

Greetings to you in Jesus Christ this New Year 2009!

As your Bishop, it is my privilege to invite you, our Catholic young people, to join me on Sunday February 8, 2009 for what will be an incredible witness of faith in action, the first ever Catholic Youth in Action '09 event which includes an outdoor Mass, 5K fundraising walk along Flagler Drive in downtown West Palm Beach, and a post walk festival with music, food and fellowship.

Catholic service is one of the mainstays of our Catholic faith. Each month our young people in Catholic schools and parishes across our thriving, five county Diocese, demonstrate in action their commitment to those in need. This February 8, 2009 I invite you, our vibrant young people and your families, to come together as a Diocese to show our solidarity, love and service to others.

The event program is as follows:

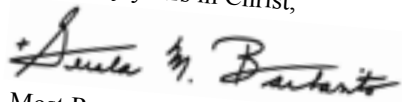
7:30	Registration
8:15	Opening Program, Music and Exercise
9:00	Mass - Celebrated by the Most Reverend Bishop Barbarito, Bishop of Palm Beach and the priests of our Diocese
10:15	5k Fundraising Walk on Flagler
11:15-2:00	Music and Food Festival

The monies raised from the 5K walk will help the following after-care programs; Glades Kids, the Haitian multi-service center in Ft. Pierce, Good to Grow in Riviera Beach, Pahokee Pals and Okeechobee Youth. These after-school activity centers serve over 350 children each day from 2:30 to 6:00 p.m. These centers are staffed by 25 professionals who provide homework assistance, computer education, social skills, mentoring, modules for enrichment and sports activities, literacy and community field trips. They provide transportation from school to the center each day and offer a nutritious snack and other meals. These after-school programs are preventative in nature and their activities and educational modules help improve the self esteem of students.

As we prepare for the CYIA '09 event, I will especially remember all our young people in my prayers and I look forward to this special day on Sunday February 8th!

With gratitude for your dedication and generosity, and with assurance of my prayers, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Gerald M. Barbarito  
Bishop of Palm Beach

