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Bishop Brzana, 79, dies; led Ogdensburg diocese

OGDENSBURG, N.Y. (CNS) — Retired Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana of Ogdensburg died March 1 from complications of a stroke suffered in late February. He was 79.

Bishop Brzana headed the northeastern New York diocese for 25 years and spent nearly 33 years as a bishop, including four years as an auxiliary bishop in his native Buffalo, to which he returned after retiring in 1993.

His body was received in a special evening liturgy March 2 at St. Mary Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York was scheduled to be the celebrant at Bishop Brzana's funeral Mass March 4 at the cathedral. Rochester's Bishop Matthew H. Clark also attended the Mass.

New guidelines tackle penance, birth control

VATICAN CITY — In a new set of guidelines for confessors, the Vatican said that while birth control is always morally wrong, it should generally be forgiven in confession — even for penitents who may habitually return to the practice.

The document emphasized that individuals and couples must sometimes be led gradually to accept the church's moral norms on sexuality, and in the meantime need the support of the sacraments.

"Especially in these times, the church considers it to be one of her principal duties to proclaim the mystery of mercy," it said.

The 25-page document, titled, "Vademecum for Confessors, Concerning Some Aspects of the Morality of Conjugal Life," was presented March 1.

The document was prepared at Pope John Paul II's request by the Pontifical Council for the Family, in collaboration with Vatican offices that deal with doctrine and confession.

Vatican paper launches series on homosexuality

VATICAN CITY — The Catholic Church does not have a separate set of criteria for judging the morality of heterosexual and homosexual activity, an Italian archbishop wrote in the Vatican newspaper.

All questions about sexual morality, including those related to homosexual acts, must be judged in the light of human dignity and the God-given human vocation to love and be loved, said Archbishop Dionigi Tettamanzi of Genoa.

The archbishop wrote the first in a series of articles on "Christian anthropology and homosexuality" in *L'Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican newspaper. The series began March 1.

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