

## PALLIUM PILGRIMAGE: ONCE IN A LIFETIME



Wearing a stole that belonged to Pope John Paul II, Archbishop Thomas Wenski, center, is flanked by Msgr. Terence Hogan, left, and Msgr. Michael Souckar as he recites vespers in the Sistine Chapel.

DANIEL SOÑÉ | FC

### PALLIUM COVERAGE



#### Miami's new archbishop receives pallium in Rome

Hundreds of pilgrims from Miami and Orlando travel with Archbishop Thomas Wenski to Italy

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# 'All are welcome in this place'

St. Maurice, 'family of the stable,' marks 40th as a 'Spirit-filled,' welcoming parish

JONATHAN MARTINEZ  
Florida Catholic correspondent

**DANIA BEACH** — "All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome," chanted many in celebration as the parish community of St. Maurice filled the church to celebrate a milestone in their parish's history, its 40th anniversary.

"All are welcome" is our song when anyone wants to come and share with us as we build our family of the stable," said Neil Kapp, a parishioner at St. Maurice for the past 10 years, as he quoted the parish's welcome hymn at the beginning of Mass.

The celebration was filled with the same lively style that has characterized this parish since its foundation.

On June 14 the joy was palpable as the celebration took place. For almost an hour, the choir and parishioners chanted songs and hymns celebrating this illustrious moment in their history.

"We have a vibrant and Spirit-filled community. You can feel the love, see the energy and bathe in the Spirit," said Kapp as he reminisced about the history of his parish.

The parish, which is located in Dania Beach, had humble beginnings: It originated from a piece of property known as Smith's Stables. In 1969, the Archdiocese of Miami, under the guidance of Archbishop Coleman Carroll, bought the property, which included, at its center, a barn, a shop for machinery and a house. On June 12, 1970, the property was converted into St. Maurice Parish.

Under the leadership of its first pastor, Father David Russell, the stable was transformed; the barn became the church, the shop a chapel, and the house a rectory.

"We are dirt-floor parishioners," said Joe Arena. He and his wife, Sheryl, have been attending St. Maurice since its inception 40 years ago.

"Dirt-floor parishioners" is a direct reference to the people who began the parish, because for the first few months the celebration of Mass was held on the hard-packed dirt floors of the original stable. "This is our home, our spiritual home. It is amazing how far we have come in the last 40 years," Arena said.

"Father Russell started this parish 40 years ago and made it a non-territorial parish. He announced that everyone was welcome here," said Father Sean Mulcahy, former pastor at St. Maurice, who served in that capacity for 22 years. "I learned a lot from him. He brought this passion to every one of his services and never let us forget our beginnings,



PHOTOS BY JONATHAN MARTINEZ | FC

Parishioners of St. Maurice hold hands during the Our Father. The church, which originally was a barn, was filled to capacity June 14.

how we are the family of the stable joined by Jesus Christ."

Father Russell elaborated on that sentiment during his opening remarks.

"We came to a stable and built a church," he said. "People have been blessed, love has been shared for 40 years — my God, you are old!" he quipped, eliciting laughter from everyone.

"We continually renew our energies by celebrating around the table of the Lord and grow to be more effective ministers in the name of Jesus," said Father Mulcahy in his homily.

The parish has a long history of helping those most in need. Through the years, parishioners have instituted many programs that aim to improve the lives of people in the area and abroad. Some of the programs include the hunger program, created to feed hungry people throughout the world; and JustFaith, JustMatters and BoldJustice, which help to promote and defend justice and equality for many minority groups in south Florida.

The hunger program was begun by Father Mulcahy and a group of parishioners who were inspired by

the Gospel of Matthew.

"It does so by establishing hunger projects that aim to help ease the plight of those who are not as fortunate as we are. Its work is not limited by boundaries, and projects are found in our own country and in a number of other countries, especially in the developing nations," said Father Mulcahy.

The hunger program continues to grow strong; to date it has 27 ongoing projects all over the world. Projects can be found throughout Broward County, Miami-Dade County, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Bolivia, Uganda, Tanzania, Peru, Philippines and India.

During the Mass, Father Roger Holoubek, current pastor, led the former pastors in giving a standing ovation to all the parishioners, thanking them for their unwavering support through the years.

"They are so alive. There is a special love when you walk through the doors of this parish. They are my inspiration. I'm so proud of them," said an emotional Father Holoubek, as he proudly celebrated the virtues of his flock.

"Jesus and the Gospel inspire me, the spirit of the people inspires me.



Father Roger Holoubek, pastor of St. Maurice since 2000, laughs while speaking to the congregation.

They make you want to live the Gospel, to do what is right and just," he added.

During the past several years, St. Maurice has seen a surge of younger parishioners join the parish.

"You can see, you can feel the re-gentrification of our parish with all the young people coming in," said Kapp. "We are proud to be Catholics, very proud in our own humble way." ■



# Making ends meet

Outreach mission in Stock Island helps Key West's working poor

**ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO**  
Florida Catholic editor

**STOCK ISLAND, Key West**—Just before 10 a.m. on a hot Wednesday in June, about a half dozen people are gathered outside St. Mary Star of the Sea Outreach Mission, waiting for it to open.

That's not unusual, said Laura Bercean, the mission's managing director.

Typically, the mission serves about 60 people a day. In May, it distributed just over 51,000 pounds of food to nearly 2,800 people — about half of them families with children.

"It's the most amount of food that we distributed since the mission is open," said Bercean.

"We've been growing by leaps and bounds," said Roger Morse, the mission's volunteer executive director.

That's not really good news, in the sense that it means more people in Key West are experiencing economic hardship. But it is good in the sense that the mission is able to keep up with their needs.

Three years ago, said Morse, "We didn't know where the first penny was coming from. Now we have a lot more confidence."

The outreach mission was founded four years ago by Father Francisco (Paco) Hernandez, then pastor of St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish in Key West. For years, the parish has operated a daily feeding program for the homeless, but the mission was aimed at helping the working poor.

"It's so hard for working families to make ends meet in the Keys," said Father John Baker, the current pastor.

In fact, while the number of homeless who come seeking help at the mission has remained steady, the number of couples and families has risen steadily, now averaging about 400 a month.

"A lot of these people work low-wage jobs, and the rent down here is fairly high," explained Morse.

