



GoodNewsNotes

DIocese OF SCRANTON OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

This Issue

- DRE & Youth Minister Network Workshops p. 2
- Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation p. 2
- Extraordinary Minister of Communion Training p. 3
- Creating Effective Worship Aids p. 3
- Confirmation Schedules for 2020-2022 p. 3
- An Event for Those Who Minister to Marriages p. 4
- Domestic Violence Awareness Month p. 4
- World Day of the Poor p. 4
- Service and Justice: An Extraordinary Mission p. 5
- Extraordinary Missionary Month p. 6

Extraordinary Missionary Month

Respect Life Mass
 Sunday, October 13
 at 10:00AM
 Cathedral of Saint Peter

World Mission Sunday Mass
 Sunday, October 27
 at 12:15PM
 Cathedral of Saint Peter

WORD Convocation
(Convocation for Catechists)
Saturday, October 19, 2019
from 9:00am to 3:00pm
Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave., Scranton
 Registration is now open. Go to: www.dioceseofscranton.org

The Office for Parish Life invites DREs, catechists, RCIA teams, Youth Ministers, those on parish WORD Commissions, Catholic School teachers and anyone engaged in Ministry of the Word to share in the WORD Convocation.

The Keynote Speaker will be **Sister Janet Schaeffler** offering a presentation entitled, *“Committed Catechists, Faithful Followers: Prayerful, Passionate, Peace-filled.”* Janet Schaeffler, OP is an Adrian Dominican Sister - has spent many years in parish and archdiocesan catechetical ministry. Sister Janet currently accompanies others on their faith-journey through days of reflection/retreats, parish missions, workshops, catechist formation opportunities, adult faith formation opportunities, Myers-Briggs explorations, etc. as well as online courses through Crossroads at Boston College, the VLCFF at the University of Dayton and the Vibrant Faith Institute.



The convocation will also feature **Dr. Joseph White**. Dr. White is a child and family psychologist and national catechetical consultant for Our Sunday Visitor Publishing and Curriculum. He has worked as a parish catechetical leader and spent seven years as director of Family Counseling and Family Life in the Diocese of Austin. A frequent guest on Catholic television and radio, Dr. White is the author of 10 books and numerous articles on catechesis and ministry.



Dr. White will offer two workshops, “How to NOT Be BORING: Getting Children’s Attention and Keeping It” and “Future Full of Hope: Keeping Kids Catholic.”

(Continued on page 2)



WORD

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

(Continued from page 1)

Visit the [diocesan website](#) to register and read more about all the exciting opportunities for the WORD Convocation.

Convocation Schedule

9:00 am	Keynote Address: Sister Janet Schaeffler, OP <i>"Committed Catechists, Faithful Followers: Prayerful, Passionate, Peace-filled."</i>
10:00 am	Light Refreshments and Exhibits
11:00 am	Workshop I (<i>see workshops below</i>)
12:10 pm	Mass at the Cathedral
1:00 pm	Lunch in the Lower Level Dining Room Table Top Conversation Starters Visit Exhibits
1:50 pm	Workshop II (<i>see workshops below</i>)
2:50 pm	Fellowship/Dessert

Convocation Workshops (*for descriptions of these workshops, please visit the [diocesan website](#)*)

- Catechizing Parents through their Children's Sacraments —*Sister Janet Schaeffler*
- A Future Full of Hope: Keeping Kids Catholic—*Dr. Joseph White*
- How to NOT be BORING: Getting Children's Attention and Keeping It—*Dr. Joseph White*
- Confirmation: How to identify the PURPOSE of making a DECISION POINT about your CHOSEN curriculum—*Terry Talbott*
- How to Plan Your Confirmation Retreat—*Shannon Kowalski*
- Ongoing Formation: Why It Is So Important—*Kitty Scanlan*
- Parents and Catechesis: Forming a Strong Partnership—*Kathy Stocki*
- Arming Yourself with the Word of God—*Luis Rivera*
(Also given in Spanish)
- Connecting Catechesis: Our Ministry Together
- DRE vs Youth Minister: Working Together—*Jim Foran/Makenzie Connor*

Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation

Looking to learn more about your faith, or gain enrichment for your parish ministry? Members of the faithful across the Diocese of Scranton are invited to consider taking a course through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation! The final cycle for 2019 runs from October 27 through November 30. Registration is open now until October 23. [Click here](#) to view the course offerings in English and Spanish or visit <https://vlcff.udayton.edu/> and click 'calendar.'

