

Mission for Migrants
April 1, 2014
Biographies of Bishops

Cardinal Seán O'Malley of Boston, consultant to the USCCB Committee on Migration

Cardinal Seán Patrick O'Malley, O.F.M. Cap., was born June 29, 1944 in Lakewood, Ohio, and was raised in Western Pennsylvania, where he entered a Franciscan seminary. At 21, he was professed into the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin and at 26 he was ordained a Catholic priest. After earning a master's degree in religious education and a Ph.D. in Spanish and Portuguese literature from the Catholic University of America, he taught at Catholic University and founded Centro Católico Hispano (Hispanic Catholic Center) in Washington, DC, an organization which provided educational, medical and legal help to immigrants. Since his ordination to the episcopacy on August 2, 1984, he has served as the Bishop of the dioceses of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands; Fall River, Massachusetts; and Palm Beach, Florida. Pope John Paul II appointed him Archbishop of Boston in July 2003. Pope Benedict XVI named him a Cardinal in 2006. Cardinal O'Malley is chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities; consultant to the USCCB Committee on Migration and Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America; and a member of the USCCB Administrative Committee, Subcommittee on Health Care Issues, and Subcommittee on the Church in Africa.

Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle and chairman of the USCCB Committee on Migration

Appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle by Pope Benedict XVI on May 12, 2005, Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, M.Sp.S. is a native of Monterrey, Mexico. He received a bachelor's degree in theology and a canon law degree from the Gregorian University in Rome. In 1984, he was ordained a priest of the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit. He was assigned to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Bothell, Washington in the year 2000 to provide ministry to the growing Hispanic community. He was appointed auxiliary bishop of Seattle by Pope Benedict XVI on May 12, 2005 and was ordained a bishop on June 6, 2005. Bishop Elizondo is the first Hispanic bishop in Seattle. He is appointed vicar general, vicar for Hispanic Ministries and vicar for Vocations of the Archdiocese. Bishop Elizondo is chairman of the USCCB Committee on Migration and Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America, and a member of the USCCB Administrative Committee and Committee on National Collections.

Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Arizona

Bishop Gerald Kicanas was born in Chicago on Aug. 18, 1941. He attended Archbishop Quigley Preparatory Seminary in Chicago and the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, the theologate graduate level seminary of the archdiocese. He was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Chicago on April 27, 1967. His more than 25 years of ministry included service as rector, principal and dean of formation at the former Quigley Seminary South and rector of Mundelein Seminary at the University of St. Mary of the Lake. He holds a Ph.D. in educational psychology and a M.Ed. in guidance and counseling from Loyola University. He holds a licentiate in sacred theology from St. Mary of the Lake Seminary. Bishop Kicanas was appointed

auxiliary bishop of Chicago on Jan. 24, 1995. Pope John Paul II appointed him coadjutor Bishop of Tucson on Oct. 30, 2001, and on March 7, 2003, he became the sixth bishop of Tucson. Bishop Kicanas was the recipient of the Cardinal Joseph Bernardin Award in 2008. He is a member of the USCCB Committee on Communications and the USCCB Subcommittee on the Church in Africa.

Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City, member of the USCCB Committee on Migration

A native of San Francisco, California, John Charles Wester was ordained a Roman Catholic priest for the Archdiocese of San Francisco on May 15, 1976. He has earned degrees from Saint Joseph College, Saint Patrick College, Saint Patrick Seminary, the University of San Francisco and Holy Names College. After his ordination, he held many ministry assignments including pastor, high school faculty member, director of campus ministry, high school president, assistant superintendent for high schools, and administrative assistant to Archbishop John R. Quinn. He then served as the vicar for clergy in the Archdiocese of San Francisco. In 1998, he was ordained auxiliary bishop of San Francisco and appointed to serve as the vicar general. From 2005-2006, Bishop Wester served as the apostolic administrator of the Archdiocese of San Francisco. On January 8, 2007, he was named Bishop of Salt Lake City and installed on March 14, 2007. He is chairman of the USCCB Communications Committee; and a member of the USCCB Committee on Migration, the Administrative Committee and the Subcommittee on the Church in Africa.

