

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE
OF **ATLANTA**



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Catholic Communications Office



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, July 27 2009

**Monsignor Luis R. Zarama Named Auxiliary Bishop
For Archdiocese of Atlanta**

**All Media is invited to the Press Conference at 10:00 am
July 27, 2009
Archdiocese of Atlanta
680 West Peachtree Street NW
Atlanta, GA 30308**

ATLANTA — Pope Benedict XVI has named Monsignor Luis Rafael Zarama, 50, vicar general of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, to be auxiliary bishop of Atlanta. The appointment was announced in Washington, July 27, by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory will hold a press conference in Atlanta at 10:00 am, July 27, 2009, at the Catholic Center of the Archdiocese of Atlanta to announce the appointment to the local community.

Archbishop Gregory said, “I am deeply grateful to His Holiness for this appointment which so favorably responds to the growing pastoral needs of our burgeoning local Church. The Holy Father’s selection of Monsignor Zarama from among our own generous and zealous priests is an affirmation not only of the gifts of this very fine priest, but of the quality of all of the priests who serve us. I heartily congratulate Bishop-elect Zarama and I look forward to working with him in the Episcopal service of the needs of all of our people.”

Luis Zarama was born November 28, 1958, in Pasto, Colombia. He entered the seminary of Pasto and the Universidad Mariana, where he studied philosophy and theology, from 1982-1987. He studied canon law at the Universidad Javeriana, in Bogata, from 1987-1991. He was ordained a priest in Atlanta in 1993.

Monsignor Zarama’s archdiocesan assignments have included parochial vicar, Sacred Heart Parish, Atlanta, 1993-1996; Administrator, St. Helena Mission, Clayton, Georgia, 1996-2006; pastor, St. Mark Parish, Clarkesville, Georgia, 1996-2006; Advocate, Court of Appeals, Ecclesiastical Province of Atlanta, 1993-1997; Defender of the Bond, Court of Appeals, Ecclesiastical Province of

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Atlanta, 1997-present; Assistant Director of Vocations, 2000-present; and Vicar General, 2006-present. He also has been a member of the Committee for Continuing Education of Priests, 1996-present, and a member of the Personnel Board, 2004-present.

In 2007, he was named a chaplain of His Holiness and received the title “monsignor.” He became an American citizen July 4, 2000.

The Atlanta Archdiocese has a population of 6,773,819 people, with 750,000, or 11 percent, of them Catholic.

The Episcopal Ordination of Bishop-Elect Luis R. Zarama will take place on:

Tuesday 29 September, 2009
The Feast of the Archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael

At the Cathedral of Christ the King
Atlanta, Georgia

#



The Reverend Monsignor Luis R. Zarama, JCL, V.G., J.V.

Full Name: Luis Rafael Zarama
Date of Birth: November 28, 1958
Place of Birth: Pasto, Colombia (South America)

*Father: Rafael Zarama
*Mother: Maria Pasqualetto
* Currently residing in Orlando, Florida

Brothers: Carlos Alberto, Esteban, Juan Pablo and Bernardo
Sister: Rosa Matilde

- Prior to entering seminary, Monsignor Zarama was self-employed as Administrator of Family Properties in Colombia, S.A. and later served as Professor of Philosophy and Theology at the Carmelites School, the Learning School and the Colombia Military School for a period of 11 years.
- Monsignor Zarama 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.
- Monsignor Zarama was ordained to the Roman Catholic Priesthood for the Archdiocese of Atlanta on November 27, 1993.
- His first assignment was as Parochial Vicar at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Atlanta.
- He served as a member of the Vocations Committee.
- Monsignor Zarama was the first Hispanic priest to be named Pastor in the Archdiocese of Atlanta to St. Mark's Catholic Church in Clarksville, GA and St. Helena's Mission in Clayton GA.
- He was a board member of Habitat for Humanity in Habersham County in 2005.
- Monsignor Zarama was named Vicar General of the Archdiocese in April of 2006.
- He was named Chaplain of His Holiness with the title of Monsignor by Pope Benedict XVI on March 7, 2007.
- In 2008 Monsignor Zarama was appointed to serve as the Judicial Vicar for the Archdiocese's Metropolitan Tribunal as well.

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The Reverend Monsignor Luis R. Zarama, JCL, V.G., J.V.

- **Monsignor Zarama is also a member of the Archdiocesan Personnel Review Board, the College of Consultors of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, and a member of the Board of Trustees for Southern Catholic College.**
- **Monsignor Zarama received his U.S. Citizenship on July 4, 2000.**
- **Hobbies: Cooking, listening to music, and walking.**



June, 2009



CURRICULUM VITAE

The Reverend Monsignor Luis R. Zarama, JCL, V.G., J.V.

