

## **José Rendón**

With titles in Sociology and Theological Studies, José Rendón has devoted his life to serving the community, not only as a spiritual counselor, but also through law enforcement agencies and correctional institutions. Established in Palm Beach County since 1983, Chaplain Rendón has trained and served varied positions from Belle Glade to West Palm Beach.

Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, José spent his infant years in Santurce. At the age of 5, his family moved to the Bronx in New York City. He attended the DeWitt Clinton High School in Mosholu Parkway in the Bronx. As a youngster he felt the desire to help make things better for the Puerto Rican and the Hispanic Community in New York City.

He did course studies in Theology and Religious education in Bronx in 1976 and later in Sociology at Adelphi University in New York. He became a Pastor at the age of 24. During that time he also held various positions in New York in the capacities of Patrol Officer, Eligibility Counselor and Vocational Rehabilitation Consultant.

In 1979 he received a Bachelor's degree in Bilingual Social Studies from the Latin American University in Puerto Rico and in 1986 a Master's degree in Bible Theology from the International Bible Institute and Seminary in Florida. In 1980 he attended the Correctional Probation/Parole Academy in Vero Beach and the Recruit Academy of the Palm Beach Community College in Lake Worth. From 1983 to 1995 he was an ESL Instructor at the Palm Beach County Adult Education Department. José Rendón has also been Chaplain for the Florida Highway Patrol since 1984 and for the Palm Beach County's Sheriff Office since 1985. In 1997 he attended the Criminal Justice Institute, also at the PBCC. From 1983 to 1989 he was a Rehabilitation Therapist for the Psychology Department at the Glades Correctional and from 1989 to 1991 he was Corrections and Probation Officer at the same facility.

In 1991 he started working with the Sheriff's Office as a Corrections Deputy at the Substance Abuse Awareness Program in West Palm Beach. Presently, Mr. Rendón is also the Chaplain for the Latino Law Enforcement organization in Florida and member of the Black Elected Officials of Palm Beach County and is the liaison for the Chaplains Unit of the Sheriff's Office. He is also a member of the Advisory Council for the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for Palm beach County.

More recently, since December 2005, Chaplain José Rendón was assigned to the Community Relations Unit of the Sheriff's Office, becoming the liaison between the Sheriff's Office and the Hispanic Community in Palm Beach County.

With over 37 years of experience as counselor and with community involvement, José Rendón is a creative and resourceful asset for the community and a trustworthy and ethical leader, confident and poised in his interactions with individuals at all levels.