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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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Diocese of Scranton
2016 **DIOCESAN**
ANNUAL APPEAL 
LIVING FAITH *Serving with Mercy*

**Diocesan Annual Appeal Begins
Weekend of September 10-11**

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera has announced that the 2016 Diocesan Annual Appeal will officially begin the weekend of September 10 and 11 in all parishes throughout the Diocese with the presentation of the Appeal video. This year's Diocesan Annual Appeal goal is \$5 million and the theme for the 2016 campaign is "Living Faith, Serving with Mercy."

The following clergy and parishioners have accepted Bishop Bambera's invitation to serve as Regional Chairs for the 2016 Diocesan Annual Appeal:

Bradford, Sullivan & Susquehanna Counties

Chairs: Dr. Robert and Dr. Barbara Wyworski, SS. Peter and Paul Parish, Towanda

Clergy Chair: Father David Cramer, St. John the Evangelist, Susquehanna

Lackawanna & Wyoming Counties

Chairs: Atty. Joseph and Atty. Judy Price, St. Mary of the Lake Parish, Lake Winola

Clergy Chair: Father Christopher Sahd, Christ the King Parish, Archbald

Luzerne County

Chairs: George and Karen Hayden, St. Jude Parish, Mountain Top

Clergy Chair: Father John Lambert, SS. Peter and Paul Parish, Plains

Lycoming & Tioga Counties

Chairs: John and Joan Eck, St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Williamsport

Clergy Chair: Father John Victoria, St. Ann's Parish, Williamsport

Monroe County

Chairs: Pat and Joan Ross, Our Lady of Victory Parish, Tannersville

Clergy Chair: Father Sean Carpenter, St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Pocono Pines

Wayne & Pike Counties

Chairs: Mike and Allyson Cavage, St. Mary Parish, Waymart

Clergy Chair: Father Thomas Major, St. Ann Parish, Shohola

The Diocesan Annual Appeal Regional Chairs work with pastors and representatives in parishes in the Diocese to help coordinate Annual Appeal activities. Gifts to the Appeal support the good work of our Diocesan ministries to:

- * Serve the poor, the needy and the vulnerable through Catholic Social Services and through social justice grants provided by the Diocese to parishes for community outreach programs.

- * Meet the ongoing formation needs of seminarians, priests, and permanent deacons and care for our retired bishops and priests who continue to serve the Diocese through various ministries.

- * Educate the next generation of servant leaders in a spiritually sound and academically challenging environment in our Diocesan Catholic schools and in parish-based religious education programs.

- * Provide vibrant parish life and ministry formation programs that continue to strengthen and revitalize our parish communities by providing formation and spiritual enrichment opportunities focused on worship, word, community and service.

* Ensure the Gospel message is proclaimed, and keep our Diocesan community informed through an integrated media program that includes *The Catholic Light* newspaper, CTV: Catholic Television, and the Diocesan website.

Parishioners may join us in support of this year's Annual Appeal by sending a gift to Diocesan Annual Appeal, 300 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA 18503-1279. Parishioners may also go online at www.AnnualAppeal.org or call the Development Office at 570-207-2250 to make a credit card gift.

"It is the time to heal wounds, a time not to be weary of meeting all those who are waiting to see and touch with their hands the signs of the closeness of God, a time to offer everyone the way of forgiveness and reconciliation."

- Pope Francis, in proclaiming the Jubilee Year of Mercy

National Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities Set for September 9

Diocese hosting Interfaith Prayer Experience at Cathedral

In the wake of a number of tragic incidents in cities around the country over the past several months, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has called for a National Day of Prayer for Peace in our Communities on September 9, the feast of St. Peter Claver.

The immediate focus for this day is on coming together in prayer as the foundation for future dialogue and healing within our communities struggling with violence in many forms.

The Diocese of Scranton will participate by hosting an **Interfaith Prayer Experience for Peace in Our Communities on Friday, September 9, 12:10 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Peter**. All are welcome to join with people of many faith backgrounds to pray together for peace and to renew our commitment to actions of faith response as peacemakers. CTV: Catholic Television will broadcast the service live.

"Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, my brother bishops and leaders of other faith traditions have been encouraging people everywhere to pursue means of promoting peace in our troubled world. This is one opportunity for us to heed that call and come together in a spirit of unity and common purpose," said Bishop Joseph C. Bambera.

"By joining our voices and hearts in prayer, we can indeed forge a commitment to offer respect, compassion and the loving mercy of God to anyone we encounter. I invite everyone to join us in this noble effort."

Parishes in the Diocese are also encouraged to plan their own local prayer observance. The Office for Parish Life has provided resources to assist parishes to develop a program of their choosing that fits their local circumstances and communities.

Special Mass to Celebrate Milestone Anniversaries of Bishop Emeritus James C. Timlin

As Bishop Emeritus James C. Timlin marks several milestone anniversaries, the Diocese of Scranton is expressing its gratitude for his many years of service to the Church.

