

# Our Lady of the Lakes

## Catholic Community

September 18, 2011



### Weekend Mass Schedule

St. Michael's  
Liberty St., Penn Yan  
Confession 4:15pm Sat.  
5:00pm Saturday  
7:00am Sunday  
9:30am Sunday

St. Theresa's  
Route 245, Stanley  
Confession 10:30am Sun.  
11:00am Sunday

St. Januarius  
Route 21, Naples  
Confession 4:15pm Sat.  
5:00pm Saturday  
10:00am Sunday

St. Patrick's  
N. Main St. Prattsburgh  
Confession 7:30am Sun.

### The Power of Many, Stronger As One

Each of us have been given different gifts by God. We have a role to play in spreading God's love and the gospel message. We take what we have been given and, as good stewards, use it for the good of all.

We each do our part but we can't do it all alone. To fulfill God's plan, we need to come together from acting as *many* individuals to being *stronger as one*. By working together, we can accomplish much more than just the sum of what we can do individually.

That's why the theme of this year's diocesan Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA) is *The Power of Many, Stronger As One*. None of us can do all the ministries of the diocese by ourselves. Neither can we just divide up the work so everyone just does their own part. We have to work together. The CMA is one way of pooling what we have been given to do that.

Your generosity contributing to last year's CMA was amazing. Thank you! Two years ago, each of the churches was short of their goal for a combined total of approximately \$22,000. Last year, coming together with one common goal, a lot of hard work, and your generosity we met our goal. The total contributed rose from \$36,685 to \$56,283. This was possible for three reasons. First, there were 68 households who hadn't given the previous year who gave \$9,975. Secondly, 72 households increased their contributions by \$3,493. Lastly, we had one very large donor who hadn't given before. We made our goal because **you** stepped up to the plate and contributed.

Your individual contributions (*the power of many*) come together *stronger as one* in the ministry of the diocese. Here are some of the ways in which the diocese uses your contribution:

Provide training opportunities for staff and volunteers, and education for clergy

- ◆ Maintain our computers and our email system.
- ◆ Advise us on the maintenance of our buildings
- ◆ Offer administrative support like insurance, pensions, and personnel policies.
- ◆ Offer annual senior and junior high retreats for youth
- ◆ Help the poor, the troubled, the battered and the addicted through Catholic Charities.

Provide support for jail, hospital and college chaplains

This week, our diocese will begin mailing out letters to you on this year's campaign. When you receive it, think about it, pray about it. What are you called to contribute this year? Can you contribute a little more? Can you contribute the same amount? Maybe your financial situation has changed and you have less to give. The bottom line as good Christian stewards is not just to give something but to think and pray.

You might be wondering "if I increase my contribution and we go over our goal, what happens?" Simple, we get half of any amount we are over our goal by back.

Pray about it. We thank you for whatever you might be able to give.

Peace, Fr. Jeff