

From: Diocese of Scranton <e-newsletter@dioceseofscranton.org>
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Diocese of Scranton News Briefing



www.dioceseofscranton.org Vol. 13 #7 5/18/2017



MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Catholic community of the Diocese of Scranton, are called through Baptism to imitate the servant leadership of Jesus Christ.

In union with our Holy Father, the Pope, we proclaim the Gospel faithfully, celebrate the sacraments joyfully, and boldly promote life, justice and peace in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

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In This Issue

[Transitional Diaconate Ordination](#)

[#PartnerwithFrancis](#)

[XLT \(Exalt!\)](#)

[Registration Open for Quo Vadis Days](#)

[Feast of the Sacred Heart](#)

[Catholic Charismatic Formation Day](#)

[Charismatic Pentecost Celebration](#)

[Catholic Communication Campaign](#)

[Bishop Leading Pilgrimage to Spain and Portugal](#)

[Mark Your Calendar](#)

[Follow the Diocese on Social Media](#)

[Real Estate Availability](#)

Transitional Diaconate Ordination

Ryan P. Glenn will be ordained a Transitional Deacon for the Diocese of Scranton on Saturday, May 27, at 10 a.m. in the Church of Saint Matthew, 78 Ridgeway Street, East Stroudsburg.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will serve as principal celebrant and ordaining prelate.

Ryan is a member of Saint Jude Parish, Mountain Top, and is currently serving a pastoral year at Saint Matthew Parish.

All are invited and encouraged to participate. A light social will follow in the parish school.

For more information, please call the Diocesan Vocation Office at 570-207-1452.

#PartnerwithFrancis

The Diocese of Scranton will #partnerwithfrancis over the next few months to gather the voices of the young Church (16-35) and those who work with them in preparation for Pope Francis' 2018 Synod on *Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment*. To get involved, participate in a Diocesan listening session and/or complete a survey online at www.partnerwithfrancis.org. For more information and/or to register for a listening session, please contact Dominick Costantino at 570-780-2996.

XLT (Exalt!)

XLT (Exalt!) will be held Friday, May 19, from 7-9 p.m. at Saint John Neumann Parish, 633 Orchard Street, Scranton. The event, sponsored by the Diocesan Offices for Parish Life and Vocations, will consist of Eucharistic Adoration; praise & worship music by Countless Wonders; a talk by Diana Franceschelli; reconciliation; and a social. All are welcome to attend. For more information, please contact Dominick Costantino at 570-780-2996.

Registration Open for *Quo Vadis Days 2017*

Quo Vadis Days 2017 is a camp for young Catholic men in High School (9-12th grade) to:

- + Deepen their faith
- + Learn more about all vocations
- + Better discern God's call in their lives

The camp will feature dynamic talks, prayer, games, sports, activities, music and more. Participants will have the opportunity to meet priests and seminarians of the Diocese of Scranton. All participants are required to get a letter of recommendation from a priest, deacon, parish life coordinator, director of religious education, or youth minister to register.

Date: June 25-28

Location: Misericordia University

Phone: (570) 207-1452

Register Online:

www.scrantonvocations.org

Bishop Bambera to Celebrate Mass for Feast of the Sacred Heart June 22

The Sacred Heart Enthronement Guild in the Diocese announces its annual Eucharistic celebration commemorating the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus will be held on the vigil of the Sacred Heart feast, Thursday, June 22, at 5 p.m. in the IHM Center at Marywood University.

Serving as principal celebrant and homilist for the Mass of the Sacred Heart will be Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, who will also offer special prayers to renew the Sacred Heart Enthronement in the Diocese of Scranton.

Concelebrating the liturgy will be Father Daniel Toomey, spiritual moderator of the Sacred Heart Enthronement Guild, and St. Joseph Oblate Father Joseph Sibilano, director of St. Joseph's Oblate Seminary in Laflin.

Music ministry for the Mass celebration will be provided by the Sacred Heart Singers, directed by Ernie Pappa and Jennifer Michel. A musical prelude will begin at 4:30 p.m.

