

**WAYNE COUNTY NURSING HOME**  
**1529 Nye Road**  
**Lyons, New York 14489**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **New Chaplain Named at Wayne County Nursing Home Unique Service Gives Care and Dignity in Life and in Death**

October 18, 2005, Lyons, New York --- Jim Fitch, an ordained deacon with the St. Anne's - St. Gregory parish cluster in the Palmyra/ Marion area, has been named the new Chaplain of the Wayne County Nursing Home in Lyons. Fitch will be partnering with other area volunteer clergy, to coordinate services to ensure that the spiritual needs of the facility's residents and staff are served.

In addition to providing spiritual guidance and comfort to the residents and staff, some of the newest services Fitch will offer are unique to Wayne County Nursing Home. Fitch has created a series of non-denominational services for the dying, beginning with a bedside service for the resident and family members.

"I'll be available 24 hours a day to anyone who wishes me to be present in a resident's last hours," Fitch said. "This is for support and comfort, or a shoulder to cry on."

Once the person has passed away, Fitch will accompany the body in a special escort with staff, as the deceased leaves the nursing home with the funeral director. The body will be taken out through the front entrance of the nursing home, draped in a special quilt made by other residents, which hangs on display inside. The quilt was made as "a symbol of WCNH's love and care," according to Margaret T. Haroff, Administrator of the Wayne County Nursing Home.

"We give them dignity and respect in death as we did in life," Fitch says. "WCNH feels that they came in through the front door to live here, and they should leave the same way."

Within a couple of days after the resident's death, Fitch will conduct a memorial service for the resident's Household and staff, at the facility. The memorial service "celebrates the person's life and passing on to a better place," says Fitch. It also helps other Household residents and staff to grieve the loss.

As an ordained deacon, Fitch serves the nursing home as an extension of his ministry, and is not paid.

The Wayne County Nursing Home, a public facility licensed by the New York State Department of Health, is a 190 bed skilled nursing facility located at 1529 Nye Road, Lyons, New York. Wayne County Board of Supervisors has a 175-year history of providing facilities to care for residents in need.

The new, state-of-the-art facility opened in May of 2005 at its new location on Nye Road.

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