



# Diocese of Palm Beach

9995 North Military Trail • P.O. Box 109650  
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33410-9650

Office of  
THE BISHOP

---

(561) 775-9595 Fax (561) 775-7035

October 24, 2008

Dear homebound Faithful of the Diocese of Palm Beach:

You, as a homebound member of our Diocese of Palm Beach, are an integral part of our Diocesan family. As such, and as part of our twenty-fifth Anniversary, I am inviting you to participate in a "Ministry of Prayer." This "Ministry of Prayer" will unite the sick, infirm, elderly, handicapped and homebound faithful of the Diocese in a body of prayerful persons, who will support the clergy and faithful of the Diocese by offering their prayers, works, sufferings and joys as a personal gift to God.

The importance of praying is a tradition that has been part of the Church from its earliest times. We are reminded of it as we see Jesus praying throughout his ministry in Galilee, and especially in the Garden and on the Cross. We are strengthened by it as we hear the accounts of renewed faith told again and again. We are inspired by it in the example of courageous men and women of the Gospel, who followed the risen Lord through trial and persecution to Resurrection.

There are no meetings or dues, for this is a spiritual ministry and no special prayers are required. I do ask that you continue your own usual spiritual practices, and ask God's blessing on our priests, deacons, religious, families, single persons, youth, inactive Catholics, and everyone in need of spiritual strength and direction. I recommend the daily recitation of the rosary and our prayer for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Diocese of Palm Beach.

Throughout our jubilee year, October 24, 2008 to October 24, 2009, those who participate in the "Ministry of Prayer." will receive notice of special prayer intentions.

Your ministry of prayer is a powerful instrument of God's love. May God bless you as you give of yourself in prayer and in praise of Him who has blessed our Diocese in so many ways. May the peace of Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit reign in your hearts.

With gratitude for your prayers and the assurance of my prayers for you, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Gerald M. Barbarito  
Bishop of Palm Beach