A dinner reception in the IHM Center will follow the Mass. Stephen Englot, Enthronement Guild board president, and Patrick Williams, vice president, will serve as masters of ceremonies.

The Enthronement of the Sacred Heart apostolate enables families and individuals to consecrate their homes to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Homes that have been enthroned become an extension of the liturgy, whereby faithful can follow up their Eucharistic devotion in church with prayerful devotion in their own private settings.

For further information on Enthronement to the Sacred Heart, contact Maria Pappa, coordinator of the Enthronement Guild, at 570-587-0805.

Catholic Charismatic Formation Day

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the Diocese of Scranton continues its celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the worldwide Catholic Charismatic Renewal movement by hosting a CCR Formation Day on Saturday, May 20. The Golden Jubilee celebration event will be held at the Holy Family Center in Nanticoke, beginning with registration and breakfast from 8 to 9 a.m.

The main program will be offered from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Guest presenter for the day is Father Timothy Cremeens, Ph.D., pastor of Holy Resurrection Cathedral (Orthodox) in Wilkes-Barre since 2014. The theme for the day is "Pentecost and Beyond: The Flow of the River of the Holy Spirit."

From his unique perspective as a charismatic Orthodox priest, Father Timothy will trace the movement of the Holy Spirit since Pentecost, analyzing the response of the Church to the Spirit's past interventions in order to prepare us to be vigilant in responding to the leading of the Holy Spirit in the future. Father Timothy was ordained in the Orthodox Church of America 25 years ago, and most recently (2011) received a Ph.D. in Church History from Regent University School of Divinity.

The Formation Day registration fee is \$25 per person, which includes three meals. For more information and registration details, including overnight accommodations, contact Bob Valiante, Catholic Charismatic Renewal, P.O. Box 3306, Scranton, PA 18505-0306; phone (570) 344-2214; or at ccrenewal@comcast.net.

Also, the 35th annual Charismatic Conference is scheduled for August 4-6 at the University of Scranton. Everyone is invited to experience the numerous prayer meetings and other events as the CCR celebrates its Golden Jubilee.

Charismatic Pentecost Celebration

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the Diocese of Scranton will continue its celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the worldwide Catholic Charismatic Renewal movement by hosting a Pentecost Celebration on Saturday, June 3.

The Golden Jubilee celebration event will be held in the St Nicholas Parish auditorium at 226 S. Washington St. in Wilkes-Barre, beginning with registration and coffee/donuts from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. The main program will be offered from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The program will feature times of song and praise, as well as presentations by Father Leo McKernan, Karen McLain and Bob Valiante.

Father Leo McKernan is a priest of the Diocese of Scranton, ordained in 1983, who has had a number of pastoral assignments and taught at Diocesan Catholic high schools. He was a former spiritual director at St. Pius X Seminary and former Director of Ecumenism and Interfaith Affairs. He serves as the chaplain of The People of God Community, a local charismatic covenant community, and is a senior priest at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Pittston.

Karen McLain resides in Madison Township with her husband, Allan. She was baptized in the Holy Spirit at Oral Roberts University during her college years there. She is a member of St. John Neumann

Parish where she serves as a Cantor. She is a past coordinator of the Service Team for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the Diocese of Scranton., and is the Associate Conference Coordinator for the CCR's annual Scranton Conference. Karen is the Office Manager at Holy Cross High School in Dunmore and is a member of the Burning Bush Prayer Group in Scranton.

Bob Valiante has been involved in the Charismatic Renewal of the Catholic Church in various capacities for 46 years. He is a past coordinator of the Service Team for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the Diocese of Scranton. He is the founder and coordinator of the annual Catholic Charismatic Conference held every summer in Scranton, which is in its 35th year. A member of St. John Neumann Parish in Scranton, Bob serves as the Liaison to the Bishop and the overall Coordinator of the Charismatic Renewal for the Diocese of Scranton.

