



**\*\*\*MEDIA ALERT\*\*\***

## **Archbishop Robert J. Carlson to Offer Blessing for Border Mass Pilgrims**

*More than 100 St. Louis-area Students Leaving for U.S. Border*

**ST. LOUIS (Oct. 29, 2019)** – On **Wednesday, Oct. 30**, **Archbishop Robert J. Carlson** will offer a blessing to more than 100 students from St. Louis-area Catholic high schools and Saint Louis University who will begin a pilgrimage to El Paso, Texas to help support victims of the border crisis.

While in El Paso, the group will attend an annual [Border Mass](#) with U.S. and Mexican bishops on Saturday, Nov. 2, as well as participate in educational and interactive programming that will discuss the sinful reality of racism, the Biblical foundations of the Catholic approach to issues of race, and examples of activism for racial justice. The trip is aimed at supporting victims of the border crisis as well as empowering the group of 100 students to work toward self-awareness, empathy and racial justice in their daily lives.

**WHAT:** Students from nine St. Louis Catholic high schools and Saint Louis University will gather at the Cardinal Rigali Center this Wednesday, where Archbishop Carlson will offer a blessing and short prayer service for the pilgrims before they embark on a 22-hour bus ride to El Paso, Texas to participate in a Border Mass and Catholic educational programming on issues surrounding the border crisis.

**WHEN:** 2 p.m. CT on Oct. 30, 2019

**WHERE:** Cardinal Rigali Center  
20 Archbishop May Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63119

**VISUALS:**

- Archbishop Carlson sharing remarks and blessing the pilgrims
- More than 100 students from nine area Catholic high schools and Saint Louis University gathered for the blessing
- Students boarding buses and departing for the U.S. border

**NOTES:**

The service will be held in the Fleur de Lis room (auditorium) on the ground floor of the Cardinal Rigali Center.

**Event Chair:**

- Marie Kenyon  
Director, Peace & Justice Commission of the Archdiocese of St. Louis

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