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# Diocese of Scranton *News Briefing*



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## 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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## Revolution of Tenderness

## **Anticipation Building for Diocesan Congress and Concert**

### ***Walk-Ins Welcome for Both Events***

The Office for Parish Life invites all to the Diocesan Congress: "A Revolution of Tenderness" **this Saturday October 8, 2016** beginning at 9:00AM at the University of Scranton. A full day of programming has been planned, featuring a keynote address by Father James Martin, SJ, and dynamic speakers in three full sessions of workshops 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 day concludes with Mass; Bishop Bambera is principal celebrant.

Festivities begin **Friday night at 7:30 p.m.** in the Cathedral of Saint Peter with a Year of Mercy concert by renowned Catholic composer Dan Schutte.

***Walk-in registration at the door is most welcome for both the Year of Mercy Concert and the Diocesan Congress.***

### **2016 Diocesan Annual Appeal Under Way; In-Pew Commitment Weekend October 15 & 16**

The 2016 Diocesan Annual Appeal is under way in parishes across the Diocese of Scranton. More than \$1.5 million in gifts and pledges has been contributed toward this year's Diocesan Annual Appeal goal of \$5 million.

All parishioners who have not yet donated to this year's Appeal are invited to make a gift during In-Pew Commitment Weekend on October 15 and 16. Once again, everyone will also have an opportunity to submit a prayer intention at all of the Masses during this weekend.

All prayer intentions will be remembered at a special Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, on Sunday, November 20, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton. The Mass will be followed by a reception in the Diocesan Pastoral Center.

Gifts to the Appeal provide much needed funds for the care and support of our clergy; for feeding the hungry, clothing the naked and caring for the sick and needy; for the education of our children in our Parish Religious Education programs and in our Catholic Schools; for the sharing of the wonderful message of the Gospel; and for the work of our parishes to continue to build vibrant and welcoming parish communities.

For more information on the Diocesan Annual Appeal, kindly contact the Diocesan Office of Development at [Development@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:Development@dioceseofscranton.org) or 570-207-2250.

### **Red Mass To Be Celebrated Friday**

The annual Red Mass will be celebrated this Friday, October 7, at 12:10 p.m. in the Cathedral Saint Peter in Scranton.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will be the principal celebrant. The homilist will be Reverend William J. Byron, S.J., former president of The University of Scranton and currently a professor of business and society at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia.

All are invited to attend the Red Mass. CTV: Catholic Television will broadcast the Mass live.

Historically, the Red Mass is attended by judges, lawyers and legislators for the purpose of invoking God's blessing and guidance in the administration of justice. Its traditional name is derived from the color of vestments worn by the celebrants of the Mass, symbolizing the tongues of fire which indicate the presence of the Holy Spirit. Moreover, the robes of the attending royal judges were, in ancient days, bright scarlet.

At this Mass, the Saint Thomas More Society of the Diocese of Scranton will present its second annual Attorney Sheila Flanagan Sheils Memorial Award to a member of the Society for exhibiting the values,



steadfast faith and conscience of Saint Thomas More, the patron saint of lawyers, statesmen and politicians. This year's recipient is Attorney Timothy E. Foley.

The mission of the Saint Thomas More Society, established by Bishop Bambara in 2012, includes encouraging the spiritual development of members in the Catholic faith, looking to Saint Thomas More as a patron and model of virtue, and providing mutual support among the members. The Society functions in a social and collegial manner. It offers educational programs, and provides opportunities for the discussion of moral and ethical issues.

For the Diocese of Scranton's Red Mass, members of the bar associations in the 11 counties that comprise the Diocese and the Diocesan Tribunal staff are invited to participate.

Readers will be Senior Judge Robert A. Mazzoni, Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas, and President Judge Maureen T. Beirne, Bradford County Court of Common Pleas.

Music will be provided by the "Voices of the Valley" Choir of Valley View High School, directed by Gina Pascolini.

#### **"Rachel's Vineyard" Post-Abortion Healing Retreat**

Confidential weekend retreat Nov. 4-6 facilitates spiritual and emotional healing for men and women struggling with the pain of abortion. Exercises based on Scripture are designed to help participants experience God's mercy and compassion, and to reconcile with their church, themselves and their child. The retreat concludes with a memorial service and Mass of Entrustment. Participation is strictly confidential; financial assistance available. For more information, including registration, contact Denise Rowinski Mengak at (570-822-7118, ext. 333) or [drowinski@csswb.org](mailto:drowinski@csswb.org).

#### **Office for Parish Life**

##### ***Welcoming the Order of Celebrating Matrimony***

There is still one more chance to learn about the **revised Order of Celebrating Matrimony**. The Office for Parish Life has been offering a two-part workshop to assist priests, deacons, parish musicians and others who actively prepare couples for marriage and for the celebration of Matrimony. The first night looks at what is new in the second edition as well as the development of the theology of marriage from Vatican II through *The Joy of Love*. The second night provides practical ideas about how to use marriage preparation as an opportunity to evangelize and catechize the couple.

**\* Part I: Wed., October 19 at 6:30PM, Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, Towanda**

**\* Part II: Thurs., October 27 at 6:30PM, Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, Towanda**

To register for these sessions, please fill out the [Marriage Workshop Registration Form](#) or contact the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213.

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

The Office for Parish Life will hold a training session for new Extraordinary Ministers of Communion on **Saturday, October 22 from 9:00AM-2:00PM** at St. Elizabeth Parish, 5700 Bear Creek Blvd., Bear Creek. Please call St. Elizabeth Parish Office at 570-472-3061 to register.

***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.** 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.

**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.**

#### ***ARISE - Fall 2016***

Eight parishes in the Diocese of Scranton have entered into their third season of "ARISE Together in Christ," a RENEW International process.

Through faith-sharing, breaking open the Sacred Scripture, and putting their faith into action, ARISE participants have grown closer together within their parish communities.

We invite parishes who are still interested in getting started with ARISE, to take part in a RENEW program during the Advent season. New ARISE parish members can also join with a neighboring parish to explore the process this Fall.

To learn more about the benefits of this experience of awakening and deepening faith, call the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213.

#### ***Final Parish Pilgrimage to the Cathedral***

Several hundred 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. The final opportunity for parishes to make the pilgrimage and pass through the diocesan Holy Door is **Saturday, October 29\* from 9:00AM to 2:00PM.** This pilgrimage has Spanish language and bi-lingual elements 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](mailto:Jennifer-Andres@dioceseofscranton.org)

#### ***Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry: 2016 Skills Workshop Series***

**"In My Father's House,  
There Are Many Mansions"  
November 12, 2016  
9AM-4PM**

***Gate of Heaven Church, 40 Macell Avenue, Dallas***

**Ecumenism and the Interfaith Dialogue:** Fr. Alex Roche, parochial vicar at St. Ignatius Parish, Kingston, 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.

**Cultural Diversity and Parish Unity:** Bernadette Rudolph, Diocesan Director for Family and Community Development, will unpack best practices for



parishes with culturally diverse populations to encourage integration and unity within the Church.

Cost \$30. Register online at: [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.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

### **Mark Your Calendar**

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.

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