Fall Bishop's Youth Awards

The Bishop Youth awards will be presented in four parishes of our diocese. Details have gone out by email to all nominators at the end of July. Here are the remaining Bishop's Youth Award Masses:

Oct. 1/Northern—St. Paul Church (Blue)
1510 Penn Ave, Scranton, PA 18509

Oct. 7/Western—St. Boniface Parish (Green)
326 Washington Blvd., Williamsport, PA 17701

For more information, contact Jacki Douglas: (570) 207-2213 or jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org

Save the Date—DRE & Youth Minister Network Workshops

We are excited to announce the upcoming Network Workshops for DREs and Youth Ministers. These meetings will have a new focus. This meeting we will center on Lifelong Faith Formation through Catechesis and youth ministry. Members of the Office for Parish Life team will be on hand to discuss:



- Diocesan focus for Lifelong Faith Formation
- What we need to "Move Beyond" to bring this to your parish
- Practical ways of bringing Lifelong Faith Formation to your Parish
- Upcoming formation opportunities for DREs and Youth Ministers
- Open Forum for what you would like to see in the future
- Keeping us Connected-Slack.com

We would love to have every parish represented. So we invite each DRE and Youth Minister or another parish catechetical leader to one of the following meetings:

Wednesday, November 6 (6:00 – 8:00 pm)
Southern Region

Wednesday, November 13 (6:00 – 8:00 pm)
Western

Tuesday, December 3 (6:00 – 8:00 pm)
Northern Region

Wednesday, December 11 (6:00 – 8:00 pm)
Eastern Region

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

WORSHIP

Extraordinary Minister of Communion Training Sessions

Need to invite more faith-filled parishioners to serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Communion in your parish? Mark your calendars now because the Office for Parish Life will offer the next all-day training session for new Extraordinary Ministers of Communion on **Saturday, November 9, 2019 from 9:00AM to 2:30PM at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton**. 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.

Training will also be available throughout the upcoming year on the following dates at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton, so mark your calendar and plan on inviting parishioners to participate in this important ministry:

- [Saturday, February 8, 2020 from 9:00AM to 2:30PM](#)
- [Saturday, May 2, 2020 from 9:00AM to 2:30PM](#)
- [Saturday, August 15, 2020 from 9:00AM to 2:30PM](#)
- [Saturday, November 7, 2020 from 9:00AM to 2:30PM](#)

For more information, please contact David Baloga at 570-207-2213 or at David-Baloga@dioceseofscranton.org.

Creating Effective Worship Aids

The Scranton Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians will hold a meeting on **Tuesday, November 12, 2019** beginning at 6:00PM at Holy Name of Jesus Parish, located at 213 West Green St., West Hazleton. The topic for the evening will be "Creating Effective Worship Aids" presented by David Baloga, Director for Worship of the Diocesan Office for Parish Life.

Creating worship aids is a great way to foster the "full, conscious and active participation" of your parishioners. David Baloga will help us learn the ins and outs of creating a printed program that is engaging and aesthetically pleasing. Information and tips for making the most of music reprint licenses will also be offered.

The meeting begins with dinner at 6:00PM, followed by the presentation at 7:00PM, and concludes with Night Prayer. All are welcome to attend. There is no cost for the event, but a free-will offering will be taken up to help offset the cost of dinner. To register, please complete the [online form](#) visit ScrantonNPM.com, or contact David Baloga at 570-207-2213, ext. 1158 by Friday, November 8.



Confirmation Schedules for 2020-2022

In granting the faculty to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation in their parish, Bishop Bambera reminded pastors and sacramental ministers and that he would resume celebrating combined parish Confirmations during the Easter season of 2020 on a three-year cycle. An email with the schedule of the three-year cycle of combined Confirmations with Bishop Bambera was sent on July 22, 2019 to all pastors and parish life coordinators, and this schedule can also be found on the [diocesan website](#) under 'Parish Life, Worship, Christian Initiation and Sacraments.' This cycle, which is based on the Lectionary cycle of Years A, B and C, was established so that each parish in the Diocese of Scranton would have candidates confirmed by the Bishop over the course of three years. In each intervening year, the pastor or sacramental minister will confirm. This allows for parish catechetical teams to plan for the annual process several years in advance, knowing that Confirmation will take place either in the Easter season with Bishop Bambera or on Pentecost when it is conferred by the pastor or sacramental minister. While the schedule provides the dates of Confirmations with Bishop Bambera from 2020 through 2022, it is assumed that this rotation (Year A, B & C) would continue into the foreseeable future. Please note that there are still some single parish celebrations of Confirmation due to large numbers of candidates where it would not be feasible to combine with another parish.



