



GoodNewsNotes

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

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Mother's Day Adoption Mass

Sunday, May 14 at 10:00AM
at the Cathedral of Saint Peter

Transitional Diaconate Ordination

Saturday, May 27 at 10:00AM
St. Matthew Parish,
East Stroudsburg

Resource Response to Fulfilling the Vision Priority Targets

Based on the responses from 81 parishes (so far), rich toolkits are being created for each of priority areas. At this time we are inviting all parishes to consider sending a team to one or more of the following workshops – this will be a “hands-on” interactive workshop allowing your team to begin right away to put the toolkit to good use. The first parishes taking part in this “pilot” round of workshops will also help us to refine and improve the tools for additional workshop opportunities in the future. Each workshop will be conducted twice this summer – allowing parish teams a choice of date and location. Consider a combination of your most dedicated volunteers and some team members who will be brand new to this area of parish ministry.

■ ENERGIZING PARISH-WIDE COMMUNICATIONS

- June 13 6-9pm—Our Lady of Victory Parish, Tannersville
- June 15 6-9pm—Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, Plains

■ ENGAGEMENT: CALLING FORTH THE GIFTS OF THE COMMUNITY

- June 14, 6-9pm—Immaculate Conception Parish, Freeland
- June 20, 6-9pm—St. Maria Goretti Parish, Laflin

■ CREATING A CULTURE OF WELCOME AND HOSPITALITY

- June 22, 6-9pm—St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, Wilkes-Barre
- June 26, 6-9pm—Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Montoursville

■ DEVELOPING AN EVANGELIZATION LENS FOR ALL OF PARISH LIFE

- June 19, 6-9pm—St. John Parish, Susquehanna
- June 27, 6-9pm—St. John Parish, Larksville

■ DISCERNING AND ORIENTING COUNCIL MEMBERS; INITIAL STAGES OF PASTORAL PLANNING

- Sept. 6—St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Pocono Pines
- Sept. 13—St. Lawrence Parish, Williamsport

■ BUILDING, RENEWING RCIA TEAM AND PARISH APPROACH

- Deacon Course open to all parish RCIA Directors and Teams: August 25-26, **and** September 8-9 Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton
- Ministry Formation Skills Workshop – September 16, St. Catherine's, Moscow

■ FORMING PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY AND SERVICE TEAM

- Sept. 23—Service Convocation (see page 5) for Ministries of Justice, Charity and Peacemaking
- Parish or Cluster of Parishes—Local Workshop by request

(Continued on page 2)

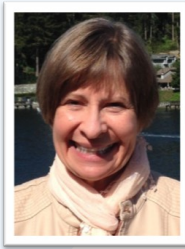


WORD

"CALL us to be servant leaders who are people of the WORD, preaching, teaching, evangelizing and cherishing the Gospel message throughout our entire lives."

WORD Convocation

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



are now gathering high school students and adult chaperones for this exciting pilgrimage. Information and planning team contacts can be found on the diocesan website: [NCYC 2017](#).

I.S.L.I.

June 19-22, 2017

Plans for the International Student Leadership Institute (I.S.L.I.) are underway. The I.S.L.I. Retreat will take place June 19-22, 2017. I.S.L.I. is open to all high school students who want to prepare for leadership roles and to improve their already existing decision-making and problem-solving skills through the teachings of the Catholic faith. Watch the diocesan website www.dioceseofscranton.org for registration which will open as soon as the retreat location is confirmed. For more information contact Mary Anne Malone at mary-anne-malone@dioceseofscranton.org.



Up & Over

Weekend Retreat for Middle School Students

Registration is now open for Up & Over, the diocesan middle school experience. This retreat taking place on June 2 -4, 2017 at Camp Orchard Hill, Dallas focuses on problem solving through self-confidence and team-work. Each student will encounter Christ in profound ways throughout the weekend and come away with a new understanding of what it means TO BE CHURCH and TO LIVE CHURCH. Cost is \$140. per student. For more information contact mary-anne-malone@dioceseofscranton.org.



To register, follow this link: [Up and Over Registration](#).