Those who seek help at the mission can receive grocery bags full of food once every other week. The bags are pre-sorted for families, couples and the homeless. Bread is available daily, thanks to a local donor.

Most of the food is provided by Feeding South Florida (formerly known as Daily Bread Food Bank), which sends down at least one truckload — about 7,000 pounds of food — a week. Once or twice a month, a truckload of fresh vegetables might arrive.

The mission is also funded by the Apostles of Outreach, members of the parish who commit to making a \$5,000 donation once a month. A



Laura Bercean and Roger Morse

group such as the Knights of Columbus usually takes one month, but "mostly it's individuals," said Morse.

Parishioners also contribute to monthly collections of food — on average, they fill 100 grocery bags, but the number rose to 500 during the busier winter months.

"During the holidays, everybody is so generous," said Bercean.

The Klaus-Murphy Foundation, started in memory of deceased St. Mary Star of the Sea parishioners, also provides funding and the mission's treasurer, Tom Callahan, an attorney and winter resident of the Keys, keeps the grants and donations coming.

"Tom is like the angel from God," said Morse.

The mission is now open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. five days a week. It is staffed by two paid employees and

about 40 volunteers. Donations and volunteers come from other faith groups as well as the Key West community in general.

"This is a complete community effort," said Morse. "The people who work here are not all from the church. ... It says a lot for the city of Key West."

Aside from food, the mission is able to provide bus tickets for local transportation, and clothing and furniture when available. The Florida Department of Children and Families has donated a computer so that those in need can apply for food stamps, cash assistance or Medicaid on-site.

Those without health insurance also may receive a limited number of prescription drugs through the mission.

"If we can't help them, we try to refer them to someone else," said Morse.

Father Baker pointed out that the 150-year-old parish, the oldest in the Archdiocese of Miami, has a history of stepping up to meet the needs of the community. The outreach mission on Stock Island is a continuation of that tradition.

It also shares a common trait with the people it serves, said Morse. "We once had been completely dependent on God. We're still dependent on him and he's been very generous." ■



PHOTOS BY ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO/FC

Volunteers Valerie Palay, left, and her daughter Alice, 14, help a grandmother and granddaughter who came seeking assistance at St. Mary Star of the Sea Outreach Mission in Stock Island. The mission's chapel was turned into an intake office to accommodate the growing number of people seeking food to tide them over until the next paycheck.



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# No vacation from Sunday Mass

When I was a young seminarian, the rector, before dismissing us for our summer break, would admonish us: "Remember, guys, there's no vacation from a vocation." This was certainly wise advice — we were after all still seminarians even when away from the structured environment of the seminary with its fixed times for prayer and daily Mass. And I think this is wise counsel to all of us Catholics even as we plan for vacations that take us away from our homes and parishes. There can be no vacation from our fundamental Christian vocation to holiness. Fidelity to weekly Mass attendance is inextricably linked to that vocation.

When I was bishop in Central Florida, I was edified by those

Catholics who came to the many attractions of that area and sought out Sunday Mass even though they were far from their homes. The

Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe still welcomes thousands of such visitors each week. The priests of the Shrine provide an important service to these vacationers in making the Sacrament of Penance readily available to them and providing them the opportunity of participation in Sunday Mass. (And, when I had the occasion to celebrate

Mass there, I often met many of you from south Florida at Sunday Mass.)

While there might not be a Shrine Church like Mary, Queen of the Universe at our particular

vacation destination, we too must make every effort to make sure that we attend Mass on Sunday. Participation in the Sunday Eucharist is an obligation for every practicing Catholic — and vacation does not dispense us from this weekly encounter with Christ in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass — for it is only through these sacramental encounters with the Lord that we can grow in the grace necessary to be faithful to our baptismal vocation to holiness.

Finding a place to attend Mass while far from home may often not be easy — but with the help of some advance planning, we can usually find one wherever we may go. The website [www.Masstimes.org](http://www.Masstimes.org) has a listing of Mass schedules in parishes throughout the United States. Also, most tourist-friendly places readily offer information as to the location of the nearest Catholic Church.

As Catholics we belong to more than just our parish — we are members of a universal Church and therefore we are never strangers when we meet with other Catholics to celebrate the great Mystery of our Faith which is the Holy Mass. Vacations are a time of rest — a time to recharge our batteries so to speak. But as we take advantage of our vacation days to spend time with our loved ones and to rest from the everyday demands and routines of work, let us not neglect to also "rest in the Lord" on the day in which we commemorate his love for us in the Sunday Eucharist.

If we are serious about our Christian commitment, we cannot neglect to recharge our spiritual batteries in the central act of our worship, the source and summit of all Christian life: the Mass. There can never be a vacation from our vocation. ■



FROM THE  
ARCHBISHOP  
**Thomas  
Wenski**

## No hay vacaciones de la misa dominical

Cuando era un joven seminarista, antes de despedirnos para el receso del verano, el rector nos advertía: "Jóvenes, recuerden que no hay vacaciones de la vocación". Era un consejo sabio; después de todo, éramos seminaristas aun cuando estuviéramos lejos del ambiente estructurado del seminario, con sus horarios fijos para la oración y la misa diaria. Me parece que este es un consejo sabio para todos los católicos, al planificar las vacaciones que nos llevarán lejos de nuestros hogares y parroquias. No puede haber vacaciones de nuestra vocación fundamental a la santidad. La fidelidad a la asistencia a misa está vinculada de manera inextricable a esa vocación.

Cuando era obispo en la Florida central, me sentía edificado por aquellos católicos que iban a las muchas atracciones del área y bus-

caban la misa dominical aunque estuvieran lejos de sus hogares. La basílica santuario de Mary, Queen of the Universe (María, Reina del Universo) todavía recibe a miles de visitantes cada semana. Los sacerdotes del santuario ofrecen un servicio importante a estos turistas, al ofrecerles el sacramento de la reconciliación y la oportunidad de participar en la misa dominical. (Y cuando yo tenía la oportunidad de celebrar la misa allí, con frecuencia encontraba a muchos de ustedes, del sur de la Florida, en la misa dominical.)

Aunque no haya un santuario como Mary, Queen of the Universe en el lugar donde vayamos de vacaciones, también debemos hacer un esfuerzo por garantizar nuestra asistencia a la misa dominical. La participación en la Eucaristía dominical es obligación de todo católico

practicante, y las vacaciones no nos dispensan de este encuentro semanal con Cristo en el santo sacrificio de la misa, ya que es a través de estos encuentros sacramentales con el Señor que crecemos en la gracia necesaria para ser fieles a nuestra vocación bautismal a la santidad.

