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### ***Diocese to honor San Bernardino detective at Blue Mass***

INDIO, Calif. – The Diocese of San Bernardino will pay tribute to the men and women of San Bernardino and Riverside counties who work in public safety with its annual Blue Mass on Thursday.

The Diocese of San Bernardino will offer this special liturgy to honor police officers, deputies, firefighters and other public safety personnel on Thursday, October 8 at 6:00 p.m. at Our Lady of The Rosary Cathedral, 2525 N. Arrowhead Ave. San Bernardino, CA 92404.

Bishop Gerald Barnes will be the principal celebrant and police and fire personnel, active and retired, will participate in the Mass. All are invited to attend.

“This is an opportunity for all people of goodwill to come and pray for the men and women called to vocation of public safety,” Bishop Barnes said. “They are a great model of sacrifice and service.”

At the conclusion of the Blue Mass, the ceremonial “Last Alarm” is rung to honor those in public safety who have died in the line of duty during the previous year and in years past, including those lost in the attacks of September 11, 2001.

At the Blue Mass, the Chief Patrick G. Crowe Public Safety Award is given to a public safety member who exhibits exceptional service to the community, department or church in some way. This year Detective David Clifford of the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department will be honored with the award.

A 15-year veteran of the Sheriff’s Dept., Det. Clifford is currently assigned to the Special Investigations Division - Crimes Against Children Detail and it was described in his nomination letter that he “clearly goes above and beyond merely just investigating abuse. He comforts those who need it, speaks for those who often can’t, and works to bring justice to the children he serves.”

The Blue Mass first began in 1934, when Rev. Thomas Dade, a priest from the Archdiocese of Baltimore, initiated the Catholic Police and Fireman’s Society while assigned to St. Patrick Catholic Church in Washington D.C. On September 29, 1934, about 1,100 police officers and firemen, dressed in blue uniforms, celebrated the first Blue Mass in St. Patrick Catholic Church.

Bishop Barnes brought the northeastern U.S. tradition to the Diocese in 2002. Each year the Mass alternates between the two counties that fall under the Diocese of San Bernardino.

The media is invited to attend.

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