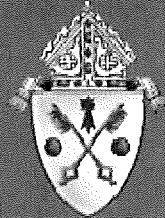


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**Sent:** Thursday, July 14, 2016 4:26 PM  
**To:** stjosephchurch@optonline.net  
**Subject:** E-Newsletter - Vol: 12 No: 10 Date: 7/14/2016

# Diocese of Scranton News Briefing



[www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org) Vol. 12 #10 7/14/2016



## 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

[Bishop Bambera's Statement Regarding Dallas Shootings](#)

[Urge Congress to Enact the Conscience Protection Bill](#)

[Invitation to Catechist Camp](#)

[Catholic Relief Services Collection](#)

[Office for Parish Life](#)

[Mark Your Calendar](#)

[Follow the Diocese on Social Media](#)

[Real Estate Availability](#)

## Bishop Bambera's Statement Regarding Dallas Shootings

Once again, our nation has been confronted by the sad consequences of a senseless and violent shooting that took place in Dallas, Texas last evening. In the context of a peaceful demonstration against the police shootings of two black men in Louisiana and Minnesota earlier this week, five police officers were shot and killed in what appears to have been a coordinated attack.

Our faith and history remind us that violence is never the way to confront violence. Yet, tragically, the innocent lives of these police officers were taken as they sought to protect the very rights of those who were protesting other acts of violence.

Please join me in praying for all victims of violence and for the resolve to live in peace with one another. All lives matter and all lives deserve the respect and dignity afforded to them as children of God.

As we pray for the victims of the Dallas shooting, may we also remember the countless numbers of men and women in law enforcement who stand in harm's way on a daily basis to protect our communities and keep us safe.

### **Bishops Commend House Passage, Call on Congress to Enact the Conscience Protection Bill**

WASHINGTON--Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan and Archbishop William E. Lori - as chairmen of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities and Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, respectively - commended the U.S. House of Representatives for passing the Conscience Protection Act of 2016 (S. 304) on July 13 in a 245-182 bipartisan vote.

"We are grateful to House Speaker Paul Ryan for bringing the Conscience Protection Act to a vote, to all the co-sponsors for their leadership, and to those members of both parties who support the civil right of conscience," Cardinal Dolan and Archbishop Lori said. "Even those who disagree on the life issue should be able to respect the conscience rights of those who wish not to be involved in supporting abortion."

If enacted into law, the Conscience Protection Act "will ensure that those providing much-needed health care and health coverage can continue to do so without being forced to help destroy innocent unborn children," they wrote. "It will also provide an effective remedy to victims of abortion coercion."

"The vast majority of medical personnel - and 85% of OB-GYNs, specifically - do not want to be involved in abortion. Whether their reasons are religious or non-religious, their conscientious objection to abortion is worthy of the highest respect and protection," they said.

The Conscience Protection Act offers much-needed protection for religious employers, as well. "In light of disturbing recent developments, even churches and religious organizations are being required to cover abortions in violation of their beliefs," they said.

"We now urge Congress to move this vital legislation forward as part of this year's must-pass appropriations package," Cardinal Dolan and Archbishop Lori said.

**CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS HERE.**

### **Invitation to Catechist Camp**

The Office for Parish Life is planning a one-day Catechist Camp for everyone involved in catechetical ministry or family-oriented faith formation. The one-day camp will be presented in five parishes of our Diocese, between August 6-12, 2016.

**Saturday, August 6, 2016 (9:00am-3:00pm)**

St. Elizabeth Parish, Bear Creek

**Monday, August 8, 2016 (1:00-8:30pm)**

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Tunkhannock

**Tuesday, August 9, 2016 (1:00-8:30pm)**

St. John Parish, East Stroudsburg

**Thursday, August 11, 2016 (1:00-8:30pm)**

SS. Peter and Paul Parish, Towanda

**Friday, August 12, 2016 (1:00-8:30pm)**

St. Ann Parish, Williamsport

**FORMAT:**

- Welcome Prayer followed by the general session:

*"Reimagining Faith Formation: Preparing for a Lifelong Journey of Discipleship" - Catherine Butel*

- Breakout Session I
- Breakout Session II
- Camp-inspired Family Dinner (lunch on August 6)
- Intergenerational Activity for the Year of Mercy (Bring your family!)

**BREAKOUT SESSION TOPICS:**

*Exploring Our Vocation and Giftedness* --Bernadette Rudolph  
*Creating Meaningful Prayer Experiences* --Kitty MacLean  
*Engaging Families for the Sacraments of Initiation* --Mary Anne Malone  
*Become a "Connected" Religious Educator* --Mark Choman, Ph.D.  
*Faith Formation in the Home* --Catherine Butel  
*Re-imagining a Parish Faith Formation Curriculum* --Jacki Douglas

If you are a parent, a parish or school religion teacher/catechist, or a volunteer in any parish or school ministry involving children, youth and families, this day is designed for you. Please join us at the location that is most convenient for you. Cost for the day is \$20. To register, click here: **[Registration for Catechist Camp](#)**. For more information, contact Mary Anne Malone: 570-207-2213 or **[mary-anne-malone@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:mary-anne-malone@dioceseofscranton.org)**.