Quizás no sea fácil encontrar un lugar para asistir a la misa mientras estemos lejos del hogar, pero con la planificación anticipada, por lo general podemos encontrar una en cualquier lugar que visitemos. En [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) se ofrece los horarios de las misas en las parroquias a través de los Estados Unidos. Además, casi todos los lugares turísticos ofrecen información sobre la iglesia católica más cercana.

Como católicos, no sólo somos miembros de nuestra propia parroquia; también somos miembros de la Iglesia universal y, por lo tanto,

cuando nos reunimos con otros católicos para celebrar el gran misterio de nuestra fe, que es la santa misa, nunca somos desconocidos. Las vacaciones son un tiempo de descanso, digamos que es un tiempo para cargar nuestras baterías. Pero, al tomar ventaja de nuestros días de vacaciones para pasar tiempo con nuestros seres queridos y descansar de todas las exigencias y rutinas del trabajo, no descuidemos "descansar en el Señor" durante el día en que conmemoramos su amor por nosotros en la Eucaristía dominical.

Si tomamos nuestro compromiso cristiano en serio, no podemos dejar de recargar nuestras baterías espirituales en el acto central de nuestro culto, la fuente y la cumbre de toda la vida cristiana: la misa. Nunca debe haber vacaciones de nuestra vocación. ■

### 'OH COME LET US ADORE HIM'

#### These parishes host perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

**MIAMI** — Perpetual Adoration is a eucharistic devotion whereby members of a given parish unite in adoration before the Most Blessed Sacrament (in most cases, exposed), both during the day and throughout the night, seven days a week.

The following parishes have perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

#### BROWARD COUNTY

**St. Andrew**, 9950 N.W. 29 St., Coral Springs,

33065; 954-752-3950

**St. Malachy**, 6200 John Horan Terrace, Tamarac, 33321; 954-726-1237

#### MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

**Our Lady of Lourdes**, 11291 S.W. 142 Ave., Miami, 33157; 305-386-4121

**St. Agatha**, 1111 S.W. 107 Ave., Miami, 33174; 305-222-1500

**St. Brendan**, 8725 S.W. 32 St., Miami, 33165; 305-221-0881

**St. Louis**, 7270 S.W. 120 St., Miami, 33156; 305-238-7562

**St. Raymond**, 3475 S.W. 17 St., Miami, 33145; 305-446-2427

**St. Thomas the Apostle**, 7310 S.W. 62 St., Miami, 33143; 305-665-5600

**St. Timothy**, 5400 S.W. 102 Ave., Miami, 33165; 305-274-8224

**St. Agnes**, 100 Harbor Drive, Key Biscayne, 33149; 305-361-2351

#### MONROE COUNTY

**St. Mary Star of the Sea**, 1010 Windsor Lane, Key West, 33040; 305-294-1018

**Pax Catholic Communications** also hosts a virtual adoration chapel. The Web address is [www.paxcc.org/adoration/adoration01.html](http://www.paxcc.org/adoration/adoration01.html).



# More than a dream, 'a miracle'

## Archbishop Wenski's gift to his 'Haitian mom': Communion from the pope

**ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO**  
Florida Catholic editor

**VATICAN CITY** — Archbishop Thomas Wenski received his pallium June 29 from the hands of Pope Benedict XVI. In the process, he gave his "Haitian mom" a priceless gift.

Marie Lucien met the future Archbishop Wenski back in 1985. She was living in Miami and attending church at Notre Dame d'Haiti, where he was pastor.

Sometime later he traveled to her hometown of Les Cayes, where he had first studied Creole, and paid a visit to Marie's mother, Resilia. Something clicked between them.

"I feel a connection with your mom," Marie recalls then-Father Wenski telling her. "She's his adopted mother."

Eventually Resilia — who raised six children and never went to school — came to Miami to live with her daughter. The bond between Resilia and Father Wenski grew.

Marie remembers telling him that she was afraid her mother would fall because she had trouble walking but she insisted on going to church by herself. The future Archbishop Wenski solved that problem.

"He took her to church every morning, holding her on his arm," Marie recalled. "He said one day she would walk OK."

Resilia rejoiced when Father Wenski was made auxiliary bish-



PHOTOS BY DANIEL SOÑÉ | FC

Resilia Lucien, left, and her daughter, Marie, wait in the hot sun for the Wednesday papal audience to begin.

op of Miami, and again when he was named bishop of Orlando. She even spent some time there with him when she felt lonely in Miami.

"She follows the bishop everywhere," her daughter said. "She says a rosary for him every day."

The feeling is mutual, she added. "He loves her. You can't imagine how much he loves her."

Because of the pallium pilgrimage, Resilia, 78, saw Rome and Assisi for the first time in her life — something she never imagined she would do. Archbishop Wenski was often at her side, holding her hand, helping her to her seat or taking her to dinner.

On the morning of June 29, Resilia walked well enough alone to receive Communion from the

hands of Pope Benedict, an honor bestowed on her by her "adopted son."

Archbishop Wenski held back tears as he watched her go up for Communion. Resilia, who only speaks Creole, seemed pleased and totally at peace throughout the two-and-a-half-hour ceremony. (She also sat for nearly five hours in the blazing sun the next morning to attend the Wednesday general audience in St. Peter's Square.)

She said later through her daughter that she was "happy."

Perhaps that's an understatement.

"I cannot say it's a dream come true because we never dreamed about it," Marie said. "I would say it's a miracle." ■



Archbishop Wenski is moved to tears while coming back from Communion, as he spotted his "Haitian mom" receiving Communion from the pope.



PHOTOS BY ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO | FC

Attorney Tom Equels, next to his wife, Laura, presents his friend and motorcycle-riding partner Archbishop Thomas Wenski with a gift during the Rome pilgrimage: the three pins that are affixed to the pallium which he received from the Holy Father. Below, the pins are made of gold and encrusted with a ruby.

## Pallium pins: A gift from a friend

**ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO**  
Florida Catholic editor

**ROME** — Attorney Tom Equels has known Archbishop Thomas Wenski for many years — since his days as a priest at Notre Dame d'Haiti Church in Miami. On occasion, the two have been known to take motorcycle rides together.

