



# *The Catholic Light*

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

**Weekly E-Newsletter**

**June 13, 2024**

**Bishop to ordain Honesdale native to the  
Priesthood on June 29**

## **Priesthood Ordination Mass**

*of* **William A. Asinari**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 29 at 10:00 a.m.  
Saint John the Evangelist Church, Honesdale**

**Broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television and livestream on the  
Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel and Facebook**



As a young boy, William Asinari can clearly recall many of the formative moments that were forged in his home parish – the faith community of Saint John the Evangelist in Wayne County.

“I remember sitting in Saint John the Evangelist Church, looking up from the pews, and seeing one of the priests at the time approaching the altar and there was this unexplainable desire that just shot through me,” he said.

“I said, ‘I want to do that, I don’t know why, but I want to do that.’”

It took him years to realize that God was calling him to the priesthood.

“It’s a feeling that I have not felt with anything else,” Asinari said. “I just associated the priesthood with that feeling and then as I developed more spiritually, I realized that God was pointing me in a direction.”

When his parish priest would give homilies on vocations to the priesthood, Asinari also found encouragement from the “little old ladies” of Saint John the Evangelist Parish, who would turn to him and say “you, you!”

“God has written this amazing story and allowed me to play in it and I’m profoundly grateful,” he explained.

On Saturday, June 29, 2024, Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will ordain Reverend Mr. William A. Asinari to the Order of the Priesthood for service in the Diocese of Scranton.

Saint John the Evangelist Church, 150 Terrace Street, Honesdale, will be the setting for the Ordination Mass at 10:00 a.m.

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend the Ordination Mass.

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**Diocesan Annual Appeal hits \$4 million raised of \$4.5 million goal**



OUR CALL TO  
**SERVE**

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

With just two weeks left in this year's Diocesan Annual Appeal campaign, more than \$4 million of the \$4.5 million goal has been raised.

A total of 46 parishes have reached their goal and many others are at 70-percent or above. Those parishes are listed below, along with the amount needed to reach goal.

The Diocesan Annual Appeal provides critical funding for many important Catholic ministries that assist tens of thousands of people each year, including Catholic Social Services, Catholic Schools, Parish Life initiatives, Catholic Communications and Support for Seminarians and Retired Clergy. The Appeal also funds Social Justice and Faith Formation projects in dozens of parishes each year.

It is not too late to make a gift to the current Diocesan Annual Appeal campaign. To make a gift before June 30, visit [annualappeal.org](http://annualappeal.org) or call the Diocesan Development Office at (570) 207-2250.

[Click Here to Read the Full Story from The Catholic Light and See Which Parishes Are Approaching Goal Right Now](#)

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**'Gratefulness to God for 100 Years of Blessings' will be theme for Solemn Novena to Saint Ann this year**



The Very Reverend Richard Burke, C.P., Rector, Saint Ann's Monastery, has announced the theme for the 100th Anniversary of the Saint Ann's Solemn Novena: "Gratefulness to God for 100 Years of Blessings."

This special time of preaching God's Word and praying for Saint Ann's intercession begins on Wednesday, July 17, and concludes on Friday, July 26, the Feast of Saint Ann.

The first Solemn Novena was held in 1924, when the newly appointed Novena director, Father John Joseph Endler, C.P., planned and initiated this special nine day period of preaching and praying in preparation for the celebration of Saint Ann's feast day.

This spiritual event has taken place every year since.

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**Solemn Novena to Saint Ann to offer Daily Mass  
and Novena service in Spanish this year**



Throughout its 100 years, the Solemn Novena to Saint Ann in West Scranton has reached out to many ethnic groups by inclusion of a Mass or Novena service in their native language.

As part of the Novena's 100th anniversary outreach, Saint Ann's is inviting all those who speak Spanish to join in seeking the intercession of Saint Ann, the Mother of God.

Each evening, July 17 through July 25, the 7:30 p.m. Mass and Novena service will be in Spanish this year.

The community will celebrate Saint Ann's Feast Day in Spanish on Thursday, July 25, at 7:30 p.m. with Bishop Neil Tiedemann, C.P., as our guest celebrant and homilist.

