

**CENTRO  
DE  
EDUCACIÓN TEOLÓGICA  
Para LATINOS  
(CETLA)**

(Center of Theological Education for Latinos)

**EN LA DIÓCESIS DE ATLANTA**

2744 Peachtree Rd. N.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30305  
404-271-3624  
404-707-1217

## **The Study Center**

1. The official name of the center will be: **Centro de Educación Teológica para Latinos**, or **CETLA** (Theological Education Center for Latinos).
2. The objective of CETLA is to train Hispanic lay leaders, deacons and priests.
3. The center will be located in Diocesan Cathedral. The cathedral is the heart of the diocese; students should be familiar with and feel proud of their cathedral. However, some classes may be taught in other locations, especially if the majority of students come from a specific congregation. Classes may also be held in other Hispanic churches (missions) in rotation, so that candidates become familiar with all Hispanic communities.
4. CETLA management:

President: The Rt. Rev. Bishop Robert Wright

Connecting to Bishop: The Revs. Canon Alicia Schuster Weltner and Deacon Juan Sandoval

Coordinator: The Rev. Canon Isaias A. Rodriguez

Members: The Revs. Antonio Brito, Fabio Sotelo, Napoleón Brito, Ramón Betances, Ricardo Bailey, Nora Cruz, and others...

### **About the Candidates**

5. Hispanic communities shall present candidates who are interested in studying in one of the levels to be specified.
6. Candidates may continue to study at their pace (level,) if they cannot follow the normal course of study established by the committee.
7. Students will do research (on the Internet, Google, etc.) and work from the beginning writing documents, to improve their study (knowledge) with research and preparation of documents.
8. Candidates for the diaconate and priesthood must have passed the discernment process and be approved by the bishop.

### **About the Faculty**

9. Teachers must have sufficient qualifications to teach.
10. Teachers will choose the theme(s) they like and feel comfortable to instruct classes on that topic.

### **Educational Levels**

17. Curriculum of study for lay leaders, deacons, priests: to be established.
18. Classes will be held from mid-September to mid-May (for two years.)

## **Basic Level**

### **1. What is the Course?**

It is a theological training program developed over a period of two years for people who want to deepen their faith, and also want to engage in religious education in the parish or other parish ministries.

The CETLA religious course has been developed to respond to a pressing need for lay leaders in our Hispanic communities. The list includes people lay leaders in positions of responsibility within the community, such as readers, Eucharistic ministers, catechists, vestry, ushers, etc. . .

The ministry of all the baptized is enabled and extoled with a basis created by the baptismal covenant and Episcopal identity formed by the Bible, tradition, reason, church history, and use of the Book of Common Prayer.

### **2. Who can Participate in the Course?**

All those who wish to develop their knowledge and skills needed to provide leadership, education and training programs in the ministries for their parish(es.)

### **3. What is the Content for Certification?**

Those who complete the course and graduate will receive a certificate showing that they have completed the Basic Religious Education and the certificate will include a greeting from the Bishop of Atlanta. This certificate will be accepted throughout the Diocese of Atlanta.

### **4. What is the Schedule?**

The course will begin in mid-September to mid-May. There will be two classes per month, on a Saturday from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon and 12:30 P.M. to 2:30 P.M.

### **5. What is the Cost?**

The cost is \$ 100.00 per academic year. The parish may assist students with tuition.

### **6. Books and materials**

Students must have the Book of Common Prayer and the Pilgrim's Bible. Each teacher will provide some notes and guidelines to each student. All students will receive a binder to place notes and materials.

## Courses

### **Anglicanism**, Antonio Brito

The term *Anglicanism* will be studied and analyzed, and how the Anglican Communion has been formed and has grown into many churches. Also we shall see some factors that shape it, as well as the instruments by which it functions today.

### **Book of Common Prayer**, Juan Sandoval and Nora Cruz

We shall explain the historical origin of this book, its various editions, the eclectic elements used by Thomas Cranmer, and finally, hands on, we shall go through each part of the book.

### **Church History**, Ramón Betances

We will walk through the most important periods of the two thousand years of Christianity, beginning with his origin and explaining who its main architects were. Special emphasis will be given on the years leading up to and rise of the Reformation and the Counter-Reformation, ending with the Anglican Communion.

