

One Church Many Cultures

The Good News of Cultural Diversity

Greetings from the
Most Reverend Daniel E. Flores
Chairman, Committee on Cultural
Diversity in the Church

Dear Friends in Christ,

My name is
Bishop Daniel
Flores and
I am the Bishop
of Brownsville,
Texas.
I currently serve
as chairman of
the Committee
on Cultural
Diversity in the
Church (CDC) at
the United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops
(USCCB).



*Bishop Daniel E. Flores,
Bishop of Brownsville,
Texas, Chairman,
Committee on Cultural
Diversity in the Church*

The bishops' Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church has a two-fold mission. We work to assist the many culturally diverse Catholic communities in our country to strengthen and transmit the faith in ways that respect the richness of their heritage.

Continued on page 2 →

In This Issue

From the Desk of the Executive Director	3-4
News from the Subcommittee on African American Affairs	5-6
News from the Subcommittee on Asian Pacific Island Affairs	7-8
News from the Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs	9-11
News from the Subcommittee on Native American Affairs.	12-13
News from the Subcommittee on Pastoral Care for Migrants, Refugees and Travelers	13-16
Special Points of Interest	
Building Intercultural Competencies for Ministers	17
Resources.	18
Meet the Staff	19
Contact and Socialize with Us.	20

“Our God-given human diversity challenges all Catholics to achieve ecclesial integration, “to discover ways in which we as Catholic communities, coming from diverse cultures and ethnicities, can be one Church.”

*USCCB Secretariat for Hispanic Affairs,
Many Faces in God's House (1999),
Introduction*

Greetings from the
Most Reverend Daniel E. Flores *Continued from page 1*
Chairman, Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church

This means that we must stay in close contact and communication with our diverse communities, particularly those that are smaller in population, so that they can develop the resources they need to share the Gospel within the wider Church in the United States, and without fear of losing the uniqueness of their cultural identity and contributions.

Secondly, we work within the context of the pastoral priorities of the Bishops so that all of our efforts as a Conference proceed in a manner reflective of the bishops' conviction that our preaching and teaching the Catholic Faith is most true to itself and most effective when we proceed with an awareness of and a profound respect for the blessing of our culturally diverse Catholic communities.

One Church Many Cultures: The Good News of Cultural Diversity is an effort to communicate regularly with all of you. First of all, to encourage your efforts to assist us as pastors of culturally diverse dioceses and parishes in the challenging task of building up Catholic unity in the midst of such a rich Catholic diversity.

Secondly, to give you periodical updates on the activities sponsored by the CDC Committee and its five Subcommittees, and carried out by the Staff of the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church. And finally, to showcase some of the wonderful initiatives that are going on in the extended Cultural Diversity networks.

The Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church is blessed with a dedicated and culturally diverse staff that seeks to model and promote intercultural awareness and competence among the various departments of the USCCB and Catholic dioceses in the United States. The staff also interfaces with scores of ethnic, cultural and racial communities throughout the country.

The work of the subcommittees focuses on African American, Asian, Hispanic, and Native American communities, but also includes refugees, migrant farmworkers, circus and travelling show workers, seafarers, and other "people on the move," who often do not find the pastoral care they need given their particular ways of life. To them the Church extends a caring hand through her ministerial networks and the staff of the Secretariat.

There are many faces in God's house and all are called to the banquet! May our Blessed Mother, the Virgin Mary, Star of the First and New Evangelization, gather us tenderly under the mantle of her maternal love! ▮



Dear Friends,

Welcome to *One Church Many Cultures: The Good News of Cultural Diversity*, the newsletter of the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church.

Throughout the United States we experience a profound demographic shift as Africans, African Americans, Asians, Caribbean people, Hispanics, and many other communities of non-Western European origin are on the rise.

Today, the Church's mission to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and promote the life and dignity of each and every human being has much to do with insight into cultures. Catholic parishes are moving from mono-cultural patterns to ones we call "shared," that is, parishes in which more than one language, racial or cultural group gather to celebrate the Eucharist and embody the Christian community. For ministers and pastoral workers to be effective in this diverse environment, the right knowledge, attitudes and skills need to be developed.

I am excited that the relaunching of this newsletter coincides with the publication of our newest resource, [*Best Practices for Shared Parishes: So That They May All Be One* \(pub. No. 7-389\)](#). Its goal is to assist pastors and pastoral teams in welcoming diverse communities and building unity in diversity.

The number of Catholic parishes shared by culturally diverse communities grew dramatically in the previous decade, going from 22 percent in 2000 to 33 percent in 2010, and all indicators show that this trend will continue in the next decade. Today, it is estimated that 6,300 Catholic parishes around the country serve ethnic, language and culturally diverse communities. Please review the most recent [*CARA study*](#) for more information.