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## Catholic Women's Conference offers reflection, inspiration and fellowship



In a powerful display of faith and fellowship, hundreds of Catholic women from around the Diocese of Scranton and beyond gathered for the annual 'Refresh Your Faith' Catholic Women's Conference at Marywood University on June 8, 2024.

The day-long event featured several speakers, recitation of the Rosary, Eucharistic Adoration, the opportunity for Reconciliation, and Mass celebrated by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton.

"I think it's an opportunity for women to get together and grow deeper in their faith," Laurie Hanley of Saint Vincent de Paul Parish in Dingman Township said.

Hanley moved to Pike County in 2022 and attended the Catholic Women's Conference for the first time last year after reading about it in *The Catholic Light*.

After being very impressed with the event, she volunteered to help with the planning committee this year.

“To be able to have these speakers and talented musicians share their love of God with us is amazing and then we can share that together and we can bring it back to our parishes,” she added

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## Mass for Priest Jubilarians recognizes 425 years of service



Ten priests, who have given 425 years of combined service to the Diocese of Scranton, were recognized for their selfless service on June 6, 2024, at the annual Mass for Priest Jubilarians.

“On behalf of the people of the Diocese of Scranton, I congratulate our jubilarians and I thank them, and all our priests, for their service to the Church and to the Lord Jesus who is its heart,” Bishop Joseph C. Bambera said during his homily. “I thank them for their commitment in joyful moments and in challenging times, I thank them for leading us through change and upheaval to harmony and peace, and I thank them for ever reminding us of God’s presence in our lives, in the great gift of the

Eucharist, in the Word proclaimed, and in the Church, the People of God from among whom every priest is called.”

Monsignor Constantine V. Siconolfi, who was ordained to the priesthood in 1959, was honored for 65 years of service. The Reverend John T. Albosta was recognized for 60 years of spreading the Good News of the Gospel. Priests celebrating 50 year anniversaries included Rev. Richard W. Beck, Rev. Samuel J. Ferretti, Rev. Patrick J. McLaughlin and Rev. John F. Poplawski. The priests ordained in 1999, thus marking 25 years of service, included Rev. Anthony J. Generose, Rev. Arbogaste Satoun, Rev. Andrew R. Sinnott, and Rev. Peter J. O'Rourke.

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## U.S. Catholics urged to promote 'essential right' of religious freedom through prayer, action



“Called to the Fullness of Dignity” is the theme of this year’s Religious Freedom Week of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.



The observance opens June 22, the feast day of Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher, both English martyrs who fought religious persecution. The week ends June 29, the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, and includes the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, which is June 24.

Building on this year's annual report by the USCCB's Committee on Religious Liberty, Religious Freedom Week 2024 highlights concerns about attacks on houses of worship.

"There is no greater threat to religious liberty than for one's house of worship to become a place of danger, and the country sadly finds itself in a place where that danger is real," the committee said in its 48-page report, "The State of Religious Liberty in the United States," issued in January.

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

## Pope thanks priests for faithful, generous dedication to their flock



While Pope Francis often raises warnings against “clericalism” and “spiritual worldliness” in the priesthood, he expressed his deep gratitude and affection for priests and deacons around the world for what he called their generous and faith-filled dedication to their communities.

“I would like first to convey my gratitude, my affection and my closeness to the priests and deacons of the whole world,” he told members and consultants of the Dicastery for Clergy, which was holding its plenary assembly at the Vatican.

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## **Under olive tree planted as a sign of peace, pope begs God to help Holy Land**



Sitting in the Vatican Gardens with the dome of St. Peter’s Basilica as a backdrop, Pope Francis told cardinals and diplomats, including the ambassadors of Israel and Palestine, “Every day I pray that this war will finally end.”

With a representative of Rome's Jewish community and a representative of the city's Muslim community in attendance June 7, the pope repeated his call for a cease-fire, his appeal to Hamas to release all the hostages it kidnapped Oct. 7 and his plea that Israel protect civilians in Gaza and allow humanitarian aid to reach them.

The prayer service marked the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis and Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople praying for peace in the Holy Land with Israeli President Shimon Peres and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas at the same spot in the Vatican Gardens.

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