



## THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

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**DATE:**                   **October 14, 2020**

**RE:**                      **Fratelli Tutti and the Second Anniversary of the Canonization of Archbishop Oscar Romero**

**FROM:**                 **Most Reverend John O. Barres, Bishop, Diocese of Rockville Centre**

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As we celebrate the reception of Pope Francis' October 3, 2020 encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, we recall that October 14, 2020 is the second anniversary of the canonization of Archbishop Saint Oscar Romero who is such a model of the Holy Father's emphasis in *Fratelli Tutti* that we be instruments of "a rebirth of a universal aspiration to fraternity."

We vividly remember that Saint Romero was "a Catholic martyr who made the holy sacrifice of his life while celebrating the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass" and we repost on social media my pastoral letter on the occasion of the October 14, 2018 canonization of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero.

As we study the deep and timely wisdom of *Fratelli Tutti*, we also celebrate my "Statement on Comprehensive Immigration Reform" issued last year on the first anniversary of Saint Oscar Romero's canonization, which we have reposted on the diocesan website: [drvc.org](http://drvc.org) and the Diocesan Facebook and Twitter pages.

At the end of that statement, I prayed: "May the great and holy martyr, Saint Oscar Romero, intercede for us in our efforts to promote a just and comprehensive immigration reform in this country and around the world, as part of a burgeoning Culture of Life."

Pope Francis' rich teaching and loving guidance on comprehensive immigration reform in *Fratelli Tutti* is moving and compelling. I encourage all Catholics to read and pray through how we may apply these lessons during this moment, especially his call "for a love that transcends the barriers of geography and distance".

Pope Francis writes: "The arrival of those who are different, coming from other ways of life and cultures, can be a gift, for 'the stories of migrants are always stories of an encounter between individuals and between cultures. For the communities and societies to which they come, migrants bring an opportunity for enrichment and the integral human development of all.'" (133)

Our Lady, Mother of the Church and Mother of all refugees and migrants, pray for us!

Saint Oscar Romero, pray for us!