



Rev. George A. García 1945 - 2018

Father George A. García peacefully passed away on December 19, 2018 at Jackson Hospital West Hospice in Miami, FL.

He was born in Havana, Cuba on February 25, 1945. He studied in elementary and secondary schools, which were operated by the Piarist Fathers (Padres Escolapios) in Cuba. He eventually fled the island with his brother via Operation Pedro Pan. After a period of time, his parents were also able to leave the island, and the family settled in Miami.

Shortly afterward, Father García joined the Piarist Fathers as a novice in Derby, NY. He obtained degrees in chemistry and philosophy from the Catholic University of America in 1968. He later earned master's degrees in theology and divinity from St. Albert's College (Graduate Theological Union) in Berkeley, CA in 1973 and 1974, respectively.

He was ordained a priest with the Piarist Fathers on June 23, 1973 at St. John Bosco Church in Little Havana by Bishop Rene Gracida, who was then an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Miami.

Father García was a member of the Piarist Fathers Vice-Province of California. After ordination, he taught at St. Bernard High School in Los Angeles, CA from 1973 until 1975. He spent his summers by serving at St. John the Baptist Church in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

In order to take care of his parents, he asked to move to the southeastern United States. From 1975 to 1976 he taught at Cardinal Gibbons High School in Fort Lauderdale. After one year, in order to better care for his parents, he asked to leave the Piarist Fathers, the religious community which he loved, and to become an incardinated priest of the Archdiocese of Miami. He officially became a priest of the archdiocese on October 21, 1981.

He served in campus ministry at the University of Miami and as parochial vicar at St. Augustine Church from 1976 until 1979. He then served as campus minister at Florida International University and as parochial vicar at St. Agatha

Church from 1979 until 1982. Meanwhile, he also served as an advocate at the Metropolitan Tribunal from 1977 until 1984.

He was named associate director of religious education for the archdiocese in 1982 and director from 1983 until 1986. During much of that time, he lived and helped at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Miami.

From December 1985 until March 1986, he served as administrator of St. Kevin Church in Miami. He was then appointed administrator and later pastor of St. John the Apostle Church in Hialeah, where he served from 1986 until 1992. He also served as chaplain to the Catholic Educators Guild from 1985 to 1987.

In 1992, he joined the faculty of St. John Vianney College Seminary in Miami, and he was named rector in 1993. He remained in that capacity until 1996.

Father García was appointed as pastor of St. Hugh Church in Coconut Grove. He served in that capacity from 1996 until his retirement in 2012.

May Father George García rest in peace.