



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

May 16, 2024

**Two seminarians to be ordained to
the Diaconate May 25**

Diaconate Ordination



Thomas J. Dzwonczyk



Andrew T. McCarroll

Saturday, May 25 at 10:00 a.m.
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton



Mass to be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton
and livestream on YouTube, Diocese of Scranton website & Diocesan social media

With their Diaconate Ordination just days away, both Andrew McCarroll and Tom Dzwonczyk have had many people congratulating them about their “big day.”

Both men are quick to say the Ordination Mass, planned for May 25, is not about them.

“It is not my big day. It is the church’s big day. Everything that is happening is affirming the ministry that I’m doing for them,” McCarroll said. “I’m being ordained for the people, for service to them. That is an image that is very profound to me as I’m preparing these next few days.”

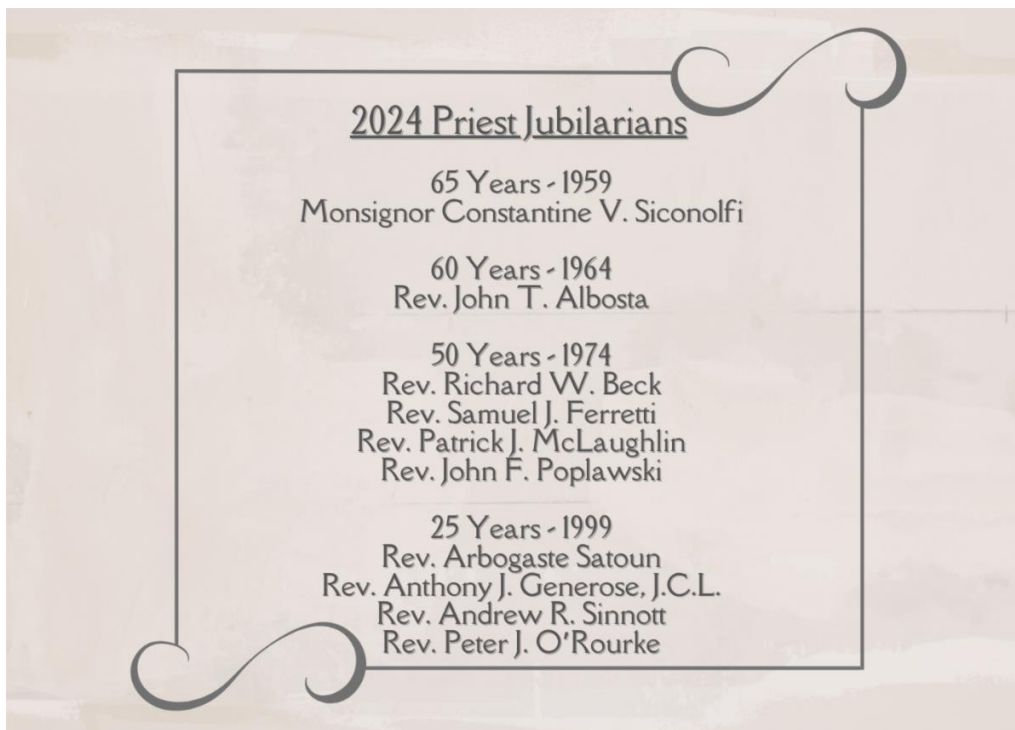
“It is not about anything we’ve done. It’s about the Lord and what He is doing through me and through everyone He is calling,” Dzwonczyk added. “It is 100-percent about God and what he is doing in his Church.”

Dzwonczyk and McCarroll will begin the final step in their formation for the priesthood when they are ordained to the transitional diaconate by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, on May 25 at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

All are welcome to attend and participate in the celebration.

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**Bishop Bambera to honor 2024 Priest Jubilarians at
June 6 Cathedral Mass**



Ten priests who are celebrating milestone anniversaries of their ordination year will be recognized during the 2024 Mass for Priest Jubilarians at 12:10 p.m. on Thursday, June 6, 2024, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as principal celebrant and homilist. During the Mass, the bishop will recognize a combined 425 years of service to the priesthood.

Monsignor Constantine V. Siconolfi will be recognized for 65 years of priestly service. Ordained on May 23, 1959, he has served many parish communities, and founded Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen, which has served free daily meals to the needy of the Scranton area since 1978.

In addition to Msgr. Siconolfi, priests who are celebrating 60, 50 and 25 year ordination anniversaries will be honored at the Mass.

The 2024 Mass for Priest Jubilarians will be broadcast live by CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and will be available for viewing on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel, and social media platforms.

[Click Here to Read this Information on the Diocese of Scranton Website](#)

Saint Ann Novena to celebrate 100 years of prayer and devotion this summer



Father Richard Burke, C.P., Rector of Saint Ann's Passionist Monastery and Director of Saint Ann's Shrine Basilica, announces that the 100th Anniversary of the Solemn Novena to Saint Ann will take place July 17-26, 2024.

