



Catholic Charismatic Renewal

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

SCRANTON CHARISMATIC CONFERENCE 2022 LIVE!

“O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together” Psalm 34:3



Come and join in praise to our God at the 40th Scranton Catholic Charismatic Conference, August 5, 6, & 7 at the University of Scranton, Mulberry St., Scranton. You will experience anointed worship, inspiring speakers, mass, eucharistic adoration, and wonderful fellowship! Room reservations are still available but on a first come, first served basis. Go to www.ccrscranton.org/conference and click on the link for more details and to download a registration form.

CONFERENCE CHAIRPERSONS

Coordinator	Karen McLain
Adoration	Sunny Cesarini
Book Ministry	Liz Wassel
Book Ministry	Donna Caputo
Children’s Track	Elaine Starinski
Duplication	Bob Valiante
Finance on-site	Cathy Granville
Finance Pre-Conf	Karen Forsette
Housing Pre-Conf	Krista Rossi
Liturgy	John Witkosky
Meals	Diane Trentley
Music	Jim Gialanella
Parking	Brian Hughes
Publicity	Brian Hughes
Recording	Rich Alimenti
Registration On-Site	Theresa Dinunzi
Registration On-Site	Cookie Ruppert
Registration Pre-Conf	Laurie Kramer
Ushers	Deacon Pat McDonald
Word Gifts	Marthann Elmir
Youth	Elaine Starinski

THANK YOU

A special thanks to the Conference Team...especially Paul Babinski for serving as chairman of Audio and Video taping for so many years. Thank you to Paul!

And, of course, heartfelt appreciation to Bob Valiante for being the Conference Coordinator for 34 years. The first Conference was given in 1983. Bob was not only the coordinator, but also a speaker at each event. When he was not on the stage, he would walk hurriedly to each work station from Adoration to Ushers to see how things were going. His committee meeting always began with praise and worship. We are so thankful for him and his dedication to spreading the Word of Gd. His evangelism to the people in the Scranton Diocese went far and wide, extending to other states and even Africa.

Volunteers are always needed and welcomed to serve on these committees. Please contact anyone below to let them know you are available. Registration Fee for a Volunteer is \$15.00.

PENTECOST CELEBRATION...HAPPY BIRTHDAY CHURCH!

Our CCR Pentecost Celebration, held on June 4, 2022, was filled with spirit-led prayer and praise, inspiring music, challenging teaching, and prayer. How wonderful it was to be back worshipping together in person!

Reverend Jonathan Kuhar and Mr. Jeffrey Shields were the featured speakers. The theme was: "Using the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in Our Lives." Mrs. Cathy Best was scheduled to speak, as well, but unfortunately, she suffered a fall and was unable to be with us. She is recovering well and we hope she will agree to serve us as a speaker again soon! By God's grace, Cathy had her teaching prepared before the accident and Karen McLain was able to deliver Cathy's message. She spoke about our gifts – Old and New Testament, and the fruits of the



Holy Spirit we should show in our lives. The combination presentation showed us how God can make a way for something to happen when there seems to be no way!

Cathy is a long-time member of CCR, having served as a prayer group leader teacher for many years.

Father Kuhar is the Assistant Pastor of St. John Neumann and St. Paul of the Cross parishes in South



Scranton. Father shared his witness with us and we learned that God moved steadily and quietly through his childhood and young adulthood to bring him to the priesthood. After launching a successful secular career, God continued to reach out to Father and after additional prayer and discernment, he entered the seminary. Father explained the leap of faith that it took for the final decision – that there is a point of saying, "I believe this is what God is calling me to;" and yet always having that little doubt in the back of your mind about a decision. His answer was to pray and ask God to stop the process if it was the wrong direction! Otherwise, Father was going ahead with it! God has fulfilled that leap of faith! It was encouraging to hear his decisions process; to know that we are not the only ones who are not always certain of the way to go! It was good, too, to hear how God spoke to Father over the years through the voices of family members, friends, teachers, and spiritual leaders. That was a discernment method we could all use!

Jeffrey Shields, speaker, talented singer-songwriter and dynamic ministry leader from South Jersey, is both the lead singer and founder of Forgotten Truth; a band and ministry whose mission seeks to build Catholic culture. Jeff was both our Master of Ceremonies for the day and a speaker. He shared his musical gifts with us during his presentation, playing both keyboard



and guitar for several, original songs. He led worship, inviting our praise, reminding us of the promises of God – that He always provides what we need. Jeff also led us in a powerful prayer service for healing, empowerment, for more of the graces of Pentecost!

