



## 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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**EMBARGOED UNTIL 5/11/2020**

**11 MAY 2020**

### **BISHOP-ELECT ROMERO, M.Id TO BE ORDAINED ON JUNE 29, 2020**

**ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N.Y. – May 11, 2020** – The Most Reverend John O. Barres, Bishop of Rockville Centre, announced today that Bishop-Elect Luis M. Romero Fernandez, M.Id will be ordained as an auxiliary bishop for the diocese on Monday, June 29, 2020, the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, at 2:00 p.m. in Saint Agnes Cathedral. Bishop Barres will ordain Bishop-Elect Romero. Bishop William Murphy, the Bishop-emeritus of the Diocese of Rockville Centre and Bishop Robert Brennan, the Bishop of Columbus, Ohio, will serve as co-consecrating bishops.



The original Episcopal Ordination date of April 16, 2020, was postponed due to New York State gathering requirements resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The appointment was publicized on March 3, 2020, by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States.

“This is great news for the Diocese,” said Bishop Barres. “I repeat the expression of my deepest thanks to our Holy Father, Pope Francis, for this outstanding appointment to help pastor this diocese. With a humble spirit, Bishop-Elect Romero is both a true intellectual and a zealous shepherd of souls with, as Pope Francis has said, the ‘smell of the sheep.’”

The Episcopal Ordination will air live on Catholic Faith Network (CFN) at 2:00 p.m. EDT. It will be replayed later that evening at 8:00 p.m. Catholic Faith Network 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 24/7 live stream at [CFNTV.org](http://CFNTV.org). You may also watch 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”.

Pursuant to New York State Executive Order 202.10, all non-essential gatherings of individuals of any size for any reasons (e.g. worship services, parties, celebrations, or other social events) were canceled or postponed, effective March 23, 2020. As of this media release, this Executive Order remains in effect and, as of this release, the Episcopal Ordination will be virtual, meaning that it will not be open to the public. For the safety of all, only a limited number of individuals deemed integral to the celebration of the Mass will be permitted inside the Cathedral for this Ordination. If a subsequent Executive Order affecting public gatherings is enacted impacting the celebration of this Mass, the Diocese will issue an



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updated statement. Please visit [www.drvc.org](http://www.drvc.org) and Diocese of Rockville Centre social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) for updates.

“Please be assured that when it is deemed safe to gather, the Diocese will schedule a Public Mass commemorating Bishop Romero’s ordination. While the COVID-19 pandemic is challenging all of us, please pray for continued strength and perseverance that we may one day soon be able to gather together as a community of communion in the celebration of Holy Mass,” said Bishop Barres.