

**From:** Diocese of Scranton <e-newsletter@dioceseofscranton.org>  
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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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## Catholic Charismatic Retreat

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 retreat on Friday and Saturday, September 15-16. This Golden Jubilee Retreat will be held at the Villa of Our Lady in Mount Pocono.

The retreat will be led by Bob Valiante, who was appointed several years ago by Bishop Bambera to be the overall coordinator of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the Diocese of Scranton, and also to be the Bishop's Liaison to the CCR. Bob is the founder and coordinator of the annual Catholic Charismatic Conference which has attracted almost 2,000 attendees to Scranton every summer for the past 35 years. Bob will dynamically lead us to open our hearts to receive more of the power of the Holy Spirit, that we may more eagerly proclaim the Lordship of Jesus our Savior and live more fully and joyfully our life in the Spirit.

Retreatants can commute for all or part of the retreat, or can stay overnight at the Villa. The main program will begin at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, and conclude at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday. The registration for the retreat includes three meals on Saturday. For additional information and registration details, contact the office of the Catholic Charismatic

Renewal, P.O. Box 3306, Scranton, PA 18505-0306; phone 570-344-2214; or email [ccrenewal@comcast.net](mailto:ccrenewal@comcast.net) . Note that the preliminary deadline for registrations is August 25. After that the retreat will be promoted in areas outside of the Diocese of Scranton.

Our local CCR invites everyone to experience its numerous prayer meetings and other events as the CCR celebrates its Golden Jubilee.

### **Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe**

The Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe will be taken up in the Diocese of Scranton on the weekend of August 26-27. A portion of this collection will be sent in support of the following collections which annually were taken up in Lithuanian, Slovak and Polish parishes:

- The Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid
- The Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland
- The Slovak Catholic Federation Appeal

With the theme "Restore the Church, Build the Future," the collection supports pastoral, evangelization, and construction projects, as well as scholarships in Central and Eastern Europe, and Central Asia.

In 2016, the U.S. Bishops' Subcommittee on Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe awarded over \$7 million through more than 200 grants. Projects supported by the collection assist a broad range of needs focused on providing pastoral care and developing resources in countries of the former Soviet Union and who have struggled to rebuild faith communities in a post-communist society.

The people in this region of the world still have great need, and participating in this collection enables us to help those who have made great sacrifices to keep the faith alive in their communities, and who share a legacy of faith with us through the many immigrants who came to America from these lands.

### **Bold Choices (Young Adult Retreat) *Finding Your Passion and Living It Fully***

The Diocesan Vocation Office is sponsoring this retreat for young adults (18 and over) at Saint Gabriel's Retreat Center, 631 Griffin Pond Road, Clarks Summit August 18-19. The 24-hour retreat will include presentations and interactive sessions on prayer, making choices based in faith, finding your passion, the art of discernment, small group discussion & more. Cost is \$65. For more information and/or to register, visit [www.scrantonvocations.org](http://www.scrantonvocations.org) or call 570-207-1452.

### **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 100<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.asktravelworld.com).

### **Office for Parish Life**

#### ***Last Call for Catechist Camp 2017!***

Two more opportunities still open to all DREs, catechists, Catholic school teachers and parents to join us for this Innovation Lab designed and facilitated through LifelongFaith Associates.

#### **Faith Formation for Every Adult in the Congregation Workshop.**

Presenter: Sister Janet Schaeffler, OP. It's possible today to provide vibrant faith formation for all adults - young adults, midlife adults, mature adults, and older adults - in a congregation by building a digital platform, using digital tools and methods, and curating great resources. The abundance of high-quality digital media for adults, and the new online and digital tools and technologies, makes it possible to develop adult faith formation that engages every adult around their interests, concerns, questions, and spiritual and faith journeys. This workshop explores how to develop an adult faith formation plan for the stages of adulthood and for the diverse spiritual and religious of adults today.

**Time Frame: 9:00AM - 5:00PM each day**

**Friday, August 11** Faith Formation for Every Adult Workshop - St. Luke Parish, Stroudsburg

**Saturday, August 12** Faith Formation for Every Adult Workshop - Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton

Please complete the [registration form](#) to participate in either of these workshops or call our office at 570-207-2213.

#### ***Discerning & Orienting Pastoral Councils Members: Initial Stages of Pastoral Planning***

**Wednesday, Sept. 6 from 6:00-9:00 PM  
at St. Maximillian Kolbe Parish, Pocono Pines  
Wednesday, Sept. 13 from 6:00-9:00 PM  
at St. Lawrence Parish, Williamsport**

This three-hour presentation was created to assist both new Pastoral Council members and current members who desire to expand their knowledge of their role and responsibility as a council member.