National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC)

November 15-19, 2017

Be a part of the Diocese of Scranton delegation to the NCYC in Indianapolis, Indiana in November. Parishes

(Continued from page 1)

Resource Response to Fulfilling the Vision (cont'd)

■ LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION (2017 CATECHIST CAMP and CATECCIST CONVOCATION)

In last year's Catechist Camp, we introduced the work of LifelongFaith Associates in Re-Imagining Faith Formation for the 21st Century. This year's Catechist Camp (August 9-12) will provide two different Innovation Labs, designed and facilitated through LifelongFaith Associates. The Fall Catechist Convocation will also focus on Family/Whole Community Catechesis, with keynoter Joan Weber from Center for Ministry Development. (Host Parishes TBD – stay tuned!)

- August 9, 9am-5pm—Adult Faith Formation Innovation Lab (includes Parent Formation planning in connection with Sacramental moments)
- August 10, 9am-5pm—Adult Faith Formation Innovation Lab (includes Parent Formation planning in connection with Sacramental moments)
- August 11, 9am-5pm—Digitally Enabled and Connected Faith Formation for All Ages
- August 12, 9am-5pm—Digitally Enabled and Connected Faith Formation for All Ages
- October 14, 9am-3pm—CATECHIST CONVOCATION Ministries of WORD Diocesan Pastoral Center (see above)

To reserve a spot for your parish team for any of the workshops on page 1 or 2, please complete the form at: [Fulfilling the Vision Workshops](#)

XLT

(Exalt!)



Adoration-Speaker-
Praise & Worship Music-
Reconciliation-Social

Friday, May 19

St. John Neumann Parish
633 Orchard St. Scranton
7:00-9:00pm

Music: Countless Wonders

For more information,
call 570-780-2996.

“CALL us to be servant leaders who WORSHIP our God and celebrate the Sacraments in union with the universal Church.”

WORSHIP



Evenings of Reflection for Liturgical Ministers

The Office for Parish Life will be offering a series of Evenings of Reflection for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors and those involved in Music Ministry. David Baloga, Director for Worship, will lead each evening and will help liturgical ministers enter more deeply into the spirituality of their ministry through prayer, song and reflection.

- **Tuesday, May 16—Lectors**
- **Tuesday, May 23 —Music Ministers**

All sessions begin at 6:30PM and will take place at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton. There is no cost to participate. To register for one (or more) of these evenings, please complete the [Evening of Reflection form](#) or contact the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213. Please register no later than the Friday before that Evening of Reflection.

WORSHIP Convocation

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 mark your calendars now and plan on joining us!



Adult Confirmation at the Cathedral

If you have any Adult Baptized Catholics who need to complete their Sacraments of Initiation by attending the

Adult Confirmation at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Sunday, June 4, 2017 at 10:00 AM, the proper forms must be returned to the Office for Parish Life by Monday, May 15, 2017. Those forms can be found on the diocesan website under Parish Life, [Christian Initiation Resources](#).

Upcoming NPM Events

Mark your calendars now!

40th Annual National Convention

Cincinnati, Ohio

July 11-14, 2017

[Click here](#) for more information

Scranton NPM

Summer Gathering

Monday, August 7, 2017 at 6:00PM

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Hanover Township

Annual Musicians' Mass

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

at 7:00PM

Cathedral of St. Peter, Scranton

#PartnerwithFrancis

The Diocese of Scranton will #partnerwithfrancis over the next few months to gather the voices of the young church (16-35) and those who work with them in preparation for Pope Francis' 2018 Synod on *Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment*. To get involved, participate in a Diocesan listening session and/or complete a survey online at www.partnerwithfrancis.org. For more information and/or to register for a listening session, please contact Dominick Costantino at 570-780-2996. Additional sessions will be scheduled.



Date	Location	Time	High School Group (16-18)	College-Age Group (18-24)	Young Adult Group (25-35)
Fri., May 19	St. John Neumann Parish, 633 Orchard St., Scranton	Following XLT Approx 8:45 p.m.	✓		
Thu., June 15	St. Ann Parish, 1220 Northway Rd., Williamsport	6:30-8:30 p.m.	✓	✓	✓
Fri., June 16	St. Matthew Parish, 78 Ridgeway St., East Stroudsburg	6:30-8:30 p.m.	✓	✓	✓
Fri., June 23	Divine Mercy Parish, 312 Davis St., Scranton	Following XLT Approx 8:45 p.m.		✓	✓
Wed., June 28	Light the Fire Youth Rally Misericordia University	Breakout Session	✓		

May Is Mental Health Month



Many of your parishioners, friends, family and co-workers will have a form of mental illness at sometime in their lives. Often "hidden," it nevertheless carries a stigma. Show support for your parishioners with mental illness in one of the following ways:

- Visit these two particular pages within the National Catholic Partnership on Disability website:
 - ◇ www.catholicswithmentallillness.org Theological background and various resources specifically for mental illness, such as the Four Legs of Recovery;
 - ◇ [Resources specifically for Mental Health Month](#), such as bulletin articles and networks.
- Consider offering a parish or area support group.
- Publish information on local service agencies that offer support for those with mental illness or their families.

