



The Oratorio



June 2022 • Volume 14, Issue 2

Special Youth Services (SYS) models the embrace of Christ through pastoral care, advocacy, and faith sharing in local juvenile justice centers, facilities, and programs including the promotion and coordination of restorative services to at-risk youth and their families. Our ministry encompasses all counties within our local Archdiocese, working with youth from ages 10-17.

The Oratorio is a quarterly newsletter published with the purpose of sharing the voices of our youth and volunteers, activities of SYS, and information that may be beneficial to the spiritual life of the reader.

Special Youth Services (SYS) modela el abrazo de Cristo por medio de cuidado pastoral, apoyo, y compartir la fe en centros locales de justicia juvenil, instalaciones, y programas incluyendo la promoción y coordinación de servicios restaurativos a jóvenes en situación de riesgo y sus familias. Nuestro ministerio abarca cada condado entre nuestra arquidiócesis local, trabajando con jóvenes de edades de 10 a 17.

The Oratorio es un boletín informativo trimestral publicado con el propósito de compartir las voces de nuestros jóvenes y voluntarios, actividades de SYS, e información que pueda ser útil para la vida espiritual del lector.



Our Lady, Immaculate Conception,
Patroness of the U.S.A.,
Pray for us!

Director's Corner

Everything is hot. It's hot outside, there are a lot of hot topics, and the temperature of social discourse is at a boiling point. The issues that face us all are much bigger than ourselves so we must turn to God. In these tumultuous times, I ask myself how do I do that with the searing urgency to address it all. Recently, a friend sent me the reflection below which was written by Dr. Greg and Lisa Popcak. It provided focus, leading my flaming heart into actionable prayer. May we all have a heart of social justice and the courage to do His will when He calls upon us.

Franchelle

"In the face of horrific tragedies like this latest shooting in Uvalde, of course prayer is the answer. But let's face it. The problem is, most people pray to make themselves feel better. We "pray" until we can forget and move on to the next tragedy. And then we "pray" about that until we can forget again. Lather, rinse, repeat. The thing is, that's a cheap imitation of what prayer is supposed to be. And the secular world is right to be sick of it. We owe them better.

Praying really means going to God in humility and saying, "Lord, I don't know what to do. I don't have good answers. I don't really know what will work. I have my biases, my opinions, my political leanings, but I don't know what YOU would have me do. So, I'm putting all the options on the table, including the ones I would rather not consider, and the ones I couldn't begin to think of on my own. My compassion for these victims makes me willing to do whatever you tell me. Teach me. I am YOUR servant first"

That's the first step. The next step is being willing to do what he tells us to do, even if that involves pursuing options we've been previously programmed to believe are incorrect, unacceptable, or distasteful. Our willingness to do this--or not--is the best indicator of whether we serve God, or some idol we've put in his place.

We have had over 200 shootings so far this year with hundreds of victims. Their souls cry for justice. And their cries certainly deserve our prayers. But we owe them more than prayers that make US feel better. We owe them prayers that make us willing to change; prayers that ask God to make us willing to do something different. Even if that requires us to do something uncomfortable, something that we have never been willing to do before, something that's never even been thought of--much less attempted--before.

I honestly don't know what that might be. But I'm praying that God would show me and give me the courage to do it, even if it means me having to gore my oxen in the process.

I hope you will pray that prayer with me. And I pray that we will all be willing to pursue the answers--whatever it costs.

Because that's what it's going to take to show the world the real power of prayer."

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A YOUTH'S PERSPECTIVE

A Conversation between Sister Symphonie and a young brother in Christ, 17 Year-Old J.F.

Sister Symphonie: How long have you been in the facility?

J: Eight months.

SS: Is there a difference between who you were when you first got here and who you are now?