The Committee on Cultural Diversity developed the guide through consultation with pastors that have successfully achieved a high level of ecclesial integration and inclusion amongst their culturally diverse parishioners. Twenty pastors from different ethnic backgrounds

and regions of the country were consulted over a period of 18 months, and three of them participated in the development of the resource into its final form.

The guide is a practical tool to assess challenging ministerial situations, identify pastoral responses based on proven best practices, and apply intercultural competencies in the form of attitudes, knowledge, and skills.

The resource will also help to discern pastoral planning strategies based on integration, inclusion and intercultural sensitivity, which leads to a higher level of stewardship.

We are most grateful to the pastors and other experts who helped us to reflect on this topic. We hope the resource will be helpful to many communities that are undergoing similar population changes, so that they can reach out and become true missionary disciples in their neighborhoods.

Continued on page 4 →



*Mrs. María del Mar Muñoz-Visoso, MTS,
Executive Director,
Secretariat of Cultural
Diversity in the Church*



As the “Best Practices” guide says in its final paragraph, “We are keenly aware that the work for the New Evangelization is being carried out in shared parishes in a unique way, as we become missionaries to one another, and honor the presence of Christ in our diverse cultures. May we become ever more united at the Eucharistic Table of the Lord in our parishes and other Catholic institutions; and may we echo in our lives the prayer of Christ for us all, “SO THAT THEY MAY ALL BE ONE.”

I invite you to visit our [Intercultural Competencies](#) webpage often for updates. The page explains the five competencies that were defined by the U.S. bishops in making “Recognition of Cultural Diversity in the Church” one of their priorities. [The Building Intercultural Competence for Ministers \(Pub. No. 7-301\)](#) manual can be obtained in print from USCCB Publishing. If interested in hosting or organizing a training workshop, contact Yolanda Taylor-Burwell at diversity@usccb.org.

The Secretariat of Cultural Diversity is also looking for opportunities to partner with Catholic colleges and universities, and other institutions of higher education to disseminate the competency guidelines. Contact the Secretariat’s executive director, Mar Muñoz-Visoso, for information at diversity@usccb.org. ▶



Pope Francis Says...

“The Church is catholic because she is the space, the home in which the faith is proclaimed to us in its entirety, in which the salvation brought to us by Christ is offered to everyone. The Church is catholic because she is universal, she is spread abroad through every part of the world and she proclaims the Gospel to every man and to every woman.

The Church is not a group of elite; she does not only concern the few. The Church has no limits; she is sent to the totality of people, to the totality of the human race. And the one Church is present even in her smallest parts...”

Pope Francis, General Audience, October 9, 2013



News from the Subcommittee on African American Affairs (SCAAA)

The Subcommittee on African American Affairs has identified three principal focus areas for the 2013-2016 term. It will explore practical ways to accomplish the following objectives in Catholic dioceses, parishes, schools and organizations around the country.

- Promote catechesis on traditional marriage among African Americans
- Enrich marriage, support family life and encourage vocations; and
- Strengthen evangelization efforts for youth and adults through support for Catholic schools and robust adult faith formation programs

Coincidentally, this timeframe provides an exceptional opportunity to strengthen evangelization efforts and encourage vocations among African American Catholics by utilizing the semi-centennial of the modern Civil Rights era.



The Subcommittee believes that this can be a teachable moment for all Catholics, particularly as some learn and others recall the Church's involvement in promoting racial justice through courageous clergy, vowed religious and faithful lay people during that

period. Likewise, this can be a motivating moment for the Catholic community as she reconsiders the implications of the past on the present reality in society and in the Church of the United States.

African American Affairs collaborates with Catholic national organizations and diocesan staffs to affirm the gifts and contributions of African American Catholics and increase opportunities for African American and other Catholics of African descent to engage fully in the life of the Church.

Major national partners include the National Association of Black Catholic Administrators (NABCA), National Black Catholic Congress (NBCC) Office, National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus (NBCCCC), National Black Sisters Conference (NBSC), National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life (NBCAL), Black Catholic Theological Symposium (BCTS), certain regional pastoral institutes and virtually all other USCCB Committees or their staffs.

Continued on page 6 →



*Mrs. Donna
Toliver-Grimes,
Assistant Director,
Subcommittee on African
American Affairs*

News from the Subcommittee on African American Affairs (SCAAA) *Continued from page 5*

In recent years, many dioceses combined African American/Black Catholic Ministry with other ministries to provide pastoral care for this community through Multicultural Ministry Offices, volunteer councils, cross-disciplinary commissions or other structures. A fair number have expanded their outreach to include Catholic ministry to the broader Africa diaspora, including Africans, Haitians, West Indians, persons from the Caribbean, etc. However, close to 100 dioceses and 18 states have not identified ministry for Catholics of African descent.

