

# South Florida Sun-Sentinel

## HAPPY THANKSGIVING

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### Muslims to help fix Iraq churches

Interfaith dialogue planned at service for Thanksgiving in Weston

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When he read about the bombings of five Catholic churches in Baghdad on the dawn of the first day of Ramadan, the Rev. Paul E. Edwards cried. Then the pastor of St. Katharine Drexel Catholic Church in Weston appealed for help.

In response, leaders from two South Florida Muslim organizations are pledging to work with Catholics to create awareness about religious persecution and to help rebuild the churches.

Representatives of the Council on American-Islamic Relations — CAIR — will address congregants at St. Katharine's at 10 a.m. today during a Thanksgiving service.

"I will let [them] know that Muslims stand side-by-side with them at this time of trial and tribulation," said Altaf Ali, CAIR's Florida director. "We want to show that in America,

we can be a coalition of interfaith [groups] that work toward the best interest of humanity."

Mary Ross Agosta, a spokeswoman for the Archdiocese of Miami, hopes the dialogue at the church at 2700 Glades Circle will cement better relations.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for two religious communities to come together, especially on this day of Thanksgiving," she said. "As we join together in prayer, we ask God for peace in our lives

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