It will assist you to appreciate your gifts from God (qualities and characteristics) that can guide you to discern if this leadership ministry best utilizes your skills and talents.

The presentation will share information in the following areas:

- Who Serves as a Pastoral Council Member
- What a Parish Pastoral Council is and What it is Not
- Why does a Parish Need a Pastoral Council
- How the Pastoral Council Works (Meetings, Leadership, Consensus)
- The Purpose and Function of a Pastoral Council
- An Overview of the Pastoral Planning Process
- The Development of a Three- to Five-Year Pastoral Plan

To register, please contact the Office for Parish Life @ 570-207-2213



## **FALL CONVOCATIONS**

### **SERVICE Convocation - September 23**

All are strongly encouraged to attend our Fall SERVICE Convocation which will focus on the third leg of a well-balanced Parish Social Ministry: charity, justice and peacemaking. Please be sure to mark your calendar for an inspired and inspiring workshop happening on Saturday, September, 23, from 9:30AM to 4:00PM at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton, featuring Marie Dennis of Pax Christi International, who was at the Vatican working with Cardinal Turkson, encouraging our Pope Francis to consider nonviolence in his World Day of Peace message, and indeed he did! Marie will share with us how our local churches can be a part of this Catholic Nonviolence Initiative! Be sure to bring several folks from your parish. Let this powerful and poignant message from our Pope inspire you to mark your calendar now and attend this gathering in the Fall.

The day will also include speakers from Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Social Services, and Ignatian Volunteer Corps, as well as speakers encouraging our parishioners to get involved in Prison Ministry and Environmental Ministry.

Additionally, we will have friends from Bethlehem in Palestine selling gifts of rosaries, statues (large and small), creches, etc... - made of olive wood from Bethlehem.

And finally, we will remember in a very special prayer service, the life of martyr and blessed Stanley Rother, who is the first USA-born martyr of our Church and will be beatified in Oklahoma City at the same time we are gathering in Scranton.

Please reserve this day and contact Richard DeBona at 570-207-2213, ext. 1130, or at [Richard-DeBona@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:Richard-DeBona@dioceseofscranton.org) for more information.

### **WORD Convocation - October 14**

The WORD Convocation, also known as the Convocation for Catechists, will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2017 at the 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!

### **Community Convocation:**

#### **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 Those Grieving the Loss of a Child" with Brandice Ricciardi, M.S., NCC, LPC, HS-BCP, Faculty Specialist, University of Scranton; members of the local chapter of Compassionate Friends will also add their experiences as parents who have lost children.
- + "Walking with Those Grieving Loss through Suicide" with Kathy Wallace, Northeast Suicide Pre-vention Initiative; Kathy is a retired mental health therapist.
- + "Compassion Fatigue" with Theresa Doherty, MSPCC, Chaplain and Bereavement Counselor at Allied Services Hospice.

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

### **WORSHIP Convocation-October 28**

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 save the date and plan on joining us!

#### ***Youth & Young Adult Listening Session***

On Thursday, August 31, beginning at 6:00 p.m., the Office for Parish Life will hold a Listening Session for all junior high, high school, and college age youth and young adults, and those who work with youth or young adults. This will be an opportunity to share your experiences, feedback, best practices, and suggestions with us as we plan together for the future of youth and young adult ministry in the Diocese of Scranton.

The listening session will be held at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave, Scranton. To register or for more information, please contact Shannon Kowalski, Coordinator for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, at [Shannon-Kowalski@Dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:Shannon-Kowalski@Dioceseofscranton.org).

#### ***National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) November 15-19, 2017***

Are you being *called* to be a part of the Diocese of Scranton delegation to the NCYC in November? We still have a few more seats left on a third bus. Are there students and potential chaperones in your parish who would like to join us for an exciting pilgrimage to Indianapolis for NCYC? Contact Mary Anne Malone to reserve a spot on a third bus: [mary-anne-malone@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:mary-anne-malone@dioceseofscranton.org) or 570-207-2213, x1100. More information, videos, forms and planning team contacts can be found on the Diocesan website: NCYC 2017.

#### ***Still Time to apply!-Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry Program, Fall 2017***

The Office for Parish Life is **accepting applications for the Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry for August 2017!** 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.

The Office for Parish Life looks forward to welcoming new candidates into the *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry* program in the Fall.

**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](mailto:Kitty-Scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org) for application information, materials, and application submissions.**

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

The Office for Parish Life will offer an all-day training session for new Extraordinary Ministers of Communion on Saturday, September 30, 2017 from 9:00AM to 2:30PM at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave., Scranton. This session will cover the theology of the Eucharist and the Mass, the history and spirituality of the ministry, the particular functions of the Extraordinary Minister of Communion, and how to properly carry out this ministry.

