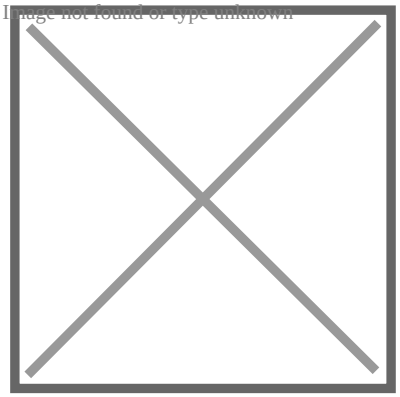
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# Diocese of Orange Prepares for Dynamic Community Celebration in Honor of Its 40th Anniversary

## Description

*More than 10,000 expected to participate in day-long celebration on September 18th at Christ Cathedral*
**Garden grove, calif., (Aug. 1, 2016) –** The Most Reverend Kevin Vann, Bishop of Orange will join thousands of Catholic faithful and members of the broader community for a day of festivities at the Christ Cathedral Campus (13280 Chapman Ave., Garden Grove 92840) marking the 40th anniversary of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange, a major milestone in the journey of faith for Catholics in Orange County on September 18, 2016. The Diocese of Orange was established by Pope Paul VI with 44 parishes and more than 300,000 Catholics in 1976. Over the past 40 years the Catholic population has exploded to more than 1.3 million, nearly 40 percent of the County's population, encompassing 62 parishes and centers and 41 schools. The anniversary celebration will celebrate this growth, highlight the faith journey of each parish community, and honor the incredible diversity that is the hallmark of the Church in Orange County. "We have been incredibly blessed by God as a community of faith over the past 40 years. Our Diocese has humbly fed the hungry, clothed the naked, and offered Christ's Mercy to all who suffer in our parishes, Catholic Hospitals and clinics, ministries of education, and our missions of charity throughout the County. On September 18th we hope to take a day to honor this work, celebrate the people who have made these ministries possible, and rededicate ourselves to the work of Christ for the many decades to come," said Bishop Vann. The anniversary celebration will begin with a 5k and "fun run" at 7:30 a.m., departing from the Christ Cathedral campus and traveling down Chapman, circling Pioneer Park in Garden Grove and returning to the campus. An outdoor Mass for more than five thousand will begin at 9:30am, followed by carnival games and sledding on real snow at 11 a.m. The highlight of the day will be a music festival beginning at 3:30 p.m. featuring performances by Matt Maher, Colton Dixon, Phil Wickham, Andy Mineo, Jordan Feliz, and Jackie Francois. This dynamic day of events is sponsored by Saint Joseph Health and Farmers & Merchants Bank. "In Orange County like anywhere, life and the church will change. Faith remains a deeply personal experience, yet all Catholics celebrate that faith together. The Catholic Church has served as a steady unifying spiritual force over the last two centuries in Southern California and will continue to care for a diverse community. The Diocese of Orange has evolved as Orange County has, equitably responding to controversy and success. The Diocese remains strong and spiritually rich. We invite the community to join us at Christ Cathedral to celebrate this journey and look to a future full of hope and grace," concluded Bishop Vann. For more information and to purchase tickets – visit rcbo.staging.wpengine.com **Pastoral Center:** Communications Department 13280 Chapman Ave. Garden Grove, CA 92840 **office:** 714-282-3075 **fax:** 714-282-3029


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**Date Created**
August 1, 2016



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