**Catholic Relief Services Collection**

The annual Catholic Relief Services Collection will be taken up in the Diocese of Scranton the weekend of July 30-31. The collection supports Catholic organizations that carry out international relief and solidarity efforts and continues to help those suffering at home and across the globe who are all "Jesus in disguise."

Programs supported by the collection include relief and resettlement for victims of persecution, war, and natural disasters; development projects to improve living conditions for the poor; legal, pastoral and support services for immigrants; peace and reconciliation work for people suffering from violence; and advocacy efforts.

As we continue observing the Jubilee Year of Mercy, support for this collection offers another opportunity to share mercy and assist our sisters and brothers throughout the world.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Administrative Committee is responsible for grant-making from this national collection. Entities within the USCCB that receive support include: the **[Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church](#)**, and the **[Department of Justice Peace and Human Development](#)** and the Department of **[Migration and Refugee Services](#)**. Other Catholic Church organizations that receive funds are: **[Catholic Relief Services](#)**, **[Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.](#)**, and the Holy Father's Relief Fund.

More information on the Catholic Relief Services Collection and the projects it funds is available at: **[www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief)**.

**Office for Parish Life**

***Still Time to apply! - Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry Program, 2016***

The Office for Parish Life is still **accepting applications for the *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry for August 2016!*** The *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry* is a ministry formation program designed to equip and advance the servant leadership capacities of individuals serving in areas such as: Parish Pastoral Councils, Directors of Religious Education and Catechists, Liturgical Coordinators, Parish Staff, as well as members of 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 serving their local faith communities.

Starting with our New Candidate Orientation Retreat on Saturday, August 27, 2016, the Office for Parish Life anticipates welcoming new candidates into the *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry* program in the fall.

**Prospective candidates are encouraged to contact Kitty MacLean, Coordinator for Lay Ministry Formation, at 570-207-2213, or by email at [Kitty-MacLean@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:Kitty-MacLean@dioceseofscranton.org) for application information, materials, and application submissions.**

#### ***Registration Open for Diocesan Congress***

The Office for Parish Life invites all to the Diocesan Congress: "A *Revolution of Tenderness*" on **Saturday October 8, 2016** beginning at 9:00AM at the University of Scranton. A full day of programming is being planned, featuring dynamic speakers presenting on topics which have ongoing impact on parish life, and ways that the People of God continue to become a Church of Mercy in ministry.

**The schedule and online registration can be found here: [Diocesan Congress](#).**

#### ***Grief Support Ministry Training***

Sister Jane Connolly, IHM, pastoral associate at St. Rose and Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parishes in Carbondale, will conduct a workshop at St. Peter's Cathedral Parish, Scranton, for those who wish to become grief support ministers as well as those who would like to develop further their abilities to walk with the grieving. Topics will include the grief process, common emotions in grieving, complications and grief history, and listening skills. Sister Jane will also provide an outline for a five-session grief support group. Date: Thursday, July 21, 6:30-8:30PM. Location: Cathedral Rectory, 315 Wyoming Ave. Please call Jennifer at the Office for Parish Life, 570-207-2213, to register. The workshop is free.

#### ***National Natural Family Planning Awareness Week***

The Catholic Church in the United States will celebrate National NFP Awareness Week July 24-30. This year's theme is *Natural Family Planning. Love, Mercy, Life. Opening the Heart of Marriage*. The purpose of the week is to "celebrate and reverence God's vision of human sexuality."

The Catholic Church teaches that Natural Family Planning is the morally acceptable way for married couples to balance their constant openness to the procreative purpose of sex within marriage and their responsibility to bring into the world children they can responsibly nurture. NFP allows a couple to work with the woman's fertility cycle, rather than see it as an obstacle. Furthermore, NFP encourages the married couple to develop a level of intimacy that includes and goes beyond intercourse.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops offers a number of resources for parishes to promote NFP awareness during NFP Awareness Week. Parishes can find sample intercessions for church and government leaders as well as families at all stages, a suggested homily and articles about NFP on the USCCB website, [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org). More information about NFP is also available on the Diocese of Scranton's website, [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org), on the "Office for Parish Life" page, under "Marriage and Family."



### **Extraordinary Minister of Communion Training**

The Office for Parish Life will offer training for new Extraordinary Ministers of Communion on September 15, 22, 29 (Thursdays) from 6:30PM-9:00PM in the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave., Scranton. Any candidate for the training should have the approval of his or her pastor/parish life coordinator. To register, please fill out the **EMC Training Registration Form** or call the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213 and be sure to include your mailing address, phone number and the name of your parish. Please note that it is necessary for candidates to attend all three sessions.

