



Rigoberto Morales Garcia, Sr.

Mr. Garcia is a 1948 graduate of St. Peter Claver Catholic School. He is a retired school principal whose exceptional example of Christian values and community activism has inspired generations.

Rigoberto M. Garcia is passionate about St. Peter Claver, and has been a faithful supporter for many years. His journey at St. Peter Claver began in first grade and continued on to his 8th grade graduation. He attributes any personal and professional accomplishment he achieved (including learning to speak English) to his formative years at the school, under the tutelage of Sister Felicity, Sister Hilda Rose, Father Flanagan, Father Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Theresa Warren, and numerous other nurturing Nuns and Clergy.

Mr. Garcia graduated from Tuskegee Institute (now University) with a Bachelors of Science in Physical Education; served as student curator of the famed Dr. George Washington Carver Museum; and captain of the basketball team. He earned a Master in Education at Florida A&M University, and has served professionally as a 6th grade teacher, physical education teacher, basketball coach and retired as Principal of Gary Adult School.

Mr. Garcia is a member of the Tuskegee University Athletic Hall of Fame. In 2013, he was recipient of the Tuskegee University Southeastern Region Alumnus of the Year Award. He has been a member of St. Peter Claver Catholic Church since 1943, and is recipient of the St. Jude of the Apostle Award, presented by the Bishop of the St.

Petersburg Diocese. He is a former Eucharistic Minister, Coordinator, Seniors Ministry, and charter member of the Knights of Peter Claver Council #379. In 2009, he was named St. Peter Claver Volunteer of the Year. Mr. Garcia is also a Life Member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

Mr. Garcia is married to Mrs. Sonja W. Garcia, and they are parents of two sons, two-daughters-in-law, six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.