



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE NAMES NEW VICAR FOR HISPANIC MINISTRY AND EVANGELIZATION



ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK – December 17, 2019 – The Diocese of Rockville Centre (drvc.org) announced that Idente Missionary Father Luis Miguel Romero, pastor of the Church of Our Lady of Loretto, Hempstead, has been appointed Vicar of Hispanic Ministry and Evangelization, Diocese of Rockville Centre. Father Romero will continue to serve as Pastor of Our Lady of Loretto.

“Father Luis Romero is a global Churchman who lives the Idente Missionary charism in an inspirational way,” said Most Reverend John O. Barres, Bishop of Rockville Centre. “His pastoral, formational and evangelizing leadership at Our Lady of Loretto will translate well into his diocesan leadership as the Vicar for Hispanic Ministry and Evangelization. He also has an exceptional capacity, with his extensive academic background in religion and science, to address how the truths of our Catholic faith in regard to the Gospel of Life, Catholic Social Justice teaching and the Church’s advocacy in history of ethical scientific development need to be brought directly and compellingly into the public square.”

The Vicar for Hispanic Ministry and Evangelization cooperates with the Bishop of Rockville Centre to promote the full participation of the Hispanic Faithful in the life of the Church. The office serves as a resource to all pastors and people serving the Hispanic Catholic community.

“I am so grateful to Bishop Barres for this special assignment in serving the Hispanic community of our diocese,” said Father Romero. “With a humble spirit, I thank our Bishop and repeat what Christ said about himself: ‘I did not come to be served, but to serve.’”

About Father Luis Miguel Romero Fernandez

Luis Miguel Romero Fernandez was born in Palencia, north of Spain in 1954, and grew up in Andalusia. He recalls as a young man seeing a monument in Huelva, a city in southern Spain, of Christopher Columbus looking at America and embracing a cross. “At that time I did not imagine that my life would be a replica of it -- look at America and embrace the cross,” said Father Romero.



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While studying Philosophy and Theology at the International Seminary of the Idente Missionaries, Father Romero also completed bachelors and masters degrees in Biological Science at the University of Seville. He continued his education with bachelors and masters degrees in Philosophy and Letters from Autonomous University of Madrid and a doctorate (equivalent to a Ph.D.) in Medicine at the University of Saragossa.

Father Romero was ordained on September 11, 1981, in Tenerife, Spain, and served in spiritual and academic roles in Spain, Bolivia, Chile and Ecuador. He was a university professor and administrator. Father Romero was the chancellor and rector-chancellor of the Private Technical University of Loja, Ecuador (Universidad Tecnica Particular De Loja), which is a Catholic university under the administration of the Idente Missionaries. The mission was to operate the university under the guidelines of the Catholic Church for Catholic universities, and under the charism of the Idente Missionaries. Currently, UTPL is one of the top universities in Ecuador.

In addition, Father Romero was the director of the University Pastoral (campus ministry) and Religious Sciences Department of the Boliva Catholic University in La Paz, Bolivia. He was also the adjunct director of the Religious Sciences Department at the Bolivia Catholic University. He was the pastoral assistant (Chaplain of Campus Ministry) at the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile (St. Joaquin Campus), Santiago, Chile. Father Romero also served as director of the University Pastoral Department (Campus Ministry) in the Diocese of Cadiz, Spain.

Father Romero has been published in numerous publications and has presented at conferences in the fields of biology, philosophy of science, ethics, theology, distance education and university management. He has held leadership roles in the Idente community and has also served as pastor of parishes in Bolivia and Chile. In 2014, the Idente Missionaries were entrusted to administer Our Lady of Loretto parish, Hempstead, with Father Luis as pastor. The Idente Missionaries also administer Saint Luke Parish in Brentwood.

The Institute Id of Christ the Redeemer, Idente Missionaries, is a Catholic congregation founded by Fernando Rielo in 1959 on the island of Tenerife, Spain. The congregation has religious men and women, as well as married missionaries.

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