

Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, D.D.

Nelson J. Pérez was born in Miami, Florida, on June 16, 1961 to David and Emma Pérez. He was raised in West New York, NJ. Archbishop Pérez earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from Montclair State University in 1983.

He then entered Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia, where he earned Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Theology degrees in 1988 and 1989.

Father Pérez was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul on May 20, 1989. His first assignment after ordination to the priesthood was as parochial vicar of Saint Ambrose Parish, Philadelphia (1989-1993). He also served as assistant director of the Office for Hispanic Catholics (1990-1993), founding director of the Catholic Institute for Evangelization (1993-2002), Pastor of Saint William Parish, Philadelphia (2002- 2009), and Pastor of Saint Agnes Parish, West Chester, PA (2009-2012).

His work in education included teaching courses in psychology and religious studies at LaSalle University, Philadelphia (1994-2008). Monsignor Pérez also taught Developmental Psychology at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary (Fall, 2011), in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. In 1998, he was named Chaplain to His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, with the title of Monsignor. In 2009, he was named a Prelate of Honor by Pope Benedict XVI.

Pope Benedict XVI appointed Monsignor Pérez Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre in New York on June 8, 2012. He was ordained a Bishop on July 25, 2012 in Saint Agnes Cathedral, Rockville Centre, NY by Bishop William F. Murphy. As Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, NY, Bishop Pérez served as Episcopal Vicar for the Eastern Vicariate, representing the Diocesan Ordinary and overseeing sixty-six parishes. He served as the Episcopal Vicar for Hispanic Ministry, overseeing fifty-four parishes with pastoral ministry to Hispanics as well as Formation Programs and Ecclesial Movements.

In addition, he served as a member of the Diocese of Rockville Centre's Priest Personnel Board, Presbyteral Council, corporate member of Catholic Health Services; vice-chair of Catholic Charities Board of Directors and member of its Executive and Governance Committees, member of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, chair of the Diocesan V Encuentro Planning Committee, chair of the Diocesan Advisory Committee for Hispanic Ministry, and was formerly a member of the Diocese's Catholic Faith TV Network board.

Pope Francis appointed Bishop Pérez the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Cleveland on July 11, 2017. He was installed at the Cathedral of Saint John the Evangelist on September 5, 2017.



On January 23, 2020 Pope Francis appointed him the 14th Bishop and 10th Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. A kind, joyous, and hard-working person, Archbishop Pérez enriches those ministries and people entrusted to his care. Rooted in Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation, "The Joy of the Gospel," Archbishop Pérez's pastoral vision can be summarized as: "Church on Mission: Proactive, Involved, Supportive, Fruitful, and Joyful."

As a part of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Archbishop Pérez served as chair of the Bishops' Standing Committee on Cultural Diversity, chaired the Bishops' Sub-Committee for Hispanic Affairs, and served as the lead Bishop for the V Encuentro process for the USCCB. He also served as a member of the Bishops' Sub-Committee for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and served on the Administrative and the Religious Liberty Committees for the USCCB.

Archbishop Pérez currently serves as the bishop liaison for the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM).

On December 7, 2020, Pope Francis appointed Archbishop Pérez to the Pontifical Commission for Latin America.

In September 2021, Archbishop Pérez received an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from La Salle University, Philadelphia.

In November 2022, he was appointed to a three-year term as Chair of the Board of Catholic Relief Services.

In December 2022, he received an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from Neumann University, Aston.

In May 2024, he received an Honorary Doctorate in Sacred Letters from Villanova University, Villanova.