



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

August 8, 2017

Dear Friends:

On June 28, 2017, Pope Francis created a Salvadoran Auxiliary Bishop a Cardinal. His Eminence, Jose Gregorio Cardinal Rosa Chavez dedicated his appointment as El Salvador's first Catholic Cardinal to the living memory of his close personal friend Blessed Archbishop Oscar Romero who was shot to death in 1980 at the beginning of the 12 year Salvadoran civil war as he celebrated Mass in a hospital chapel. The Cardinal is familiar to us in the Diocese of Rockville Centre because he has made pastoral visits to the local community here on Long Island and celebrated Masses.

We, the Catholic Church on Long Island, have invited Cardinal Rosa Chavez to celebrate this historic occasion and will be with us for a variety of Masses, pastoral visits and special events from Friday, August 18 - Monday, August 21, 2017. For complete schedule information visit [www.drvc.org](http://www.drvc.org). You will be able to watch each of the Masses live on the Diocesan Facebook page. Search for "The Diocese of Rockville Centre." The Telecare Television Network will air the Sunday morning Mass from Our Lady of Loretto Church (Optimum Channel 29/137, Verizon FiOS 296 and Charter Spectrum 471) and on [telecaretv.org](http://telecaretv.org)

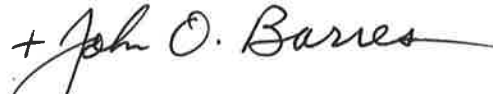
We have a number of pastoral missionary goals in these days of celebration with Cardinal Rosa Chavez:

- 1) To deepen our love for Father, Son and Holy Spirit, to celebrate the global missionary spirit of Pope Francis and Cardinal Rosa Chavez and to promote *dramatic missionary growth* on Long Island.
- 2) To raise consciousness and inspiration about the heroic life and sanctity of martyr Blessed Archbishop Oscar Romero and to pray together for his canonization.
- 3) To promote, in a spirit of pastoral charity, comprehensive immigration reform for our nation that is built on the principles of the dignity of the human person, social justice, the sanctity of human life and the family, and a love for the poor.
- 4) To promote a Culture of Life as a response to gang violence and its Culture of Death, specifically by comforting and supporting grieving families and by appealing for the conversion of the hearts, minds and souls of gang members.
- 5) To promote a vibrant Youth Ministry and expand Catholic Education opportunities for our vibrant Hispanic community and to foster a strong Catholic identity and fidelity to the Sunday Mass for the younger generation and all future generations.

- 6) To promote Vocations to the priesthood and religious life in our Hispanic community and throughout Long Island.
- 7) To celebrate the rich multi-cultural diversity that makes up the Church in the Diocese of Rockville Centre and to be inspired by the contributions and missionary spirit of these cultures.

Thank you all for joining us in prayer as we share together these historic days of *dramatic missionary growth* on Long Island.

Sincerely in Christ,

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Most Reverend John O. Barres  
Bishop of Rockville Centre