

# The Rev. José Rodríguez

**First ordained Hispanic priest in the Diocese of Central Florida, fully bilingual and culturally competent Hispanic missionary with over ten years of experience developing multicultural and multigenerational worshiping communities with a focus on advocacy, social services, resiliency, and leadership development.**

- Recognized as "*Father of the Diaspora*" by the Hispanic press and as a "*Latino elder*" by local Black community organizers; promoter of the Black and Hispanic community in Central Florida.
- Raised financial resources for the local community; negotiated early access to COVID vaccines for communities with high mortality and infection rates, thousands of laboratory-grade testing kits during the omicron wave, and early access to the monkeypox vaccine to support work amongst the LGBTQIA+ community.
- A public theologian, researcher, and writer on topics impacting the poor, vulnerable, migrants, and the Black and Hispanic community.
- The President of the Hispanic Commission and previous Diocesan Board member.
- Expert in managing demographic change and working with migrant and displaced communities.
- Experienced young adult and young families minister with a track record of raising up leaders for The Episcopal Church.
- Planted and served as missionary and chaplain for a college and young adult ministry that at its height served over 100 students through Bible study and direct support and mentorship of other Christian college ministries at the local Episcopal retreat centers.
- Mentored and sponsored numerous priests and deacons, including the diocese's first Latina priest and the youngest deacon.
- Served on four General Convention deputations and authored and promoted several successful resolutions on race and equity issues. Member of the Deputies of Color and Hispanic Caucus for three General Conventions.
- Invited speaker and preacher throughout The Episcopal Church.
- Regular liaison between the diocese and numerous secular organizations and foundations. An advocate for Christian enterprise to support the work of the church in serving all our neighbors.

## Ministry Experience

**Rector, Christ the King Episcopal Church, Orlando, FL | September 2021 - Present**

- Serve a multicultural urban parish in the heart of Orlando, engaging the local community, managing programs to meet the pastoral and physical needs of neighbors, leading a multidisciplinary team of clergy and lay ministers. Created a multicultural partnership to raise funds and advocate for community needs. United the Episcopal witness of our multicultural English-speaking legacy community and our oldest Latinx community into one Episcopal witness in Azalea Park.

**Vicar, Iglesia Episcopal Jesús de Nazaret, Orlando, FL | May 2017 - Present**

- Responsible for congregational development and raising leaders within and outside the parish to meet the unique pastoral needs of a multicultural, multilingual, and multi-age migrant community, zealously advocating for the needs of those in my pastoral care and finding the resources to meet the needs of a growing and dynamic community. Engage the worshiping community in planning liturgical and sacramental celebrations that respect the cultures of multiple nationalities, generations of Latinx worshippers, and also promote unity and synergy with the other worshiping communities on the church campus.

**Chaplain, The Episcopal Church at UCF, Orlando, FL** | January 2007 - May 2017

- Served and established new Episcopal outreach to local students, developing young adult leadership for the church and the community by connecting university ministry to parish ministry and encouraging student and young adult participation in the church's life, enabling students to stand for election and serve on vestries, enter discernment processes for ordained ministry, and serve parish ministries. Mentored local college students and young professionals concerning spiritual, emotional, and/or personal needs, responding to emergencies and personal crises.

**Associate Priest, Church of the Incarnation, Oviedo, FL** | May 2013 - May 2017

- Oversaw Young Adult and College Ministry for growing mission church. Worked with young families and assisted in Christian formation and children's ministries. Supported congregational development, outreach, and promotion of new church to neighbors and local community.

## **Professional and Secular Work Experience**

**Various Positions, United States Department of Defense, Orlando, FL** | May 2009 - Present

**Senior Bank Secrecy Act and Conversion Specialist, Martin Federal Credit Union, Orlando, FL** | January 2008 - May 2009

- Managed risk management and project management at community-based nonprofit financial institution. Worked closely with the Federal Reserve Bank and the Mexican Consulate in Orlando to create an outreach project and products to serve un-banked and undocumented migrants in Central Florida.

**Vice President of Collections and Loss Prevention, FAIRWINDS Credit Union, Orlando, FL** | January 2003 - January 2008

- Managed department of over 20 employees responsible for protecting \$1 billion lending portfolio. Responsible for protecting deposits and assets at nonprofit financial institution serving Central Florida.

## **Education**

**Doctorate in Ministry (D.Min.)**

*Asbury Theological Seminary* | Orlando, FL | May 2021

Dissertation: **Puerto Rican Crisis Migration: A Pastoral Response to Hurricane Maria Crisis Migrants**

**Master of Divinity (M.Div.)**

*Asbury Theological Seminary* | Orlando, FL | May 2013

**Master of Business Administration in Business (M.B.A.)**

*University Of Central Florida* | Orlando, FL | December 2008

**Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)**

Psychology and Religion Major and Jewish Studies Minor | May 2003

*Rollins College* | Winter Park, FL

## **Community Awards**

- **Honors and Leadership Recognition** | United States House of Representatives | June 2023
- **American Dream Award** | Gulf Coast Latin Chamber of Commerce | March 2023

