



The Anchor

Diocese of Fall River

Friday, March 13, 2009

Faithful get lobbying tips at workshop

By Gus Breen
Anchor Correspondent

EASY SANDRICH — Citizens can better understand the legislative process and how to effectively lobby for a bill or to oppose legislation if they ask for a personal meeting with legislators and give their own thoughts on an issue.

That was one of the goals of the workshop at a recent Lobby Training Day run by the Civic and Family Life Alliance and Catholic Charities, a nonprofit, lay organization that encourages Catholics to participate in the political process.

"Attitude and knowledge are everything," said Tracy DeBary, executive and former lobbyist for Massachusetts Citizens for Life. "Many were either nervous or shy at first and got to work with a friendly, helpful attitude."

"Approach legislators as if you're not just there to change a vote, but to give them something to add to the conversation. Explain that for right or wrong you're not just the voice of someone you're going to give help," she said.

At the final meeting in the last hour to conversations, asked Republican Rep. Bill Dwyer of Sandwich, Massachusetts and phone calls to an issue are most keen.

See page 20



St. Joseph the carpenter: A role model for today's dads

By Diocese James N. Dunne

NEW BEDFORD — For Edward Dege, being a dad is his well-earned crown. He's a father because of the love of God, but he's a father because of the love of his wife, Linda, and the love of his children.

"It's a self-motivated carpenter and of work I put in the carpenter's traditional pattern and who was also a great family man to help me become a better family man as I take on many domestic duties that I know I don't perform as well," said the 46-year-old owner of Ed Dege Construction.

As the March 10 feast for soldiers St. Joseph as the husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, approaches, Dege and his devotion to the foster father of Jesus has become deeper over time.

Because his devotion to the Virgin Mary has always been strong, naturally, his devotion to the Holy Family and their particularity to Joseph, he said.

"The family has always been the most important thing for me, and so it is most important to me to be a father for my kids as St. Joseph's job, only in being a better father to strengthen the union of family which is essential to my spiritual well-being and successful marriage, to be a

See page 21

Boston Men's Conference is April 18

By Kenneth J. Sorensen
Anchor Staff

FALL RIVER — As Catholics prepare for the feast of St. Joseph, anticipation is growing throughout the Fall River Diocese for the 18th annual Boston Catholic Men's Conference on April 18 in Boston College.

The theme of this year's conference is "In the Footsteps of Christ" and key speakers for the day-long event will include Jerry Shea, bishop emeritus for Boston College; Curtis Martin, founder of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students; Jim Stinson, pastor and one of the Church's foremost experts on Catholic men's issues; and James DeGroot, who played Jesus Christ in Matt Gibbons' "The Passion of the Christ" and making a certain appearance after speaking at the annual gathering back in 2007.

The annual gathering — which piggybacks with a Catholic Men's Conference on April 18 — evolved out of a meeting of a Catholic Men's Group at St. Paul Church in Cambridge in the fall of 2004 and was established to help men struggling with their faith to build the Church in Boston. The attendance is anticipated to be in the thousands and for next conference drew more than 2,200 men on March 18, 2009 — the feast of St. Joseph.

In subsequent years, interest and attendance in the two-day conference has steadily increased — to as many as 5,200 men — and organizers are looking forward to another impressive turnout for the 18th year.

Following the theme of a men's conference, the conference includes the above-mentioned keynote speakers along with music and other presentations, which focus on group discussion, prayer and

See page 22



OSCAR PISTORIUS — Oscar Pistorius, Paralympic athlete, will be the guest of honor at a recent meeting between a legislator and constituents during a recent Legislative Lobbying Day held at Congress Center Parish in East Sandwich.



See page 23

**For weekly growth
in the Catholic faith.**

**To SUBSCRIBE, SEND A CHECK FOR \$14,
MADE PAYABLE TO THE ANCHOR TO:**

The Anchor

P.O. Box 7, Fall River, MA 02722
theanchor@anchornews.org
508.675.7151

The weekly newspaper for the Diocese of Fall River