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 someone whose child has died,
- walking with someone who has lost a loved one to suicide and
- compassion fatigue.

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

Registering for PreCana Days of Reflection

When the priest or deacon preparing an engaged couple for marriage decides the couple should attend a diocesan PreCana Day of Reflection, he should direct them to the diocesan website to register and to see the current list of dates available. All registrations are done online. The schedule is updated when a date reaches capacity and so that date is no longer available. Please do not direct the couple to call OPL; we will just have to tell them to go online.



Check out Latest Additions to OPL's Little Free Library!

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.



Latest Ideas for an Evening/Afternoon of Reflection

Bernadette Rudolph, MA, MS, Director for Family and Community Development, is available to present a 2-3 hour retreat for your parish. Recent topics include:

- **The Paschal Mystery:** Living the Resurrection – While most Catholics believe in the resurrection, they think of it as something that will happen at the end of their physical life. See how the pattern of dying and rising is part of everyday Christian living and learn to be a person of hope!
- **Living Your Strengths** – Christianity has long taught that each person is gifted by God and has a unique role to play in the Body of Christ. The Clifton StrengthsFinder2.0 supports this with scientific research. Bring the two together for an enlivening, inspiring experience!
- **What If You Saw Yourself As God Does?** – God loves both the person we are and the person we will become. This love is at the heart of the Gospel, and yet many Catholics have never heard it. Let your parishioners be evangelized and changed!
- **Hospitality and Mercy** – Because mercy is an essential attribute of God, it shapes everything about our relationship with God –and in turn, our relationship with others. A simple way to practice mercy is through hospitality. Discover what this means for the individual or the parish community.



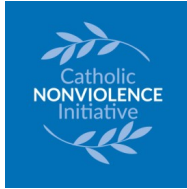
Other topics are also possible. These retreats can be extended up to a full day, if you wish. Contact Bernadette to discuss your ideas! (ext. 1104 or Bernadette-rudolph@dioceseofscranton.org)

"I CALL us to be servant leaders who engage in SERVICE to our neighbors near and far and who work for justice and stewardship to hasten the Reign of God."

SERVICE

SERVICE Convocation

Mark your calendars now and plan on attending our SERVICE Convocation which will be held on Saturday, September 23, 2017. The day will feature Marie Dennis, Co-President of Pax Christi International, who will present on the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative, Pope Francis' World Day of Peace message: "Nonviolence: a style of politics for peace" and "Integrating Gospel Nonviolence into the Life and Mission of the Church."



Social Justice Trust Fund Grants

If you have not received the application for the Social Justice Trust Fund Grants, please contact Richard DeBona at 570-207-2213 as soon as possible. Please note that the deadline to return applications has been extended to June 1, 2017

Other SERVICE Resources

- The Easter season continues with sweet celebration! Why have just a piece of chocolate when you can have a JUST PEACE of chocolate? Visit Catholic Relief Services website for more information at ethicaltrade.crs.org and enjoy DIVINE CHOCOLATE!

- Earth Day was April 22nd, but we still need to celebrate and protect God's Creation. Please consider starting an Environmental Ministry at your parish to celebrate and protect God's Creation. Visit www.catholicclimatecovenant.org to get started.
- Rachel's Vineyard is hosting a retreat for anyone seeking healing after abortion. The retreat will take place June 23-25 in Shillington, PA (near Reading, PA) at the Mariawald Retreat Center in the diocese of Allentown. For more information, contact Sr. Meg Cole at projectrachel@allentowndiocese.org; 610-332-0442 ext. 19 or TOLL FREE at 1-866-3-RACHEL.

Regional SERVICE Networking Meetings

In their 1993 document, *Building Communities of Salt and Light*, our USA Bishops encouraged parishes to develop a full and vibrant Parish Social Ministry that develops concrete works of charity, justice, and peacemaking. As Bishop Bambera's Pastoral Vision states:

Parish social ministry responds to human needs, whatever and wherever they may be, whether with parishioners or other members of the community, whether the need be hunger, housing, illness, loneliness, employment, fair wages, physical disabilities or ecological sustainability. Parish social ministry must respond to issues of respect for human life at every stage of existence. We must encourage broad group action on behalf of those who hunger for righteousness and peace. However it is done, parish social ministry needs to be organized and deliberate. It must be communal, planned and directed by a group, and not a simple individual response.

