

Bishop Daniel E. Flores, S.T.D.

Biographical Summary

Fernando Javier Flores and Lydia Dilley Flores, the parents of Daniel E. Flores, were both born of families long established around the town of Zapata, Texas, with roots on both sides of the border between Texas and Mexico. They married in Corpus Christi, Texas, in 1958, and began to raise their family in that city. During the first years of their marriage, seeking work to support his family, Daniel's father worked construction, and for this reason the family moved frequently. They lived for a time in various towns, such as Palacios, Texas, Luling, Louisiana, Meridian, Mississippi, McAllen, Texas and Zapata, Texas. They would return to Corpus Christi whenever work was available in the area. Daniel Flores, second son of Fernando and Lydia, was born in 1961 in Palacios, Texas. He was baptized at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Zapata, Texas.

Daniel received his First Holy Communion and Confirmation at Saint Paul the Apostle Church in the Flour Bluff area of Corpus Christi. He graduated from Flour Bluff High School in 1979. During high school, he began to consider the possibility of studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Corpus Christi. He attended the University of Texas at Austin for two years, prior to entering the seminary. In 1981, he entered Holy Trinity Seminary, an institution associated to the University of Dallas. He received a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy in 1983, and a Masters of Divinity in 1987. He completed his preparations for the priesthood in 1988.

In January 1988, he was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Corpus Christi by Bishop Rene H. Gracida. As a priest of the Diocese of Corpus Christi, he served in a number of capacities, including Parochial Vicar at Corpus Christi Cathedral, Secretary to the Bishop, Diocesan Master of Ceremonies, Assistant Chancellor, Rector of the Saint John Vianney House of Studies, and Episcopal Vicar for Vocations. In September 1995, Pope John Paul II named him a *Chaplain to His Holiness*, with the honorary title of *Monsignor*. In September 1997, he was sent by Bishop Roberto Gonzalez, OFM, to Rome to pursue a doctoral degree in the theology of Saint Thomas Aquinas. He resided at the North American College, *Casa Santa Maria* in Rome, while studying at the *Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas* (the *Angelicum*). He completed his degree (S.T.D.) in 2000. He returned to Corpus Christi that year, and was appointed Chancellor of the Diocese of Corpus Christi by Bishop Edmond Carmody.

In August 2001, he was sent to serve in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston as part of the formation faculty of *St. Mary's Seminary* and the teaching faculty at the *University of St. Thomas School of Theology*, in Houston, Texas. He taught courses in Patristics, Medieval and Thomistic Theology, and Modern Catholic Literature. He was named Vice-Rector of St. Mary's Seminary in June 2002. In September

2005, Bishop Edmond Carmody named him to serve as Rector of Corpus Christi Cathedral, in Corpus Christi, Texas. During the months of the scholastic year 2005-2006, he administered Corpus Christi Cathedral while completing his seminary duties in Houston, Texas. In June of 2006, he returned to the Diocese of Corpus Christi to assume the position of Cathedral Rector on a full time basis.

In October 2006, Pope Benedict XVI named Monsignor Flores auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Detroit, in Michigan. He was ordained on November 29, 2006, in a ceremony presided over by Adam Cardinal Maida, Archbishop of Detroit. Recognizing the growing population of Catholics of Hispanic heritage in the Archdiocese of Detroit, Cardinal Maida named Bishop Flores to oversee Hispanic ministry in the Archdiocese. At the same time, he gave his responsibility over a region of the Archdiocese, and he directed him to teach theology at the Archdiocesan Major Seminary (*Sacred Heart Major Seminary*). With time, he was assigned as Episcopal liaison to the Cardinal for Black Catholic Affairs in the Archdiocese of Detroit, and moderator of matters related to Catholic hospitals in the Archdiocese. Bishop Flores continued with these responsibilities under the direction of Archbishop Allen Vigneron, who was named Archbishop of Detroit in January, 2008.

On a national level, as a member of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (*USCCB*), Bishop Flores serves as a member of the subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs, and as a member of the Committee for Ecumenical and Inter-religious Affairs. He was elected to serve on the board of directors of Catholic Relief Services (*CRS*), the charitable arm of the United States Bishops Conference for international assistance. He currently serves as a member of the board of directors of the Mexican American Catholic College (*MACC*), located in San Antonio, Texas, and also serves on the board of directors of the *Instituto Cultural de Liderazgo Medio Este*, (*ICLM*), centered at South Bend, Indiana.

Bishop Flores' father passed away in 1984; that same year his maternal grandmother, Teresa Dilley, also passed away. She was always an intimate part of the Flores-Dilley family. Bishop Flores' mother lives in Corpus Christi, Texas. He has two brothers and one sister. He has numerous nephews and nieces. He also maintains close relations with his aunts, and cousins, and other familial relations established over the years.

On December 9, 2009, Pope Benedict XVI named Bishop Flores the sixth bishop of the Diocese of Brownsville, in Texas.