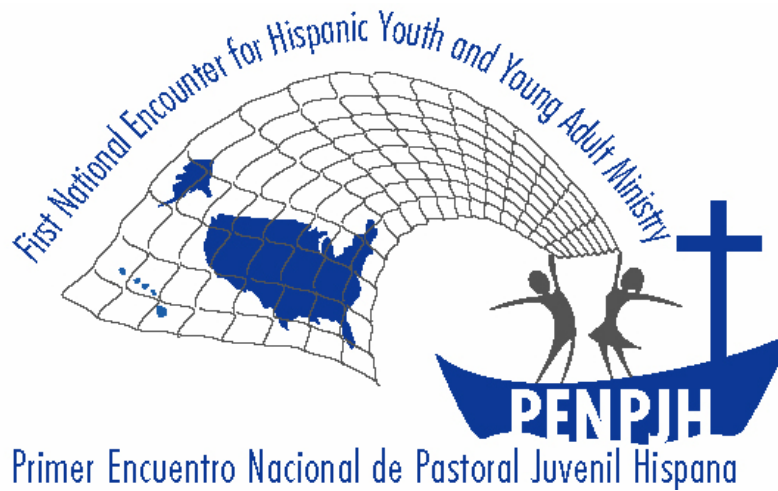


**MANUAL**



**JANUARY 2005 – JUNE 2006**

**Weaving the Future Together**

**Convened by:**

The National Catholic Network de Pastoral Juvenil Hispana (La Red)

**Co-sponsored by:**

USCCB Bishops' Committee on Hispanic Affairs  
USCCB Sub-committee on Youth and Young Adult  
The University of Notre Dame

**In collaboration with:**

USCCB Committee for the Church in Latin America  
*Asociación Nacional de Sacerdotes Hispanos (ANSH)*  
Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI)  
Catholic Migrant Farmworker Network  
Center for Ministry Development  
Conference of Regional Directors/Coordinators for Hispanic Ministry  
*Instituto Fe y Vida*  
National Catholic Association of Diocesan Directors for Hispanic Ministry (NCADDHM)  
National Catholic Council for Hispanic Ministry (NCCHM)  
National Catholic Young Adult Ministers Association (NCYAMA)  
National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM)  
National Federation for Pastoral Institutes (FIP)  
National Organization of Catechists among Hispanics (NOCH)  
Mexican American Cultural Center (MACC)  
Oregon Catholic Press (OCP)  
South East Pastoral Institute (SEPI)

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January 3, 2005

Dear Young Brothers and Sister in Christ,

On behalf of La Red and all its members and collaborators, I would like thank you for being a young voice in the Catholic Church in the United States. We call to you today, to come forth and together from your groups, parishes, and your diocese to share with the whole Church your great spirit of energy and enthusiasm in the Lord. We call on to you to engage as Hispanic young people in an evangelizing process that will bring you to a more enthusiastic and personal participation in the life and mission of the Church. As we start the **First National Encuentro for Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry in the US** we invite you to come and share your thoughts, experiences and faith.

The process for the First Encuentro starts at the grassroots level with the first Encuentros beginning at your parish. This process, which will be facilitated in Spanish , English or both, has a consultative dimension aimed at identifying effective ministry models for our Hispanic youth and young adult ministry at the parish, diocesan and regional level.

The excitement and expectations are awesome as we bring the hope of providing a better ministry among young Hispanic people in the church today. We also provide an opportunity once again for all the young Hispanic/Latino people to participate more fully and to raise their voice in this Encuentro process to proclaim that Jesus Christ is alive and living in all our hearts.

It is with great joy that we invite you to be a participant in this process. Together as the young church in the US, we will bring the good news to all. We provide this First Encuentro with a Manual to assist all of us in the Encuentro process. To culminate this process we invite you to join us at a **national celebration** as the final step in a national event to be held in **June 8-11, 2006 at the University of Notre Dame**. May the risen Christ help you and bless each one of you as we fortify the church and our faith through this Encuentro process.

Peace in the Lord,

Rey Malavé  
President

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## Preface

According to the official projections of the U. S. Census Bureau for 2004, the number of Hispanics living in the United States has reached 44.5 million. The Hispanic Catholic population under the age of twenty five is estimated to be 17 million, which constitutes almost half of the total Catholic population among children and young people.

Unfortunately, Hispanic children and young people have only benefited marginally from the impressive growth of Hispanic ministry and youth ministry over the past thirty years. The unspoken assumption that Hispanic children and young people knew English, or were in the process of learning it, made the development of catechetical programs in Spanish quite difficult, even for First Communion and Confirmation. In the area of youth ministry, this assumption was even more prevalent as Hispanic youth were simply expected to assimilate into the existing parish youth group and activities. This assumption has proved to be incorrect, as a large segment of the young Catholic population has gone without appropriate pastoral attention.

During its November 2004 meeting, the Bishops' Committee on Hispanic Affairs agreed to cosponsor the First National Encuentro for Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry. The process for the First Encuentro was developed and presented to the Committee by the National Catholic Network de Pastoral Juvenil Hispana (La Red) as the convening organization. The First Encuentro is a process designed to bring Hispanic Catholic young people to a more active, enthusiastic and influential participation in the life and mission of the Church in the United States. As such, the First Encuentro is a strategy to advance the goals of the Initiative for Hispanic Youth and Young Adults, presented also by La Red and endorsed by the Bishops' Committee on Hispanic Affairs and the Subcommittee on Youth and Young Adults in June 2002. The National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) and the National Catholic Young Adult Ministers Association (NCYAMA) also endorsed the initiative.

The First National Encuentro for Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry uses the biblical image of the fisherman's net, as its spiritual and pastoral motivation. All ministers working with young people are called to take to heart the challenging invitation to "put out into the deep" for a catch—"Duc in altum"—made by Jesus to His disciples and echoed by John Paul II in the Pastoral Letter *Novo Millennio Ineunte* (NMI). The net is also a symbol of communion in mission as we strive to model a shared ministry that makes the Church the home and the school of communion (OBNM No. 43) in which every single minister is responsible for the well being of all Catholics. As such, collaboration between the diocesan offices for Hispanic ministry, youth and young adult ministry, and for Pastoral Juvenil Hispana is essential. Equally essential is the commitment on the part of pastors, parish staff and leadership, to respond to the needs and aspirations of Hispanic young people with new ardor, new expressions and new methods.

This process of Encuentro is inspired by the vision and message of the Synod for America, in which the Holy Father invites us to Encounter the Living Jesus Christ as the Way to Conversion, Communion, Solidarity and Mission.

## **Introduction**

“Adolescents and young adults today are growing up in a culturally diverse society. The perceived image of the United States has shifted from a melting pot to a multi-hued tapestry.” Youth and young adult ministry in this context need to focus ‘on a specialized ministry to youth [and young adults] of particular racial and ethnic cultures and, at the same time, promote mutual awareness and unity among all young people (RVYM, 22).

