NEWPORT ST, NANTICOKE, PA 18634

Hosted by the Diocese of Scranton Vocations Office

OCTOBER 16-17, 2026

FOLLOW US ON @SCRANTONVOC FOR MORE
INFORMATION AND UPDATES

The deadline for the Diocese of Scranton's Ezra 10:4 Retreat is this Friday, Oct. 9.

The retreat, which is hosted by the Vocations Office, is for men discerning the priesthood and will take place Oct. 16-17 at Holy Family Spiritual Renewal Center in Nanticoke.

This preached retreat, named after the Book of Ezra verse that says, “Rise, then, for this is your duty! We are with you, so have courage and act!” is led by Fr. Ryan Glenn, Vocation Director.

Men 18+ who are interested in discerning a vocation to priesthood are invited to attend. For those who have come to the Ezra 10:4 Retreat before, brand new talks and discussion will be offered, so you are encouraged to come again!

This retreat will include Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, talks, group discussion, fellowship, rooming accommodations, and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. This retreat is FREE to attend.

[Click Here for More Information or to Register for the Ezra 10:4 Retreat](#)

Register now for 'Faith and Family Night' at the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins on Oct. 23



GROUP NIGHT WITH THE PENS

Diocese of Scranton Group Night

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23
PENGUINS VS BELLEVILLE SENATORS
7PM

Enjoy Faith and Family Night with a discounted ticket! Food Vouchers are available for \$4.50.

PRICING
GREEN ZONE \$23
BLUE ZONE \$20



Please return orders to **TYLER ROTHMANN** at 40 Coal St in advance or via email at **TROTHMANN@WBSPENGUINS.COM** or via call/text at **570-208-5407**.

LARGE GROUPS ARE ENCOURAGED TO RESERVE IN ADVANCE, NO DEPOSIT REQUIRED!

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____
OF TIX: _____ ZONE: _____ TOTAL PAYMENT \$: _____
CREDIT CARD: _____ EXP: _____ DELIVER METHOD: MAIL
CHECK NUMBER: _____ (PAYABLE TO WBS PENGUINS)

Get ready for an unforgettable night of faith, family, and thrilling hockey action!

The Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins are excited to welcome the Diocese of Scranton on Friday, Oct. 23, 2026, for a special Faith and Family Night experience.

Gather your friends, family, and fellow community members for an evening packed with high-energy sports entertainment and heartwarming camaraderie.

This is more than just a game; it's a chance to connect, celebrate, and cheer on your Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins together!

[Click Here for More Information or to Reserve Your Tickets!](#)

Catholic Social Services hosting 'Racing to Raffles' fundraiser this weekend



Catholic Social Services of Greater Hazleton is excited to announce the return of “Racing to Raffles,” a fun-filled two-day fundraising event this weekend benefiting the programs and services of Catholic Social Services.

The festivities kick off with Preview Night on Friday, Oct. 9, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Guests can stop by to purchase horses for \$10 each and get an early start on raffle tickets for gift cards, lottery boards, themed baskets and more.

Light snacks will be available for purchase.

Race Night takes place Saturday, Oct. 10. Doors open at 4:00 p.m., with dinner served at 6:00 p.m. Guests can enjoy an evening of horse racing, food and fun, with raffle drawings held between the races.

Admission for Race Night is \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door.

Both events will be held at the Catholic Social Services Family Center, 106 S. Church St., Hazleton.

For more information or to purchase advance tickets, call Catholic Social Services at 570-455-1521.

[Click Here to Share This Information from the Diocese of Scranton Website](#)

Pope Leo opens Vatican Bishops' meeting calling attention to the 'fragility of families'



Pope Leo XIV opened a Vatican meeting of the world's bishops' conference presidents and the heads of Eastern Catholic churches marking the 10th anniversary of "Amoris Laetitia" Oct. 7, saying "the beauty and fragility of families" today will be at the heart of the week's discussions.

"During these days dedicated to prayer and reflection, we intend to place the beauty and fragility of families at the heart of our journey," Pope Leo prayed as he opened the meeting in the Paul VI Audience Hall.

"Together, we seek to discern the direction in which the Holy Spirit is guiding us, so as to recognize, support, and promote the work He is already accomplishing within them and to value their precious contribution to the mission of the Church."

The Oct. 7-14 closed-door meeting of bishops, convened by Pope Leo, is focused on marriage and family and marks the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation "Amoris Laetitia," or "The Joy of Love."

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

Pope Leo receives relic of Blessed Fulton Sheen from Peoria's Bishop



Bishop Louis Tylka of Peoria, Illinois, presented Pope Leo XIV with a relic of the recently beatified Blessed Fulton Sheen during a private audience at the Vatican Oct. 5.

Bishop Tylka was one of four U.S. bishops who met the pope on Monday. The pope also received 75-year-old Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami for an individual private audience, as well as the leadership of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

For the bishop of Peoria, the opportunity to give the Chicago-born pope the relic was “a profound joy and privilege,” especially because of Pope Leo’s personal interest in Blessed Fulton Sheen,

who was beatified in St. Louis on Sept. 24 with about 50,000 people in attendance.

“To place a relic of this son of the Diocese of Peoria into the hands of the first American pope, both of whom are from Illinois, was an especially moving moment,” Bishop Tylka said in a statement following the papal audience.

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

In Assisi, Cardinals and friars celebrate the 800th anniversary of St. Francis' death



At the stroke of midnight Oct. 4, church bells tolled across the Italian hilltown of Assisi to mark the 800th anniversary of St. Francis' death.

The Oct. 4 feast of the “the Little Poor Man of Assisi” was the pinnacle event amid a yearlong jubilee celebration, which began with the historic exposition of his relics for public veneration.

The feast day celebrations began on Oct. 3 with a night procession and a solemn commemoration of the “Transitus” (“passage”), the traditional Franciscan prayer service in the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels marking St. Francis’ transition into eternal life. The basilica houses the chapel where St. Francis died on the night of Oct. 3, 1226.

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

Supreme Court expected to hear religious liberty, gun and environmental cases in its new term



The U.S. Supreme Court began its new term Oct. 5, with cases on its schedule involving religious liberty, guns, immigration and the environment.

Among the noteworthy cases the high court will hear this term is St. Mary Catholic Parish v. Roy, a clash between Catholic preschools and the state of Colorado over whether those schools can participate in the state's universal preschool program.

Mark Rienzi, president and CEO of Becket, a religious liberty law firm representing the preschools in the case, told OSV News that their clients in the case and the Catholic Church in Colorado liked the idea of "a universal pre-K law designed to give every parent in the state the chance to send their kid to any pre-K program they want." But he said the problem arose because "Colorado's definition of universal excludes all the Catholic schools."

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

Support the 2026-2027 Catholic Ministries Appeal



 **OUR CALL TO
SERVE**
CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL KITCHEN

In 2025, St. Vincent DePaul Kitchen served over **120,000 meals** to people in need, and served over **2,500 families** through their food pantry in Wilkes Barre.

Together, we can change lives.
To make your gift, visit:
AnnualAppeal.org

The 2026-2027 Catholic Ministries Appeal is now underway!
Please help us support essential Catholic ministries across the
Diocese of Scranton.

To date, more than \$1.8 million of our \$4.5 million goal has been raised - equating to 40% of our goal.

[Click Here for More Information or to Donate to the 2026-2027 Catholic Ministries Appeal](#)

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