



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

May 23, 2024

National Eucharistic Pilgrimage's eastern route kicks off: 'We walk together as the Body of Christ'



Under a cold drizzle, scores of Catholics in New Haven sang and prayed while following the Eucharistic Jesus in procession. This May 18 display of faith marked the first Eucharistic procession of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage's eastern route.

"It shows our commitment as Christians to our love for Jesus Christ," Jonathan Santillo, who participated in the solemn procession with the Knights of Columbus, told OSV News.

Similar kickoff celebrations took place at the pilgrimage's other three launch points in Brownsville, Texas; San Francisco; and Northern Minnesota. Pilgrims from points north, south, east and west are traveling with the Eucharist for the next eight weeks on their way to the National Eucharistic Congress, scheduled for July 17-21, 2024, in Indianapolis.

The eastern route is named after St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first American-born saint to be canonized by the Catholic Church.

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Two seminarians to be ordained to the Diaconate May 25



In just 48 hours, Thomas J. Dzwonczyk and Andrew T. McCarroll will be ordained to the Diaconate for the Diocese of Scranton.

The two seminarians will be ordained as Transitional Deacons - beginning the final step in their formation for the priesthood - which usually takes place the following year.

The faithful are invited and highly encouraged to attend the Ordination Mass, which will take place at 10 a.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on Saturday, May 25, 2024.

For those unable to attend in person, CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton will broadcast the Ordination Mass live and provide a livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube and across all Diocesan social media platforms.

To hear more from Dzwonczyk and McCarroll, click the thumbnail above to watch their recent interview on "Our Faith, Our Diocese," the monthly news program from the Diocese of Scranton.

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Bradford County parish celebrates retirement of long-time office administrator



The Parish Council of SS. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Towanda, along with current pastor Father Jose Kuriappilly and former pastor, Father Ed Michelini, recognized the retirement of Mary Pfeffer, office administrator of the parish.

Mary Pfeffer and her husband, George Rogers, were thanked for their faithfulness to the church, willingness to go above and beyond and for their compassion and kindness shown toward parishioners.

A dinner celebration was held at the Wildfire Grill on May 9, 2024, with council spouses in attendance.

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**Pope recognizes miracle needed for church's first
'millennial' saint**



Pope Francis formally recognized a miracle attributed to the intercession of Blessed Carlo Acutis, a 15-year-old Italian teenager whose birth in 1991 will make him the first “millennial” to become a saint.

In a meeting May 23 with Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, prefect of the Dicastery for Saints’ Causes, the pope signed decrees advancing the sainthood causes of Blessed Acutis, as well as one woman, and six men.

The Vatican announced May 23 that the pope had signed the decrees and that he would convene a consistory to set a date for the canonization of Acutis and other future saints: Blesseds Giuseppe Allamano; Marie-Léonie Paradis of Québec, Canada; Elena Guerra; and eight Franciscan friars and three Maronite laymen who were martyred in Damascus, Syria, in 1860.

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Pope will send Cardinal Tagle as special envoy to National Eucharistic Congress



Pope Francis will send Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle as his special envoy to the U.S. Catholic Church's 10th National Eucharistic Congress July 17-21 in Indianapolis, and the cardinal will celebrate the congress's closing Mass.

Cardinal Tagle is pro-prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization's Section for First Evangelization and New Particular Churches.

The appointment, announced May 18, is "a gift to the Eucharistic Congress," said Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

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Vatican publishes new norms to discern alleged supernatural phenomena



The Vatican has published new norms for the church to discern alleged supernatural phenomena, such as Marian apparitions and mystical visions, which streamline the discernment process for bishops, allow the Vatican to avoid making definitive judgments on the authenticity of the events and reaffirm that Catholics are not obliged to believe in the purported phenomena.

In the document released May 17, Cardinal Víctor Manuel Fernández, prefect of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, laid out six possible conclusions that can be reached when discerning a possible supernatural phenomenon, ranging from a declaration that an event is not of supernatural origin to authorizing and promoting piety and devotion associated with a phenomenon without affirming its divine nature.

The significant development in the text, signed by Pope Francis, is that “as a rule, neither the Diocesan Bishop, nor the Episcopal Conferences, nor the Dicastery will declare that these phenomena are of supernatural origin,” though “the Holy Father can authorize a special procedure in this regard.”

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U.S. Bishops sue EEOC over regulation adding abortion to pregnant worker protections



The U.S. Catholic bishops' conference, alongside other Catholic groups, filed suit May 22 against a federal agency for including abortion in regulations implementing a law meant to add workplace protections for pregnant workers.

Final regulations for the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, issued by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in April, grant workers protections for time off and other job accommodations for pregnancy-related medical conditions such as miscarriage, stillbirth and lactation — but also for abortion, which was opposed by many of the bill's supporters, including the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Chieko Noguchi, USCCB spokeswoman, told OSV News May 23 that the conference “enthusiastically supported passage of this law, because it had nothing to do with abortion.”

The conference, Noguchi said, supported the legislation’s “reasonable accommodations and things like paid time off and modified work schedules.”

“We supported that because we believe it’s important to help protect the well-being of expectant mothers and their preborn children,” she added.

“But the EEOC, which is an unelected federal agency, hijacked the law, which doesn’t mention abortion at all,” she said, adding the EEOC’s regulation is “mandating that employers accommodate employee abortions.”

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Pew study shows support for legal abortion growing 2 years after Dobbs



Nearly two years after the Supreme Court overturned its 1973 Roe v. Wade decision making abortion a constitutional right, a majority of Americans

said they support legal abortion in all or most cases, according to a new study from the Pew Research Center.

The Supreme Court issued its ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* on June 24, 2022, in a case involving a Mississippi law banning abortion after 15 weeks, where the state directly challenged the high court's previous abortion-related precedents in *Roe v. Wade* and the 1992 *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* decision. The Supreme Court ultimately overturned its own prior rulings, undoing nearly a half-century of its own precedent that held abortion was a constitutional right and returning the issue to the legislature. In the two years since that ruling, individual states have moved to either restrict abortion or expand access to it.

The study found that a majority — 63% — of Americans said abortion should be legal in all or most cases, an increase of four percentage points from 2021, the year prior to the *Dobbs* ruling. That includes 59% of Catholics surveyed.

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Synodality must become 'paradigm' for dioceses, pope tells bishops



The Catholic Church's synodal path, the church-wide listening and dialogue process currently approaching its second assembly in October, must become a model for all Catholic dioceses and parishes, Pope Francis said.

Opening the general assembly of the Italian bishops' conference in the Vatican synod hall May 20, the pope spent an hour and a half answering questions posed to him by some 200 bishops on global issues, from migration to rising antisemitism, as well as problems within the church such as falling vocation rates and the merging of dioceses, according to reports by Italian Catholic media.

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