August 10, 2009

Chief Joseph E. Pozzo
Loudoun County Department of Fire and Rescue
16600 Courage Court
Leesburg, Virginia 22075

Dear Chief Pozzo:

I wish to invite you and the members of your City/County Fire Department to attend the "SIXTH ANNUAL BLUE MASS" celebrated in the Diocese of Arlington.

As you are aware, in 1934, a Catholic Priest by the name of Father Thomas Dade from the Archdiocese of Baltimore initiated the Catholic Police and Fireman's Society while stationed at Saint Patrick Catholic Church in Washington, D.C. About 1,100 police and firemen dressed in blue uniforms marched into Saint Patrick's Catholic Church on September 29, 1934, for the celebration of the First Blue Mass.

Since then, the Blue Mass has become an annual tradition in many of the cities in the Northeast. I began this tradition in the Diocese of Arlington six years ago. In order to honor all of the men and women who so faithfully serve our communities in law enforcement and fire/ rescue, I cordially invite you, your fellow officers and their families to attend this special liturgical celebration. This Mass will be held on **Friday, October 2, 2009**, in the Cathedral of Saint Thomas More, Arlington, Virginia, at 7:30 p.m. For your convenience I enclose directions to the Cathedral of Saint Thomas More. I would ask that you please distribute this information to all of your officers. There will be a reception following the Mass in Burke Hall located in the lower Cathedral.

In union with all the grateful members of the Arlington Diocese, I offer sincere appreciation to all the men and women in blue who unselfishly serve our communities day in and day out. Please be assured that daily I remember each of you in prayer, asking the Lord to guide and protect you.

Looking forward to seeing you on October 2nd, I remain

Faithfully in Christ,

+ Paul S. Loverde

Most Reverend Paul S. Loverde
Bishop of Arlington

Enclosure

AUG 2009
LCFR

Office of the Bishop ✠ Diocese of Arlington
Suite 914 • 200 North Glebe Road • Arlington, Virginia 22203 • Tel: (703) 841-2511 • Fax: (703) 524-5028

6th Annual "Blue Mass"

to Honor and Pray for Law Enforcement & Public Safety Officers

All Police Departments and Fire/Rescue Departments located in the Diocese of Arlington are invited to attend this Mass to remember police officers, firefighters and emergency personnel who have fallen in the line of duty, and to pray for the safety of all public safety officers.

Friday, October 2, 2009

Mass: 7:30pm - (Reception to Follow)

Attending will be directors, chiefs, public safety officers and their families. The Blue Mass is a tradition that began in 1934 to honor and pray for the men and women who protect our cities, counties and nation

Cathedral of St. Thomas More
3901 Cathedral Lane, Arlington, VA. 22203

Celebrant: Bishop Paul S. Loverde