J: Then: I felt like nobody could touch me, neither human nor God. I'm above everybody. Never thought that I got caught. Was soulless. Now: Through the months, I let others to take control. I've learned everybody is equal. It's a wakeup call for me of being here. Everything I thought was wrong. During my time here, I get to think and reflect about my family and how I mistreated them. I didn't think my mom loved me and wanted to help me. Now, I think of family first. I have grown from who I was.

SS: How is your relationship like with God?

J: A little better now. I've tried to improve myself every day. I failed at times by mistreating others or involve in a fight, but then I asked God for forgiveness and tried my best to be a different person and who God wants me to be. I have tried to have a better relationship with God. Now I pray to God every morning that, "Whatever happens during the day and night, I want you to have all the control of it."

SS: How has SYS helped with your relationship with God?

J: Encourage me to talk to God and read the Bible more often. And actually, I have a better communication with God now. During Bible Study, I listened to the readings and discuss about it. Whenever I have questions about the Bible, I ask the volunteer so they helped me to clarify and understand.

SS: What message do you have for kids who are acting out?

J: There is nobody to impress. There shouldn't be peer-pressure to anybody. If they keep making bad choices, they put their life on the lines. There are two consequences: stay in jail or stay out and dead. Listen to whoever wants the best for you.

SS: What message do you have for parents of kids who are acting out?

J: Parents need to "open their eyes" because teens are good at hiding things. Teens do whatever they want even how good the parents are. However, good communication is the key. Parents can always say NO to their kids, but they also need to give them the explanations why. Show love to your kids, not by words only but by affections (hugs, kisses, make breakfast, meal together...). Be available for kids to share.

A Volunteer's Perspective

After over two years away from the Juvenile Justice Center, it was great to return to restart the Special Youth Services Bible Studies program on Wednesday evenings. Our first week was such a moving and joyful experience. The youth were so welcoming and seeing their genuine appreciation of the notes that they found in their Hope Bags from the school children was very touching. They truly value these notes. Their enthusiasm for our Bible Study sessions was also a welcome thing.

I am grateful to have the opportunity to share God's Word in hopes of helping the youth to increase their faith, to expand their knowledge, to encourage a strong prayer life, and to increase their confidence that God loves them, and that God will forgive them.

Delores Gibson, JJC

"My Grandma told me about Jesus..." and that is how a young man led off Bible Study upon our return after a two year pause. Our readings throughout the Easter Season from the Acts of Apostles tell us about the witnesses to the events surrounding Jesus after He rose from the dead. Those witnesses are the reason we, Grandma, and this young man know about Jesus today. Our blessing as volunteers is that we, like the witnesses to Christ 2,000 years ago, can introduce Jesus to someone new when we visit each Wednesday. The young men and women we encounter are hungry for a voice to guide them to a new beginning. A new beginning where we can "obey God rather than men".

Deacon Fritz Claydon, JJC

Everyone was very nice: staff, JSOs, and kids. I felt comfortable and welcomed that kids wanted this. There was high participation. They liked the Hope Bags. It was good to tell them they were made by church school kids. They all recognized the weekly reflections and, as providers of that, we got credibility. I'm glad we're back.

SYS Volunteer, JJC

I am thankful and happy to be back ministering to the youth at JJC. Going back for the first time in two years, I felt excited and somewhat apprehensive. I missed interacting with the kids and I looked forward to seeing them again. I think they were happy to see us and happy to learn about God. We came back right after Easter, so we talked about Jesus' resurrection and His love for us; how He died for our sins and rose from the dead on Easter Sunday. I was happy to share God's Word with the youth and we let them know we are praying for them. They were excited to receive the goody bags prepared for them by students at Our Lady of Guadalupe School.

We share the importance of relationship with God through this ministry. SYS not only helps the youth grow in their faith, it certainly helps us volunteers grow closer to the Lord as well. It helps some of us get out of our comfort zone and share God's love and His Word.

