

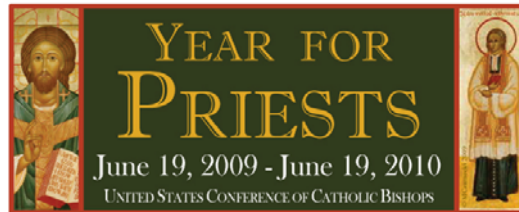


ARCHDIOCESE OF SANTA FE
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
4000 Saint Joseph Place NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120-1714

MEDIA ALERT

From: Celine B. Radigan, Director
Voice 505. 831.8180, FAX 505.831.8248, Email cradigan@archdiosf.org

Historical Gathering
Today, Thursday, October 01, 2009 5:30 PM
San Felipe Church, Albuquerque, NM
Five Bishops Representing the Province of Santa Fe and
Miami's Auxiliary Bishop to Join
Over 200 Priests at Archdiocese of Santa Fe's
Year For Priests¹ Mass Celebration



Albuquerque, NM—Thursday, October 01, 2009-- Immediate Release – A historic event will take place today, Thursday, October 1, 2009 at 5:30 pm in San Felipe Church, Albuquerque, NM. The event is the first time Bishops and priests from the Roman Catholic Province of Santa Fe will gather together in prayer. The Province² of Santa Fe consists of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, the Diocese of Las Cruces, the Diocese of Gallup, the Diocese of Phoenix and the Diocese of Tucson.

Bishops Gathering to celebrate the Year for Priests are:

Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan, Archbishop of Santa Fe and Metropolitan See of the Province of Santa Fe
Bishop Ricardo Ramirez, CSB, Diocese of Las Cruces, NM
Bishop James Wall, Diocese of Gallup, NM
Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted, Diocese of Phoenix, AZ
Bishop Gerald Kicanis, Diocese of Tucson, AZ
Bishop Felipe de Jesus Estevez, Auxiliary Bishop of Miami, FL

¹ Pope Benedict XVI called the whole Church to celebrate a Year for Priests beginning on 19th June 2009, the Feast of the Sacred Heart.

His purpose for this year is to encourage priests in their “striving for spiritual perfection on which, above all, the effectiveness of their ministry depends” and to highlight “the importance of the priest’s role and mission in the Church and in contemporary society”.

To do this the Holy Father calls us to a renewed focus on the centrality of Christ in our lives and in the Church and that “brings with it the correct appreciation of the ministerial priesthood, without which there would be neither the Eucharist, nor even the mission nor the Church herself”.

This same year is the 150th anniversary of the death of St John Vianney, the patron saint of priests, and also the occasion of the visit to England of the relics of St Therese of Lisieux – who from her Carmelite convent showed her life-long devotion to priests by praying for them, supporting them and corresponding with them.

² A province is composed of a metropolitan archdiocese (Archdiocese of Santa Fe) and the neighboring dioceses mentioned above.