



Dominican Month of Peace

Week 2 ~ December 5 - 11, 2021

*"Up Jerusalem! Stand upon the heights;
look to the east and see your children gathered
from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One,
rejoicing that they are remembered by God." Baruch 5:5*



The Order of Preachers in Venezuela: Torch of Hope

DECEMBER 10, 2021 | 9:00-10:00 A.M. EST
Presenters:

Father José Juan De Paz, OP
Master of novices of the Vicariate of Venezuela of the province of Rosario

Sister Dilcia Zambrano, O.P.
Counselor and General Secretary of the Dominican Religious of Santa Rosa Lima

The Catholic Church and the Dominican Order in Venezuela

The Church's roots in Venezuela began with the missionary activities of the religious orders sent from Spain and Hispaniola.

Around 1515, Pedro De Córdoba, the Dominican prior of the convent that challenged (through Montesino's preaching) the Conquistadors' treatment of the Indians, requested a land grant on the northern coast of South America which barred Spanish activity. De Córdoba hoped that the land would serve as a haven for Indians from the nearby slave raiding and for missionary work. When Las Casas showed the letter the Council of the Indies, the Bishop of Burgos laughed at the idea of granting land that would return no profit for the Crown. The establishment of the mission ended in a massive massacre by the Spaniards in which the missionaries were also victims including Juan Garces, the repentant conquistador turned Dominican lay brother.

The Dominicans continued their mission in Apure and Barinas, where they founded 20 towns.

Since the [Second Vatican Council](#), the Roman Catholic Church in Venezuela has been weakened by a lack of diocesan and religious vocations. Many priests serving in Venezuela are foreign-born. In the past, the Catholic Church did not have the funds, the personnel, or the enthusiasm to stem effectively this new challenge to its hegemony, but it believed it faced a greater threat with the new government of Hugo Chavez.

Although President Chávez self-identified as a practicing Roman Catholic, his policies have concerned the Venezuelan Roman Catholic hierarchy, especially in the area of religious education. Besides its universities and colleges, the Roman Catholic Church also administers some 700 other schools throughout the country, mostly subsidized by the Venezuelan state. In 2007, Cardinal [Jorge Urosa](#), the [Archbishop of Caracas](#), called for peaceful demonstrations against any direct government involvement in overseeing the Church's administration of schools. The Church has also been critical of the government for wanting to remove religious education from public schools during normal school hours.



A short video reflecting the values that should be supported by the democratic values of the Venezuela Constitution....

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Np4uR2fTafP0kbqNrDWe44s-i0uJZvPJ>

A Dominican sister's experience.....

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1WnXk13Ljd9qR39FYd9hTPLRsvyl2C7Pu>