On July 16, Bishop Timlin observed his 65th anniversary of priestly ordination, and on September 21 he will celebrate his 40th anniversary of Episcopal ordination.

In recognition of these significant moments in both Bishop Timlin's life and that of the Diocese, a Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated on Wednesday, September 21, 2016, the Feast of Saint Matthew the

Apostle and the actual day of his 40th anniversary of Episcopal ordination at 12:10 p.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. All are welcome to attend. CTV: Catholic Television will broadcast the Mass live.

"Bishop Timlin has served us faithfully for so many years and continues to do so generously in many ways. We are blessed by his ministry and devotion to our Diocese," said Bishop Joseph C. Bambera.

"On a personal note, I am grateful for his friendship and support throughout my years as a priest of our Diocese and now as I have the privilege of serving as Bishop. I look forward to joining with clergy, religious and lay faithful of the Diocese as we honor and thank Bishop Timlin."

With typical humility, Bishop Timlin attributed his accomplishments and longevity to Our Lord and others.

"I am very grateful to God, he has been very good to me," he said. "I have been helped by so many people over the years, and have so much to be thankful for. And I thank Bishop Bambera for arranging this special Mass for me."

Bishop Timlin is a native son who received his grade school education at St. John the Evangelist in South Scranton and Holy Rosary in North Scranton. He graduated from Holy Rosary High School and St. Charles College, Catonsville, Md.

He attended St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore before enrolling in the North American College, Rome, Italy, where he completed his studies for the priesthood.

Bishop Timlin was ordained on July 16, 1951, in Rome by the late Bishop Martin J. O'Connor, then-rector of North American College.

After ordination he continued theology studies in Rome before returning to the Diocese, where he was appointed assistant pastor at St. John the Evangelist Parish, Pittston, in 1952. On June 12, 1953, he became assistant pastor of St. Peter's Cathedral Parish, Scranton, where he served until September 12, 1966, when he was named assistant chancellor of the Diocese and secretary to the late Bishop J. Carroll McCormick, the sixth Bishop of Scranton.

He was named Auxiliary Bishop of Scranton on August 3, 1976. He was ordained in St. Peter's Cathedral on September 21, when he also became Vicar General of the Diocese. In September, 1979, he became pastor of the Church of the Nativity of Our Lord, Scranton.

When the late Cardinal John J. O'Connor, the seventh Bishop of Scranton, was transferred to the Archdiocese of New York in March, 1984, Bishop Timlin was elected diocesan administrator by the Diocesan Board of Consultors.

Pope John Paul II appointed him the eighth Bishop of Scranton on April 24, 1984, and his installation followed on June 7.

Following his retirement in 2003, Bishop Timlin served as administrator of St. Joseph Parish in Wilkes-Barre for several months. The next year he became rector of Villa St. Joseph in Dunmore, the Diocesan residence for retired priests, a position he held until July 2011.

Bishop Timlin, who turned 89 on August 5, continues to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation, celebrate Masses in the Diocese, and represent Bishop Bambera at various liturgies and events as needed.

Christian Communities Gathering to Offer Prayers for Creation

In his landmark encyclical, "*Laudato Si'*", on Care for Our Common Home," Pope Francis stressed we all have an obligation to take steps to mitigate climate change, clean the land and the seas, and start treating all of creation - including poor people - with respect and concern.

"Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience," he said, calling us to "an ecological conversion" whereby the effects of our encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in our relationship with the world around us.

The pope also singled out for special praise Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, who has made environmental

theology a key topic of his research and teaching since the early 1990s.

In that spirit of ecumenical collaboration, the Christian Communities Gathering of Northeast Pennsylvania is sponsoring a service to pray for the care of the earth.

"The Office of Vespers for the Preservation of Nature" will be prayed on Sunday evening, September 18, at 6:00 p.m. in Holy Resurrection Orthodox Cathedral, 591 N. Main Street in Wilkes-Barre. All are invited to attend. Refreshments and discussion will follow the service in the Cathedral Hall.

The Orthodox Church has been celebrating a day of prayer for the preservation of nature since 1989. Other Christian Churches have recently been celebrating days and seasons of creation from September 1 to the feast of Saint Francis on October 4.

To further understanding of the encyclical *Laudato Si'*, and to encourage its implementation, a number of Catholic religious communities and organizations - such as the Columban Fathers and the Catholic Climate Movement - have published study guides and other resources that can be accessed online.

For more information about the September 18 service in Wilkes-Barre, contact Very Rev. Timothy Cremeens, Ph.D., Dean of Holy Resurrection Orthodox Cathedral, at dr.cremeens@ggsm.us; or Deacon Sergei Kapral at smkapral@comcast.net.

