

Andrea Hoisl Director
Mary-Jo McLaughlin
Catholic Family
Services
Liza Roach
Youth Minister
Marianne Nicholas
Administrative
Assistant

UPCOMING
2023 EVENTS:

- July 14, Virtual
Couples Happy
Hour, 7 P.M.
- July 16, Healing
Mass, Church of
the Holy Family,
Hebron, 2 P.M.
- July 18, Virtual
Project Rachel
Rosary, 3 P.M.
- August 11-13,
Worldwide Mar-
riage Encounter
Experience, St.
Thomas Aquinas,
Storrs.
- August 15, Virtual
Project Rachel
Rosary, 3 P.M.
- August 20, Healing
Mass, Church of
the Holy Family,
Hebron, 2 P.M.

Have a happy,
holy and safe
summer. Take
the time you
need to rest,
relax and renew
in God's beauti-
ful world.

Office of Faith Events



Enriching the Faith of Youth, Young Adults, Adults, and Families

860-848-2237, ext. 304 ; e-mail: faithevents@norwichdiocese.net

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JULY, AUGUST 2023



Parish Level Eucharistic Revival Moving Forward



As the first year of the USCCB three-year Eucharistic Revival comes to a close, the Office of Faith Events will be shifting its role to supporting parishes as they begin the process of moving the Revival forward on the local level. Year Two (June 2023-June 2024) is planned as the Year of Parish Revival. Our office will continue to offer support and resources for both the pastors and the parishes. This shift to the local level offers parishes a unique opportunity to focus on educating parishioners about the nuances of the sacrifice of the Mass. In diving deeper into our Eucharistic traditions we can help others come to know Christ in new and meaningful ways.

This next year will be the prelude to the culminating event- the National Eucharistic Congress planned for July 17-21, 2024, in Indianapolis, IN. Over 100,000 Catholics are expected to "worship our Risen Lord in his humble disguise" and allow the Holy Spirit to "enkindle a missionary fire in the heart of our nation," according to the revival website. This "National Pilgrimage" will have both in-person and remote options, so everyone can take part in this solemn celebration.

Our prayer is that everyone in the Diocese will be touched in a special way over this next year and come to understand the gift of the Eucharist – Christ's body given up for us – in new and meaningful ways. There is so much we have to discover and understand about our faith. The importance of being lifelong learners – challenging ourselves to know more and do more – is a constant challenge for us as Catholics no matter what stage of life we are currently experiencing. This Revival highlights that in real and practical ways for all of us.

~Andrea Hoisl, director, Office of Faith Events.

Anniversary Mass Honors Enduring Couple Love

Bishop Michael Cote invites couples celebrating significant wedding anniversaries to join him in a celebration of enduring love at the Annual Silver and Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass Sunday, **September 10** at 2 P.M at the Cathedral of Saint Patrick in Norwich.

If you are celebrating a significant anniversary and would like to register and be included in this Mass, send the following information: husband and wife's name, address, telephone number, wedding date, anniversary being celebrated and parish to Mary-Jo McLaughlin, Catholic Family Services Coordinator, 199



Broadway, Norwich, CT 06360. Or email her at mmclaughlin@norwichdiocese.net or call her at 860-848-2237, Ext 312.

Each registered couple will receive a signed certificate from the Bishop and have their names included on

the Diocese of Norwich website. Couples may also email a recent photo of themselves to be included in a gallery of pictures and a video on the website. Email the photo in a **jpeg** format to McLaughlin at the email address listed above

The registration deadline is **August 14, 2023. This is a firm date.**



Program for Parents, Coaches Focuses on Building Athletes with Character



When it comes to youth sports, officials in the Diocese of Norwich want to ensure that student athletes play like champions who are building positive character traits, learning sportsmanship, and having fun rather than just winning games.

With this in mind, the Diocese, under the auspices of the Diocesan Office of Faith Events (OFE) as part of its youth and young adult ministry is spearheading a new initiative to support coaches, and parents in helping youth in their care understand the value of sports and balancing it with other commitments in their lives. The initiative requires that all coaches and parents of student athletes participating in Catholic school and parish sports teams attend one of two workshops offered in August.

The workshop is called *Play Like a Champion Today* and centers on the principles of justice, tolerance, respect, and solidarity in sports playing. The program originated at the University of Notre Dame with input from coaches and administrators from the Notre Dame Athletic Department. The program's website says this about the program: "Scientifically-based and ethically-directed, *Play Like a Champion* designs its educational programs to promote children's physical, social, emotional and moral development to last a lifetime."

Bishop Michael Cote decided to bring the program to the Diocese at the recommendation of the Catholic School Sports Committee he established last year to create meaningful solutions to conflicts that have arisen in the past in



Two Diocesan Catholic school basketball teams compete at a recent game.

Diocesan sports programs. The committee consists of Liza Roach, youth and young adult minister who oversees Catholic Youth Organization sports for the Diocese; Fr. Greg Galvin, pastor of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Coventry and Storrs; Dr. Gail Kingston, Diocesan superintendent of schools; Susan Griffin, athletic director of St. Bernard School, Uncasville; and Terry O'Brien a coach at St. James School, Danielson.

According to Andrea Hoisl, director of the OFE, there have been several issues reported in the media as well as occurrences at diocesan sports events in which overzealous coaches and parents have focused on winning rather than teaching life lessons to young athletes about character development, responsible decision-making, and the fun of playing a sport. "As Catholics, we are not immune to some of the challenging sports climates we see in the secular world," she said. "We recognize the need for a program to help our coaches and parents focus on what is important in youth sports and create a positive sports experience for our youth."

Hoisl said coaches and parents have an incredible influence on children in their care, so it is important that they understand the importance of balancing the physical, spiritual, and emotional aspects of an athlete's development. "Parents and coaches lead by example. We want our youth to see and hear positive sports behaviors from their parents and coaches."

Two workshops, one Saturday August 26th from 8:30-9:30 A.M. and another offered Monday, August 28 from 7-8 P.M. will be offered at two different yet to be determined locations in the Diocese. A session for parents and another for coaches will be offered simultaneously at both times.

The parent workshop will help parents identify characteristics of a positive sports program and will contrast negative and positive behaviors that can contribute to either a toxic or engaging sports climate. The workshop for coaches will address ways for coaches to create a welcoming and inclusive team environment for children of all sports abilities, and help develop the mind, body, and moral character of their players.

A third workshop will be offered to those individuals who have been identified to become certified to present future *Play Like a Champion* workshops in the diocese. Individuals completing this facet of the program will receive a training certification which is valid for three years and can be renewed after attending a virtual refresher course.

Couples Happy Hour ~ The next virtual Couples Happy Hour will be Friday, **July 14**. It will include a presentation on a topic relevant to today's couples. Couples will have time to share privately on questions pertinent to the evening's topics. To register call Mary-Jo McLaughlin at 860-848-2237, Ext. 312 or email mmclaughlin@norwichdiocese.net. A link to the program will be sent prior to each event. If you have previously registered, you will automatically receive the link.

Trust in the mercy of God's Love

If you are carrying the grief and sorrow of past abortions, confidentially call the church's post-abortion healing ministry,

Project Rachel ~ 860-861-4439.