



The Heart of the Matter

Rochester Catholic Women's Conference

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIRST ROCHESTER CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE WILL UPLIFT, INSPIRE

March 2014 Gathering will feature acclaimed speakers, worship, community

The newly appointed 9th Bishop of Rochester, Most Rev. Salvatore R. Matano, will join hundreds of Catholic women from throughout the Diocese of Rochester for the first-ever Rochester Catholic Women's Conference March 1, 2014. This historic gathering will not only be an opportunity for women to meet the new bishop for perhaps the first time, but experience the joy of community and hear nationally known Catholic speakers address relevant and life-impacting topics of the day.

The conference, titled *The Heart of the Matter*, will be held at Aquinas Institute from 7:45 am to 5:30 pm.

The Heart of the Matter also will include beautiful liturgies, interesting vendors, opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, inspiring music, and a delicious catered lunch for those who attend.

"There is really something for everyone," said planning committee member Jean Parker.

A highlight of the Women's Conference will be the presence of Bishop Matano, who will preside at the conference Mass, hear confessions and be present to meet conference attendees.

"We were so excited to learn that our new Bishop had accepted our invitation to be a major participant in *The Heart Matter Conference*," said Planning Committee Chairperson Christine DiNovo.

Teresa Tomeo, Matthew Leonard, and Sister Joseph Andrew, OP will each address different aspects of the conference theme.

Said Amy Degnan, chairperson of the Speakers' Committee, "These speakers are my rock stars, and yet they were so down to earth and great to talk to - Matthew Leonard is very funny! The women who attend will really enjoy hearing what our speakers have to say."

Aquinas is a perfect venue for this historic gathering. "With a recently renovated auditorium and newer field house, the Aquinas Institute is a superb choice for this conference," added Venue Committee Chairperson Celeste Veloski. "We think the women will really enjoy every aspect of the day, including the location. It's just a beautiful atmosphere."

TICKET INFO/SPONSOR REQUESTS

Tickets may be purchased through the Rochester Catholic Women's Conference website: www.RochesterCWC.org. The cost is \$35 for students 18-25 years, \$50 until February 12, 2013 and \$55 after February 12, 2014. Tickets purchased at the door will be \$65. The Rochester Catholic Women's Conference (RCWC) is currently seeking sponsors at all levels, ranging from \$75 to \$5,000. For more information, or to volunteer to help with this event, please visit the website.

While this is a grass roots effort, organizers sought out approvals and technical assistance from the Diocese of Rochester. Diocese representatives were supportive and eager to lend assistance to this endeavor. DiNovo cites their enthusiasm and cooperation as being invaluable to the planning process. DiNovo brought the idea of this conference with her when she moved from Syracuse to Rochester last year. For the past four years, Syracuse successfully held a similar conference drawing close to 1,000 women each year.

DiNovo asked other women if they would be interested in planning a Catholic women's conference for Rochester. The enthusiastic responses convinced her that such a conference would indeed be successful. Organizers plan to draw women to the conference using a parish-based 'woman-to-woman' approach. "Parish Captains" from each of the diocese's 100+ parishes will invite women at their local parishes to attend in upcoming months.