

**February 25, 2013**

## **Visitation House Holds Annual Fundraising Dinner – Local Author to Speak**

Visitation House in Worcester will be holding its 8th annual fundraising dinner on Thursday night, April 25, 2013. This is the biggest event of the year for the home on Endicott Street that serves homeless women in crisis pregnancies.

The dinner will be held for the second time in the Parish Center at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Mulberry Street, Worcester from 6:00-9:00pm. “We’ll have a packed house again this year with 40 tables full of guests,” said Eve Lindquist, Executive Director of Visitation House. “It’s a great night of fun that people really look forward to.”

There is no cost to attend the Visitation House fundraiser. Dinner is provided by those who volunteer to host a table and cook for 8-10 diners each; dinner guests are asked to make a free will donation to Visitation House during the course of the evening. Anyone interested in hosting a table or attending the dinner can contact Mrs. Lindquist to see if space is available.

Guests at the Visitation House dinner have enjoyed a great line-up of speakers over the years, including former Boston Mayor Raymond L. Flynn who headlined the 2012 dinner. “We’re really looking forward to having Erika Bachiochi as the keynote speaker at the dinner this year,” says Mrs. Lindquist. “She was recommended to us by our friend, Fr. John Gavin, a Jesuit priest from Holy Cross. The issues to which Erika has dedicated her professional career – the negative impact of abortion on women, the benefits of following the Church’s teachings on sex and marriage, feminist arguments for being pro-life — are central to the challenges faced by the mothers at Visitation House. She’s going to address topics all pro-lifers should be well-versed in.” Links to some of Mrs. Bachiochi’s writing can be found on [her website](#).

One of the traditions at the annual dinner is to present an award to an outstanding benefactor of Visitation House. The award is named in honor of Ruth V.K. Pakaluk, a local prolife advocate and mother of seven, who in the late 1990’s perceived the need for a home like Visitation House in the Worcester area. After her untimely death from breast cancer in 1998 at the age of 41, Ruth’s friends formed a committee to investigate the possibility of opening such a home to care for women who are homeless and pregnant. As a result of Ruth’s vision and their efforts, Visitation House opened on the Feast of the Visitation, on May 31, 2005. The 2013 Ruth Pakaluk Award will be presented to Bishop Robert J. McManus, Bishop of Worcester, who has been a strong supporter and advocate of Visitation House from its start, blessing the House when it opened and encouraging parishes in the diocese to lend financial and prayer support to its mission. After serving as Auxiliary Bishop of Providence, Bishop McManus was named as the Fifth Bishop of Worcester by Pope John Paul II in 2004. In 2008, he completed his term as the Chairperson of the Committee on Education for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. We are truly grateful that Bishop McManus has agreed to be honored on our biggest night of the year.

Visitation House, the only Catholic home of its kind in Massachusetts, provides young mothers in need with food, clothing, and a safe and supportive living environment until they have their babies. They are able to stay up until their babies reach 6 months of age. The house is staffed 24/7, and women are coached in numerous life skills to assist them in becoming independent and successful mothers. In its eight years of operation, Visitation House has been a safe haven for 150 women.