Consequently, African American Affairs is taking further steps to resource multicultural directors through increased communication and a conscious outreach to directors who are not from the African American community. In a similar way, African American Affairs will work through NABCA to provide regional support to dioceses that do not have an African American Catholic ministry.

The Subcommittee is utilizing certain well developed resources to listen and respond to the pastoral needs of Black Catholics and to reinforce local programs and initiatives. For instance, dioceses and parishes are encouraged to implement the NBCC Congress XII, Plan of Action which delineates the following ten points for engaging our faith:

- Holiness
- Life and Dignity of the Human Person
- Walking with the Saints
- Parish Life and Evangelization
- Faith Informed
- Catholic Schools
- Reaching Out to the Next Generation
- Vocations
- Getting Married and Staying Married
- The Social Apostolate ▶

“There is richness in our Black experience that we must share with the entire People of God. These are gifts that are part of an African past. For we have heard with Black ears and we have seen with Black eyes and we have understood with an African heart. We thank God for the gifts of our Catholic faith and we give thanks for the gifts of our Blackness. In all humility we turn to the whole Church that it might share our gifts so that “our joy may be complete.”

What We Seen and Heard: A Pastoral Letter on Evangelization from the Black Bishops of the United States (1984), 4



News from the Subcommittee on Asian Pacific Island Affairs (SCAPA)

The Subcommittee on Asian Pacific Island Affairs began 2014 with the Diversity Outreach Initiative (DOI) in partnership with Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington, DC. We were pleased to have Asian Pacific Islander (API) representation from the states of California and South Carolina join this worthwhile initiative. Mirroring Pope Francis' example in being mindful of the poor, we came to the nation's capital to advocate for those who will never have a chance to be seen or heard by our government leaders, in particular those from API community.

In the spring, we celebrated the API for Mary Pilgrimage at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. My favorite highlights of the pilgrimage were a procession of various images of Mary honored by each of the 20 ethnic groups who attended the Mass.



This year's celebrant for the Pilgrimage Mass was Bishop Martin Holley, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Washington, DC.

The API community continues to have annual events in June and July.

In June, the Redemptorist Renewal Center in Tucson, AZ

hosted the API Young

Adult Retreat, giving young Catholic API the opportunity to grow in their faith and connect with their culture.

We plan to conclude 2014 with the National Association of Filipino Priests USA second National Assembly in November in Orlando, Florida. Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, Roman Catholic Filipino Cardinal, the 32nd Archbishop of Manila, is expected to be a featured guest at the Assembly.

2013

Last year, the Hmong American National Catholic Association (HANCA) celebrated their 60th Convention in Milwaukee, WI with a four-day conference and great speakers from abroad including Reverend Daniel Tailleux, who has served the Hmong community since the 1980's.

Continued on page 8 →



*Sr. Anna Nguyen, SCC,
LMSW, Assistant Director,
Subcommittee on Asian
Pacific Affairs*

News from the Subcommittee on Asian Pacific Island Affairs (SCAPA) *Continued from page 7*

In early July 2013, the Lao community hosted their annual convention and youth convention in Seattle, WA. The conference included a talk by Bishop Bach, Titular Bishop of Tituli in Proconsulari, and Vicar Apostolic Emeritus of Savannakhet, Laos. The conference was very exciting.

In the fall of 2013, Typhoon Yolanda devastated many of the Philippine islands by taking lives and leaving survivors homeless. Homes and key institutions such as churches, schools, and health care facilities, etc. were affected by the devastation. In the spirit of being mindful of those suffering from poverty, the API community joined forces with our US Church in support of Catholic Relief Services.

In addition, Filipino pastoral leaders organized their own fundraising events to help their particular village, hometown, or home parish. Now that emergency assistance is underway, API community is working on the rebuilding of the infrastructure in

the Philippines, one house, one church, one institution at a time. This initiative is estimated to take at least five years.

The year finished up strong with the Vietnamese Priests Convocation in California in October and the 25th National Catholic China Conference, “American Catholic and China,” in Chicago. ▸



“By being authentically Christian and truly Asian in the footsteps of Christ, they [Asians and Pacific Islanders] have brought to us a more profound understanding of what it means to be truly Catholic.

They have taught the Church in the United States the meaning of harmony; the necessity of dialogue with their cultures, with other religions, and with the poor; a renewed sense of family loyalty; the unity between diverse cultures and diverse Catholic church communities, and the closeness of all God's creation.”

USCCB, *Asian and Pacific Presence: Harmony in Faith* (2002), 31

News from the Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs (SCHA)

The Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs and the Committee on Cultural Diversity approved and requested to the larger U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops the convening of the V National Encuentro for Ministry among Hispanics/Latinos during their June 2013 meetings. Such a decision is of great importance for the future development of Hispanic/Latino ministry and the entire Church in the United States.