Pray for Victims of Earthquake and Natural Disasters

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), invited all Catholics to unite in prayers with Pope Francis for the victims of the earthquakes in Italy and for those suffering due to natural disasters:

"(Yesterday), Pope Francis prayed the sorrowful mysteries of the rosary with pilgrims in St. Peter's Square for victims of the Italian earthquakes. Knowing all too well the personal toll of natural disasters in our own country, let us join with the Holy Father in prayer for everyone suffering from Louisiana to central Italy. We entrust the lives lost to our loving Mary, Mother of God, praying for the comfort of those mourning and the strength for those rebuilding. Amid our hectic lives, let us pause today to offer a rosary."

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 this weekend, August 27-28. 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

The collection supports pastoral, educational and construction projects in more than 20 countries in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. In 2015, the U.S. Bishops' Subcommittee on Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe awarded over \$7.7 million through more than 250 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.

These endeavors include seminaries, youth ministry, social service programs, pastoral centers, church construction and renovation, and Catholic communications projects.

The people in this region of the world still have great need, and

participating in this collection enables us to be a sign of mercy for those who struggle to practice the faith.

Golf Tourney to Benefit Long Term Care Facilities

The 2016 golf committee of Little Flower Manor, St. Therese Residence and St. Luke's Villa, all operated by the Diocese of Scranton and served by the Carmelite Sisters, is currently preparing for the 17th annual Golf Tournament to be held Friday, September 9, at Mount Laurel Golf Club in White Haven. The benefit golf outing gets underway with a pre-tourney luncheon and shotgun start at 12 noon. The event concludes with an awards dinner, featuring dozens of notable prizes, including the top prize of a new jeep courtesy of Motor World. Registration and sponsorship are open to the public; contact Jean Marie Ryan (823 - 6131 ext 269) or jryan@lfmstr.com.

Office for Parish Life

Time to Register 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 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 schedule and online registration can be found here:
[Diocesan Congress.](#)

Workshops for Revised Order of Celebrating Matrimony

A revised **Order of Celebrating Matrimony** is currently in publication and may be used beginning September 8, 2016, with mandatory use by December 30, 2016. To assist priests, deacons, parish musicians and others who actively prepare couples for marriage and for the celebration of Matrimony, two-part workshops will be offered to cover what is new in the second edition, as well as the developments in the theology of marriage and the pastoral preparation of engaged couples for marriage:

Part I: Overview of the Order of Celebrating Matrimony

- Tuesday, September 6 at 6:30PM - Corpus Christi Parish, West Pittston
- Wednesday, September 7 at 6:30PM - Resurrection Parish, Muncy
- Thursday, September 8 at 6:30PM - Our Lady of Victory Parish, Tannersville
- Wednesday, October 19 at 6:30PM - Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, Towanda

Part II: Developments in the Theology & Pastoral Preparation for Marriage

- Tuesday, September 27 at 6:30PM - Corpus Christi Parish, West Pittston
- Wednesday, September 28 at 6:30PM - Resurrection Parish, Muncy
- Thursday, September 29 at 6:30PM - Our Lady of Victory Parish, Tannersville
- Thursday, 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 by Friday, September 2, 2016.

Listening with the Heart

What? This 2-session program prepares a person for ministry in the parish and home through reflection on the God of Mercy and Compassion who speaks to us all. Our relationships then have deeper meaning and purpose. Learn how to be present to all people in need, for example, family members, the sick, homebound, grieving and elderly in our parishes.

Presenter? Sister Jane O'Donnell, RSM, Mercy Consultation Center

When? Saturdays, September 17 & 24, 9:30AM-12:30PM

Where? St. Catherine of Siena Parish, 220 Church St., Moscow

Cost? None; however, we ask you register so we can prepare properly! Call Jennifer, 570-207-2213.

Extraordinary Minister of Communion Training

The Office for Parish Life will offer three opportunities for training new Extraordinary Ministers of Communion:

Saturday, August 27 from 9:00AM to 2:00PM

at St. Therese Parish, 64 Davis St., Shavertown

Please call St. Therese Parish Office at 570-696-1144 to register.

September 12, 19, 26 (Mondays) from 6:30PM-9:00PM

at **Queen of Heaven Parish**, 750 N. Vine Street, Hazleton

Please call Queen of Heaven Parish Office at 570-454-8797 to register.

Please note that it is necessary for candidates to attend all three of these sessions.

September 15, 22, 29 (Thursdays) from 6:30PM-9:00PM

at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave., Scranton.

Please complete the [EMC Training Form](#) to register

or call the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213.

Please note that it is necessary for candidates to attend all three of these sessions.

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.

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 for application information, materials, and application submissions.

ARISE - Fall 2016

Eight parishes in the Diocese of Scranton will be entering 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.

Stay tuned for more information about the upcoming season!

We invite parishes who are interested in 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.

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: **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](mailto: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

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.

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

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

Also check out our Facebook page:
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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