

# Cathedral Ministry Conference

January 5-8, 2026 | San Fernando Cathedral, San Antonio



## WHAT IS THE CATHEDRAL MINISTRY CONFERENCE?



The **Cathedral Ministry Conference** ([www.cathedralministry.org](http://www.cathedralministry.org)) is a biennial meeting of those involved in ministry in Cathedrals and Basilicas throughout North America. Past conferences held in Orlando, San Antonio, New Orleans, Los Angeles, Seattle, St. Augustine, Milwaukee, Salt Lake City, Minneapolis/St. Paul, and Santa Fe have been great successes, allowing cathedral pastors/rectors, musicians, and lay ministers to meet, interact, pray, learn, and be renewed in ministry together. As in past years, the 2026 Cathedral Ministry Conference will offer three stellar keynote presentations that will be of interest to all who are engaged in cathedral ministry as well as workshops aimed at a variety of more particular interests and concerns. The conference provides time for networking and fellowship with other cathedral ministers from around the country. This is a unique opportunity to share ideas with counterparts from cities large and small around the United States. The current governing board includes: Bishop Bismarck Chau, Newark | Father Michael G. Ryan, Seattle | Father Carlos Velazquez, San Antonio | Father Enrique Salvo, New York City | Father Christopher Hearnue, Brooklyn | Father Daniel Griffith, Minneapolis | Father Andy Matjevic, Chicago | Maria Laughlin, Seattle.

## SAN FERNANDO CATHEDRAL, SAN ANTONIO



San Fernando Cathedral was founded on March 9, 1731 by a group of 16 families who came from the Canary Islands at the invitation of King Phillip V of Spain and is the oldest, continuously functioning religious community in the State of Texas. This church was planned to be at the center of life in this city. The Cathedral building has the added distinction of being the oldest standing church building in Texas, and for all of its more than 281 years, has been serving the people of the Archdiocese and San Antonio. For almost 95 years, San Fernando served as the church for all of the religious denominations of San Antonio as the Catholic Church was the only recognized religion of the Spanish and Mexican governments prior to Texas' independence. San Fernando has become more than the geographic center; it has become an ecumenical, cultural, civic, and service center of unity and harmony for

all the God-loving people of San Antonio and beyond. San Fernando serves as a refuge for many of the poor in this area who come for help and trust their needs will be met. As the first church in the city, San Fernando has a rich history of responding to the people's needs in and around the church.

## THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO



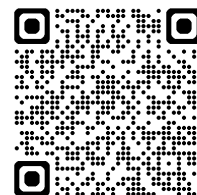
San Antonio is notable for its diversity, its incredibly rich history, and its vibrant culture. It is home to the Alamo, an historic site and a symbol of the Texas Revolution. San Antonio also boasts a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, which includes four 18th-century Spanish missions. The city is known for its lively River Walk, a popular tourist destination with shops, restaurants, and water taxis. Additionally, San Antonio is a major hub for Tex-Mex cuisine and is home to numerous festivals and events, showcasing its diverse cultural heritage.

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND FEES

The registration fee is **\$595** for a single person, **\$525** each for multiple registrants from the same Cathedral. Register online at [www.cathedralmin.org](http://www.cathedralmin.org) or use the registration form at the back of this leaflet. Make your check payable to San Fernando Cathedral and send with your registration to:

Cathedral Ministry Conference  
San Fernando Cathedral  
231 W. Commerce Street  
San Antonio, TX 78205

Please note that hotel reservations **MUST** be made separately by **December 4**. Contact the DRURY PLAZA SAN ANTONIO RIVERWALK directly at 1-800-325-0720 and reference Group No. 10118718 to receive the special rate of \$179 per night. Or visit <https://www.druryhotels.com/bookandstay/newreservation/?groupno=10118718>. You may also use the QR code at right.



## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

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### Father Michael G. Ryan BUILDING A GREAT CATHEDRAL

Father Michael G. Ryan served as pastor of St. James Cathedral in Seattle for thirty-seven years. He attended the North American College in Rome, and, on December 17, 1966, was ordained a priest at St. Peter's Basilica. In 1977 Archbishop Raymond G. Hunthausen appointed him as Chancellor for the Archdiocese of Seattle and Vicar General. He served in those capacities until 1988 when the same Archbishop appointed him Pastor of St. James Cathedral. In 1994, Father Ryan oversaw the nationally acclaimed renovation and restoration of the Cathedral. Under his leadership, the Cathedral parish tripled in size, drawing families from more than 180 ZIP codes. Father Ryan has been a member of the governing board of the Cathedral Ministry Conference since its inception. On July 1, 2025, Father Ryan became Pastor Emeritus of St. James Cathedral.