There is no cost to attend the Pentecost Celebration, which includes a free lunch (hoagie and beverage). However, you must call by May 29 to register for the free lunch, and specify your preferred hoagie (Tuna, Turkey, or Italian). For more information and registration, contact Bob Valiante, Catholic Charismatic Renewal, P.O. Box 3306, Scranton, PA 18505-0306; phone (570) 344-2214; or at ccrenewal@comcast.net.

Also, the 35th annual Charismatic Conference is scheduled for August 4-6 at the University of Scranton. Our local CCR invites everyone to experience its numerous prayer meetings and other events as the CCR celebrates its Golden Jubilee.

Catholic Communication Campaign

The Catholic Communication Campaign is an annual national collection to support evangelization through the internet, television, radio, and print publications. This collection will be taken up in the Diocese of Scranton the weekend of May 27-28.

This campaign supports global, national and local communication efforts. For example, the Catholic Communication Campaign collection supports projects in developing nations where the local Church lacks resources to spread the Gospel message, and provided funds for unprecedented coverage of Pope Francis' visit to the United States.

Fifty percent of funds collected remain in each diocese to support local communications projects. In the Diocese of Scranton, these include *The Catholic Light* newspaper that is mailed to more than 50,000 readers; CTV: Catholic Television, which has a potential audience of 250,000 households; the Diocesan website; *News Briefing* electronic newsletter; social media such as Facebook and Twitter; and interaction with public media.

These programs allow us to share our experience of faith, worship, and witness with each other and the world.

Bishop Leading Pilgrimage to Spain and Portugal for Our Lady of Fatima Centennial

September 18-26, 2017 - reservations being taken now

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera invites the faithful to join him on a special pilgrimage to Spain and Portugal in honor of the 100th anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima's appearance to three young shepherd children in 1917.

The pilgrimage will take place September 18-26, 2017 and will include Masses celebrated by the Bishop and visits to many sacred and historic sites, including nearly two days in Fatima where the Marian apparitions occurred.

Space is limited, so it is recommended that you call as soon as possible for reservations. All arrangements and reservations are to be made through TRAVELWORLD.

For information, call TRAVELWORLD at 800-828-6029 or visit www.asktravelworld.com.

Office for Parish Life

Evening of Reflection for Music Ministers

An Evening of Reflection for Music Ministers will be held on Tuesday, May 23, at 6:30 p.m. in the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton. David Baloga, Director for Worship, will the ministers enter more deeply into the spirituality of their ministry through prayer, song and reflection.

There is no cost to participate. To register, please complete the **Evening of Reflection form** or contact the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213. Please register no later than Friday, May 19.

Registering for PreCana Days of Reflection

When the priest or deacon preparing an engaged couple for marriage decides the couple should attend a diocesan PreCana Day of Reflection, he should direct them to the [diocesan website](#) to register and to see the current list of dates available. **All registrations are done online.** The schedule is updated when a date reaches capacity and so that date is no longer available. Please do not direct the couple to call OPL; we will just have to tell them to go online.

Check out Latest Additions to OPL's Little Free Library!

Looking for a good book on Catholic spirituality, Church teaching or ways to understand and live out your faith? Many people are hungry to grow in their understanding of their faith but it can be difficult to find and choose a book. This is a bridge between good materials and parishioners. Look at the latest suggestions on [Pinterest](#) or request a pdf version from Bernadette-rudolph@dioceseofscranton.org.