Bishop Oscar Cantú, of Las Cruces, New Mexico

Bishop Oscar Cantú was born December 5, 1966, in Houston, Texas. He earned a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Dallas and a master of arts and master of divinity degrees from the University of St. Thomas, Houston. He earned a licentiate in sacred theology and a doctorate in sacred theology in dogmatic theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University. He was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Houston on May 21, 1994 and named auxiliary bishop of San Antonio in 2008. He was appointed Bishop of Las Cruces, New Mexico, by Pope Benedict XVI in 2013. He is chairman-elect of the USCCB Committee on International Justice and Peace, and a member of the USCCB Committee on Doctrine and Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs.

Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas

Bishop Mark Seitz was born in Milwaukee, January 10, 1954, and earned a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy, master of divinity and master of arts in theology degrees from the University of Dallas. He was ordained a priest for the Dallas Diocese in 1980. He earned a master in liturgical studies degree from St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota, in 1985. In 2004, Pope John Paul II named him a prelate of honor, carrying the title "monsignor." Bishop Seitz was named auxiliary bishop of Dallas, March 11, 2010. He was appointed Bishop of El Paso by Pope Francis on May 6, 2013. He is a member of the USCCB Committee on Divine Worship and the Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs, and a member of the board of directors of Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc, (CLINIC)

Bishop Ricardo Ramírez, Bishop Emeritus of Las Cruces, New Mexico, consultant to the USCCB Committee on Migration

Bishop Ricardo Ramírez was the first bishop of the Las Cruces Diocese, which was established in 1982. He was born in Bay City, Texas, September 12, 1936. Both his parents were migrant workers in southern Texas. He attended public schools in Bay City and graduated from the University of St. Thomas in Houston, in 1959. Following studies at St. Basil's Seminary in Toronto and the major seminary in Mexico City, he was ordained to the priesthood as a member of the Basilian Fathers in 1966. Bishop Ramírez served in parishes in Canada, Detroit and Mexico. He was on the staff of the Mexican-American Cultural Center in San Antonio when he was appointed auxiliary bishop of San Antonio in 1981. He retired as Bishop of Las Cruces, Texas, in 2013. He is a consultant to the USCCB Committee on Migration, and a member of the Committee on International Justice and Peace.

Bishop Luis R. Zarama, Auxiliary bishop of Atlanta, member of the USCCB Committee on Migration

Bishop Luis Zarama was born in Pasto, Colombia, on November 28th, 1958. He attended the Conciliar Seminary in Pasto, Colombia, where he graduated from high school. He attended the Marian University in Pasto, earning a degree in philosophy and theology. He also attended the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá, Colombia, earning a degree in canon law. He was a philosophy and theology professor at the Carmelites School, the Learning School and the Colombia Military School. Bishop Zarama was ordained for the Archdiocese of Atlanta on November 27, 1993. He was parochial vicar at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Atlanta. Bishop Zarama was named vicar general in April of 2006. In 2008, he was named the judicial vicar for the Archdiocese's Metropolitan Tribunal. On July 27, 2009, Pope Benedict XVI named him auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Atlanta. He was ordained on September 29, 2009. He is a member of the USCCB Committee on Migration and Subcommittee on Divine Worship in Spanish.

Bishop Cirilo Flores of San Diego

Bishop Cirilo Flores was born in Corona, California, on June 20, 1948. He received a bachelor's degree from Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles and a Juris Doctor degree from Stanford University School of Law. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Orange on June 8, 1991. He served as parochial vicar at St. Barbara Parish, St. Joachim, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and Our Lady of Guadalupe. In 2000 he was appointed pastor of St. Anne Parish in Santa Ana and in 2008 he was appointed pastor of St. Norbert Parish. On January 5, 2009, Bishop Flores was appointed auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Orange. On January 4, 2012, Pope Benedict XVI appointed him to serve as coadjutor bishop of the Diocese of San Diego, and on September 18, 2013, he became Bishop of San Diego. Bishop Flores is a member of the USCCB Committee on Education and the Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs.