



Press Contact:  
Juan C. Aguirre  
212-587-3070  
jaguirre@manoamano.us

For Immediate Release  
Photos and Interviews Available

## Mexican Catholics in New York: Faith and Community Conference March 25 and 26, 2011 At Lehman College and Fordham University

**New York, NY, March 01, 2011** -- Mano a Mano: Mexican Culture Without Borders presents **Mexican Catholics in New York: Faith and Community** conference in collaboration with the Archdiocese of New York, Lehman College, supported by Fordham University's Latin American and Latino Studies Institute, and the Francis and Ann Curran Center for American Catholic Studies to honor and explore the role that Catholicism plays in the lives of Mexican immigrants who have settled in New York within the last twenty years.

On Friday, 25 March 2011 at 7 p.m. Mano a Mano in collaboration with Lehman College will premiere the documentary, *Contigo al Norte, Guadalupe* at Lehman College. A film about the *Carrera Antorcha Guadalupeana*, organized annually by Asociación Tepeyac de New York, in which runners bring a torch from the Basilica of Guadalupe in Mexico City to St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. It will be followed by Q&A with Sergio Mastretta and Melchor Morán, who produced and directed the film.

The conference will continue on Saturday, March 26 at the McGinley Center at Fordham University with a two panel discussion on the history and current reality of the community. The first panel will discuss the history of the Mexican community in New York. Mexicans comprise the third largest Hispanic group in New York City and are the City's fastest growing Hispanic population. The second panel will explore the Catholic Church's central role in the adjustment of immigrants from Mexico to the United States - and specifically to our region.

The conference will explore:

- The central role of the Catholic Church in the lives of Mexicans in their native country and as immigrants in their new land
- The importance of the *Guadalupano* movement within local Mexican communities
- The role of community parishes and parochial schools
- Expressions of faith unique to Mexican New Yorkers
- Special issues related to family, youth and women in the Church
- Immigration, legal status and access to services

These program tracks will enable a range of constituents to benefit from specialized information. All attendees will share in provocative and informative plenary sessions. The conference is free. Registration is required.

Our guest panelists include:

**Sister Margarita Castañeda, CND**, director of the religious education program at St. Mary of the Assumption parish in Port Richmond.

**Deirdre Cornell**, author of *American Madonna: Crossing Borders with the Virgin Mary*, writes a column for *Revista Maryknoll* titled *Los Rostros Hispanos de Maria*. She holds a master's degree in theology and works for a Catholic outreach project for farmworkers in Ulster County, NY. She and her husband served as Maryknoll Lay Missioners in Oaxaca, Mexico.

**Alyshia Gálvez** is a cultural anthropologist (PhD, NYU 2004) whose work focuses on the efforts by Mexican immigrants in New York City to achieve the rights of citizenship. Professor Gálvez, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Latin American and Puerto Rican Studies at Lehman College/City University of New York. She is the author of *Guadalupe in New York: Devotion and the Struggle for Citizenship Rights among Mexican Immigrants* (2010, New York University Press).

**Rev. Fernando Hernández**, pastor of Saint Patrick's Parish in Newburgh, N.Y.

**Julie Leininger Pycior**, Professor of History at Manhattan College, teaches U.S. and Latin American history. Her research focuses mainly on the history of Mexicans in the U.S. and on U.S. Catholic history. She has served as a historical advisor for three Public Television documentaries. She received her B. A. from Michigan State University and her M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame.

**Rev. Santiago Rubio**, Pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Bernard Church

**Rev. Francis Skelly, C.Ss.R.**, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in the Bronx

**Robert Courtney Smith** is the author of *Mexican New York: Transnational Worlds of New Immigrants* (2005, University of California Press). He has also published many articles and book chapters on immigration and children of immigrants, education, transnational life, and Mexico. He is a professor at Baruch College/City University of New York. He is also a co-founder of the Mexican Educational Foundation of New York.

**Rudy Vargas IV**, Field Consultant for the University of Notre Dame, Alliance for Catholic Education/Catholic School Advantage Campaign in the Archdiocese of New York. Mr. Vargas served for eight years as Executive Director for the Northeast Hispanic Catholic Center, sponsored by the Roman Catholic Bishops of the Northeast Episcopal Regions I, II, III, and IV.