### **Ethics and Moral Theology**, Napoleon Brito

In this class we will learn what are the natural ethics, Christian ethics and the moral character of our behavior on assimilating the Christian principles that animate our faith. Will clarify the basic language and terms of natural ethics, Christian ethics and the relationship of our faith in the worship of God. We will strive to emphasize the moral challenge that proposes us to accept faith in Jesus Christ. Also we will analyze the moral and ethical implications of abortion, divorce, domestic violence and misconduct.

### **Liturgy**, Isaias A. Rodriguez

The liturgy, as the work of people of faith, is the center of Christian life. In this sanctifying work we celebrate the mystery of salvation and how it can be incorporated into our lives. The concept of time and space - as parameters which is developed in our sanctification- and the sacraments, as means of sanctification instituted by Christ, will be explained. The liturgy is a unique source of holiness. The origin and development of the Liturgical Year will be explained.

### **New Testament**, Antonio Brito

Important concepts related to literary genres, inspiration, etc. will be briefly reviewed. Then, we will focus on the study of the Gospels and how they came about. The essential thing is to discover the person of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Then we will offer an overview of the other books and how, in them, is recounted the birth of the Church.

### **Old Testament**, Fabio Sotelo

This introductory course offers a historical-critical study of the Old Testament, from the Pentateuch to the prophetic and wisdom books, including the deuterocanonical texts. Keys to read the sacred texts such as literary genres, historical periods, inspiration and inerrancy, will be given. The centrality of this study is to discover how "the people of God," see God's action in their daily events, and how the alliance with the God of Israel, gives identity and purpose to the chosen people.

**Spirituality**, Isaias A. Rodríguez

Spirituality is the food that nourishes us. That food is taken from the Scriptures in which God the Father is revealed as Creator, the Son as Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit as Sanctifier. We partner with the Trinity through Baptism, and with it we become part of the church community, as an extension of the divine family, in union with the mystical body of Christ. In this body we find the example of the blessed saints who have attained sanctity imitating Jesus Christ. Their examples also strengthen us.

**Elemental systematic theology**, Napoleón Brito

Theological reflection is an academic space in which the term "theology" in all its dimensions will be clarified. We will highlight the role of theology in the context of systematic reflection based on space Scripture, tradition, reason and the catholicity of our Church. Will reflect how theology affects Christian education, Bible studies and prayer groups in the programs of our parishes. We will discuss the relationship between theology, Scripture, Christian doctrine and principles of our faiths in the Catholic tradition. Also we will open a space for discussion.

## **Faculty**

### **Antonio Brito**

The Rev. Antonio Brito was born in the Dominican Republic (1959). He was ordained a priest in 1987 and received into the Episcopal Church in 2011. Altogether has thirty years of ministerial experience.

He obtained the degree of Licentiate of Philosophy (1983) and Theology (1987) in Thomas Aquinas seminary, in the Dominican Republic.

He has also participated in a course of ongoing Personality and Temperament (1989) in Germany. In 2012 he attended a course on spirituality *Introduction to the Mysticism of San Juan de la Cruz*, at the University of the Mystic, Ávila, Spain.

In 2004 he founded the Santa Marta mission in the Diocese of New York.

He has published some 35 sermons on the series *Sermones que iluminan* at the Episcopal Church.

Currently is fulfilling the ministry in the churches of St. David, Roswell, and Atonement, Sandy Springs, in the Diocese of Atlanta.

### **Fabio Sotelo**

The Rev. Fabio Antonio Sotelo was born in Colombia. He took studies on Social Communication and on the Life and Writings of St. Paul in the Society of St. Paul, Medellín, Colombia in 1987. In 1998 he entered the University of Santo Tomas de Aquino Bogotá to study philosophy and literature obtaining a Licenciature in 1993. For his thesis he wrote, *Being and Being in the Latin American Cultural, according to the work of Kusch* (1993).

In 1994 he took courses on the Old and New Testaments, at the Javeriana University of Bogotá. He studied theology at St. Mary's Seminary in Maryland (1995-1999), where he earned a Master of Divinity.

In Colombia Coordinated the editing of a religious magazine called *Pastoral Life*, during the years 1988 to 1994. In these same years he taught Spanish and literature at a seminar in Bogotá.

Fabio was ordained as a priest in 1999, and since then has been dedicated to serving the Hispanic immigrant communities in Georgia. He is bilingual and is one of the contributors to the series *Sermones que iluminan*.

Today, Fabio is fulfilling the call to ministry in San Eduardo, Lawrenceville, and San Beda, Atlanta.