The V Encuentro is a three-year process of pastoral-theological reflection culminating in a national event, followed by one-year of training and implementation. The process includes a broad consultation on the needs, aspirations and contributions of Hispanic/Latinos, and the pastoral actions needed to address them. The outcome of the consultation is articulated through the celebration of encuentros at the parish, diocesan, regional and national level.

The V Encuentro will find an unprecedented number of parishes serving Hispanics/Latinos and the proliferation of lay ecclesial movements, both vitalized by thousands of Hispanic/Latino lay-ecclesial ministers. It will also find record numbers of Hispanics/Latinos engaged in formation programs, and a growing number of national Hispanic/Latino Catholic organizations. However, such growth falls short of fully addressing the demands of the ever-growing Hispanic/Latino population, soon to be the majority group among Catholics in the United States.

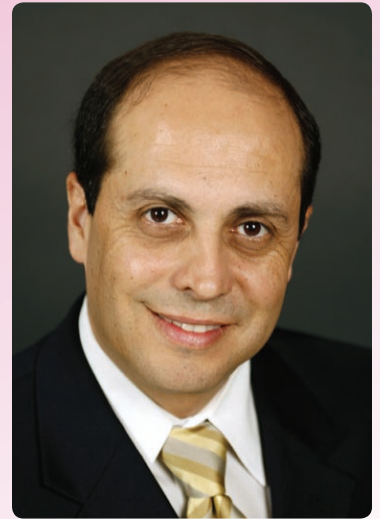
The Subcommittee has formed a national team to accompany the development and implementation of the V Encuentro process under the name: Equipo Nacional de Acompañamiento para el V Encuentro (ENAVE). This team is representative of the various national Hispanic Catholic organizations and other Catholic organizations engaged in Hispanic/Latino ministry.

The bishops Gerald Barnes, Arturo Cepeda, Nelson Pérez, and Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller will walk closely with ENAVE members in the planning and implementation of the V Encuentro. The celebration of the Raíces Y Alas (Roots and Wings) Congress from October 30 to November 2, 2014 in San Antonio, TX is a key step toward the V Encuentro process.

The timeline for the V Encuentro process is being discussed at this time but we are happy to share with you the stages that are envisioned:

- a) Formation and training of national and Episcopal Region accompaniment teams, and development of catechetical and consultation materials for each process
- b) Training sessions for each of the 14 Episcopal Regions
- c) Parish process and encuentros
- d) Diocesan encuentros
- e) 14 Episcopal Region encuentros
- f) V Encuentro National event takes place with the participation of approximately 3,000 diocesan delegates including bishops, lay and ordained leaders, and representatives from Catholic organizations and institutions
- g) Production of V Encuentro concluding document and follow-up meetings in 14 Episcopal Regions

Continued on page 10 →



Mr. Alejandro Aguilera-Titus, Assistant Director, Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs

News from the Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs (SCHA) *Continued from page 9*

Specific timelines will be provided once the beginning date and the national event date have been set, in agreement with the USCCB strategic plan.



The V Encuentro has a strong emphasis on reaching out to second and third generation Hispanic/Latino youth and young adults. During its November 2013 meeting, the Subcommittee approved making ministry among millions of Hispanic youth and young adults a high priority. Bishop Barnes asked Bishop Alberto Rojas to take the lead on this new priority. Bishop Rojas will work to identify and invite key players responsible for ministry among young people to be a part of this effort, including the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM), the National Catholic Network de Pastoral Juvenil Hispana (La Red), the National Catholic Young Adult Ministry Association (NCYAMA), the lay ecclesial movement Jóvenes para Cristo, and others. The process of the V Encuentro is a great opportunity to help the Church better understand and serve the Hispanic/Latino young church.

The V Encuentro has all the potential to be another watershed experience that provides the Church with the clarity, enthusiasm and means it needs to adequately respond to the Hispanic presence so that, in turn, Hispanic/Latino Catholics can continue to respond as members of the Church in the United States for generations to come. ▶

Noticias del Subcomité para Asuntos Hispanos

El Subcomité de Asuntos Hispanos y el comité sobre diversidad cultural en la iglesia aprobaron y recomendaron a la conferencia Episcopal de EE.UU. la convocatoria de un V Encuentro Nacional Hispano de Pastoral durante su reunión de junio de 2013. Tal decisión tiene gran importancia para el desarrollo futuro del ministerio hispano/latino y toda la iglesia de Estados Unidos.

El V encuentro será un proceso de tres años de reflexión teológico-pastoral que culmina en un evento nacional, seguido por un año de formación e implementación. El proceso incluye una amplia consulta de las necesidades, aspiraciones y contribuciones de hispanos/latinos, y las acciones pastorales necesarias para abordarlas. El resultado de la consulta se articula a través de encuentros del nivel parroquial, diocesano, regional y nacional.