This two-fold commitment to unity in diversity is highlighted by the Bishops of the United States when they say that “Ministry in the twenty-first century requires the commitment to welcome and foster the cultural identity of the many faces in the Church while building a profoundly Catholic identity that strengthens the unity of the one Body of Christ” (E&M #36).

In the same document the bishops call all Catholics, especially those already ministering with Hispanic young people, and the leadership in Hispanic and youth and young adult ministry, to work together in developing ministerial models that respond to the specific reality of Hispanic Catholic young people in the context of a culturally diverse society (E&M #70).

### **Responding to the call with a process of Encuentro**

It is in response to this call that we, the National Catholic Network de Pastoral Juvenil Hispana, and the national leadership in Hispanic and youth and young adult ministry are collaborating on putting together the First National Encuentro for Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry. With the guidance of our bishops and under the central theme *Weaving the Future Together*, this National Encuentro for Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry is a first and necessary step in helping the Church as a whole understand, embrace and affirm the unique cultural identity, reality and gifts of Hispanic youth and young adults. At the same time, the Encuentro will identify and/or develop best practices, and the principles and components that constitute a ministry rooted in the reality of Hispanic young people in the United States.

### **Inviting all parishes and dioceses to participate**

The First Encuentro is a local process leading to a national event. The local process will encourage participation by parishes, dioceses and regions, spearheaded by the diocesan coordinator for Hispanic youth and young adult ministry in collaboration with the diocesan offices for Hispanic ministry and youth and young adult ministry as co-lead agents, or by the person the Bishop appoints to perform this task.

Parish Encuentro: Spring–Summer 2005  
Diocesan Encuentro: Summer–Fall 2005

Regional Encuentro: Spring 2006  
National Encuentro: June 8–11, 2006

The national event will take place in June 8-11, 2006 at the University of Notre Dame. Participants will include bishops, Hispanic youth and young adults, diocesan coordinators for Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry (Pastoral Juvenil), diocesan directors for Hispanic Ministry, Youth Ministry, Young Adult Ministry, Vocations and parish youth ministers. Diocesan directors for Catechesis, Education, Evangelization and Social Concerns are encouraged to participate. The cost for the national event will be \$275, which includes lodging, meals and all materials (scholarships available for young people).

### **Who is participating?**

Ministry with, to and from Hispanic young people in the United States is referred to as Pastoral Juvenil in the Hispanic ministry network. It includes young people from three major age-groups: 14–17; 18–24; and 24–30. The process of Encuentro is intended to engage Hispanic young people from these three age-groups at the parish and diocesan level. Each region can decide the age of the participants at that level. The National Encuentro is for Hispanic young people 18 years or older. The diversity in the life experience of Hispanic youth and young adults is taken into account:

- Foreign-born and U.S.-born Hispanics with roots in the various Latin American countries and Spain, including Latin American Indians.
- Migrant workers, urban and suburban residents, high school and college students, professionals and military personnel.
- The local process will include an outreach effort to involve Hispanic young people at risk and those who are incarcerated.

### **Our common goal**

The central goal of the First Encuentro is to engage Hispanic young people and the professional leadership in Hispanic and Youth and Young Adult ministry in a process of encounter-conversion-communion-solidarity and mission that can empower Hispanic young people into a more active, enthusiastic and influential participation in the life and mission of the Church in the United States.

### **Specific objectives**

- Through a consultation process, identify and reflect on the needs, aspirations and contributions of Hispanic Catholic young people within the Church and in society.
- Through a formation in action process, foster the leadership and skills development of Hispanic Catholic young people already involved in ministry, while reaching out to those who do not yet participate in the life of the Church
- Through a discernment process, develop a common vision and pastoral principles that will guide ministry TO, WITH and FROM Hispanic youth and young adults in parishes, dioceses and Catholic institutions and organizations.

- Through an assessment process, identify and promote best practices and ministry models that effectively help Hispanic young people mature as disciples of Christ.
- Through a communion in mission process, develop strategies and provide the resources necessary to equip parishes, dioceses and Catholic organizations and institutions for ministry among Hispanic young people.

## **Manual for the Parish and Diocesan Encuentro Process**

This guide contains the process for the parish and diocesan level which includes:

- Five two-hour interactive sessions for reflection and consultation for youth and young adult groups and communities, apostolic movements and campus ministry groups.
- One missionary action carried out by participants of these groups and communities.
- One Parish Encuentro with the participation of the members of the various groups and Hispanic youth and young adults invited through the missionary action.

### **Sessions for reflection and consultation**

Each session is designed as a pastoral dialogue, co-facilitated by leaders in Pastoral Juvenil and youth and young adult ministry both professional and volunteers. The sessions follow the themes of encuentro, conversion, communion, solidarity and mission. They can take place during five consecutive weeks, five consecutive week-nights or during a weekend. If a parish is already set with activities for youth and young adults it can study the sessions and choose the ones that they deem more relevant for their situation.

Along with an evangelizing and a catechetical dimension, the sessions have questions that give participants the opportunity to share their experiences, perspectives and recommendations regarding their participation in the life and mission of the Church.

Generating this data and reflecting upon it at the diocesan, regional and national encuentros is an essential aspect of the Encuentro process. This data will be shared with the bishops. A pastoral statement may be produced to assist parishes, dioceses and other Catholic organizations and institutions in their ministry among Hispanic youth and young adults.

### **A missionary action**

At the end of session five, the participants are prepared and sent in a spirit of mission to reach out to Hispanic youth and young adults who find themselves distant from the Church or who participate minimally in the life of the parish, in order to:

- Share their faith with them
- Get input from them through a survey
- Invite them to participate at the Parish Encuentro

The data generated by this survey will be included in the data gathered during the five sessions.

### **Parish Encuentro**

The Parish Encuentro follows the thematic flow of: encuentro, conversion, communion, solidarity and mission. It is an opportunity for Hispanic young people to:

- Share the experiences, insights and recommendations generated during the five sessions and the missionary action
- Strengthen their Catholic identity and to deepen their commitment to the life and mission of the Church as active members of the parish community
- Prepare for the upcoming Diocesan Encuentro

## Sessions for the Parish Encuentro Process

### Goals

- Experience an encounter with the living Jesus Christ and affirm their gifts
- Deepen understanding of lived reality and challenges faced as individuals and as community
- Reflect on their reality in light of the Scriptures and the teachings of the Church
- Generate information, perspectives, insights and recommendations leading to a more effective pastoral ministry among Hispanic Catholic youth and young adults

### Themes for the sessions

1. Encountering the Living Jesus Christ
2. The Path to Conversion
3. The Path to Communion
4. The Path to Solidarity
5. Jesus Calls Us to be Missionaries

### Outline of the sessions

1. *Coming together*  
Lead an icebreaker, song or *dinámica* to bring young people together. (5 min.)
2. *Welcome and opening prayer*  
Welcome participants and start with a prayer using the scriptural theme of the session or another reading connected to it. (10 min.)
3. *Dialogue on our reality*  
Introduce theme and goal of the session and invite participants to dialogue using the opening questions in each session. (20 min.)
4. *Reflection in light of the Scriptures and pastoral ministry*  
Use the content in this section as a starting point for your presentations. Be as creative as you can in the presentations (drama, visuals, music etc.). (30 min.)
5. *Our pastoral response*  
Small group process and plenary (20 min.)
6. *Closing prayer*  
Make sure to have all materials ready for the prayer before starting the session. (20 min.)

