



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

June 6, 2024

Diocese of Scranton to participate in
NEPA Gives 2024, providing support to
Catholic ministries



Beginning at 7 p.m. tonight, June 6, hundreds of non-profit organizations across northeastern Pennsylvania will join forces in the annual 'Day of Giving' that has become known as NEPA Gives.

For a total of 24 hours, parishioners and friends of the Diocese of Scranton will be given the opportunity to support their favorite Catholic

causes with a donation. Because of the generous support of community organizations, non-profits can have those donations matched or win bonus prizes to further promote their mission.

All of the Diocese of Scranton's 19 Catholic Schools will be participating in NEPA Gives Day, along with the Wyoming Valley Catholic Youth Center, Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen, Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen and several parish projects.

The CYC in Wilkes-Barre will have a special event kicking off tonight at 7 p.m. The facility is hosting its second annual 24x24 Swim Endurance Challenge. Swimmers who rely on, and love the CYC, are planning to swim 24 miles in 24 hours and are looking for supporters to sponsor their efforts.

Please plan to join us on the Diocese of Scranton Facebook Page over the course of the next 24 hours - as we work to highlight some of the important projects that are looking for support. Beginning around 6:45 p.m. tonight, we will have a Facebook Live report from the CYC as the Swim Endurance Challenge gets underway. Then around 8 p.m. tonight, we are planning another Facebook Live report from the Holy Rosary Center in North Scranton which is looking for funding for a new roof.

The fun will continue on Friday evening in the 100-block of Wyoming Avenue in Scranton as a free block party will take place beginning at 5 p.m. Our NEPA Gives ambassador, Father Jim Paisley, will be part of the entertainment on the main stage around 6 p.m. - and we will have snacks, card games and selfies with 'Pope Francis' at the Diocese of Scranton table. If you stop by the diocesan tent, you can also pick up a specialized NEPA Gives candy bar, crafted in honor of this year's Rectory, Set, Cook! top fundraisers/fun-raisers.

Online donations as part of NEPA Gives Day will be accepted from 7 p.m. tonight until 7 p.m. tomorrow (Friday, June 7). We thank you for your consideration and supporting our many worthwhile projects!

[Click Here to Support the Diocese of Scranton on NEPA Gives Day with an Online Donation Beginning at 7 p.m. TONIGHT!](#)

Cathedral cemetery main entrance closes for renovation work; access to cemetery is from Pettibone Street

STARTING JUNE 4, THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF CATHEDRAL CEMETERY IN SCRANTON WILL CLOSE TO BOTH VEHICLES AND PEDESTRIANS FOR RENOVATION WORK

**NO CEMETERY
ACCESS VIA
ORAM STREET**



**CEMETERY ACCESS
WILL BE VIA
PETTIBONE STREET**

Starting on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, the main entrance to Cathedral Cemetery, located in the 1700 block of Oram Street, West Scranton, temporarily closed to both vehicles and pedestrians.

The temporary closure is necessary so that renovation work to the cemetery entrance gates and sidewalks can be completed. The work is expected to be completed, and the main entrance to Cathedral Cemetery reopened, no later than Labor Day weekend.

Cathedral Cemetery will remain open to visitors throughout the duration of the renovation work, however access by both vehicles and pedestrians

will be the alternative entrance on Pettibone Street (adjacent to the green maintenance garage).

The Diocese of Scranton and the staff of Cathedral Cemetery appreciates the understanding of all people avoiding the construction area to ensure the safety of both workers and visitors.

[Read the Full Story on the Diocese of Scranton website](#)

Parishes around the Diocese of Scranton hold Corpus Christi Processions







On the Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi Sunday), many parishes around the Diocese of Scranton held processions in conjunction with the ongoing National Eucharistic Revival.

In the top photo above, after the 9 a.m. Mass, Father Joe Jose Kuriappilly, Pastor, led a procession with the Blessed Sacrament from SS. Peter and Paul Church in Towanda to the Grotto Shrine.

The parishioners returned to the church for Benediction. First Communicants participated in their First Communion outfits. This was a commemoration of Jesus' Last Supper with his Apostles honoring the Lord's presence in the Blessed Sacrament.

In the second photo, Father Paschal Mbagwu, Administrator of Saint Maximilian Koble Parish, Pocono Pines, incenses the Blessed Sacrament outside of the parish after a procession that crossed Route 940 in that community.

In the final photo from the Williamsport area, a Eucharistic Procession through the streets began immediately following the 4 p.m. Vigil Mass at Saint Joseph the Worker Parish. Our Eucharistic Lord was brought in procession roughly 1.5 miles to Saint Boniface Church for Evening Prayer and Benediction.

**Corpus Christi Processions are not a sign of pride
but an invitation, pope says**



When Catholics carry the Eucharist through the streets, “we are not doing this to show off or to flaunt our faith” but to invite others to share in the life that Jesus gives by making himself a gift, Pope Francis said.

“Let’s make the procession in this spirit,” the pope said June 2 in his homily at a Mass for the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ.

Pope Francis presided over the Mass in Rome’s Basilica of St. John Lateran, his cathedral as bishop of Rome. Cardinal Víctor Manuel Fernández, prefect of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, was the main celebrant at the altar.

After Mass, more than 3,000 people – cardinals, bishops, priests, religious, lay members of confraternities and sodalities, Romans and pilgrims – participated in the Corpus Christi procession to the Basilica of St. Mary Major, about a mile away. Rome Auxiliary Bishop Baldo Reina carried the Eucharist under a canopy held aloft by eight men.

