

# St. Peter's Church



**28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
October 14, 2018**

47 Central Avenue, Wellsboro, Pennsylvania 16901

Rectory Phone: 570-724-3371 ~ Fax: 570-724-6322

Religious Education Office: 570-724-9789

Website: [www.stpeterswellsboro.org](http://www.stpeterswellsboro.org) ~ Email: [stpch@ptd.net](mailto:stpch@ptd.net)

## Rectory Office Hours

Monday through Thursday 9:00–2:00pm

## Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. David Bechtel – [Dbechtel00@yahoo.com](mailto:Dbechtel00@yahoo.com)

Secretary: Connie Spang – [stpch@ptd.net](mailto:stpch@ptd.net)

Business Manager: Patti Mitchell – [stpadm@ptd.net](mailto:stpadm@ptd.net)

Directors of Religious Ed.: Maureen Poirier & Melissa Mann  
[stpreled@ptd.net](mailto:stpreled@ptd.net)

Maintenance Staff: Connie Spang, Francis Kennedy

## Schedule of Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm ~ Sunday: 8:30am

## Reconciliation

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 11:45am -12:00noon;

Saturday 4:15 – 4:45pm; By appointment by calling the Rectory.

## **Mission Statement**

We, the parishioners of St. Peter's Church, are called to holiness by God as present day disciples of Jesus Christ. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are united in service to God to share our faith with one another and our community. May our participation in the Holy Sacraments, our ministries and our devotion to Mary bring glory to God and His Kingdom.

## **Emergency Contact**

In the event of an emergency, please call the rectory at 570-724-3371. If no answer, please call 570-329-5762. This is a pager. You will be instructed to enter your phone number and Fr. Bechtel will return your call.

## **Pregnancy Support**

Catholic Social Services (800) 982-4310

Crisis Pregnancy Help line (888) 4-OPTIONS

Endless Mountains Pregnancy Care Center (570) 673-4476

## **Religious Education and Formation**

Religious Education classes are held for Pre-K – 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Classes begin in September and conclude in May. Pre-K (ages 3-5) is held during the 8:30am Mass. K-12<sup>th</sup> begins at 9:30am and concludes at 10:40am. To register, please contact the Religious Education Office at 570-724-9789 or the Rectory at 570-724-3371. Children's Liturgy (grades K-4<sup>th</sup>) is held during the 8:30am Mass when Religious Education classes are in session.

## **Welcome to St. Peter's Church!**

If you are visiting Tioga County this weekend, welcome and thank you for worshiping with us! If you are searching for a Spiritual home, we welcome you to join us and invite you to become part of our church family. Please complete this form and return it to the parish office or drop it in the offertory basket.