Latest Ideas for an Evening/Afternoon of Reflection

Bernadette Rudolph, Director for Family and Community Development, is available to present a 2-3 hour retreat for your parish. Recent topics include:

- + The Paschal Mystery: Living the Resurrection** - While most Catholics believe in the resurrection, they think of it as something that will happen at the end of their physical life. See how the pattern of dying and rising is part of everyday Christian living and learn to be a person of hope!
- + Living Your Strengths** - Christianity has long taught that each person is gifted by God and has a unique role to play in the Body of Christ. The Clifton *StrengthsFinder2.0* supports this with scientific research. Bring the two together for an enlivening, inspiring experience!
- + What If You Saw Yourself As God Does?** - God loves both the person we are and the person we will become. This love is at the heart of the Gospel, and yet many Catholics have never heard it. Let your parishioners be evangelized and changed!
- + Hospitality and Mercy** - Because mercy is an essential attribute of God, it shapes everything about our relationship with God -and in turn, our relationship with others. A simple way to practice mercy is through hospitality. Discover what this means for the individual or the parish community.

Other topics are also possible. These retreats can be extended up to a full day, if you wish. Contact Bernadette to discuss your ideas! (ext. 1104 or Bernadette-Rudolph@dioceseofscranton.org)

Mark Your Calendar

For a listing of Diocesan and parish events, go to: [Calendar](#)



GoodNewsNotes

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

This Issue

I.S.L.I.	p. 2
Up and Over Retreat	p. 2
Adult Confirmation	p. 3
Upcoming NPM Events	p. 3
Evening of Reflections for Liturgical Ministers	p. 3
Mental Health Month	p. 4
Latest Ideas for Evening/ Afternoon of Reflection	p. 4
Regional SERVICE Networking Meetings	p. 5
Social Justice Trust Fund Grant Applications	p. 5
Light the Fire Summer Youth Rally	p. 5
10 Ways "to address catechesis at all life stages and circumstances"	p. 6

Mother's Day Adoption Mass

Sunday, May 14 at 10:00AM
at the Cathedral of Saint Peter

Transitional Diaconate Ordination

Saturday, May 27 at 10:00AM
St. Matthew Parish,
East Stroudsburg

Resource Response to Fulfilling the Vision Priority Targets

Based on the responses from 81 parishes (so far), rich toolkits are being created for each of priority areas. At this time we are inviting all parishes to consider sending a team to one or more of the following workshops – this will be a “hands-on” interactive workshop allowing your team to begin right away to put the toolkit to good use. The first parishes taking part in this “pilot” round of workshops will also help us to refine and improve the tools for additional workshop opportunities in the future. Each workshop will be conducted twice this summer – allowing parish teams a choice of date and location. Consider a combination of your most dedicated volunteers and some team members who will be brand new to this area of parish ministry.

■ ENERGIZING PARISH-WIDE COMMUNICATIONS

- June 13 6-9pm—Our Lady of Victory Parish, Tannersville
- June 15 6-9pm—Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, Plains

■ ENGAGEMENT: CALLING FORTH THE GIFTS OF THE COMMUNITY

- June 14, 6-9pm—Immaculate Conception Parish, Freeland
- June 20, 6-9pm—St. Maria Goretti Parish, Laffin

■ CREATING A CULTURE OF WELCOME AND HOSPITALITY

- June 22, 6-9pm—St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, Wilkes-Barre
- June 26, 6-9pm—Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Montoursville

■ DEVELOPING AN EVANGELIZATION LENS FOR ALL OF PARISH LIFE

- June 19, 6-9pm—St. John Parish, Susquehanna
- June 27, 6-9pm—St. John Parish, Larksville

■ DISCERNING AND ORIENTING COUNCIL MEMBERS; INITIAL STAGES OF PASTORAL PLANNING

- Sept. 6—St. Maximillian Kolbe Parish, Pocono Pines
- Sept. 13—St. Lawrence Parish, Williamsport

■ BUILDING, RENEWING RCIA TEAM AND PARISH APPROACH

- Deacon Course open to all parish RCIA Directors and Teams: August 25-26, **and** September 8-9 Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton
- Ministry Formation Skills Workshop – September 16, St. Catherine's, Moscow

■ FORMING PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY AND SERVICE TEAMS

- Sept. 23—Service Convocation (see page 5) for Ministries of Justice, Charity and Peacemaking
- Parish or Cluster of Parishes—Local Workshop by request

(Continued on page 2)



WORD

"I CALL us to be servant leaders who are people of the WORD, preaching, teaching, evangelizing and cherishing the Gospel message throughout our entire lives."

