

Pastor's Notes: Introducing Fr. Moises Moreno

October 4, 2020

Father Moises Moreno has been assigned by Bishop Stika to serve the Basilica as Parochial Vicar and Chaplain of our Hispanic Community. He has given us a written bio to introduce himself, and I would like to take the opportunity of this pastor's notes to share it with you. You can find it posted on our website, with additional photos. May God bless Fr. Moises and his priestly ministry in our Basilica parish!

Rev. Fr. David Carter

**Rev. Moises Moreno, Parochial Vicar and Chaplain of the Hispanic Community
The Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul**

Background

I was born in the state of Aguascalientes, Mexico, on September 4, 1970, where I lived and grew up for only 7 years. Later on – for reasons of work on my father's part – we moved to the state of Guanajuato, in the city of Leon, where we have lived until today.

Studies

I was in the Leon Guanajuato seminary for more than eight years. I had started the last fourth of theology, but left it incomplete to follow the invitation of Bishop Joseph Kurtz through the voice of now Father Manuel Pérez (since we had been companions in the seminary for six years and continue the friendship today). I applied to the Diocese of Knoxville to start this vocation again and entered UTC for a year and a half to study English.

Subsequently, I spent two years at Assumption Seminary in San Antonio, Texas, to achieve the certificate of ordination. I was ordained a deacon on January 20, 2007. I remained as deacon for almost three years, and the reason was the absence of a bishop. (Bishop Joseph was transferred to another diocese, leaving our diocese vacant for almost two years).

I was finally ordained a priest on November 13, 2010, by our current Bishop Richard Stika. This ordination took place in my parish house in Leon Guanajuato.

I was assigned as an associate priest at Saint Jude in Chattanooga in January 2011, where I remained working until my new assignment to Saints Peter and Saint Paul in September 2020.

Sports

My first sport that I practiced was baseball; then soccer, swimming, volleyball, kung fu, and basketball. Lately I practice running.

Hobbies

Reading (spiritual, theological, political, and I would like to learn a little astronomy). Sometimes I like to prepare and learn more Mexican food that is not sold in any Mexican restaurant. Another hobby is watching some fiction movies or comedy shows.

**Priestly Life**

It is a great blessing for me to have received from God the invitation to be a priest. My best decision has been to be a priest, and I have not regretted it since I was ordained, because this has been a watershed in my life for my good. Every day I try to be better and work harder in my priesthood to offer more of my own. Now that I am sent to serve at Saints Peter and Saint Paul, it is a new challenge – not only a new experience, but a blessing to grow and cultivate my vocation.

Appreciation

Thank you for welcoming me to this community of Saints Peter and Paul. I pray daily for each of the members of the parish where I am assigned to serve, so count on my prayers and pray for me to be together in the eternal house of God, praising and glorifying Him. So be it. Amen.