Regional Networking Meetings are being offered to help you and your neighboring parishes create or build up your Parish Social Ministry!

- ⇒ **South – Saturday, May 13th 10:30AM-12:30PM St Mary's/Our Lady of Fatima, Wilkes-Barre**
- ⇒ **North – Saturday, May 20th from 1:00-3:00PM at Blessed Sacrament, Throop**

For more information, contact Richard DeBona, Dir. for Service and Social Concerns at Richard-DeBona@dioceseofscranton.org or at 570-207-2213.



visit www.light-the-fire.org

Featuring Keynote Speaker:
Noelle Garcia
Wednesday, June 28, 2017
Misericordia University—Dallas, PA
Registration opens at 9:00AM
Closing Mass with Bishop Bambera
at 7:00PM



Noelle Garcia

10 Ways to “address catechesis at all life stages and circumstances”

1. Design an events-centered curriculum – so that the formation for all members of the community flows organically from the feasts and seasons, the lectionary, and the meaningful special events of your own parish – and all members of each household are engaging the same topics at their respective levels.
2. Parishioners still describe the bulletin as the primary way they learn about the life of the parish – make it the best formation and catechetical tool it can possibly be – plant in it some supports for family faith-sharing and for personal spiritual growth.
3. Start a tradition of “individualized formation plans” – where each member or household renews their formation goals annually (maybe during Lent?) and the parish provides guidance and resources suited to these goals (website pages for target groups or topics?).
4. Establish a creative team whose job is to ensure that every parish activity bringing people together for any reason has a catechetical dimension – make a sport of it!
5. Train and equip parish catechists to make sure that something from every lesson “spills over” into the home and that life at home connects back to the next week’s lesson.
6. Find and warmly invite your senior members into the catechetical process – think of all the ways they can enrich such experiences as RCIA sponsoring and hospitality, catechist support, witness talks, parenting support, prayer partners and mentors, and...
7. Create “faith families” within your parish community – smaller multi-generational clusters (maybe 12-25 members) who commit to supporting each other’s faith journey. Give each “family” a scrapbook-type journal and challenge (with guidance) their creative path through a full liturgical cycle together.
8. In the context of a fun family-oriented parish social, invite the Confirmation candidates or youth group members to “interview” the parish elders about key elements of the gospel message and how they have been called to live it out over their years. Stage this in a way that all present can hear and observe, since the in-between generation will especially benefit.
9. Consider the VLCFF courses on lifelong faith, such as: Parish as a Learning Community; Designing a Parish Catechetical Plan; Designing and Implementing Adult Learning and Faith Formation (and many other choices) – anyone in the Diocese may enroll in these courses for the reduced “Diocesan Partner” rate.
10. Enroll all of your parish catechetical leaders in some of the upcoming workshops: Catechist Camp, Fulfilling the Vision, and Fall Convocations - all described in this issue of News Notes.
(A special prize will go to the parish with the largest enrollment in Catechist Camp!)

OPL TEAM MEMBERS

Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life: **Catherine Jantsch Butel**
 Director for WORD and Lifelong Faith Formation: **Mary Anne Malone**
 Consultant for Youth and Campus Ministry: **Fred Mercadante**
 Director for WORSHIP: **David Baloga**
 Coordinator for RCIA: **Fr. Bob Simon**
 Director for SERVICE and Social Concerns: **Richard DeBona**
 Coordinator for Diocesan Missions and
 Director for Pontifical Missions: **Deacon Ed Kelly**
 Coordinator for Mission Education: **Miriam Heverline**
 Coordinator for Pilgrimages: **Fr. Andrew Hvozdovic**
 Director for Family and COMMUNITY Development: **Bernadette Rudolph**
 Coordinator for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations: **Msgr. Vincent Grimalia**
 Coordinator for V Encuentro: **Alejandra Marroquin**
 Coordinator for Lay Ministry Formation: **Kitty Scanlan**
 Coordinator for Pastoral Council Development: **Ann Marie Cawley**
 Events Coordinator, Diocesan Pastoral Center: **Sue Burke**
 Receptionist: **Jennifer Andres** Data Manager/Registrar: **Nancy Valtos**
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