



**Most Reverend José H. Gomez, S.T.D.**  
*Coadjutor Archbishop of Los Angeles*

The Most Rev. José H. Gomez was born on December 26, 1951, in Monterrey, Mexico, the son of Dr. José H. Gomez and Esperanza Velasco, both deceased. He has three older sisters and one younger sister.

Archbishop Gomez was ordained a priest of the Opus Dei Prelature on August 15, 1978, by the late Cardinal Franz König, Archbishop Emeritus of Vienna, at the Shrine of Torreciudad, Spain.

Archbishop Gomez, holds a doctorate in Sacred Theology. He earned his accounting degree in 1975 as well as a B.A. in Philosophy. In 1978, the year he was ordained a priest, Archbishop Gomez completed his B.A. in Theology at the University of Navarre, Rome Campus. He then began working on a Doctorate in Theology at its Main Campus in Pamplona, Spain, receiving his Doctorate in 1980.

Until his appointment as Coadjutor Archbishop of Los Angeles on April 6, 2010, Archbishop Gomez has been serving as Archbishop of San Antonio since February 15, 2005. He had previously served as Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Denver, since his ordination on March 26, 2001.

His Episcopal motto is taken from a scriptural passage of the Letter to the Hebrews: “Let us go forth with confidence to the Throne of Grace” (Heb. 4:16).

Before being appointed as an Auxiliary Bishop, Archbishop Gomez’s primary priestly duty was to minister to lay people. From 1987 to 1999 he was in residence at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in San Antonio, assisting in the pastoral work of the parish. During this same timeframe Archbishop Gomez also helped in the then Diocese of Galveston-Houston in Katy, Texas.

Archbishop Gomez has distinguished himself as a respected national leader among Hispanic priests in the United States. In 1991, became a Regional Representative of the National Association of Hispanic Priests (ANSH), an organization which seeks to strengthen fraternity among the over 2,400 Hispanic priests in the United States and to communicate the faith effectively among diverse Hispanic congregations. He was then named President in 1995 and Executive Director from 1999-2001.

From 1997 to 1998, Archbishop Gomez served as a member at large on the board of directors for the National Catholic Council of Hispanic Ministry (NCCHM), and then was treasurer in 1999. From 1998 to 2000, he was on the steering committee for Encuentro 2000, a national celebration of the Jubilee Year 2000, which took place in Los Angeles and was sponsored by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

Archbishop Gomez is also an enthusiastic supporter of vocations to the priesthood and religious life, and constantly encourages all Catholics to witness their faith in their daily lives. He currently serves on the Board of St. John Vianney Seminary in Denver, CO, and is the Chairman of the Board for Assumption Seminary in San Antonio, TX. Recently, he became a member of the Advisory Board of the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors.

Archbishop Gomez also spearheaded the establishment of Denver's Centro San Juan Diego for Family and Pastoral Care, a place for formation of lay leaders and a base to provide welcoming services to immigrants.

While Auxiliary Bishop of Denver, he served as Rector of the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception from 2001 to 2003. After that, he was named Moderator of the Curia and Vicar General for the Archdiocese of Denver and assigned as the Pastor of Mother of God Catholic Church, in Denver.

In 2005 he was named one of *Time Magazine's* 25 most influential Hispanics in the United States, and in 2007 he was on a CNN's list of "Notable Hispanics" in a web special celebrating "Hispanic Heritage Month".

In 2006, Archbishop Gomez officially introduced The Catholic Community Foundation for the Roman Catholic Church of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, and established Hope for the Future, a fund that offers tuition assistance for Catholic schools in the Archdiocese.

In 2007, he was instrumental in bringing together Latino leaders and Bishops for the creation of the Catholic Association of Latino Leaders (C.A.L.L.). The Association's purpose is to impact the national dialogue and to contribute to the mission of the Church, by identifying initiatives important to the building up of the Catholic community and supporting them in accordance with the Bishops' directives.

On July 25, 2008 he was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI as a consultant to the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, whose purpose is to assist the human and spiritual needs of the Church in Latin America.

During 2008 and 2009 Archbishop Gomez served as the first chairman of the new Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church of the USCCB, which was created to respond to the numerous and urgent needs of Church and society today, within the context of increasingly diverse cultures and races in our country.

In March of 2010 Archbishop Gomez participated in a solidarity visit to Haiti as Chairman of the USCCB Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America, to assess the needs and the support of the Church in the USA to the Church in Haiti.

Archbishop Gomez presently serves on the following boards and committees:

- Chair: Task Force on the Spanish Language Bible for the Church in America (USCCB), 2003 -
- Chair: Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America (USCCB), 2009 -
- Chair-elect: Committee on Migration (USCCB), 2010 -
- Member: Committee on Doctrine (USCCB), 2003-
- Member: Subcommittee on Hispanics and the Liturgy (USCCB), 2005 -
- Board Member: CLINIC – Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.
- Board Member: ENDOW – Educating on the Nature and Dignity of Women
- Board Member: MATT – Mexicans and Americans Thinking Together
- Ex-Officio Board Member: Catholic Community Foundation, San Antonio
- Episcopal Moderator: ANSH – National Association of Hispanic Priests

- Episcopal Moderator: National Catholic Network de Pastoral Juvenil Hispana
- Founding Member: Catholic Association of Latino Leaders (C.A.L.L.)