Note: If the participants include teenagers and young adults, form separate small groups of teens and young adults. This will make it easier for teens to participate. In addition, it will make it easier to identify the responses.

# Session 1

## Encountering the Living Jesus Christ

*“Rabbi where are you staying”? Jesus said to them  
“Come and you will see” (Jn 1, 38-39).*

### Goals

- To share and reflect on our experiences of encounter with Jesus Christ and of welcome in our faith community
  - To invite young people to share their talents and ideas through the First National Encuentro for Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry
1. COMING TOGETHER Use an icebreaker and/or a song to bring the participants together.
  2. WELCOME AND PRAYER Lead a prayer on the theme of Encountering Christ using the scripture passage of the session or other passage connected with the theme.
  3. DIALOGUE ON OUR REALITY Present the theme and goals of the session and invite participants to share based on the following questions:
    1. How does your youth group, young adult group or apostolic movement help you to experience an Encounter with the Living Jesus Christ and to develop an ever growing relationship with Him?
    2. What makes you feel the most welcomed and helps you to participate more actively in your group or apostolic movement?
    3. What can you do to promote a more welcoming environment and encourage other young people to participate?

*(Record the answers to these questions in work sheet #1.)*
  4. REFLECTION IN LIGHT OF THE SCRIPTURES AND PASTORAL MINISTRY

### ***Hispanic young people seeking an encounter with Jesus Christ***

A growing number of Hispanic young people are experiencing a personal and communal encounter with Living Jesus Christ in parish groups, small communities and Catholic apostolic movements. This encounter is taking place in the context of welcoming parishes that have developed effective models to minister to, with and from Hispanic young people. The emerging Hispanic young leadership is generating a vibrant peer ministry as they mature in faith and strive to live as young disciples of Christ in their homes, parishes and communities.

However, young active Hispanic Catholics are a very small percentage of the millions of Hispanic young people who live in the United States. About three out of four Hispanic young people are Catholic and account for almost half of all Catholics under the age of twenty-five. Today most Hispanic young people find themselves in many different

and often adverse situations. They turn their eyes to the Church and pray every day for good news to come their way; they pray every day to meet someone they can trust and follow; someone to give them hope in the promises God has made to them as His children and members of His Church.

As Hispanic young people long for an encounter with Jesus and to feel at home in the Church, we look at the Sacred Scriptures for prayerful guidance. In the Gospel according to John, 1, 35-42, we find a similar situation as two disciples of John the Baptist hear him say that Jesus is the “Lamb Of God” as Jesus walks by. The two disciples begin following Jesus and when He notices them He turns and says to them: “What are you looking for?” Andrew and his companion respond “Rabbi where are you staying?” Jesus says to them, “Come and you will see.” After Andrew and his companion spend some time getting to know Jesus and listening to his message of Good News, Andrew finds his own brother Simon and tells him, “We have found the Messiah.” Then he brings Simon to Jesus and when Jesus looks at him he says, “You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Kephas (Peter).” These first disciples were very few and had the awesome mission of bringing the Good News to every corner of the World. They were fishermen and Jesus invited them to follow Him and become fishers of men for the Reign of God.

### ***The gifts and talents of Hispanic young people and a welcoming faith community***

The Bishops are aware of the growing numbers of the Hispanic community, particularly young people, and have said in many occasions that the Hispanic presence is a blessing from God to the Church and to the United States. The bishops recognize and affirm the profound faith Hispanics have in God’s providence, their authentic Marian devotion, their love for family, their sense of community and hospitality and many other gifts. (*The Hispanic Presence: Challenge and Commitment*, 3). The Bishops are aware of the challenge to welcome them and to give them the space they need to be themselves. They also acknowledge the pain felt by young people feeling unwelcome and alone—strangers in the house of God (*Sons & Daughters of the Light*, V). They believe that effective ministry should help all young people, and in this case, Hispanics, to feel comfortable and welcome so that they can develop their identity by affirming and utilizing the values and traditions of their unique culture, and the gifts and talents they offer to the entire faith community. (RVYM #23)

5. OUR PASTORAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUP AND PLENARY SHARING:
  4. Identify three talents or gifts Hispanic young people bring to the Church in the United States.
  5. How is your youth group, young adult group or apostolic movement sharing these gifts with the parish community?
  6. What can you do as a group to promote that young people have an Encounter with the Living Jesus Christ and live as His disciples?
  7. Identify three actions the youth and young adult ministry and your parish as a whole can do to better welcome and empower Hispanic youth and young adults

*(Write the answers on form #1.)*

6. CLOSING PRAYER

- Using the Song *Pescador de Hombres*, invite people in the small groups to build a net as a symbol of saying yes to Christ's call to follow Him.
- As each small group finishes, it can join the others in putting together a bigger net that represents their commitment to be a community of young disciples working together in building a welcoming net filled with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

It is very important to have all materials to be used for building the net ready before the session starts.

## **Session 2**

### **The Path to Conversion**

*“They were in the boat... mending their nets. He Called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed Him” (Mt 4:21-22)*

#### **Goals**

- To develop a sense of identity as disciples of Jesus Christ through an ongoing personal conversion process
  - To identify ways to promote conversion within cultures
1. **COMING TOGETHER** Use an icebreaker and/or a song to bring the participants together.
  2. **WELCOME AND PRAYER:** Lead a prayer on the theme of Conversion using the scripture passage of the session or other passage connected with the theme.
  3. **DIALOGUE ON OUR REALITY** Present the theme and goals of the session and invite participants to reflect individually, and in writing, on the following:
    1. Identify two attitudes, gifts or actions that help you to be a source of peace and joy for others.
    2. Identify two attitudes, habits or behaviors that keep you from growing as a person and to relate more harmoniously with your family, classmates, co-workers and people in general.
    3. Think of ways in which Jesus asks you to change these negative attitudes, habits or behaviors and pray to the Holy Spirit for the strength to make those changes.
    4. Keep the paper with these reflections in a safe place and read them once in a while to see how you are doing in your conversion process.
  4. **REFLECTION IN LIGHT OF THE SCRIPTURES AND PASTORAL MINISTRY**

#### ***A heritage of faith deeply rooted in culture***

Since the first missionaries brought the Catholic faith to our continent, many of the Gospel values and Church traditions have deeply touched the hearts and roots of Latin American culture. Latin Americans today continue to treasure this gift of faith which is lived-out and expressed in their common language and traditions and in the blending of different races and nationalities. This common heritage is of particular importance for Hispanics living in the United States, as they struggle to define their own identity in a culturally diverse context and under the pressure to assimilate (E&M #14). Hispanic/Latino young people are in an even more challenging situation as they have to develop their unique sense of identity and experience of faith while living between two cultures.