The novena is a period of nine days of special Eucharists, devotions, and preaching of the Word of God in West Scranton. These nine days build toward the celebration of the Feast of Saint Ann and Saint Joachim on the tenth day, July 26. Our special Passionist preachers this year will be Father Justin Nelson Alphonse, C.P., Pastor of Saint Agnes Passionist Parish in Louisville, KY, and Father Luis Daniel Guivas Gerena, C.P., Administrator of Saint Gemma Passionist Parish in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Father Richard said the centenary of the Novena has inspired special outreach to the growing Hispanic Catholic community in the Diocese of Scranton and surrounding dioceses. The Novena will have a Eucharist and Novena service in Spanish at 7:30 p.m. each evening from July 17-25. The faithful will celebrate the Feast of Saint Ann in Spanish on Thursday, July 25, at 7:30 p.m. with Passionist Bishop Neil Tiedemann, C.P., D.D. as celebrant.

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Mother's Day Adoption Mass held at Cathedral of Saint Peter



The Diocese of Scranton held its annual Mother's Day Adoption Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on May 12, 2024.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant and homilist.

“I love this Mass. I get very emotional every year I attend,” Tamara Hall, Director of Maternity and Family Services at Saint Joseph’s Center, said. “We have a strong following of adoptive families that bring their families to this Mass and I have the privilege of seeing them grow up.”

The Mass recognized all mothers – including foster mothers, adoptive mothers, birth mothers and those who fill a “motherly” role.

[Click Here to View a Photo Album from the Mother's Day Mass at the Cathedral](#)

Lycoming County Young Adults hold silent retreat



On Saturday May 11, 2024, the Lycoming County Catholic Young Adults Group hosted a silent retreat at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Bastress.

The day was filled with presentations by Fr. Bert Kozen and the Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth on Meeting Christ through Mary, as well as periods of silence for reflection and prayer.

The day ended with a Tazié mass and fellowship.

For anyone interested, the Lycoming County Catholic Young Adults Group meets every Wednesday at 7:00pm in the St. Joseph the Worker Administration Building in Williamsport.

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Proclaiming Holy Year, Pope Francis says it is time to strengthen and share 'hope'



“The time has come for a new Jubilee when once more the Holy Door will be flung open to invite everyone to an intense experience of the love of God that awakens in hearts the sure hope of salvation in Christ,” Pope Francis said in a document formally proclaiming the Holy Year 2025.

Christians must “abound in hope” to be credible witnesses of God’s love, he wrote, and they can give signs of that hope by having children, welcoming migrants, visiting prisoners, working for peace, opposing the death penalty, helping young people find a job, pressuring rich countries to forgive the debt of poor countries, praying for the souls in purgatory and lobbying to divert money from military spending to food aid.

The document, called a “bull of indiction,” specifies that the holy year will open at the Vatican Dec. 24 this year and close Jan. 6, 2026, the feast of Epiphany. Pope Francis also asked bishops around the world to inaugurate the Holy Year in their dioceses Dec. 29 this year and celebrate the conclusion of the Jubilee locally Dec. 28, 2025.

[Read the Full Story from Catholic News Service](#)

Proposed abortion ballot measures in several states
move closer to qualifying for November



Abortion advocates in at least 15 states are seeking to qualify ballot measures for November that would enshrine abortion protections in law or their state constitutions, and some efforts recently got a step closer.

Maryland and Florida will have efforts to enshrine abortion protections in their state constitutions on the ballot. A comparable effort in New York was tossed off the ballot — for now — when it was blocked May 7 by a judge who found that state lawmakers failed to follow procedural rules for passing constitutional amendments. Supporters plan to appeal. Abortion is legal in the Empire State through 24 weeks but with broad exceptions after that point.

Maryland’s Catholic bishops issued a statement May 8 objecting to the November 2024 ballot measure in that state. “This is an important time for us to reiterate our commitment to the protection of all human life,” they said. “We oppose the ‘Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment’ as it contradicts the fundamental principles of respect for human dignity and the inherent right to life.”

[Read the Full Story from Our Sunday Visitor](#)

Don't antagonize the elderly, pope says in Grandparent's Day message



The elderly must not be accused of saddling younger generations with their medical expenses and pensions — a notion which foments intergenerational conflict and drives older people into isolation, Pope Francis said.

“The accusation that the elderly ‘rob the young of their future’ is nowadays present everywhere,” the pope wrote in his message for World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly, a church celebration that will take place July 28.

Even in the most advanced and modern societies “there is now a widespread conviction that the elderly are burdening the young with the high cost of the social services that they require, and in this way are diverting resources from the development of the community and thus from the young,” he wrote in the message released May 14.

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Pope again calls for full prisoner exchange between Russia and Ukraine



Pope Francis reiterated the Vatican's willingness to aid in a comprehensive prisoner swap between Russia and Ukraine.

“I renew my appeal for a general exchange of all the prisoners between Russia and Ukraine, assuring the willingness of the Holy See to favor any effort in this regard, especially for those who are gravely injured and ill,” he said after praying the “Regina Coeli” in St. Peter’s Square May 12.

In February, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said more than 3,000 Ukrainian prisoners of war had been freed from Russian captivity, and the United Arab Emirates mediated an exchange of 100 prisoners between Russia and Ukraine that same month.

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Diocese of Scranton
300 Wyoming Avenue,
Scranton, PA 18503-1279
(570) 207-2238
www.dioceseofscranton.org