For more information, please contact David Baloga, Director for Worship at David-Baloga@dioceseofscranton.org or at 570-207-2213, ext. 1158.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
SPEAKER
PRAISE & WORSHIP MUSIC
RECONCILIATION
SOCIAL

FALL SCHEDULE

Sunday, October 20 at 6PM—Church of Saint Gregory
330 N. Abington Rd., Clarks Summit

Sunday, November 17 at 7PM—Saint Matthew Parish
78 Ridgeway St., East Stroudsburg

Sunday, December 8 at 6PM—Saint Jude Parish
420 S. Mountain Blvd., Mountain Top

*For more information, call 570-780-2996
or visit www.dioceseofscranton.org.*

An Event for Those Who Minister to Marriages

Do you serve in a marriage enrichment or PreCana ministry? Do you teach NFP or facilitate the FOCCUS assessment? If so, this evening is for you! On **Sunday, November 10th**,

from 3:30 – 7:30 PM at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, the Office for Parish Life will host dinner and a workshop for all those who minister to marriages in our Diocese.

This event will begin with a brief session about the current state of Marriage Ministry in our Diocese, to be followed by dinner. The evening will conclude with a "Living Your Strengths for Married Couples" workshop. This workshop will be based on Gallup's StrengthsFinder Assessment, a tool which is already in use in a number of our parishes.

We will learn about the tool overall, but focus on how we can use it to leverage our differing strengths as married partners into becoming a stronger team, rather than allowing these differences to become points of conflict. Recognizing our individual strengths, as well as learning and recognizing the unique strengths of our spouse, can be an eye-opening experience!

Please contact Jennifer Housel, Director for Community and Family Development (570-207-2213 x 1104 or jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org) to register or to learn more.

Rachel's Vineyard Post-Abortion Healing Retreat: November 1-3, 2019

This confidential weekend retreat facilitates an intimate spiritual journey for those seeking to heal the impact of abortion in their life. Exercises based on scripture are designed to help participants experience God's mercy and compassion, and to reconcile with their church, their child, and with themselves. If your heart hears God's gentle invitation, take courage, for you are being called home to heal. Financial assistance is available.

For registration information contact: Denise Mengak, (570) 822-7118, ext. 3333, drowinski@csswb.org or Susan Walters, sueqz22@verizon.net.



October Is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2010, found that one in four women, and one in seven men, have been victims of severe physical violence by an "intimate partner" (boyfriend/girlfriend or spouse) at some point in their life. It is tragically the case that domestic violence is a reality in many of our families.

Please work in your faith community to promote awareness about these crimes, and the ways in which victims can find help. To learn more and to access additional resources, please visit <http://www.foryourmarriage.org/october-domestic-violence-awareness-month/> or contact Jennifer Housel, Director for Community and Family Development, (570) 207-2213 x 1104, jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org.



Natural Family Planning Presentation Coming Soon!

Please join us to learn more about Natural Family Planning at St. John Parish, East Stroudsburg. John and Hayley Michelin will witness and present. Contact Jen Housel to learn more, (570) 207-2213 x 1104, jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org.



#Leaveamark19

Gathering of the young church with Bishop Bambera to kick-off National Vocation Awareness Week

Sunday, November 3, 2019

5PM Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter

Reception to follow in Diocesan Pastoral Center

For more information, call 570-780-2996.

"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

World Day of the Poor

The **Third World Day of the Poor** will be observed on November 17, 2019. Please join us on **Wednesday, November 13 at 6:30 PM** for a prayer service, film viewing, and discussion. We will be watching *Summer in the Forest*, a documentary about Jean Vanier, the founder of L'Arche.

L'Arche is a residential program for persons with disabilities, built around Christian spirituality. Vanier founded the program in 1964 in France when he welcomed two men with developmental disabilities into his home to live in solidarity with one another. Today, L'Arche is active in 35 countries. In his letter announcing the 2019 World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis spoke about Jean Vanier, calling him a "great apostle of the poor." This event will celebrate his legacy and allow us to discuss how we can better serve the most vulnerable among us. Please RSVP to Katy Windels (ext. 1101) by November 8.