Equels was among those who joined Archbishop Wenski in Rome for the Mass where he received his pallium from Pope Benedict XVI. The day after the ceremony, Equels gave Archbishop Wenski a gift: three gold pins, each set with a ruby, to complete the ornamentation of the pallium. The pins are meant to be a reminder of the nails with which Christ was crucified.

Made of lamb's wool, the pallium is the symbol of an archbishop's office; in this case, Archbishop Wenski's role as Metropolitan Archbishop of the Province of Miami, which encompasses the seven dioceses of Florida. The archbishop must wear the pallium over the chasuble whenever he celebrates Mass in his



province.

The pallium also symbolizes the union of all the archbishops with the pope. In his homily at the pallium Mass, Pope Benedict called it "a bond of love and an incentive for courage."

Archbishop Wenski recalled those words during a Mass June 30 at the cathedral of the Diocese of Albano. "Pray for me," he said, "that this pallium will truly be a bond of love uniting me with him and the other bishops, and also a bond of courage as I lead the Archdiocese of Miami." ■





Father Mark Haydu, international director of the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums, holds up a certificate of recognition for Mr. and Mrs. Miguel Fernandez of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Miami, who donated \$100,000 toward the restoration of a column in the Vatican Gardens in memory of Archbishop Thomas Wenski's parents, Chester S. Wenski and Louise M. Zawacka. At left is Msgr. Terence Hogan, spiritual director of the Patrons in North America.



Father Daniel Kubala, pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Miami, lights a candle during a stop at one of Rome's basilicas during the tour of Christian Rome.



Miami's bishops, Auxiliary Bishop John Noonan, Archbishop Thomas Wenski and Auxiliary Bishop Felipe Estevez, wave to the Miami pilgrims after the papal audience June 30. They then went inside for a private greeting with the pope.



Florida pilgrims stand in St. Peter's Square after the papal audience June 30.

# Pallium pilgrimage: Once in a lifetime journey

Six-day tour featured three close encounters with the pope, Masses at Rome's most famous churches

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO  
Florida Catholic editor

**ROME** — When the invitation came in the mail, Tom Sheehan did not hesitate.

"As soon as I opened it, I knew I was going," said Sheehan, a member of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Lighthouse Point.

He and his wife, Cathy, were among the 250 people from Miami and Orlando who joined Archbishop Thomas Wenski on the pallium pilgrimage June 25-July 2.

Many had been to Rome before. But they all sensed this would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

"It was one of those opportunities that will never come around again. It's a one-in-a-million chance," said Gail Buzzella of St. Mark Parish in Southwest Ranches.

She realized right away that this pilgrimage would allow participants to go "behind the red velvet rope" and do things that regular visitors to Rome could never do.

One of them was to be present in St. Peter's Basilica as Archbishop Wenski received his pallium — the symbol of his office as Metropolitan of the Province of Miami — from the hands of Pope Benedict XVI.

But as meaningful and significant as that event was, it was not even the highlight of the trip.

There was the private reception June 27 at the home of Miguel Diaz, U.S. ambassador to the Holy See, a Cuban native who grew up in Miami and has ties to both St. Thomas and Barry universities as well as St. John Vianney and St. Vincent de Paul seminaries. He hosts receptions each year for all the U.S. archbishops who are receiving their palliums, and he did so



Miguel Diaz, U.S. ambassador to the Holy See, stands alongside Archbishop Thomas Wenski while welcoming the Orlando and Miami pilgrims to a reception.

this year as well for the pilgrims from Cincinnati and Milwaukee.

But the pilgrims from Miami and Orlando got their own private reception with the ambassador. As Julieta Valls Noyes, deputy chief of mission for the U.S. embassy to the Holy See, explained, "This one is special because Miami is special."

The pilgrimage also featured back-to-back encounters with the Holy Father: June 28 for Mass at St. Paul Outside the Walls, June 29 for the pallium Mass in St. Peter's Basilica and June 30 for the papal audience in St. Peter's Square.

Because the groups — five busloads — arrived early for these events, most of the Florida pilgrims could say they were within 25 feet of Pope Benedict at least once, if not all three times.

Of course, sitting in 90-degree Rome heat for five hours — three hours waiting, two hours for the actual audience — certainly confirmed



Gail and Michael Buzzella of St. Mark Parish in Southwest Ranches pray during Sunday Mass at one of the chapels of the basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome.

Archbishop Wenski's words at the opening Mass of the trip: "We come to Rome not just as tourists. We also have to remember that we come as pilgrims" and pilgrimages entail a certain amount of discomfort. "Make these events prayers," he suggested.

Aside from offering their discomfort as prayers, the pilgrims also prayed continuously. Archbishop Wenski celebrated daily Mass, each time in a different church of Rome (and once in the cathedral of the Diocese of Albano, just a short drive from Castel Gandolfo, the region where the pope spends his summers away from Rome's heat).

The first Mass took place June 26, the day most pilgrims arrived, in a regular parish church just a block from the main hotel. Of course, being in Rome, this little parish church of Santa Maria della Grazia is older than the U.S. — 350 years old to be exact.

On Sunday, Archbishop Wenski celebrated



Father Manny Alvarez, associate pastor at Mary Help of Christians in Parkland, takes a picture while waiting for the vespers service to begin at St. Paul Outside the Walls.

Mass at one of Rome's seven major basilicas, Santa Maria Maggiore (St. Mary Major), built on the site where the "Miracle of the Snows" occurred. In a dream, Pope Liberius was told by the Virgin Mary to go to the Esquiline Hill and build a church where he found snow — the date was Aug. 5, 358.

Santa Maria Maggiore was the last stop on the pilgrims' tour of Christian Rome, which included visits to four of the seven major basilicas visited by Christian pilgrims since the earliest days of the Church: St. Paul Outside the Walls, St. John Lateran and the Church of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem, which St. Helen built to house the relics of the cross upon which Jesus was crucified.

If that was not impressive enough, the next day, June 28, Archbishop Wenski celebrated Mass at the Altar of the Chair in St. Peter's Basilica — that's the altar behind the main altar, done by Bernini. This altar features an alabas-

ter window depicting the Holy Spirit as a dove, and underneath an elaborate wooden chair known as the "Throne of St. Peter."

The pilgrims had the place all to themselves as morning light streamed in from the front windows of the world's largest basilica. As they prayed, workers behind them were preparing the main altar, the papal altar with the famous Bernini columns, for the pallium Mass the next morning.

"It was pretty surreal there," said Father Alejandro Rodriguez Artola, associate pastor at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Miami, and one of the priests who concelebrated the liturgy.

The last Mass of the trip took place at the minor basilica of St. Peter in Chains, home to Michelangelo's famous "Moses" — sculpted as a tomb for Pope Julius II — and also home to the relics of the chains used to imprison St. Peter both in Jerusalem and in Rome.

That Mass preceded the tour of ancient Rome which featured inside looks at the Colosseum and the Roman Forum.

Still, the most impressive — really incredible — privilege took place the last night of the trip, as the pilgrims from Miami and Orlando literally had the Sistine Chapel all to themselves, with their very own art historian, Elizabeth Lev, present to make the ceiling and Last Judgment come alive. (See story, Page A8)

The pilgrims also had the option to skip the vespers with the pope June 28 and spend the day at Assisi instead — which Sheehan and his wife did.

"Assisi was my favorite place," he said. "The solitude, the serenity is overwhelming. It took me over. I had this overwhelming urge to go to confession."

And he did. ■



Archbishop Thomas Wenski receives his pallium from Pope Benedict XVI June 29.

PHOTOS BY DANIEL SOÑE | FC



# 'A present from God himself'

Miami, Orlando pilgrims experience private prayer in the Sistine Chapel

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO  
Florida Catholic editor

**VATICAN CITY** — It was an incredible journey that ended incredibly: with 250 of Archbishop Thomas Wenski's "closest friends" sitting in the Sistine Chapel, first to pray, then to listen as one of the world's experts revealed its glories from the perspective of art and history.

"It was Michelangelo who taught me to love God in this room," said art historian Elizabeth Lev, professor of art history at Duquesne University's Italian campus.

Her passionate talk after evening prayer July 1, the last day of the pilgrimage, made Michelangelo's masterwork come alive in a totally moving way.

And it moved her as well, she said, as she had visited the Sistine Chapel thousands of times over the years but had never had the opportunity to pray inside it.

"This just doesn't happen," she said. "Honestly, I'm quite moved."

Our Roman tour guide had told us as much earlier in the day. "I have



Archbishop Thomas Wenski bestows a blessing upon the 250 pilgrims from throughout Florida in the Sistine Chapel.

never heard of people going to the Sistine Chapel to pray. It's the private chapel of the Holy Father. It's really, really a gift," she said, "something very special."

Indeed, there was Archbishop Wenski wearing a stole that had once belonged to Pope John Paul II. There we were singing "Amazing Grace" and "Salve Regina" underneath the masterful frescoes of Michelangelo.

Normally, people "squish" through the Sistine Chapel, a wall-

to-wall mass of bodies shuffling forward while trying to look up, as guards "shush" them to be quiet and warn them "no photos."

We had the Sistine Chapel all to ourselves. We had plenty of room to sit on the floor, take pictures and stare up — or even lie down to get a better view — as Lev described each panel and how Michelangelo, "thinking like a sculptor," had "rendered the invisible ... visible" in his frescoes of the creation of the world and the Last Judgment.

"If you're fortunate enough in a lifetime to experience it, it's a present from God himself," said Barbara Scerbo, a parishioner from St. Pius X Parish in Fort Lauderdale. "There are no words to really describe the feeling. I was reduced to tears in the Sistine Chapel. I thought, 'Why me, Lord? Why have I been blessed to be here?'"

"I guess he knows the answer," she added. "All I can say is thank you."

Ellie Lawrence of Nativity Parish in Longwood put it this way as she sat down on the bus that would take us back to the hotel for the final time of this pilgrimage: "I feel like I've died and gone to heaven." ■

## ON THE WEB

This article is adapted from Ana Rodriguez-Soto's daily blog of Archbishop Thomas Wenski's pallium pilgrimage. The blog, and a slide show of pictures from each day, is available at [www.miamiarch.org/blog](http://www.miamiarch.org/blog).

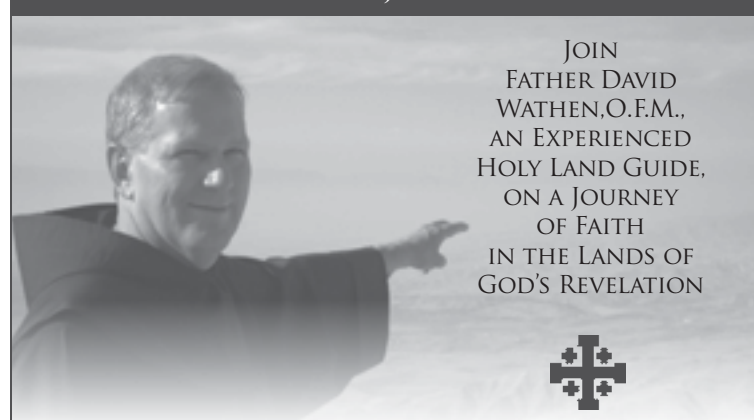
Photos of the pilgrimage are posted — and can be purchased — at [www.dotphoto.com](http://www.dotphoto.com). Sign in as a guest, then put in the username "flcmiami" to go to the pallium pilgrimage albums.



PHOTOS BY DANIEL SONE | FC

Pilgrims from Florida experience an exceptionally rare opportunity to pray vespers in the Sistine Chapel with Archbishop Wenski.

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## NEWSbriefs

### Memorial service for persons lost to AIDS

Families and friends of persons lost to AIDS are invited to attend a memorial service that will take place on Wednesday, July 28, 6:30 p.m., at the St. Raphael Chapel of St. John Vianney College Seminary, 2900 S.W. 87 Ave., Miami.

The memorial service is hosted by the Southeastern Conference of Catholic AIDS Ministers (SEC-CAM), and Volunteer Friendship AIDS Ministry of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami. The service is part of the third annual assembly of Catholics in AIDS ministry that will take place July 27-29 at the facilities of St. Brendan High School in Miami.

Almost three decades since the first case of AIDS was diagnosed in the United States, most survivors of persons who have died from AIDS-related complications still feel overwhelmed by the stigma that surrounds the disease. This memorial service offers relatives and friends a way to remember their loved ones in a prayerful and safe environment, free of fears and prejudice.

