



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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May 31, 2020

News for Immediate Release

Scranton Observes Moment of Silence, Prayer to Honor Coronavirus Victims

SCRANTON - A citywide moment of silence and prayer will be held in Scranton, Monday at 12:00 p.m. to lament and mourn 100,000 Americans who have died from the coronavirus.

Mayor Paige Gebhardt Cagnetti signed a proclamation declaring June 1, 2020, a National Day of Mourning and Lament in Scranton.

“On Monday we begin a new month, and one that will hopefully mark the beginning of a “new normal” where we learn to live with the COVID-19 virus and reopen our economy, our beloved local businesses, and our social lives again.” said Mayor Cagnetti.

“We begin this month with a moment of silence at 12 p.m. to mourn the more than 100,000 Americans and 170 Lackawanna County residents to date who have died from this terrible virus. We must remember and honor the lives lost in these past months, and take them with us as we find our way ahead.”

Religious leaders will deliver messages of comfort for the families of those who have died, for communities in trauma, and for healing of the nation during a local National Day of Prayer and Lament service co-sponsored by the IHM and the Scranton Area Ministerium. The service will be held over Zoom at 12PM Monday and will air on ECTV Comcast Channel 19.

“We IHM Sisters join with our friends and neighbors in solidarity, prayer, and action on behalf of our sisters and brothers in the United States and across the world who are most affected by illness, fear, death, and racial injustice. We collaborate with others to “bring about God’s dream for our beautiful, yet wounded world.” stated The Sisters of IHM.

The National Day of Mourning and Lament follows a weekend of Muslim, Jewish, and Christian services (including Protestant, Catholic, Evangelical, African American, Hispanic, Asian American, and Native American), all united in a time of lament and mourning for the dead.

“The vocation of remembering and honoring the dead transcends politics and unites us across lines of religion,” said Jim Wallis, founder of the Christian group Sojourners in Washington, D.C.

The group issued a statement saying that “an unprecedented group of 100+ national faith leaders — from Christian, Jewish and Muslim traditions” had signed on to the call, as well as the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

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