### **Isaías A. Rodríguez**

The Rev. Isaías A. Rodríguez, born in Spain (1941), was a former Discalced Carmelite. He studied in the Pontifical Theological University TERESIANUM in Rome, Italy, where he acquired a Licentiate in Theology (1962-67).

He obtained a Diploma in History and Aesthetics of the Cinema, from the University of Valladolid, Spain (1970). He took Anglican studies at the University of the South, Sewanee, TN. (1984).

Before coming to USA for five years he taught Philosophy and Religion in the Carmelite Colleges in Spain.

In 1974 came to Dallas, Texas. He worked for the Catholic Diocese, teaching in the Institute St. Pius X, and leading a parish in south Dallas (1975-79).

He was received in the Episcopal Church in 1985, during this time to the present he has spent time in developing the Hispanic ministry in the Diocese of Atlanta and creating resources for the ministry.

He is the author six books: *Yo Creo en el amor* (1974). *Temas de un diario* (1993). *Historia de la Iglesia, Católica, Anglicana, Episcopal* (2004). *Devociones populares celebradas por los hispanos* (2005). *Introducción al culto, la liturgia como obra del pueblo* (2005). *Introducción a la mística de San Juan de la Cruz*, (2009).

From 2000-2007 editor of the magazine *Caminos*, a national resource for the ministry. During five (2006-2011) years he was editor for Hispanic resources for Forward Movement Publications. Isaías has 47 years of experience y ministry and teaching. He also created -with Victor Ruiz- the web page: [www.episcopaleslatinos.org](http://www.episcopaleslatinos.org)

### **Juan Sandoval**

The Rev. Juan Sandoval was born in Phoenix, Arizona (1947).

He earned a Licenture in Science in Nursing in 1974 at Arizona State University and a Master of Science in Nursing and Health Care Administration in 1981 at Arizona State University.

In 2005 he completed his studies in Education for Ministry in Norman, OK. and completed the studies in *Stephen Ministries* in 2008, Santa Catalina, Marietta, Georgia.

He received training for the diaconate in the Diocese of Atlanta and was ordained in August of 2011.

He participated in a *Stephen Leader Course*, 2012, Orlando, Florida. And participated at *The Christian response to the Doctrine of Discovery* in 2013.

Deacon Assignments: currently at Cathedral of St. Philip, has served Church of Christ in Norcross, Atonement, Sandy Springs. He also served as deacon in St. James, Marietta, and in Saint Patrick's in the Malachi Storehouse, Dunwoody, Ga. He has been Chaplain at Wonderful Days Pre -K, Marietta - all in the Diocese of Atlanta.

### **Napoleón Ramon Brito**

The Rev. Napoleón Ramón Brito Liriano, is from Salcedo, Dominican Republic, with 35 years of ministry experience and 25 years of teaching distributed between the Pontifical University Madre y Maestra, the National Evangelical University (Uneven) and the Episcopal Seminary (CET) being Dean of the Seminary for ten years (2001-2011) in the Dominican Episcopal Church.

He studied for three years (1965-1968) at the Pontifical Seminary of St. Thomas Aquinas Santo Domingo reaching the degree of Licentiate in Philosophy.

He then studied Systematic Theology (1969-1973) achieving the degree of Licentiate in Theology at the Pontifical Seminary Thomas Aquinas, in the Dominican Republic.

In 1976 he studied Youth Catechesis focused in psychodynamic at the Institute of Catechesis in Manizales, Colombia.

He earned a master's degree in The Theology o Marriage and Family (1982-1985) at the John Paul II Institute on the Family at the University of San Pietro in Latere, Rome, Italy.

In 1992 he obtained a diploma in San Lucas Hospital in Ponce, Puerto Rico in Clinical Pastoral.

He has also published the following brochures: *Pastoral Psychology*. *Christian Ethics*. *Towards a pastoral to depressed*. *Educational Psychology*. *Scientific methodology*. *Philosophical logic*. *Sermons illuminating*.

Today, Napoleón is fulfilling the call to ministry in the church at Christ Church in Norcross, Ga.

### **Nora Cruz- Díaz**

The Rev. Nora Cruz- Díaz is a native of Puerto Rico. He studied at the Inter American University of Puerto Rico, where he earned a Licenciatura with a major in Business Administration and Psychology.

In 1972, working for the Department of Agriculture of the Federal Government in Florida, she participated in an intensive one-year federal administrative regulations and policies course. After finishing the course he took up the post of Administrative Officer of the agency in several U.S. states.

