



One Church Many Cultures

The Good News of Cultural Diversity

CONVOCACTION OF CATHOLIC LEADERS — THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN AMERICA

By: Mrs. Mar Muñoz-Visoso, MTS, Executive Director

I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since "no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord".

(The Joy of the Gospel, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 3)

These words of Pope Francis, from the opening paragraphs of his Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel* (*Evangelii Gaudium*), are an invitation to you and me, to all of us, and a reminder of our mission as Catholic Christians in the world. The exhortation is a call to a deeper understanding of the Church "as the entire People of God which evangelizes" (EG, 16), and to reflect on what "a Church which goes forth" (EG, 24) looks like: "a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice." Only by a profound personal and communal conversion brought about by this renewed understanding – which is the work of the Holy Spirit – will we be ready to heed the call to be true missionary disciples.

This summer, several thousand Catholics from all walks of life, representing their dioceses and ministries, parishes, ecclesial movements and associations – as

well as the rich cultural and ethnic diversity of our local churches – will gather with bishops from across the nation in Orlando, Florida, to reflect together on what living "The Joy of the Gospel" looks like in the United States of America. Together we will go on to celebrate

unity in our diversity and to do some evangelical discernment. We will reflect on the cultural, social and ecclesial landscape, and on the mission field in front of us.

We will receive a call to go deeper into the peripheries of culture and society; through us, that call will be

extended to all the communities we represent.

I ask for your prayers for those who will participate in the Convocation of Catholic Leaders 2017. May the Holy Spirit fill those gathered with his gifts and make us open to his promptings. I also ask you to hold us accountable when we return to our parishes and dioceses, to our ministries and services, so that we share a full account of what we have seen and heard, but most importantly



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 of Catholic Leaders**
The Joy of the Gospel in America

preach it with our deeds.

May the diversity of talents and perspectives, gifts, experiences and cultural backgrounds gathered there enrich our experience of the Church. May we be able to affirm with the Apostle Peter: “In truth, I see that

God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him.” (Acts 10:34) Lastly, may we all be renewed by the experience and accept the call to go out and make disciples of all nations.

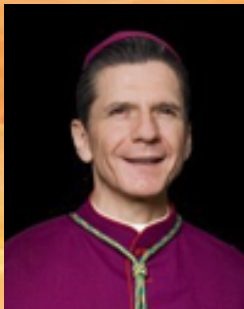


I dream of a “missionary option,” that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation.

(Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel, 27)

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CHAIRMAN’S REFLECTION

By: Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, M.Sp.S.

JOYFULLY CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSITY

In Genesis, the Tower of Babel story is the last of a series of “falls” and results in the most severe punishment: the confusion of languages. However, the Creator’s plan for the human family is that humans live in peace, harmony, and unity – despite the diversity of languages and cultures. This is only possible if we live in right relationships with one another and with God. The sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost overcomes the confusion of languages and allows us to proclaim Jesus and the gospel boldly and joyfully.

Pope Francis says that “in the diversity of peoples who experience the gift of God, each in accordance with its own culture, the Church expresses her genuine catholicity” (The Joy of the Gospel, Evangelii Gaudium, 116). Our diversity does not necessarily work against our unity as a community of faith. Indeed, the Holy Spirit leads us into the unity for which Jesus prayed at the Last Supper. The Holy Spirit “brings forth a rich variety of gifts, while at the same time creating a unity which is never uniformity but a multifaceted and inviting harmony. Evangelization joyfully acknowledges these varied treasures

which the Holy Spirit pours out upon the Church” (EG., 117).

As missionary disciples of the risen Lord, our challenge is to examine and help to reshape every cultural expression in the light of the gospel. This is a special challenge for the Church in the United States today when more and more of our parishes are bicultural and multicultural. Let us pray for the gifts of the Holy Spirit to help us sharpen the focus of our evangelizing mission and ministries to meet the diverse needs of all our people and to celebrate joyfully and build up confidently our unity in our diversity.



15TH ANNUAL Asian and Pacific Island Catholics Marian Pilgrimage



MASS FOR THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC CATHOLIC NETWORK

Basilica of the National Shrine
of the Immaculate Conception

Washington, D.C.
Saturday, May 6, 2017
2:30 p.m.

Homily by
His Eminence
Cardinal Donald Wuerl
Archbishop of Washington

It is a great joy and privilege for me to welcome all of you to this special pilgrimage Mass. In doing so, I greet the Asian and Pacific Catholic Network in the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. area which, in collaboration with the United States of Catholic Bishops, is celebrating its 15th annual pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception today.

In the 15 years since the first of these pilgrimages, we have seen a continuing growth in the number of Asian and Pacific Island Catholics come to our country but we have also recognized the cultural, social and ethnic diversity represented by the many API communities. It is in this light that our Conference of Bishops has urged us to celebrate the range of gifts common to these communities. Already in 2001, the Bishops' pastoral statement, *Asian and Pacific Presence: Harmony in Faith*, called us to appreciate, as part of the heritage of the Asian and Pacific Island Catholics, the value of harmony amidst diversity.

