****

 ***Celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month – September/October 2024***

***Share, Learn, and Celebrate***

The Share, Learn, and Celebrate initiative of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington aims to promote multicultural awareness and understanding in our diverse communities. We want to engage Archdiocesan parishes, ministries, and the faithful in relevant activities to increase knowledge and appreciation for diverse cultures. Participants will be encouraged to share our cultural communities' achievements, identity, beauty, and richness during celebratory and historically significant occasions. To celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month, please consider the following Share, Learn, and Celebrate recommendations. This year’s theme “Pioneers of Change: Shaping the Future Together.”

***National Hispanic Heritage Month - History***

Every year, we celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month to honor Hispanic Americans' rich history, culture, and contributions to the United States. It all started in 1968 when U.S. Rep. George E. Brown from California pioneered the idea of Hispanic Heritage Week. President Lyndon B. Johnson issued the first proclamation that year. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan extended the week-long celebration to a month. Today, we use this time to recognize and celebrate the remarkable achievements of Hispanic Americans as leaders and innovators in our country's history.

National Hispanic Heritage Month starts on September 15 because it marks the Independence Day of Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala. The month also includes the Independence Days of Mexico (September 16) and Chile (September 18). Still, we celebrate many other countries with Hispanic heritage: Argentina, Bolivia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Spain, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

***Archdiocesan Level Activities and Resources***

**Share** Resources have been curated to support parishes and schools in the celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month. The Office of Cultural Diversity and Outreach ([OCDO](https://adw.org/living-the-faith/our-cultures/)) can assist in providing the resources described in this document. Please contact culturaldiversity@adw.org for more information.

**Learn** As the Archdiocese celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month, it is important to recognize the vital

role of Hispanic Americans in sustaining and enriching the Catholic community across the United States. We are excited to share the recently unveiled National Pastoral Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. As we delve into this resource, we discover a comprehensive roadmap that supports our Catholic communities and provides essential guidance for pastoral ministers and educators. This multifaceted plan addresses critical aspects of Hispanic/Latino ministry, including strategic approaches, prioritization at diocesan, parish, and regional levels, and considerations for various pastoral contexts. Download the document (PDF) in [English](https://www.usccb.org/resources/Missionary%20Disciples%20Going%20Forth%20with%20Joy%20English%2012.14.2023.pdf) and [Spanish](https://www.usccb.org/resources/Discipulos%20misioneros%20en%20salida%20con%20alegria%2012.21.2023.pdf).

Please take a moment to explore the rich diversity of the Hispanic Catholic community in our archdiocesan region. You can find information in both [English](https://vencuentro.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/412-Washington-EN.pdf) and [Spanish](https://vencuentro.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/412-Washington-ES.pdf). For a broader look at Hispanic Catholic representation in other parts of the country, click here. Should you require more details about our Hispanic Ministry or the Hispanic Catholic population in our region, please feel free to contact OCDO at culturaldiversity@adw.org. Please visit the [ADW website](https://adw.org/es/) to find the parishes celebrating Mass in Spanish, [here](https://adw.org/parishes-masses/parish-mass-finder/?fwp_mass_language=spanish).

**Celebrate** We invite you to mark your calendar and join us for the Archdiocesan [National Hispanic Heritage Month Mass](https://adw.org/event/hispanic-heritage-month-mass/) at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Clinton, Maryland, on ***Saturday, September 21, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.*** Click on the following to download the fliers [English](https://adw.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2024/07/24Flier-National-Hispanic-Heritage-ENG.pdf) | [Español](https://adw.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2024/07/24Flier-National-Hispanic-Heritage-SPA.pdf).

 ***Parish Level Recommendations***

**Share** Invite parishioners with Hispanic backgrounds to tell stories of their connections to the church. This is an opportunity to learn about one another, how Catholicism has shaped one another, and how culture and actions have contributed to the faith and that of our families. These dialogues can build community in the parish.

**Learn** Catholicism has been greatly affected by the social and cultural influence of Hispanic Heritage. Host a seminar at your parish to discuss the history, diversity, and complexity of Hispanic culture. Please contact the OCDO at culturaldiversity@adw.org for resources and dialogue recommendations.

**Celebrate** Plan liturgies to celebrate the cultural expression of Hispanic Americans in the Church and our country. This can be done with opening/closing Masses for National Hispanic Heritage Month, or with services specifically recognizing Hispanic communities and traditions. Engage your parish’s intercultural committee or others to plan and participate. Contact the OCDO at culturaldiversity@adw.org for assistance with liturgical resources such as a [bilingual Mass guide](https://adw.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/07/23-Bilingual-Mass-Card-0721.pdf), [prayers of the faithful](https://adw.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/08/2023-Oracion-de-los-fieles-HHM-PZrev.pdf), prayer cards.[English](https://adw.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/08/24Prayer-Card-Hispanic-Heritage-5x7-1.png) | [Spanish](https://adw.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/08/24Prayer-Card-Hispanic-Heritage-5x72-1.png).

