



### **William H. Gonzalez**

In 1998, William H. Gonzalez' life's work was symbolized in two events. His career as professor of languages and literature at the University of Utah was honored in a ceremony that took place in his beloved Spain. At the Spanish Royal Academy (Real Academia Española) in Madrid, he was inducted as a corresponding member. He was also inducted into the prestigious North American Academy of Spanish Language, which has less than 30 members worldwide. Gonzalez' nomination was based largely on his book, *Romancero Religioso de la Tradición Oral* (*Religious Ballads of Oral Tradition*). Gonzalez had spent years collecting and transcribing ballads for the book, which received rave reviews in Spain. He was the first person to organize, categorize, transcribe and publish religious ballads. Over his academic career, he published five books, 15 articles, gave dozens of interviews and had 24 papers read at convention.

Gonzalez' area of specialization is Medieval Spanish Literature: Romancero (Medieval Narrative Poetry) and New Mexican Alabado (Religious Poetry). For 30 years, Bill Gonzalez dedicated his life to researching, tutoring, advising and orienting the communities of Utah. He taught approximately 30,000 students in his career with whom he shared all of his experiences from Monticello, California and Spain. Now retired, he enjoys seeing his former students, and reciting one the many abalados (ballads) from his books.

Tell us about your family.

"I am the son of a farmer cowboy and a homemaker wife who raised 10 children convinced that work was sacred, which meant work from sunrise to sunset. All of this was emphasized by daily prayers and the teaching that God was always present."