



396 of our parish children participated in this year's two-week Summer Session of our Religious Education Program. With the many things that they learned about Jesus, the Holy Trinity and Holy Family, the Bible, the Mass and the Church they had first-hand experiences of several of our parish ministries. The children visited our parish food pantry and vegetable garden. They collected and donated food to be shared with families in need.



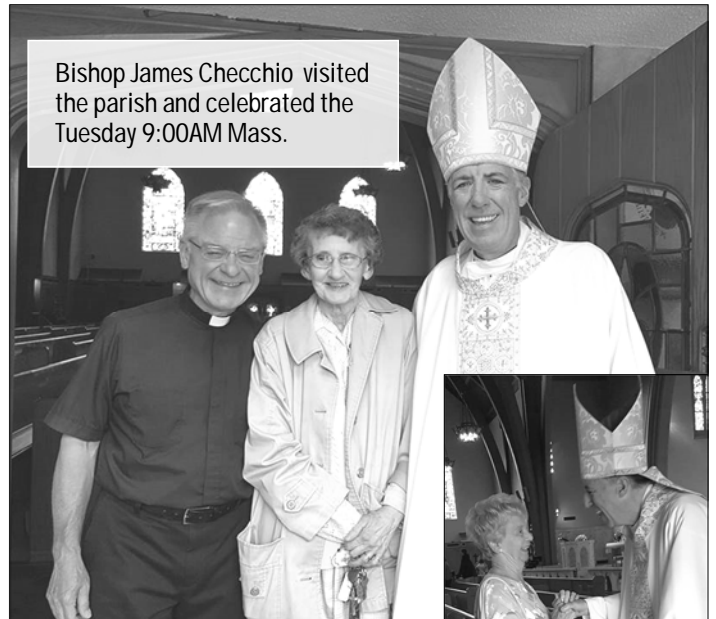
Daniel Mahoney, our parish Director of Sacred Music is also the Chapter Director of the *National Association of Pastoral Musicians Diocese of Metuchen*. He is pictured accepting the "Chapter of the Year" award on behalf of the Diocese of Metuchen. NPM is an international organization which fosters the art of musical liturgy and has a membership of 6,000.

The diocesan chapter was selected because of the numerous workshops, classes, formation sessions, special liturgies, etc. which were offered over the past year. Pictured with Dan is Tony Varas, Director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Metuchen and Msgr. Rick Hiltgartner, President of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians.

NEW JERSEY RIGHT TO LIFE'S ANNUAL CAR AND SHOP-RITE GIFT CARD RAFFLE -

Proceeds go to NJ's largest pro-life organization, whose work saves the lives of the unborn, elderly, and disabled from conception to natural death. Tickets: \$10 each. 1st Prize - 2017 Volvo XC60 AWD SUV valued at \$42,000, 2nd Prize - \$1,000 Shop-Rite Gift Card, 3rd Prize - \$750 Shop-Rite Gift Card, 4th Prize - \$500. Tickets will be available for purchase in church **next weekend**, August 13 & 14.

IN GOD'S IMAGE: CATHOLIC FAITH SHARING FOR LGBT PERSONS & THEIR FAMILIES - *In God's Image*, the Gay and Lesbian Faith Sharing Group at Sacred Heart Church, meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:00PM in the Parish Annex (behind the school). **Our meetings will resume in September.** For more information call 908-822-5895, OR contact Fr. John at x125 OR email: sacredheartigi@gmail.com. And look for the **IGI** icon on the parish website. All are invited to view and share the video presentation at OwningOurFaith.com.



Bishop James Checchio visited the parish and celebrated the Tuesday 9:00AM Mass.

