

September 4, 2009

Dear Brother Priests, Deacons, and Parish Life Coordinators,


The annual "Harvest Blessing of the Farm" will be held on Thursday, October 22, 2009 at 1:00 P.M. at the farm property of John & Kim Schaefer and Family, of Ruma, Illinois.

The Reverend Monsignor Thomas D. Flach, Dean of the West Deanery; The Reverend Monsignor Dennis R. Schaefer, Pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Ruma, Diocesan Rural Life Director, Deacon Donald Sparling, and the members of the Schaefer Family join me in extending a very warm invitation to you and the members of your parish families. All farmers are invited to join us at the farm property of John and Kim Schaefer in thanking God for the bounty harvested this year.

As we give thanks for our plenty, I encourage everyone to bring an offering of crops or produce (fresh or canned) to be shared with the food pantries of the area.

I also cordially invite you, my brother priests, deacons, and parish life coordinators, to be present to give encouragement to our farmers and all those engaged in agriculture. Ministers and members of other faiths are also most welcome to join us in this Harvest Blessing of the Farm.

I thank you for encouraging your parishioners via bulletin and pulpit announcements to join us on **Thursday, October 22, 2009 at 1:00 P.M. at the farm property of John & Kim Schaefer and Family, at 345 West Mill Street, Ruma, Illinois.** ***An invitation to you and the People of God of the Diocese will also be printed in The Messenger.***

Fraternally yours in Christ,


The Most Reverend Edward K. Braxton
Bishop of Belleville