



## **MEDIA ADVISORY – For Immediate Release**

### **The Catholic Church's Newest Saints: Blessed Oscar Romero, Six Others to be canonized in Rome this weekend**

TORONTO, ON (October 12, 2018) Blessed Oscar Romero, a celebrated advocate for the poor, will be canonized by Pope Francis during a Mass at the Vatican this Sunday, October 14. Romero, former Archbishop of San Salvador in El Salvador, was assassinated in 1980 while celebrating Mass in a hospital chapel.

Alongside Romero, six others will be elevated to sainthood (canonized) at the ceremony, including Pope Paul VI, best known for promulgating the encyclical, *Humanae Vitae*, 50 years ago.

There are numerous local connections to Blessed Oscar Romero. Romero House, a local not-for-profit in Toronto welcoming refugees, will host a public viewing of the canonization Mass at Bishop Marrocco/Thomas Merton Catholic Secondary School (located at 1515 Bloor St. W. in Toronto) at 9:30 a.m. Archbishop Romero Catholic High School will be celebrating with special Masses and other initiatives next week prior to changing their name in recognition of this saintly elevation.

The miracle that cleared the way for Romero's canonization revolves around the inexplicable cure of a terminally ill Salvadoran woman, whose husband sought Romero's intercession. According to canon law, martyrs require only one miracle for sainthood, rather than the standard two.

To assist media wishing to cover this historic occasion, the Archdiocese of Toronto has identified informed voices both in Rome and Toronto to respond to media inquiries. For background information on the road to sainthood, please visit <http://bit.ly/SainthoodBackgrounder>.

#### **Interview Sources:**

- **Jenn McIntyre**, Director of Romero House (on-site in Rome for the canonization Mass with Pope Francis), alongside a group of pilgrims from Romero House
- **Mary Jo Leddy**, Founder of Romero House (on-site at the public viewing in Toronto)  
\*For more information on Romero House, please refer to this blog: <http://bit.ly/RomeroHouseBlog>
- **Sr. Evanne Hunter**, local contact between the Loretto Sisters in Toronto and base communities of El Salvador, for whom they provide humanitarian aid and spiritual and moral support (on-site in Rome)

The Archdiocese of Toronto is Canada's largest diocese, stretching from Toronto north to Georgian Bay and from Oshawa to Mississauga. It is home to 2 million Catholics and 225 churches, with Mass celebrated in more than 30 languages each week.

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