



OFFICE OF RADIO & TELEVISION

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For Immediate Release

PRESS RELEASE

Police, Fire, and Safety Personnel Honored by Church

Hartford, CT, April 13, 2010 - A massive American flag waving atop two fire engine ladders welcomes men and women in uniform as bagpipes fill the air and color guards display their flags. It will be the colorful beginning of a day to say thanks to those heroes among us who risk their lives to keep us safe: police, firefighters, and other public safety personnel. Archbishop Henry J. Mansell will celebrate the Mass, while police, fire chiefs, and other civic leaders pray for Connecticut community servants during the Archdiocese of Hartford's **Second Annual Blue Mass. It is on Sunday, May 2, 2010 at 11 a.m., in the Cathedral of St. Joseph, 140 Farmington Avenue in Hartford.**

The event is a way to honor and recognize the many sacrifices offered by public safety personnel. It is also a time to remember those who have given the ultimate sacrifice - their very lives. Every day, emergency responders bravely face numerous dangers in order to protect others from harm. Archbishop Mansell says, "This celebration expresses so often what we take for granted... the heroic and valorous service of our police officers, firefighters, and other public safety personnel." Also during this Mass, the Church will pray for the safety of all public safety personnel.

While this is the Second Annual Blue Mass in the Archdiocese of Hartford, this celebration is not new. In 1934, a thousand police and firefighters packed into Saint Patrick's Catholic Church in Washington, D.C. The emergency responders marched into the church dressed in their blue uniforms, hence the name "Blue Mass." The tradition continued in various parts of the country. After the tragedy of September 11th, the Blue Mass quickly spread to places throughout the United States.

Media are invited to attend.

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