

# Hispanic Theological Initiative



MARCH 09

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## HTI Fellow Present as Religious Advisor at Historical Inauguration



Last January, people from near and far traveled to Washington, D.C. to witness the historical inauguration of Barack Obama, 44<sup>th</sup> president of our nation and the first African-American to hold Office. Obama's defense of equality and the value of the work of the people that struggle and sacrifice for freedom is one that resonates with the theological worldview that many of our HTI fellows and mentors adhere to in their lives and work. In their faithful and fervent academic and communal labor, they are already busy in the task of remaking America, the same task of which our newly inaugurated president spoke so earnestly.

On such a momentous occasion, it was a matter of great joy to have **Dr. Miguel Díaz** (1998-1999 Dissertation Year fellow, HTI mentor), Associate Professor of Theology at St. John's University, announce that he was officially invited to be part of this event as a result of his service as a Catholic Advisor to Obama's National Campaign. Accompanied by his wife Marian, Dr. Díaz attended the Inaugural Presidential Swearing In ceremony in Washington, D.C. on January 20<sup>th</sup> and the National Prayer Service on January 21<sup>st</sup> at Washington National Cathedral.

Nevertheless, the excitement is not over for Dr. Díaz. He has been appointed to a National Task Force that will oversee upcoming revisions of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) standards, and he also signed a contract with Orbis Books to write a new book on the essentials of theology in Latina/o perspectives, but that's not all: St. John's University has just announced his confirmation to full professor! He received tenure on February 26<sup>th</sup>. Blessings have showered Dr. Díaz, and we wish him much success in these wonderful labors.

**"For we know that our patchwork heritage is a strength, not a weakness"**  
-President Barack Obama, Inaugural Speech

## Logros

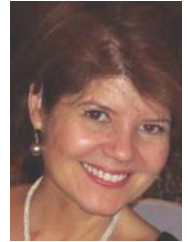


(Picture by Lynn Saville)

HTI is pleased to announce that **Dr. Daisy L. Machado** (HTI mentor, former HTI Director) has been appointed and inaugurated as Professor of Church History, with a focus on US Christianities, at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. The afternoon prior to her inauguration, Dr. Machado – alongside **Dr. Ada María Isasi-Díaz** (HTI mentor, Selection Committee member), Professor of Christian Ethics & Theology at Drew University, and others – participated in a public symposium titled, "Unheard Voices, Forgotten Cries: The Challenge of Invisible Communities for the Historical and Theological Enterprise". The group addressed the meaning of invisible communities and voices for the historical and

theological work that theological schools and seminaries must engage in today. Dr. Machado served as the first Director of the Hispanic Theological Initiative from 1996 to 1999, and from 2002-2006 she served as the Chair of the Board of the Hispanic Summer Program. She was also the first Latina vice president for academic affairs and dean of any theological seminary in the United States when she served at Lexington Theological Seminary.

We celebrate the wonderful news shared by **Dr. Zaida Maldonado Pérez** (1997-1998 Dissertation Year fellow, HTI former Director). Effective July 1st, 2009 she will have full professor status at Asbury Theological Seminary, where she currently serves as Associate Professor of Theology. Dr. Pérez has always been involved in the teaching and preaching ministries of the church and has been a guest speaker in conferences throughout the United States. Dr. Pérez served as Director of the Hispanic Theological Initiative from 1999 to 2002, after serving as Assistant Professor of Historical Theology at the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico. She is the author, with **Dr. Justo González** (HTI founder and former HTI Executive Director) of *An Introduction to Christian Theology*. Many congratulations, Zaida!



And our HTI family members keep reaping success! This time, **Dr. Luis Rivera Rodríguez** (HTI mentor, HTI Selection Committee member) was appointed as Dean of the Faculty, Vice-President of Academic Affairs, and James G.K. McClure Professor of Theological Education at McCormick Theological Seminary. With this appointment Dr. Rivera becomes the first Latino to hold the position of dean of faculty at a seminary of the Presbyterian Church (USA). He will remain in this position for a five year term beginning on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. In the words of Cynthia Campbell, President of McCormick Theological Seminary, "Luis's appointment is an important step forward in McCormick's vision for theological education as a cross-cultural venture in which the diversity of God's people becomes the catalyst for new ways of being Church and community." We wish him many blessings on this exciting venture!

