



## **October 3, 2008 - Cardinal to Recognize Altar Servers of the Archdiocese on October 4, 2008**

**(Braintree, MA)** - Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley will celebrate Mass with more than 600 altar servers from across the Archdiocese of Boston on Saturday, October 4, 2008 in recognition of their commitment to serving the Church. The Mass will take place at 11:00am at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, 1400 Washington Street, Boston, MA.

The Cardinal will also announce the recipients of the Pope John Paul II and Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta Service Awards, given to eight youth who have exhibited exemplary character of service to God and His Church. Please look for next week's Pilot to learn about the recipients of these two awards ([www.thebostonpilot.com](http://www.thebostonpilot.com)).

Cardinal Seán said, "We look to our youth as the sign of hope for the future of the Church. The Archdiocese is blessed that so many young people practice their faith and serve the Lord by assisting at the celebration of Mass. We pray that the experience of being an altar server will help all to have a better understanding of their vocation in life, and that the experience may help young women consider the possibility of religious life and help young men consider a call to religious life or a vocation to the priesthood."

Fr. Daniel Hennessey, Vocation Director for the Archdiocese, said, "Today we honor our Altar Servers for their devotion to Christ in the Eucharist. Their service helps others to pray and worship the Lord at Mass. We are very proud of them." During the Mass, the Cardinal will bless and recognize the altar servers in attendance. He will also present them with a small gift in appreciation for their service.

### **Awards**

The Pope John Paul II Award will be awarded to one Junior Server and one Senior Server who have shown exemplary service to their parish and their community by their imitation of Pope John Paul II. The recipients will be young men of dedication and zeal in service to others, especially at the Altar.

The Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta Award will be given to one Junior Server and one Senior Server who have shown exemplary service to their parish and their community by their imitation of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta. The recipients will be young women of dedication and zeal in service to others, especially at the Altar.

### **The Archdiocese of Boston**

*The Diocese of Boston was founded on April 8, 1808 and was elevated to Archdiocese in 1875. Currently serving the needs of approximately 2 million Catholics, the Archdiocese of Boston is an ethnically diverse and spiritually enriching faith community consisting of 292 parishes, across 144 communities, educating approximately 46,000 students in its Catholic schools and 156, 000 in religious education classes each year, ministering to the needs of more than one million patients annually in Catholic hospitals and 200,000 individuals through its social service outreach. Mass is celebrated in nearly twenty different languages each week.*

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