All are welcome to the memorial service, however R.S.V.P. is requested to help with the planning. Call 404-567-5854 or e-mail seccaminfo@gmail.com before July 25. For more information about the annual assembly, visit www.seccam.org.

### Colombianos honran a su patrona

Durante el mes de julio, la comunidad colombiana celebrará una serie de misas en honor a la Virgen

de Chiquinquirá, patrona de Colombia. Las misas se celebrarán en las siguientes fechas e Iglesias:

• **Sábado, 17 de julio, iglesia de St. Richard, 7500 S.W. 152 St., Miami, con el Padre Stephen Hilley (305-807-0580);**

• **Domingo, 18 de julio: 12:30 p.m., iglesia de St. Francis de Sales, 621 Alton Rd., Miami Beach, con el Padre Gabriel Vigués (786-253-6839); 12:30 p.m., iglesia de St. Katharine Drexel, 2700 Glades Circle #200, Weston, con el Padre Alfred Cioffi (305-632-2987); 1 p.m., iglesia de St. Agatha, 1111 S.W. 107 Ave., Miami, con el Padre Rolando García (305-552-5443); 6 p.m., iglesia de St. Martha, 9301 Biscayne Blvd., Miami Shores, con el Padre Federico Capdepón (786-273-0138);**

• **Sábado, 24 de julio, 6:30 p.m., iglesia de St. Maurice, 2851 Stirling Road, Dania Beach, con el Padre Roger Holoubek (954-822-4927);**

• **Domingo, 25 de julio: 11:30 a.m., iglesia de St. Jerome, 2533 S.W. Ninth St., Fort Lauderdale, con el Padre Michael Davis (954-549-5690); 12:30 p.m., iglesia de St. Mark, 5601 S. Flamingo Road, Southwest Ranches, con el Padre Edmond Whyte (305-302-3097); 1 p.m., iglesia de Our Lady of Lourdes, 11291 S.W. 142 Ave., Miami, con el Padre Kenneth Schwanger (305-386-4121); 1 p.m., iglesia de St. Matthew, 542 Blue Heron Drive, Hallandale Beach, con el Padre James Quinn (954-457-3291);**

• **Viernes, 30 de julio, 7 p.m., iglesia de St. Patrick, 3716 Garden Ave., Miami Beach, con Monseñor John Vaughan (786-348-7949);**

• **Sábado, 31 de julio, 6 p.m., iglesia de St. Stephen, 6044 S.W. 19 St., Miramar, con el Padre Alejandro Roque (954-987-9539).**

### Divorced? Find healing at Wellspring

The Family Life Office of the Archdiocese of Miami is sponsoring a two-night, three-day retreat for people dealing with significant loss, with primary focus given to those healing from divorce.

The Wellspring Experience will take place July 30-Aug. 1 at Shula's Hotel, 6842 Main St. in Miami Lakes.

"The Wellspring Experience can be a catalyst to begin healing the hurt after a painful breakup," said Jean Duda, coordinator of the archdiocese's Divorce Recovery Ministry.

The weekend will provide time for personal reflection, small-group sharing and is open to people of all faiths. Celebration of Sunday Mass closes the experience. There is a \$150 fee per person and the deadline to register is July 26.

Participants must speak with one of the Wellspring coordinators before registering for the weekend. In Miami-Dade and Monroe, call Helen, 305-823-7594, or Jean, 305-762-1142. In Broward, call Bob, 954-718-7241, or Jean, 954-797-9770.

For more information, contact jvfduda@theadom.org.

### Conferencia mariana en agosto

Florida Center for Peace invita a la comunidad a una conferencia mariana el sábado, 21 de agosto, de 9 a.m. a 4 p.m. en St. Michael the Archangel, 2987 W.

Flagler St., Miami. El tema será "María, Madre de Dios, Madre de la Iglesia y Madre Nuestra."

Los conferencistas serán: El Padre Inocencio Llamas, la Madre Adela Galindo de las Siervas de los Corazones Traspasados de Jesús y María, y Manuel Capetillo. La donación es de \$20.

Manuel Capetillo también hablará el viernes, 20 de agosto, a las 7:30 p.m. en el santuario principal de la iglesia de St. Louis, 7270 S.W. 120 St., Miami. El Padre Inocencio Llamas hablará el viernes también, a las 7:30 p.m.

en el Salon McCarthy de la iglesia St. Timothy, 5400 S.W. 102 Ave., Miami.

Para más información, llamar al Florida Center for Peace al 305-412-1700 o enviar correo electrónico a info@fcpeace.com.

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## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Summer fun runs**, through Thursday, July 29, 6:30 p.m., Miami Shores Community Center, 97th Street and Park Avenue. For all ages and ability levels; runs are split into three groups: walkers, short distance, longer distance. A good way to get some exercise or to get away from the pressures of a tough day. Sponsored by Archbishop Curley Notre Dame High School. jcorcoran@acnd.net.

## FAITH EDUCATION

**Catholic study**, Wednesdays through July 28, 6:30-8:15 p.m., San Isidro Parish, 2310 Martin Luther King Blvd., Pompano Beach. Study of the book "Revelation of Jesus Christ to the Apostle John." Resources: Bible, and the movie "Apocalypse." All are welcome; no charge. Information: 1-800-327-8999, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Tercera Conferencia Hispana**

**para Músicos Pastorales del Este**, 29 de julio-1 de agosto en Tampa. Con el Padre Juan Sosa, Mary Frances Reza, Damaris Thillet, Diego Correa, Pedro Rubalcava y Jaime Cortez, entre otros. La conferencia brindará la oportunidad de enriquecer y fortalecer los conocimientos musicales y litúrgicos. 856-583-8273, [www.amphe.org](http://www.amphe.org).

**Annual Respect Life Conference**, Oct. 29-30, Fort Lauderdale Marriott North, 6650 N. Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale. Theme: "Ignite the Spark Within Us." Information and registration: 954-771-0440 or [www.respectlifemiami.org](http://www.respectlifemiami.org)

## MASSES/PRAYER SESSIONS

**Mass of Thanksgiving for the 48th anniversary of Jamaica's independence**, Sunday, July 25, 2:30 p.m., Good Shepherd Parish, 14187 S.W. 72 St., Miami. Celebrated by Father Charles Susai

of the Missionaries of the Poor, Jamaica. Followed by reception in the parish hall. 305-551-8813

**Memorial service for persons lost to AIDS**, Wednesday, July 28, 6:30 p.m., Chapel of St. Raphael, St. John Vianney Seminary, 2900 S.W. 87 Ave., Miami. A dessert reception will follow. Part of the third national assembly of Catholic HIV/AIDS ministers, sponsored by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami. [www.seccam.org](http://www.seccam.org). Free, but R.S.V.P. requested: 404-567-5854, [seccaminfo@gmail.com](mailto:seccaminfo@gmail.com).

