



PRESS RELEASE AND INVITATION

Saint Oscar Romero: a Conference and a Mass of Thanksgiving

Montreal, March 18, 2019. – The Saint Teresa of Avila Mission, the Oscar Romero Foundation, the *Pastorale sociale Petite Patrie* and the Community Services for Refugees and Immigrants are pleased to invite you to a conference and a Mass of Thanksgiving for Archbishop Oscar Romero, canonized in Rome on October 14, 2018. The Consul of El Salvador, Mr. José Mario Mejía confirmed he would attend the Mass and the Conference.

“To the Salvadorian people, Saint Oscar Romero is a prophet. He loved them so much and, about 39 years ago, gave his life in Jesus for them. He is also a saint and a prophet to us, here and now. I am convinced that his intercession reaches well beyond his country of origin: to us, in Montreal, as we strive to live a significant missionary conversion sensitive to the people who suffer from poverty, injustice and violation of their human rights; and to peace in Latin American countries”, says Louise Royer, director of the Social Action Office.

Msgr. Pierre Blanchard, Director of the Office for Cultural and Ritual Communities at the Archdiocese of Montreal, will celebrate the Mass in Spanish:

**The celebration will be held in the Crypt of the Saint Joseph’s Oratory
at 3 p.m., on Sunday, March 24, 2019.**

March 24 marks the anniversary of Saint Oscar Romero’s assassination, as he was celebrating a Mass. This date will now be associated with his liturgical memorial.

On the evening prior to the celebration, theologian Martin Bellerose will give a conference in French on the subject of theological, social and pastoral inheritance today, and on the impact of his canonization. Martin Bellerose is the director of the *Institut de pastorale des Dominicains*.

**Martin Bellerose’s conference will be held on March 23, at 6 p.m.,
at the *Sanctuaire St-Jude*, 10120 avenue d’Auteuil (metro Sauvé).**

Information booths will provide the audience with ways to stay informed and get involved. In addition to the above-mentioned organizations, the Social Action Office at the Archdiocese of Montreal, the Saint Joseph’s Oratory and the *Institut des Dominicains* support this event.

For more information or an interview, please contact:

Erika Jacinto

Press officer of the archbishop

Director, Communications and Media Relations

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Montreal

ejacinto@diocesemontreal.org

514-925-4300, ext. 204