

The Rev. Canon Simón Bautista Betances



The Rev. Canon Simón Bautista Betances was born and raised in the Dominican Republic. He was ordained as a Roman Catholic priest in 1987 after obtaining his bachelor's degree at the Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra, and completing his theological studies at Seminary Saint Thomas of Aquinas, both in Santo Domingo. He later returned to teach philosophy at his alma mater. He served the Haitian immigrant community in the Dominican Republic for 12 years. During his ministry in the Dominican Republic, he served as pastor of two parishes and as the director of the National Center for Haitian Pastoral, a nonprofit run by the Roman Catholic Church. Bautista has lived in the United States since 1993, and moved to the Washington metropolitan area in 1999. He taught Spanish for 5 years at a private high school in Hyattsville, Md. In January 2004, he was received into the Episcopal Church as a priest by the Right Rev. John Bryson Chane, Bishop of Washington. He has served as the Episcopal Diocese of Washington's Canon for Latino Ministries since 2004, overseeing seven Spanish-speaking congregations in the Diocese of Washington. He also serves on the Board of Directors of Casa de Maryland, the largest organization working with immigrants in the Washington, D.C., area, and on the Latino Advisory Group for the Montgomery County Executive. Bautista is married to Amarilis Vargas and they have four children: María Teresa, Simón Antonio, María Leaquina and Amarilis de los Ángeles-Lili.