We come here today in this pilgrimage to demonstrate both the richness of diversity and,

at the same time, the harmony which is a unique, cultural characteristic particular to each ethnic group represented in this basilica today.

In his apostolic exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium* (2013), Pope Francis urges the faithful to “a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them” (3). For API Catholics responding to Christ can be viewed through the lens of “encountering harmony.” One of the experiences of Asian and Pacific Island Catholics is the ability to encounter Christ through a multitude of cultural experiences while seeking to reflect the peace of Christ in the harmony we share one with another.

But another aspect of the Asian and Pacific Island presence in our country has been the centrality of family with its values of solidarity, filial piety and respect for the elderly and for the ancestors. What a blessing those gifts are to an increasingly secular world that is so prepared to brush aside those very values. In fact, the Synod on the New Evangelization in 2012 spoke of our Western culture as having suffered a “tsunami of secularism” that has wiped away so many

of those very values, family, marriage, filial piety, respect for the elderly and our ancestors that mark the great Eastern tradition.

A final element that I would like to note today is reflected as well in the Bishops' pastoral statement. Here we find highlighted the tradition of profound spirituality and popular piety. While all of us recognize the central place of the Eucharistic Liturgy in our lives, we also know how our faith is enriched by popular devotions. That fact explains why we have this annual pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

It is abundantly clear from the faith and life of the Church reflected here today that Asians and Pacific Islanders have a longstanding and profound devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. In this, we see a solidarity with the Catholic faithful going back all the way back to the earliest days of the Church.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* offers a clear answer: "Only faith can embrace the mysterious ways of God's almighty power. This faith glories in its weaknesses in order to draw to itself Christ's power. The Virgin Mary is the supreme model of this faith, for she believed that 'nothing will be impossible with God'" (273).

Today we gather for the annual Asians for Mary Pilgrimage here in this basilica to recognize Mary's particular role in the life of the Catholic faithful in the Asian and Pacific communities. We also see how that heritage continues to be lived and loved here in our country, in America's great House of Mary.

Notable among the Asian and Pacific communities' shrines here in the Basilica are Our Lady of Camarin for Guam (the first chapel I was privileged to dedicate in 2006), Our Lady of Antipolo, Our Lady of China, Our Lady of the Korean Martyrs, Our Lady of Korea at Kana, as well as Our Lady of La Vang.

As all of the faithful have done as they approach the various figures of Mary, we, too, see with the eyes of faith. We take as our model, Mary. All of these shrines are tributes to the faith and devotion to Mary.

When we look to Mary as a guide, what do we learn? Jesus, Mary's son, came to reveal to us who God is, to teach us the meaning of life, and to show us how to live. This could not have happened, it could not have taken place, without Mary and her "yes"

to God. The Word became flesh because of Mary's cooperation. Mary's role in God's plan was to be the instrument by which the Eternal Word entered our world, our history, our time and became one of us, became a human being, and took on flesh and blood. This is our first lesson. To be open to God's grace and always prepared to say, "Yes."

Everywhere we turn in this basilica, whether to meditate on the mysteries of the rosary or to reflect on the various titles explaining the action of God at work in Mary, or whether to recognize her particular place in the faith and devotional life of Catholic communities around the world, we see in Mary a manifestation of what should be our response to Christ – our "Yes" to God.

Mary is the model of what our faith should be. Like us, Mary was a human being who had to be open to hear and accept God's word and to grasp the mysterious ways in which God works. She did so with such consummate fidelity that she is forever the example of what we mean by faith — true, profound faith.

Our second lesson is to recognize God's action taking place in our world and in our lives. The challenge to live by faith brings us into confrontation with the increasingly secular world fostered by our modern culture and nurtured by much of the media. It is that challenge that makes this day and pilgrimage so significant. Together, we strengthen one another in our traditions, heritage and, as the same time, renew our faith.

As we continue our celebration today, we turn to the altar so that in faith — the same faith that gave purpose to the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary — we may encounter the Lord every bit as truly as she did. For Mary, Jesus was present physically as a child. For you and me now as we approach the altar, Jesus is truly present in the mystery of his death and Resurrection, in his Body and Blood. While we may not have the words to explain this mystery, we have the faith to embrace it.

May God continue to bless all of the Asian and Pacific Island Catholic communities and their pilgrimage to Mary's House which is a foreshadowing of our great pilgrimage together to the Father's House.



Pope Francis, @Pontifex

With Jesus our life becomes full. With him everything makes sense. (EG266)

2:04 AM - 4 Apr. 2014, Pope Francis on Twitter

APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA, NATIONAL OFFICE WELCOMES NEW BISHOP PROMOTER



The USCCB Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church/ Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers is pleased to announce the appointment of Most Reverend Brendan J. Cahill, STD, Bishop of the Diocese of Victoria, Texas, as the Bishop

Promoter for the Apostleship of the Sea. He begins his tenure this July 2017.

Bishop Cahill, a priest of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, was actively involved in the port ministry in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston prior to his appointment as Bishop of Victoria.

