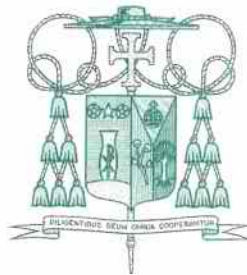


Diocese of Beaumont

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September 2016

My Dear Parents, Families of our Students, and School Board Members,

It is with great joy that I invite each of you and your children to join me in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of our diocese as we come together **September 18th for a beautiful Mass of Thanksgiving followed by a wonderful birthday party at Ford Park in Beaumont.**

Our students, their families and our school board members have been an important part of our history for these past 50 years ever since the establishment of our diocese in September 1966. As you may already know some of our students will be playing an important role in the welcome and hospitality for our celebration.

The celebration of the **Mass will begin at 4:00 P.M.**, and both Cardinal Daniel DiNardo and our hometown son Archbishop Joseph Fiorenza, as well as other bishops and inter-religious leaders, will be joining us. Though I am excited that these people of great faith will be with us on this special day, I am especially excited that all of our students and their families will also be with us!

I am looking forward to seeing hundreds of our youth and young adults at this celebration. I think it is important for them to be with us as we reflect on our faith and the faith of those who came before us. Please consider this open letter your personal invitation. All are welcome. No ticket is required for your attendance.

There will be diverse and beautiful music prior to Mass. Following Mass, we will have a reception that will include some wonderful food and music. I am sure you will hear something that you danced to or listened to in your own youth and some music our teenagers may enjoy. We will have memorabilia on display that will let our youngsters learn about their school's history and the diversity of the Southeast Texas community.

Our celebration is more than can be contained in one day. So prior to the Mass on Sunday, our schools are sponsoring the **Diocese Dash, 5K walk or run on Saturday, Sept. 17**. I hope that each of you plan to run or walk that day. Proceeds will benefit our schools. You can register on line at active.com and search for Diocese Dash.

The entire celebration and the year that follows will have us proclaiming as Our Blessed Mother did. "The Mighty One has done great things for us" and "His mercy is from age to age." I pray that as we come together, we will be transformed again by the Holy Spirit's power so that we may continue to carry out the mission of Jesus bringing hope, forgiveness, healing, love and peace to all peoples.

I pray that Saint Anthony of Padua, patron of our Diocese, and Mary, the Mother of Mercy, accompany each one of you and our children into a grace-filled future of God's abundant life.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Curtis J. Guillory".

Most Rev. Curtis J. Guillory, S.V.D., D.D.

Bishop of Beaumont