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### Sister Tere Maya, CCVI THE SYNOD: NOW WHAT?

Sister Teresa Maya is a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio. She has served as teacher, history professor, administrator, leader, facilitator and speaker. She is passionate about forming ministers committed to transforming Church and society. She believes in life-long learning and has a strong conviction in the future of consecrated life.

Sister Teresa got her B.A. at Yale University, her M.A. at the Graduate Theological Union at Berkeley and the Ph.D. in El Colegio de Mexico in Mexico City. She served fourteen years in the leadership of her religious institute and on the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) presidency from 2016-19. She accompanies other religious congregations as facilitator and consultant.

She is currently serving as Senior Director for Theology and Sponsorship in the Catholic Health Association (USA).



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### Father Ron Rolheiser, OMI THE SPIRITUALITY OF CATHEDRAL MINISTRY

Ronald Rolheiser is a Roman Catholic priest and member of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. He is a community-builder, lecturer, and writer. His books are popular throughout the English-speaking world and have now been translated into many languages. His weekly column is carried by many newspapers worldwide. Before this present position, he taught theology and philosophy at Newman Theological College in Edmonton, Alberta, for 16 years, served as Provincial Superior of his Oblate Province for six years, and served on the General Council for the Oblates in Rome for six years. From 2005 – 2020, Fr. Ron served as President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio Texas. He remains on staff at OST as a full-time faculty member.





## DAY ONE: MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2026

- 1pm-5pm Registration at Drury Plaza San Antonio Riverwalk  
4pm Guided tour of San Fernando Cathedral, Father David Garcia  
4:45pm Guided tour of San Fernando Cathedral, Father David Garcia  
5:30pm **Evening Prayer at San Fernando Cathedral**  
*Father Carlos Velazquez, presider*  
6:30pm **Opening Reception**  
9pm or 9:30pm *The Saga (optional)*

## DAY TWO: TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2026

- 7:00am Breakfast  
8:30am **Morning Prayer at San Fernando Cathedral**  
9:30am **KEYNOTE BUILDING A GREAT CATHEDRAL**  
**Very Reverend Michael G. Ryan**  
10:30am Coffee Break/Visit our vendors

### 11:15am Workshops: Series A CHOOSE ONE OF THREE

- A-1 **Best Practices Panel: Outreach Ministries**  
Panelists share stories and offer best practices for outreach ministries in a wide variety of Cathedral settings. There will be time for conversation and engagement with participants, as well. *Panelists include: Patrick Barredo, St. James Cathedral, Seattle; Janice Anderson, Basilica of St. Mary, Minneapolis; and representatives from San Antonio Catholic Charities.*
- A-2 **Writing and Re-Writing our History**  
This workshop explores how the stories we tell from our diocesan and Cathedral history can help us understand the unique charism of our local church and can also serve as a powerful tool for evangelization. *Presenter: Father David Garcia, Archdiocese of San Antonio.*
- A-3 **The First Years of Cathedral Ministry**  
Cathedral ministry is a unique form of pastoral ministry. This presentation, facilitated by two experienced pastors, will focus on the challenges and exciting possibilities that come with pastoring a cathedral community. The presenters will share their insights but the heart of the workshop will be responses to questions submitted in advance by those intending to participate. *Presenters: Father Michael G. Ryan, Pastor Emeritus, St. James Cathedral, Seattle; and Father Christopher Heanue, Diocese of Brooklyn.*

- 12:30pm **Lunch at the Drury Plaza San Antonio Riverwalk**  
Networking/Visit our vendors

### 2:00pm Workshops: Series B CHOOSE ONE OF THREE

- B-1 **Best Practices Panel: Capital Campaigns, large and small**  
Panelists share stories and offer best practices for outreach ministries in a wide variety of Cathedral settings. There will be time for conversation and engagement with participants, as well. *Panelists include: Father Daniel Griffith, Basilica of St. Mary, Minneapolis and Maria Laughlin, St. James Cathedral, Seattle.*



**B-2 The Diocesan Synod: San Antonio Story**  
Long before the Synod on Synodality, consultation was a way of life in the Diocese of San Antonio. Learn how the diocese convened a diocesan synod and created the long-term vision which guides their work together. *Presenter: Most Reverend Michael J. Boulette, Juan Carlos Rodriguez, San Antonio.*

