

Presented by the Midwest Jesuits'
Jesuit Antiracism Sodality (JARS)

Migration and the Soul of the US Catholic Church

*A 2-Hour Conversation on Migration
and the Catholic Experience*



THE DIALOGUE

Join us for a profound exploration of migration and our shared faith. We will convene a distinguished panel of theologians, practitioners, and church leaders to discuss the intersection of migration policy, pastoral care, and the moral identity of the US Catholic Church.

EVENT LOGISTICS



DATE & TIME

August 29, 2026
11:00 AM ET /
10:00 AM CT



FORMAT

Virtual Webinar
(Zoom)



REGISTRATION

Scan the QR code
below or visit:
[https://forms.gle/
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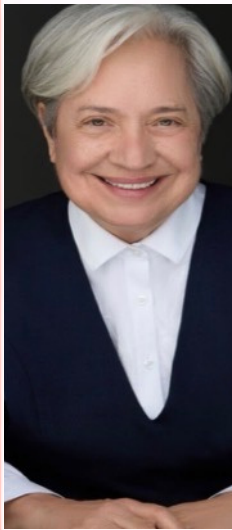


Descendants
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OUR PANELISTS



Sr. Norma Pimentel

Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley – named one of TIME's 100 Most Influential People in 2020 and one of TIME's Women of the Year in 2026. For more than four decades, Sister Pimentel has ministered to migrants and refugees at the U.S.–Mexico border. In 2014, she brought her community together to establish the Humanitarian Respite Center in McAllen, Texas, which grew into the largest respite center in the country, welcoming over half a million immigrants; as migration patterns shifted, its mission expanded to serve the Valley's elderly, hungry, and homeless. Known as the Pope's favorite nun, Sister Pimentel holds degrees in fine arts, theology, and pastoral counseling, more than five honorary doctorates, and distinctions including the University of Notre Dame's Laetare Medal. She is also a painter whose portraits of the migrant families she serves have captivated audiences.



Fr. Avelino Chico, S.J.

A Jesuit from Angola, Fr. Avelino Chico reflects the Society of Jesus' commitment to service, intercultural dialogue, and the mission of the universal Church. Since 2020, he has been working at the Vatican, contributing to the Church's global ministry and supporting initiatives that foster collaboration across cultures and nations. In May 2025, Pope Leo appointed him Office Head, recognizing his leadership, pastoral experience, and dedication to the Church's mission. Throughout his priesthood, Fr. Chico has brought an international perspective shaped by his African roots and his service within the Holy See. He is committed to accompanying people of diverse backgrounds while promoting the values of justice, solidarity, and human dignity. As part of this panel, he offers a unique Vatican perspective on migration, the life of the Church, and the call to welcome, protect, promote, and integrate migrants and refugees.



Mr. Francisco Segovia

Executive Director at Comunidades Organizando el Poder y Accion Latina, COPAL. Francisco Segovia, Executive Director of COPAL, has been a community organizer in Minnesota for decades. Originally from El Salvador, where he taught school and went to university in San Miguel, Segovia came to the United States in 1990 after the Salvadoran government began to crack down on teachers and students involved in community organizing. Segovia found his way to Minnesota where he spent 14 years as the director of Waite House Center, building networks and coalitions with and across diverse communities to bring about changes that would expand choices for people of color on a local level. Segovia is a knowledgeable, well-spoken man who has had a long career in community.



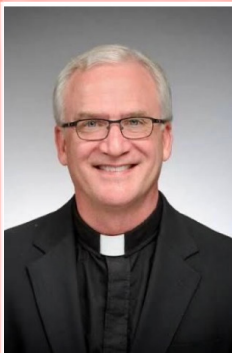
Hoffman Ospino, PhD

Professor of Theology and Religious Education at Boston College, Clough School of Theology and Ministry where he is also Faculty Director of Hispanic Ministry Initiatives. He has conducted several national studies on Hispanic Catholicism. He directs the five-year national initiative "Nuevo Momento: Leadership and Capacity Building for Ministerial Organizations Serving Hispanic Catholics" (2024–2028). He is author and editor of more than twenty books. Hoffman served as President of the Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States (ACTHUS) and currently is an officer of the Catholic Theological Society of America (CTSA).



The Most Reverend MICHAEL M. PHAM BISHOP OF SAN DIEGO

Bishop Pham fled Vietnam as a 13-year-old refugee in 1980, accompanied by his older sister and a younger brother, arriving first at a refugee camp in Malaysia, before being sponsored a year later in 1981 by an American family and relocating to Blue Earth, MN. He was ordained a priest of the San Diego Diocese in 1999 and has completed advanced studies in psychology and sacred theology. He has served in many pastoral and leadership roles, including as associate pastor, vocations director, pastor, and in numerous diocesan offices and councils. He is deeply committed to evangelization and building inclusive communities.



Rev. Daniel G. Groody, C.S.C., Ph.D.

Vice president and associate provost for undergraduate education at the University of Notre Dame. Professor of theology and global affairs, trustee, and fellow. His scholarship focuses on theology and migration; his book, *A Theology of Migration: The Bodies of Refugees and the Body of Christ*, won first-place honors from the Catholic Press Association. An internationally recognized expert, he collaborates with institutions including the U.S. Congress, the USCCB, the Vatican, and the United Nations. He is a former downhill ski racer, loves woodworking, and once rode a bicycle from Portland, Maine, to Portland, Oregon.