## **Request for Parishioner Registration Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_



**Congratulations and God's**

**Blessings to**

**Leo and Cynthia Rice**

**who celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding**

**anniversary on October 12<sup>th</sup>. May God**

**continue to bless the love in their hearts and  
their life together with an ever deepening faith.**

## **Parish Contact Listing**

Women's Bible Study – Sue Singer 570-724-2360

St. John Neumann's Prayer Group – Christina Simonis 570-724-2085

Contemplative Spirituality Group – Kate Black 570-724-3047

Cards & Games – Patty Kramer 570-948-9023

Knights of Columbus – George Gamble 570-724-5216

Social Concerns – Karen Plumley 570-439-0175

Parish Rummage Sale – Mary Lasko 570-439-7706

Pat Gorda 570-724-3035

Church Linens & Decorations – Sue Singer 570-724-2360

Buildings & Grounds – Rick Joachim 570-439-2591

Cemetery Committee – Howard Rutledge 570-724-4529

Fundraising Dinners – Paul Urner 570-723-9970

Music Ministry – Christina Simonis 570-724-2085,

Marilyn deGuzman 570-376-5427

Samaritan House – Linda Sampson 570-404-2180

Youth Group – Maureen Poirier/ Melissa Mann 570-724-9789

Eucharistic Adoration – Rhonda Gooch 570-724-3092

Finance Council – Priscilla Walrath 570-724-2056

Parish Council – Rectory 570-724-3371

Worship Committee – Rectory 570- 724-3371

Sunday Nursing Home Communion – Eileen Evert 570-439-4470

Prayer Chain – Kate Black 570-724-3047

Order of Secular Carmelite – Lori Makos 570-724-3371

ChristLife – Norb Josten 570-724-9095

Prayer Shawl Ministry – Jan Bernethy 307-267-0677

Date	Time	Confession Time and Mass Intention
Monday 10/15	No Mass	
Tuesday 10/16	7:30am	In Memory of Agnes Buchko (Robert & Sylvia McKee)
Wednesday 10/17	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Shawn & Leah Lang (Norbert & Nona Josten)
Thursday 10/18	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Elaine Myslinski (Tom & Linda Sampson)
Friday 10/19	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Henry Sulewski (Daughter, Kathy)
Saturday 10/20	4:00-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions In Honor of Rev. John Chmil
Sunday 10/21	8:30am	All Living and Deceased Members of St. Peter's Parish

The Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of  
Deceased Parishioners of St. Peter's

### The Week Ahead

#### SUNDAY, October 14, 2018

Religious Ed –Pre-School:8:30-9:30am; K-12<sup>th</sup>:9:30-10:40am  
First Penance Parent Meeting – 9:30am, Church  
Secular Carmelites – 11:30am, Parish Center

#### TUESDAY, October 16, 2018

Adoration – 8:00am-6:30pm; Benediction 6:30pm  
Women's Bible Study – 9:00am, Parish Center  
AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center

#### WEDNESDAY, October 17, 2018

Harvest Dinner Prep – 8:00am, Parish Center  
Staff Meeting – 8:30am, Rectory  
ChristLife – 6:00pm, Parish Center

#### THURSDAY, October 18, 2018

Cards & Games – 12:00noon, Parish Center

#### FRIDAY, October 19, 2018

Harvest Dinner – 4:00-7:00pm, Parish Center

#### SUNDAY, October 21, 2018

Religious Ed –Pre-School:8:30-9:30am; K-12<sup>th</sup>:9:30-10:40am

### FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

This month's food pantry items are: *chicken noodle or tomato soup*. A donation box can be found at the entrance of the church.

### GOODIES FOR OUR TROOPS

This month's Goodies for our Troops items are:  
*Christmas lights, small non-breakable ornaments, Santa Hats, chocolate candy bars, warm socks, Christmas Cards (for the troops to send home) & personal notes (cards, letters, drawings from children.)* A donation box can be found at the entrance of the church.

### Ministers of the Altar Schedule

#### October 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup>

##### 5:00pm

Servers: J.Grab, J.Poirier, W.Steinbacher  
Lectors: C.Evert, P.Walrath  
E. Min.: D.Sherman, V.Anthony, M.Osborn, G.Poirier

##### 8:30am

Servers: A.Banik, E.Benjamin, J.Lubera  
Lectors: R.Kramer, P.Kramer  
E. Min.: D.Stager, L.Stager, M.Bialas, M.Stirnaman

### Sacramental Information

**Baptisms** - Parents anticipating the birth of their first child are asked to attend baptismal instructions classes before the birth of their child, if possible. Note: Baptisms cannot be scheduled until all the necessary paperwork is completed. Contact the Rectory to schedule.

**Confirmation** - Confirmation is administered every year to all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in our Parish Religious Education program. Children wishing to receive Confirmation must be enrolled and participating in the program for two years before they are eligible to receive the sacrament.

**Marriages**- In order to complete the necessary paperwork, couples are asked to contact the Rectory at least one full year in advance of the proposed marriage date.

**Anointing of the Sick** - Please contact the Rectory if a member of your family has become sick or hospitalized.

**Monthly Visitations** - Any parishioner who is homebound and wishes to receive the Eucharist on a monthly basis is asked to contact the Rectory to schedule a visit.

**Rite of Christian Initiation in Adults (R.C.I.A.)** - The R.C.I.A. prepares unbaptized adults for reception into the Catholic Church. The program is adapted to the needs of each person and prepares them for full initiation into the faith. Contact the Rectory for more information.

### ST. THOMAS/ST. CATHERINE MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Evening – 7:00pm, St. Catherine, Westfield  
Sunday Morning – 11:30am, St. Thomas, Elkland



## Liturgical Reflection

28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**FIRST READING: Wisdom 7:7-11**

The selection we read today recalls Solomon's prayer for wisdom (1 Kings 3:6-9). Wisdom is more important than power, wealth, health, or beauty. The speaker would choose wisdom even over sight, knowing that with wisdom one can assign everything else its true and lasting value. Because Jewish thought envisioned the heart as the core and center of a person, one discerned, weighed, and judged in the heart, which was thus the seat of decision and action. A heart illumined and guided by God's guiding presence is what Solomon sought and praised in fervent prayer.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 90**

In the words of the community's lament, we sing to God to provide us with "wisdom of heart." We ask God to fill us with his love and help the work of hands to flourish so that we might once again sing for joy.

**SECOND READING: Hebrews 4:12-13**

Just as the First Reading encourages us to seek true wisdom, this selection from Hebrews calls us to meditate on our appreciation of the word of God. Do we believe in its power? Do we consciously seek an encounter with the living God in scripture? Do we allow that word to judge and guide our daily activities and attitudes? Do we seek the wisdom of the word beyond other values? The Word is alive, discerning, and all-seeing as its origin, God.

**GOSPEL: Mark 10:17-30**

Jesus reminds the man in the passage, of the Commandments that refer to human relationships, and the man claims to have lived without transgressing them. Then, Jesus looks at him with the discerning gaze that tenderly lays bare the heart. Having searched the man's soul, Jesus invites him to follow him in truly fulfilling the Commandments by giving his very self for others. With that, they wealthy man's enthusiasm disappears and he who had run to kneel before Jesus turns away, utterly disenchanted. As the man left, Jesus addressed his followers to underscore the fact that the invitation he had issued applied to them as well as to the retreating rich man. The essence of Jesus' teaching today seems to be the need to accept the Kingdom of God like a child. In Jewish culture of the time, children had virtually no status and no rights, and were totally depended upon others for life and sustenance. Jesus teaches that those who cannot renounce any and all perceived entitlements to sharing the Kingdom, whether good actions, material riches, prestige, or power, cannot enter. Such total surrender may seem humanly impossible, but by dependence upon God alone, "all things are possible."



## Parish News and Activities

### FALL SALE UPDATE

Thank you to all who helped to make our annual fall sale a great success. A special thank you to Pat Gorda and Mary Lasko for all the work they do as the coordinating the sale. A profit of \$3,013 was earned to support the Parish.

### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry creates beautiful shawls to help comfort and warm those in need; the sick, bereaved, shut-ins, nursing home residents or those experiencing loneliness and emotional distress. The shawls are like being wrapped in prayers and love. If you know of someone needing a shawl, please call Jan Bernethy 307-267-0677.

### Religious Ed. & Youth Group News GOT LEAVES? LET THE YOUTH GROUP HELP!

On October 28<sup>th</sup> (note date change) the youth group students will volunteer to rake leaves and other debris for those in our community who need assistance cleaning up their yard. If you, or someone you know, would like to schedule a time for leaf clean-up between 9:30am and 11:30am, call the rectory at 570-724-3371 or email the Religious Education Office at [stpreled@ptd.net](mailto:stpreled@ptd.net).

### COIN CHALLENGE FOR CHARITY

The religious education classes will once again have a friendly competition to benefit a local charity. Students are encouraged to collect loose change for donation (dollar bills are accepted, too!) and bring to class each Sunday in October. Last year, a total of \$530.64 was collected, which benefited the Samaritan House. So let's start collecting those coins - your change can make a difference!



### CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Children's Liturgy is offered at the 8:30am Mass. Children, along with an adult leader, are dismissed by Father before the First Reading and rejoin their families for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. While gathered in the parish center, children celebrate their own Liturgy of the Word that is more appropriate to their level of understanding. All children ages Pre-K through 4<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to attend. No registration is necessary.

*"Praying is not like using a magic wand. Prayer requires commitment, constancy and determination."*

*Pope Francis*



## That's The Way It Is!



It is been approximately two months since the grand jury report was released. I don't need to remind you how damning that report was. The release of the report sent out shock waves that continue to shake the Church to its foundations. Other states are now considering a similar grand jury process.

Archbishop Viganò made a bomb shell accusation against Pope Francis: he accused the pope of covering for Theodore McCarrick. McCarrick is the disgraced former archbishop of Washington. To date I remain unaware of any real evidence that the archbishop has given to support these accusations. But the accusations are out there and they certainly do not help anything. Reports of the bishops covering up abuse have been released in Ireland and Germany. This whole scandal just seems to keep spiraling out of control. Who would ever have thought that what happened and was revealed in Boston in 2002, Philadelphia in 2005 and 2011, and Altoona/Johnstown in 2016 were just preludes of what was to come?

If you were to ask me how I feel about everything, I would say that I am like the preverbal parent who is in denial about their problem child. I am like the parent who insists despite all evidence to the contrary that "Well, he really is a good boy. If you only just got to know him like I know him..." That is how I feel about the Church. I don't define the Church by the bad bishops, priests, deacons and religious, I define the Church by the holy priests, bishops, deacons and religious. You don't measure the greatness of a religion by the ones who don't follow the teachings, you measure the greatness of a religion by those who do. Given that my life is the Church, I don't know how to feel any other way. When you love something you are always going to see the good even when other people can't. Just as a parent sees the good in their child no matter what the child does, so too I see the good in the Church. My love and dedication to the Church has not changed.

That is how I feel. I know that many of you are not in that place and cannot be in that place. I do not expect you to feel the same way I do. Feelings are what feelings are. I have been trying to give people the space they need to deal with this in whatever way they feel is appropriate. For some, that means taking a break from Church or even leaving the Church. For others that means withholding contributions but continuing to practice the Faith. Still, for others, it means doing the best they can to keep the Faith despite their feelings of grief, anger, hurt and betrayal. Overall I think our parishes are standing strong in the midst of this scandal and we are all just doing the best we can to deal with this while keeping the Faith. We are trudging along. I can guarantee you this: however painful this time is, we will get through it. God is with us.

What I want to see from the bishops and pope is meaningful and substantive reform. In 2002, the bishops

reformed the way accusations are handled against priests. When any accusation is made, priests are immediately removed from ministry and suspended. The police are immediately notified. If the police find that the accusation is not credible, the priest is returned to ministry. If the accusation is credible the priest is not returned to ministry; and the legal process of accountability plays out in the courts. While this was a step in the right direction, what was missing from the discussion was any talk about a mechanism of accountability for the bishops accused of abuse and or have shown to have covered up abuse. Because of this, the reforms of 2002 were incomplete.

What needs to happen now, and what the pope and bishops need to make top priority is a system that holds bishops accountable. There are signs that the pope and bishops are starting to understand this. Pope Francis has finally initiated an investigation into the Vatican archives concerning Theodore McCarrick. This is a step in the right direction but it is incomplete. For starters Pope Francis should have initiated this investigation back in July when everything came out about McCarrick. Pope Francis also needs to begin an Apostolic investigation into who knew what and when about McCarrick.

Dealing with this crisis needs to be the absolute number one priority of the pope and bishops. Dealing with this crisis in a meaningful and substantive way should be the only thing on the minds of the pope and bishops at present. I grant that the work of the Gospel must continue. The problem is that we cannot preach the Gospel effectively until the pope and bishops regain some semblance of credibility. Right now, the Church has no credibility. I call on the pope and bishops not just to deal with this crisis but to make dealing with this crisis their absolute number one priority. I have said it before and I will say it again: the only thing that should be on the agenda for the November gathering of the bishops is dealing with this crisis.

That's the way it is,

The Reverend David W. Bechtel, Pastor



As a special patron and protector of the Church, St. Michael has been assigned to fight against Satan; to protect faithful souls from him, especially at their death; to champion God's people; and, further along this line, to escort them to their judgment. We pray this special prayer for our Church, our Diocese, and our parishioners.

***Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.  
Be our protection against the wickedness  
and snares of the devil.***

***May God rebuke him, we humbly pray;  
and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host,  
by the Divine Power of God,  
cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits  
who roam throughout the world  
seeking the ruin of souls.***

# Pro Life News

## PRIESTS FOR LIFE

*Reflection on today's readings* - The manifold demands and activities of life can often obscure our understanding of what among them is most important. As the second reading indicates, it is the Word of God that cuts through the fog and enables us to discern clearly what matters most.

The gift of "wisdom," to which the first reading refers, is actually Christ himself. He is the Word, the Wisdom, the perfect image of the Father, the ultimate desire of our hearts. He himself is the Kingdom of God, and the possession above all our possessions. Both the first reading and the Gospel point us to him and urge us to desire him, and value our relationship with him, above all things.

That relationship, that possession of the Kingdom that comes by following him, depends concretely on our keeping of the commandments. It is no accident that the first commandment Jesus mentions in this Gospel passage is "You shall not kill." The man is asking how to possess God, and Jesus is helping him to avoid a spirituality disconnected from earth. The man must have imagined that Jesus was going to give some spiritual answer upon which he could then go home and meditate, all the while enjoying his many possessions. But Jesus anchored the demands of the man's spirituality right down to earth, asking him what he was doing and what he intended to do in relationship to people and things around him that he could see, hear, and touch. The relationship with God, as Jesus taught it, rises and falls with our relationship to others – and the first demand of those right relationships is not to kill the other.

As the passage progresses, it becomes clear that "Do not kill" is only the pre-requisite, not the fulfillment of perfect love. Love demands that we seek the least, the poorest. "Give to the poor" and "follow me" are in the same breath, not because discipleship demands that we own nothing, but precisely because discipleship demands that we give of ourselves for the other – especially for the smallest.

Here, then, is revealed the wisdom of being pro-life. What we possess – not only material goods, but career and reputation and friendship as well – can never be clung to at the expense of ruining our relationship with God. If we fail to serve the least – the most vulnerable human beings – and instead kill them, or tolerate their killing – then everything else we have as a result is false security and false joy. [www.priestsforlife.org](http://www.priestsforlife.org)

## Stewardship

Sunday Collection October 7<sup>th</sup>: \$6,343.00  
Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$5,800.00  
Difference: \$ 543.00  
Year-to-Date Budget Variance: (\$9,210.14)  
Hurricane Relief: \$1,412.00

*We are grateful to all those who financially sacrifice every week to support our parish and its ministries.*

### Year-to-Date Budget Variance

When creating our parish budget, St. Peter's Finance Council takes into account all projected income and expenses for the upcoming fiscal year. The *Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses* is then calculated based on total budgeted operating expenses divided by total number of collections. As shown above, at this point in our fiscal year, 3 months in, we are showing a negative balance. This means we have taken in \$9,210.14 less, an average of \$614 less each week, than what we need to meet our expenses. If we continue this trend, we will not be able to meet our projected expenses over the course of the fiscal year. Please reflect on your giving and if able, increase in your weekly offering.

## Harvest Dinner



Friday, October 19, 2018  
4:00 – 7:00pm in the Parish Center

**All You  
Can Eat!**

Adults – \$10.00  
Children (under 12) – \$5.00  
Children (under 3) – Free

### Menu:

*Roasted Chicken and Pork*  
*Mashed Potatoes, Gravy and Stuffing, Rolls*  
*Carrots and Coleslaw*  
*Applesauce and Cranberry Sauce*  
*Homemade desserts*  
*Coffee, soda, tea, lemonade*

**We need your help to make this parish fundraiser a success!**

Volunteers are needed to provide some food items and baked goods and to work during and after the dinner. Sign-up sheets can be found on the table on the side of the church.

*"Spend time before the Lord in contemplation, and do everything possible for the Lord at the service of others. Contemplation and service: this is our path of life." Pope Francis*



## Diocese of Scranton News

**#LEAVEAMARK18 – GATHERING OF THE YOUNG CHURCH WITH BISHOP BAMBERA – NOVEMBER 4, 2018**

“Dear young people, we didn’t come into this world to ‘vegetate’, to take it easy, to make our lives a comfortable sofa to fall asleep on,” said Pope Francis at World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland this summer. “No, we came for another reason: to leave a mark. It is very sad to pass through life without leaving a mark.”

