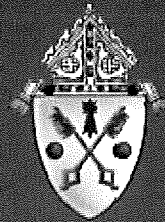


From: Diocese of Scranton <e-newsletter@dioceseofscranton.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 15, 2018 4:24 PM
To: stjosephchurch@optonline.net
Subject: E-Newsletter - Vol: 14 No: 16 Date: 11/15/2018

Diocese of Scranton *News Briefing*



www.dioceseofscranton.org Vol. 14 #16 11/15/2018



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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Independent Compensation Program for Survivors of Sexual Abuse

The Diocese of Scranton announced November 8 the creation of an Independent Survivors Compensation Program for those who have suffered sexual abuse by clergy, religious or lay employees. Participation in the Program by survivors is entirely voluntary.

The Program will be administered by Kenneth Feinberg and Camille Biros, two leading experts in mediation and alternative dispute resolution. They will have absolute autonomy in determining compensation for survivors, and the Diocese of Scranton will abide by their decisions. Mr. Feinberg and Ms. Biros are currently managing a number of high-profile compensation programs nationwide, including similar programs started by five Catholic Dioceses in New York. Those

programs collectively have provided over \$200 million in compensation to more than 1,000 survivors. They have received positive feedback from those who participated.

An Independent Oversight Committee will oversee the implementation and administration of the Program. The Diocese will have no authority over this committee. Compensation decisions are final and cannot be appealed or overturned by the Diocese or the Independent Oversight Committee.

"Providing compensation to these survivors is the right thing to do," said Bishop Joseph C. Bambera. "Several weeks ago, Pennsylvania's Bishops announced support of such a program, which was recently discussed but not enacted by the Pennsylvania General Assembly. The Diocese of Scranton is therefore moving forward and is offering this Program for survivors."

Parish and school assets, as well as contributions and bequests from parishioners and donations to the Diocesan Annual Appeal, will not be used to fund the Program. Rather, the Diocese will use available reserves and will sell assets and borrow money as needed. While the Program will require significant resources, the Diocese will strive to maintain its core mission to serve the local community.

The Diocese continues to refine the Program so that it better serves survivors. Further details concerning the Program will be made available in the near future, including a website for survivors to obtain information and claim forms. The Program is anticipated to launch in January 2019.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass Obligation

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is on December 8, which this year falls on a Saturday. Please note that the obligation to attend Mass is not lifted (as with other Holy Days) for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Thus, the faithful must fulfill this obligation by attending Mass for the Holy Day (either Friday vigil or Saturday), and they must fulfill their Sunday Mass obligation (either Saturday vigil or Sunday).

Reverend Thomas M. Muldowney
Vicar General of the Diocese



Diocesan Annual Appeal at 44% of Goal

The 2018 Diocesan Annual Appeal, "The Journey Makes Us One," has raised more than \$2.2 million in gifts and pledges, bringing the campaign to 44% of the \$5 million goal.

"We are grateful to all those who have contributed to this year's Appeal," said Jim Bebla, Diocesan Secretary for Development. "Gifts to the Appeal allow the Diocese to continue its mission to serve our brothers and sisters in Christ."

Annual Appeal donations are restricted to be used to support five Diocese ministries - Catholic Social Services and parish outreach programs, Catholic education in schools and parishes, clergy education

and care, parish life and ministry formation, and Catholic media and communications.

Parishioners from across the Diocese currently have an opportunity to submit a prayer intention. Prayer intention envelopes are available in all of our parishes. All prayer intentions will be remembered at a special Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera on Sunday, November 25, at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton. Prayer intentions must be returned to the Diocese by November 21.

For information on the Diocesan programs supported by gifts to the Annual Appeal, to view the Annual Appeal video or to make a donation online, visit www.annualappeal.org. Gifts may also be made by calling the Diocesan Development Office at 570-207-2250 or by sending a donation to: Diocesan Annual Appeal, 300 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA, 18503-1279.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

For over 43 million Americans, there is a thin line: between eviction and home, between hunger and health, between unemployment and work, between anxiety and stability. This line is the Poverty Line. For a family of four, that line is less than \$25,000 a year.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty by funding community programs that encourage independence.

The annual national collection for the CCHD will be taken up in parishes in the Diocese of Scranton this weekend, November 17-18. The theme, "Working on the Margins," focuses our attention on the poor and vulnerable who can often be overlooked.

