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JOSÉ RAÚL VERA LÓPEZ

CURRICULUM VITAE

José Raúl Vera López speaks Spanish and English

Personal information:

Name: José Raúl Vera López
Date of birth: 21 June 1945
Place of birth: Acámbaro, Guanajuato, Mexico
Nationality: Mexican
Languages: Spanish and English

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Education

1976 Bachelor in Theology from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas (Rome, Italy)
1968 –76 Studies in Philosophy (Mexico) and Theology (Bologna, Italy)
1968 Bachelor in Chemical Engineering from UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México)

Designations within the Catholic Church

1999 Appointed Bishop of Saltillo, Coahuila by Pope John Paul II.
1995 Appointed Coadjutor Bishop of San Cristobal de Las Casas, Chiapas, to work with Don Samuel Ruiz, Diocesan Bishop.
1988 Ordained Bishop by Pope John Paul II in Rome
1987 Appointed Bishop of Ciudad Altamirano, Guerrero, by Pope John Paul II.
1985-87
1976-81 Chaplain of students of the National Autonomous University of Mexico
1975 Ordained Priest by Pope Paul VI

Participation in conferences

- 2010* Invited by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles (USA) to participate in the Missionaries Congress 2010 as a panel member to discuss pastoral work with the gay and lesbian community
- 2008* Talk on pastoral work with the gay and lesbian community. XV National Conference of the National Association of Catholic Diocesan Lesbian and Gay Ministries of the United States, in Long Beach (USA).

Participation as panellist at:

- National Autonomous University of Mexico
- Autonomous University of Coahuila (Mexico)
- Tecnológico de Monterrey (Mexico)
- Autonomous University of Sinaloa (Mexico)
- University of Oregon (USA)
- University of Chicago (USA)
- University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis (USA)
- University of Costa Rica (Costa Rica)
- Javeriana University of Bogotá (Colombia)
- University of Vienna (Austria)

Pastoral work

- 2010* Attended the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) along with other advocates to denounce the "humanitarian tragedy" in the kidnapping of migrants in Mexico.
- Part of the National and International Campaign "Liberty and Justice for Atenco".
- Supported causes such as the case of political prisoners in Oaxaca, San Salvador Atenco, and Ayutla de los Libres, Guerrero.
- Involved in movements for the defence of biodiversity. Promoted dialogue and ecumenical solidarity with the peoples of the world.
- 2006-Present*
- Defended and supported prostitutes raped by soldiers in the Mexican Army in Castaños, Coahuila, via a lawsuit against the Army and the State of Mexico.
- Accompanied coal miners in defending their labour rights (occupational safety and justice for widows, orphans and families), in relation to accidents before and after the incident of 19th February 2006 that killed 65 miners in the Pasta de Conchos.
- 2005-Present*
- Facilitated the development of a project to promote the dignity of children and adolescents from poor neighbourhoods in Saltillo, called "Los Grafitos".
- 2002*
- Creation of the community, "San Elredo", in the Diocese of Saltillo offering pastoral care to young members of the group of all sexual orientations. Sought to promote dignity and defend the human rights of the community and full integration into society and the Church.

- 2000 As Bishop of Saltillo, began working for the implementation of an *Organic Pastoral Plan*, which promotes an integral evangelization of men and women of the Diocese.
Founded the Diocesan Centre for Human Rights, "Fray Juan de Larios", in Saltillo.
- 1995 Worked on the implementation of the Diocesan Synod III and the formation of permanent Deacons.
Collaborated in the drafting of the Permanent Diaconate directory of Indigenous People.
Supported the peace and reconciliation process between the indigenous people of Chiapas and the Federal Government, together with Bishop Samuel Ruiz, the Diocese of San Cristobal, and the bishops of the Bishops Committee for Peace in Chiapas.
Helped to create conditions for dialogue between the Zapatista movement (EZLN) and the Mexican Government, to guarantee fair living conditions for indigenous *Maya* communities of the region.
- 1988 Attended to the rural peasants and marginalized people of the Diocese of Ciudad Altamirano, Guerrero.
Founded the Social Centre, "Juan Navarro", to serve the poor of the Diocese with which he began his defence of human rights.
- 1977-85 Professor of novices for the Province of Mexico Order of Preachers, combining his work as instructor with preaching to groups in *Casa de Agua Viva*, attached to the Convent Novitiate. During that time did pastoral work with university students and peasants.

Awards

- 2009 Recognition "Acambaro beloved Son", awarded by the City of Acámbaro, Gto.
Recognition "Samuel Ruiz" in Coahuila, for the defence and promotion of human rights in Mexico.
- 2007 Medal of Merit in Mexico City for his work in defending human rights, awarded by the Ecclesiastical Observatory and the National Network of Human Rights.
- 2000 Medal "Roque Dalton", awarded by the Council for Cooperation with the Culture and Science in El Salvador, AC.
National Human Rights Award, "Don Sergio Méndez Arceo"

Membership in Civil Society Organizations

- Honorary President of Solidarity Network Decade Against Impunity
- Co-Chair of the Human Rights Center "Fray Bartolome de las Casas"
- Member of the International Court of Conscience of the People in Motion (Mexico)
- Member of the International Tribunal on Freedom of Association (Mexico)

- Chairman of the Diocesan Centre for Human Rights "Fray Juan de Larios"
- Chairman of the National Center for Assistance to Indigenous Missions (CENAMI)
- Member of the Permanent Council of the Bishops Conference (two periods).
- Chairman of the Commission for Consecrated Life
- Member of the Social Pastoral Commission of the Episcopal Commission for Peace in Chiapas, as of January 10, 1994, to support the peace process with the uprising of the Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN).
- Partner of the Prior Provincial of the Dominicans of Mexico and Coordinator of the Dominican Family in Mexico (1985-87)
- Member of the Provincial Council of the Dominicans in Mexico (1981-87)
- Promoted the foundation of two houses of the migrant: "Emmaus House" (in Ciudad Acuña, Coahuila, Mexico) and "Belen House of Migrants" (in Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico)

