
Pope Francis appoints new Archbishop of Havana

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On Tuesday, April 26 Pope Francis formally accepted the resignation due to age, of the historic Archbishop of Havana, Jaime Lucas Ortega y Alamino, and appointed Juan de la Caridad García Rodríguez from Camagüey as his replacement.

García Rodríguez was born on July 11, 1948 in Camagüey, he studied philosophy and theology at the San Basilio de El Cobre Seminary and San Carlos and San Ambrosio of Havana Seminary.

On January 25, 1972 he was ordained into the priesthood and began his ministry first at the parish of Morón and then Ciego de Ávila.

Later he was named parish priest and Parochial Vicar of Jatibonico and Morón.

In 1989 he was appointed priest in the municipality of Florida, Camagüey. He founded and directed the school for missionaries of the Archdioceses of Camagüey, where he was named Assistant Bishop on March 15, 1997 and later Bishop on June 10, 2002.

Today, Pope Francis also accepted the resignation due to age of Assistant Bishop of Havana, Alfredo Víctor Petit Vergel.

They also appreciate the invaluable pastoral work developed by Cardinal Jaime Ortega since his appointment as Bishop of Pinar del Rio in 1978, and later as Archbishop of Havana since 1981.

Ortega will set up residence at the Father Felix Varela Cultural Center (former home to the Seminar of Saint Charles and Saint Ambrose.)