How is the Church fostering the ongoing conversion of millions of Catholic baptized Hispanic young people, so that their children will also inherit the gift of faith and the love for the Church? “In speaking of conversion, the New Testament uses the Greek word *metanoia*, which means a change of mentality. It is not simply a matter of thinking differently . . . but of revising the reasons behind one’s actions in the light of the Gospel” (EIA #26). Conversion is a change of heart and mind that fosters a new life in which there is no separation between what we believe and our daily duties in family, work and social life. The need for conversion also applies to the separation between faith and culture. Conversion calls us to wake from the sleep of a faith only in name and lived without energy, to a faith working through love in every aspect of our lives. To be true disciples of Christ, believers must bear witness to their faith, and “witnesses testify not only in words, but also with their lives.” (EIA #26)

***Faith based energies, enthusiasm and ideals transform people’s hearts and cultures***

The Bishops have said that the Church needs the enthusiasm, energies and ideals of young people to make the Gospel of life penetrate the fabric of society. This involves transforming people’s hearts and cultures in order to create a civilization of true justice and love (*Sons and Daughters of the Light*, V). Conversion is a personal reality but it also has a social and cultural dimension. Social conversion calls us to revise all the different areas and aspects of life in light of the Gospel. In the case of Hispanic young people, it is critical to revise how the mainstream society structure and culture in the United States, and their own Hispanic/Latino culture, foster their growth and healthy integration. The Bishops have said that “integration is not to be confused with assimilation. Through the policy of assimilation, new immigrants are forced to give up their language, culture, values, and traditions... By integration we mean that our Hispanic people are to be welcomed to our church institutions at all levels. They are to be served in their language when possible, and their cultural values and religious traditions are to be respected. Beyond that, we must work toward mutual enrichment through interaction among all our cultures” (NPPHM #4). The bishops also speak of the importance of transforming all cultures in light of the Gospel. This is achieved through an ongoing inculturation process that fosters the intimate transformation of cultures through Christian values and integrates those values into each culture (*Redemptoris Missio* #52).

5. OUR PASTORAL RESPONSE Questions for small group and plenary sharing:
  5. In which concrete ways can your youth group, young adult group or apostolic movement promote the ongoing conversion of Hispanic young people in your parish?
  6. Identify three Gospel values present in Hispanic culture and three present in mainstream U.S. culture.
  7. Identify three things or aspects that need conversion, a change of heart, in Hispanic culture and in mainstream U.S. culture.
  8. Identify three things the youth and young adult ministry, and your parish as a whole can do to better foster the identity of Hispanic young people as disciples of Christ.

*(Write the answers on form #2.)*

6. CLOSING PRAYER

- Use the biblical image of the fishermen James and John mending their nets to pray and reflect on the experience of this session.
- Prepare colored ribbons to symbolize the Gospel values present in Hispanic and mainstream U.S. cultures.
- Ask participants to write the words for these values on the ribbons and attach them to the net made during the previous session.
- A prayer of thanksgiving can be offered for the ways in which God has helped participants experience a change of heart. A prayer of commitment to continue on an ongoing process of conversion at the personal and cultural level can also be made.

## **Session 3**

### **The Path to Communion**

*“For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit” (1 Cor 12:13).*

#### **Goals**

- To foster a sense of belonging to the Church within each cultural and ethnic community while bringing them together as one body in Christ
  - To identify ways to promote a stronger sense of community and unity among young people in culturally diverse parishes
1. **COMING TOGETHER** Use an icebreaker and/or a song to bring the participants together.
  2. **WELCOME AND PRAYER** Lead a prayer on the theme of Communion using the scripture passage of the session or other passage connected with the theme.
  3. **DIALOGUE ON OUR REALITY** Present the theme and goals of the session and invite participants to share based on the following questions:
    1. What positive attitudes and actions make your youth group, young adult group or apostolic movement a strong and united community?
    2. What negative attitudes and actions create conflict and division? Identify three of each.

*(Write the answers on worksheet #3.)*
  4. **REFLECTION IN LIGHT OF THE SCRIPTURES AND PASTORAL MINISTRY**

#### ***Hispanic young people building community in the midst of diversity***

Hispanic young people share in a culture that values strong community ties. The family plays a very important role in what young people do, how they interact with one another and who they are as members of a particular family or community. This strong sense of belonging provides safety, comfort and predictability through rituals, expectations and common beliefs and values. However, this familiarity has been challenged by the many situations in which Hispanic young people find themselves in the United States. A significant number of Hispanic young people are immigrants living away from home as they struggle to provide economic support for their families in their country of origin. Others are children of immigrants seeking their own identity as they move between two cultures with different ways of developing relationships and a sense of community. A third group are Hispanic young people whose families have lived in the United States for one or more generations and yet still struggle to find their own identity and place within their families and in society. A fourth group is that of Hispanic young people lacking family support, a safe and predictable community, and quite often, lack of opportunities and

institutional support, particularly in the area of education. In extreme cases, young people in this group find a sense of community in gangs that engage in criminal activities.

How can the Church provide a healthy environment and a sense of community for this diverse Hispanic young population? (RVYM p. 35). The communion of the Church, rooted in God's love, is called to offer Hispanic young people the sense of identity, purpose and community they seek. Claimed by Christ and baptized into the Holy Spirit, Hispanic Catholic young people from all generations, immigration status or social situations have become full members of the Church, worthy of the love, the respect and the support of the entire Christian community. Faced by a society that is increasingly diverse and, to some extent divided, it is urgent to proclaim with joy and firm faith that through our communion with Christ, we enter into living communion with all believers (EIA #33). We must make the Church the home and the school of communion (NMI No. 43). The community of faith is the place where the healing power of Jesus touches young people and gives them the grace to confront the many challenges they face (S&D p 20).

### ***A ministry of community life rooted in the reality of Hispanic young people***

The bishops in the United States are aware that the majority of Hispanic young people do not participate in Catholic youth or young adult groups or programs, nor do they attend Catholic schools. The leadership in Hispanic and youth and young adult ministry are also increasingly aware that the assumption that Hispanic young people will participate in mainstream programs and activities because they know English has proven to be incorrect.

The mainstream model of parish youth ministry does not reach, for the most part, Hispanic young people because of economic, cultural, educational, geographical and linguistic differences, among others (E&M #70). This absence is also felt at diocesan and national Catholic youth gatherings. An exception exists in parishes where the majority of the members are of Hispanic descent. On the other hand, there is an emergence of alternative ministry models that provide Hispanic youth and young adults with a space to be themselves and develop a sense of identity and belonging as Hispanic Catholic young people. These models usually take the form of *grupos juveniles*, apostolic movements or even catechetical programs for Confirmation. Most of their members are Hispanic between the ages of sixteen and twenty-five. They conduct their activities in Spanish or bilingually and in the context of their social, religious and cultural reality. In some places, interaction and community building between these groups and apostolic movements, and the mainstream groups is beginning to take place at the parish and diocesan level, thus promoting a process of ecclesial integration and unity in diversity.

