

Marriage

A Special Supplement
To The Catholic Courier
February 1, 1996

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To
Love,
Honor
and
Cherish

Diocese to celebrate longtime couples



Richard and Bridget Ford, who have been married 56 years, will be attending the Feb. 18 Mass celebrating couples married 25 years or more.

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

At some point in a long marriage, a husband and wife can seem to be the same person in thoughts and outlook, according to Richard and Bridget Ford, married 56 years, and longtime parishioners at Holy Spirit Church in Penfield.

"You suddenly find yourselves almost as one after a while," commented Richard, a native of Great Britain who still refers to his wife as "my charming young bride."

The Diocese of Rochester plans to celebrate the couple's mutual love, along with that of more than 480 other couples expected to attend one of two Masses slated to mark the anniversaries of couples married 25 years or more.

The first Mass is scheduled for 2 p.m. Feb. 18 in the Church of the Assumption, 20 East Ave., Fairport.

The second Mass will be offered at 2 p.m. April 14 in the Church of St. Mary Our Mother, 816 W. Broad St., Horseheads.

The Masses were publicized in parish bulletins throughout the diocese, and the notices asked couples

to call or write the diocese for an invitation.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will celebrate both liturgies, and will be available to greet couples at receptions after the Masses. Each couple will receive a certificate commemorating the event, in which they will record their vows collectively.

The diocese's Wedding Jubilee Masses, a diocesan tradition that has been in recent years, represents the diocese's church's desire to honor marriage and family life, according to Karen Rinefield of the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis.

"We talk about celebrating the holiness of family life, and this is one of these times," she said of the upcoming Masses, adding that reviving the events was Bishop Clark's idea.

Her department and the Diocesan Office of Liturgy are sponsoring the Masses, Rinefield said.

The Fords noted that they are quite excited about attending the Feb. 18 Mass.

"We're very enthusiastic about it because we're enthusiastic about

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