



Kino Border Initiative
Iniciativa Kino para la Frontera

Father Sean Carroll, S.J., Executive Director

“Our vision is to make the border a more humane place.”



In 2006, Father Sean Carroll, S.J. participated in the exploratory phase of a new migrant ministry to be established in Southern Arizona and Northern Mexico. A needs assessment revealed that border services for deported migrants, while well-meaning, were not meeting the need fully. These efforts led to the inauguration of the Kino Border Initiative, a Catholic, bi-national, collaborative effort that focuses on

humanitarian assistance, education, research and advocacy in the area of migration. Sean has been the Executive Director of the KBI since 2009.

At the time of the needs assessment, Sean was the Associate Pastor at Dolores Mission Church in Los Angeles, serving there for the previous two years. In addition, he had recently taken on the responsibilities of Pastoral Ministries Assistant for the California Province of the Society of Jesus. There he helped coordinate pastoral initiatives among twelve Jesuit parishes in California, Arizona, Utah and Hawaii, laying the basis for the collaborative work and advocacy his current role requires.

Born in South Weymouth, Massachusetts on June 24, 1966, the eldest of five children, and raised in Southern California, Sean graduated from Stanford University with a Bachelor’s degree in History in 1988. He began his Jesuit studies the following year, entering the California Province of the Society of Jesus. Sean’s mentor at Stanford, Father Russ Roide, S.J., Director of Campus Ministry, was influential in guiding a young man of conscience to his calling. As Sean remembers, “Russ had an enormous impact on my life.”

On May 27, 2000, Sean was ordained a priest, and served for four years as Associate Pastor at St. Patrick’s Church in Oakland, CA, before moving to Los Angeles for his work at Dolores Mission.

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