## Logros (Cont.)



Last but not least, HTI congratulates **Felipe Hinojosa** (2008-2009 Dissertation Year fellow), who will assume the position of Assistant Professor of Latino/a History at Texas A&M University in the Fall. Felipe will be defending his doctoral dissertation early in April of 2009. We wish him the best as he wraps up his doctoral studies and enters the next phase of his academic career. Well done!

## Career Opportunities

### International Symposium on Ministry

Come June 10-15, 2009, the **International Theological Review Concilium** will be holding its Annual Meeting at Loyola University Chicago. Central to the meeting will be an international symposium on 'Ministries in the Church Today: North-South Dialogue' from Thursday - Saturday, June 11-13. The Concilium symposium will bring together participants from the developing world with representatives of the churches in the West to reflect on the importance of ministries in the church, including those of clergy, lay women and men. Jon Sobrino, S.J., of the University of Central America, will deliver the keynote address. Other members of the Board of Editors will also be among the speakers. If you are interested in attending the symposium, have questions, or would like receiving additional details as they become available, please email: [conciliumsymposium@gmail.com](mailto:conciliumsymposium@gmail.com).

### Wesley Theological Seminary Hosts Window on Discernment

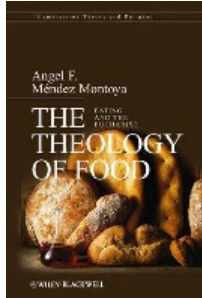


**Wesley Theological Seminary** invites all who are considering masters-level theological education to attend a Window on Wesley discernment and exploration event on April 21, 2009. Window on Wesley events are opportunities to explore seminary education for those preparing for ordained or lay ministry as well as individuals pursuing other vocational paths. For registration and more information on Window on Wesley, go to [www.wesleyseminary.edu/visit](http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/visit). If the scheduled events do not fit your schedule, call the Admissions Office at (202) 885-8659 or (800) 882-4987 ext. 1 to arrange an individual campus visit at another time. For additional information on academic programs, contact Beth Ludlum, Director of Recruitment, at (202) 885-8653 or [bludlum@wesleyseminary.edu](mailto:bludlum@wesleyseminary.edu).

We invite you to visit the Employment Opportunities section on our website [www.htiprogram.org](http://www.htiprogram.org) under HTI Alumni & Friends

## New in Print

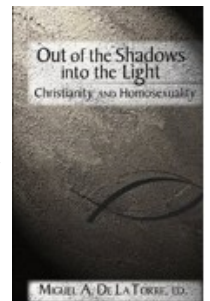
### The Theology of Food: Eating and the Eucharist



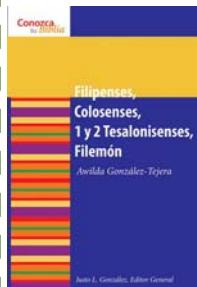
For all of you with culinary curiosity, please note that *Illuminations: Theory and Religion*, the theological book series from Wiley-Blackwell, will release its newest volume by April of the present year. Titled *The Theology of Food: Eating and the Eucharist*, this book focuses on the relationship between food and spirituality, embracing the value of food and recognizing the complexities of human eating habits (including aesthetic, ethical and political associations). Drawing on political, literary, philosophical, and theological concepts, the book explores the significance and functionality of traditions that involve the culinary in major religions as Judaism, Christianity and Islam. It has been described as “a fascinating book tracing the centuries-old links between theology and food, showing religion in a new and intriguing light.” The author, **Dr. Angel Méndez Montoya** (2003-2004 Comp Exams Year fellow), is Professor of Theology at the Universidad Iberoamericana de México. Dr. Méndez has been invited to the United Kingdom to present his book at the universities of Cambridge, Edinburgh, and Nottingham, and also to Berlin, Germany, to present at the Institute M. Dominique Chenu.

### Out of the Shadows, into the Light: Christianity and Homosexuality

Featuring a collection of essays addressing homosexuality in the Christian context, *Out of the Shadows, into the Light* focuses on communication in hopes of creating reconciliation for the Christian community. From multiple perspectives, the authors reflect on specific issues within the larger topic of homosexuality and Christianity, such as the impact of cultural conventions and prejudices, the role of Scripture in homosexuality debates and in the life of the homosexual community, and pastoral care for gays and lesbians. This new volume, published by Chalice Press, will be available in May. **Dr. Miguel A. De La Torre** (2000-2001 Post-Doctoral fellow), Professor of Social Ethics at Illif School of Theology and Director of Illif's Justice and Peace Institute, edited this volume. He is also the author of one of the featured essays, along with **Dr. Luis León** (2000-2001 Post-Doctoral fellow), Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Denver.



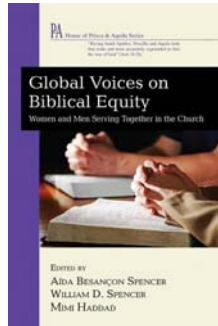
### Filipenses, Colosenses, 1 y 2 Tesalonicenses, Filemón: Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, Philemon



In this book **Dr. Awilda González-Tejera** (1998-1999 Dissertation Year fellow) helps us to better understand four of Paul's letters. In Philippians, Dr. González-Tejera discusses Christ's supreme sacrifice and exaltation. In Colossians she describes how Paul warns of the dangers of heresies that affect the church, and the establishment of Christ's supremacy. In Thessalonians, Dr. González-Tejera speaks directly of the coming of the Lord and other aspects of the end of times. Finally, in Philemon we see the enhancement of the ties with Christ among human relations. Dr. Awilda González-Tejera is the founder and professor of New Testament at Centro Educativo de Estudios Bíblicos in Dallas, TX, and a Member of AETH Executive Council.

## New in Print (Cont.)

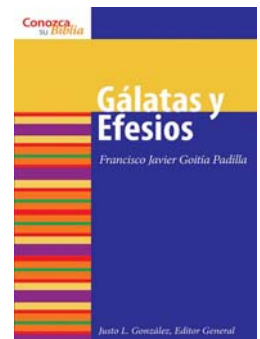
### Global Voices on Biblical Equity: Women and Men Ministering Together in the Church



This new volume offers a fresh take on the contextualization of gender equality. The Biblical Equality reform movement has contributors and leaders across the world. Some of those voices may be heard through this volume as ethnically diverse male and female writers engage the biblical text focusing on ministerial gender issues. Their writings address contextual challenges and adaptations, and explore the global impact of such a reading of the text. This work was edited by **Dr. Aída Besançon Spencer** (HTI Book Prize Selection Committee member), William David Spencer and Mimi Haddad. Other contributors include **Dr. Awilda González-Tejera**, John Runyon and Roberta Hestenes.

### Galatas y Efesios: (Galatians and Ephesians)

**Francisco Javier Goitía Padilla** (2004-2005 Dissertation Year fellow), invites us to join him in reading this book, mindful of three important questions: How is history seen from the characters' point of view? How are matters of power presented and clarified in the text? Where is the direction of God's acts leading us to? This book helps us to reflect on how to live a life of faith and testimony according to God's will in the midst of the realities and difficulties that affect Christians in Hispanic communities in the United States, Puerto Rico and Latin America.



## For Your Prayers...

Please remember **Dr. Sharon Ringe** (HTI mentor), Professor of New Testament at Wesley Theological Seminary, and **Dr. Nancy Eiesland** (former HTI Editor), Associate Professor of Sociology of Religion at Emory University, in your prayers, since they are ill at this time.

We thank you for your prayers and inquiries concerning **Dr. Alberto Pulido** (HTI mentor), Professor of Ethnic Studies at the University of San Diego, and **Dr. Jeanette Rodríguez** (HTI mentor), Professor of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Seattle. Both report that they are on the road to recovery.

## HTI's Newest Family Member

**Gabriel Salguero** (2003-2004 Comprehensive Exams Year fellow), Director of the Hispanic Leadership Program at Princeton Theological Seminary, and his wife, Jeanette are thrilled to announce the arrival of their new baby boy, Seth.



As always, we ask all of our community members to keep us posted of any news items you would like to have considered for inclusion in our newsletter by emailing us at [hti@ptsem.edu](mailto:hti@ptsem.edu). Remember to include pertinent information, such as website or email addresses, as well as any photographs (preferably in .jpeg format). The deadline for receiving submission is the **25th** of each month. Keep in mind that each submission should be no more than two paragraphs long, and remember to help us maintain our newsletter mailing list up to date, by advising us of email address changes. ¡Gracias!

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