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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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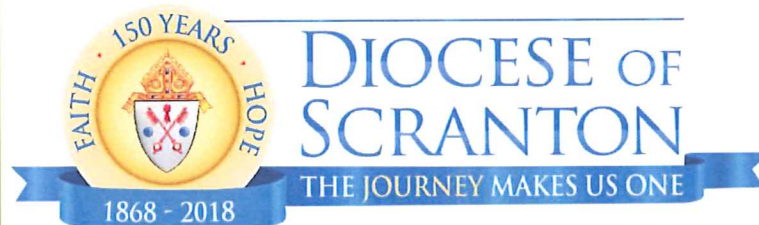
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Diocese Approaching 150th Anniversary of Founding

Year-long celebration about to begin

The First Sunday of Advent, December 3, will mark the beginning of the Liturgical Year throughout the world. It will also designate the commencement of the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Scranton. The territory that comprises our Diocese was part of the

Archdiocese of Philadelphia until March 3, 1868, when Pope Pius X created the Diocese of Scranton.

Our Diocese has a rich and noteworthy history that we will recognize, beginning with a Pontifical Mass on Sunday, December 3, at 12:15 p.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter, and continuing through most of next year with liturgical celebrations and numerous annually occurring and specially focused events.

Parish Participation Kits for the 150th Anniversary were released this week by email and U.S. Postal Service. Watch for more information in *The Catholic Light*, CTV: Catholic Television, our Diocesan website and social media.

#Leaveamark17

Young Church to Gather

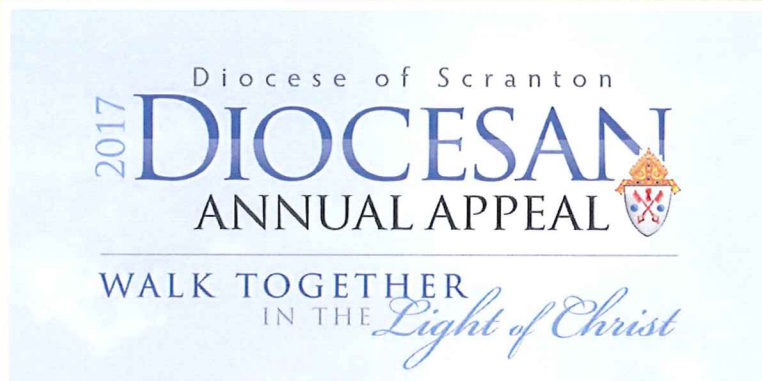
Sunday, November 5, 2017

Mass - 5 p.m. Cathedral of Saint Peter

Reception following in the Diocesan Pastoral Center

All are welcome to attend this gathering of the young church with Bishop Bambera to kick off National Vocation Awareness Week in the Diocese of Scranton.

For more information, contact the Diocesan Vocation Office at 570-207-1452 or visit facebook.com/scrantonvoc.



Diocesan Annual Appeal at 61% of Goal; Text-to-Give Giving Option Expanded

The **2017 Diocesan Annual Appeal: Walking Together in the Light of Christ**, has raised more than \$3 million in gifts and pledges, bringing the campaign to 61% of the \$5 million goal.

More than 17,000 parishioners have pledged a gift to the Appeal so far in response to a gift request letter that was mailed to past donors in September and through the In-Pew Commitment Weekend collection that was recently held in parishes throughout the Diocese. An expanded Text-to-Give giving option for the Annual Appeal is being presented in parishes during the month of November.

"We have improved the Text-to-Give program for this year's Diocesan Annual Appeal based on wonderful input we received from parish representatives at our Annual Appeal Regional Committee meetings in August and September," said Jim Bebla, Diocesan Secretary for Development.

This year there are two Text-to-Give giving options using cell phones. The first option is a simple one-step process that gives parishioners the opportunity to give \$10 by texting the word LIGHT and their parish name and city to 50555. This option does not require the donor to submit contact or credit card information. The donation will appear on the donor's next cell phone bill. If donors prefer to make a gift of a different amount or a pledge over several months, they can

text the word APPEAL to 50555 and the donor will be sent directly to the Annual Appeal online giving site where they can make a credit card gift.

For information on the Diocesan programs supported by gifts to the Annual Appeal, to view Bishop Joseph C. Bambera's video Appeal message 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.

