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# The Catholic Church in Cuba: The Present Situation and Challenges for the Future

Jose Conrado Rodriguez

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# Cuban Research Institute

Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs



## The Catholic Church in Cuba: The Present Situation and Challenges for the Future Lecture by José Conrado Rodríguez

Tuesday, January 30, 2018 | 7:00 PM | FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus | Green Library (GL) 220

The Catholic Church is the leading nongovernmental institution in Cuba today. From its strong clashes with the Cuban revolutionary government in the early 1960s, through its long period of isolation and marginalization in the 1970s and 1980s, the church has improved its relations with the state, especially after the visit of Pope John Paul II to the island in 1998. The church has recently played the role of mediator between civil society and state authorities, particularly in securing the release of 75 political prisoners in 2011. The Vatican has been credited with facilitating the secret conversations that led to the reestablishment of diplomatic ties between the United States and Cuba in July 2015.

What is the current status of the Catholic Church in Cuba? What are its basic needs and aspirations? What role could the institution play in a post-Castro Cuba? These are some of the key questions to be addressed in this talk by Father José Conrado Rodríguez, based on his personal experience for more than forty years as a parish priest on the island.

José Conrado Rodríguez is the rector of the San Francisco de Paula parish in Trinidad, Cuba. Born in San Luis, Oriente province, Cuba, he entered the San Carlos and San Ambrosio Seminar in Havana and was ordained as a priest in 1976. He is the author of the book *Sueños y pesadillas de un cura en Cuba* (2017).

**This event, to be conducted in Spanish, is free and open to the public.**

To confirm your attendance and for more information, please call (305) 348-1991 or write [cri@fiu.edu](mailto:cri@fiu.edu)



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