From: **President's Office** <president@niagara.edu>
Date: Wed, Jun 17, 2026 at 11:22 AM
Subject: Welcoming New Members to Our Vincentian Community to Niagara University
To: Announcements <announcements@niagara.edu>

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY

Dear Members of the Niagara University Community,

I am pleased to announce that Niagara University is welcoming two distinguished Vincentian priests to our campus family this summer, further enriching our commitment to academic excellence, mission formation, and the holistic development of our students. Both individuals bring a wealth of diverse, international experience in pastoral care and education, and their services are generously supported through grants from the Eastern Province of the Congregation of the Mission. I am most grateful to the province for its generosity in providing us with these mission-central resources.

Please join me in extending a warm welcome to the newest members of our community:



Rev. Walner Diaz, C.M.: Father Diaz will join our community full-time in the campus ministry sector beginning Aug. 17. Ordained in 2022, Father Diaz is a native of El Salvador and is bilingual. He brings a rich background in dedicated pastoral care, having extensively ministered to Hispanic communities, diverse Latin American populations, and historically diverse neighborhoods in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

At Niagara, Father Diaz will focus his pastoral efforts on supporting our students' spiritual, academic, and human formation. With a strong passion for youth ministry, vocations, and the liturgy, he is eager to engage directly with our student body, promote community engagement, and support our student-athletes and international populations. His office will be located in Campus Ministry on the Gallagher Center's lower level. Father Diaz will move to campus July 1, ahead of his official August start date.

Rev. Aneesh Mathew, C.M.: We are also delighted to welcome Father Mathew, who has been assigned to Niagara University as assistant director of international relations and mission formation. In this role, he will report to the associate provost for international enrollment and the director of mission and ministry. Fr. Mathew will have office locations in both DePaul 133 (International Relations) and Campus Ministry. He will begin his ministry on July 8.



Father Mathew is from Kerala, India, with more than 15 years of experience in education, administration, and ministry. He earned a doctorate in curriculum and instructional leadership from St. John's University, New York, where his research examined the impact of technology-focused professional development on mathematics achievement. He has served in a variety of leadership and academic roles, including schoolteacher, seminary and college lecturer, vice principal, and regional educational coordinator. Most recently, he served as principal of De Paul International Residential School in Mysore – where he facilitated several international collaborative initiatives – and currently serves as principal of De Paul High School in Visakhapatnam, India.

As we prepare for the upcoming semester, the arrival of Father Diaz and Father Mathew represents a vibrant addition to our campus life, reinforcing our shared Vincentian tradition and our culture of care for the whole person. I encourage you to stop by and extend a warm Niagara welcome to them as they settle into their new roles.

With every good wish,
James J. Maher, C.M.