Full Name: Luis Rafael Zarama
Date of Birth: November 28, 1958
Place of Birth: Pasto, Colombia (South America)
Father: Rafael Zarama
Mother: Maria Pasqualetto
Seminary: University of Mariana: Pasto, Colombia
(Philosophy & Theology 1982 - 1987)
University of Javeriana: Bogota, Colombia
(Canon Law - 1987-1991)
Ordination: Cathedral of Christ the King, Atlanta, Georgia
November 27, 1993

Archdiocese of Atlanta

Appointments: Judicial Vicar for Metropolitan Tribunal: August 29, 2008
Chaplain of His Holiness by Pope Benedict XVI
Reverend Monsignor Luis R. Zarama: March 7, 2007
Member: College of Consultors: June 7, 2006
Chancery - Vicar General: April 28, 2006 - Current
Dean: Northeast Deanery: May 24, 2004
Member: Ad Hoc Personnel Board: February 27, 2004
Assistant Director of Vocations for Colombia:
April 19, 2000
Defender of the Bond of the Court of Appeals of the Ecclesiastical
Province of Atlanta: September 2, 1997
Member: Committee for the Continuing Education of Priests: June 20,
1996
Advocate in the Court of Appeals of the Ecclesiastical Province of
Atlanta: November 29, 1993

Assignments: St. Mark Catholic Church, Clarkesville, GA
Pastor: June 20, 1996 - April 27, 2006
St. Helena Mission, Clayton, GA
Administrator: June 20, 1996 - April 27, 2006
Sacred Heart Church, Atlanta, GA
Parochial Vicar: November 27, 1993 - June 19, 1996

August 29, 2008

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OFFICIAL CATHOLIC DIRECTORY STATISTICS SHOW CATHOLICS STILL 22 PERCENT OF U.S. POPULATION

Data in the 2009 Official Catholic Directory, also known as the Kennedy Directory, show there are 68,115,001 Catholics in the United States, making up 22 percent of the U.S. population. The total number of Catholics is an increase of about one million from the previous year. The directory is based on information collected from dioceses and is released each spring.

Other data note there are

- 41,489 diocesan and religious order priests
- 60,715 religious sisters
- 4,905 religious brothers
- 16,935 permanent deacons
- 18,674 parishes, including 91 new parishes
- 562 Catholic hospitals assisting 85,293,351 patients
- 3009 social services centers with 27,213,486 people assisted annually
- 189 seminaries with 4,973 students
- 234 Catholic colleges and universities with 795,823 students
- 1,341 Catholic high schools with 674,380 students
- 6,133 Catholic elementary schools with 1,609,387 students
- 722,599 Students in high school religious education program
- 3,080,838 students in elementary school religious education
- 887,145 infant baptisms
- 42,629 adult baptisms
- 81,775 persons coming into full Communion, i.e. baptized Christians who joined the

Catholic Church.

Each year, Catholic organizations in the United States provide an estimated \$28.2 billion in service through institutions represented by the Catholic Health Association (\$5.7 billion), Catholic Charities USA (\$3.5 billion) and National Catholic Educational Association (19.8 billion). This does not include assistance provided through parishes and other organizations.

Source: This information was written and distributed by the USCCB.

For question regarding the Eucharistic Congress in the Archdiocese of Atlanta please contact Pat Chivers at 678-480-6865 or email pchivers@archatl.com.

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2009 Statistics for the Archdiocese of Atlanta

Archbishop: Most Reverend Wilton D. Gregory

Retired Archbishop: Most Reverend John F. Donoghue

Archdiocese of Atlanta by the numbers:

Lay Catholics	750,000
Priests	278
Deacons	209
Brothers	9
Sisters	94
Seminarians	50

Total Catholic Churches and Missions in the Archdiocese of Atlanta in **2008**: 99

Total number of Catholic Churches and Missions in **1956**: 18

Total Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Atlanta: 22

Total number of students under Catholic Instruction: 40,936

High School students: 8,425

Elementary students: 32,511

Total number of College Campus Ministries: 17

Total Catholic Hospitals: 5

Saint Joseph's Hospital of Atlanta, Atlanta

Saint Mary's Health Care System, Inc., Athens

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cancer Home, Atlanta

Gift of Grace House, Atlanta

Kkottongnae Care Home, Tucker

Total Homes for the Aged: 2

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Home

Saint Joseph's Mercy Care Services

Total area offices for Catholic Charities Atlanta: 5

Total Assisted in 2008: 7,250

Updated June 03, 2009

Source: *2009 Official Catholic Directory*, Published by P.J. Kenedy & Sons

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THE ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA

The **Office of Vocations** at the Archdiocese of Atlanta through God's grace reaches out to men and women willing to generously offer their lives to God in the priesthood or religious life. The Office of Vocations is headed by Father Luke Ballman, the Director of Vocations. Father Luke and his staff work year round on many projects to promote vocations, i.e., Discernment Masses, Discernment Clubs for men and women and adult and teen, and assist the seminarians while they attend the seminary.

The Office of Vocations is very excited to have eight new priests this year. We will also have seven new deacons this fall that will be ordained to the priesthood in 2010. Several new seminarians will be admitted to the program in the Fall of 2009.