We also had an Adoration Chapel open during the lunch period in which CCR prayer teams were available for personal times of prayer, a very enjoyable time of fellowship over coffee and donuts in the morning, and very filling hoagie lunch at noon! It was a spirit-filled day worshipping together with the CCR Music Ministry led by Jim Gialanella; listening and learning as God spoke to our hearts through the speakers, music, worship, and Word! All who attended were greatly blessed.

DIOCESAN PRAYER MEETING

On Monday evening, June 20, 2022, our first Diocesan Prayer meeting since COVID was held at Queen of Apostles Hall in Avoca. We had about 40 believers gathered with a wonderful, combined music ministry led by Ted Mike. Mathann Elmir provided a teaching centered on the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She spoke to us of how much God loves each one of us! We learned a bit about St. Mary Margaret Alacoque and her devotion to the Sacred Heart. Marthann left us with the feeling of the burning love of Jesus touching each of us through the praying of the Litany of the Sacred Heart.

Ted Mike then shared his witness of God moving in his life – from early in life through today. Reminding us how we often don't realize it's God moving while it is happening, but then when we look back, it is so obvious that the hand of God has maneuvered everything: relationships, education, jobs, timing, etc. Ted prompted us to continue listening for the leading of God in our lives and to continue to be about the work of the Father!



PRAYER MEETINGS

Looking for prayer and fellowship? Come to any (or all) of our weekly prayer meetings. We are going to highlight a different prayer group in each issue of the Newsletter. We currently have 6 English-speaking, Charismatic Prayer Groups and a number of Spanish and Portuguese speaking groups. In this issue, the Burning Bush Prayer Group is highlighted.

Burning Bush meets on Monday nights at 7 pm at Immaculate Conception Church, 801 Taylor Avenue, Scranton. Enter at the rear of the church, go through the metal gate and down the steps or the ramp to the hall. The leadership team is comprised of Cathy Best, Pat McDonald, Karen McLain, and Bob Valiante, Elder Advisor. To contact Burning Bush – call or text Karen McLain 570-983-6251.



CONFERENCE VOLUNTEERS DINNER

We honored our volunteers Sunday, June 26, 2022 during a special mass and dinner. Father Gus Ricciardi, Spiritual Moderator for the Scranton CCR, presided at mass at St. Mary's Church in Avoca. Dinner was held at the Queen of Apostles Hall. A lovely buffet was provided for all volunteers and words of thanks were spoken. If you are a volunteer and could not attend the dinner, please mail in your registration form and \$15 fee to the office so we can have everything prepared for the Volunteer Mass on Thursday night before the Conference begins! (Thursday, Aug 4, 7:30 pm, Byron Center, University of Scranton.)

FROM THE COORDINATOR'S DESK

I am sure each of us reads the paper or watches the news each day and wonders, "What in the world is going on?" Everything seems upside down! I am so grateful that WE do not have to depend on the world! Scripture tells us in Matthew 6:33 "Seek you first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you." Another version says it this way: "But first be concerned about the kingdom and what has His approval, then all these things will be provided for you." Our focus needs to remain on our personal relationship with God and the work of His kingdom! All our other needs will be provided by God – Jehovah Jireh – the God who provides.

The world is so different from the one we knew even 30 years ago. Christian morals and values are no longer expected in our society. As Christians, as soon as we step out of our front door, we are in missionary territory! We don't have to go to Africa to find it. We need to be prepared like Peter and Paul to act and speak on behalf of the Lord, planting seeds of love, forgiveness, AND FAITH IN THE HEARTS OF THOSE WE MEET. We need to pray with people immediately when they acknowledge a need (with their permission, of course), then tell them we will continue to pray, then actually pray for them! We have to reach out and care for people, listen to their stories without judgement, and assure them of understanding. Maybe that's all we do the first time we meet them. Maybe another time we will speak. It's not about us! It's about them. It is about accompanying them on their journey to a fuller, personal relationship with God.

So be a missionary in your own back yard! Invite someone to a prayer meeting and bring them with you. Invite someone to the conference and bring them with you. First, be concerned about the kingdom and what has His approval, then all these things will be provided for you. By His grace, and for His glory. – Karen

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 5,6,7 - 40th Scranton Catholic Charismatic Conference

Sept 19 - Regional Prayer Meeting

Nov 12 - Day of Renewal at Holy Family Center, Nanticoke

Dec 10 - Advent Prayer Breakfast

(Regional prayer mtg and Advent breakfast at Queen of Apostles in Avoca, 715 Hawthorne St.)

