



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

June 27, 2024

Ahead of Priesthood Ordination Mass Saturday, 'Our Faith, Our Diocese' airs interview with Rev. Mr. William Asinari



On Saturday, June 29, 2024, the 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.

Asinari, a native of Honesdale, was ordained a transitional deacon in 2023. He says he is ready to take his final steps toward priestly ordination.

“Looking back now and seeing the path that God has taken me on, it is beautiful. Everything connects and the more I look back at those experiences that might have been bad, God brought so much good out of it. I can look back and see what used to be thorns are now roses,” he said. “My whole life is a gift that I’m happy to give, I’m humbled to give, especially when looking at the People of God.”

Asinari, 25, is the son of Robert and Cathleen Asinari, and he attended Saint Mary’s Seminary and University in Baltimore.

In preparation of the upcoming Ordination Mass, 'Our Faith, Our Diocese,' the Diocese of Scranton's monthly news program, featured a sit-down interview with Deacon Asinari, to reflect on his path to the priesthood and what he is most looking forward to in this new chapter of his life.

Click the thumbnail above to watch the 'Our Faith, Our Diocese' interview.

[Click Here for More Information on the June 29 Ordination Mass for Rev. Mr. William A. Asinari](#)

More than 50 high school students participate in Quo Vadis & Fiat Days; four seminarians participate in Rite of Candidacy at Marywood Mass



More than 50 high school students from across the Diocese of Scranton came together this week to participate in Quo Vadis Days and Fiat Days at Marywood University in Lackawanna County.

The three-day retreat allowed the young people the opportunity to pray together, enjoy fellowship and more deeply examine how God is calling them to use their individual gifts and talents.

Both the men and women participated in various talks over the course of the three days, including panels on dating and marriage, Christian vocation, and prayer and discernment.

On Wednesday, June 26, 2024, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, visited the attendees and answered questions of the students. He also celebrated a special Mass which included the Rite of Candidacy for four current seminarians.

In welcoming the students to the Mass, Father Alex Roche, Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians, explained the Rite of Candidacy.

"Today, these four men express to the Church that after years of discernment they feel called to further formation to the priesthood and we, as the Church together, affirm that we have determined these men to be good candidates, men who possess the qualities to serve our church," Father Alex explained.

The four men who participated in the Rite of Candidacy, and who are pictured above, left to right are: Cody Yarnall, Jan Carlo Perez, Jacob Mutchler and Jeremy Barket.

Please continue to pray for these four men - as well as all of our young people who might be discerning a vocation to the priesthood or religious life.

We will have more coverage of the Rite of Candidacy in the July 18 edition of The Catholic Light.

[Click Here to View a Photo Album from the Quo Vadis & Fiat Days Mass with the Rite of Candidacy for Four Seminarians](#)

World Refugee Day celebrated in Scranton



The rain did not dampen an annual celebration in Scranton that honors the strength, resilience and courage of refugees throughout the world.

Nay Aug Park in Scranton was filled with people looking to celebrate World Refugee Day on Saturday, June 22, 2024.

Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton - along with many other non-profits in Lackawanna County - help to put on the free event each year.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, and Fikile Ryder, Director of Community for Catholic Social Services, were among the many who welcomed the crowds to the event.

While heavy downpours forced the participants under the park's pavilions at one point, it helped to bring the attendees closer together and allowed them to share their personal stories.

[Click Here to Watch a Video of the World Refugee Day Celebration](#)

Up & Over Middle School Retreat to take place
July 12-14

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

UP & OVER MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT

JULY 12TH-14TH
HOLY TRANSFIGURATION RETREAT CENTER
DALTON | PA
Arrival - 7 PM (Friday, July 12th)
Departure - 11 AM (Sunday, July 14th)



Registration Fee - \$170
includes 5 meals, lodging, retreat materials
and a t-shirt

Register today at www.dioceseofscranton.org

Students in 6th – 8th grade for the 2023-2024 school year are welcome to join us on July 12th-14th at Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center for a weekend of fun, faith, and new friends!

Up & Over is a peer-facilitated retreat that is designed to give participants the skills necessary to get “up and over” the challenges they may face.

Throughout the weekend students will spend time outdoors, meet new friends and learn how your God-given gifts can be used when you work with others as a team! Built into the weekend are opportunities for Mass and Reconciliation. There will also be a number of fun activities and events, including a movie, free time and an outdoor obstacle course.

