



Tuesday, September 15, 2015

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are anxiously awaiting the arrival to the United States of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, whose presence will be a great blessing for our Church and for our entire Nation. I write to share some information about how our Church is preparing to celebrate the visit of Pope Francis.



**Attend the Mass in Washington, D.C.**

The Archdiocese of Baltimore received a limited number of tickets to the Mass celebrated by Pope Francis for the Canonization of Blessed Junipero Serra on Wednesday, September 23 at 4:15 p.m. at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Join the conversation about Pope Francis on one of our social media channels for the chance to attend the Mass. We are on Facebook at [facebook.com/archbalt](https://www.facebook.com/archbalt); on Twitter [@archbalt](https://twitter.com/archbalt) and on Instagram at [@archbaltimore](https://www.instagram.com/archbaltimore).

**Attend the Festival of Families in Philadelphia**

The Pope is visiting the United States to participate in the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, which will conclude with a large outdoor festival for families on Saturday, September 26. For more information about the festival, visit [www.worldmeeting2015.org](http://www.worldmeeting2015.org).

**Candlelight Vigil**

The Archdiocese's office of Hispanic Ministry will hold a candlelight vigil to welcome Pope Francis on Friday, September 25 from 7-9 p.m. at Sacred Heart of Jesus, 600 S. Conkling St., Baltimore, MD 21224 in East Baltimore. Those attending the vigil are invited to donate a can of food to help those in need in Baltimore City, and to say a special prayer for peace.

La Oficina de Ministerio Hispano de la Arquidiócesis celebrará una vigilia con velas para dar la bienvenida al Papa Francisco el viernes 25 de septiembre de 7:00 a 9:00 p.m. en el Sagrado Corazón de Jesús Parish. Los invitamos a donar una lata de comida para ayudar a los necesitados del Oeste de Baltimore, y rezar una oración especial por la paz.

**Serve Like Francis**

Pope Francis has regularly reminded us by his own words and actions to serve those less fortunate than us. The Archdiocese of Baltimore and Catholic

Charities are making service opportunities available to those who wish to “serve like Francis” during the Holy Father’s upcoming visit. For more information about how you can serve in your area, visit [www.archbalt.org](http://www.archbalt.org).

### **Watch the Papal Mass in the Grass**

Catholics from all over the Archdiocese will gather on the lawn at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen to watch the Pope’s Mass from Philadelphia live on a large outdoor screen on Sunday, September 27 at 4 p.m. People are invited to come early (the Ravens-Bengals game will air from 1 p.m. until the Mass begins) and to bring chairs, blankets and a picnic dinner. Food trucks have also been invited.

All of the aforementioned events, as well as others, can be found at [www.archbalt.org/about-us/papal-visit.cfm](http://www.archbalt.org/about-us/papal-visit.cfm). In addition, watch the Pope’s entire visit live on our website at [www.archbalt.org](http://www.archbalt.org) and visit [www.catholicreview.org](http://www.catholicreview.org) for up-to-the-minute news of the Holy Father’s historic visit to the United States.

I pray you will be able to take part in these events and that the Holy Father’s presence will be a particular blessing for you and your family.

Faithfully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ William E. Lori".

Most Reverend William E. Lori  
Archbishop of Baltimore



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