El V Encuentro es convocado en un momento en que el número de parroquias sirviendo a hispanos/latinos y el crecimiento acelerado de movimientos eclesiales laicos va en aumento. Ambos son vitalizados por miles de líderes y ministros eclesiales laicos hispanos/latinos. También contamos con un número muy significativo de hispanos/latinos que participan en programas de formación, así como un número creciente de organizaciones católicas hispanas/latinas nacionales. Sin embargo, tal crecimiento no aborda plenamente las demandas de la siempre creciente población hispana/latina, la cual pronto será el grupo mayoritario dentro de la Iglesia Católica en Estados Unidos.

El subcomité ha formado un equipo nacional para acompañar el desarrollo e implementación del proceso del V Encuentro bajo el nombre: Equipo Nacional de Acompañamiento para el V Encuentro (ENAVE). Este equipo es representativo de las varias organizaciones católicas hispanas



Noticias del Subcomité para Asuntos Hispanos

nacionales y otras organizaciones católicas que participan en el ministerio hispano/latino. Los obispos Gerald Barnes, Arturo Cepeda y Nelson Pérez, y el Arzobispo Gustavo García-Siller caminarán muy cerca con los miembros de ENAVE en la planeación e implementación del V Encuentro. La celebración del Congreso de Raíces y Alas del 30 de octubre hasta el 2 de noviembre en San Antonio, Texas es un escalón clave hacia el proceso del V Encuentro.

El calendario del proceso del V Encuentro todavía está siendo discutido al momento de escribir este artículo, pero nos complace poder compartir ya con ustedes las diferentes etapas que se prevén.

- a) Formación y entrenamiento de los equipos de acompañamiento nacionales y de región episcopal y el desarrollo de los materiales catequéticos y de consulta.
- b) Sesiones de entrenamiento para cada una de las 14 regiones episcopales.
- c) Procesos y encuentros parroquiales.
- d) Encuentros diocesanos.
- e) 14 Encuentros Regionales.
- f) Evento Nacional del V Encuentro con la participación de 3,000 delegados diocesanos incluyendo obispos, líderes laicos y ordenados, y representantes de organizaciones e instituciones católicas.
- g) Producción del documento final del V Encuentro y formación para la implementación en cada una de las 14 regiones episcopales.

El V Encuentro hace hincapié en la importancia de llegar a los jóvenes y a los adultos jóvenes de segunda y tercera generación. Durante su reunión de noviembre de 2013, el subcomité aprobó dar gran prioridad al ministerio entre millones de jóvenes y adultos jóvenes hispanos.



El Obispo Barnes le pidió al Obispo Alberto Rojas asumir el liderazgo en esta prioridad nueva. El Obispo Rojas trabajará para identificar e invitar a líderes claves responsables del ministerio entre los jóvenes para ser parte de este esfuerzo, incluyendo the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM), the National Catholic Network de Pastoral Juvenil Hispana (La Red), The National Catholic Young Adult Ministry Association (NCYAMA), el movimiento laico eclesial Jóvenes Para Cristo, entre otros. El proceso del V Encuentro es una gran oportunidad para ayudar a la iglesia a conocer y servir mejor la iglesia joven hispana.

El V Encuentro tiene todo el potencial para ser otra experiencia decisiva que provee a la iglesia la claridad, el entusiasmo y los medios que necesita para responder de manera más adecuada a la presencia hispana para que, a, los católicos hispanos/latinos puedan continuar respondiendo como miembros de la Iglesia en los Estados Unidos en las generaciones venideras. ▶

“Hispanic Catholics are a blessing from God and a prophetic presence that has transformed many dioceses and parishes into more welcoming, vibrant, and evangelizing faith communities. We bishops see Hispanic ministry as an integral part of the life and mission of the Church.”

USCCB, Encuentro & Mission: A Renewed Pastoral Framework for Hispanic Ministry (2002)



News from the Subcommittee on Native American Affairs (SNAA)

The bishops of the [Subcommittee on Native American Affairs](#), at their November 2013 meeting, identified the following three priorities for the Subcommittee for the next three years:

1. New evangelization among Native Americans
2. Addressing family life, male spirituality issues, and the strengthening of parental roles, and
3. Promotion of Native American vocations



The Subcommittee sponsored Native American Ministry Orientation Workshops for Bishops held this past July 22-23, 2014 in Fargo, ND. The purpose of the workshops was to educate bishops about Native American Catholics and their spiritual and pastoral needs.

Presentations were made by several Native American Catholic leaders on various aspects of Native American Catholic history and liturgical practices and the current state of relationships between Native American Catholics and the Catholic Church in the United States. The workshop took place prior to the 2014 National Tekakwitha Conference, which was also held in Fargo.

A new position of Assistant Director, Native American Affairs was added to the USCCB Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church in 2013. Fr. Henry Sands, a priest of the

Archdiocese of Detroit, began working in this position on August 19, 2013. He is assigned as the staff person who assists the bishops of the Subcommittee on Native American Affairs to implement their pastoral priorities and initiatives.

