



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Office of Communications • *The Long Island Catholic* • *Fe Fuerza Vida*

50 North Park Avenue, Rockville Centre, NY 11570

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Biography: Most Reverend Nelson J. Perez, M. Div., MA, D.D.



Bishop Nelson Perez (at right) shares a moment of gratitude with Cardinal Gregorio Rosa Chavez during a visit to the Diocese of Rockville Centre in 2017.

(DRVC Office of Communications file photo)

Nelson J. Perez was born in Miami, Florida, on June 16, 1961 to David and Emma Perez and is the brother of the late Dr. David Perez and Louis Martin Perez. He was raised in West New York, New Jersey. Bishop Perez earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from Montclair State University in 1983. He taught at Colegio la Piedad, a Catholic elementary school in Puerto Rico, prior to entering Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia, where he earned Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Theology degrees in 1988 and 1989, respectively.

Bishop Perez's first assignment after ordination to the priesthood was as parochial vicar of Saint Ambrose Parish, Philadelphia (1989-1993). He also served as assistant director of the Office for Hispanic Catholics (1990-1993), founding director of the Catholic Institute for Evangelization (1993-2002), Pastor of Saint William Parish, Philadelphia (2002-2009), and Pastor of Saint Agnes Parish, West Chester, Pennsylvania (2009-2012).

His work in education included teaching courses in psychology and religious studies at LaSalle University, Philadelphia (1994-2008). Bishop Perez also taught Developmental Psychology at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary (fall, 2011), in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. In 1998, he was named Chaplain to His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, with the title of Monsignor. In 2009, he was named a Prelate of Honor by Pope Benedict XVI.

Pope Benedict XVI appointed Reverend Monsignor Nelson J. Perez Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre in New York on June 8, 2012. He was ordained a bishop on July 25, 2012 in Saint Agnes Cathedral, Rockville Centre, New York by Most Reverend William Murphy, fourth bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre.



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As Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, Bishop Perez served as Episcopal Vicar for the Eastern Vicariate, representing the Diocesan Ordinary and overseeing sixty-six of the 133 parishes in the Diocese of Rockville Centre. He served as the Episcopal Vicar for Hispanic Ministry, overseeing fifty-four parishes with pastoral ministry to Hispanics; Formation Programs, and Ecclesial Movements.

In addition, Bishop Perez served as a member of the Diocese of Rockville Centre's Priest Personnel Board, Presbyteral Council, corporate member of Catholic Health Services; vice-chair of Catholic Charities Board of Directors and member of its Executive and Governance Committees, member of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, chair of the Diocesan V Encuentro Planning Committee, chair of the Diocesan Advisory Committee for Hispanic Ministry, and was a member of the board of Telecare (now Catholic Faith Network), the Diocesan television station.

On September 5, 2017, Bishop Perez was installed as the 11th bishop of the Diocese of Cleveland at a Solemn Mass in the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in downtown Cleveland. The Diocese of Cleveland comprises 3,414 square miles that include eight counties in northeast Ohio. It has a total population of 2,774,113 people of which 677,219 or 24 percent are Catholic.

As a member of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Bishop Perez serves as Chair of the Bishops' Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church, a member of the Administrative Committee of the USCCB, and a member of the Bishops' Committee on Religious Liberty. He is former Chair of the Bishop's Sub-Committee for Hispanic Affairs and former member of the Bishop's Sub-Committee for the Campaign for Human Development.

A kind, joyous, and hard-working person, Bishop Perez enriches those ministries and people entrusted to his care.

Rooted in Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation, "The Joy of the Gospel", Bishop Perez's pastoral vision can be summarized as:

"Church on Mission: Proactive, Involved, Supportive, Fruitful, and Joyful"

(The Joy of the Gospel, # 24, Pope Francis)