



*News from the*

## **Catholic Diocese of Palm Beach**

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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **CATHOLIC YOUTH IN ACTION WALK '09 TO BENEFIT NEEDY CHILDREN**

Thousands of Catholic youth and families will descend on Flagler Drive in West Palm Beach on Sunday February 8, 2009 in solidarity, love and service to others for the first ever **Catholic Youth in Action Walk '09!**

For twenty-five years, the youth of the Catholic Diocese of Palm Beach have responded in service answering Christ's call to serve the hungry, thirsty and stranger in need of welcome. For the first time ever, the youth of the Diocese will join in together in step to continue this mandate in a fundraising 5k walk where they will witness their service to the community at large.

Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito, who will celebrate a pre-walk Mass for all attendees and later participate in the 5K walk, commented on the upcoming event, *"I look forward to being with our wonderful young people for the CYIA '09 walk on February 8, and I invite all of you to join me for the Mass and events to follow as together we give witness to Jesus Christ as a Eucharistic People!"*

CYIA '09 is where faith and action collide! Walk on with thousands of Catholic youth, young adults, families, and beyond who will walk in support of their needy brothers and sisters right here at home. All monies raised from the 5K walk will benefit area after school programs serving children in areas like the Glades, Okeechobee, St. Lucie, Ft. Pierce and Riviera Beach. These centers are staffed by 25 professionals who provide homework assistance, computer education, social skills, mentoring and modules for enrichment, sports activities, literacy, and community field trips for over 350 children each day. **Catholic Youth in Action '09** will provide an opportunity for all community youth, the youth of the Diocese of Palm Beach who attend Catholic Schools, Parish Religious Education Programs and Catholic Youth Ministries to participate in a united fundraising effort for local charity during the 25th anniversary jubilee year of the Diocese of Palm Beach themed "25 Years - A Eucharistic People."

Event Chair Bernadette Shalhoub had a vision for this inaugural event now set to take place in the Diocese of Palm Beach. She stated, *"For years I have long desired to favorably affect the general public view of Catholics in our area. Our young people in Catholic Schools, Religious Education programs in all 53 parishes and missions, and our teens and young adults active in youth ministries across the five-county Diocese shine bright. They are encouraged from the earliest years to think in terms of helping others. CYIA gives them the opportunity to come together as one family in faith for service."*

**The action packed schedule of events for Sunday February 8, 2009 is as follows:**

7:30 a.m. Team Check In & Registration

8:15 a.m. Opening Program, Music and Exercise (Master of Ceremonies WPTV-TV anchor Jim Sackett)  
9:00 a.m. Mass celebrated by Most Rev. Gerald M. Barbarito, Bishop of Palm Beach, along with priests of the Diocese of Palm Beach  
10:15 a.m. 5K walk begins  
11:15 a.m. Music and Food Festival

**How can you help?** Become a Catholic Youth in Action! Sign up NOW to participate by contacting 561-775-0984. Sponsor a walker or just donate to the Catholic Youth in Action Walk '09 by sending an advance donation to Catholic Youth in Action c/o the Diocese of Palm Beach, 9995 N. Military Trail, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410. For more information visit [www.diocesepb.org](http://www.diocesepb.org) or call 561-775-0984

All media are welcome and encouraged to attend. The Catholic Youth in Action Walk will be held along Flagler Drive in downtown West Palm Beach. The start and finish line will be at the Meyer Amphitheatre located on Evernia. Please contact the Office of Communications at 561-775-9529 for advance story opportunities highlighting local participants, the organizers as well as the community served.

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