DIOCESE OF ORANGE

MEDIA CONTACT
RYAN LILYENGREN
714-282-3075
RYANL@RCBO.ORG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE DIOCESE OF ORANGE AND TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM CELEBRATE SEVENTH ANNUAL JEWISH/LATINO PASSOVER SEDER

ORANGE, Calif., (March 21, 2006) - Over 300 Orange County Catholic and Jewish faithful will join together in celebration of Passover at Temple Beth Sholom in Santa Ana, March 29 at 6:00 p.m. This traditional Jewish meal commemorates the oppression suffered under the Egyptians in biblical times and is sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League of Orange County and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange. "We take this opportunity each year to highlight the spiritual and historical similarities between our faith communities. Jewish/Latino communication and sharing strengthens our resolve to fight bigotry and prejudice in all its forms," said The Most Rev. Jaime Soto, auxiliary Bishop of Orange.

The first joint Seder with Hispanic Catholics was organized in 1999 by Bishop Soto and Shelton J. Donnell, rabbi emeritus of Temple Beth Sholom. Initially this event was held at the administrative offices of the Diocese of Orange and later moved to Temple Beth Sholom. This annual banquet allows Hispanic Catholics and Jews to celebrate their similarities and respect their differences. During the Seder meal, participants will eat foods symbolizing various aspects of the Jewish experience of slavery in Egypt.

The Diocese of Orange continues its close relationship with the Jewish community and Temple Beth Sholom. "Our Diocese is blessed to have such committed partners in our quest to promote interreligious dialog and esteem. I was pleased to bestow the

Benemerenti Medal upon the former rabbi of Temple Beth Sholom last year. This papal honor was given to Rabbi Donnell by Pope John Paul II for advancing Catholic/Jewish relations in Orange County," said The Most Rev. Tod D. Brown, Bishop of Orange.

About Passover:

Passover is celebrated with the Seder on the 15th day of the Jewish month of Nissan. During the Seder, participants eat foods symbolizing various aspects of the Jewish experience of slavery in Egypt. The annual dinner also seeks to relate this momentous historical event to the contemporary experience of Jewish Americans. Passover, which in Hebrew is *Pesach*, symbolized to pass through, to pass over, to exempt or to spare. It refers to the fact that God "passed over" the houses of the Jews when he was slaying the firstborn of Egypt as described in Exodus, Ch. 1-15.

THE MARYWOOD CENTER

2811 E. VILLA REAL DRIVE
P. O. BOX 14195
ORANGE, CALIFORNIA 92863-1595
PHONE: (714) 282-3000
FAX: (714) 282-3029