5. OUR PASTORAL RESPONSE Questions for small group and plenary sharing:
  3. Identify three reasons why you belong to your youth group, young adult group or apostolic movement.
  4. In which concrete ways is your youth group, young adult group or apostolic movement letting Hispanic and all young people know that they belong, that

their presence is important, their energy is appreciated, and their contributions valued?

5. Identify three things the youth and young adult ministry and your parish as a whole can do to promote unity in diversity with all young people in the parish.
6. Identify concrete ways in which you can make a difference promoting and giving witness to the Christian unity we are called to live?

*(Write the answers on worksheet #3.)*

6. CLOSING PRAYER

- Use your creativity to build, draw or represent a boat as a Symbol for the Church and bring it to the session.
- Call the participants to prayer and ask the Holy Spirit for guidance as we strive to live and work together as one Church.
- Sing appropriate songs as participants add to the boat elements made during the sessions #1 and #2. The net with its colored ribbons can be placed over the boat. The papers containing the outcome of the small groups' sharing can be placed in the boat as a symbol of active participation in the life and mission of the Church.

## **Session 4**

### **The Path to Solidarity**

*“He who does not love his brother whom he has seen,  
cannot love God whom he has not seen” (Jn 4:20)*

#### **Goals**

- To nurture a social consciousness and a commitment to justice, advocacy and service in a spirit of solidarity
  - To identify ways in which the parish can empower all young people to be in solidarity with one another, particularly with young people in greater need
1. **COMING TOGETHER** Use an icebreaker and/or a song to bring the participants together.
  2. **WELCOME AND PRAYER** Lead a prayer on the theme of Solidarity using the scripture passage of the session or other passage connected with the theme.
  3. **DIALOGUE ON OUR REALITY** Present the theme and goals of the session and invite participants to share based on the following questions:
    1. What is the biggest challenge you face as a Hispanic young person in your personal relationships, your studies, at work, in your social and spiritual life?
    2. In what concrete ways is your youth group, young adult group or apostolic movement helping you grow as a more active Catholic, a better student and a person who reaches out to others in solidarity?
    3. How is your youth group, young adult group or apostolic movement involved in works of justice, advocacy and service?

*(Write the answers on worksheet #4.)*
  4. **REFLECTION IN LIGHT OF THE SCRIPTURES AND PASTORAL MINISTRY**

#### ***Hispanic young people are a prophetic presence calling for solidarity***

The presence of Hispanic young people in well established parishes speaks of a journey of conversion that builds community and bears the fruit of solidarity. In contrast with the majority of young people involved in mainstream youth ministry and Catholic schools, a large number of Catholic Hispanic young people face serious economic limitations, low educational attainment and social rejection. A significant number of them are new immigrants living far away from family and in a different culture. Some of them work under oppressive situations and live in constant fear of discrimination and even deportation. The existence of Hispanic youth groups and apostolic movements bring the local church face-to-face with the contrasting reality of middle class/working class; post immigrant/new immigrant, citizen/foreigner, mainstream culture/Hispanic- Latino culture; white/brown. Bringing these two very different realities to the one table of the Lord is the great challenge of building the reign of God beginning right at home. Hispanic youth

groups, young adult groups and apostolic movements are fertile ground to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each Hispanic young person involved. They are also the first step towards interaction and integration within the parish.

The virtue of solidarity is defined by John Paul II as “a firm and persevering determination to commit one-self [and a whole faith community] to the common good; that is to say to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all” (*Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*, # 38). This understanding of solidarity is based on the belief in the sanctity of human life and the inherent dignity of every human person deeply rooted in the Gospel and articulated in Catholic social teaching. The Church is called to nurture in the faithful, a social consciousness and a commitment to a life of justice and service . . . to empower young people to work for justice . . . to view themselves as a people set aside for the sake of others—a community that stands in solidarity with the poor, that reaches out in service to those in need and that struggles to create a world where each person is treated with dignity and respect” (RVYM p. 38).

### ***A Christian love that bears fruits of justice, advocacy and service***

“Our faith calls us to work for justice; to serve those in need; to pursue peace; and to defend the life, dignity and rights of all our brothers and sisters, especially those in greater need. . . We are also called to change the politics, structures and systems that perpetuate injustice through legislative advocacy, community organizing and work with social change organizations” (RVYM p. 37). The bishops want Hispanic young people, and all young people, to know that they are not alone in facing their challenges and they will continue to listen to their concerns and speak on their behalf (*S&D of the Light* p. 20). The Church will continue to be an example and a promoter of justice (NPPHM) that affirms and defends everyone’s right to life and to those basic needs for human decency-including dignified labor, a just wage, decent housing, education that respects cultural origins and access to health care. (*The Hispanic presence in the New Evangelization in the United States*, #22) The right of people to migrate to support themselves and their families is strongly defended by the Church and it’s deeply rooted in the history of the United States as a country of immigrants (*Strangers no Longer* #34). It is the spirit of solidarity, nurtured by Christian love and educated by Catholic social teaching that the challenges facing some members of the one body of Christ become the challenges of the whole body of Christ.

5. OUR PASTORAL RESPONSE Questions for small group and plenary sharing:
  4. Identify three major challenges facing Hispanic young people in your neighborhood.
  5. Identify three ways in which your youth group, young adult or apostolic movement respond to these challenges.
  6. Identify three actions youth and young adult ministry and your parish as a whole can do to nurture and empower all young people to be in solidarity with one another and with those in greater need, particularly young people who have not felt the love of the Church.

*(Write the answers on worksheet #4.)*

6. CLOSING PRAYER

- Before the session begins place the boat with all its elements at the center of the meeting room. Use construction paper cut in the shape of lightening bolts, stormy wind and water splashing thunder and light, to write on it the challenges faced by Hispanic young people.
- Place these shapes at the foot of the boat. In contrast, use construction paper cut in the shape of sails to write on them the actions taken, or to be taken, by the group or apostolic movement in response to the challenges identified. Placed the candles on the boat in a way that they will provide light in the midst of stormy seas.
- Accompany these symbolic actions with a song about the Kingdom of justice, truth and peace promised to us by Jesus Christ.