Respect Life Sunday

Respect Life Sunday will be observed on October 13, 2019. Please join us for Mass to celebrate life and advocate for respect for all life, from conception until natural death. Mass will begin at 10 AM at the Cathedral. School groups and families are invited to contact the Office for Parish Life if they would like to participate in this Mass as altar servers, extraordinary ministers of Communion, or ushers. All are welcome!

Theology on Tap

The next Theology on Tap will take place on Wednesday, October 23 from 7:00 to 8:30PM at Sabatini's Bottleshop in Exeter. October's topic is "Be Good to Yourself: Why Mental Health Matters" with Deacon Ed Shoener as the guest speaker. The speaker series is designed for young adults age 21-40. The \$7.00 suggested donation covers food and soft drinks. Please plan on joining us!



2019 Ministry Formation Skills Workshop Series

Service and Justice: An Extraordinary Mission

Saturday, October 26, 2019 from 9:00AM-3:00PM
St. Jude Parish, Mountaintop

Parish Ministers from across the diocese are invited to attend a day, centered around aspects of service as part of the "extraordinary mission" of our discipleship!

Jennifer Housel and Katy Windels from the Office for Parish Life will guide participants through practical ways for growing in service to others.

Though few of us would disagree that service is a cornerstone of our faith, how often have we focused on the importance of participating in service as a family? Explore the unique significance and multiple benefits of families serving together. Many ideas for family service projects will be provided.

In addition, Katy Windels will address service "at home," in our local communities and the larger global impact of our ministry to others.

For more information, contact Kitty Scanlan at 570-207-2213.

To register, visit dioceseofscranton.org.

“Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World”

“Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World” is the theme chosen by Pope Francis for the Extraordinary Mission Month. Awakened the awareness of the *missio ad gentes*, and reinvigorating the sense of responsibility for proclaiming the Gospel with new enthusiasm, are themes that combine the pastoral concern of Pope Benedict XVI in his Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud*, published 544 years ago, with the missionary vitality expressed by Pope Francis in his recent Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*: “Missionary action is the paradigm of every work of the Church.” (EG 15) There are four dimensions, specified by the Pope, to live more intensely the journey of preparation for the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019:



1. A personal encounter with Jesus Christ alive in His Church through the Eucharist, the Word of God, personal and communal prayer;
2. Testimony: missionary saints, martyrs and confessors of the faith, as an expression of the Church scattered throughout the world;
3. Missionary formation: biblical, catechetical, spiritual and theological;
4. Missionary charity.

To commemorate this unique month of prayer, renewal and learning, the four episcopal regions of our Diocese will host **evenings of worship and renewal with the celebration of Mass and a time for reflection afterwards**. Fr. Brian J.T. Clarke, Diocesan Director of Pontifical Mission Societies, will serve as the principal celebrant and homilist at these Masses, and will deliver a talk during a time of fellowship after these Masses. Please join us on the following dates and locations as we celebrate the mission that God has given to us:

Wednesday, October 9 at 6:00pm—St. Ignatius Loyola Parish, Kingston

Wednesday, October 16 at 6:00pm—Christ the King Parish, Archbald

Wednesday, October 23 at 6:00pm—Resurrection Parish, Muncy

Wednesday, October 30, at 6:00pm—Our Lady of Victory Parish, Tannersville

OPL TEAM MEMBERS

Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life: **Catherine Jantsch Butel**

Director for WORD and Lifelong Faith Formation: **Jacki Douglas**

Coordinator for Youth/Young Adult Ministry: **Shannon Kowalski**

Director for WORSHIP: **David Baloga**

Coordinator for SERVICE and Social Justice: **Katy Windels**

Coordinator for Pilgrimages: **Fr. Andrew Hvozdic**

Director for COMMUNITY and Family Development: **Jen Housel**

Coordinator for Ecumenical/Interfaith Relations: **Msgr. Vincent Grimalia**

Coordinator for Lay Ministry Formation: **Kitty Scanlan**

Coordinator for Pastoral Council Development: **Ann Marie Cawley**

Coordinator for Parish Cultural Integration: **Luis Rivera, OFS**

Events Coordinator, Diocesan Pastoral Center: **Bridget Purcell**

Receptionist: **Jennifer Andres** Administrative Assistant: **Diane Franklin**

Office Manager: **Marge Kosmahl**



Office for Parish Life
330 Wyoming Ave.
Scranton, PA 18503
phone: 570-207-2213
fax: 570-207-2204

oplgeneral@dioceseofscranton.org
www.dioceseofscranton.org



SUBSCRIBE