



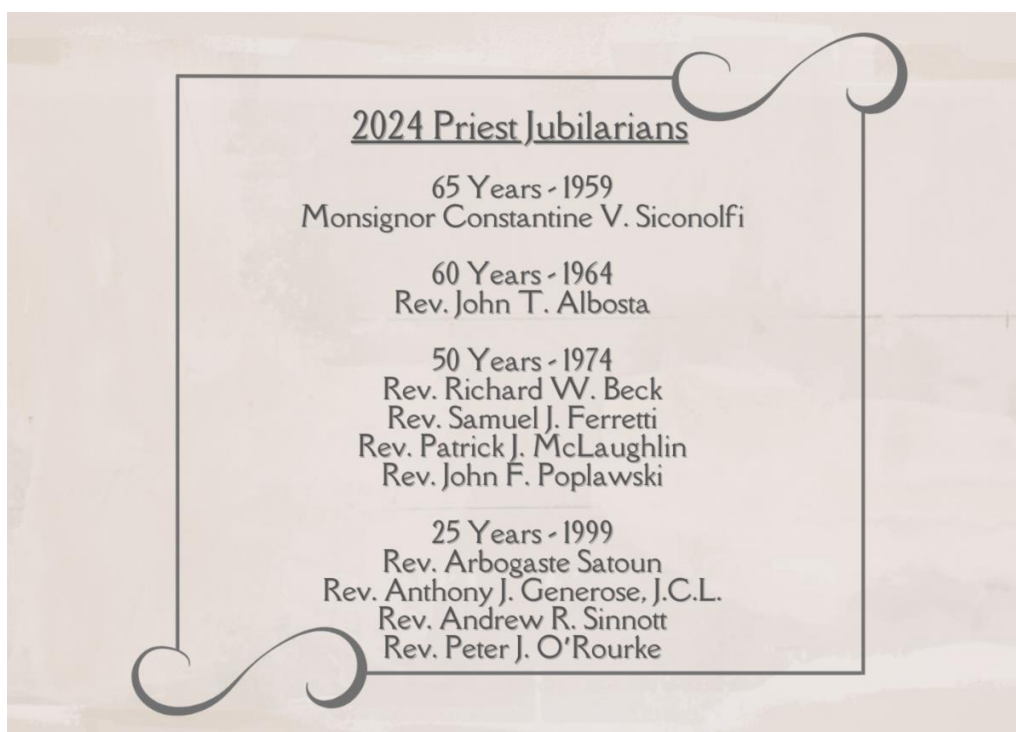
The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

May 30, 2024

Bishop Bambera to recognize 425 years of priestly service at Mass for Priest Jubilarians on June 6



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 the Full Story from The Catholic Light](#)

Hundreds attend joyful Ordination Mass for two Transitional Deacons



Hundreds of people filled the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on May 25, 2024, as seminarians Thomas Dzwonczyk and Andrew McCarroll took a major step forward in their path to the priesthood by being ordained as Deacons.

The two young men were all smiles as the Mass concluded, thanking all of their family, friends and fellow parishioners who have helped them discern their vocation to this point.

"I want to say thank you to the entire diocese - our priests, our deacons, our bishop, all the lay ministers and especially the People of God who have been supporting us and praying for us and who are here for us, so that we can be great ministers for them," McCarroll said following the Mass.

"I can't reiterate enough the words 'thank you' - to all the people who have been praying for me, who have sent me well wishes, texts, late last night and early this morning, cards. I'm just so overwhelmed by the support. I wouldn't be here without them," Dzwonczyk added.

Both men reflected on the Ordination Mass in interviews with *The Catholic Light*, which you can see highlights of by clicking the thumbnail

above. You can also view a Photo Album from the Ordination Mass by clicking the link below.

[Click Here to View a Photo Album from the 2024 Diaconate Ordination Mass](#)

Peckville parish holds Baccalaureate Mass for graduating seniors



A Baccalaureate Mass was held on Sunday, May 19 (Pentecost) at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Peckville.

High school seniors from Valley View, Mid-Valley, Holy Cross, Scranton Prep, and Lakeland received a special blessing as they celebrate their accomplishments and transition to a new chapter of life.

The Pastor, Fr. Andy Kurovsky was assisted by Deacon Jerry Carpenter of Queen of Angels Parish, Jessup. The soon-to-be graduates participated as lectors, cantors, choir, presentation of the gifts, and collection volunteers.

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His lifelong dream was to be a saint, Blessed Carlo Acutis' mother says



While many Catholics around the world rejoiced upon hearing the news that Pope Francis had approved a second miracle attributed to Blessed Carlo Acutis, none was happier than his mother, Antonia Salzano.