**Share** The Hispanic community has been blessed with multiple saints and many more are on the path to sainthood. We are joyful to have our pope, bishops, clergy, and religious as Hispanic representatives. Let us share the stories.

**Our Holy Father Pope Francis (Dec. 17, 1936)**

Our Holy Father is the first pontiff born in the Americas and the first Jesuit pope. The former Francis Bergoglio was born in Argentina and conducted the first canonization in the United States. Fun fact, “el Papa” is a proud supporter of his hometown soccer team. To learn more, [see here.](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/biography/documents/papa-francesco-biografia-bergoglio.html)

[**Our Bishops:**](https://adw.org/about-us/who-we-are/auxiliary-bishops/)

[**The Most Rev. Juan R. Esposito-Garcia, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington**](https://youtu.be/aCFrwCCYgls)

Bishop Esposito is believed to be the first native of Argentina named to be a bishop in the United States. Bishop Esposito is Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia; he holds both a licentiate and doctorate in Canon Law. Click [here](https://adw.org/about-us/who-we-are/auxiliary-bishops/) to read more.

**[The Most Rev. Evelio Menjivar-Ayala, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington](https://youtu.be/aCFrwCCYgls)**

Bishop Menjívar-Ayala is thought to be the first Salvadoran and Central American-born bishop in the United States. He is also an active supporter of workers and social justice for immigrants in his ministry. Click [here](https://adw.org/about-us/who-we-are/auxiliary-bishops/) to read more. Learn more about our bishops [here](https://adw.org/about-us/who-we-are/auxiliary-bishops/).

**Our Saints:**

**Saint José Sanchez Del Río (March 28, 1913 – Feb. 10, 1928):**

Saint Jos**é** was born in Mexico and was an adamant defender of the Catholic faith from an incredibly early age. At only 13 years old, he fought with rebel forces to preserve the Catholic faith against the Mexican government. After capture, Del Rio was martyred for refusing to renounce Catholicism. To learn more, see [here](https://www.stignatiusmobile.org/saint-of-the-month-st-jose-sanchez-del-rio/).

**Saint Martín de Porres (Dec. 9, 1579 – Nov. 3, 1639)**

Saint Martín was born in Peru and is best known for his strong values of kindness, alongside his acts of charity and nursing the sick. He is the patron saint of social justice, racial harmony, and mixed-race people. To learn more, see [here](https://www.vaticannews.va/en/saints/11/03/st--martin-de-porres--dominican.html).

**Saint Óscar A. Romero (Aug. 16, 1917 – March 24, 1980)**

Saint Oscar was born in El Salvador and is known for advocating for the poor and speaking out against the oppression of the Salvadoran government. He was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize for his actions and died as a “Martyr for the Faith.” To learn more, [see here.](https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2020-03/oscar-romero-forty-years-assassination-anniversary0.html)

**Our Beatified:**

**Ana Julia Duque Heckner (Aug. 14, 1898 – July 25, 1993)**

Sister Julia was born in Colombia and founded the Little Sisters of the Annunciation, along with multiple schools and nurseries that helped abandoned girls and women. She taught the poor and minorities and used her writing to further social causes. To learn more, see [here](https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/252697/colombia-celebrates-beatification-of-maria-berenice-duque-foundress-of-three-congregations).

 **Carlos Manuel Cecilio** **Rodríguez Santiago (Nov. 22, 1918 – July 13, 1963)**

Rodríguez was born in Puerto Rico. Also known as “Blessed Charlie,” he was a catechist and liturgist, dedicated to preserving and restoring the liturgy. Rodríguez is the first Puerto Rican layperson to be beatified. To learn more, [see here.](https://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/ns_lit_doc_20010429_rodriguez-santiago_en.html)

**Maria Vicenta Rosal (Oct. 26, 1815 – Aug. 24, 1886)**

Sister Maria was born in Guatemala and was a member of the Bethlemite sisters. She spent her life advocating for education and protection against the machismo culture. Rosal is the first Guatemalan to be beatified. To learn more, see [here](https://es.catholic.net/op/articulos/37119/mara-encarnacin-rosal-beata.html) (Spanish).

**Learn** Those featured above are just a few examples of our history's many inspiring Hispanic Catholics. Click [here](https://adw.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/08/2023-Saint-List-SLC-HHM-PZrv.pdf) to read about other Hispanic saints, beatified people, and martyrs.

