



*News from the*

## **Catholic Diocese of Palm Beach**

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# NEWS RELEASE

(Palm Beach Gardens, FL) August 24, 2009

### **BISHOP BARBARITO TO CELEBRATE THE FOURTH ANNUAL BLUE MASS**

*We will never forget...*

As the Eighth Anniversary of the horrific attacks on our nation that occurred on September 11, 2001 approaches, the Parish Family of St. Martin de Porres invites you to join them as they honor all the brave men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty on that terrible day in our history at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Blue Mass. The Mass will be celebrated on Friday September 11, 2009 by the Most Reverend Gerald M. Barbarito, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Palm Beach at St. Martin de Porres, 2550 NE Savanna Road, Jensen Beach, FL. The Blue Mass refers to the blue uniforms worn by so many public safety personnel. It is meant to honor those who daily protect and serve us. At the Mass, prayers and remembrance will be offered for law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency rescue personnel who have fallen in the line of duty and prayers offered for the safety of all active officers.

The tribute will begin at 11:30 a.m. with a Solemn Video and Poetry Presentation which will include Posting of Colors by Honor/Color Guards of Police, Fire and Military Personnel. Bishop Barbarito will celebrate the Solemn Blue Mass at 12:00 p.m. Immediately following Mass, all will proceed to a designated area outdoors where the tribute will continue with the traditional "21 Gun Salute" and "Taps". After the tribute, all participants are invited to attend a luncheon. There will be special performances of patriotic songs by the acclaimed Jensen Beach High School Choir, "Jubilate" and their award winning Marching Band as well as other performers.

St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church is proud to offer the *St. Martin the Charitable Scholarship* to a child of a Martin County Law Enforcement Officer, Firefighter or Emergency Recue First Responder who will be attending a post-secondary educational institution. Children of New York City emergency personnel who took part in the September 11<sup>th</sup> rescue efforts are also eligible. The applicant must be a senior graduating from a local high school and will be judged on academic achievement, community service and financial need. The scholarship is funded by the offering taken up at our Blue Mass. Last year three \$500 scholarships were awarded to local students.

Firefighters, police officers and EMT's in Martin County as well as federal, state and local elected officials have been invited to attend. All members of our community are invited to prayerfully join together in remembrance of those who lost their lives on that dreadful day as we continue to pray for peace, protection from evil, and for the men and women who give in service each day in defense of our freedom.

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