### **Parish Pilgrimages to the Cathedral**

Over 300 faithful from parishes around the Diocese of Scranton have made a pilgrimage to the Cathedral of Saint Peter in observance of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. There are three more opportunities on Saturdays throughout the year for parishes to make the pilgrimage and pass through the diocesan Holy Door: **August 13, September 24, October 29\* from 9:00AM to 2:00PM.** (\*The October 29 pilgrimage is designed to include members of Hispanic/Latino communities.)

The pilgrimage day includes Morning Prayer, a presentation on the Jubilee of Mercy, opportunities for personal prayer and reflection, confession, rosary, Mass, lunch and a tour of the Cathedral. Cost for the pilgrimage is \$10 per person to cover lunch, and parishes are encouraged to form a group and arrange their own transportation. To register a group from your parish, please contact Jennifer Andres at 570-207-2213 or by email at **Jennifer-Andres@dioceseofscranton.org**

### **Jubilee Year of Mercy Resources**

Calling the Church, calling each of us, to a Year of mercy, Pope Francis tells us: *"Mercy is the very foundation of the Church's life. All of her pastoral activity should be caught up in the tenderness she makes present to believers; nothing in her preaching and in her witness to the world can be lacking in mercy. The Church's very credibility is seen in how she shows merciful, compassionate love."*

To facilitate your study and action toward becoming more merciful persons and communities during this holy year, the Office for Parish Life has published a calendar titled "Becoming the Church of Mercy." Three copies were mailed to each parish, and it is also posted on the Diocesan website. If your parish would like additional copies, simply call the Office for Parish Life - you are also most welcome to copy any or all of it.

In addition to the many resources offered in this calendar, check the **Year of Mercy page of Diocesan website** for monthly updates like:

- \* Liturgical Resources for each Liturgical Season
- \* Catechetical Resources for the Year of Mercy
- \* The Year of Mercy Challenge! - action plan for youth groups
- \* *Laudato si'* Study Guides
- \* Year of Mercy Intergenerational Catechesis - a new opportunity, "FamilyFoodFast: Enough? Enough," is an experience for Catholic families that engages them in exploring the issue of hunger in a world of plenty. Through fasting, slide show, reflection, games and prayer, young people and their families will come face-to-face with the reality of hunger for almost 1 billion people in the world. Participants will be challenged as disciples of Jesus to discover their roles in eliminating hunger across the globe.

### **Need a Good "Summer Read?"**

Check out OPL's latest book suggestions in the **Little Free Library**, books on Catholic spirituality, Church teaching or ways to live out one's faith in the spirit of Vatican II! This can be a bridge between good materials and parishioners. You can access the site through Pinterest or emailing **Bernadette Rudolph** for a pdf listing. Titles are recommended for various uses:

- Individual enrichment

- Small group study
- The parish library
- The Eucharistic adoration chapel library
- Adult catechesis
- "Thank you" gifts for volunteers

### Mark Your Calendar

#### ***Catholic Women Hosting Day of Reflection August 3***

The Scranton Diocesan Council of Catholic Women will conduct a Day of Reflection on Wednesday, August 3, at The Villa of Our Lady Retreat House, 245 Meadowside Road, Mount Pocono.

The retreat day, which begins at 8:30 a.m. and concludes at 2 p.m., will be led by Monsignor Vincent Grimalia, chaplain of St. Luke's Villa in Wilkes-Barre, who will focus on the program theme, "Jubilee of Mercy."

All Catholic women of the Diocese are invited to attend. Cost is \$35 per person and includes a continental breakfast and luncheon.

Deadline for reservations is July 25 and may be secured by forwarding payment to Helen Oravec, 814 Theresa St., Peckville, PA 18452.

For more information, contact Mary Lloyd at (570-578-6720) or Nancy Addley at (570-536-4436).

***Know a Marriage That Needs Help?*** Throw them a lifeline and tell them about **Retrouvaille**, an international program that helps couples who are experiencing marital difficulties. This program is for all couples, at any stage of marriage that needs help to communicate with each other in a more attentive and loving manner. The next program in the Scranton Diocese begins August 26-28, 2016 at The Ramada Inn, Clarks Summit. Please call 800-470-2230 for more information or to register, or visit the website at [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org).

For a listing of Diocesan and parish events, go to: **Calendar**

### Follow the Diocese on Social Media

We are pleased to announce a new edition to our social media lineup: the Diocese of Scranton Twitter page:

[www.twitter.com/DioceseOfScr](http://www.twitter.com/DioceseOfScr)

If you're not already doing so, you can follow Bishop Bambera on Twitter by going to: [www.twitter.com/BishopBambera](http://www.twitter.com/BishopBambera)

Also check out our Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/DioceseOfScranton](http://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!*

### Real Estate Availability

The Property & Risk Management Division of the Diocese currently maintains a listing of real estate available for sale or use throughout the Diocese. If interested in learning about the available opportunities, please contact Ed Carlin, Property Assets Director, P&RM Division, at 570-558-4310.



Diocese of Scranton, 300 Wyoming Ave, Scranton, PA 18501

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