



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

PRESS RELEASE

From: Celine B. Radigan, Director
Voice 505.831.8180, FAX 505.831.8248, cradigan@archdiosf.org www.archdiosf.org

Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan to Celebrate the Red Mass
Friday, October 14, 2011, 12:00 Noon
Immaculate Conception Church, 619 Copper Ave. NW, Albuquerque, NM

All judges, lawyers, those engaged in law enforcement and the administration of justice as well as other interested persons are invited to attend.



ALBUQUERQUE – Monday, October 10, 2011 – IMMEDIATE RELEASE--The St. Thomas More Society and Catholic Charities cordially invite you to participate in the Annual Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit, traditionally known as **The Red Mass** Friday, October 14, 2011, 12:00PM at Immaculate Conception Church, 619 Copper Ave. NW, Albuquerque, NM. The homily will be presented by **Most Rev. Joseph A. Fiorenza**, retired Archbishop of Galveston-Houston.

The principal celebrant will be **Most Rev. Michael J. Sheehan**, Archbishop of Santa Fe. This sacred event seeks divine guidance for lawyers, judges and all other participating in the administration of justice. The Red Mass honors St. Thomas More and St. Ives, patrons of the legal profession. The patron saints serve as models of the lawyer's steadfast devotion and high principals necessary to face the temptation of ambition and wealth. **All judges, lawyers, those engaged in law enforcement and the administration of justice as well as other interested persons are invited to attend.**

The Red Mass is a historical tradition within the Catholic Church. The tradition traces its origins to the Thirteenth Century when the Mass officially opened the judicial year of the Sacred Roman Rota, the Tribunal of the Holy See. During the reign of St. Louis (Louis IX) of France, LaSainte Chapell was designated as the site of the Mass. The chapel was used publicly only once during the year for the Red Mass. In England, the tradition was initiated by Edward I in 1310 and was celebrated in Westminster Cathedral on the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel (September 29) at the opening of the Michaelmas term of the royal courts.

In the United States, the tradition was inaugurated in 1928 in St. Andrew's Church in New York City. Supreme Court Justices, legislators and judges celebrate the National Red Mass at St. Matthew's Cathedral in Washington, DC to mark the opening of the October term of the Supreme Court.

The name "Red Mass" is derived from the color of vestments signifying the fire of the Holy Spirit worn by the celebrants, the scarlet robes of attending justices (which were bright scarlet in the Middle Ages) and the scarlet gowns of the faculties. During the Mass, prayers are said to bring blessings of divine strength, wisdom, truth, justice, and peace upon jurists who face the difficult challenges of their profession.

Contact: Rose Pando 505.724.4670--END