Candidates for the training should have the approval of his or her pastor/parish life coordinator. There is no fee for the training and lunch will be provided. To register, please fill out the EMHC 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.

#### ***Regional Networking Meetings for Worship***



The Office for Parish Life will hold regional meetings for all those involved with liturgy to network and to address upcoming events and projects offered through the Office of Parish Life, including upcoming activities of the local chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians. All liturgy committee members, liturgical ministers, music ministers are encouraged to attend. The meetings will be held at the following locations:

**+ Monday, September 18 at 6:30PM** at St. Ann's Parish, Williamsport

**+ Tuesday, September 19 at 6:30PM** at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Swoyersville

**+ Monday, September 25 at 6:30PM** at St. John Neumann Parish, Scranton

**+ Tuesday, September 26 at 6:30PM** at St. Luke Parish, Stroudsburg

To register for any of these meetings please complete the registration form or contact the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213.

### **Season of Creation**

Pope Francis has called us to participate in the Season of Creation which begins September 1 and goes through October 4th, the Feast of St. Francis. Please contact Richard DeBona at 570-207-2213, ext. 1130, or at [Richard-DeBona@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:Richard-DeBona@dioceseofscranton.org) for support in setting up an Environmental Ministry at your parish. Consider holding a Holy Hour or Prayer Service for the Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on September 1.

### **Lay Ministry Skills Workshop "RCIA's Witness, Community & Journey: The Model for Sacramental Preparation" September 16, 2017; 9AM-3PM St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Moscow**

In *The Shape of Baptism*, theologian Aidan Kavanagh wrote that the importance of RCIA lies "less in its ceremonial details than in its strategic vision of the church local and universal." RCIA sees initiation as a process of conversion and the church as a community whose members witness to one another. RCIA respects the journey of the person entering the Church and provides him/her with the tools and companionship to continue the journey throughout life.

In the light of Vatican II, the Church revived the rite, noting it should be normative for baptism and confirmation. Father Bob Simon will unpack the principles of the RCIA as well as the process. Of equal importance, he will show how the vision of the RCIA provides a lens through which to understand all catechesis and sacramental ministry in parish life.

*Father Simon is a priest of the Diocese of Scranton and pastor of St. Catherine Parish, Moscow. He has an MA in Liturgical Studies from Notre Dame.*

**For more information contact Kitty Scanlan at 570-207-2213, ext 1157, or [kitty-scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:kitty-scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org).**

**To register, visit the Office for Parish Life page at [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org)**

### **Annual Musicians' Mass**

Mark your calendars now and invite all members of your parish music ministry to join us on Tuesday, September 12, at 7:00PM at the Cathedral of St. Peter for the annual Musicians' Mass celebrated by Bishop Bambera. This gathering would be a great way to begin a new season of music ministry in your parish by having choir members, cantors, instrumentalists, organists, pianists, and choir directors renew their commitment and be commissioned for their ministry. Please plan on joining us!

### **New Program to Support "Earlyweds" in Parish**



Looking for a way to support young married couples (those married 5 years or less)? Offer them a chance to walk through Pope Francis' wise exposition of 1Cor 13 in *The Joy of Love*. Host this new 6-session program written by Bernadette Rudolph, MA, MS, in consultation with Ann Perrin, cnd, Imft, that features individual reflection, couple discussion and group activities.

Because Millennials like to construct their own knowledge, leading the program simply means that a more seasoned married couple facilitates the discovery process. (Support for setting up the program is provided.) Help young couples to understand more deeply the reading so many of them choose for their wedding ceremony and to grow in their ability to love. Contact Bernadette Rudolph via email or call (570-207-2213, ext 1104) to discuss starting this in your parish.

### ***USCCB Ratifies Revised Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities***

The **Guidelines** reflect the pastoral response of the U.S. Catholic Bishops to the growth in knowledge and understanding of the gifts and needs of individuals in parish communities who live with disabilities and their desire for full participation in the sacramental life of the Church. In addition to stating general principles to be followed for the celebration of the sacraments in this revised document, the Bishops address each specific sacrament and the issues pertinent to that sacrament for persons with various disabilities. The document is a revision of an earlier version, last updated in 1995. These new **Guidelines** take into account medical and technological innovations of recent years, and emphasize the importance of the inclusion of all members of parishes. While not legislative in nature, they will be a helpful resource for parishes. The [document](#) is now available free on the USCCB website.

### ***Fall into a Good Book!***

#### ***Little Free Library's New Additions***

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](mailto:Bernadette-rudolph@dioceseofscranton.org).

### **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**