

JOSEPH DELEON



The Rev. Deacon Dr. Joseph DeLeon is a successful playwright and television screenwriter, published author, theologian, and professor of Religious Studies at the University of the Incarnate Word for the past six years. During his long and distinguished academic career, Dr. DeLeon has also taught at Central Penn College in Summerville, PA, St. Mary's University, Mexican American Catholic College (seminarians studying for the priesthood) in San Antonio, Texas, and the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, in Austin, Texas.

His television series, *La Esquina*, was produced by the Southwest Educational Development Lab in Austin, Texas, and was funded by a quarter-million-dollar grant from the U. S. Department of Education to foster the development of positive self-images for Middle and High School Mexican American students. However, immediately after production, the series were acquired by NBC affiliates in several states and acquired a 30-market share.

His plays, the critically-acclaimed *La Abuela Chicana*, a variation on Ben Jonson's *Volpone*, and *El Mago de Mexico*, a Mexican American musical adaptation of *The Wizard of Oz*, were performed to sold out audiences in various venues in San Antonio, Texas – including the Teatro Guadalupe (premiere), University of Our Lady of the Lake, Witte Museum, and outdoor performances at the Alazan-Apache Courts.

As an ordained Catholic Deacon, Dr. DeLeon has served at dioceses in San Antonio, Texas, Oakland, California, and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and has been actively involved in the international Catholic Apostolic Movement known as "Cursillos in Christianity" for twenty years serving as the General Editor of the *Spiritual Advisors Manual*, Spiritual Director at numerous English and Spanish language Cursillo Weekends for men, women and teens, and presenting at National Conferences throughout the United States.

Dr. DeLeon has been a member of a number of professional associations and organizations including the American Academy of Religion, the Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians in the United States, and has been a Fellow of the Hispanic Theological Initiative Doctoral Studies Program at Princeton, Notre Dame's Institute for Latino Studies, and a recipient of a Pew Charitable Trusts Grant to attend the 2010 Seminar in Christian Scholarship at the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Dr. DeLeon earned his PhD in the Philosophy of Theology (Systematics) at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California, his Master's Degree in Religious Studies at the University of the Incarnate Word, and his Bachelors at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas.