

“God-Who-Crosses: Migration, Exile, and the Preferential Option for the Marginalized and Oppressed”
Dr. Miguel H. Díaz

Abstract

The contemporary retrieval and revival of the Christian doctrine of God has been characterized by numerous voices from a wide range of perspectives that have underscored how the Christian confession about God, as Walter Kasper rightly points out, is not about God’s life locked up in some ahistorical and abstract realm. Rather, Christian faith confesses a God who is *for us and our salvation*. In his groundbreaking reflections on the Trinity, Karl Rahner laments the marginalization of the Christian doctrine of God from dogmatic theology and from ordinary Christian faith and experience. This presentation briefly explores the mystery of God from the perspective of Latino/a theology. Seen from this cultural perspective, the God who Christians confess, *is a God-Who-Crosses* unto human life to bridge human and divine life. Indeed, in his multiple border crossings, Jesus reveals a compassionate God willing to risk and offer life through the encounter and embrace of human persons and their distinct humanity.

It is not surprising that in contemporary times the same cultures that exile the Christian story of God from the center of dogmatic theology and from the life of the Church and society, also reject and marginalize communities of faith that identify with this story. If as I have argued, “Trinitarian theology can be conceived as the story of God’s dangerous migration through Christ and in the Spirit for the sake of offering life-giving resources,” then those Christian communities that lack various cultural and material resources offer the preferential loci where we can encounter a *vestigia trinitatis*. Indeed, the rich religiosity of Latino/a communities in the United States witnesses how Latinos/as “sense” their participation in God’s life as they struggle to migrate daily from death unto life, and as they seek, express, and celebrate through ordinary life-experiences (*lo cotidiano*) the life-giving mystery of God.

Bio

Miguel H. Díaz, PhD, is the John Courtney Murray University Chair in Public Service and former U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See. Díaz obtained his doctorate in Systematic Theology from the University of Notre Dame. He is a member of the Catholic Theological Society of America (CTSA) and member and former president of the Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States (ACHTUS). In 2013 he was the recipient of the prestigious Virgilio Elizondo Award from ACHTUS, given in recognition for distinguished achievement in theology.

His scholarly interests include Trinitarian theology, theological anthropology, political theology, and Latino/a theology. He is a prolific writer and public speaker. His publications include books, articles, and speeches, and he is now working on two books: *Building Bridges: God, Diplomacy, and the Common Good* and *The Mystery of God in Latino/a Theology*. He has contributed to efforts that bridge religion and foreign policy, especially through various efforts undertaken at the Department of State.

Díaz is married to Marian K. Díaz, also a theology professor at Loyola University Chicago, and together they are the proud parents of four children.