

Catholic Theological Union Presents Honorary Degree to Msgr. Arturo Bañuelas at its 2018 Graduation

Contact: Zach Czaia, zczaia@ctu.edu; 773.371.5416

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 23, 2018

CHICAGO – Catholic Theological Union (CTU) will present an honorary doctorate in ministry to Msgr. Arturo Bañuelas at its 50th commencement ceremony on May 24. Honorary degrees are conferred annually by the faculty and Board of Trustees upon individuals whose contributions to the fields of scholarship and service reflect the values to which Catholic Theological Union is committed.

Msgr. Bañuelas is a priest of the Diocese of El Paso, Texas, and serves as pastor of St. Mark Parish there. Since his ordination in 1976, his ministry focus has been on border culture and border justice issues. CTU honors Msgr. Bañuelas for his work on these issues and for his advocacy on behalf of migrants and refugees.

In 1988, Msgr. Bañuelas founded the Tepeyac Institute, one of the largest centers in the nation training lay people for parish ministry and leadership in the Church. Reflecting the vision of Msgr. Bañuelas, preparation and formation are done from the perspective of border reality and in light of the Church's teachings on social justice.

He was a co-founder of the Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States (ACHTUS) in 1989 and was elected its president in 1991.

Msgr. Bañuelas also founded Hope Border Institute which addresses issues of justice in the border dioceses of El Paso, Las Cruces, and Juarez. He was the founding chair of the El Paso-Southern New Mexico Inter-Faith Alliance that includes leaders of more than 25 faith traditions. He has served boards of organizations that provide legal assistance for migrants and refugees, health grants to border communities, and scholarship funds for children of its *colonias* to attend parochial schools.

At the commencement ceremony, CTU will also present an honorary doctorate in theology to Sr. Katarina Schuth, OSF, honoring her for her lifetime of scholarship and research on theological education, religious formation, and preparation of Church leaders for ministry.

The commencement ceremony will take place May 24, 2018, at 3 p.m., at K.A.M. Isaiah Israel Congregation in Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood. More than 80 graduates representing 21 countries will receive certificates or master's level degrees in the areas of Intercultural Studies and Ministry; Justice Ministry; Liturgical Ministry; Pastoral Studies; and Theology. CTU will also confer Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees.

###

About Catholic Theological Union: *CTU is a Roman Catholic graduate school of theology and ministry. Its mission is to prepare effective leaders for the Church, ready to witness to Christ's good news of justice, love, and peace. CTU's 4,000 lay and vowed religious graduates are serving in 60 countries worldwide.*