



UNIVERSIDAD FRANCISCO DE VITORIA

CURRICULUM VITAE

OF

MISTER FRANCISCO JOSÉ GÓMEZ DE ARGÜELLO WIRTZ

Honoris Causa Doctorate

UNIVERSIDAD FRANCISCO DE VITORIA



Francisco José Gómez de Argüello Wirtz was born in León on 9 January 1939. He studied Fine Arts at the San Fernando Academy in Madrid and in 1959 he was awarded the Extraordinary National Prize for Painting. After a profound existential crisis, he underwent a serious conversion that led him to dedicate his life to Jesus Christ and to the Church.

Convinced that Christ is present in the suffering of the innocent and the most disadvantaged, in 1964 he went to live among the poor, moving into a slum in Palomeras Altas, on the outskirts of Madrid. There he met Carmen Hernández, who came from having spent time in the land of Israel, in living contact with the Word of God and Jewish traditions. Kiko and Carmen, at the request of the poor with whom they lived, began to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, giving rise to a type of preaching—a kerygmatic-catechetical synthesis—which formed a small Christian community, a "seed" which, thanks to the then Archbishop of Madrid, Mons. Casimiro Morcillo, was planted in parishes in Madrid, later in Rome and in many other cities all over the world.

The Neocatechumenal Way was observed by 4 Popes (St. Paul VI, St. John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Pope Francis) and definitively approved by the Holy See in 2008 as an itinerary of Christian formation valid for the present day. Based on the tripod "Word of God—Liturgy—Community", it seeks to lead people to fraternal communion and mature faith. It is currently widespread in 135 nations, with 21,350 communities and more than one million brothers.

Kiko Argüello, painter, architect, sculptor and musician, in addition to designing and building parishes, Neocatechumenal centres and Redemptoris Mater seminaries all over the world for the new evangelisation, according to the guidelines of a "new aesthetic", designed and built an International Centre in Israel, the "Domus Galilaeae Monastery", visited every year by thousands of Catholics and Jews.

In 2010, Argüello composed a Symphonic-catechetical work: "The Suffering of the Innocents", which through music, based on the pain of the Virgin at the foot of the cross, describes the suffering of the innocent in the world. After being performed in Israel before various authorities and 200 bishops, the deeply impressed Jews acknowledged that they felt understood and loved by the Church faced with the pain of the Shoah (the Holocaust). From then on, it served as a bridge for dialogue between the Jewish people and the Catholic Church. Since it was composed, it has been performed in several places: in Poland (Auschwitz-Birkenau and Lublin), in Israel (Galilee and Jerusalem), in the United States (New York, Chicago and Boston), in



Hungary (Budapest), in Japan (Tokyo, Koriyama, Fukushima), Rome, Madrid, etc.

Kiko Argüello has also received several HONORIS CAUSA doctorates.

The first was awarded by the Pontifical "John Paul II" Institute of Rome for Studies on Marriage and the Family, on 13 May 2009, for recognising the work of leading the family to rediscover baptism with its particular theological and pastoral contribution to defend the family in the cultural crisis in which it is plunged.

The second by the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, on 26 June 2013, for Kiko Argüello's contribution to the post-conciliar renewal of the Church, leading those who are far away to the biblical and liturgical sources of faith.

The third was awarded to Kiko and Carmen by the Catholic University of America in Washington on 26 May 2015 *in Sacra Theologia* for their evangelising decision to bring the poor into communion with Christ and the Catholic faith.