Lisa Mumbach, JJC

On April 20th when we first returned to the JJC since the Coronavirus pandemic, I was in the middle of remodeling my house so I really did not want to go but I forced myself to go because of my commitment with the ministry and the kids. However, when I made it, I was very glad because the kids really enjoyed our visit, the gifts and the letters sent to them. Most importantly, I have noticed almost all of them are eager to pray. Some of them are a bit indifferent and got distracted during bible study but when it comes to praying time, they are very serious and sincere, and this makes our time with them worth it, or so I feel.

Gabrielle Sarrafian, JJC



Broken and Blessed

On Saturday, April 2, SYS volunteers met in-person for the first time in two years for the volunteer Lenten retreat, "Broken and Blessed". The volunteers started the day outside in the beautiful weather getting to know each other better with an ice breaker. The rest of the day was led by Deacon Fernando and Sr. Symphonie. They spoke about vulnerability and the little things that move us and how we grow from our weaknesses. At the end of the day, Sr. Symphonie led the group in prayer through song. We were very grateful to spend the day with our volunteers and start a new season of ministry.

SYS Volunteers breaking the ice



A morning led by Deacon Fernando



Sr. Symphonie in the afternoon

We're Back!

This May, we were happy to announce that we were back in all our facilities! Harris County's Leadership Academy and JJC, and Fort Bend were the latest facilities to re-open their doors to visitation. Volunteers were eager to minister in person again! It was wonderful to meet with them and pray together before their big comeback. We are thankful to all our volunteers for their patience during this time and their continued support of our ministry. Please keep the youth and staff in your prayers as they still encounter obstacles during the pandemic.



JJC Volunteers



Leadership Academy Volunteers



Clergy Corner



Deacon Fernando leading the discussion

On Friday April 22nd, the Jung Center of Houston held a one-day conference titled “Bearing the Unbearable: Trauma, Dissociation, and the Power of Grace” held at the University of St. Thomas. The presenters were a mix of therapists and clergy who spoke on the effects of trauma in our families, workplaces, and communities and where grace can help those enduring the trauma.

Deacon Fernando was invited as one of the presenters to lead a closing panel discussion. Bringing together the content of each of the prior presenters, Deacon Fernando led participants both in person and virtually in conversations about how grace can help provide those suffering with trauma a feeling of comfort and safety through a relationship centered not on the diagnosis and results, but instead first and foremost on the individual as a creation of God, offering them the same unconditional love God provides all of us.



Starting with a prayer

Happy Archdiocesan Anniversary!



Left to right: Alejandra, Bishop Italo Dell'Oro, Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, and Dec. Fernando

SYS staff celebrated a few milestones these past few years and were recognized at the 2022 Archdiocesan Lenten Day of Prayer. During the pandemic, Franchelle and Alejandra celebrated 15 years and 5 years with SYS, respectively. This year, Deacon Fernando celebrated 10 years with the Archdiocese. All three staff members are looking forward to many more years of working together with staff and volunteers to spiritually enrich the lives of our youth.

SHARE YOUR FAITH WITH YOUTH IN DETENTION CENTERS

There are over 1,000 young people ages 10-17 in the juvenile justice system in Harris and surrounding counties. Along with offering Bible Study and prayer, Special Youth Services puts together a reflection newsletter that is given to every youth in all the facilities. We invite YOU to contribute to this well-received resource!

Once you sign up, you will be put on a rotating schedule and will be given your reading in advance. This is open to ages Jr. High and up! For more details, email sys@archgh.org or call (713) 741-8779. You can also visit us at www.archgh.org/sys. Scan the QR code to give us a like on our Facebook page!





Special Youth Services would like to thank a group of angels that have blessed us these past few months. We thank them for strengthening the ministry and for extending their kindness to the youth we serve: Rubén Vázquez; all staff at who have been so helpful getting volunteers back in the facilities over the last few months.

Would your group like to reach out to SYS youth? Please contact us at sys@archgh.org or (713) 741-8739.