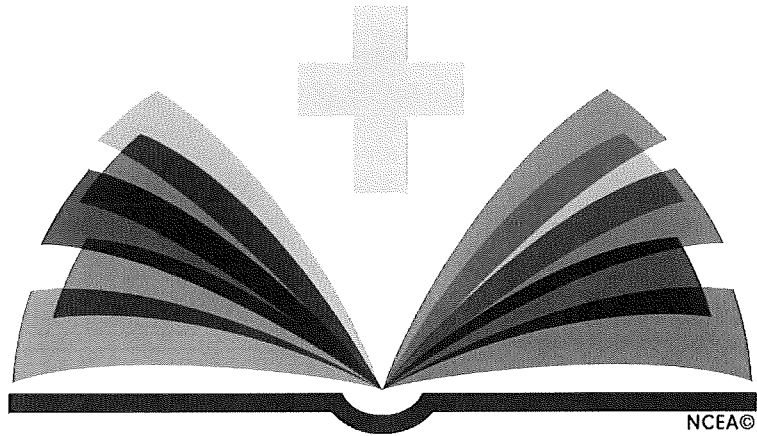
This campaign is the primary source of funding for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' anti-poverty grants and education programs aimed at fostering a culture of life and hope in communities across the nation.

The collection supports the work of groups that empower low-income people to participate in decisions that affect their lives and break the cycle of poverty.

Twenty-five percent of funds collected through the Catholic Campaign for Human Development remain in each diocese to support local human development projects.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development continues to operate within the 2010 guidelines established by their governing bishops in *The Review and Renewal of CCHD*. This ensures that the recipients of these grants are providing programs and services which are in keeping with Catholic social and moral teaching.

Additional resources to learn about poverty in the United States can be found at www.povertyusa.org.



Catholic Schools

Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.

Epiphany School Wins Math Contest

Congratulations to the 6th grade at Epiphany School in Sayre for being the overall winner of the Bradford-Lycoming-Sullivan-Tioga Counties Sumdog Math Contest! And special recognition goes to 6th grader Gretchen, who placed 11th out of the 9,865 students who participated nationally in this contest. Sumdog is a games-based learning module designed to help students practice their numeracy and literacy, and is adapted to each child's level. To learn more about the excellent academic program at Epiphany School or any of our other Catholic Schools, please visit our website at www.DioceseofScranton.org/CatholicSchools.

XLT Fall 2018

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

Friday, November 16, 7:00PM, Saint Matthew Parish, 78 Ridgeway St., East Stroudsburg

Monday, December 3, 6:30PM, Nativity of Our Lord Parish, 127 Stephenson St., Duryea

For more information, visit www.vocations.dioceseofscranton.org or call 570-780-2996.

Retirement Fund for Religious Communities

The appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious will be taken up at Masses the weekend of December 8-9. The annual, parish-based collection is coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) and benefits 31,000 aging Catholic sisters, brothers and priests in religious orders.

Catholic bishops of the United States initiated the collection in 1988 to help address the deficit in retirement savings among the nation's religious congregations. Proceeds are distributed to eligible congregations to help underwrite retirement and health-care expenses.

Most senior religious worked for little to no pay, leaving their religious communities with inadequate retirement savings. At the same time, religious communities are challenged by the rising cost of care. Communities combine these funds with their own income and savings

to help furnish necessities such as medications and nursing care. Throughout the year, additional funding is allocated for congregations with critical needs and for retirement planning and educational resources.

Proceeds from the collection support the retirement needs of these women and men who spent their lives in church ministries such as education, health care and social services. In 2017, the collection raised more than \$28 million nationwide. The generous faithful in the Diocese of Scranton donated \$82,935.

The collection for the Religious Retirement Fund is distinct and separate from the monthly collection taken in parishes for the Care and Education of Priests of the Diocese of Scranton.

Office for Parish Life

2018 Ministry Skills Workshop Series

"Ecumenism & Interfaith Dialogue, and Intercultural Competencies"

November 17, 2018

9AM-3PM

Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton

Ecumenism and the Interfaith Dialogue: Father Alex Roche will explain Vatican II's call to dialogue with our fellow Christians and those of other faiths, what has happened since the Council to continue this dialogue, and how the dialogue plays out in parish life. *Father Roche is Pastor at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Lake Silkworth and Chaplain at Misericordia University and Holy Redeemer High School.*

Cultural Diversity and Parish Unity: Alejandra Marroquin will unpack best practices for parishes with culturally diverse populations to encourage integration and unity within the Church. *Alejandra is the Adult Behavioral Health Coordinator for Lackawanna/Susquehanna Counties. For the past 12 years, she has worked with the Hispanic-Latino community in the greater Scranton Area, giving presentations and interviews in relation to the Hispanic-Latino community and immigration awareness.*

The cost of registration for this workshop is \$30, payable to The Diocese of Scranton.

Register online at: www.dioceseofscranton.org

For more information or questions,
contact Kitty Scanlan at 570-207-2213

Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry Accepting Applications for January 2019

The Office for Parish Life encourages parish leaders to consider **application for the Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry for January 2019!**

The *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry* is a ministry formation program designed to equip and advance the servant leadership capacities of individuals serving their parish in areas such as:

- Parish Pastoral Councils,
- Directors of Religious Education and Catechists,
- Liturgical Coordinators,
- Parish Staff,
- Volunteer Ministry teams,
- and others!

