



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

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

50 North Park Avenue, Rockville Centre, NY 11570

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW 'SAINT-OF-THE-DAY' VIDEO SERIES DEBUTS FEATURING BISHOP JOHN BARRES AND REV. MSGR. JAMES VLAUN, CEO AND PRESIDENT, CATHOLIC FAITH NETWORK

- *Celebrating the Saints Series will be short conversational style videos of the day's saint*



From left: Bishop John Barres, Bishop, Diocese of Rockville Centre and Rev. Msgr. James C. Vlaun, Chief Executive Officer and President, Catholic Faith Network

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK – June 8, 2020 – Catholic Faith Network (CatholicFaithNetwork.org) has developed a new Saint-of-the-Day series featuring the Most Reverend John O. Barres, Bishop, Diocese of Rockville Centre and Reverend Monsignor James C. Vlaun, Chief Executive Officer and President of Catholic Faith Network (CFN).

The series is entitled “Celebrating the Saints.” Each short video features a brief discussion of the saint of the day between Bishop Barres and Msgr. Vlaun.

“Hebrews 12:1 says, ‘...we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses . . . let us persevere in running the race that lies before us.’ The saints surround and urge us on in the spiritual life,” said Bishop Barres. “This new series ‘Celebrating the Saints’ helps us to know them better day by day and to feel their presence urging us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.”



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The series came about as a result of a conversation between Bishop Barres and Msgr. Vlaun around the time of the canonization of Saint John Henry Newman. “The saints have remarkably interesting and often ordinary lives that are truly inspirational,” said Msgr. Vlaun. “The Bishop thought a series that told a part of the story of the ‘saint of the day’ could also serve as inspirational and challenging.”

Due to the fact that some days on the liturgical calendar have more than one saint to celebrate, CFN will be producing a total of close to 400 episodes. “This is a very large yet very worthwhile undertaking,” said Msgr. Vlaun.

“Celebrating the Saints” is conversational, interesting, inspirational, and even fun as viewers get to know the heroes who continue to inspire from heaven.

The ongoing series will air throughout the day on CFN. 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”. It will also be available on the diocesan website – www.drvc.org, its Facebook page: @RVCDiocese and on LICPlus.org.

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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



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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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