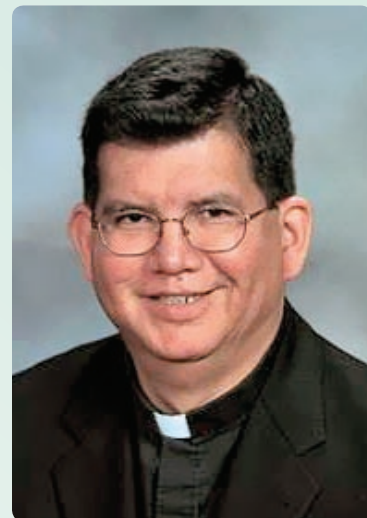
The new assistant director has spent his initial months getting familiar with the day-to-day operations at the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church and with the other Secretariats and Offices at the USCCB.

He made pastoral visits to the Native American Catholic community in the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux in September, 2013 and to three Mayan Catholic communities in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles in November, 2013. During the same visit to Los Angeles, Fr. Sands celebrated Mass on the Rincon Indian reservation and met with people from various Native American Catholic communities in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and the Diocese of San Diego.

Fr. Sands works in close collaboration with Fr. Wayne Paysse, executive director of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions.

He will assist Fr. Paysse in leading a pilgrimage tour organized by the Bureau that will go to various holy sites in New York State and Quebec Canada in September of 2014.

Fr. Sands is also involved with the Tekakwitha Conference. He assisted with the



*Fr. Henry Sands,
Assistant Director,
Subcommittee on
Native Americans
Affairs*

News from the Subcommittee on Native American Affairs (SNAА) *Continued from page 12*

local planning committees for the 2014 National Tekakwitha Conference which was held in Fargo, ND.

According to the Vision Statement of the organization, “The Tekakwitha Conference is the voice, presence, and identity of Indigenous Catholics of North America.” An annual conference is held that is sponsored and organized by Native American Catholics in various dioceses in the United States.

Sister Kateri Mitchell, SSA is the national director and a consultant to the bishops’ subcommittee. The 2015 National Tekakwitha Conference will be held in Alexandria, Louisiana. ▶

“I encourage you as native people to preserve and keep alive your cultures, your languages, the values and customs which have served you well in the past and which provide a solid foundation for the future... Your en-counter with the Gospel has not only enriched you; it has enriched the Church.

We are well aware that this has not taken place without its difficulties and, occasionally, its blunders. However... the Gospel does not destroy what is best in you. On the contrary, it enriches the spiritual qualities and gifts that are distinctive of your cultures...”

John Paul II, “Address to Native Americans” (September 14, 1988)

News from the Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers (PCMRT)

Pope Francis’ Message for World Day of Migrants and Refugees reminds us that, “we ourselves need to see, and then to enable others to see, that migrants and refugees do not represent a problem to be solved, but are brothers and sisters to be welcomed, respected and loved.”

“I was a stranger and you welcomed me,” these words from Matt. 25:35 resonate forcefully in the Holy Father’s call to welcome and respect the newcomer in our midst.



The US bishops strategic plan road map underscores one of its priorities, “to protect the life and dignity of each human person.” Protecting life and respect for the dignity of the human person is at the heart of the Catholic Church’s response to the spiritual and social needs of migrants and refugees which has been articulated in her teachings, statements, advocacy work, pastoral initiatives and social outreach.

Continued on page 14 →

News from the **Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers (PCMRT)** *Continued from page 13*

The initiatives for the pastoral care of migrants, refugees and travelers at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishop (USCCB), Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church include the following: facilitating for pastoral leadership formation, pastoral attention to youth and young adults, support of national meetings of pastoral leaders from ethnic and people on the move communities and providing resources for pastoral outreach, among others.

The goal is to bring Catholics from culturally diverse communities and people on the move groups to a fuller participation in the life of the Church. In all these, the Subcommittee on Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees and Travelers works collaboratively with the standing committee and with other USCCB committees to bring the concerns of the pastoral care of migrants, refugees and travelers to the attention of the U.S. Bishops.

I take this opportunity to highlight some examples of pastoral activities and initiatives on the pastoral care of migrants, refugees and travelers: National gathering of pastoral leaders from ethnic and people on the move groups, planned tentatively in 2015.

The idea is to bring together for the first time pastoral leaders from the African, Caribbean, Brazilian, new European immigrants, and People on the Move communities with the goal of strengthening the pastoral care of migrants, refugees and travelers.



*Sr. Myrna Tordillo,
MSCS, Assistant
Director, Subcommittee
on Pastoral Care of
Migrants, Refugees and
Travelers*

The process leading up to the gathering will include a meeting of national advisers this year to discuss the gathering and relevant matters concerning pastoral care.

