

# The Rev. Lecia Diaz Brannon

Lecia is a third generation Mexican American patrilineal, fifth generation Northwestern European matrilineal and fourth generation Episcopalian. She was born and raised in Santa Maria on the Central Coast of California with her younger sister.

From her baptism at St. Peter's Episcopal Church to her current ministry as Director of Alumni Relations for Seminary of the Southwest, Lecia's discipleship, service and leadership in The Episcopal Church continues to grow in her commitment to listen, learn and love through her ministries.

Lecia served in key laity roles as well as the job of Parish Administrator to St. James' Episcopal Church during her discernment to the priesthood. Her time spent in lay leadership and parish administration gave her the grounding of the daily lifeblood of the church, the people who are seeking community and faith.

After many years in business management, leadership in the church, marriage and parenting three children, Lecia sensed God's call to more. This call was a response of faith nurtured in deep places of pain and tragedy, the death of her daughter, her son's drug addiction and her husband's near death by a cardiac event. And, from great joy, marriages of her children, births of grandchildren, honoring her daughter's life through speaking for The Silent Witness Initiative and mentoring students in life through math. These experiences are the foundation of her faithful commitment to the lives of others.

It was in Lecia's time with The Silent Witness Initiative, a national movement to bring awareness, healing and prevention of deaths from domestic violence that she found her voice of speaking out against injustice and into truth and love. For several years, Lecia spoke on behalf of Silent Witness and worked alongside her local women's shelter.

After graduation from St. Joseph High School, Lecia attended Allan Hancock College. When family life took precedence, she continued to pursue her degree one class at a time earning her Associate Degree. During her discernment process, Lecia completed her Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration. In 2013, Lecia and her husband Matthew moved from their California home to Austin, TX for Lecia to attend Seminary of the Southwest.

During seminary, Lecia was Bookstore manager, Co-president of Student Council and a student member of the Administrative Council. Her field education parish, St. David's Episcopal Church provided rich opportunities of community in the parish and with the marginalized of Austin. Lecia earned her Master of Divinity in 2016.

Lecia was ordained to the diaconate in June 2016 and to the priesthood in December of 2016. She remained in Texas for a curacy with Calvary Episcopal Church in Richmond and went on to serve there as Associate Rector and Locum Tenens. In 2020, she was called to Rector at St. Mary's in Cypress, TX. The opportunity to return to Seminary of the Southwest came in November of 2022 to present. Lecia's ministry continues in relationship and connection with alumni and the seminary.