## **Session 5**

### **Jesus Calls Us to be Missionaries**

*“Put out into the deep water and lower your nets for a catch...  
Don’t be afraid; from now on you will be catching men” (Lc 20: 4,10)*

#### **Goals**

- To promote a spirit of mission that brings the Good News of Christ to Hispanic young people in every corner of the parish
  - To prepare participants on the missionary action they will take in the next two weeks
1. **COMING TOGETHER** Use an icebreaker and/or a song to bring the participants together.
  2. **WELCOME AND PRAYER** Lead a prayer on the theme of Mission using the scripture passage of the session or other passage connected with the theme.
  3. **DIALOGUE ON OUR REALITY** Present the theme and goal of the session and invite participants to share based on the following questions:
    1. What motivates you the most to bring the Good News of Jesus to other young people?
    2. What makes it difficult for you to do so?  
*(Write the answers on worksheet #5.)*
  4. **REFLECTION IN LIGHT OF THE SCRIPTURES AND PASTORAL MINISTRY**

#### ***Bringing the Good News to Hispanic young people wherever they may be***

According to the U.S. Census Bureau almost half of the 44.5 million Hispanics living in the United States are under the age of twenty-five. Even though the great majority of them are baptized Catholics, most of them have yet to feel the love of the Church. This awesome number challenges Catholics, particularly young people, to cast the nets again and bring millions of Hispanic young people to active participation in the life and mission of the Church.

The burning desire to invite others to encounter the Living Jesus Christ we have encountered is the start of the evangelizing mission to which every Catholic is called. This mission is the grace and vocation proper to the Church and her most profound identity” (EIA No. 68). The basic task for which Jesus sends us out as His disciples is the proclamation of the Good News to every corner of the world and to every human situation. This mission is captured in the words of the Risen Christ to his disciples: “As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (Jn 20:21). Accepting this mission involves the proclamation of the person of Jesus Christ, that is, the preaching of his name, his teaching, his life, his promises and the Kingdom which he gained for us by His Paschal Mystery” (*Evangelii Nuntiandi*, No. 22).

Bringing the Good News to Hispanic young people takes us out of the temple, the parish facilities and the weekly meetings of parish groups. It moves us from pews to shoes . . . to go two by two into the public schools, the neighborhoods, the work place, the movie theaters, the dances, the labor camps and wherever else Hispanic young people gather.

***Young people are the best apostles and missionaries to other young people***

Peer ministry has never been as important for young people as it is today. The emergence of “youth cultures,” the impact of the media in young populations and the natural tendency to learn from and to be inspired by peers, call committed young Catholics to be more missionary to their generation. Hispanic young people have a particular need for this missionary effort since a significant number of them live far away from their families, or face a language barrier between their new immigrant parents and their own bicultural reality. The bishops emphasize this missionary commitment when they say that ministry with young people “seeks to cultivate the gifts and talents of young people, and empower them to utilize these gifts and talents in leadership and ministry in the Church and community including peer ministry and intergenerational skills” (RVYM p. 17).

John Paul II says that the mission of evangelization today calls for a new process which can be defined as New Evangelization: New in its ardor, methods and expressions. A growing number of Hispanic Catholic young leaders and youth and young adult ministers are already reaching out to Hispanic young people with conviction, joy and creativity. Apostolic movements, Catholic musical groups, missionary activities, advocacy in favor of immigrants and the unborn, reaching out through the internet and other media are living witness of the new evangelization taking place among Hispanic Catholic young people. But much more needs to be done and the nets need to be well placed in the water and lifted with faith, hope and love for an abundant catch.

5. OUR PASTORAL RESPONSE Questions for small group and plenary sharing:
  3. Identify three ways in which you can live your faith with enthusiasm and sharing it with others?
  4. In which concrete ways can your group or apostolic movement give witness of their faith in Christ in neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, etc.?
  5. Identify three things youth and young adult ministry and your parish as a whole can do to empower all young people to be missionary, particularly to Hispanic young people living in difficult situations?

*(Write the answers on worksheet #5.)*

See *Tool for Missionary Action* on following page to continue this session.

6. CLOSING PRAYER AND SENDING FORTH Place the boat with all its added elements in the middle of the meeting room, and ask participants to form a circle around it.
  - Sing *Pescador de Hombres* while the prayer’s facilitator calls each participant by name.
  - Each participant is given a ribbon with a cross and a small fishing hook as symbols of his/her commitment to be missionaries. The symbols represent Jesus’ call to go

out as fishermen of young people. (The hook needs to have a safety cap in place. A drop of glue or nail polish may be enough to keep it from hooking on people's clothes or skin.

- Ask people to gather in pairs and form a line. The two people at the front of the line send the second pair to mission. The second pair does the same over the third and so forth, and the last pair sends the first.
- The sending forth consists on extending hands over the sent pair and saying: "Go out to cast the net of the Good News and may you have an abundant catch in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit." The sent pair responds: "We accept Jesus' invitation to mission in a spirit of joy and commitment."
- All participants share the sign of peace to end the prayer.

## **Tool for Missionary Action**

*This tool has three components:*

1. A guide for the missionary action
2. A sample flier to invite Hispanic young people to the Parish Encuentro—Available at [www.LaRedPJH.org](http://www.LaRedPJH.org)
3. A form to gather information obtained during survey

This tool is designed to assist participants to reach out to other Hispanic young people with a message of friendship, hope and welcoming. It is a simple way to get to know Hispanic Catholic young people, ask their opinion about issues that affect them, and inviting them to participate at the Parish Youth and Young Adult Encuentro.

### **Guide for the Missionary Action**

1. Find someone to join you in this missionary outreach so that you can go in pairs.
2. Identify Hispanic young people who are Catholic but do not participate in Church activities or do so only once in a while. You may find them in your school, work place, neighborhood or other places where young people gather. Greet them with kindness, introduce yourself to them and get to know one another.
3. Give witness to your faith by sharing how you feel about being Catholic and how being active in parish activities, particularly your youth or young adult group or apostolic movement, helps you grow as a person. Share with them a story or a personal experience as example of your growth in faith and as a person. However, avoid giving advice or telling people what to do. There is a big difference between giving witness and preaching.
4. Be ready to answer questions they may have about God, the Catholic faith or issues affecting Hispanic young people. Don't be afraid to say I don't know and invite them to the parish to find the answers together.
5. Invite them with enthusiasm to participate at the Parish Encuentro (make sure to give him/her a flier). Tell them that they are always welcome at your *grupo juvenil*, apostolic movement youth group or other young people's related ministries and activities.
6. Tell them about the survey that is being conducted to help the Church better understand and welcome Hispanic young people and invite them to participate. If they say yes, conduct the survey using the form included in this guide.

### **Rehearsal of the missionary action and survey**

1. The leadership group prepares a demonstration on how to: a) engage and invite Hispanic young people to the Parish Encuentro, and b) invite to participate in survey and recording the information.
2. Role-play on the following three scenarios: a) The person responds with enthusiasm to the invitation; b) a person that is reluctant at first, but decides to participate; and

- c) a person that shows no interest and chooses not to participate. This exercise will help participants handle different situations as they carry out their missionary action.
3. Invite three sets of two people to practice their missionary action. The first one can use scenario a), the second b) and the third c). The rest of the group can give them feed-back on how they did.
  4. Have everyone fill out the survey so they can get a good sense of the questions and of what kind of answers they can expect. Tell participants that it is very important to be faithful to each person's own response to the survey.