WORD Convocation

The WORD Convocation, also known as the Convocation for Catechists, will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2017 at Diocesan Pastoral Center, in Scranton.



The Keynote Speaker will be Joan Weber, Project Coordinator of Families on a Mission and Lifelong Faith Formation for the Center for Ministry Development. The Convocation will include Mass, the Keynote, Lunch and Workshops. Joan's keynote topic is "Whole Family Catechesis." Mark your calendars now!

National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC)

November 15-19, 2017

Be a part of the Diocese of Scranton delegation to the NCYC in Indianapolis, Indiana in November. Parishes

are now gathering high school students and adult chaperones for this exciting pilgrimage. Information and planning team contacts can be found on the diocesan website: [NCYC 2017](http://NCYC2017.org).

I.S.L.I.

June 19-22, 2017

Plans for the International Student Leadership Institute (I.S.L.I.) are underway. The I.S.L.I. Retreat will take place June 19-22, 2017. I.S.L.I. is open to all high school students who want to prepare for leadership roles and to improve their already existing decision-making and problem-solving skills through the teachings of the Catholic faith. Watch the diocesan website www.dioceseofscranton.org for registration which will open as soon as the retreat location is confirmed. For more information contact Mary Anne Malone at mary-anne-malone@dioceseofscranton.org.



Up & Over

Weekend Retreat for Middle School Students

Registration is now open for Up & Over, the diocesan middle school experience. This retreat taking place on June 2-4, 2017 at Camp Orchard Hill, Dallas focuses on problem solving through self-confidence and teamwork. Each student will encounter Christ in profound ways throughout the weekend and come away with a new understanding of what it means TO BE CHURCH and TO LIVE CHURCH. Cost is \$140. per student. For more information contact mary-anne-malone@dioceseofscranton.org.



To register, follow this link: [Up and Over Registration](#).

(Continued from page 1)

Resource Response to Fulfilling the Vision (cont'd)

■ LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION (2017 CATECHIST CAMP and CATECHIST CONVOCATION)

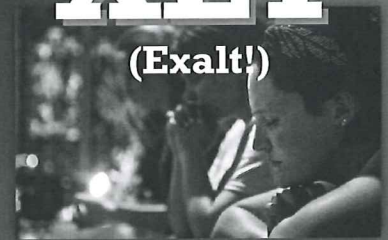
In last year's Catechist Camp, we introduced the work of LifelongFaith Associates in Re-Imagining Faith Formation for the 21st Century. This year's Catechist Camp (August 9-12) will provide two different Innovation Labs, designed and facilitated through LifelongFaith Associates. The Fall Catechist Convocation will also focus on Family/Whole Community Catechesis, with keynoter Joan Weber from Center for Ministry Development. (Host Parishes TBD – stay tuned!)

- August 9, 9am-5pm—Adult Faith Formation Innovation Lab (includes Parent Formation planning in connection with Sacramental moments)
- August 10, 9am-5pm—Adult Faith Formation Innovation Lab (includes Parent Formation planning in connection with Sacramental moments)
- August 11, 9am-5pm—Digitally Enabled and Connected Faith Formation for All Ages
- August 12, 9am-5pm—Digitally Enabled and Connected Faith Formation for All Ages
- October 14, 9am-3pm—CATECHIST CONVOCATION Ministries of WORD Diocesan Pastoral Center (see above)

To reserve a spot for your parish team for any of the workshops on page 1 or 2, please complete the form at: [Fulfilling the Vision Workshops](#)

XLT

(Exalt!)



Adoration-Speaker-
Praise & Worship Music-
Reconciliation-Social

Friday, May 19

**St. John Neumann Parish
633 Orchard St. Scranton
7:00-9:00pm**

Music: Countless Wonders

**For more information,
call 570-780-2996.**

"CALL us to be servant leaders who WORSHIP our God and celebrate the Sacraments in union with the universal Church."