Bishop Bambera to Ordain 11 Permanent Deacons

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will preside as ordaining prelate and principal celebrant on Saturday, November 25, for the ordination of 11 men to the Permanent Diaconate for service as permanent deacons in the Diocese of Scranton. The newly ordained deacons will join the ranks of clergy who minister to the faithful in parishes and other settings throughout the Diocese.

During the Mass of Ordination, scheduled for 10 a.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Bishop Bambera will ordain the following men to serve permanently in the Order of Deacon:

Carl S. Albright, Paul J. Cooper, Herbert W. Cruikshank, Andrew A. Fazio Sr., Maxime E. Francois, Michael M. Golubiewski, Leonard Jinselli Jr., Ronald D. Maida, John P. Musyt, James M. Rebarchick and Robert J. Warnock.

These men have completed a five-year formation program and will become members of the threefold ordained ministry that consists of bishops, priests and deacons.

The deacon's service has three aspects: word, worship and charity. He can perform certain ministerial functions such as administering baptism; serving as the deacon at the Mass, including proclaiming the Gospel, preaching the homily and distributing Holy Communion; bringing viaticum to the sick; presiding at wake services, funeral liturgies and burial rites; and with permission by the pastor, may celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony.

He ministers to the needs of families, single parents, students, the aged and infirmed, the imprisoned, and those who suffer from poverty or addictions.

Principal concelebrants for the diaconate ordination Mass will be Bishop Emeritus James C. Timlin and Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus John M. Dougherty. Also concelebrating the Mass with Bishop Bambera will be Monsignor Thomas Muldowney, V.G., Vicar General of the Diocese; Father Jeffrey Walsh, V.E., Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; Monsignor David Bohr, Diocesan Secretary for Clergy Formation and Director of the Permanent Diaconate Formation Program; Father Donald Williams, Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians; and other priests of the Diocese, including the pastors and spiritual directors of the ordinandi.

All are invited to participate in this special liturgy. CTV: Catholic Television will broadcast the Mass.

XLT (Exalt!)

XLT (Exalt!) will be held Friday, November 10, from 7-9 p.m. at Saint Joseph Mareello Parish, 237 William Street, Pittston. The event, sponsored by the Diocesan Offices for Parish Life and Vocations, will consist of Eucharistic Adoration, praise & worship music led by Billy Walsh, a talk by Danny Synoski, reconciliation, and a social. Father Robert Simon, pastor at Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, Moscow, will preside and preach. All are welcome to attend. For more information, please contact Dominick Costantino at 570-780-2996.

Pennsylvania Catholic Conference ACTION ALERT

Education Funding Bill Needs to be Signed into Law

As part of Pennsylvania 2017-18 state budget, lawmakers approved a \$10 million increase for the expansion of the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program. That is great news; however, Governor Wolf has yet to sign the bill into law. In fact, he has threatened to veto the legislation that would provide for the increase.

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference has sent a letter to the governor urging him to sign the education funding bill into law, noting that this bill would allow for more scholarships for students to attend the school that is best for them. The EITC program has enabled many students in our Diocese to obtain a Catholic education.

You too can send a letter to Governor Wolf urging him to sign the education funding bill into law today!

Office for Parish Life

Bringing Your Plans to Life-Parish Toolkit Workshops Fulfilling the Vision: Diocesan Consultation on Renewing Parishes

Based on the responses from about 100 parishes, rich toolkits have been created for each of the priority areas. The first round of Toolkit workshops was held throughout the summer with great response and effectiveness. This message shows the next round of workshop dates, based on the topics you have identified as most beneficial to your parish this year. Thank you for these volunteer host parish sites for each session. To register your parish team, call Jennifer: (570-207-2213)

ENGAGEMENT: CALLING FORTH THE GIFTS OF THE COMMUNITY

November 6, 6:00-9:00PM Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Wilkes-Barre

CREATING A CULTURE OF WELCOME AND HOSPITALITY

November 13, 6:00-9:00PM St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Milford

November 15, 6:00-9:00PM Our Lady of the Abingtons, Dalton

DEVELOPING AN EVANGELIZATION LENS FOR ALL OF PARISH LIFE

November 9, 6:00-9:00PM St. Paul of the Cross Parish, Scranton

*STAY TUNED FOR NEW TOOLKITS ON: ADULT FAITH FORMATION,
FAMILY-ORIENTED FAITH FORMATION, ADOPTING A SPIRIT OF
STEWARDSHIP, FORMING PARISH COORDINATING TEAMS*

