

**“Futuring our Past: The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Latino/a Theology”  
Dr. Marian K. Díaz**

Abstract

From its origins, Latino/a theology has taken culture as its primary lens for theological reflection. Latino/a theology fundamentally addresses the richness and complexity of culture(s) that shape the identity of various Latino/a communities utilizing the whole spectrum of theological methodologies. In addition to its central focus on culture, two other striking features of the expansion of Latino/a theology have been the intentional creation of a community of scholars, una *teología en conjunto* and Latino/a theologians commitment to reflecting theologically with and through particular communities of Christian faith and their everyday and diverse human experiences (*lo cotidiano*) This presentation will explore how Latino/a theology may best be served by ongoing faithfulness to these original and formative charisms.

Bio

Marian K Diaz, D.Min., is an Assistant Professor of Practical Theology at the Institute of Pastoral Studies at Loyola University Chicago. She currently works closely with the Master of Arts in Social Justice degree. She completed her doctoral work at Barry University and her dissertation was entitled, *Filling the Hungry with Good Things: A Local Approach to Christian Religious Education and Formation*. Marian has taught in Catholic higher education for over ten years and directed two Lilly Grants for the Programs for Theological Exploration of Vocation at the College of St. Benedict and St. John’s University. She holds a research MA in Bible from Catholic Theological Union and a BA in the Program of Liberal Studies and Philosophy from the University of Notre Dame. Marian’s interest include practical theological method, adult formation in diverse cultural contexts, questions related to gender in different religions, mission/identity in Catholic higher education and domestic and global social justice issues.