WORSHIP



Evenings of Reflection for Liturgical Ministers

The Office for Parish Life will be offering a series of Evenings of Reflection for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors and those involved in Music Ministry. David Baloga, Director for Worship, will lead each evening and will help liturgical ministers enter more deeply into the spirituality of their ministry through prayer, song and reflection.

- **Tuesday, May 16—Lectors**
- **Tuesday, May 23 —Music Ministers**

All sessions begin at 6:30PM and will take place at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton. There is no cost to participate. To register for one (or more) of these evenings, please complete the [Evening of Reflection form](#) or contact the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213. Please register no later than the Friday before that Evening of Reflection.

WORSHIP Convocation

The WORSHIP Convocation will be held on Saturday, October 28, 2017 at Marywood University in Scranton. This day-long event will feature keynote speaker, Dr. Elaine Rendler, a nationally recognized musician, teacher, composer, pastoral liturgist, speaker, and author of *In the Midst of the Assembly* and *This Is the Day*, as well as the writer of weekly columns and music suggestions in *Today's Liturgy* for more than 30 years, offering practical wisdom to generations of pastoral musicians. The WORSHIP Convocation will also feature breakout sessions for various liturgical ministries. Please mark your calendars now and plan on joining us!



Adult Confirmation at the Cathedral

If you have any Adult Baptized Catholics who need to complete their Sacraments of Initiation by attending the

Adult Confirmation at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Sunday, June 4, 2017 at 10:00 AM, the proper forms must be returned to the Office for Parish Life by Monday, May 15, 2017. Those forms can be found on the diocesan website under Parish Life, [Christian Initiation Resources](#).

Upcoming NPM Events

Mark your calendars now!

40th Annual National Convention

Cincinnati, Ohio
July 11-14, 2017

[Click here](#) for more information

Scranton NPM Summer Gathering

Monday, August 7, 2017 at 6:00PM
Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Hanover Township

Annual Musicians' Mass

Tuesday, September 12, 2017
at 7:00PM
Cathedral of St. Peter, Scranton

#PartnerwithFrancis

The Diocese of Scranton will #partnerwithfrancis over the next few months to gather the voices of the young church (16-35) and those who work with them in preparation for Pope Francis' 2018 Synod on *Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment*. To get involved, participate in a Diocesan listening session and/or complete a survey online at www.partnerwithfrancis.org. For more information and/or to register for a listening session, please contact Dominick Costantino at 570-780-2996. Additional sessions will be scheduled.



Date	Location	Time	High School Group (16-18)	College-Age Group (18-24)	Young Adult Group (25-35)
Fri., May 19	St. John Neumann Parish, 633 Orchard St., Scranton	Following XLT Approx 8:45 p.m.	✓		
Thu., June 15	St. Ann Parish, 1220 Northway Rd., Williamsport	6:30-8:30 p.m.	✓	✓	✓
Fri., June 16	St. Matthew Parish, 78 Ridgeway St., East Stroudsburg	6:30-8:30 p.m.	✓	✓	✓
Fri., June 23	Divine Mercy Parish, 312 Davis St., Scranton	Following XLT Approx 8:45 p.m.		✓	✓
Wed., June 28	Light the Fire Youth Rally Misericordia University	Breakout Session	✓		

May Is Mental Health Month



Many of your parishioners, friends, family and co-workers will have a form of mental illness at sometime in their lives. Often "hidden," it nevertheless carries a stigma. Show support for your parishioners with mental illness in one of the following ways:

- Visit these two particular pages within the National Catholic Partnership on Disability website:
 - ◊ www.catholicswithmentalillness.org
Theological background and various resources specifically for mental illness, such as the Four Legs of Recovery;
 - ◊ [Resources specifically for Mental Health Month](#), such as bulletin articles and networks.
- Consider offering a parish or area support group.
- Publish information on local service agencies that offer support for those with mental illness or their families.

