



THE DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON

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**Bishop Robert E. Guglielmo Blesses and Breaks Ground
on the New Diocesan Pastoral Center**

(CHARLESTON, SC) – The new Pastoral Center for the Diocese of Charleston is officially under construction. On Thursday, October 10, the Most Reverend Robert E. Guglielmo, Bishop of Charleston, blessed the land and led the groundbreaking ceremony at the future site of the Diocesan Pastoral Center, which will include a Chancery building, a diocesan chapel and conference center. The property is located at the eastern end of Orange Grove Road. “Our Diocese, which encompasses the entire state of South Carolina, continues to grow at a rapid pace. These new buildings will allow diocesan officials and staff to more effectively communicate, minister and serve the Faithful throughout the state,” said Bishop Guglielmo.

Currently, diocesan staff works in six different locations throughout the Charleston area. Having all local employees in one building will improve efficiency and accommodate the needs of the growing diocese. The Chancery will also house state-of-the art teleconferencing capabilities which will allow the Bishop and diocesan officials to better connect with the Faithful in South Carolina. The on-site conference center will be able to accommodate approximately 175 people and will allow groups to hold meetings, seminars and retreats in a comfortable space. Finally, the diocesan chapel will seat 175 people and will be used for Mass and personal reflection.

In August of 2012, diocesan officials purchased 26.5 acres of land on Orange Grove Road, of which 21.75 acres is marshland. It will construct the three buildings on the accessible 4.75 acres on the site. The estimated total price of the project is \$17.5 million, which includes the cost of the land, construction, architect fees, technology, furniture, etc. The diocese will use money from several

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sources to cover this cost including: income from investments, continued fundraising, the sale of its downtown Chancery building (119 Broad Street) and some other diocesan property, and a loan. “We are committed to being good stewards of the financial resources given to us by the Catholic Faithful throughout the diocese,” said Bishop Guglielmone.

All three buildings will be constructed to sustain earthquakes and hurricanes. Moreover, diocesan officials are working with an arborist to ensure builders do not endanger the trees or wetlands on the property.

If construction stays on schedule, the new Pastoral Center should open in December of 2014.

About the Diocese of Charleston

The Catholic Diocese of Charleston comprises the entire state of South Carolina with Charleston as its See city. Founded in 1820 by Pope Pius VII, it is one of the oldest Catholic dioceses in the United States.

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