



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

February 13, 2025

"Upholding the Dignity of All"

*A Message on Immigration from the Most Rev.
Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton*



On Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, released a message to the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton in regard to immigration issues in the United States.

To read Bishop Bambera's message, in both English and Spanish, please click on the corresponding link below.

[Click Here to Read "Upholding the Dignity of All:" A Message on Immigration from the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton](#)

Pope to U.S.: Migration policies built on force, not truth, 'will end badly'



Pope Francis has urged U.S. Catholics and people of goodwill to not give in to "narratives" that discriminate against and cause unnecessary suffering to migrants and refugees.

"I recognize your valuable efforts, dear brother bishops of the United States, as you work closely with migrants and refugees, proclaiming Jesus Christ and promoting fundamental human rights," he said in a letter to the U.S. bishops published by the Vatican Feb. 11.

Pope Francis said he was writing because of "the major crisis that is taking place in the United States" with the start of President Donald J. Trump's "program of mass deportations."

In his presidential executive order, "Protecting the American people against invasion," released Jan. 20, Trump said, "Many of these aliens unlawfully within the United States present significant threats to national security and public safety, committing vile and heinous acts against innocent Americans."

Pope Francis said, "The rightly formed conscience cannot fail to make a critical judgment and express its disagreement with any measure that tacitly or explicitly identifies the illegal status of some migrants with criminality."

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

Mass for Persons with Disabilities held at Cathedral of Saint Peter



Despite a snowstorm late Saturday night into early Sunday morning, the Diocese of Scranton still celebrated its annual Mass for Persons with Disabilities on Feb. 9 at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant and homilist for the Mass, which is held in advance of National Disability Awareness Month in March.

"My brothers and sisters with disabilities, more than you realize, your unwavering trust in God and your example of acceptance, forgiveness, gratitude and selfless love provide us all with priceless lessons for how best to live as disciples of Jesus," Bishop Bambera said during his homily. "Simply put, you teach us that like Isaiah, Paul and Peter, we are all a part of God's plan. Each of us is treasured by God, for being just the way we are. And each of us is more than well equipped to give witness to God's merciful presence among us and to bring hope and peace to our corner of God's world."

Partners in the annual Mass for Persons with Disabilities include Saint Joseph's Center in Scranton and the Order of the Alhambra.

[Click Here to Read Bishop Bambera's Homily from the Mass for Persons with Disabilities 2025](#)

[Click Here to View a Photo Album from the Mass for Persons with Disabilities 2025](#)

**Scranton High School hosts annual basketball
tournament to benefit St. Francis of Assisi
Kitchen**



The Scranton High School Athletic Department conducted the 12th Annual Donald J. Wolff Freshman Basketball Tournament over the recent holiday.

All proceeds were donated to the Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen in Scranton. A check presentation of \$850 is shown above.

Involved in the charitable effort, from left: Event Organizer/Volunteer Referee Tim Wolff; St. Francis Kitchen Executive Director Rob Williams; Scranton High Student Volunteers Zahir Kennedy, Henry Bartlebaugh, Connor Thomas, Carter Tomczyk; and Event Organizer/SHS Athletic Director Ted Anderson.

[Click Here to Share This Information from the Diocese of Scranton Website](#)

Knights of Columbus and St. Joseph's Parish celebrate 115th anniversary of Boy Scouts



The Knights of Columbus John Paul II Council 13935 and St. Joseph's Parish in Milford welcomed scouts from the Hudson Delaware Council for a special Scout Mass in honor of the 115th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America.

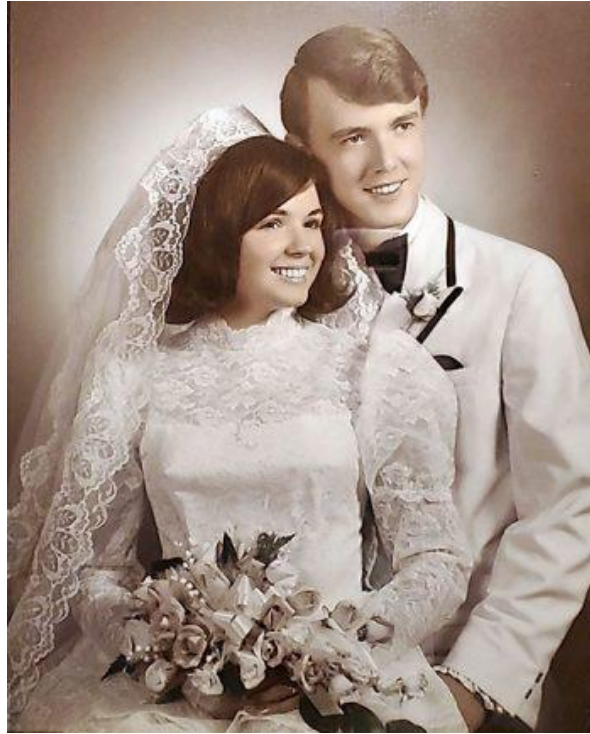
The Mass, held at St. Joseph's Church, was a tribute to the values of leadership, service, and faith that Scouting fosters in young people.