God's Compassionate Face: Grief Support Ministry Seminar

October 21, 2017, 9AM-3:30PM

All who minister to the bereaved are invited to this daylong seminar on topics related to grief support ministry. Three sessions will address:

- walking with someone whose child has died,
- walking with someone who has lost a loved one to suicide and
- compassion fatigue.

In addition, there will be opportunities for discussion of the presentations, networking and prayer. Lunch is included. Stayed tuned for speaker information and registration.

Registering for PreCana Days of Reflection

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- **Living Your Strengths** – Christianity has long taught that each person is gifted by God and has a unique role to play in the Body of Christ. The Clifton StrengthsFinder2.0 supports this with scientific research. Bring the two together for an enlivening, inspiring experience!
- **What If You Saw Yourself As God Does?** – God loves both the person we are and the person we will become. This love is at the heart of the Gospel, and yet many Catholics have never heard it. Let your parishioners be evangelized and changed!
- **Hospitality and Mercy** – Because mercy is an essential attribute of God, it shapes everything about our relationship with God –and in turn, our relationship with others. A simple way to practice mercy is through hospitality. Discover what this means for the individual or the parish community.



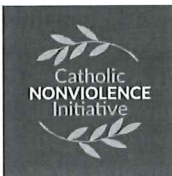
Other topics are also possible. These retreats can be extended up to a full day, if you wish. Contact Bernadette to discuss your ideas! (ext. 1104 or Bernadette-rudolph@dioceseofscranton.org)

"I CALL us to be servant leaders who engage in SERVICE to our neighbors near and far and who work for justice and stewardship to hasten the Reign of God."

SERVICE

SERVICE Convocation

Mark your calendars now and plan on attending our SERVICE Convocation which will be held on Saturday, September 23, 2017. The day will feature Marie Dennis, Co-President of Pax Christi International, who will present on the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative, Pope Francis' World Day of Peace message: "Nonviolence: a style of politics for peace" and "Integrating Gospel Nonviolence into the Life and Mission of the Church."



Social Justice Trust Fund Grants

If you have not received the application for the Social Justice Trust Fund Grants, please contact Richard DeBona at 570-207-2213 as soon as possible. Please note that the deadline to return applications has been extended to June 1, 2017

Other SERVICE Resources

- The Easter season continues with sweet celebration! Why have just a piece of chocolate when you can have a JUST PEACE of chocolate? Visit Catholic Relief Services website for more information at ethicaltrade.crs.org and enjoy DIVINE CHOCOLATE!

- Earth Day was April 22nd, but we still need to celebrate and protect God's Creation. Please consider starting an Environmental Ministry at your parish to celebrate and protect God's Creation. Visit www.catholicclimatecovenant.org to get started.
- Rachel's Vineyard is hosting a retreat for anyone seeking healing after abortion. The retreat will take place June 23-25 in Shillington, PA (near Reading, PA) at the Mariawald Retreat Center in the diocese of Allentown. For more information, contact Sr. Meg Cole at projectrachel@allentowndiocese.org; 610-332-0442 ext. 19 or TOLL FREE at 1-866-3-RACHEL.

Regional SERVICE Networking Meetings

In their 1993 document, *Building Communities of Salt and Light*, our USA Bishops encouraged parishes to develop a full and vibrant Parish Social Ministry that develops concrete works of charity, justice, and peacemaking. As Bishop Bambera's Pastoral Vision states:

Parish social ministry responds to human needs, whatever and wherever they may be, whether with parishioners or other members of the community, whether the need be hunger, housing, illness, loneliness, employment, fair wages, physical disabilities or ecological sustainability. Parish social ministry must respond to issues of respect for human life at every stage of existence. We must encourage broad group action on behalf of those who hunger for righteousness and peace. However it is done, parish social ministry needs to be organized and deliberate. It must be communal, planned and directed by a group, and not a simple individual response.

Regional Networking Meetings are being offered to help you and your neighboring parishes create or build up your Parish Social Ministry!