“We were very happy, of course, as you can imagine,” Salzano said in a telephone interview with OSV News May 24. “It was great news because we were waiting for this declaration — especially for all the devotees he has around the world.”

Yet for her, the approval of the miracle “was a big sign of hope because through (Carlo’s) example, he gave witness to values that are for everybody; not just for (believers), but for nonbelievers, like helping the poor, human respect, the love for nature, love for the environment.”

It’s also the fulfillment of the teen’s lifelong dream of becoming a saint, which he had expressed since he was a boy, she said.

“He always said, ‘I want to please God,’” Salzano told OSV News. “When he did his first holy Communion — when he was 7 years old — he wrote,

‘To be united with God: this is my life program.’ And he maintained this promise all his life until the end, until his death.”

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Wyoming Valley Catholic Youth Center to host 24x24 Swim Endurance Challenge on June 6 & 7



On June 6 & 7, the Diocese of Scranton will once again participate in [#NEPAGives Day](#).

One of the causes that you can support is the [Wyoming Valley Catholic Youth Center](#) in Wilkes-Barre - which will hold its second annual 24x24 Swim Endurance Challenge.

Supporters of the CYC will take to the pool for the entire length of the [#NEPAGives Day](#) (7 p.m. on June 6 until 7 p.m. on June 7) - in an effort to raise money for renovations to the CYC pool area.

There will be a full roster of relay swimmers looking to swim 24 miles in 24 hours. We will share more information on how to donate and support the cause as NEPA Gives Day 2024 approaches!

Synod report for U.S. shows growth, tensions and 'deep desire to rebuild' the Body of Christ



Growth, undeniable tensions and “a deep desire to rebuild and strengthen” the body of Christ have emerged as key themes in the latest synod report for the Catholic Church in the U.S.

Released by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops May 28, the “National Synthesis of the People of God in the United States of America for the Interim Stage of the 2021-2024 Synod” summarizes responses from more than 35,000 participants and over 1,000 listening sessions, with 76% of the nation’s dioceses and eparchies submitting reports to the U.S. synod team.

In addition, over 350 people met in some 15 listening sessions that focused on church life, social justice and vocations, while U.S. bishops also met for a synod listening session.

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Over Memorial Day Weekend, Eucharistic Pilgrimage includes NY Blessings, massive Minnesota procession



Almost halfway across the Brooklyn Bridge toward Manhattan May 26, “amazing” was the only word Riya D’Souza-Pereira could come up with to describe the scene around her of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage.

“I don’t have words to say, but it’s giving me goosebumps just that they’re coming there and we’re coming to meet our Lord over here and from here it goes ahead,” D’Souza-Pereira said. “It’s just amazing.”

D’Souza-Pereira was referring to hundreds of pilgrims from the Archdiocese of New York and Diocese of Brooklyn converging on the Brooklyn Bridge that afternoon, where New York Auxiliary Bishop

Gerardo J. Colacicco and Bishop Robert J. Brennan of Brooklyn met for benediction before Eucharist continued in the monstrance into Brooklyn.

The major liturgical event was a high point for the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, which launched the week before from California, Connecticut, Minnesota and Texas. Groups of young adults known as “perpetual pilgrims” walking the four routes with the Eucharist are tacking toward Indianapolis, where they will converge for the National Eucharistic Congress July 17-21.

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

Pope encourages young priests to rely on each other in times of crisis



The first years of priesthood are challenging, and the best way to survive and thrive is through closeness to God, to one’s bishop, one’s fellow priests and to one’s parishioners, Pope Francis told priests who have been ordained less than 10 years.

“One never comes out of a crisis alone,” the pope told them, according to the Vatican press office.

Pope Francis held a closed-door meeting May 29 with about 90 priests working in the Diocese of Rome who have been ordained since 2014; they included priests who were ordained for the diocese in April.

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

Catholic Relief Services official says agency has been unable to get aid to southern Gaza Strip since May 6



As tensions and the number of victims mount in southern Gaza Strip, Catholic Relief Services said it has not been able to get humanitarian aid through to the southern Gaza Strip since May 6 and it no longer has any supplies left in its warehouses in that area, said Jason Knapp, CRS country director for Jerusalem, West Bank and Gaza.

Knapp also called for all crossings into Gaza to be opened for humanitarian aid.

CRS carries out the work of the U.S. bishops to assist the poor and vulnerable worldwide who live in extreme poverty, war zones or who have suffered natural disasters.

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