During his homily, Fr. Joseph Manurchuck reflected on the Scout Oath as a representation of Christian virtues, emphasizing the commitment to duty, honor, and service to God and others. He encouraged the scouts to live out these principles in their daily lives, mirroring the Gospel call to discipleship.

Following the Mass, the Knights of Columbus hosted a pancake breakfast for the scouts and their families, fostering fellowship and community spirit.

[Click Here to Read the Full Story from The Catholic Light](#)

Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass to be held June 1



Every summer, the Diocese of Scranton holds a Wedding Anniversary Celebration for couples celebrating their 25th and 50th years of marriage in the Cathedral of Saint Peter, where couples renew their wedding commitment.

This year's Mass will be held on June 1, 2025, at 2:30 p.m.

Mark your calendar if you are celebrating your 25th or 50th Anniversary in 2025, or share this news with others who may be doing so. Stay tuned for additional information about this year's Wedding Anniversary Mass.

For more information, please call Bridget Guarnieri, Program Coordinator, Family Life at 570-207-2213 x 1133 or email here at familylife@dioceseofscranton.org

[Click Here to Share this Information from the Diocese of Scranton website](#)

**Vocations Office to hold retreat for men
discerning the priesthood next month**

Diocese of Scranton
VOCATIONS



EZRA 10:4

**A RETREAT FOR MEN DISCERNING THE
PRIESTHOOD**

Rev. Alex Roche



Holy Family Spiritual Renewal Center, Nanticoke

Hosted by the Diocese of Scranton Vocations Office

MARCH 21-22, 2025

The Diocese of Scranton Vocations Office is hosting its *Ezra 10:4 Retreat* for men discerning the priesthood March 21-22 at Holy Family Spiritual Renewal Center in Nanticoke.

This preached retreat, named after the Book of Ezra verse that says, “Rise, then, for this is your duty! We are with you, so have courage and act!” is led by Fr. Alex Roche, Diocesan Secretary for Clergy Formation, Vocation Director, and Director of Seminarians.

Men 18+ who are interested in discerning a vocation to priesthood are invited to attend. For those who have come to the Ezra 10:4 Retreat before, brand new talks and discussion will be offered, so you are encouraged to come again!

[Click Here for More Information on the Ezra 10:4 Retreat in March](#)

Pope adds Feast Day of St. Teresa of Kolkata to universal calendar



Pope Francis has added the feast day of St. Teresa of Kolkata, a “beacon of hope” and an example of loving service to the poorest of the poor, to the General Roman Calendar so that her “Optional Memorial shall be celebrated by all on 5 September every year.”

Cardinal Arthur Roche and Archbishop Vittorio Francesco Viola, respectively prefect and secretary of the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, announced the pope’s decision in a decree published by the Vatican Feb. 11.

Previously the feast day of St. Teresa of Calcutta, as the Vatican refers to the city in India where she began her work with the abandoned poor, was inscribed only in the proper calendar of the Missionaries of Charity and the proper calendar of India. Now her memorial is included in the calendar of the universal church.

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

**Prayers, Adoration and getting back to the basics
of the faith seen as ways to encourage vocations**



Prayers and fasting, Eucharistic adoration and getting back to the basics of the Catholic faith are some of the ways the laity can encourage priestly and religious vocations in 2025.

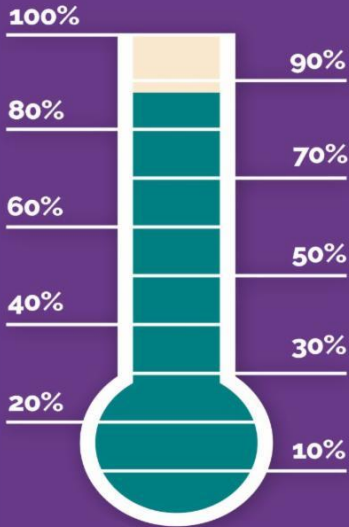
Those were among the recommendations that a panel of lay and religious offered during the 2025 Legatus annual summit for Catholic business men and women Feb. 6-9 at the Ritz-Carlton in Naples. Some 700 people attended the three-day national gathering.

New Jersey native Sister Pia Jude, who entered the Sisters of Life community in 2013 after law school and a short law career in New York City's Wall Street district, recalled the importance of a strong parish engagement within her family.

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

Support the Catholic Ministries Appeal!

PERCENTAGE OF GOAL ACHIEVED



The Catholic Ministries Appeal is currently at 86% of its overall goal

Will you help us go over the top?

By supporting the Catholic Ministries Appeal, you help provide funding for essential ministries throughout the eleven-county area of the Diocese of Scranton. Through our unity and stewardship, we are able to attend to the physical and spiritual needs of our friends and neighbors throughout northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.



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

