



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

Office of Communications and Planning

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ANNUAL RED MASS FOR JUDGES, ATTORNEYS, PUBLIC SERVICE OFFICIALS, AND LEGAL PROFESSIONALS

WHAT: Annual Red Mass for members of the judiciary and legal community

WHEN: Sunday, October 1, 2017, 10:00 a.m.

WHO: Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson, Archbishop of St. Louis, principal celebrant; Most Reverend Daniel Flores, Bishop of Brownsville, Texas, homilist

WHERE: Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis (4431 Lindell)

ST. LOUIS – Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson, Archbishop of St. Louis, will celebrate the Annual Red Mass for members of the judiciary, public service officials, and the legal community on Sunday, October 1, at the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis beginning at 10:00 a.m. Most Reverend Daniel Flores, Bishop of Brownsville, Texas, will deliver the homily.

“The Red Mass is an opportunity for those in the legal profession to gather as a sign of civic unity and to pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit — the source of wisdom, understanding, counsel, and fortitude,” Archbishop Carlson said. “It is God, our final and absolute judge, from whom all law and justice flows.”

The Red Mass is celebrated at the opening of the judicial term in October. With roots dating to the 13th century, the tradition was introduced in the United States in 1928 when a group of Catholic lawyers gathered in St. Andrew’s Cathedral in New York City. A Red Mass was first celebrated in the Archdiocese of St. Louis in 1943. Presidents, vice presidents, members of Congress, and Supreme Court justices often attend the Red Mass in Washington, D.C.

Attorneys, legal professionals, those serving in the legislative and judicial branches of government, and public service officials of all faiths are invited to participate in this centuries-old tradition. The Red Mass is supported by the St. Thomas More Society.

In a special event at 2 p.m. the same day, Bishop Flores will give a lecture on immigration, deportation and the effects on children and families as bishop of one of the poorest and most bilingual diocese in the United States. Bishop Flores’ lecture is sponsored by Catholic Charities of St. Louis, the archdiocesan Peace & Justice Commission, and other archdiocesan agencies.

The lecture is the local kick-off event in the “Share the Journey Campaign,” a global campaign launched by Pope Francis to support immigrants and refugees around the world.

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