

April 7, 2012

Media Alert

CHRISTIANS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD CELEBRATE THE HOLIEST OF DAYS
Bishop John Noonan Celebrates Easter Vigil at St. James Cathedral

WHO: Bishop John Noonan

Concelebrants:

- Fr. John McCormick, St. James Cathedral Rector
- Fr. Nicholas Tocco, St. James Cathedral Parochial Vicar
- Fr. Jorge Torres, Diocese of Orlando Director of Vocations

WHAT: Celebration of Easter Vigil

WHEN: Saturday, April 7 at 8:00 p.m.

WHERE: St. James Cathedral in downtown Orlando
215 North Orange Avenue

OTHER INFORMATION:

This Easter Vigil, in the Diocese of Orlando, we welcomed 562 newly baptized Catholics into the Catholic Church. At parishes throughout the Diocese, individuals have been preparing to become Catholic, learning about the many aspects of our faith that have been handed down from Jesus Christ and the apostles. These individuals received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist on the Easter Vigil at their home parishes. **At St. James Cathedral, Bishop John Noonan baptized 12 people on the Easter Vigil who were also confirmed and received their first Eucharist.**

The Easter Vigil began with the Service of Light. A “blazing fire” was prepared and people gathered around it and experienced the flames dispelling the darkness and lighting up the night. Thus the beauty of the fire, its warmth and its light, brought the liturgical assembly together. Having reached the fire, the celebrant and faithful signed themselves with the sign of the cross while the bishop said: *In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.* After this new beginning, he greeted the people. The Paschal Candle was brought forward, the symbol of the “light of Christ, rising in glory,” scattering the “darkness of our hearts and minds.” The bishop processed into a darkened church, which became lit by the Light of Christ, as the Paschal Candle is used as the source of light for the candles within the church.

On Easter weekend, many parishes schedule additional Masses to accommodate the faithful who gather to observe the holy Easter celebration which commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ more than 2,000 years ago. More than 400,000 registered Catholics throughout Central Florida are expected to participate in the celebration of Mass on either the Easter Vigil, at sunrise or throughout the day on Easter Sunday.

Because of the large number of faithful expected at these celebrations, it will be difficult to accommodate requests for news coverage on Easter. For your convenience, we will provide broadcast media b-roll on beta tape of the Easter Vigil Mass with Bishop Noonan that will be delivered to TV newsrooms on Saturday evening around midnight. Please check your security desk or your news room for this video. If you have any questions, please call Teresa Peterson, 407-432-1974.