- **Roberto Clemente Award** | Alianza Center | February 2022
- **Domino Effect Award** | SOS Orlando | August 2021
- **Recognition** | Casa Venezuela Orlando | July 2021
- **Central Floridian of the Year Finalist** | Orlando Sentinel | January 2020
- **Distinguished Leader in Florida** | United States House of Representatives | January 2020
- **The Elias "Rico" Piccard Award** | Orange County Democratic Party | January 2020
- **Change Maker Impact Award for Advocacy** | Heart of Florida United Way | October 2019
- **Hispanic and Latin American Heritage Celebration Certificate of Recognition** | Orange County Public Schools | October 2019
- **Art of the Solidarity Award** | Central Florida Jobs with Justice | December 2018
- **Exceptional Leader for Refugees for Housing Campaign** | Vamos4PR Action | January 2018
- **Honors for Se Habla Español Campaign** | Vamos4PR | January 2017

### **Publications and Commentary**

- **We Have a Sacred Duty to Recall the Struggles and Missteps of History** | *The Orlando Sentinel* | February 4, 2023
- **The Second Harvest: Diocesan Hispanic Ministry Continues Expansion** | *The Central Florida Episcopalian* | November 27, 2022
- **DeSantis has Betrayed Florida's Values of Refuge, Hospitality** | *The Orlando Sentinel* | September 16, 2022
- **Let Florida's Migrant Shelters Care for Children** | *The Orlando Sentinel* | February 22, 2022
- **Faith Leaders: Vaccination is Really a Grace of God** | *The Orlando Sentinel* | September 21, 2021
- **Prayer of Community, Children as School Starts** | *The Orlando Sentinel* | August 13, 2021
- **Denying Voters a Drink of Water Would Criminalize Decency** | *The Orlando Sentinel* | April 4, 2021
- **Help the Thousands Left in the Dark at Christmas** | *The Orlando Sentinel* | December 24, 2020
- **Kingdom Unity Shines as Diverse Churches Join to Meet Local Needs** | Article | *The Central Florida Episcopalian* | November 1, 2020
- **Mask-free Christian Gatherings that Claim 'Freedom to Worship' are in Fact a Demonstration of Self Centeredness** | *Orlando Weekly* | September 22, 2020
- **Puerto Ricans Displaced by Maria Now Valued Neighbors** | *The Orlando Sentinel* | September 20, 2020
- **A Biblical Parable in the Time of Coronavirus** | *The Orlando Sentinel* | April 7, 2020
- **Hold Industry Accountable on Affordable Housing** | *The Orlando Sentinel* | December 19, 2019
- **The Rev. Jose Rodriguez shares tips on Asset-Based Disaster Response** | *Episcopal Relief & Development* | Online

### **Academic Publications**

- Pineros-Leano, M., et al. "**Technology-Based Communication among Hurricane Maria Survivors in the United States: A Trans-Territorial Lens.**" *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology*, 2022, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00127-022-02404-w>
- Salas-Wright, Christopher P., et al. "**A Validation of the Perceived Negative Context of Reception Scale with Recently-Arrived Venezuelan Immigrants in Colombia and the United States.**" *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*, vol. 27, no. 4, 2021, pp. 649–658., <https://doi.org/10.1037/cdp0000455>
- Salas-Wright, Christopher P., et al. "**Cultural Stress and Substance Use Risk among Venezuelan Migrant Youth in the United States.**" *Substance Use & Misuse*, vol. 55, no. 13, 2020, pp. 2175–2183., <https://doi.org/10.1080/10826084.2020.1795684>

- Salas-Wright, Christopher P., et al. “**Cultural Stress Theory in the Context of Family Crisis Migration: Implications for Behavioral Health with Illustrations from the Adelante Boricua Study.**” *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, vol. 46, no. 4, 2021, pp. 586–608., <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12103-021-09626-9>
- Salas-Wright, Christopher P., et al. “**The Importance of Acculturation Orientation in Understanding the Impact of Pre- and Post-migration Stressors on Behavioral Health: Evidence from a Crisis Migrant Sample.**” *Journal of Clinical Psychology*, vol. 79, no. 8, 2023, pp. 1770–1785, <https://doi.org/10.1002/jclp.23505>
- Schwartz, Seth J., et al. “**After Hurricane Maria: Effects of Disaster Trauma on Puerto Rican Survivors on the U.S. Mainland.**” *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy*, 2022, <https://doi.org/10.1037/tra0001371>
- Salas-Wright, Christopher P., et al. “**Toward a Typology of Transnational Communication among Venezuelan Immigrant Youth: Implications for Behavioral Health.**” *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*, vol. 23, no. 5, 2020, pp. 1045–1052, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10903-020-01099-y>
- Schwartz, Seth J., et al. “**After Hurricane Maria: Effects of Disaster Trauma on Puerto Rican Survivors on the U.S. Mainland.**” *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy*, 2022, <https://doi.org/10.1037/tra0001371>
- Schwartz, S.J., et al. (in press). “**Validating the Negative Context of Reception Scale for Mainland Puerto Ricans.**” *The Counseling Psychologist*.