She is a graduate of the course Education for Ministry in the Episcopal Church. During the years 2008 to 2011 he participated in the training course for the diaconate in the Diocese of Atlanta. She was ordained Deacon was in August of 2011. Her first assignment was in the Church of Christ in Norcross (Christ Church), where she has been was a parishioner since 1996. Starting in February 2014 exercised her Diaconate Ministry at St. Bede Church.

Her duties are to serve in the Norcross Cooperative Ministry and visit weekly Hispanic prisoners in the Detention Center in Gwinnett County.

### **Ramón Betances**

The Rev. Ramon Betances was born in the Dominican Republic and has 27 years of priestly life and experience. He has developed different roles and missions, he has served as rector and vicar of various parishes, he has been Director of conventional radio stations and the host and producer of radio programs. Now he is vicar for El Buen Pastor, Austell, GA., and St. Benedict's Episcopal Church.

He has a Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy from the Catholic Pontifical University, Madre y Maestra, in the Dominican Republic (1983). He also has a Bachelor's degree in Theology from the Seminary St. Thomas de Aquino, in the Dominican Republic (1987).

In addition, he also has Diploma in Sciences of the Communication and Information from the Universidad Popular Autónoma in Puebla, Mexico (1992).

His other achievements include Professional Announcer Training at the Comisión Nacional de Espectáculos Públicos y Radiofonía in the Dominican Republic (1984). Radio and Communication workshop, La Vega, Dominican Republic (1990). Effective Publicity Campaigns, in the Dominican Republic 1999.)

Intensive study course in policy, finance and administration in the Episcopal Church, The Institute for Enhancement of Clergy Skills at the Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia (2006).

In 2013 attended a course on Spirituality *Introduction to Mysticism of San Juan de la Cruz*, at the University of the Mystic, Ávila, Spain. He has contributed to the series *Sermones que iluminan*.



## SCHEDULE

### Year 2014

#### September 13:

10:00-12:00 A. Testamento

12:30-2:30 Historia de la Iglesia

#### October 18:

10:00-12:00 Historia de la Iglesia

12:30-2:30 A. Testamento

#### November 15:

10:00-12:00 Liturgia

12:30-2:30 Anglicanismo

#### December 20:

10:00-12:00 Anglicanismo

12:30-2:30 LOC

### Year 2015

#### January 17:

10:00-12:00 A. Testamento

12:30-2:30 Historia de la Iglesia

#### February 21:

10:00-12:00 Historia de la Iglesia

12:30-2:30 A. Testamento

#### March 21:

10:00-12:00 Liturgia

12:30-2:30 LOC

#### April 18:

10:00-12:00 Anglicanismo

12:30-2:30 Liturgia

#### May 16:

10:00-12:00 Reflexión Teológica

12:30-2:30 Reflexión Teológica

### Year 2015

#### September 19:

10:00-12:00 Reflexión Teológica

12:30-2:30 N. Testamento

#### October 17:

10:00-12:00 N. Testamento

12:30-2:30 Reflexión Teológica

#### November 14:

10:12:00 Reflexión Teológica

12:30-2:30 N. Testamento

#### December 12:

10:00-12:00 N. Testamento

12:30-2:30 Reflexión Teológica

### Year 2016

#### January

10:00-12:00 Ética-Moral

12:30-2:30 Espiritualidad

#### February:

10:00-12:00 Espiritualidad

12:30-2:30 Ética-Moral

#### March:

10:00-12:00 Ética-Moral

12:30-2:30 Espiritualidad

#### April:

10:00-12:30 Espiritualidad

12:30-2:30 Ética-Moral

#### May:

10:00-12:30 Ecumenismo

12:30-2:30 Grandes Religiones

## **APPENDIX: On the Preliminary Committee**

1. The initial committee will consist of: Alicia, Isaias, Antonio, Fabio, Napoleon, Ramon, Ricardo, Nora and Juan.
2. The committee will function under the approval of the Bishop, especially with regard to the formation of candidates to the diaconate and priesthood.
3. Decisions taken by the Committee shall be voted, and any official document issued by it, shall be signed by the members thereof.
4. The language used in meetings of the committee will be Spanish, since all the program is geared toward Hispanic ministry.
5. The committee will establish a curriculum at different levels for the formation of lay leaders, and candidates for the diaconate and priesthood.
6. The committee will establish relations with the seminary in Sewanee, TN (The University of the South,) in order to obtain the possibility to award academic degrees to candidates for the priesthood.