

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA



Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Acts of the Apostles shares with us what happened at Pentecost: *“We are Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; residents of Rome, Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs, we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.”* (Acts 2:6-11) At that time, there were about 15 ethnic groups and cultures listening to the good news of Jesus Christ. This amazing miracle would serve as the beginning of the truly catholic, “universal” expression of our fidelity to God expressed through the unique spiritual gifts of people all around the world, a characteristic later articulated by St. Paul in his letter to the Romans, “ ... so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually parts of one another.” (Rom 12:5)

Our Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan has identified the need to better respond to the concerns of our varied cultures and ethnic groups worshipping in the northern half of the state of Georgia. In acknowledgement of this request, we have created the new Office of Intercultural and Ethnic Diversity (OIED), which seeks to serve the clergy, archdiocesan Chancery personnel, parish staff, and ministry leaders by promoting and developing cultural awareness and sensitivity competencies, enabling us to better understand and answer the pastoral needs of our ever-growing number of diverse parishioners and parochial communities.

By combining the resources of the former Hispanic Ministry Office and the Office for Black Catholic Ministry, the new structure of the OIED will serve the Archdiocese of Atlanta by providing resources in several areas, including intercultural competency development and communications, as well as provide continued support for our African and African-American, Hispanic and Latin American, Asian and Pacific Island, Native American and emerging cultures, movements and groups.

To reach these pastoral goals under the guidance of Auxiliary Bishop Luis R. Zarama, the organization of the OIED will reflect the needs of the aforementioned communities through its personnel and several advisory councils lead by an intercultural commission of leaders from our communities. We welcome Mr. Jairo Martinez as the new director of the OIED, as well as the members of his team, to serve as faithful shepherds of these very important ministries.

Please continue to pray for the OIED and our endeavors to respond to multicultural realities of our Church and society, that the new office will follow their guiding principles of inclusiveness, self-openness, relationship building, integration and not assimilation, bridge-building, advocacy, and celebrating our unity in diversity as followers of Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Wilton D. Gregory". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed in a thin blue rectangular border.

✠ Wilton D. Gregory
Archbishop of Atlanta

Jairo Martinez
Director
Office of Intercultural and Ethnic
Diversity
404-920-7583
jmartinez@archatl.com

Ashley Morris
Associate Director
Office of Intercultural and Ethnic
Diversity
404-920-7586
amorris@archatl.com

Gracie Mulero
Office Manager
Office of Intercultural and Ethnic
Diversity
404-920-7585
gmulero@archatl.com