Bags of Blessings

SYS is very thankful for the blessings through Hope Bags and letters this season. We had a number of groups reach out to us wanting to provide joy and hope to our youth. Thank you to Catie Watso and the students at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic School; Sarai Meyers at St. Edwards Catholic Church and the students in the Confirmation classes; students at St. Ambrose Catholic School; the sub-coordinator of the young adult group Marineros Hacia la Luz at Our Lady of St. John, Jeanette Robledo, and the young adults in the group; and youth at the Jr. High Rally. If you have a group that is interested in making Hope Bags or a similar project, please reach out to us at sys@archgh.org or (713) 741-8739.



MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

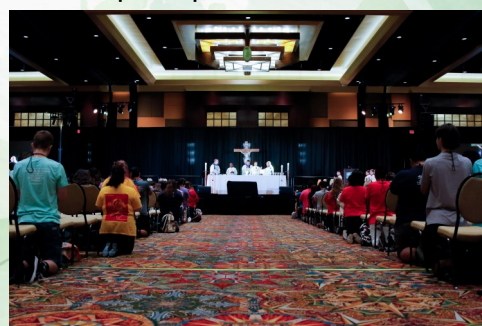
JULY 29-31, 2022 | HILTON OF THE AMERICAS | HOUSTON, TX



The Office of Adolescent Catechesis and Evangelization (OACE) staff participates in networking, planning, and advocacy on the regional and national levels. Our Archdiocese is represented at semi-annual meetings of Archdiocesan youth ministries from Region 10, which includes Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. The Archdiocese is also a member of the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM). The staff of the OACE participates in the annual meetings of the NFCYM and contributes to committee work that guides the youth ministry agenda on a national level. The mission statement of the OACE is providing leadership, formation, and resources in Comprehensive Youth Ministry for parishes to effectively form adolescents into lifelong disciples in the Catholic tradition.

All high school aged youth are invited to participate in the 66th Annual Archdiocesan Youth Conference. There will be guest speakers, music, worship, and fellowship.

For more information about this event and this ministry, visit www.archgh.org/oace or call (713) 741-8723.



Alex Gotay
Host

Fr. David Michael Moses
Guest Speaker

Sr. Josephine Garrett
Guest Speaker

Danny Ray
Magician/Guest Speaker



Josh Blakesley Band
Worship



Cardinal DiNardo
Sunday Mass

WWW.ARCHGH.ORG/OACE | 713-741-8723

LA PERSPECTIVA DE UN JOVEN

Una conversación entre la hermana Symphonie y un hermanito en Cristo, J.F. de 17 años

Hermana Symphonie: ¿Cuánto tiempo tienes en el centro de detención?

J: Ocho meses.

HS: ¿Hay alguna diferencia entre la persona que eras antes y la persona que eres ahora?

J: Antes: Sentía que nadie me podía tocar, ni humano ni Dios. Estoy sobre todos. Nunca pensé que me pescaran. No tenía alma. Ahora: Durante los meses, dejé que otros tomaran el control. He aprendido que todos somos iguales. Es una llamada de atención estar aquí. Todo lo que pensaba estaba mal. Durante mi tiempo aquí, puedo pensar y reflexionar sobre mi familia y cómo los maltraté. No pensaba que mi mamá me quería y me quería ayudar. Ahora, pienso en mi familia primero. He crecido de quien era antes.

SS: ¿Cómo es tu relación con Dios?

J: Un poco mejor ahora. He tratado de mejorarme cada día. He fallado a veces cuando traté mal a otros o me peleaba, pero luego le pedí a Dios que me perdonara y traté lo mejor ser una persona diferente y quien Dios quiere que sea. He tratado tener una mejor relación con Dios. Ahora le rezo a Dios cada mañana que: “Lo que me pase durante el día y la noche, quiero que Tú tengas control de todo.”

SS: ¿Cómo te ha ayudado SYS con tu relación con Dios?

J: Me animan a hablar con Dios y leer la Biblia más seguido. Y de verdad, tengo mejor comunicación con Dios ahora. Durante el estudio bíblico, yo escuché las lecturas y hablé sobre ellas. Cuando tengo preguntas sobre la Biblia, le pregunto al voluntario entonces ellos me ayudaron a clarificar y entender.

SS: ¿Qué mensaje tienes para jóvenes que están metidos en problemas?

J: No hay nadie que impresionar. No debe haber presión social hacia nadie. Si siguen haciendo malas decisiones, ponen a su vida en las líneas. Hay dos consecuencias: quedarse en la cárcel o salir o morir. Escucha al quien quiere lo mejor para ti.

SS: ¿Qué mensaje tienes para los padres de hijos que no se están portando bien?

J: Los padres necesitan “abrir los ojos” porque los adolescentes son buenos para esconder cosas. Los adolescentes hacen lo que quieren, no importa que tan buenos sean los padres. Sin embargo, la llave es buena comunicación. Los papás siempre pueden decirles NO a sus hijos, pero también deben darles una explicación por qué. Enséñales amor a tus hijos, no sólo con palabras pero con cariños (abrazos, besos, haz el desayuno, coman juntos...). Estén disponibles para que los hijos compartan.

La perspectiva de un voluntario

Después de dos años sin visitar al Centro de Justicia Juvenil, era maravilloso regresar para recomenzar el programa de estudio bíblico de Special Youth Services los miércoles por la tarde. Nuestra primera semana fue una experiencia tan emotiva y alegre. Eran tan cordiales los jóvenes y era conmovedor ver su agradecimiento sincero por las notas que encontraron en sus Hope Bags de los niños de colegio. Verdaderamente valoran estas notas. Su entusiasmo por las sesiones de estudio bíblico también era algo bien recibido.

Estoy agradecida de tener la oportunidad de compartir la Palabra de Dios, con la esperanza de ayudar a los jóvenes a crecer su fe, ampliar su conocimiento, motivar una vida fuerte de oración y aumentar su confianza en que Dios los ama y que Dios los perdonará.

Delores Gibson, JJC

“Mi abuela me habló sobre Jesús...” y fue así cómo un jovencito empezó el estudio bíblico cuando regresamos después de una pausa de dos años. Nuestras lecturas durante el Tiempo Pascual de los Hechos de los Apóstoles nos hablan sobre los testigos de los eventos rodeando a Jesús después de haber resucitado de entre los muertos. Esos testigos son la razón por la que nosotros, Abuela y este joven sabemos de Jesús hoy. Nuestra bendición como voluntarios es que nosotros, como los testigos de Cristo hacia 2.000 años, podemos presentar a Jesús a alguien nuevo que conocemos cada vez que visitamos los miércoles. Los jóvenes que conocemos tienen hambre de una voz que los guíe a un nuevo comienzo. Un nuevo comienzo donde podemos “obedecer a Dios en vez de al hombre.”

Diácono Fritz Claydon, JJC

Todo mundo fue muy amable: el personal, los JSOs y los jóvenes. Me sentí cómodo y bienvenido que los jóvenes querían esto. Hubo mucha participación. Les gustaron las Hope Bags. Fue bueno decirles que fueron hechas por estudiantes de colegio de iglesia. Todos reconocieron las reflexiones semanales, y como proveedores de eso, recibimos credibilidad. Me da gusto que estamos de regreso.

Voluntario de SYS, JJC

Estoy agradecida y feliz de estar de regreso sirviendo a los jóvenes de JJC. Regresando por primera vez en dos años, me sentía emocionada y algo ansiosa. Extrañaba interactuar con los jóvenes y tenía ganas de verlos de nuevo. Creo que estaban contentos al vernos y contentos de aprender de Dios. Regresamos después de la Pascua, entonces hablamos sobre la resurrección de Jesús y Su amor hacia nosotros; cómo murió por nuestros pecados y resucitó de entre los muertos el domingo de Pascua. Yo estaba feliz de compartir la Palabra de Dios con los jóvenes y les hicimos saber que estamos orando por ellos. Estaban emocionados al recibir las bolsas de regalitos que prepararon los estudiantes del Colegio de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe.

Compartimos con ellos la importancia de una relación con Dios por medio de este ministerio. SYS no sólo ayuda a los jóvenes a crecer en su fe, también nos ayuda a los voluntarios a acercarnos más al Señor. Nos ayuda a salirnos de nuestro elemento y compartir el amor de Dios y Su Palabra.

Lisa Mumbach, JJC

El 20 de abril cuando regresamos a JJC desde la pandemia del Coronavirus, yo estaba en medio de remodelar mi casa entonces no tenía muchas ganas de ir pero me esforcé para ir por mi compromiso al ministerio y a los jóvenes. Sin embargo, cuando llegué, estaba muy contenta porque los jóvenes disfrutaron de nuestra visita, los regalitos y las cartas que se les entregaron. Más importante, he notado que casi todos están ansiosos por orar. Algunos son un poco indiferentes y se distrajeron durante el estudio bíblico pero cuando llegó el momento de la oración, se ponen muy serios y sinceros, y esto hace que nuestro tiempo con ellos valga la pena, o así me siento yo.

Gabrielle Sarrafian, JJC

COMPARTIR TU FE CON JÓVENES EN CENTROS DE DETENCIÓN

Hay más de 1.000 jóvenes de edades 10-17 en el sistema de justicia juvenil en los condados de Harris y cercanos. Además de ofrecer Estudio Bíblico y oración, Special Youth Services hace un boletín de reflexiones que se le da a cada joven en las instalaciones. ¡Te invitamos a que TÚ contribuyas a este recurso que es bien recibido!

Una vez que te inscribes, te pondremos en un horario rotativo y se te dará la escritura con tiempo. ¡Está abierto a edades de Jr. High y adelante! Para más detalles, mándanos un email a sys@archgh.org o llámanos al (713) 741-8779. También nos puedes visitar en www.archgh.org/sys. ¡Escanea el código de QR para darnos un "like" en nuestra página de Facebook!



ENFOQUE EN MINISTERIO

JULY 29-31, 2022 | HILTON OF THE AMERICAS | HOUSTON, TX



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El personal de la Oficina de Catequesis y Evangelización de Adolescentes (OACE) participa en el establecimiento de enlaces, planificación, y apoyo en los niveles regionales y nacionales. Nuestra arquidiócesis es representada en las juntas semestrales de los ministros juveniles de la Región 10, que incluye Arkansas, Oklahoma y Texas. La arquidiócesis también es miembro de la Federación Nacional para Ministerio Juvenil Católico (NFCYM). El personal de la OACE participa en juntas anuales de la NFCYM y contribuye al trabajo de comité que guía la agenda de ministerio juvenil en un nivel nacional. La misión de la OACE es proveer liderazgo, formación y recursos en Ministerio Juvenil Completo para que parroquias puedan formar efectivamente a adolescentes en discípulos de toda la vida en la tradición católica.

Todo joven de edad de high school está invitado a participar en el 66° Conferencia Anual de Jóvenes de la Arquidiócesis. Habrán oradores invitados, música, alabanza y compañerismo.

Para más información sobre este evento y este ministerio, visita www.archgh.org/oace o llama al (713) 741-8723.





ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON PRESENTS
PROCLAIM 2022
I WILL LOVE

"There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear because fear has to do with punishment, and so one who fears is not yet perfect in love. We love because he first loved us."
 1 John 4:18-19

Patron Saints:
 St. Teresa of Calcutta & Bl. Carlo Acutis

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Registration is
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\$300 Deposit to reserve a spot with the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

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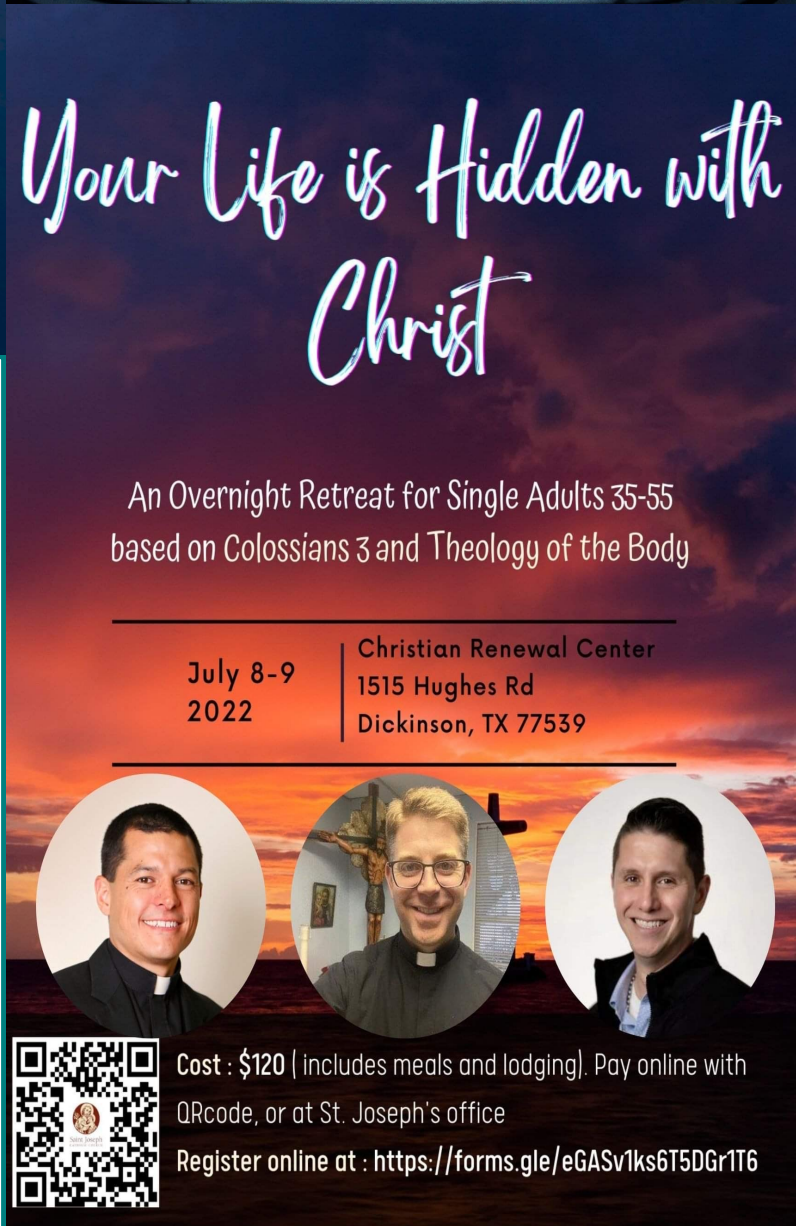


Catholic Charities

ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston continues to serve people in need during the COVID-19 pandemic through all of its programs. Food pantries are open for drive-through food distribution with hours each week at our three locations: Guadalupe Center in Houston; Mamie George Community Center in Richmond; Beacon of Hope Center in Galveston. For hours or other information, click [here](#) or call the COVID Assistance Line at 713-874-6521.

Catholic Charities' St. Frances Cabrini Center for Immigrant Legal Services advises that renters facing eviction during the pandemic can get free information in English and Spanish from Stop Texas Eviction, a website set up by established nonprofit legal aid providers. Visit StopTxEviction.org to learn more about tenant rights and available rental assistance.






