



Diocese of Belleville
Office of the Bishop

January 9, 2012
The Baptism of the Lord

Dear Priests, Deacons, Parish Life Coordinators, and Department Directors:

May the peace of Christ be with you! Yesterday, January 7, 2012 was the 125th anniversary of the erection of our Diocese by His Holiness, Pope Leo XIII. Wednesday, January 4, 2012 was the 100th anniversary of the great fire that all but destroyed the Cathedral of St. Peter. This morning, I was the principal celebrant at a special Mass during which we commemorated these milestones. I assure you that you and the People of God you serve were in my thoughts and prayers during this Eucharistic celebration.

As you know, the primary commemoration of the 125th anniversary is scheduled for a Solemn Eucharistic Celebration on Sunday, April 29, 2012 at 2:00PM. We ask you to make sure the date is marked on your calendar. I would like all of you and a representative group from your parish to be present for this historic date.

In an earlier communication, I informed you that I would like to take this opportunity to honor some of the outstanding dedicated lay people who contribute so much to the life of our parishes and the Diocese. I initially thought of Pontifical Honors from the Holy Father such as the “Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice” award. However, the Holy See only awards a small number of these medals per year and we would be fortunate if we could obtain as many as five. I would like a more representative group with award recipients from each of our 117 parishes.

With this letter, I am formally requesting that you send me the names, addresses, and phone number of two or three persons who are outstanding in your community of faith whom you would like to be recognized by the Diocese at the April 29th Mass. You may select them by any method you choose, though I would encourage you to consult your Trustees, Parish Pastoral Council or other appropriate advisors. I would like every parish to participate. **Please use the enclosed form and return it to my office by electronic mail (abarber@diobelle.org) no later than Monday February 13, 2012.**

May the Light of Christ, which illuminated the path of the Magi, shine brightly on the road before us all as we step out into the deep of the year ahead filled with unimaginable joys as well as unforeseeable sorrows. May God bless you and those who are dear to you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward K. Braxton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

The Most Reverend Edward K. Braxton
Bishop of Belleville



DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE

125TH ANNIVERSARY

1887-2012

NOMINEES

RECOGNITION FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CHURCH

The individuals may be selected by whatever means the parish leadership chooses. However, it is strongly advised that some form of consultation take place that would include at least the Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Trustees. The person or persons nominated may be selected because of their outstanding life of prayer, holiness, and service; their extraordinary generosity of time, talent, and treasure for the work of the Church; their years of dedication as parish secretary, custodian, sacristan, musician, catechist, school staff member, liturgy coordinator, or any other ministry. However, a reason for nominating them must be listed.

Dear Bishop Braxton:

I would like to nominate the person(s) listed below for RECOGNITION FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CHURCH at the 125th anniversary celebration at the Cathedral on April 29, 2012.

1. Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Reasons: _____

2. Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Reasons: _____

3. Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Reasons: _____

Signature: _____

Parish/Office: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

You may nominate 1, 2, or 3 persons. However, more than three will not be considered. The Bishop's Office will follow up with details and send a personal invitation to those nominated.

N.B. Please return this form to the Bishop's Office by electronic mail (abarber@diobelle.org) no later than Monday February 13, 2012.