



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Office of Communications

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MEDIA RELEASE

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BISHOP BARRES TO CELEBRATE BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY MONTH MASS

- *Mass will take place in St. Agnes Cathedral on Sunday, Nov. 19 at 12:30 p.m.*
- *Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers will be the homilist*



ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK – November 8, 2023 – The Most Reverend

John O. Barres, Bishop of Rockville Centre will celebrate the Black Catholic History Month Mass on Sunday, November 19, 2023, at 12:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Agnes, 29 Quealy Place, Rockville Centre, NY 11570. Renowned speaker, Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers will be the homilist.

One of the most sought-after speakers in the Church today, Deacon Burke-Sivers co-hosts the national weekly broadcast “Living Stones” on Mater Dei Radio, has appeared in the major feature film, “Power in My Hands”, created by Walk by Faith Wednesday Webinars, and hosts or co-hosts several popular series on EWTN television. Additionally,



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Deacon Burke-Sivers is featured on the renowned CHOSEN faith formation program by Ascension Press and is an award-winning author of six books. Deacon Harold is a Benedictine Oblate of Mount Angel Abbey as well as a member of the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars and the Confraternity of Catholic Clergy.

All are welcome to attend this Mass in-person. This Mass will air live on Catholic Faith Network (CFN) at 12:30 p.m. and live streamed on CFN Facebook. The Mass will be available on-demand on CFN.org and on the CFN App. later in the afternoon.

CFN is found on Optimum channel 29/137, Verizon FiOS TV channel 296 and Spectrum channel 162/471. You can also watch CFN on Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV and Android or by downloading the CFN iOS mobile app at the app store by searching for “Catholic Faith Network” or “CFN.”

In addition to the Mass, during the month of November which has been designated Black Catholic History Month, the Diocese of Rockville Centre has been posting special graphics and biographies of Saints and Blesseds of African Ancestry on its website and social media platforms.

About Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers

Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers is an internationally renowned speaker, author, and preacher. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics and Business Administration from the University of Notre Dame and a Master of Theological Studies Degree from the University of Dallas. He has appeared as a guest on numerous international Catholic radio and television programs and is the host or co-host of several popular series on the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN). Deacon Harold, a Benedictine Oblate, is the author of five books, including *Behold the Man: A Catholic Vision of Male Spirituality*, *Father Augustus Tolton: The Slave Who Became the First African American Priest* and the acclaimed new book, *Our Life of Service: The Handbook for Catholic Deacons*. He



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Video of Deacon Harold: [\(8\) Website Promo Jan 2023 - YouTube](#)

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About the Diocese of Rockville Centre - 2023

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 1.3 million baptized Catholics* (total population in both counties is approximately 2.5 million). There are 133 parishes plus 1 campus parish in 115 towns. The diocese is blessed with 328 priests (160 active diocesan priests), 667 religious women, 54 Brothers and 273 permanent deacons. In 2021, 8,553 baptisms, 9,402 confirmations, 9,422 First Holy Communions and 1,052 Catholic marriages took place in the diocese. There are 11,054 students enrolled in 35 Catholic elementary schools (31 parish or regional and 4 private); 10,093 students are enrolled in nine Catholic high schools (2 diocesan, 2 parish and 5 private) and 4,883 students enrolled one Catholic college (Molloy University, Rockville Centre). In 2021, there were 57,364 elementary and high school students in parish Faith Formation programs. In 2021, Catholic clergy and community provided consolation to families and loved ones of 12,544 deceased Catholics at 4 diocesan and 20 parish cemeteries. Catholic Health (CH) is an integrated system encompassing some of the region's finest health and human service agencies. With approximately 17,000 employees, CH consists of a network of six acute-care hospitals, three nursing homes, a home health service, hospice, a multiservice, community-based agency for persons with special needs and a network of physician practices. Catholic Charities of Long Island shares the love of Jesus by offering dignified and compassionate care to poor and over 1.3 million, face-to-face services to an average of 58,000 neighbors from 53 sites in Nassau and Suffolk counties. Catholic Faith Network (CFN), based in Uniondale broadcasts 24/7/365. The Office of Communications maintains robust Facebook, Twitter and Instagram social media platforms and produces a weekly E-Newsletter. The diocesan website drvc.org averages approximately 18,000 unique visitors each month. *As of 2021