**Celebrate** Plan event(s) with parishioners to discuss their favorite Hispanic saints. This can be an opportunity to talk about their lives, miracles, and their impact on the Catholic Church. This activity can include screening a movie featuring historical Hispanic Catholic luminaries. Host these events at your RCIA, religious education, or parent education programs. For movie recommendations, see the resource list included in this document. or contact the OCDO at culturaldiversity@adw.org for more assistance.

**Share** Your parish is home to a vibrant and diverse Hispanic American community, with rich traditions worth celebrating. Consider hosting a Hispanic heritage festival that highlights art, music, and cuisine, and invite your Hispanic parishioners and neighbors to create exhibits highlighting their Catholic traditions to further showcase their cultural influence in the community. Take the opportunity to highlight prominent Hispanic leaders, innovators, and influencers from our nation as seen [here](https://adw.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/08/2023-OCDO-Hispanic-Heritage-Month-Share-Learn-and-Celebrate-List-of-Prominent-Hispanics-PZrev.pdf).

**Learn** Consider hosting a panel discussion virtually or in-person to get to know Hispanic religious who serve in our region and learn about their origins and vocations, You can find a list of religious organizations in the ADW directory by clicking [here](https://adw.org/vocations/consecrated-life/womens-communities/) to see the women’s and [here](https://adw.org/vocations/consecrated-life/mens-communities/) for the men.

Lay movements and Catholic organizations' charisms are crucial in spreading the Gospel to our communities. If you would like to learn more about these movements, click [here.](https://adw.org/living-the-faith/our-cultures/lay-movements/) If you have any questions, contact the OCDO at culturaldiversity@adw.org.

**Celebrate** Let us continue celebrating beyond this month and join the *Walk with Mary*, a celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe that will take place on Saturday, December 14, 2024, at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart and the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. This is special celebration for Hispanic and all Catholics in the Archdiocese of Washington. Find out more about it [here](https://adw.org/media-events/walk-with-mary/), and discover other Catholic celebrations throughout the year by visiting the ADW Website [here](https://adw.org/living-the-faith/our-cultures/cultural-events/)

**Share** The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington has created a a commemorative 2024 National Hispanic Heritage Month prayer card for your parishioners. Click to download the card in [English](https://adw.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/08/24Prayer-Card-Hispanic-Heritage-5x7-1.png) [Spanish](https://adw.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/08/24Prayer-Card-Hispanic-Heritage-5x72-1.png) or click [here](https://www.cognitoforms.com/ArchdioceseOfWashington4/_2024PrayerCardRequestNationalHispanicHeritageMonth) submit your request.

**Learn** Consider sponsoring a parish field trip or encourage families to visit some of the historical and educational sites within our region. See the list below:

1. The Smithsonian [Virtual National Museum of the American Latino](https://latino.si.edu/) has a collection of resources to educate on Hispanic History, feature stories of Hispanic Achievement, and advertise future events related to the education and celebration of Hispanic Heritage. - [*https://latino.si.edu/*](https://latino.si.edu/)
2. The [Saint John Paul II Shrine](https://www.jp2shrine.org/en/index.html), Washington, DC, depicts the travels of Saint Pope John Paul II throughout Latin America. - [*https://www.jp2shrine.org/en/index.html*](https://www.jp2shrine.org/en/index.html)
3. [Mexican Cultural Institute](https://instituteofmexicodc.org/), Washington D.C. - [*https://instituteofmexicodc.org/*](https://instituteofmexicodc.org/)
4. National Museum of American History, Molina Family Latino Gallery, Washington D.C. - [*https://latino.si.edu/support/molina-family-latino-gallery*](https://latino.si.edu/support/molina-family-latino-gallery)
5. The [U.S. Department of the Interior‘s online](https://www.doi.gov/photos/discover-hispanic-heritage-these-historic-sites) gallery displays many historic sites of significance to Hispanic Heritage.- [*https://www.doi.gov/photos/discover-hispanic-heritage-these-historic-sites*](https://www.doi.gov/photos/discover-hispanic-heritage-these-historic-sites)

 ***Catholic Schools and Religious Education***

**Share** We invite you to share Archdiocesan Hispanic Heritage historical facts in school newsletters, announcements, and social media to promote awareness about the culture. You can find a list by clicking [here](https://adw.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/08/2023-List-of-ADW-Hispanic-Heritage-Historical-Facts_PZrev.pdf).