**B-3 Not tourists, but pilgrims**  
Many of our Cathedrals draw people of all faiths and no faith at all to view our historic, beautiful churches. How can we turn tourists into pilgrims by the way we welcome, embrace, and teach them? *Presenters: Father Enrique Salvo, New York City; Father Carlos Velazquez, San Antonio.*

3:30pm Break/free time  
5:00pm **Mass at San Fernando Cathedral**  
Father Carlos Velazquez, presider and homilist  
6:00pm Happy Hour "Kickback" at the Drury Plaza  
7:00pm Dinner on your own. Enjoy the city!  
9 or 9:30pm The Saga (optional)

## DAY 3: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2026

7:00am Breakfast  
8:30am Morning Prayer  
9:30am **KEYNOTE SYNOD: NOW WHAT?**  
Sister Tere Maya, CCVI  
10:30am Coffee Break/Visit with our vendors

### 11:15am Workshops: Series C CHOOSE ONE OF THREE

**C-1 Best Practices Panel: Cathedral-Specific Liturgies**  
Panelists share stories and offer best practices for those liturgies that only happen in the Cathedral, including Chrism Mass, Rites of Election, Ordinations to the Priesthood, and more. There will be time for conversation and engagement with participants, as well. *Panelists include: Father Andy Matjevic, Chicago; Corinna Laughlin, Seattle; Dolores Martinez, San Antonio.*

**C-2 Beauty that Saves. Art that Heals.**  
Exploring how the art of our Cathedrals lift us up and invite us to bring hope and healing to the world. *Presenter: Johan van Parys, Basilica of St. Mary, Minneapolis.*

**C-3 Welcoming the Stranger**  
Presenter Norma Pimentel, MJ is a Mexican-American nun of the Missionaries of Jesus and the executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley. She has been praised by Pope Francis and others for her work with refugees and immigrants to the United States. *Presenter: Sister Norma Pimentel, MJ.*

12:15pm **Lunch**  
Networking/Opportunity to visit our vendors  
1:30pm **Visit to the Missions or free time**





## About the San Antonio Missions

San Antonio is home to the largest concentration of Spanish colonial missions in North America. Named the first World Heritage Site in Texas by the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO), San Antonio Missions National Historical Park encompasses the city's four southernmost missions – Concepción, San José, San Juan and Espada. The historical park and missions are estimated to bring over one million visitors a year. All four mission churches still function as active Catholic parishes that hold regular services, making it a destination site for not only culture, history and education but also deep faith.



El Camino de San Antonio Missions pilgrimage center, a new cultural and spiritual hub, brings new life to these historic sites by linking the four missions — and the oldest functioning Cathedral in Texas — to each other while also serving as a starting point for pilgrimage.

**We will visit the Missions of Concepcion and San Jose, the Margil Pilgrimage Center, and the World Heritage Center near the San Jose Mission. Father David Garcia will be our guide.**

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|--------|--|
| 5:30pm | <b>Mass at San Fernando Cathedral</b><br>Archbishop Gustavo Garcia Siller, presider and homilist |
| 7:00pm | <b>Cathedral Ministry Closing Banquet</b>  |

## DAY 4: THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026

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|---------|---|
| 7:00am  | Breakfast   |
| 8:30am  | Morning prayer  |
| 9:30am  | <b>KEYNOTE THE SPIRITUALITY OF CATHEDRAL MINISTRY</b><br><b>Father Ron Rolheiser, OMI</b> |
| 10:30am | Cathedral Ministry Conference concludes   |

## THE DRURY PLAZA HOTEL SAN ANTONIO RIVERWALK

The Drury Plaza Hotel San Antonio Riverwalk (105 South St. Mary's Street) will host the conference workshops, keynotes, and most of our meals as well. A block of rooms has been reserved for the Cathedral Ministry Conference at a special rate of \$179 per night. The Drury Plaza San Antonio Riverwalk features comfortable rooms, a rooftop pool and plenty of meeting space for business events. It is located on the San Antonio River with countless restaurants and shops within scenic walking distance.



**Please note that hotel reservations MUST be made separately.** Contact the Drury Plaza Hotel San Antonio Riverwalk directly and reference the Cathedral Ministry Conference to receive the special rate of \$179 per night. Or visit [www.cathedralmin.org](http://www.cathedralmin.org), and follow the link to make your hotel reservation online.