Your Life is Hidden with Christ

An Overnight Retreat for Single Adults 35-55
 based on Colossians 3 and Theology of the Body


July 8-9
 2022

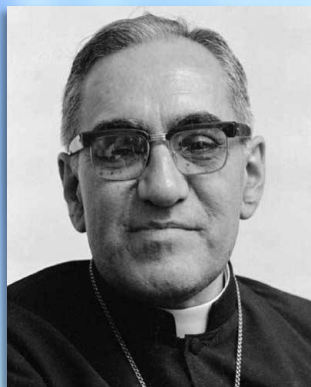
Christian Renewal Center
 1515 Hughes Rd
 Dickinson, TX 77539

Cost : \$120 | includes meals and lodging|. Pay online with QRcode, or at St. Joseph's office

Register online at : <https://forms.gle/eGASv1ks6T5DGr1T6>





Saint Óscar Romero, A Microphone for God

“Saint Oscar Romero was formally declared a martyr by Pope Francis in February 2015 and was canonized a saint on October 14, 2018 alongside Pope Paul VI. His feast day is March 24.

He was appointed Archbishop of San Salvador, El Salvador, in 1977, during a period of widespread political violence, disappearances and human rights violations. At the time, Archbishop Romero was not considered an outspoken advocate for people who were poor and oppressed. While many clergy and religious spoke out on their behalf, Archbishop Romero did not.

Soon after becoming archbishop, Father Rutilio Grande, his friend and fellow priest, was killed because of his outward support for oppressed communities. This deeply affected Archbishop Romero, and he began to publicly denounce violence and injustice, urging people to live out Christ's Gospel message of love for neighbor. As Archbishop Romero

began to speak up, people in villages across El Salvador tuned into his weekly radio homilies. He became an advocate for people who were poor—many called him the voice of the voiceless—and encouraged others to become advocates too.

He said, “We might be left without a radio station: God's best microphone is Christ, and Christ's best microphone is the Church, and the Church is all of you. Let each one of you, in your own job, in your own vocation—nun, married person, bishop, priest, high school or university student, day laborer, wage earner, market woman—one in your own place ... live the faith intensely and feel that in your surroundings you are a true microphone of God our Lord.”

Archbishop Romero was such a loud microphone for God that he was assassinated while celebrating Mass on March 24, 1980. His witness reminds us to not remain quietly on the sidelines, but to become microphones for God. He inspires us to speak out with our brothers and sisters who need help breaking down systems and structures that perpetuate poverty and suffering. People around the world continue to face oppression in many forms—it's up to us to be God's microphone by advocating on their behalf.

Saint Oscar Romero used the radio to become God's microphone. Today we can use social media, email, letter writing and public events to bear witness to Christ's Gospel message through legislative advocacy. It is one of the most effective ways to create real and lasting change. Legislative advocacy can influence decision making at local, national and international levels to change unjust policies that negatively affect our brothers and sisters who are poor and vulnerable. One way to use legislative advocacy to become God's microphone is by joining [CRS' Lead the Way](#), the beginning of a movement to help our global human family and end global poverty. [Sign up for the Lead the Way newsletter](#) to learn more about issues such as the refugee crisis and global hunger, and how you can use your prophetic voice to make a difference. Now is the time to speak out like Saint Oscar Romero did.”

<https://www.crs.org/resource-center/commemorating-blessed-oscar-romero>



Please pray for victims of natural disasters; those affected by COVID; respect of all human life from conception to natural death; expectant mothers and fathers; those suffering health issues; our graduating youth; and SYS volunteers and staff and their loved ones.

Contact us:

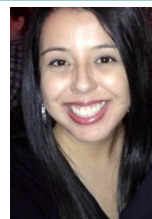


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“The harvest is plentiful, laborers are few” Luke 10:2



SYS would like to thank you all for your continued support to this ministry. We welcome all to share this newsletter with anyone who might have an interest and to share with us if you would like to see something in the Oratorio. If you know someone who may be interested in becoming a volunteer with SYS, please contact our office at: sys@archgh.org or (713) 741-8739.