For the past two years, hundreds of young people and families gathered in the Cathedral of Saint Peter with Bishop Joseph C. Bambera to kickoff National Vocation Awareness Week in the Diocese of Scranton. #LeaveaMark brought together public and catholic high school students, college chaplains and students, young adults, families, women and men religious, priests, directors of religious education and youth ministers from throughout the Diocese of Scranton.

Bishop Bambera is inviting the young church to gather once again this year in the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Sunday, November 4 for a special Mass at 5 p.m. followed by a reception in the Diocesan Pastoral Center.

“The energy and enthusiasm of all who attended was joy-filled and promising for the future of our Diocese,” said Father Don Williams, Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians. “We wanted to kickoff National Vocation Awareness Week with this event once again this year as we encourage the young church to live as intentional and missionary disciples in our world today. We are excited that this year’s #LeaveaMark will coincide with the conclusion of the 150th Anniversary year.”

Students and young adults from throughout the diocese are helping plan the event. Promotions, liturgy, and reception subcommittees are working hard to build upon the event last year. Abbe Truschel, a senior at East Stroudsburg University, attended the event the past two years. This year she is volunteering on the committee.

“I decided to serve on the committee because I loved attending #LeaveaMark the past two years and wanted to enhance the experience, helping it to be the best it could possibly be,” said Truschel. “I’m looking forward to seeing the youth and young adults of the church share in a special day that celebrates us answering Pope Francis’ call to ‘leave a mark.’”

For more information about this event, contact the Diocesan Vocation Office at 570-207-1452 or visit [vocations.dioceseofscranton.org](http://vocations.dioceseofscranton.org).

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To make a donation to this year's  
Annual Appeal please visit

**[www.AnnualAppeal.org](http://www.AnnualAppeal.org)**

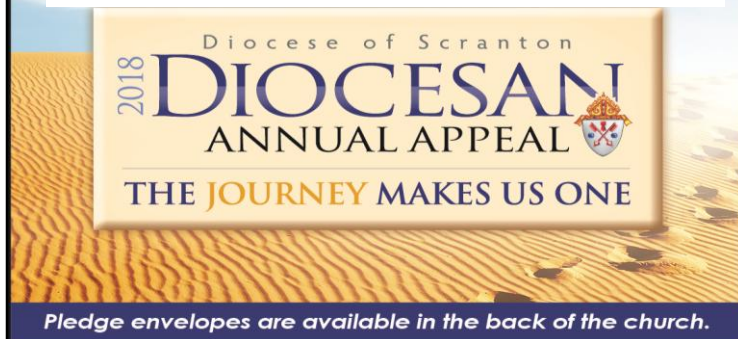
or contact us at **570-207-2250**

or send your gift to

Development Office, Diocese of Scranton

300 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA 18503

The Annual Appeal video can be viewed on-line at  
[dioceseofscranton.org](http://dioceseofscranton.org) and click on the “Giving” tab.



### DAYBREAK RETREAT TO BE HELD



The DayBreak Retreat is a peer-facilitated retreat specifically for 8th & 9th grade students. The weekend will focus on forming good communication skills and healthy relationships with oneself, with family, and with friends. Students will come away with new friendships and the tools needed to make old friendships even better! DayBreak will be held on November 9-11, 2018 at St. Gabriel’s Retreat Center in Clarks Summit, Pa. Arrival time is 7:00pm on Friday with a departure time of 12:00pm on Sunday. Cost is \$185 per person. For more information, call (570)207-2213 EXT.1155.

#### *Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor*

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Child Protective Services Laws, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24-HourChild Abuse hotline (ChildLine) at 1-800-932-0313 or electronically at [www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis](http://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis).

It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the Code of Canon Law and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator Mary Beth Pacuska at (570-862-7551), or to Diocesan officials, including the Vicar General, Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney, V.G., at (570-207-2269).