"In fact, the best vocational advertisement continues to be happy, joyful and positive priests and Religious who convey with our enthusiasm, smiles and laughter that God



Photo by Michael Alexander

is doing something wonderful in our lives and that He might be willing to do the same in your life—given half the chance." - Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory, *What I Have Seen and Heard*

The future holds exciting possibilities for vocations in the Archdiocese of Atlanta. There are many young men that we see at Mass, prayer and volunteering in the Church who would make wonderful priests. The challenge we face is to "Be Not Afraid" ourselves to approach these young men and encourage them to ask themselves if they have ever thought of becoming a priest. Many young men have given it thought but feel unworthy so they have remained silent. It takes prayer and encouragement from the people in the pews to tap them on the shoulder and quietly ask if they have considered serving the Church as a priest. Many times this is all the young men need as a sign. The rest is up to the Holy Spirit.

For more information visit <http://www.archatl.com/vocations/vocationsoffice.html>

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Catholic Charities
of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, Inc.

Providing Help. Creating Hope

Catholic Charities Atlanta, a ministry rooted in the Gospel, partners with our community to move people facing adversity to wholeness and self-sufficiency. We open our doors to everyone, especially those most vulnerable and in need, from all walks of life, regardless of religion, origin, race or socio-economic status. Catholic Charities has served more than 9000 clients last year and answered 35,720 phone calls.



Program Services

Disaster Preparedness & Response: 404/978-2799

Providing resources & assistance for victims of disasters. Disaster response assistance is provided to persons in need of rent, utilities, mortgage assistance, and food resources due to damage caused by severe weather.

Disaster Planning.
Volunteer Training in Disaster Preparedness.

Family Enrichment Program: 770/429-2369

Employment Services for Refugees
Adult Educational Services: English as a Second Language (ESL) and Civic Classes, Refugee Healthy Marriages Workshops and Financial Literacy Seminars.
Housing Counseling: pre-purchase & rental counseling, foreclosure prevention and intervention services.
Youth Educational Services: After School tutoring & summer camp for refugee & immigrant children.
Path to Success Program: Orientation for Latino Parents and Youth to the American School System,
Refugee Parent Services & parenting ESL classes.
Information & Referral Services: to resources provided by other agencies in Metro Atlanta.
Area of specialization include information & referral services for seniors.

Immigration Legal Services: 404/885-7454

Immigration Legal Services provides services to immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers:
Assists eligible individuals and families obtain legal status, naturalization, and provides removal defense.
Informational workshops about immigration law, public education & advocacy.
Specialization in assisting victims of domestic violence, detained clients, political asylum,
Victims of trafficking & crimes, and defense for minors.

Refugee Resettlement Services: 404/885-7464

Reception and Placement of refugees: helping those who have suffered persecution in their home country, begin a new life in the USA. Match Grant: job readiness & employment services to help families become economically self-sufficient.
Social Adjustment: transition services to those with appropriate immigration status granted between 0-5 years.

Parish & Social Justice Ministries: 404/ 885-7208

Social Justice Ministry, Justice for Immigrants & educational presentations on “Catholic Social Teaching”.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) addresses systemic causes of poverty by providing small grants to grassroots organizations.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is the international catholic relief, education & human development organization; local efforts include “Operation Rice Bowl” during Lent and “Fair Trade”.

Pregnancy, Parenting & Adoption Services: 404/ 885-7275 or Toll free: 1-800-CARE-002

Crisis pregnancy counseling and pregnancy support.

Helps parents make positive, long-term plans for their child (parenting, kinship or adoption).

Open infant adoption (domestic USA), infant adoption awareness workshops & statewide training.

Post-adoption services.

Parent Talk Parenting Program (high risk clients).



Village of St. Joseph Counseling Services: 404/ 733-3527

Outpatient mental health services for individuals, children, adolescents, adults, couples and families.

Addresses issues of depression, family & marital discord, addictions, anxiety, sibling conflicts, parent-child relationships, adolescent issues, grief & loss.

“Thresholds”, a specialized training for prisoners on how to make decisions by integrating thinking with feelings.

Psycho-educational workshops, parenting seminars, anger management groups.

Services are provided at approx. 25 parishes and various Catholic Charities’ locations.

Volunteer Opportunities: 404/885-7271

A multitude of volunteer opportunities exist for each of the above named programs.

For example: instructors, tutors, teachers, event volunteers, office assistance, social work internships, fundraising volunteers, special project volunteers, translators, volunteer attorneys, data entry assistance and much more.

All services are offered in a compassionate, professional manner in keeping with the tenets of Catholic Social Teaching and national standards for social services. The programs and services of Catholic Charities are funded in part by the Archbishop’s Annual Appeal Gifts. Thank you for your generosity! For more information on these services or how to make a donation contact us at: 404/881-6571

or visit us at our website at: <http://www.catholiccharitiesatlanta.org/> www.catholiccharitiesatlanta.org

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(updated August 15, 2008)