Bishop Cahill has shown great interest in the Apostleship of the Sea (AOS) ministry and is willing to give direction to the pastoral structure to accomplish the tasks and mission to seafarers and maritime personnel. One of his tasks is to promote AOS ministry in the various dioceses that have ports and to encourage interest in the apostolate among their bishops. He also is tasked with giving an account

of maritime pastoral issues and concerns as well as supporting the national director, Sr. Joanna Okereke, to properly carry out duties.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Bishop Cahill for accepting such an important pastoral responsibility. His leadership and experience in maritime ministry will be beneficial to foster the work of the maritime apostolate.

Apostleship of the Sea (AOS) is a Catholic maritime ministry that reaches out to seafarers, fishers, their families, port personnel and all who work or travel on the high seas. The maritime ministry shows the Church's care and concern for seafarers who cannot participate in regular parish life because of the nature of their work. A network of AOS port chaplains and leaders provides spiritual and practical assistance that accommodates a seafarer's unique lifestyle and needs.

AOS is present in 53 United States seaports and waterways, representing 48 dioceses and archdioceses. Priests, chaplains, deacons, religious and lay people extend their hospitality by providing pastoral assistance to seafarers and all people of the sea, including port personnel, other port workers in the Stella Maris centers, hospitality centers, during ship visits, assisting seafarers to communicate with families at home and providing transportation to local businesses for their personal needs.



Pope Francis, @Pontifex

Jesus teaches us to not be ashamed of touching human misery, of touching his flesh in our brothers and sisters who suffer. (EG 270)

PASTORAL CARE OF MIGRANTS, REFUGEES, & TRAVELERS (PCMRT)

By: Dr. Sr. Joanna Okereke, HHCJ, Assistant Director



PCMRT COMMUNITIES EMBRACING JOY FILLED ACTIVITIES

The number of immigrants, refugees, and people on the move (circus and traveling show ministries, migrant workers, etc.) living in the United States is continuously growing. Many of them are Catholic. Our brothers and sisters desire not only recognition, but to participate actively in the Church, to live the Gospel with joy within the local parishes and dioceses where they live. It is therefore very important that the Church embrace and welcome all migrants, refugees, and people on the move. Also, there should be a favorable platform for them to participate in the ongoing dialogue with the Church.

The Church reminds all involved in the pastoral care ministry among immigrants, refugees and people on the move communities to be sensitive, especially to the language and culture. The Church also reiterates that the pastoral ministry among these groups must be a response to Jesus' call to love our neighbors as ourselves. Jesus makes it clear that our "neighbors" include not just family, friends and people like us but also strangers and enemies. Every person is my neighbor, whom I am called to love.

As Pope Francis said, "In our day Jesus' command to "go and make disciples" echoes in the changing scenarios and ever new challenges to the Church's mission of evangelization, and all of us are called to take part in this new missionary "going forth." Each Christian and every community must discern the path that the Lord points out, but all of us are asked to obey his call to go forth

from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the "peripheries" in need of the light of the Gospel." (The Joy of the Gospel, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 20). Therefore, it is significant for the Church to go forth and preach the gospel to every people and nation. The joy of the gospel should be preached to all people and no one should be excluded.

Again, in the opening of his Apostolic Exhortation, The Joy of the Gospel, *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis said, "The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus." (EG, 1). There is a popular saying: Your joy will become full when you make others happy. Indeed, "The joy of the Lord is our strength." Nehemiah 8:10. When we are overwhelmed by joy, we are filled with spiritual blessing through the power of God. Truly, the joy of knowing what God has done in our lives produces strength, the necessary strength to help "fight the good fight of faith" (1 Timothy 6:12).

PCMRT leaders are participating in the upcoming 2017 Convocation of Catholic Leaders in Orlando, FL. They are happy and are ready to share their gifts and wisdom and to be equipped, energized and ready as missionary disciples to share the Gospel. As Christians, we should be filled with joy, which is the beauty of our life. We must live in the presence of God, praise Him, embrace Him and live our lives in the joy of Christ.



David joins a Catholic Iraqi Refugee and Asylee Womens' Prayer Group in San Diego, CA for an evening of prayer and conversation.



David joins a Brazilian and Hispanic Catholic Circus Catechism Class in Brooklyn, NY in support of the Traveling Show Ministries.

HISPANIC AFFAIRS

By: Mr. Alejandro Aguilera-Titus, National Coordinator for the V Encuentro*

THE EVANGELIZING PROCESS OF THE V ENCUESTRO

The evangelizing process of the V National Encuentro of Hispanic/Latino ministry is taking place in thousands of parishes, lay ecclesial movements and other Catholic organizations across the United States. The theme is Missionary Disciples: Witnesses of God's Love.

The V Encuentro follows the evangelizing methodology that Jesus himself teaches us in the biblical passage of the disciples on their way to Emmaus. This methodology also reflects the five movements that Pope Francis presents to the Church in *The Joy of the Gospel* when he speaks about carrying out an encounter ministry: Taking the first step; involving oneself; accompanying, giving fruit of new life, and celebrating. Let us analyze the Emmaus passage to identify the actions or movements of this methodology:

Taking the first step

In this first step or movement, the process of the V Encuentro consists of reaching out, taking the initiative and giving priority to Hispanics/Latinos in their daily realities, with their problems, challenges, joys, and dreams. This involves going into their places, perceiving their reality, observing through the eyes of the disciples, listening attentively and respectfully.

Getting involved

The encounter with others, and particularly with people who are going through very difficult situations, must start by asking about their lives, their concerns, their hopes, ideas, needs, and dreams. This allows them to speak about their reality from their own perspective, to share their experience, feelings, and ideas. It means listening deeply and creating a space of trust and security that allows for the outpouring of feelings and offers the healing balm of feeling listened to.

Accompanying

Accompaniment consists mainly of creating a relationship of trust inspired by the promises of the

Gospel and a deep respect for the faith journey of others. This respect is particularly important in the youth encounter, as each young person is on his or her own faith journey. They are the ones who are seeking a personal encounter with Jesus leading them to conversion and communion in their young lives, giving the church a youthful and irreplaceable countenance.

Giving fruits of new life

The methodology of the V Encuentro recognizes friendship, closeness and hospitality in this biblical passage as fruits of missionary action. Just as Jesus did, we must gratefully accept the trust and care of the people who offer it to us when inviting us to their homes, to eat with them, to continue the conversation initiated in catechesis, in the celebration of a sacrament, or in the way where we meet them. In a word, accepting their invitation to have a more intimate experience of faith, to share bread and to build friendship so that the Risen Jesus can become present through us.



Rejoicing

The missionary action of the V Encuentro offers many opportunities to reach out to people and to celebrate in a simple way with them. Each of these encounters of closeness allows us to open our eyes, minds and heart to the presence of the Living Jesus Christ among us, the daily festivities and, above all, in the Eucharist.

Conclusion

The return of the disciples to Jerusalem is a cause of great missionary inspiration for the V Encuentro. Living and understanding the mission of the Church as a pastoral encounter is what Pope Francis lives and proposes in each action, gesture, and message of his life. His secret consists in the deep and free conviction that he, and all the baptized, are the eyes, hands, and feet of Jesus in the world.

**Alejandro Aguilera-Titus has been appointed as the National Coordinator for the V Encuentro. The appointment began in mid-February and will continue until the end of the V Encuentro National event in the Fall of 2018.*

EL PROCESO EVANGELIZADOR DEL V ENCUENTRO

El proceso evangelizador del V Encuentro Nacional de Pastoral Hispana/Latina se está llevando a cabo en miles de parroquias, movimientos eclesiales y organizaciones católicas a lo largo y ancho del país. Su lema es Discípulos Misioneros: Testigos del Amor de Dios.

El V Encuentro sigue la metodología evangelizadora que Jesús mismo nos enseña en el pasaje bíblico de los discípulos que van camino a Emaús. Esta metodología también refleja los cinco movimientos que el papa Francisco presenta a la iglesia en La Alegría del Evangelio, cuando habla de realizar una pastoral de encuentro: dar el primer paso, involucrarse, acompañar, dar fruto de vida nueva y festejar. Analicemos el pasaje de Emaús para identificar las acciones o movimientos de esta metodología:

Dar el primer paso

Este primer paso o movimiento consiste en salir al encuentro, primeriar a hispanos/latinos en su realidad cotidiana, con sus problemas, retos, alegrías y sueños. Ello implica ir a sus ambientes, percibir su realidad, observar con ojos de discípulo, escuchar con atención y respeto.

Involucrarse

El encuentro con los demás, sobre todo con personas que pasan por momentos muy difíciles, debe iniciarse preguntándoles sobre sus vidas, sus preocupaciones, sus esperanzas, sus ideas, sus necesidades, sus sueños. Esto les permite que hablen de su realidad desde su perspectiva, que compartan su experiencia, sus sentimientos, sus ideas. Es escuchar profundamente y crear un espacio de confianza y seguridad que permita el desahogo y ofrezca el bálsamo sanador de sentires escuchado.

Acompañar

El acompañamiento consiste sobre todo en crear una relación de confianza inspirada por las promesas del Evangelio y un profundo respeto por la jornada de fe de

los demás. Este respeto es de particular importancia en el encuentro con jóvenes, ya que cada joven tiene su propia jornada de fe. Ellos buscan un encuentro personal con Jesús que los lleve a la conversión y a la comunión en su vida juvenil, dándole a la Iglesia su rostro joven e irremplazable.

Dar frutos de vida nueva

La metodología del V Encuentro reconoce la amistad, la cercanía y la hospitalidad en este pasaje bíblico como frutos de la acción misionera. Tal como lo hizo Jesús, nosotros debemos aceptar agradecidos la confianza y el cuidado que las personas nos ofrecen al invitarnos a su casa, a comer con ellos, a seguir la conversación

iniciada en la catequesis, en la celebración de algún sacramento o en el camino donde los encontramos. En una palabra, aceptar su invitación a tener una experiencia de fe más íntima, de compartir el pan y de hacer amistad, para que Jesús Resucitado se haga presente por medio de nosotros.

Festejar

La acción misionera del V Encuentro ofrece muchas oportunidades de salir al encuentro de personas y festejar con ellas de manera sencilla. Cada uno de estos encuentros en cercanía nos permite abrir los ojos, la mente y el corazón a la presencia de Jesucristo Vivo entre nosotros, en los festejos cotidianos y, sobre todo, en la Eucaristía.

Conclusión

El regreso de los discípulos a Jerusalén es motivo de gran inspiración misionera para el V Encuentro. Vivir y entender la misión de la iglesia como una pastoral de encuentro es lo que vive y propone el papa Francisco en cada acción, gesto y mensaje de su vida. Su secreto consiste en la profunda y libre convicción de que él, y todos los bautizados, somos los ojos, las manos y los pies de Jesús en el mundo.



*Alejandro Aguilera-Titus ha sido nombrado Coordinador Nacional para el V Encuentro. El nombramiento comenzó a mediados de febrero de 2017 y continuará hasta el fin del evento nacional del V Encuentro en el otoño de 2018.

AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS

By: Mrs. Donna Toliver Grimes, Assistant Director



Pope Francis' exhortation to be formed as missionary disciples offers unforeseen divine encounters in human disguise. F. DeKarlos Blackmon shares an African American Catholic perspective on the subject. He is former Supreme Knight of the Knights of Peter Claver, Inc., current Secretariat Director for Life, Charity, and Justice in the Diocese of Austin and a Consultant to the Subcommittee on African American Affairs.

“Our society needs a deeper understanding of each other, an authentic encounter that heals the wounds of violence, hatred, discrimination, and all things that damage our inherent dignity...we are called to be missionary disciples who encounter the marginalized, disregarded, and ostracized.”

In March 2017, I was privileged to participate in the Ecumenical Prayer Vigil for the Safety of Citizens, Residents, Refugees, Exiles, and Immigrants at Santa Teresa Parish in Bryan TX, which sought to provide pastoral care for those who have been suffering. The gathering at Santa Teresa brought together people of all races, nationalities, languages, cultures, and socioeconomic status in the Diocese of Austin. We are citizens, residents, immigrants, exiles, and refugees who share a common bond as the people of God.

When we seriously consider the plight of our (African American) ancestors just over a century ago,

we recognize that we are not far removed from the experiences of migrants and people of low socioeconomic status today. Concerning the explosive issue of immigration reform, we are harkened to consider the implications of discrimination toward anyone, including migrants, refugees, and those on the peripheries of society.

We are all made in the image and likeness of God. Each possesses an inherent value; each is important, we count, and we matter. When any of us, especially those who have endured discrimination or suffering at the hands of another, reflect on how it feels to be spurned and rejected, we see the importance of recognizing the dignity of every human person and must be mindful of how we treat each other.

Won't you share evangelization initiatives in your (arch)diocese that are forming and transforming African American Catholics as missionary disciples?



Pope Francis, @Pontifex

How beautiful it is to stand before the Crucifix, simply to be under the Lord's gaze, so full of love. (EG 264)

3:00 AM - 12 Apr. 2014, Pope Francis on Twitter

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

By: Fr. Michael Carson, Assistant Director

PERSONAL WITNESS AND INVITATION

The Most Powerful Means of Evangelization

Recently, I had an opportunity to interview Shirley Zuni, Director of Native American Ministry of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, and delegate to the Convocation of Catholic Leaders: The Joy of The Gospel In America representing the Native American Community. We discussed how the Native American ministry will be a part of this national conversation.

What are the challenges of Native American Ministry in the Southwest?

Sometimes the archdiocesan leadership and the clergy are not completely able to understand the traditions and ways of the life of our Pueblo people.

What are the opportunities?

The opportunity to gather all Pueblo governors, Church officials and our Pastors serving the Pueblos, with our archbishop at a special luncheon every year to

get to know one another. Other opportunities are to be present at feast days on the Pueblos. We also try to reach our Native people through our quarterly newsletter, our monthly radio show, our annual liturgy in the Native American tradition, and our annual Advent Gathering. Our Native people have also become involved in the V Encuentro. All that we do, is to build and nurture spirituality among our Catholic Native community.

In light of Evangelii Gaudium - How do we invite the Native American community "to take part in a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them?" How do we engage pastoral leaders "to seek to help believers to grow spiritually so that they can respond to God's love evermore fully in their lives?"

Personal witness and invitation is the most powerful, direct and effective means of evangelization especially among Native community. Understanding of the Native community they serve, pastoral leaders need to be authentic witness to the Gospel in their lives, to give witness to others.

Are there any communication strategies that have worked in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe that you think would apply elsewhere?

Yes, personal visitation, presence and listening have been most effective. Participation in Feast Day celebrations is a very powerful witness.

Are there any successful models of ministry that have worked in the Archdiocese that you think would work elsewhere?

Yes, to have a pastoral approach to ministry where leadership is used to bring their personal gifts for the service to others. The Annual Native American Liturgy and Lunch with the Archbishop are very meaningful for the people and also have been successful.

Photo courtesy of the Clarion Herald, the official newspaper of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New Orleans.



ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLAND AFFAIRS

By: Sr. Myrna Tordillo, MSCS, Assistant Director

ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLAND CATHOLICS: SHARING THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL

Los Angeles	358,525	CA
Brooklyn	154,590	NY
San Jose	142,663	CA
Honolulu	142,008	HI
Oakland	139,228	CA
Orange	135,148	CA
San Francisco	117,073	CA
Seattle	110,184	WA
Sacramento	92,447	CA
San Diego	87,546	CA
Galveston-Houston	75,910	TX
New York	72,425	NY
San Bernardino	67,385	CA
Chicago	66,060	IL
Arlington	53,477	VA
Total	1,814,669	

Asian and Pacific Islanders (API) make up six percent of the overall US population and are the third largest number of Catholics after white and Hispanic/Latino.¹ API comprise nearly three million American Catholics, concentrated especially along the West Coast of the United States.

Fifteen (arch) dioceses with the most API Catholics contain 63% of the total API Catholic population.

Together, API peoples bring a rich diversity of cultures, languages and faith traditions, and they impact not only the larger American society but the Church as well. “In many cases, they are producing vocations in the

Church at a larger ratio than their share of the Catholic population.”²

API Catholics are a “people of many faces” who share the joy of the Gospel through their faith expressions and lived experiences. As Pope Francis points out in *Evangelii Gaudium*, “every culture offers positive values and forms which can enrich the way the Gospel is preached, understood and lived.

According to the 2015 report on a National Study of Asian and Pacific Island Catholics, “most API Catholics see their ethnicity and religion as equally important to their sense of who they are.... Asian and

Pacific Islander Catholics tend to assign strong importance to traditional Church teachings, such as the Vatican’s authority, social justice, and a celibate male clergy.” The report further points out that popular devotions are particularly important to API Catholics, while also underlining that “leadership emerges as a key area of potential improvement expressed by Asian and Pacific Islander Catholics.”³

API Catholics, by their presence, gifts and challenges can contribute to the national conversation during the Convocation of Catholic Leaders in Orlando in July 2017.

End Notes:

1. Internal Letter 2. Internal letter 3. Bruce, Tricia, et.al. National Study of Asian and Pacific Island Catholics, 2015.



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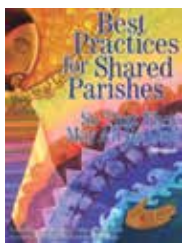
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RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

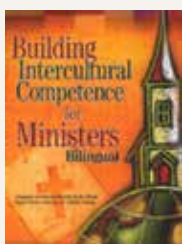
Visit <http://store.usccb.org/asp> to browse and order your resources or call **1-800-235-8722**. Remember to have the product code number ready when placing.



BEST PRACTICES FOR SHARED PARISHES BILINGUAL

Product Code 7-389

Best Practices for Shared Parishes: So That They All May Be One is a guide to assist pastors of culturally diverse parishes in the challenging task of building unity in diversity. The guide identifies pastoral responses and proven best practices in relation to intercultural competencies in attitudes, knowledge, and skills.



BUILDING INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE FOR MINISTERS -BILINGUAL

Product Code 7-887

The Building Intercultural Competence for Ministers manual is designed to help ministry leaders achieve a basic level of awareness and proficiency in the area of intercultural competency.



HARMONY IN FAITH KOREAN AMERICAN CATHOLICS

Product Code 7-429

This short book on Korean American Catholics connects each believer to their roots in Korea, weaving through thick layers of their history of faith.



THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL (EVANGELII GAUDIUM)

Product code: 7-458

The Joy of the Gospel (Evangelii Gaudium) is the long-awaited teaching of Pope Francis on the proclamation of the Gospel. Pope Francis is calling upon the Church and the world with encouragement to begin a new chapter in evangelization. This dynamic document is written in the plain, everyday language for which the pope has become famous.

LA ALEGRÍA DEL EVANGELIO (EVANGELII GAUDIUM) EN ESPAÑOL

Product code 7-789

La Alegría del Evangelio (Evangelii Gaudium) es la aguardada enseñanza del Papa Francisco en la proclamación del Evangelio. El Papa Francisco exorta a la Iglesia y al mundo a comenzar con estímulo un nuevo capítulo en la evangelización. Este documento dinámico está escrito en el lenguaje sencillo y corriente del cual el Papa se ha hecho famoso.



THE JOY OF LOVE (AMORIS LAETITIA)

Product code 7-540

The Joy of Love (Amoris Laetitia) brings together the results of the two Synods on the Family convoked by Pope Francis in 2014 and 2015.

Striking for its breadth and detail—and firmly grounded in the challenges of family experiences—the Joy of Love affirms the rich and complex reality of family life with pastoral care, speaking the language of experience and hope.