Through independent online study with the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF), as well as regional skills workshops and opportunities for prayer and reflection, *Diocesan Certificate* candidates enrich their knowledge base, while also learning practical tools for effective parish ministry in their faith communities.

Starting with our New Candidate Orientation Retreat on Saturday, January 26, 2019, the Office for Parish Life anticipates welcoming new candidates into the *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry* program in the New Year.

Prospective candidates are encouraged to contact Kitty Scanlan, Coordinator for Lay Ministry Formation, at 570-207-2213, or by email at Kitty-Scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org for application information, materials, and application submissions.

National Catholic Youth Conference Info Meeting

An Informational meeting for the 2019 National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) will be held on Saturday, December 15 at 10:30am in the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton. NCYC is a biennial event for Catholic teens that draws 20,000 participants from across the country. The conference offers dynamic keynote speakers, engaging and diverse workshops, and the witness of thousands of faithful Catholics - including bishops, priests, and men and women religious. The Diocese will once again send a delegation to NCYC in November 2019. Any adult leader who is interested in bringing a group is encouraged to attend the info meeting.

A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR PARISH-BASED PRECANA MINISTRY

What is the FOCCUS® Pre-Marriage Inventory?

The FOCCUS® Pre-Marriage Inventory is a comprehensive, user-friendly tool for use by lay individuals, couples or professionals who are helping couples prepare for marriage, and who become trained as FOCCUS Facilitators. The FOCCUS® Inventory is designed to help engaged couples appreciate their unique relationship, learn more about themselves, and discuss topics important to their lifelong marriage.

If you would like to discern whether you are called to be a FOCCUS Facilitator, please speak to your pastor about this ministry in your parish.

FOCCUS FACILITATOR TRAINING & REFRESHER COURSE

The Office for Parish Life will offer a FOCCUS Premarriage Inventory Facilitator Training and refresher option on Saturday, December 8, 2018. The training will be held at the Diocesan Pastoral Center from 9AM to 3PM, a light lunch will be included. (Holy Day Mass will be held at the Cathedral at 8AM) The Full Training fee is \$100 for an individual or \$150 for a couple. For those who have already taken the 5-hour training and have a *FOCCUS Facilitator Manual* and a Certification number, but want to refresh their knowledge about FOCCUS Facilitating, the refresher option fee will be \$50 per person. If you, parish staff, or Sponsor Couples in your parish are interested in this training or refresher, please contact Jennifer Housel, Director for Community and Family Development, (570) 207-2213 x 1104, jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org

A WAY TO SUPPORT ENGAGED COUPLES

Is your parish looking for a way to support parishioners who are involved in the PreCana process? One simple way to show an engaged couple your care is to send a personal letter of prayer and support to them on their PreCana Day of Reflection. The Marriage Sponsor Couple Ministry at St. Therese Parish in Shavertown has recently begun this beautiful practice.

To learn more, please contact Beth Aciukewicz, aciukewicz.beth@gmail.com, at St. Therese's, or Jennifer Housel, Director for Community and Family Development, Office for Parish Life. jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org (570) 207-2213 x 1104.

Looking to Have a Workshop for Liturgical Ministers?

Are your cantors or choir members in need of training on the basics of the ministry? Could your lectors or extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion use a "refresher" course or a day of reflection? Board Members of the Scranton Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians are here to help and are willing to travel to provide a workshop or session for your parish ministers. Some potential topics include:

- **Choir Basics: Making the Most of Out of What You've Got**
- **The Body of Christ: Our Identity and Purpose**
- **Fostering Sung Prayer: Synchronizing the Organist, Cantor, Choir and Assembly**
- **Not Just a Pretty Voice: The Cantor as a Leader of Prayer**

Please contact David Baloga at 570-207-2213, ext. 1158 or at David-Baloga@dioceseofscranton.org to discuss how we can help address your parish's needs.

Prayer Resources for Those Suffering from Addiction

The Diocese of Erie is providing a variety of resources for parishes and individuals to help pray for those suffering from addictions. Although designed with the opioid crisis in mind, these resources could also be helpful for those suffering from other addictions as well, including alcoholism and gambling. [Click here](#) to access the prayer services on the Diocese of Erie website, or [click here](#) to order a booklet of Catholic prayers for family members whose loved ones are suffering from addiction.

Early Deadline for Catholic Light

Please note there is an early deadline for the Thanksgiving edition of *The Catholic Light*. **All advertising and news items must be submitted by tomorrow (Friday) at noon.** Thank you for your cooperation!

Mark Your Calendar

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

Follow the Diocese on Social Media

www.facebook.com/DoS150/

www.twitter.com/BishopBambera

www.twitter.com/DioceseOfScr

www.facebook.com/DioceseOfScranton

You are also encouraged to visit the Facebook pages of other Diocesan departments. They are listed on our website at:

<http://www.dioceseofscranton.org/media/social-media/>

Thank you for connecting with us!

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