Pastoral Musicians Tricks of the Trade: A Panel Discussion

The Scranton Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) will hold its next meeting on Monday, November 6, from 6:00PM to 8:30PM at Immaculate Conception Parish, 801 Taylor Ave., Scranton. The topic for the evening will be "Tricks of the Trade: A Panel Discussion" and will feature brief presentations by members of the Scranton NPM Executive Council with advice, tips and shortcuts to help enhance the music ministry and liturgical life in the parish. The session is specifically geared to music directors and coordinators of liturgy, although all are welcome to attend. The evening begins with dinner, followed by the presentation and then Night Prayer. There is no fee, but a free-will offering will be take up to help offset the cost of dinner. For more information or to register, please contact David Baloga, Scranton NPM Program Director, at 570-207-2213, ext. 1158, or you can register online by [clicking here](#) or by visiting ScrantonNPM.com. Please register by November 1.

Lay Ministry Skills Workshop "The Virtues of Christian Discipleship"

November 11, 2017; 9AM-3PM at St. John the Evangelist Parish, Pittston

At the end of the Gospel according to Matthew, Jesus tells his disciples to "go...and make disciples of all the nations" (28:19). But what practices follow from what we preach? After the 2016 election, a moral theologian provocatively remarked that "Catholics too often fail to connect how they think politically with what they profess to believe religiously" (Stephen J. Pope, "Not the Time for Reconciliation"). In this workshop, Bernard G. Prusak will explore the formation of conscience, the virtues - the excellences of character - internal to Christian morality and the principles and implications of Catholic social teaching.

Dr. Prusak is Associate Professor of Philosophy and Director of the McGowan Center for Ethics and Social Responsibility at King's College, Wilkes-Barre. He writes frequently for *Commonweal* and has written two books: *Parental Obligations* and *Bioethics and Catholic Moral Philosophy in Practice and Theory*.

For more information contact Kitty Scanlan at 570-207-2213, ext 1157, or kitty-scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org. To register, visit the Office for Parish Life page at www.dioceseofscranton.org

ARISE Together in Christ

Parishes recently began Season 5 of their faith-sharing process in small groups. Please keep them in prayer! We invite parishes who are interested in learning more about ARISE, to take part in a RENEW program during the upcoming Advent season. Discerning ARISE parish members can join with a neighboring parish to explore the process this Fall, to reflect on growing in missionary discipleship! To learn more about the benefits of this experience of awakening and deepening faith, call the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213.

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.

Echoes of Faith

Do you want to know more about your faith? Are you a catechist or DRE who is looking for a way to earn a certificate in catechesis? Can you spare an hour a week? The Echoes of Faith 3.0 is for YOU!

Created by the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) and published by RCL Benziger, Echoes of Faith is an online education program offering basic adult formation in the Catholic Faith. With fourteen modules divided into three categories, the Echoes of Faith Learning Center can be used for parish Adult Faith Formation and for Basic Catechist Certification. It is also one way to complete the prerequisites for the Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry.

Contact Mary-Anne-Malone@dioceseofscranton.org for information on how to get started for an affordable \$15 a year.

Catechist Training Session

On Tuesday, November 7, Mary Anne Malone, Director for Word and Lifelong Faith Formation, will offer a two-hour Catechist Training at Nativity of Our Lord Parish, 127 Stephenson Street, Duryea 18642. The session is scheduled for 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. and will cover topics such as:

- The Ministry of the Catechist
- Use of Textbooks and Lesson Planning
- Classroom Management

- Methods of Prayer

Contact Mary Anne Malone at 570-207-2213, ext. 1100, for more information or to register for this session.

Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry Program, 2018

The Office for Parish Life encourages parish leaders to consider application for the Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry for January 2018!

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:

- Pastoral Council
- Director of Religious Education and Catechist
- Liturgical Coordinator
- 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.

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.

Parish Sponsor Couple Program for Marriage Preparation Available January 2018!

Pairing engaged couples with sponsor couples is an effective way to prepare engaged couples for marriage, because it gives them personal attention, builds a bridge into your parish community and gives them mentors to rely on through the early years of marriage. A parish sponsor couple program also helps the married couple strengthen their own marriage.

The Office for Parish Life will offer a program for parish use starting in January 2018. In four sessions, couples will explore and discuss the same topics currently covered in the popular Diocesan PreCana Days of Reflection, with video content featuring John Regula and Bernadette Rudolph, who currently lead these retreats. Contact Bernadette via [email](#) or call (ext 1104) to discuss starting this in your parish.

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

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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