



# Meet Fr. Juan Manuel Camacho, Our Pastor!

I am Juan Manuel Camacho. With you, I have been a faithful Christian since my baptism in December 1982, and for you, I have been your pastor since 2024. I grew up in a devout Catholic family in Valle de San José, Colombia, where nightly rosaries were a family tradition led by my mother. Family prayer was always something that my mother made sure we did as a family. Despite trying to avoid them as a child, stepping away from altar serving at age 12, and drifting from the faith in my teenage years, I eventually found my way back to the Church.

I planned for a farming life, following in my father's footsteps as a coffee farmer. I was hoping to have a college degree and run the farm, and expected to marry and raise a family. However, my path shifted after meeting the Community of St. Paul, whose missionary work inspired me to serve the poor. The Community of Saint Paul was my hook to serve the Lord. I felt compelled to serve those in need. I felt the call from the Lord to abandon my plan and follow his plan of service. I became a Community of Saint Paul member and never looked back.

I spent five years as a missionary in the Dominican Republic, where I began discerning my call to the priesthood. It took me a while to start my path to the priesthood. Still, with prayer, discernment, guidance from spiritual mentors, and my growing love for theology, I moved to Milwaukee in 2008 to pursue seminary studies at Saint Francis Seminary. I came to study theology for 4 years in Sacred Heart School of Theology, where I earned a Master's in Divinity and Master of Arts in Scripture Theology.



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I was ordained on May 19, 2012. I went to the Dominican Republic in La Sagrada Familia, where I served for 7 years as an associate pastor and then as a pastor of the parish. I came back to serve in Racine on July 1, 2019. When we began the collaboration between Saint Patrick's, Saint Richard, and Saint Edward Parishes. In 2021, I became the pastor of those three parishes. In June 2023, Sacred Heart was added to the group of parishes. In August 2023, I was appointed Episcopal Vicar for Hispanic Ministry of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and Dean of Racine Deanery. In July 2024, I became pastor of the Eight Parishes that make up the great Catholic community in Racine.

I love my vocation and am grateful to God for calling me to serve. I am blessed that the Lord has taken me to places like Kenya, Africa, to serve, and the Dominican Republic, and I am now here with you. It has been a great blessing to serve all of you. As you know, my schedule is quite full being the pastor of eight parishes, episcopal vicar for Hispanic ministry, and dean. Still, in my spare time, which the Lord always provides, I enjoy reading, cycling, and playing pickleball.

You can contact Fr. Juan at [frjuan@cccracine.org](mailto:frjuan@cccracine.org)



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