# CATHEDRAL MINISTRY CONFERENCE SAN ANTONIO 2026



REGISTER ONLINE AT [WWW.CATHEDRALMIN.ORG](http://WWW.CATHEDRALMIN.ORG) OR COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM BY DECEMBER 1, 2025

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Cathedral name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Your role at Cathedral: ☐ Pastor/Rector ☐ Staff *Position/Title* \_\_\_\_\_

## Workshop Selections

Please assist us in planning by selecting one in each of the three series of workshops

**Tuesday, January 6, 2026**  
11:15am Workshop

\_\_\_\_\_ A1 Best Practices Panel:  
Outreach

\_\_\_\_\_ A2 Writing and Rewriting our  
Cathedral History

\_\_\_\_\_ A3 The First Years of Cathedral  
Ministry

**Tuesday, January 6, 2026**  
2:00pm Workshop

\_\_\_\_\_ B1 Best Practices Panel:  
Capital Campaigns

\_\_\_\_\_ B2 The Diocesan Synod: San  
Antonio's Story

\_\_\_\_\_ B3 Not tourists, but pilgrims

**Wednesday, January 7, 2026**  
11:00am Workshop

\_\_\_\_\_ C1 Best Practices Panel:  
Cathedral-specific Liturgies

\_\_\_\_\_ C2 Communications: Owning  
the Story and Sharing the  
Good News

\_\_\_\_\_ C3 Welcoming the Stranger  
with Norma Pimentel, MJ

## Wednesday excursion to the Missions

Please indicate if you'd like to take one of the planned Wednesday afternoon excursions. *The cost is included in your registration.*

☐ San Antonio Missions ☐ Free afternoon on my own

## Registration Fee

- ☐ \$595 single registration (includes meals)
- ☐ \$525 each (if two or more participants from one Cathedral)

Please enclose your check payable to **SAN FERNANDO CATHEDRAL**  
OR REGISTER AND PAY ONLINE AT [WWW.CATHEDRALMIN.ORG](http://WWW.CATHEDRALMIN.ORG)

**Please note:** Your registration is for the Conference only.  
**Hotel reservations must be made separately!** Contact the  
Drury Plaza San Antonio Riverwalk directly at 1-800-325-  
0720 and reference Group No. 10118718 to receive the  
special rate of \$179 per night. Or visit <https://www.druryhotels.com/bookandstay/newreservation/?groupno=10118718>. Or use QR code at right.



## Return this form

by DECEMBER 1, 2025 to:

**Cathedral Ministry Conference**  
**San Fernando Cathedral**  
**231 W. Commerce Street**  
**San Antonio, TX 78205**

You may also register online  
at [www.cathedralmin.org](http://www.cathedralmin.org)

**Cancellations and refunds:** A refund of fees paid, less \$50, will be made upon receipt of written cancellation before December 15, 2025. After December 15, no refunds can be given.

Cathedral Ministry Conference  
San Fernando Cathedral  
2131 W. Commerce Street  
San Antonio, TX 78205

If you go to one conference in 2026,  
this should be the one!

## CATHEDRAL MINISTRY CONFERENCE

January 5-8, 2026 | San Antonio

### CATHEDRAL MINISTRY CONFERENCE 2026: SAN ANTONIO



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1pm-5pm Registration at Drury Plaza San Antonio  
Riverwalk  
4pm, 4:45pm Guided tour of San Fernando Cathedral  
5:30pm Evening Prayer at San Fernando Cathedral  
7:00pm Opening Reception  
9:00pm *SAGA (optional)*

#### TUESDAY, January 6, 2026

7:00am Breakfast  
8:30am Morning Prayer  
9:30am KEYNOTE: **Father Michael G. Ryan**  
10:30am Coffee Break  
11:15am **Workshops Series A**  
12:30pm Lunch/Networking  
2:00pm **Workshops Series B**  
3:30pm Break  
5:30pm Mass at San Fernando Cathedral  
9:00pm *SAGA (optional)*

#### WEDNESDAY, January 7, 2026

7:00am Breakfast  
8:30am Morning Prayer  
9:30am KEYNOTE: **Sister Tere Maya, CCVI**  
10:30am Coffee Break  
11:00am **Workshops Series C**  
12:15pm Lunch/Networking  
1:30pm Afternoon excursions  
5:30pm Mass at San Fernando  
7:00pm Cathedral Ministry Closing Banquet

#### THURSDAY, January 8, 2026

7:00am Breakfast  
8:30am Morning prayer  
9:30am KEYNOTE: **Father Ron Rolheiser, OMI**  
10:30am Wrap up, evaluations

Register online at [www.cathedralmin.org](http://www.cathedralmin.org)