*“Go into the world and proclaim the gospel to every creature...-the disciples- went forth and preached everywhere while the Lord worked with them....” (Mc 16:15,20)*

## Survey with Hispanic Young People

1. What are three gifts Hispanic youth and young adults can contribute to . . . the Catholic Church in the United States? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ society and culture in the United States? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
2. What are the biggest challenges facing Hispanic youth and young adults today? Identify two for each of the following areas:
  - a) Personal development \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) Relationships \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) Education \_\_\_\_\_
  - d) Culture \_\_\_\_\_
  - e) Work \_\_\_\_\_
  - f) Spiritual life \_\_\_\_\_
  - g) Faith formation \_\_\_\_\_Other \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Where do you find help to deal with these challenges?
  
4. Do you think the Catholic Church can help Hispanic young people to overcome some of these challenges? If the answer is “yes” ask: what kind of help does he/she expects to find in the Church?
  
5. Ask for the following personal information. Explain that this survey is being conducted across the nation with the purpose of identifying similarities and differences of opinion among Hispanic young people from different ages, national origin and place of residence in the United States.

**Personal Information**

Gender:      Male \_\_\_\_\_      Female \_\_\_\_\_      Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

**To be filled by the interviewer:**

Parish \_\_\_\_\_ Diocese \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **Parish Encuentro**

### **Objectives**

1. To affirm the Catholic identity of the Hispanic youth and young adults and invite them to participate actively in the life and mission of the parish.
2. To carry out the first Encuentro of participating groups in the PENPJH process.
3. To reflect on the calling of Jesus to continue His mission among young people.
4. To analyze the conclusions from the reflection sessions, consultation and contributions from the surveys made with Hispanic youth and young adults.
5. To commit to improve ministry with Hispanics young people at the parish level.
6. To elect the delegates to the diocesan Encuentro.

Note: The room will be decorated with the symbols that will be used during the reflection sessions and consults. In the center of the room a boat will be placed atop of a blue cloak representing the sea and the net will cover the boat and will extend away from the boat. If in the parish Encuentro some of the youth have not participated in the reflection sessions and consults #1, they will be invited during the presentation activity to include their link to the net.

### **Outline**

1. Introduction—presentation activity and prayer. (1 hour)
2. Delivery and explanation of the work document. (30 minutes)
3. Analysis of the work document from the parish. (2 hours)
4. Looking at our reality under the light of the gospel. (2 hours)
5. Write “letters from apostles of today to the new communities.” (30 minutes)
6. Identify the delegates to the Diocesan Encuentro. (30 minutes)
7. Elaboration and delivery of results of the parish Encuentro. (30 minutes)
8. Eucharist and sending forth ritual. (1 hour)

*“Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch...  
Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men” (Luke 5, 4-10)*

## **Process**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

*Jesus makes us fishermen*

#### **1. Welcome and integration activity—**

*The fishermen of colors*

- Prepare ribbons of one yard in length of crepe paper of six different colors—enough for all participants to have one. They will be used as head bandanas.
- The facilitator will callout: “form groups of six or eight fishermen of the same color bandanas.” After they have finished grouping, whoever is left out of a group will be integrated into a group of their same color. When all are within a small group they will be asked to present each other by stating their name and what do they expect from the parish Encuentro.
- After a reasonable amount of time the facilitator will again call out: “form in groups of five or six of all different colors.” After they have finished grouping, whoever is left out of a group will be integrated into a group of a different color. They will now perform the same presentation performed before.
- The activity continues alternating from communities of same color groupings to multicolor groupings for four or five times.
- Finally they will be asked to form six groups of equal or close to equal size (at this time the facilitator should know the number of participants in order to call out the size of the group).
- They will be asked to remove the ribbon from their head and use it as a sailor’s tie. They are also told to care for the tie, for it will be used during the final prayer.

#### **2. Introduction of the Parish Encuentro as**

- a. The fruit of reflection sessions, consults and missionary actions taken during the preparatory stage
- b. The base over which the following Encuentros (Diocesan, Regional and National) will be built upon

#### **3. Beginning Prayer—**

*Jesus has made us fishermen*

- Song

- Call each group to place at the center or in front of the room their boat with its symbols.
- Invite each new youth participant to step up front and receive a small card with the face of an attractive, young Jesus with the following writing on the backside: “Come and follow me, I will make you fishermen of men.” In remembrance of (name of the parish and the date of the activity).
- Invite all participants to take their hands as a symbol of their efforts put forth to accomplish the common mission, and as a sign that here is the seed of the presence of their parish in the Diocesan, Regional and National Encuentro.

## **2. PREPARATION OF THE PARISH WORK DOCUMENT**

The parish work document must be prepared before the meeting and will consist of six sections. You will need enough copies of the material so that each of the participants will have a section that they can work on.

- Section 1: Worksheets #1 with the results of the reflection session and consult #1: The encounter with the Living Jesus Christ.
- Section 2: Work sheets #2 with the results of the reflection session and consult #2: The path to Conversion.
- Section 3: Work sheets #3 with the results of the reflection session and consult #3: The path to Communion.
- Section 4: Work sheets #4 with the results of the reflection session and consult #4: The path to Solidarity.
- Section 5: Work sheets #5 with the results of the reflection session and consult #5 Jesus sends us to the Mission.
- Section 6: Contributions from the surveys of the Hispanic youth.

Note: Blank forms of the worksheets may be used to write the results of the reflection sessions and consults. The same may also be done with the surveys.

## **3. ANALYSIS OF THE PARISH WORKBOOK**

1. If the groups in which they are after the last activity are too big, they should be divided into two groups that will work the same material.
2. Analysis of the sessions:
  - Individually read the answers to the questions carefully and underline those ideas that seem to answer better what are the needs of the youth pastoral.

- Dialogue about the ideas that were underlined and decide which are the most important of them so that it may be presented in plenary meeting. The ideas that are considered most important will be written in the outlines of the worksheets that were used previously. For example: Team #1 will write their most important ideas in the worksheet #1. This worksheet will be placed in front of the rest with the parish conclusions and the following phrase will be written in the front, Parish Encuentro, to explain that these ideas are the most important from the previous sheets.

3. Conduct the plenary session. The conclusions from each of the groups should be presented in numerical order starting with #1 and so on to #6. The presentation may be made in the most creative form that they wish. They may decide to present one of the most valued ideas as a dramatization, collage, song, etc.