Come and join us for an outstanding experience! You will have a great time, meet new friends and come closer to God who loves you!

Registration includes lodging, delicious home cooked meals, a t-shirt and unforgettable memories!

[Click Here For More Information or to Register for the Up & Over Middle School Retreat in July](#)

Bishop Bambera announces clergy appointments to take effect July 1



His Excellency, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, announced several clergy appointments that will be effective July 1, 2024.

Click the link below to see the full listing of appointments announced on Tuesday, June 25, 2024.

[Click Here to Read the Clergy Appointments Announced on June 25, 2024](#)

New study says 69% of Mass-goers believe in Real Presence; measuring belief called 'tricky task'



A new study suggests that Catholic belief in the Real Presence may be higher than previous data indicated — but measuring that belief accurately remains a tricky task for researchers.

Regular Mass attendance, however, has emerged as a key factor in determining an individual's belief in the Real Presence.

On June 3, Vinea Research, a Maryland-based market research firm that focuses on the Catholic Church in the U.S., released “Do Catholics Truly Believe in the Real Presence?” — which concluded that 69% of Mass-going Catholics believe in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Higher levels of belief correlated with more frequent Mass attendance, Vinea found.

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

What to expect at the National Eucharistic Congress in July



“I think my heart is going to explode,” said Montse Alvarado, describing the way she expects to feel when she gathers with tens of thousands of Catholics to adore the Eucharist at Indianapolis’ Lucas Oil Stadium in July. “It feels like so much beauty at a moment when our country and our

world is in the midst of war and so much pain, just to see this be our church's response — wow, what a witness.”

The United States' first event of its kind in more than half a century, the National Eucharistic Congress is expected to draw more than 40,000 Catholics July 17-21 for five days of prayer, speakers, liturgies and worship, all centered on Jesus in the Eucharist.

Speakers showcase a “who's who” in Catholic evangelization, including Bishop Robert E. Barron of Winona-Rochester, Minnesota, and founder of Word on Fire; Father Mike Schmitz of the Diocese of Duluth, Minnesota, and host of “The Bible in a Year” podcast; Sister Josephine Garrett, a member of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth and host of the “Hope Stories” podcast; and Jonathan Roumie, who portrays Jesus in “The Chosen.”

The event is the pinnacle of the National Eucharistic Revival, a three-year initiative the U.S. bishops launched on Corpus Christi Sunday in June 2022 to renew Catholics' love for and understanding of Jesus' real presence in the Eucharist.

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

U.S. Church needs culturally sensitive safeguarding training, expert says



The diversity of the Catholic Church in the United States requires that it develop a culturally sensitive approach to preventing abuse, a safeguarding expert said.

Although the U.S. church, like the church in Europe, has structures in place to promote safeguarding to a higher degree than churches with less resources, “there are cultural aspects that need to be taken into account,” Jesuit Father Hans Zollner, president of the Pontifical Gregorian University’s Institute of Anthropology: Interdisciplinary Studies on Human Dignity and Care, said.

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

Pope donates ambulance, opens rehabilitation center in Ukraine



Pope Francis blessed an ambulance filled with medicine and first-aid equipment that will travel some 1,800 miles from the Vatican to support those wounded in Ukraine.

Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, papal almoner, will make his eighth trip into Ukraine to donate the ambulance and medical supplies to a hospital in the country's Ternopil region, the Dicastery for the Charity Services announced June 24. The dicastery's statement was accompanied by a picture of Pope Francis blessing the ambulance.

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

**Parish picnic, bazaar and festival season
underway**



Church picnics, bazaars and festivals are a summertime tradition in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania. They are much more than fundraisers, they bring together communities.

For several years, the Diocese of Scranton's Communications Office has maintained a webpage for all of the summer festivals for parishioners to enjoy.

Parishes are invited to send information regarding their events to info@dioceseofscranton.org and the list will continue to be updated throughout the summer.

[Click Here to See the Full Listing of 2024 Parish Summer Picnics, Festivals and Bazaars that have been submitted to The Catholic Light](#)

HELP US MEET OUR GOAL FOR THE
DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL



[Click Here to Give a Gift to the Diocesan Annual Appeal Now!](#)

Follow Us



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