*“Sunday is the day to say to God: thank you Lord, for life,  
for your mercy, and for all your gifts!” Pope Francis*

## News From the Vatican



### POPE, THROUGH HOLY SEE, ISSUES STATEMENT ABOUT McCARRICK

*'Both abuse and its cover-up can no longer be tolerated and a different treatment for Bishops who have committed or covered up abuse, in fact represents a form of clericalism that is no longer acceptable'*

On Oct. 6, 2018, the Pope established that the Holy See publish the following statement regarding the confusion and debates tied to the Vigano letter and what was known about ex-cardinal McCarrick's sexual misconduct with seminarians. Pope Francis accepted McCarrick's resignation as cardinal on Saturday, July 28, 2018.

Here is the Vatican-provided text: After the publication of the accusations regarding the conduct of Archbishop Theodore Edgar McCarrick, the Holy Father Pope Francis, aware of and concerned by the confusion that these accusations are causing in the conscience of the faithful, has established that the following be communicated:

In September 2017, the Archdiocese of New York notified the Holy See that a man had accused former Cardinal McCarrick of having abused him in the 1970's. The Holy Father ordered a thorough preliminary investigation into this, which was carried out by the Archdiocese of New York, at the conclusion of which the relative documentation was forwarded to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. In the meantime, because grave indications emerged during the course of the investigation, the Holy Father accepted the resignation of Archbishop McCarrick from the College of Cardinals, prohibiting him by order from exercising public ministry, and obliging him to lead a life of prayer and penance.

The Holy See will, in due course, make known the conclusions of the matter regarding Archbishop McCarrick. Moreover, with reference to other accusations brought against Archbishop McCarrick, the Holy Father has decided that information gathered during the preliminary investigation be combined with a further thorough study of the entire documentation present in the Archives of the Dicasteries and Offices of the Holy See regarding the former Cardinal McCarrick, in order to ascertain all the relevant facts, to place them in their historical context and to evaluate them objectively.

The Holy See is conscious that, from the examination of the facts and of the circumstances, it may emerge that

choices were taken that would not be consonant with a contemporary approach to such issues. However, as Pope Francis has said: "We will follow the path of truth wherever it may lead." Both abuse and its cover-up can no longer be tolerated and a different treatment for Bishops who have committed or covered up abuse, in fact represents a form of clericalism that is no longer acceptable.

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### YOUNG PEOPLE ARE SCANDALIZED


Young people are scandalized by the hypocrisy of the grownups. They are scandalized by the wars; they are scandalized by the inconsistency; they are scandalized by the corruption. And on this matter of corruption, there is that of the sexual abuses. It's true that there is an accusation of the Church, and we all know, we know the statistics, I won't state them here. However, even if it has been only one priest that abused a child, this would be in any case monstrous, because that man was chosen by God to bring the child to Heaven. I understand that young people are scandalized by this very great corruption. They know it's everywhere, but in the Church, it's more scandalous, because children must be taken to God, not destroyed. Young people seek to make their way with experience. Meeting with young people was very clear: they want to be heard; they want to be heard. They don't want fixed formulas. They don't want a directive accompaniment. And they feel "the Church isn't doing what it should in this, in cleansing this corruption."

"I take Pennsylvania's Report, for example, and we see that up to the first years of the 70's there were so many priests who fell into this corruption. Then, in more recent times, they diminished because the Church realized that it had to fight another way. In past times, these things were covered up. They were covered up also at home when an uncle violated a niece when the father violated the children. They were covered up because it was a very great shame. It was the way of thinking in past centuries, and of the past century. There is a principle in this that helps me very much to interpret history: a historical event is interpreted with the hermeneutics of the time in which the event happened, not with today's hermeneutics. But then the moral conscience grew, the moral conscience grew. The Church: I take the example of Pennsylvania, I look at the proportions and I see that, when the Church began to be aware of this, it tried very hard. And in recent times I have received so many, so many condemnations issued by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and I've said: "Forward, forward." But, after a condemnation, I have never signed a request for grace. One doesn't negotiate on this; there is no negotiation."

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Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord and  
Let the Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them.

**Dennis Schultz**

Lord, this we know, no matter how difficult life may be at this time, we know you will not stop loving us and will always hold us in the palm of your hand. We are reaching to you, Lord, to hold us, comfort us, and heal us. Lord, this we know, you are faithful in your love for us today and forever. You are with us, and we are with you. Amen.