



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Office of Communications • *The Long Island Catholic* • *Fe Fuerza Vida*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

8 JUNE 2020

BISHOP BARRES TO CELEBRATE BACCALAUREATE MASS FOR GRADUATING 8TH GRADE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

- ***Virtual Mass from Saint Agnes Cathedral to air on CATHOLIC FAITH NETWORK on Friday, June 12 at 7:30 p.m.***
- ***Part of Special Evening of CFN Programming entitled: CFN Celebrates Catholic Education***

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK – June 8, 2020 – On June 12, 2020, at 7:30 p.m., Catholic Faith Network (CFN) will air a special Baccalaureate Mass at Saint Agnes Cathedral for all Catholic school students graduating 8th and 12th grade. The Most Reverend John O. Barres, Bishop of Rockville Centre will celebrate this Mass. The Mass will be part of a special evening dedicated to Catholic Education entitled “*CFN Celebrates Catholic Education.*”

CFN Celebrates Catholic Education commemorates the 2020 graduates of the Diocesan Elementary and High Schools by highlighting their commitment to faith, service, and academics. Comprised of pictures, videos and student testimonials, this special showcases the values and spirit of Catholic education while honoring the students and their schools.

Part one of the program will air 7:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. before Mass, and part two will air immediately following the Mass. It should be a beautiful night for our graduates and families.

The two diocesan high schools will also have “drive in” ceremonies.

“On behalf of our students, their families, and all of our schools, I would like to express my gratitude to Bishop Barres for celebrating this special graduation Mass, where we can acknowledge the wonderful academic, spiritual, athletic, and other accomplishments of our young people during these challenging times,” said Kathleen Walsh, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools, Diocese of Rockville Centre.

“We are proud to join in celebrating the achievements of our young people graduating from Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Rockville Centre. May God bless them and their families as their journeys continue,” said Rev. Msgr. James C. Vlaun, CEO and President, Catholic Faith Network.



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CFN can be viewed on Optimum channel 29/137, Verizon FiOS TV channel 296, and Spectrum channel 162/471. CFN is also available on selected cable and satellite systems and through live stream on CFNTV.org. You may also view CFN on Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, Android, or by downloading the CFN iOS mobile app at the app store by searching “Catholic Faith Network” or “CFN”.

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About The Diocese of Rockville Centre

The Diocese of Rockville Centre (www.drvc.org) was formed in 1957 and covers 1,198 square miles in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. The diocese serves approximately 1,428,296 baptized Catholics* (total population in both counties is approximately 3 million). There are 133 parishes plus 1 campus parish in 115 towns. The diocese is blessed with 392 priests in active ministry, 801 religious women, 34 Brothers and 285 permanent deacons. In 2018, 15,446 baptisms, 14,714 confirmations, 13,638 First Holy Communions and 2,569 Catholic marriages took place in the diocese. There are 13,722 students in Catholic elementary schools; 10,512 students in Catholic high schools and 4,980 students in higher institutions. There are 45 Catholic elementary schools (41 parish or regional and 4 private), 9 high schools (2 diocesan, 2 parish and 5 private) and one Catholic college (Molloy College, Rockville Centre) in the diocese. In 2018, there were 75,727 children in parish Faith Formation programs taught by 10,000 volunteer catechists. In 2018, Catholic clergy and community provided consolation to families and loved ones of 9,955 deceased Catholics at 3 diocesan and 20 parish cemeteries. Catholic Health Services (CHS) of Long Island is comprised of six hospitals, three health care centers, four homes for the aged, a regional home care and hospice network, and a community-based agency for persons with special needs. More than 17,500 employees and 4,600 credentialed physicians work within the CHS system. Catholic Charities provides *Care With Dignity...Life With Hope* to the poor, isolated, vulnerable, and disadvantaged on Long Island. In 2018, more than 600 staff members and 400 volunteers provided over 1.4 million face-to-face services to 45,460 people of all faiths and backgrounds from 60 service sites in Nassau and Suffolk counties. The single largest outreach to the People of God on Long Island is through the diocesan media outlets. The diocese maintains vibrant Facebook, Twitter and Instagram platforms. Catholic Faith Network, the diocesan television station broadcasts 24/7/365 to over millions of homes; *The Long Island Catholic* magazine, the official diocesan print publication is mailed 10 times per year to over 12,000 subscribers; the weekly LICatholic E-newsletter is emailed to 8,000 recipients. The diocesan website drvc.org averages approximately 18,000 unique visitors each month; *Fe Fuerza Vida*, the official Diocesan Spanish-language newspaper has a circulation of 11,000 and is printed ten times each year. (5/19) *As of 2018

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