What exactly is the role of a national adviser and who are they? A national adviser for Ethnic Ministry/People on the Move Ministry is a person (priest, deacon, religious, or lay) appointed by the chairman of the Subcommittee on Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees and Travelers (PCMRT) to promote and develop the apostolate of a particular ethnic or people on the move ministry.

The scope of his or her activity may be the entire country (national) or, if the group is large and widespread, a particular region (regional). The role of a national adviser is to aid in outreach to a particular ethnic or people on the move community and in communicating with that community/ministry and local churches. The adviser is a volunteer at the service of the USCCB's Subcommittee on PCMRT and acts as a resource. There are over 30 appointed national advisers.

Ethnic and people on the move groups have annual conferences and meetings for its members. For example, the 22nd Annual Gathering of the Circus and Traveling Show Ministries was held last January in Sarasota, FL. Apostleship of the Sea-USA and the National Conference of Catholic Airport Chaplains have their annual meetings in April and May respectively. ▸

Pope Francis Says...

“Immigrants dying at sea, in boats which were vehicles of hope and became vehicles of death. That is how the headlines put it. When I first heard of this tragedy a few weeks ago, and realized that it happens all too frequently, it has constantly come back to me like a painful thorn in my heart. So I felt that I had to come here today, to pray and to offer a sign of my closeness, but also to challenge our consciences lest this tragedy be repeated. Please, let it not be repeated!”

7/8/13—Homily during visit to Lampedusa



News from the **Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers** (PCMRT)

Her Excellency, Oliver Wonekha, Ambassador of the Republic of Uganda to the United States, participated at the inaugural free Health and Family Support Fair organized by the African Conference of Catholic Clergy and Religious in the United States (ACCCRUS) in the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area, December 2013. The health fair theme, “Make Your Health a Priority” was held at St. Luke’s Catholic Church, in Southeast Washington, DC.

The president of ACCCRUS, Washington, DC Metropolitan area, Sr. Joanna Okereke, HHCJ, welcomed participants and thanked the sponsors for helping ACCCRUS provide free medical screening, health education and counseling.

The goal for the health fair was to provide family support by the increased visibility of health and wellness resources within the community; to provide a variety of health and medical screenings and education; to increase personal health awareness; to provide counseling to strengthen marriage and family life; and above all to motivate participants to make positive health behavior changes and to nurture their spiritual needs in the new year ahead.

As good stewards, ACCCRUS Washington, DC Metropolitan Area fulfilled the responsibility to reach out to others, and to care for the members of the community.

Ambassador Wonekha, guest of honor and speaker, encouraged the participants to make their health issues a priority in their lives. “It is very important to look for possible avenues to manage our health, body, mind and soul”. She emphasized the need to use this great opportunity for free Health and Family Support to interact with health professionals and other community members to get advice, counselling, and essential knowledge on health issues.



Sr. Joanna Okereke, HHCJ, Program Coordinator, Subcommittee on Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees and Travelers

Continued on page 16 →



News from the **Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers (PCMRT)** *Continued from page 15*

The Ambassador thanked the African Catholic Clergy and Religious for the wonderful initiative and encouraged all participants to visit each booth and participate in the available health awareness, screenings, and demonstrations.

The historic free Health and Family Support Fair was successful. Cultural Diversity in the Church/Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees and Travelers and ACCCRUS was joined by Jennifer Jo Kyte, Lisa Banks and some Nursing students of Everest College, Dr. John Daniels, Mrs. Cyrina Chimah, of Howard University Hospital, Festus Opara, the Clinical Pharmacy Director of the Nations Care Pharmacy and Holistic Center, The

Washington, DC Health Link, Mr. George, Agnes and Mary Kiganda's Holistic Health Medicine and as well as other professionals.

The services offered included, blood sugar screenings, blood pressure screenings, body mass index, poison/safety education, asthma/allergy education, dental screening, holistic health medicine and health insurance awareness and education. There was a meditation corner, physical exercise and dance, treats, and best of all, healthy food, refreshments, and snacks for all the participants and sponsors. The Giant Food Stores in Washington, DC, Mr. Dieudonne Ndouga, the Knights of Columbus and Mr. Pius Ezeigwe of Afrik International Food Store provided assistance.

Throughout the day people relaxed, networked, asked questions, shared, laughed and enjoyed the enthusiasm and overwhelming response of all. As agents of unity, justice, and peace, the members of ACCCRUS Washington, DC Metropolitan Area, worked in solidarity for the success of the Health fair and Family Support in addition to the generous support and dedication of our sponsors.

