



## OFFICE OF MEDIA RELATIONS

August 6, 2022

### **Diocese of Dallas Annual Blue Mass Returns to Offer Prayers and Blessings for First Responders**

(Dallas) For the first time since the pandemic, the Diocese of Dallas will once again hold the Blue Mass to honor and bless first responders throughout the area on **Saturday, August 6, 2022 at the Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe at 2215 Ross Avenue**. The special Blue Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Edward J. Burns of the Diocese of Dallas. Personnel from the Dallas Police Department, Dallas County Sheriff's Department, Dallas Fire Department, EMS, DART and other area law enforcement and first responder agencies will participate in the Mass.

Bishop Burns will preside over a  **blessing of the fleet at 9:30 a.m. prior to the Mass** and will bless with holy water patrol cars, fire engines, and other service vehicles as well as bicycles, mounted horse patrol and canine units. The blessing of the fleet will take place at the corner of Crockett Street and Ross Avenue in front of the cathedral in downtown Dallas.

**The Blue Mass will follow at 10 a.m. inside the Cathedral Guadalupe.** Following communion, a poignant ceremony will be held on the altar in which the names of all those current or retired first responders who have died in the past year will be read aloud as the DFD Last Alarm Bell tolls. A reception will immediately follow the Mass in the Grand Salon at the Cathedral.

**DPD Chief Eddie Garcia, County Judge Clay Jenkins and other leaders will attend the Mass.**

Called the Blue Mass to represent the color of the uniforms predominantly worn by many first responders, it dates back to 1934 when Rev. Thomas Dade began the service in Washington, D. C. as part of his duties with the Catholic Police and Fireman's Society.

Members of the Dallas Police Department, Dallas County Sheriff's Department, Dallas Fire & Rescue Department and DART Police served with Diocese of Dallas staff on the planning committee.

#### **Schedule:**

**9:00 a.m. Vehicles line up on Ross Street**

**9:30 a.m. Vehicles roll through for blessing at corner of Crockett and Ross**

**10:00 a.m. Blue Mass with reception immediately following**

**Media is asked to park along the northbound eastside curb on Crockett Street.**

For more information contact:

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