LA ALEGRÍA DEL AMOR (AMORIS LAETITIA)

Product code 7-893

La alegría del amor (Amoris Laetitia) reúne a los resultados de los dos Sínodos sobre la Familia convocado por Francisco en 2014 y 2015.

Sorprendente por su amplitud y detalle-y firmemente enraizada en los retos de la familia experiencias la alegría del amor afirma la realidad rica y compleja de la vida familiar con la pastoral, hablando el lenguaje de la experiencia y la esperanza.



RESETTLING IN PLACE A VIETNAMESE AMERICAN CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE

Product code 7-480

This short book is a snapshot description about a community who rebuilt their faith life by sustaining family values, culture, and Catholic devotional practices.



VOICES OF VATICAN II - DVD

Product code 7-483

In Voices of Vatican II, twelve men who took part in the Second Vatican Council (1962-65) look back at that historic event, half a century after the fact. It features abundant archival footage of the council, much of it rarely seen, and exclusive interviews with those who recount the history they witnessed and helped to make.



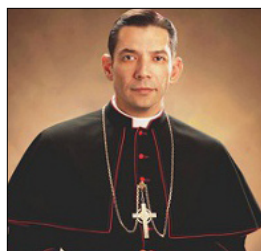
YOUNG PEOPLE, THE FAITH, AND VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT

Product code 7-557

The Church encourages youth and young people to boldly follow Jesus, wherever he may send them! Read Pope Francis's Letter to Young People, and dive into the preparatory document on Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment.

2017 Catechetical Sunday & Leadership Institute BEGINNING SPRING 2017

Read Catechetical Sunday articles & watch Leadership Institute videos at usccb.org/missionary-disciples



Christian Discipleship and the Care for the Created Order



Most Rev. Daniel E. Flores, STD
Bishop of Brownsville

The teaching of Pope Francis in his encyclical *Laudato Si* represents an urgent call for Christians to apply the Gospel to the current problem of the degradation of the natural and human environment.



The Joy of Celebrating the Sacraments



Dr. Janet Diaz
Director of Evangelization, Church of Holy Family in Novi, MI

Those who are poor in body and spirit often suffer most from lack of spiritual care. The grace of the sacraments is a great support to us as we seek to live out two of Pope Francis' mandates: seek to encounter Jesus Christ each and every day and reach out to those on the margins.



Encuentro as a Pedagogical Model for Catechesis and Evangelization



Mar Muñoz-Visoso
Executive Director, Cultural Diversity in the Church, USCCB

Dr. Hosffman Ospino
Associate Professor, Theology and Religious Education, Boston College

Catechesis, a unique moment to form missionary disciples. How? Take the first step, get involved, accompany, bear fruit, and rejoice.



"By Their Fruits You Will Know Them": Catechists and Evangelizers as Missionary Disciples



Fr. Frank Donio, S.A.C., D.Min
Director, Catholic Apostolate Center

Margaret Matijasevic
Executive Director, National Conference for Catechetical Leadership

A conversation between NCCL Executive Director Margaret Matijasevic and Catholic Apostolate Center Director Fr. Frank Donio, S.A.C. about catechists as Missionary Disciples.



Accompanying Youth and Young Adults on Their Journey as Missionary Disciples



Julianne Stanz
Director, New Evangelization for the Diocese of Green Bay, WI

Tom East
Director, Center for Ministry Development

Our engagement with youth should help young disciples encounter Christ, accompany them, promote belonging in the parish community, and lead them to missionary witness. Stanz and East share a vision for this process including practical resources, suggestions, and prayers for parishes.

View these and more at usccb.org/missionary-disciples



“ This year we are collaborating with several other USCCB Committees to provide resources to Catholic laity across the U.S. in response to Pope Francis' call to all the baptized to grow closer to the Lord and to take up their proper role as “missionary disciples.” Our theme for 2017 is *Living as Missionary Disciples/ Viviendo como discípulos misioneros*. On our new websites you will find 9 different topics presented in both English and Spanish, in the form of articles and webinar presentations, as well as short and engaging videos.

I invite everyone to make use of the materials that are offered for 2017--evangelists, catechists and teachers, parents and families, parish leadership and faith growth groups, and anyone striving to live as a missionary disciple. ”

-Archbishop Leonard P. Blair
Chairman of Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis



Visit online:
www.usccb.org/leadership
www.usccb.org/catechetical-sunday



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2017 Catechetical Sunday y Leadership Institute COMIENZA EN LA PRIMAVERA DE 2017

Lea artículos de Catechetical Sunday y vea videos de Leadership Institute en usccb.org/missionary-disciples




El Regocijo de Celebrar los Sacramentos

Dr. Janet Diaz  
Directora de Evangelización, Church of the Holy Family in Novi, MI

Los que son pobres, bien sea físicamente o espiritualmente, sufren mucho de la falta de atención espiritual. La gracia que recibimos a través de los sacramentos nos apoya en nuestros esfuerzos para vivir dos directivas del Papa Francisco: renovar el encuentro con Jesús cada día y alcanzar a los que están viviendo en las periferias.



