

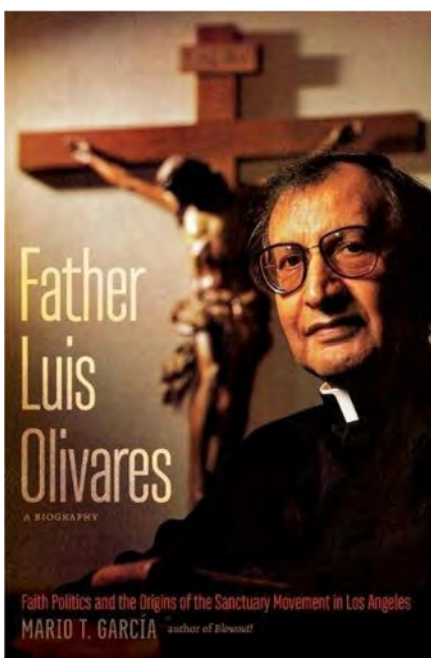


# Father Luis Olivares: Faith, Politics, and the Origins of the Sanctuary Movement in Los Angeles

Mario T. García, Distinguished Professor of History and Chicana and Chicano Studies  
University of California, Santa Barbara

SEPTEMBER 12

Wednesday, September 12, 2018 | 11:00 am | Zimmerman Library, Waters Room



Join the UNM Department of Sociology and campus partners for a special presentation with Dr. Mario T. García, Distinguished Professor of History and Chicana and Chicano Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, as he discusses his forthcoming book, *Father Luis Olivares: A Biography - Faith, Politics, and the Origins of the Sanctuary Movement in Los Angeles* (University of North Carolina Press, 2018).

This is the amazing untold story of the Los Angeles sanctuary movement's champion, Father Luis Olivares (1934–1993), a Catholic priest and a charismatic, faith-driven leader for social justice. Beginning in 1980 and continuing for most of the decade, hundreds of thousands of Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees made the hazardous journey to the United States, seeking asylum from political repression and violence in their home states. Instead of being welcomed by the "country of immigrants," they were rebuffed by the Reagan administration, which supported the governments from which they fled. To counter this policy, a powerful sanctuary movement rose up to provide safe havens in churches and synagogues for thousands of Central American refugees.

Based on previously unexplored archives and over ninety oral histories, this compelling biography traces the life of a complex and constantly evolving individual, from Olivares's humble beginnings in San Antonio, Texas, to his close friendship with legendary civil rights leader César Chávez and his historic leadership of the United Neighborhoods Organization and the sanctuary movement.

*"A major contribution. Father Luis Olivares's story is a significant one, and in García's hands, it is very well told."*

—Gilberto Hinojosa, University of the Incarnate Word

*"Beautifully written and impeccably sourced. With grace and a storyteller's heart, García has done an exceptional job in bringing the incredible story of Father Luis Olivares to life."*

—Felipe Hinojosa, Texas A&M University



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