**Songs and prayer in the spirit of Taizé**, Tuesday, Aug. 10, 7:30 p.m., Barry University, Cor Jesu Chapel, 11300 N.E. Second Ave., Miami Shores. Chant, Scripture, silent reflection, intercessory prayer. 305-899-3650 or 305-458-9919.

**Ethronement of the Sacred Heart**, first Saturdays, St. Clement Parish, 2975 N. Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale. Beginning at 6 p.m. with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by Mass at 7 p.m. 954-568-4315.

**Exposición y adoración del Santísimo Sacramento**, cuarto sábado del mes, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Capilla de St. Michael the Archangel, 2987 W. Flagler St., Miami. Trae todos tus problemas y dolores, y Él los cambiará por alegría. 954-793-3155.

**Hora santa por el respeto a la vida y la paz mundial**, último domingo del mes, 2:30 p.m., capilla de la iglesia de St. John Bosco, 1349 West Flagler Street, Miami. 305-649-5464.

**Sign language interpreted Masses:**

- Sundays, 9:30 a.m., Schott Communities, 6591 S. Flamingo Road, Cooper City.
- Third Sundays, 9:30 a.m., Our Lady of the Lakes, 15801 N.W. 67

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## RETREATS/DAYS OF REFLECTION

**Libres Para Amar**, 23-25 de julio, retiro de castidad, de espiritualidad franciscana, para jóvenes y adultos mayores de 18 años, solteros, novios y casados. Donativo: \$120 por persona, \$200 por pareja. Cupo limitado; inscripción: 305-599-2996.

**Matrimonios en Victoria**, 31 de julio-1ro de agosto, iglesia católica de Mother of Christ, 14141 S.W. 26 St., Miami. Una oportunidad para que los matrimonios pasen un tiempo alejados de la agitación diaria y reflexionen sobre su vida y su relación con Dios. 305-479-0408.

**Retiro de mujeres de Emaús**, 6-8 de agosto, iglesia católica de Mother of Christ, 14141 Coral Way, Miami. Información e inscripción: 305-613-9460, 786-972-1030.

**Encuentro Matrimonial Mundial**, 21 y 22 de agosto, Inverrary Resort, 3501 Inverrary Blvd., Fort Lauderdale. Brinda a las parejas la oportunidad de examinar sus vidas privadamente, les ayuda a mejorar su comunicación y tener un reencuentro con Dios, con sí mismos y con su cónyuge. Información e inscripción: 954-437-0841, [floridaemm@yahoo.com](mailto:floridaemm@yahoo.com).

**God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage**, Saturday, Sept. 18, Casa Caná, 480 E. 8 St., Hialeah. Marriage preparation supplement based on Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body. Registration: [joyfilledmarriage@gmail.com](mailto:joyfilledmarriage@gmail.com), 305-762-1140.

**MorningStar Renewal Center**, 7275 S.W. 124 St., Pinecrest. Registration required for all programs. 305-238-4367, ext. 102, or visit [www.morningstarrenewal.org](http://www.morningstarrenewal.org):

- End-of-summer kids' summer camp, Aug. 2-6, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Camp Shine is MorningStar's offering to kids ages 3-12 looking to end their summer with a slam dunk, blast of fun. Cost for the week: \$110 per camper; \$95 per each additional child in family. Call about aftercare.

- "Finding Jesus in the silence of our hearts," Sept. 3-5, Labor Day weekend, with Father Jose Alfaro of the Archdiocese of Miami. Special weekend of silence in prayer, with periods of input and teaching, ample time for personal prayer, reflections, and growing in the presence of Jesus, who will fill your quietness with joy. All-inclusive weekend: \$160 per person.

- "The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius," one Monday per month, beginning September 2010 through May 2011, 7-9:30 p.m. A powerful prayer format for the participants, guiding them in the form of one-hour personal daily prayer, monthly group meetings and individually scheduled sessions with an assigned director. These exercises closely follow the "Nineteenth Annotation of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola." Donation: \$150 per person for the nine-month program.

## SAFE ENVIRONMENT

**Virtus workshops:** To help parents, teachers and anyone who works with children recognize signs of sexual abuse and spot abusers. Free. All sessions in English, except where noted. Information: 305-762-1250 or [jrayburn@theadom.org](mailto:jrayburn@theadom.org):

- Saturday, July 24, 9 a.m., St. Augustine Parish, Coral Gables.
- Thursday, July 29, 6 p.m., St. Kevin Parish, Miami.
- Saturday, July 31, 9 a.m., St. Jerome School, Fort Lauderdale; St. Joachim School, Miami.
- Saturday, Aug. 8, 9 a.m., St. Joachim, Coral Gables (in Spanish).
- Thursday, Aug. 12, 6 p.m., Nativity Parish, Hollywood.
- Wednesday, Aug. 18, 1 p.m., Sts. Peter and Paul School, Miami; 6 p.m., St. Augustine Parish, Coral Gables (in Spanish); 6 p.m., Archbishop Edward McCarthy School, Southwest Ranches; 7 p.m., St. John Bosco Parish, Miami (in Spanish).
- Saturday, Aug. 21, 9 a.m., St. Jerome School, Fort Lauderdale.
- Tuesday, Aug. 31, 7 p.m., St. Kevin Parish, Miami.

## SCHOOL EVENTS

**Kidventure**, through Aug. 6, St. Timothy School, 5400 S.W. 102 Ave., Miami. Open to students in PreK2 through grade eight. Fun activities, sports, field trips. 305-274-8229 or [myoung@sttimothymiami.org](mailto:myoung@sttimothymiami.org).

**Soccer summer camp**, for boys and girls ages 5 to 16, through July 23, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Archbishop McCarthy High School, 5451 S. Flamingo Road, Southwest Ranches. Full-day sessions beginning at \$135/week; half-day sessions beginning at \$100/week. [www.futbolhpcamps.org](http://www.futbolhpcamps.org).

**Maverick summer soccer camp** for girls ages 9 to 17, five-day session, Aug. 2-6, 8 a.m.-noon, Archbishop McCarthy High School, 5451 S. Flamingo Road, Southwest Ranches. Fee: \$110. T-shirt, drinks and snacks included. 954-605-9565, [msica86@aol.com](mailto:msica86@aol.com).

## VOCATIONS

**Vocations awareness weekend**, Nov. 12-14, St. John Vianney College Seminary, 2900 S.W. 87 Ave., Miami. For men ages 18-35 who are considering a vocation to the diocesan priesthood. This unique weekend experience offers an opportunity to spend a weekend experiencing seminary life. Register now; space is limited. 305-762-1137, [vocations@theadom.org](mailto:vocations@theadom.org).

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Mass lectors, musicians** needed for English and Spanish television Masses. Taping weekdays: English at 10 a.m., Spanish at 2 p.m., St. Francis de Sales Parish, Miami Beach. [tmartinez@theadom.org](mailto:tmartinez@theadom.org) or 305-762-1046.



# BUILDING THE CITY OF God

## What he did before becoming a priest:

"I was a student. I entered the seminary once I finished high school."

## When he knew he wanted to be a priest:

At 17.

## Person or event that triggered his vocation:

"Attending the ordination of a group of young men in Rondón, my town. That event really triggered in me the need to find out what a priest is, and how I could become one."

## Persons most surprised by his vocation:

"My classmates, because I had never spoken about that, and I never was an altar server or involved in youth ministry. They could not believe that I wanted to become a priest."

## What the seminary did not prepare him for:

"You get the theory, but the seminary doesn't prepare you for the diversity of people, the complexity we face every day."

## What he would be doing if he had not become a priest:

"I love psychology and law."

## Favorite priestly assignment:

"What I'm doing now: to serve people through my work and with the cases at the Metropolitan Tribunal."

## The most difficult aspect of being a priest:

"Loneliness."

**'My classmates ... could not believe that I wanted to become a priest.'**

## His description of the ideal priest:

"A man who is kind, happy, who studies and serves."

## A priestly stereotype that he feels should be discarded:

"That a priest is always scolding, is authoritarian and a tyrant."

## What he does on his day off:

"I listen to music, spend time with friends and play sports."



Sports – especially tennis – are very important for Father Pinzón: "I incorporate prayer, reading, and playing sports in my life. Tennis helps me to release stress."

## His favorite movie:

"Molokai: The Story of Father Damien"

## His favorite TV series:

"None, but I enjoy watching tennis matches."

## Last book read:

"Emotional Intelligence" by Daniel Goleman

## Favorite type of music:

Vallenata (popular folk music in Colombia).

## Person he most admires:

"Jesus of Nazareth because of all he is for me. I also admire Pope John Paul II."

## His greatest disappointment:

"Learning that other priests have abused children."

## His greatest joy:

"To serve and to guide people so they can be better."

## His greatest accomplishment:

Obtaining a doctorate in canon law from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

## His harshest critic:

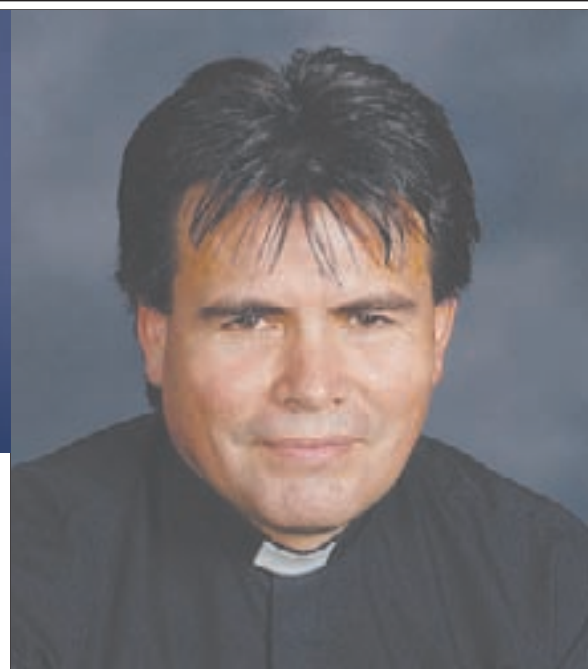
"Some priest friends who have been my mentors."

## Thing he most fears:

"Losing my health."

## Regrets:

"That I've lost some friends due to their lack of loyalty."



## FATHER ALVARO PINZÓN

Associate Judge, Metropolitan Tribunal, Archdiocese of Miami

Born Dec. 13, 1965 in Rondón, Boyacá, Colombia,

Father Pinzón entered the seminary after high

school and was ordained for the Diocese of

Garagoa, Boyacá, Colombia, on Nov. 30, 1991.

He obtained a doctorate in canon law from the

Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and came

to the Archdiocese of Miami in August 2000. He

also serves as spiritual director of the Guild of

Our Lady of Chiquinquirá, patroness of Colombia.



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Father Jose "Pepito" Garcia waves to the crowd before the street renaming ceremony June 25 at St. Kevin Parish.

PHOTOS BLANCA MORALES | FC

# Pepito's way

Street is named after Father Jose "Pepito" Garcia in honor of his retirement and 58 years of priesthood

**BLANCA MORALES**  
Florida Catholic correspondent

**MIAMI** — Parishioners at St. Kevin Parish gathered June 25 to honor their beloved priest with a roadway naming ceremony.

Father Jose "Pepito" Garcia Way will span from 117th to 127th Avenues on Bird Road (Southwest 40th Street).

Father Garcia, who retired this year from active priesthood, also celebrated 58 years of his vocation on May 11. Of his 58 years as priest, Father Garcia has served in three parishes — two in Cuba and one in Miami. He has been at St. Kevin since his arrival in Miami more than 20 years ago.

Parishioner Francisco Briz, who organized the event, said he didn't want to celebrate Father Garcia's retirement because he would still be serving, though his load of work would be reduced. Instead, he said it would be better to celebrate Father Garcia's vocation.



Father Jose "Pepito" Garcia poses with Miami-Dade County Commissioner Javier Souto and the street sign in his honor.

Father Garcia thanked the parishioners for enriching his life.

"I lift my hands up to God (in thanksgiving)," he said. "You'll be in my heart all my life." ■

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