



News from the

Catholic Diocese of Palm Beach

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NEWS RELEASE

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Catholic Diocese of Palm Beach Celebrates 25 Years "A Eucharistic People"

Most Rev. Gerald M. Barbarito, Bishop of the five county Diocese of Palm Beach, announced the details and kick off for the upcoming 25th Anniversary of the Catholic Diocese of Palm Beach. *"The upcoming year provides a joyful opportunity for all of us to look to the past with gratitude and to the future with hope. It certainly is my joy and privilege to share part of these years with you and to experience your deep faith, hope and love,"* said Bishop Barbarito.

The 25th Anniversary theme, "A Eucharistic People" is the vision of Bishop Barbarito, the fifth Bishop of the growing Diocese of Palm Beach. Reflecting on the milestone, Bishop Barbarito said, *"While twenty-five years is a very short period of time in comparison to the two thousand year history of the Church, we are an integral part of that history, especially through the celebration of the Eucharist which transcends all time and makes us one in Christ."*

The opening Mass will take place on Friday October 24, 2008 which will mark the beginning of the anniversary year which will conclude October 24, 2009. Bishop Barbarito has invited all priests, deacons, religious and lay faithful to attend the Mass which will take place at 7:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola, 9999 N. Military Trail, Palm Beach Gardens. A reception will follow in the Cathedral Hall.

Throughout the year many spiritual and social events have been planned by the Anniversary Committee, including Forty Hours Eucharistic devotion at each parish and mission in keeping with the Eucharistic theme, a dinner/dance at the Breakers Palm Beach, individual Masses in each of the four deaneries celebrated by Bishop Barbarito which will provide an opportunity for the faithful to celebrate closer to home, a large scale youth event, vocations awareness events, ministry of prayer for the homebound, Catholic schools activities, and the closing Mass on October 24, 2009 at the Palm Beach Convention Center in West Palm Beach. In addition to the events listed below, each Diocesan ministry, parish and school has been encouraged to coordinate additional events during the year which will commemorate the upcoming jubilee.

25th Anniversary Schedule of Events

October 24, 2008: Opening Mass to be celebrated at St. Ignatius Loyola Cathedral at 7:00 p.m., 9999 N. Military Trail, Palm Beach Gardens

October 24, 2008: Coffeehouse for Young Adults: following the opening Mass and reception, our Young Adults will hold their first Coffeehouse in the Cathedral Hall.

Forty Hour Devotion: check with individual parishes for the schedule of Eucharistic Adoration.

February 1, 2009: World Day for Consecrated Life, the Religious of our Diocese will join together for a Holy Hour/Benediction in celebration of the 25th Anniversary Year at 2:30 p.m. at St. Ann Catholic Church in West Palm Beach.

February 8, 2009: Catholic Youth in Action, a Youth and Young Adult walk and festival on Flagler Drive in downtown West Palm Beach. This event will be open to all ages and include Mass celebrated by Bishop Barbarito as well as ethnic music and food.

February 18, 2009: Dinner/Social event for all priests of the Diocese to be held at St. Edward Catholic Church in Palm Beach.

April 22, 2009: Dinner/Dance to be held at the Breakers Palm Beach

Deanery Masses: A special Mass celebrating the 25th Anniversary Year will be offered by Bishop Barbarito in each Deanery. This 7:00 p.m. liturgy will be preceded by a dinner for the priests of each respective Deanery. (Southern Deanery, January 16, 2009 – St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church in Delray, Central Deanery, March 19, 2009 – St. Juliana Catholic Church in West Palm Beach, Cathedral Deanery, June 5, 2009 – St. Christopher Catholic Church in Hobe Sound, Northern Deanery, September 25, 2009, St. Helen Catholic Church in Vero Beach)

May 4 – 7, 2009: Priests' Convocation

October 24, 2009: Closing Mass at the Palm Beach Convention Center in West Palm Beach at 11:00 a.m.

A special prayer has been written by Bishop Barbarito in honor of the 25th anniversary of the Diocese as well as a logo for use in the Diocese and parishes throughout the anniversary year. Events will be posted on the Diocesan website at www.diocesepb.org and in the *Florida Catholic* Newspaper, and all are encouraged to rely on these resources for information and events related to the year-long celebration.

The Catholic Diocese of Palm Beach, which covers, Indian River, Okeechobee, Martin, St. Lucie, and Palm Beach counties is home to over a quarter of a million Catholics and growing in its 53 parishes and missions. Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito is the fifth Bishop of the Diocese which was founded on October 24, 1984 by the late Pope John Paul II.

Media are welcome to attend the opening Mass and all other events. To coordinate coverage, contact the Office of Communications at 561-775-9529 or awalkenstein@diocesepb.org.

For more information about the history of the Catholic Diocese of Palm Beach visit www.diocesepb.org.