Over 200 people participated in ACCCRUS Washington, DC Metropolitan Area plans to make this an annual event and is encouraging other ACCCRUS chapters to participate. ▶



*Her Excellency, Oliver Wonekha,
Ambassador of the Republic of Uganda
to the United States*

“Immigrant communities give ample witness to what is to be Church in their desire to worship as a people, in their solidarity with one another and with the weakest among them, in their devotion and faithfulness to the Church of their ancestors. For the Church in the United States to walk in solidarity with newcomers to our country is to live out our catholicity as a Church.”

USCCB, Welcoming the Stranger Among Us: Unity in Diversity (2000), 56

Building Intercultural Competencies for Ministers (BICM)

In 2007 the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops established several priorities for action during the 2008-2011 planning cycle. One of those priorities was "recognition of cultural diversity." In highlighting this priority the bishops were not only pointing to the profound demographic transformation that has been taking place in the United States and in the Church over several decades, they were also manifesting the Catholic Church's concern with diversity not just as a practical matter but as something integral to the Church's very identity and mission.

The focus on cultural diversity is grounded on the urgent need to grow in knowledge and develop appropriate attitudes and skills for the purpose of carrying out the Church's mission to evangelize. Proficiency in matters of culture and intercultural relations is an essential feature of the ongoing process of conversion by which the Gospel becomes life for people.

The New Evangelization championed by Popes John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and now by Pope Francis and his emphasis on missionary discipleship hinges on the acquisition of competencies that at advance both the proclamation of the Gospel and the intercultural dialogue leading to the Christian conversion of individuals and entire cultures.

The background and proficiency offered by this program is for every cultural, ethnic or racial group in the Church. While it is true that persons of European ancestry constitute



*Mrs. Yolanda Taylor-Burwell, CMP,
Education and Projects
Coordinator, Secretariat
of Cultural Diversity in
the Church*

the majority of those involved in ecclesial ministries today, very sizable cohorts of Catholics from all cultural families enjoy positions of leadership not only among their own group but increasingly among diverse communities. The reality of shared or multicultural parishes is becoming the norm in many places.

The *Building Intercultural Competence for Ministers* (BICM) manual is designed to help ministry leaders achieve a basic level of awareness and proficiency in the area of *Intercultural Competency* through the five guidelines

recommended by the (USCCB) Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church.

The manual provides five modules to assist those leading workshops on building intercultural competence for ministers.

Regional trainings on the competencies are being scheduled at this time. Visit the Intercultural Competency site often for updates. If interested in hosting or organizing a training. Contact Yolanda Taylor-Burwell at ytaylor-burwell@usccb.org for more information. ►

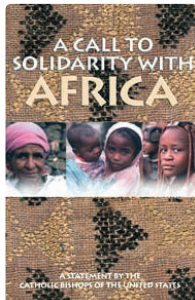


Resources

The Secretariat's assistant directors have assisted in the development of all of the recommended resources below. Browse through them and visit www.usccbpublishing.org to order the resources or call 1-877-978-0757. Remember to have the product code ready when placing your order.

**A Call to Solidarity with Africa:
A Statement by the U.S.
Catholic Bishops**

Product number: 5-464



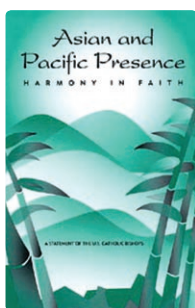
**Hispanic Ministry: Past,
Present, Future: A New
Beginning (e-book)**

Product number: 7-873



**Asian Pacific Presence: Harmony
in Faith (English) and list the
other languages**

Product number: 5-449



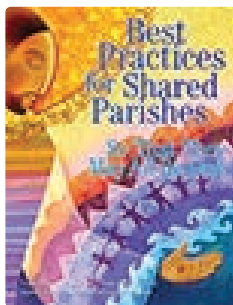
**Interreligious Prayer: Walking
Together Series (pkg. of 25)**

Product number: 7-051



**Best Practices for Shared
Parishes: So That They
May All Be One**

Product number: 7-389



**Sing to the Lord: Music in
Divine Worship (e-book)**

Product number: 7-022



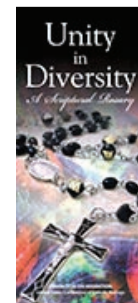
**Building Intercultural
Competencies for Ministers**

Product number: 7-301



**Unity in Diversity Scriptural
Rosary**

Product number: M5-960



**Communities of Salt and Light
Revised Edition**

Product number: 5-764



**Welcoming the Stranger Among
Us: Unity in Diversity
(pkg. of 50)**

Product number: 5-375



Meet the Staff

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United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

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SOCIALIZE WITH US

USCCB's website (www.usccb.org)
SCDC's website
(<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/cultural-diversity/>)



Pope Francis Says...



“To love God and neighbor is not something abstract, but profoundly concrete: it means seeing in every person and face of the Lord to be served, to serve him concretely. And you are, dear brothers and sisters, in the face of Jesus.”

Pope Francis, Address during Visit at the Homeless Shelter “Dona Di Maria,” (5/21/13)