Pope Francis, who has difficulty walking and often uses a wheelchair, was driven to St. Mary Major to welcome the procession and lead adoration and Benediction.

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

Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen kicks off 'Sponsor for a Day' campaign



Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre kicked off its annual “Sponsor For A Day” campaign on June 1.

For \$125, one can sponsor the day’s meal at Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen and help provide meals to those in need. The sponsorship can be from oneself, a family, in memory of a loved one, or on behalf of a business.

Sponsors are recognized each day on the “Sponsor For The Day” draw-board in the Kitchen as well as on the Kitchen’s Facebook page. Past sponsors will be receiving letters asking for renewals during the week of June 1-7.

New sponsors may call (570) 829-7796 for more information.

Shown are members of the St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen Advisory Board. First row, from left: Carl Frank, Monsignor John J. Sempa, Board President Chris Bedwick, Alan Stout, Katie Kemmerer. Second row: John Graham, Andy Reno, Tom MacNeely, Kim Cardone, Deacon Bill Behm. Absent from photo: Joseph Frank Jr., Janet Kobylski, Gary Lambert Jr., Jack Nolan, Frank Orloski Jr., Chip Prescott, Sam Rostock, Dr. Dave Shemo, Deb Brezna and Mark Soprano.

[Click Here To View This Information on the Diocese of Scranton Website](#)

Pope Francis preparing document on Sacred Heart of Jesus to renew Church, world



Pope Francis announced that he is preparing a document on the Sacred Heart of Jesus to “illuminate the path of ecclesial renewal, but also to say something significant to a world that seems to have lost its heart.”

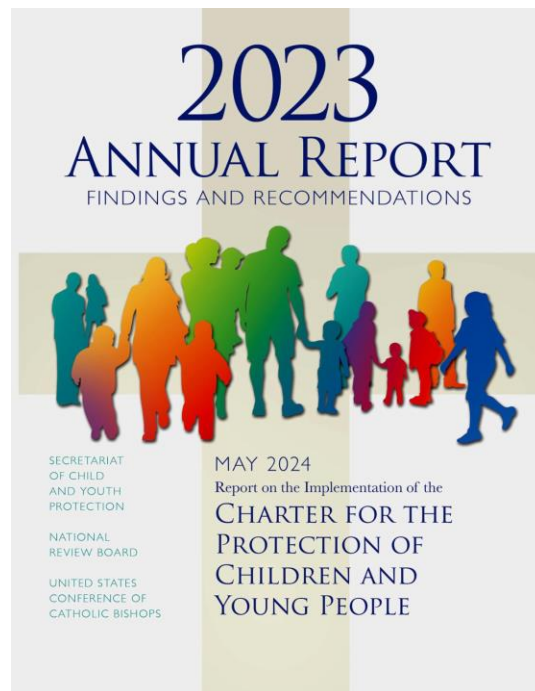
The document is expected to be released in September, he said, and will be part of ongoing celebrations marking the 350th anniversary of the first apparition of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. The celebrations began Dec. 27 and are scheduled to end June 27, 2025.

The pope made the announcement during his general audience in St. Peter's Square June 5. The Catholic Church traditionally dedicates the month of June to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the solemnity of the Sacred Heart will be celebrated June 7 this year.

The document will include reflections from "previous magisterial texts" and it will aim to "re-propose to the whole church this devotion laden with spiritual beauty. I believe it will do us much good to meditate on various aspects of the Lord's love," the pope said.

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

Abuse allegations down, but safe environment 'fatigue' at risk, warns annual Bishops' Report



The U.S. Catholic bishops' latest annual report on child and youth protection shows abuse allegations are down, while safe environment protocols have taken root in the church — but guarding against complacency about abuse prevention is critical, as is providing ongoing support for survivors.

On May 28, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection released the “2023 Annual Report — Findings and Recommendations on the Implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.”

The 2023 report is the twenty-first since the charter was established by the U.S. Catholic bishops in 2002 as a number of clerical abuse scandals emerged. Commonly called the Dallas Charter, the document lays out a comprehensive set of procedures for addressing allegations of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy, and includes guidelines for reconciliation, healing, accountability and prevention of abuse.

Data for the report came from audits conducted by StoneBridge Business Partners, a Rochester, New York-based consulting firm that provides forensic and compliance services to a range of organizations. In addition, the report includes a 2023 survey by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate on allegations and costs related to the abuse of minors.

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

**Biden signs Executive Order temporarily shutting
down asylum requests**



President Joe Biden June 4 signed an executive order aimed at reducing unauthorized border crossings by asylum-seekers. The move was expected and comes as Biden faces increasing political pressure on the issue of migration in the midst of his reelection bid.

Catholic immigration advocates expressed concern about the impact Biden's order could have on asylum-seekers at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, chairman of the Committee on Migration for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said in a statement that the group is "deeply disturbed by this disregard for fundamental humanitarian protections and U.S. asylum law."

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

**U.S. Ambassador to Holy See to step down
in July**



U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See Joe Donnelly will leave his post in July, the embassy announced.

The ambassador will step down from his role and return to his native Indiana on July 8, the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See said in a post on X published May 30.

“It has been an honor and a privilege to serve my country in this unique way,” Donnelly was quoted as saying in the post.

The former Indiana senator assumed his role in Rome in April 2022 when he presented his letters of credential to Pope Francis. His posting coincided with the 40th anniversary of the United States establishing formal diplomatic relations with the Holy See in 1984.

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