**Emily Socolov, PhD**, received her Ph.D. in Mexican Folklore and Folklife at the University of Pennsylvania and a Licentiate in Museum Studies from the National Institute of Anthropology and History in Mexico. She has researched, written and taught on traditional Mexican culture for over thirty years. She has collaborated extensively with the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage in fieldwork, teacher training and festival presentation. Socolov is *Mano a Mano*'s former Executive Director she worked in *Mano a Mano* for eight years, joining the initiative as Project Director at the Center for Traditional Music and Dance. In 2006, she led the organization to become an independent non-profit 501(c) 3.

## Complete Schedule\*

**Friday March 25, 2011**

**Film Screening**

**Lehman College**

East Dining Room • Music Building • Lehman College • 250 Bedford Park Blvd. West • Bronx, N.Y.

7:00 PM

Contigo al Norte, Guadalupe

Followed by Q&A with Sergio Mastretta and Melchor Morán, who produced and directed the film.

**Saturday March 26, 2011**

**McGinley Center, Fordham University**

McGinley Center • Rose Hill Campus • Fordham University • 441 East Fordham Road • Bronx, N.Y.

9:30-10:00 AM

### **Special Presentation**

10:15 AM

### **Welcome**

Juan C. Aguirre, Mano a Mano: Mexican Culture Without Borders' Executive Director

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

**Session One:** New York's Mexican Community: History and Actuality

### **Moderator**

Dr. Emily Socolov

### **Panelists**

Dr. Alyshia Gálvez, Lehman College/CUNY

Dr. Julie Pycior, Manhattan College

Dr. Robert Smith, Baruch College

11:30-12:30 AM

### **Discussants**

Mr. Joel Magallan, Asociación Tepeyac de New York

12:30-1:00 PM

### **Resource Room**

1:00 - 2:00 PM

### **Lunch**

2:00 - 4:00 PM

**Session Two:** New York Mexican Community Faith Expressions

### **Moderator**

Juan C. Aguirre, Mano a Mano: Mexican Culture Without Borders

### **Panelist**

Mr. Rudy Vargas IV, University of Notre Dame

Sister Margarita Castañeda, CND, Church Saint Mary of the Assumption

Rev. Fernando Hernández, St. Patrick's Newburgh

3:00-4:00 PM

**Discussants**

Deirdre Cornell, Author

Rev. Santiago Rubio, Pastor, Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Bernard

4:00-4:45 PM

Resource Room

5:00PM

**Mass with Mariachi Music**

\*Schedule is subject to change.

**About Mano a Mano:**

**Mano a Mano: Mexican Culture Without Borders** is a nonprofit organization (501(c) 3) in its tenth year of presenting major collaborative cultural events in the New York City area. Composed of Mexicans and Mexican-Americans of many generations and occupations, the Mano a Mano team strives to present the rich range of Mexican cultural forms. [www.manoamano.us](http://www.manoamano.us)

**About Lehman College**

Lehman College is a public senior liberal arts college in The City University of New York, founded in 1968, and located in the Northwest Bronx. It has 12,000 students. Lehman College has been proposed as the seat of a new CUNY-wide Mexican Studies Institute, currently in the proposal-development phase.

**About Fordham University**

Fordham University is an independent university in the Jesuit tradition. It was established in 1841 as St. John's College on old Rose Hill Manor in the village of Fordham, then part of Westchester County. The name was officially changed to Fordham University in 1907.

**Directions to Lehman College:**

**Subway/Train:** Take the No. 4 or D line to Bedford Park Boulevard. The campus is a three-minute walk to the west. Metro North's Harlem line has a local stop at the Botanical Gardens station. The campus is about 12 blocks due west on Bedford Park Boulevard.

**Bus:** Nine Bronx buses including the 2, 10, 22, and 28 have stops at Lehman College. The Liberty Lines (BXM4A or 4B) express buses from Manhattan stop near the campus, at Bedford Park Boulevard and the Grand Concourse.

**Directions to Fordham University, Rose Hill Campus:**

**Subway:** The D subway line stops at Fordham Road and the Grand Concourse, a few blocks from the University.

**Bus:** For local bus service, take the Bx9, Bx12, Bx22 or Bx61 to the University.

**Train:** Take the Metro North to the Fordham Road Station stop. Exit left out of the train station. The Fordham University Third Avenue gate will be a few steps ahead of you, on your left.



**Accessibility:** McGinley Center is accessible through the front of the building using the side entrance under the Vincent Lombardi Center sign. This entrance enables wheelchair access to the first floor elevator which goes to the second floor and gymnasium.

**For more information, please visit:** [www.manoamano.us](http://www.manoamano.us), call 212-587-3070 or email: [info@manoamano.us](mailto:info@manoamano.us).

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