

# Diocese

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and I'm very seldom refused," he said.

Pastors' overall reactions to the new policy run the gamut from indifference to enthusiasm to concern. Some priests balk at accepting any offerings, particularly from lifelong, contributing members of a parish. Father McCaffrey currently discourages most offerings from his parishioners at St. John the Evangelist in Newark Valley and St. Francis in Catatonk. "I'm uncomfortable with having a fee for funerals," he said. "I'm less uncomfortable with fees for weddings, especially with people who are spending a whole lot anyway."

Father McCaffrey suspects that the new policy will raise as many questions as it answers. "It's extremely complicated," he said. "What happens when a Jesuit from McQuaid comes in to do a wedding at St. Louis in Pittsford... If this is a \$1,000 item in one priest's income, how do we average it out?"

Some priests regard a dependence on what had been termed stole fees as less than professional, according to Father Anthony F. Calimeri, pastor of St. Francis Parish in Phelps. "There are a number of clergy who feel that priesthood should be considered a profession, and that for (a priest) to depend on weddings and funerals just isn't proper," he said. "I don't share that... My policy has always been that if someone says, 'Here, dear Father, take this,' you say thank you and you take it. I don't think it's proper to refuse gifts."

Father Wedow appreciates the clarification. "It definitely helps to have it spelled out," he said. "If you explain things to people, it always lessens the bitterness of the pill."

But he is also concerned about the effect on retired parishioners, who may struggle more with the increased cost. The same is true of parishioners at such inner-city parishes as St. Philip Neri in Rochester.

Father Richard Shatzel, the pastor at St. Philip's, pointed out that the money all comes from the same sources — parishioners. Given a choice, he would prefer to accept money from

parishioners in return for a specified service rather than in the form of increased salary, which would be borne by the parish in general.

Other pastors view stole fees as a non-issue. "Concerns about income seldom come up among parish priests. It's not a burning issue," said Father Hedges. "I don't think the clergy are pushing for more money. (But) I do think

any one of us will be more comfortable with (the stipend) as part of our salary."

Father Gramkee is puzzled by the focus on stole fees in particular. "I personally think they're dealing with the wrong issue," he said. "If there's a crisis to be faced, it's what to do with all the Mass stipends when we have no priests to say the Masses."

# Abbey

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tently.

"Those of us who coach here at Mooney understand how hard it is to win consistently, and then have to deal with people saying 'You're successful because you get the best kids.' But at Mooney, we get kids from all walks of life, where other high schools in Greece get the kids who've been playing together (while growing up)," said Forte, who also coaches the varsity

soccer program at Cardinal Mooney.

Forte likened Abbey's coaching philosophy to that of Buffalo Bills' head coach Marv Levy. "I saw in the paper the other day how Marv Levy's practices are more teaching than torture. Joette was that way. When you're dealing with responsible people, you don't have to use fear to motivate them."

"She's done a tremendous job with those kids. The kids could really identify with her," Forte concluded. "Joette has really been successful for so long. She's really shown how to be a consistent winner, and that's the hardest thing to do."

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1 Thess. 4:3, 6b & 8a

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