**Learn** Encourage students to learn about the Catholic traditions of Hispanic culture. Consider creating a curriculum that teaches about the origin and mysteries of the tilma/cloak with the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. You can also host the Archdiocese of Washington's hand-embroidered tilma replica and organize a prayer service to contemplate Our Lady as Patroness of the Americas. This tilma is used annually for the Feast of Our Lady during the Walk with Mary festivity in December, and it is currently making rounds across the archdiocese. To make a reservation for a visit, please click [here](https://www.cognitoforms.com/ArchdioceseOfWashington4/ADWOurLadyOfGuadalupeTravelingTilmaReplicaRequestForm).

You can have students create their tilma through an affordable art project. For the instructions on the project, click [here](https://adw.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/10/Making-Tilma_branded-in-english.pdf). Moreover, invite them to join the pilgrimage and worship as we [Walk with Mary](https://adw.org/event/walk-with-mary-2024/) on Saturday, December 14, 2024, to witness the reenactment [of Saint Juan Diego presenting the Tilma](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_XSDL_5_vc0) to Cardinal Wilton Gregory before the Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. If you need more information, please send an email to culturaldiversity@adw.org

**Celebrate** Develop art projects for students to celebrate Hispanic Heritage and display their work throughout the school building. Consider turning this into a contest, with the winner’s works published on the ADW website and in the Archdiocesan newspapers, the [Catholic Standard](https://cathstan.org/) and [El Pregonero](https://elpreg.org/). You may also host a festival featuring the art, music, and gastronomy of the nations with Hispanic heritage. For more details or recommendations, please send an email to culturaldiversity@adw.org.

**Share** Celebrate a special Mass to commemorate National Hispanic Heritage Month. Engage the parish and faculty staff, students, and parents to plan and participate in the liturgy. For resources, please contact the OCDO, and to order copies of the 2024 Hispanic Heritage Month prayer card, click the link provided [here](https://www.cognitoforms.com/ArchdioceseOfWashington4/_2024PrayerCardRequestNationalHispanicHeritageMonth).

***Additional Resources***

Use the curated resources below to explore and celebrate Hispanic Heritage through a Catholic lens.

* **Educational Websites**
	+ [National Hispanic Heritage Month Smithsonian resources](https://latino.si.edu/learn/teaching-and-learning-resources/hispanic-heritage-month-resources)
	+ [White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics](https://sites.ed.gov/hispanic-initiative/national-hispanic-heritage-month/)
	+ Statistical portrait of U.S. Hispanics - [Pew Research](https://www.pewresearch.org/science/2022/06/14/a-brief-statistical-portrait-of-u-s-hispanics/)
* **Hispanic Heritage Literature**
	+ [Palabra Archive at the Library of Congress](https://guides.loc.gov/palabra-archive)
	+ [History and Literary Arts archive at the National Hispanic Cultural Center](https://www.nhccnm.org/learn/nhcc-library-archive/)
* **Movies**
	+ [PBS - Documentaries and Programs to celebrate Hispanic cultures](https://www.pbs.org/independentlens/blog/honor-hispanic-heritage-month-with-eight-unique-documentaries/)
	+ Catholic Streaming options:

[Formed – Catholic Faith Content](https://formed.org/?utm_term=christian%20studies&utm_campaign=Formed+-+FRU&utm_source=adwords&utm_medium=ppc&hsa_acc=2420499578&hsa_cam=18137457045&hsa_grp=141365871598&hsa_ad=618141154076&hsa_src=g&hsa_tgt=kwd-38657981&hsa_kw=christian%20studies&hsa_mt=b&hsa_net=adwords&hsa_ver=3&gad=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwiIOmBhDjARIsAP6YhSWkmafKVpczj4gQmSfMd0buAoqrD3yUH5SB5LPhZwNOAQ7u_zLFZF4aAi9EEALw_wcB) & [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLPAbF-_bN4rjtJ_dbaKalqL54haayZGlR)

* + [List of recommended movies](https://adw.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/08/2023-NHHM-suggested-Documentaries-and-movies-PZrev.pdf)
* **Mass Resources**
	+ [ADW Parishes celebrating Mass in Spanish](https://adw.org/parishes-masses/parish-mass-finder/?fwp_mass_language=spanish)
	+ [Bilingual Mass Guide](https://adw.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/07/23-Bilingual-Mass-Card-0721.pdf)
	+ [Prayers of the Faithful](https://adw.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/08/2023-Oracion-de-los-fieles-HHM-PZrev.pdf)
	+ [Prayer Card](https://adw.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/08/23-Prayer-Card-Vertical-Hispanic-Heritage-Month.pdf) [English](https://adw.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/08/24Prayer-Card-Hispanic-Heritage-5x7-1.png) | [Spanish](https://adw.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/08/24Prayer-Card-Hispanic-Heritage-5x72-1.png).
	+ [Latino Saints at the BNSIC](https://www.nationalshrine.org/blog/3-latin-american-saints-you-should-know/)