



From The Desk of Mayor Don Ryan

Week of August 28, 2017

In just a matter of days, two significant events recently occurred in our Village that touched me greatly. The first took place on Sunday, August 20 when I was one of more than 1,500 men, women and children who packed Our Lady of Loretto Catholic Church on Greenwich Street to worship with newly ordained Cardinal José Gregorio Rosa Chávez of El Salvador during his historic visit to Long Island. Rosa Chávez made history in June when he became the first auxiliary bishop to ever be named a cardinal by the Roman Catholic Church. He was invited to Long Island by Reverend John Barres who serves as Bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre and is the spiritual leader of more than 1.5 million Long Island Catholics.

During the service at Our Lady of Loretto you couldn't help but feel the tremendous outpouring of faith and love, which I believe showed the true face of Long Island's Salvadoran and Latino community, not the one that is defined by the gang members who too often grab the headlines. Here in Hempstead we have so many wonderful residents with Salvadoran connections who make up a major part of our ethnic diversity and express their faith, family dedication and hard work each and every day. It was heartwarming to experience this special gathering and have a chance to participate with so many members of the Salvadoran community.

The second event I wanted to share with you was a peace rally on August 22 aimed at showing solidarity and promoting peace in response to the recent violence in Charlottesville, Virginia. Held on the steps of Village Hall, the rally was a collaborative effort by the Village, the Black-Jewish Coalition for Justice and the Nassau County District Attorney's Office with a mission to encourage and promote the practice of peace amongst all religious and ethnic lines. The hateful violence and tragic loss of life and injuries that resulted from the shameful display of racial bigotry and white supremacist ideology in Charlottesville has no place on today's society. It was a privilege to be joined by members of the clergy, community leaders and representative from the Nassau District Attorney's office as speaker after speaker delivered inspiring messages speaking out against hatred and violence and promoting peace, love and unity instead.

This Week's Best of Hempstead



I'm especially pleased to recognize Vanessa Hernandez as this week's Best of Hempstead Honoree. For the past year and a half, Vanessa has worked for the Village as a clerk and as an assistant to me, Village's Chief-of-Staff and Publicity Director. She performs her duties with the utmost care and diligence and it's been a pleasure having her as part of my administration. Her welcoming personality and her smile helps brighten up our office every day.

Born and raised in Hempstead, Vanessa comes from Salvadoran roots. A Hempstead High School graduate from the class of 2012, she's the first member of her family to receive a college degree, which she earned from Nassau Community College as a Criminal Justice in Science major. This fall, she will return to St. Joseph's College in Brooklyn to continue her education while pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice.

Ultimately, Vanessa is interested in a career as either a crime scene investigator or a children's social worker focusing on domestic violence. Fortunately, Vanessa will continue working part-time for the Village in the same capacity while attending St. Joseph's College.

We wish Vanessa best of luck as she continues her educational pursuits and congratulate her for being named one of Hempstead's best.

Sincerely,

Don

Don Ryan
Mayor of the Incorporated Village of Hempstead