



DIOCESE OF SCRANTON  
300 WYOMING AVENUE  
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18503-1279

September 18, 2024

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is with profound joy and gratitude to God that I would like to extend a special invitation to you and your family to join me for an incredibly special event in our Diocese.

On November 16, 2024, I am asking the faithful of our local church to come together to mark a significant milestone: the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Rosary Rally held in the United States by Father Patrick Peyton, which occurred in Scranton in 1949, and brought together approximately 50,000 people.

Father Peyton, known worldwide as the "Rosary Priest," devoted his ministry to spreading devotion to our Blessed Mother and promoting the Rosary as a powerful instrument for peace, strength, and spiritual unity. His motto, "the family that prays together, stays together," still resonates deeply in our hearts and lives.

Over his lifetime, Father Peyton reached ten million people with the help of radio, television, and film. A Cause for Sainthood was officially opened for Father Peyton in 2001, and he is currently named Venerable.

Scranton plays a significant role in the life of Father Peyton. After coming to the United States from Ireland, a young Patrick Peyton first got a job as a janitor in our local Cathedral. It was while working in our Cathedral that he truly experienced a sense of being at home and happiness talking to Our Lord and Our Blessed Mother.

With such a milestone year upon us – it is only fitting that we come together to commemorate the ministry and mission of Father Peyton. I believe it will be a wonderful opportunity for many to rekindle a devotion to the Rosary, to pray for our families, our community, and our world, and to celebrate the enduring spirit of Father Peyton's ministry.

Our large Diocesan Rosary Rally will take place on November 16 at 1:30 p.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter – but there will be many other activities taking place that day in Scranton in which to participate.

I am also asking that every parish in the Diocese of Scranton join in this effort in the weeks leading up to this event by participating in a Diocesan Rosary Crusade, which might include holding a Holy Hour for an increase in family prayer, celebrating a Mass for an increase in family prayer and encouraging families to pledge to pray the rosary.

More information on both the Rosary Rally on November 16 and ways for parishes to participate can be found at [ScrantonPrays.com](http://ScrantonPrays.com) or [DioceseofScranton.org](http://DioceseofScranton.org).

Please join me in making this effort successful by inviting your family, friends, and others to partake in this occasion of grace and unity. Together, let us honor Father Peyton's legacy by embracing his vision of a united, praying community.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.  
Bishop of Scranton