- ⇒ South - Saturday, May 13th 10:30AM-12:30PM St Mary's/Our Lady of Fatima, Wilkes-Barre
- ⇒ North - Saturday, May 20th from 1:00-3:00PM at Blessed Sacrament, Throop

For more information, contact Richard DeBona, Dir. for Service and Social Concerns at Richard-DeBona@dioceseofscranton.org or at 570-207-2213.



visit www.light-the-fire.org

Featuring Keynote Speaker:
Noelle Garcia

Wednesday, June 28, 2017
Misericordia University—Dallas, PA

Registration opens at 9:00AM

Closing Mass with Bishop Bambera
at 7:00PM



Noelle Garcia

10 Ways to “address catechesis at all life stages and circumstances”

1. Design an events-centered curriculum – so that the formation for all members of the community flows organically from the feasts and seasons, the lectionary, and the meaningful special events of your own parish – and all members of each household are engaging the same topics at their respective levels.
2. Parishioners still describe the bulletin as the primary way they learn about the life of the parish – make it the best formation and catechetical tool it can possibly be – plant in it some supports for family faith-sharing and for personal spiritual growth.
3. Start a tradition of “individualized formation plans” – where each member or household renews their formation goals annually (maybe during Lent?) and the parish provides guidance and resources suited to these goals (website pages for target groups or topics?).
4. Establish a creative team whose job is to ensure that every parish activity bringing people together for any reason has a catechetical dimension – make a sport of it!
5. Train and equip parish catechists to make sure that something from every lesson “spills over” into the home and that life at home connects back to the next week’s lesson.
6. Find and warmly invite your senior members into the catechetical process – think of all the ways they can enrich such experiences as RCIA sponsoring and hospitality, catechist support, witness talks, parenting support, prayer partners and mentors, and...
7. Create “faith families” within your parish community – smaller multi-generational clusters (maybe 12-25 members) who commit to supporting each other’s faith journey. Give each “family” a scrap-book-type journal and challenge (with guidance) their creative path through a full liturgical cycle together.
8. In the context of a fun family-oriented parish social, invite the Confirmation candidates or youth group members to “interview” the parish elders about key elements of the gospel message and how they have been called to live it out over their years. Stage this in a way that all present can hear and observe, since the in-between generation will especially benefit.
9. Consider the VLCFF courses on lifelong faith, such as: Parish as a Learning Community; Designing a Parish Catechetical Plan; Designing and Implementing Adult Learning and Faith Formation (and many other choices) – anyone in the Diocese may enroll in these courses for the reduced “Diocesan Partner” rate.
10. Enroll all of your parish catechetical leaders in some of the upcoming workshops: Catechist Camp, Fulfilling the Vision, and Fall Convocations – all described in this issue of News Notes.
(A special prize will go to the parish with the largest enrollment in Catechist Camp!)

OPL TEAM MEMBERS

Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life: **Catherine Jantsch Butel**
 Director for WORD and Lifelong Faith Formation: **Mary Anne Malone**
 Consultant for Youth and Campus Ministry: **Fred Mercadante**
 Director for WORSHIP: **David Baloga**
 Coordinator for RCIA: **Fr. Bob Simon**
 Director for SERVICE and Social Concerns: **Richard DeBona**
 Coordinator for Diocesan Missions and
 Director for Pontifical Missions: **Deacon Ed Kelly**
 Coordinator for Mission Education: **Miriam Heverline**
 Coordinator for Pilgrimages: **Fr. Andrew Hvozdovic**
 Director for Family and COMMUNITY Development: **Bernadette Rudolph**
 Coordinator for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations: **Msgr. Vincent Grimalia**
 Coordinator for V Encuentro: **Alejandra Marroquin**
 Coordinator for Lay Ministry Formation: **Kitty Scanlan**
 Coordinator for Pastoral Council Development: **Ann Marie Cawley**
 Events Coordinator, Diocesan Pastoral Center: **Sue Burke**
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