Fermentando con Dios: La amistad con Dios desde la experiencia del encuentro

Fr. Juan Antonio Puigbó  
Sacerdote de la Diócesis de Arlington en Virginia

Sólo en el encuentro íntimo con Dios que nos ha creado para Él conseguiremos la transformación interior que nos convierte en testigos auténticos de una vida nueva. Vivir de a la manera de Cristo libera e invita a anunciarle al mundo la riqueza inagotable de Jesucristo.



Encuentro como modelo pedagógico para la catequesis y la evangelización

Mar Muñoz-Visoso  
Executive Director, Cultural Diversity in the Church, USCCB

Dr. Hosffman Ospino
Profesor de Teología y Educación Religiosa, Boston College

La catequesis, un gran momento para formar discípulos misioneros. ¿Cómo? Primerea, involúcrate, acompaña,

fructifica y festeja.



Una Familia, Muchas Familias: Ministros Laicos en una iglesia culturalmente diversa desde la Evangelii Gaudium

Andrea Blanco 
Autora, Pastoral Familiar Hispana en los Estados Unidos

William Cardona
Autor, Pastoral Familiar Hispana en los Estados Unidos

La diversidad cultural no amenaza la unidad de la Iglesia, somos muchas familias que experimentan el don de Dios según su propia cultura.



Discípulos Misioneros de la Creación

Nelson Araque  
Theology Teacher, Cardinal Gibbons High School, FL

Miriam Hidalgo, M.Ed.
Director, Youth & Young Adult Ministry, Office of Education, Evangelization & Catechesis of the Archdiocese of Hartford, CT

En este recursos, analizamos la interconexión entre los Latinos y el medio ambiente y discutimos como los Latinos están llamados a ser "Discípulos Misioneros de la Creación."

Ve estos temas y más a usccb.org/missionary-disciples

Viviendo como discípulos misioneros

“ Este año, estamos colaborando con varios comités de la USCCB para proveer recursos a los laicos católicos por todo los Estados Unidos, en respuesta al llamado del Papa Francisco, a que todos los bautizados se acerquen al Señor y emprendan su papel apropiado como “discípulos misioneros.” El tema para el 2017 es Living as Missionary Disciples/Viviendo como discípulos misioneros. En nuestra nueva página web encontrarán nueve diferentes temas presentados en inglés y español en el formato de artículos, cortos videos interesantes y presentaciones de seminarios web.

Yo les invito a todos a que utilicen los materiales ofrecidos para el 2017—evangelistas, catequistas y maestros, padres y familias, líderes parroquiales, grupos de crecimiento en la fe, y a cualquiera que este esmerándose para vivir como discípulo misionero. ”

-Arzobispo Leonard P. Blair
Presidente del Comité de Evangelización y Catequesis



Visite en línea en:
www.usccb.org/leadership
www.usccb.org/catechetical-sunday



Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis
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EVENTS

- May 19, 2017 - Maritime Day Celebration
- May 20, 2017 - Maritime Day Mass @ the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Crypt Church
- May 21, 2017 - Maritime Mass
- June 3, 2017: African Catholic Community of DC Metro, Annual Prayer Day Area St. Matthias the Apostle Church Lanham, MD
- June 10, 2017: National Center for Haitian Apostolate Annual Conference, Spring Valley, NY
- June 20th, 2017: World Refugee Day
- June 23-26, 2017: Igbo Catholic Community USA Annual Convention, Houston, TX
- July 1-4, 2017 - Convocation of Catholic Leaders The Joy of the Gospel in America, Orlando, FL
- July 6-9, 2017 - The National Black Catholic Congress, Orlando, FL
- July 17-20, 2017: National Conference of Catholic Airport Chaplains (NCCAC) Training and Meeting at O'Hare Airport
- July 19-23, 2017 - Tekakwitha Conference, Rapid City, SD
- July 26-29, 2017: African Conference of Catholic Clergy and Religious in the United States, New Orleans LA,
- August 4-6, 2017 - Native American & African American Youth Ministers Retreat
- August 8-11, 2017: North American Maritime Ministry Association Conference, Annual Conference New Orleans LA
- September 27, 2017 - Feast of Our Lady Star of the Sea
- November 21, 2017 - World Fisheries Day



Prayer For The 2017 Convocation Of Catholic Leaders

O Holy Spirit, you who first enkindled in our hearts the joy of the Gospel, renew that same joy in those who are preparing for the Convocation of Catholic Leaders.

Enflame the hearts of our bishops and their diocesan delegations; leaders of national organizations and movements; clergy, religious and laity; all who make this event possible; and Catholic leaders across the United States.

Move us to welcome the word of life in the depths of our hearts and respond to the call of missionary discipleship.

*O Holy Spirit, transform our hearts and enable us to enter into the perfect communion that you share with the Father and the Son. **

Mary, Star of the New Evangelization, pray for us.

Amen.

**cf. EG,117*

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