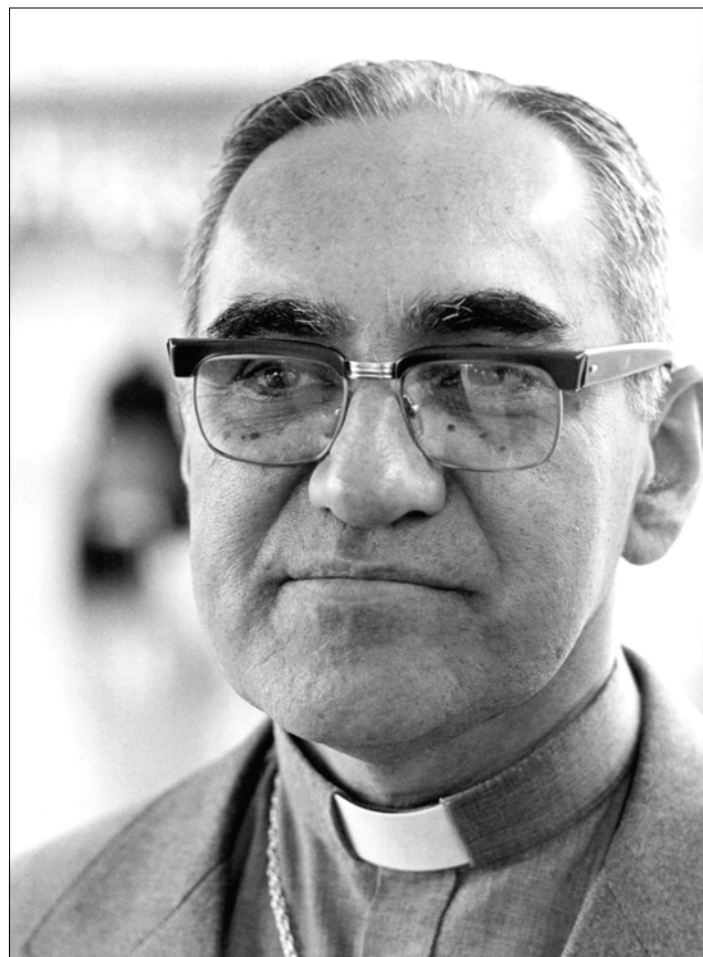


Are you praying your Morning Offering?

VISIT US ON INSTAGRAM – SACREDHEARTSPNJ

WITNESS TO FREEDOM

BLESSED OSCAR ROMERO



When Monsignor Oscar Romero was installed as Archbishop of San Salvador, El Salvador in February 1977, he was thrust into a tumultuous situation. A military coup in October 1979 led to a gruesome, twelve year civil war. These events were precipitated by the great disparity between a small number of powerful, wealthy families – who were backed by local politicians and the military – and the rest of El Salvador’s citizens. Many people suffered extreme poverty. Laborers worked for minimal pay for wealthy landowners, yet they could not hope to obtain land for themselves. The military terrorized the people in order ensure that the families held onto land and money. The Catholic Church became a target when some clergy began to defend the poor. In response to these injustices, some Salvadorans took up arms and fought against the military.

While some Latin American clergy promoted violence as a response to injustice, Archbishop Romero advocated for a different weapon: **Christian love.**

Before becoming archbishop, Monsignor Romero was not aware that the government was responsible for the deaths of many civilians. Because of his quiet nature, some thought that he would be good for the position, assuming he would not meddle in controversial affairs. However, shortly after his installation, his close friend, Fr. Rutilio Grande, a priest who openly opposed the unjust practices of wealthy landowners, was assassinated by gunmen while traveling with two people to celebrate Mass. This experience awakened Archbishop Romero to the reality of the corruption in his country and prompted him to take a stand for his people’s freedom.

Archbishop Romero preached many homilies that were broadcast throughout San Salvador. He persistently defended the rights of the people, calling government leaders to conversion and challenging them to uphold God’s law. He reminded the people that they were loved by God and that fighting back with Christian charity was the way to victory. His vocal response to government violence against the poor led to difficulties with other clergy members and his religious superiors as well as death threats from government accomplices. In spite of these challenges, he continued to speak out on behalf of the poor.

On March 24, 1980, Archbishop Romero was shot to death while celebrating the Eucharist in the chapel of Divina Providencia hospital. Blessed Oscar Romero was beatified by Pope Francis in May 2015.

Blessed Oscar Romero, pray for us!



Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty
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**PRAY FOR PEACE,
UNITY,
FREEDOM**