#### **4. LOOKING AT OUR REALITY IN LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL**

1. The facilitator will explain that to judge the reality under the light of the Holy Scriptures is also called theological reflection, in other words to look at life under the vision of God.
2. Give to each group one of the following readings. Its recommend that photocopies be made of these readings so that each youth may have a copy. In the case of 1 Samuel 17 etc. (second bullet) be sure that the sequences of the different sections of these readings make sense.
  - 1-Samuel 3, 1-10: “Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.”
  - 1-Samuel 17, 8. 10-11; 32-33; 48-51: “With the power of God we can overcome great challenges.”
  - Jeremiah 1, 1-10: “Called before being created to destroy evil and build the goodness.”
  - Matthew 5,13-16: “You are the salt and the light of the world.”
  - Mark 4, 1-9: “To be good earth to construct the Kingdom of God.”
  - Lukas 2, 41-50: “Discerning and doing God’s will.”
  - John 21,4-8: “The appearance of the Seven Disciples
  - John 21, 4-8: “We accomplish our mission by doing what Jesus asks us to do.”
3. Invite participants to have a theological reflection in two steps:
  - Read the assigned biblical text.
  - Based on the text, respond to the following question: What does God tell you in this text in reference to the reality presented before?
  - Prepare a presentation of your reflection using any of the following methods: poetry, song, dramatization, mimics, mime, etc. you will have a maximum of five minutes to make your presentation.
4. Make the presentations in plenary session. The facilitator will highlight the most important elements of each presentation.

**5. WRITE “LETTERS FROM THE APOSTLE OF TODAY TO THE NEW COMMUNITIES”**

1. In the style of the apostles when they would write letters to the community making recommendations, with the experience of the groups, the reflections in the preparation sessions and the contributions of the youth through their answers in the survey, each group will write a letter. These letters will be addressed to an imaginary youth group that has recently been formed.

To write these letters it would be best to have a brain storm session and then decide what ideas to include in the letter. They must also decide whether it will be addressed to an adolescent group or to a young adults group. The letters should be of only one page in length.

2. Form two small groups within each large group:
  - Group 1: Will write about recommendations of things that should not be done in the groups because they are incorrect or they do not work.
  - Group 2: Will write about recommendations of things that should be done because they are evangelical or works right.
3. Each group will read their letter in plenary session.
4. At the end, the group may vote to pick which of the letters were the best two: one from the group of what should be done and the other from the group of what should not be done. These letters should be delivered to the coordinator of the Encuentro. The letters should be presented in the Diocesan Encuentro and should also be published in the parish bulletin.

**6. IDENTIFY THE DELEGATES TO THE DIOCESAN ENCUESTRO**

1. In the groups, perform a brainstorming session on the qualities that a young person should have in order to be delegates to the Diocesan Encuentro.
2. Elect the delegates to the Diocesan Encuentro according to the following criteria and personal qualities already mentioned.
  - They should have (a) participated in the reflection and consult sessions, (b) participated in a missionary activity and (c) be present at the Parish Encuentro.
  - Estimated distribution by ages and types of roles in the youth pastoral. These proportions try to capture the diversity of the reality of the Hispanic/Latino ministry in the United States. Each parish will have the liberty to adapt the proportions according to the reality of their pastoral Hispanic/Latino youth ministry.
    - a. Young adults between the ages of 18 and 30 should include representatives from ages 18-21 and 22-30. Young people in groups or movements that speak Spanish such as young adult ministry and those that serve as volunteers in youth ministry or adolescent pastoral should be considered.

- b. Adolescents: Leaving the decision to the Dioceses, it is recommended that a balance between young people of the ages 14-15 and 16-17 should be considered. Only those 18 years of age at the time of the National Encuentro will be eligible to be delegates to the same.
- c. Youth Ministers & Adult Advisors: There should be representation according to the number of persons that participate in these roles at the parish level.
- d. More than 75% of the delegates must be youth and young adults.
- e. Commit to participate in the Diocesan Encuentro.

## **7. LABORATION AND HANDING OUT OF THE PARISH DOCUMENT AND FINDINGS**

1. Put together the document that will be delivered to the Dioceses with the following:
  - a. The workbook of the parish work
  - b. The results of the analysis performed in each one of the groups and in the Parish Encuentro
  - c. The work sheets of the sessions and the youth surveys
  - d. The apostolic letters selected as the best ones
2. Make at least three official copies:
  - a. One copy for the Diocesan Encuentro Coordinator
  - b. One to take to the Diocesan Encuentro.
  - c. One for the Pastor of the Church
  - d. You should provide copies to those that may use the information to improve the pastoral action in the groups

## **8. EUCHARISTIC AND RITUAL OF SENDING FORTH**

1. Make an offering of all of the sections that have been worked on and also include all of the symbols that were used during the preparatory time.
2. Celebrate the Eucharist.
3. At the offertory have all the youth come to the altar and place their color ribbons on the altar following the order of the colors in the rainbow. This will indicate the commitment to live in an alliance of Love with God and to become the source of love within the family, friends, work and school.
4. Send forth the participants to continue their mission in their youth group or apostolic missions.
5. Solemn sending of the delegates to the Diocesan Encuentro for they will be responsible for being the voice of the youth of the parish at this meeting.

# Diocesan Encuentro

## Diocesan Process

The Diocesan process consists of two phases:

1. The preparatory phase includes two actions:
  - The planning of the Diocesan Encuentro
  - The collection, analysis and organization of the conclusion of the Parish's Encuentro presented as the working document of the Dioceses
2. The Diocesan Encuentro

## Goal

To analyze the reality lived by Hispanic young people in the diocese and to strengthen collaboration in a spirit of communion in mission.

## Objectives

1. Analyze and prioritize the conclusions gathered from the parish Encuentro
2. Analyze and prioritize the pastoral needs of Hispanic youth and young adults as per the survey conducted with young people not actively involved in parish life
3. Elect the delegates of the regional Encuentro
4. Identify the strengths and challenges identified from the reflections conducted during the sessions and the Encuentro Parroquial

*So that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you,  
that they may also be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me.  
And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one,  
as we are one, I in them and you in me,  
that they may be brought to perfection as one,  
that the world may know that you sent me,  
and that you loved them even as you love me (John 17, 21-23).*

Note: The room will be decorated with the symbols that were developed in the mini-Encuentro and the Parish Encuentro.

## Process

- Welcome and introduction of the day.
- Presentation dynamic, reinforcing the goal of Encuentro.

## 1. INITIAL PRAYER

- Place in the center of the room, the shell of a big boat that represent the church, over a blue cloth the will represent the sea. Do not place the compass or the steering wheel this will be placed later.
- Start by calling the name of the parish and the name of the group or movement so that they may place their nets at the top of the ship, and the documents generated as a product of their work. They will also place the gray fish, the rays and all the symbols that were generated in the mini-Encuentro and the Parish Encuentro.
- Dramatized reading of Mark 4, 25-41
- A reflection from one of the facilitating team members based on the following ideas (This can be the first subject of the day about the Church.)
  - Our ship represents the diocesan Church.
  - Jesus indicates that we must go to the other side of the shore just as other parishes and apostolic movements we should move into another ecclesiastic level, such as the local church or the diocesan church.
  - This local church some times may have a tough time and may have divisions that may happen due to the lack of unity base on our lord, Jesus.
  - With the active presence of Jesus, the tempest will be calmed down and even the church will be able to work together as one community of faith with a spirit of unity in diversity, which is the characteristic of the Catholic Church.
- Invite all groups or movements to pick up their net and start connecting them with the other nets in the room start using them with the net and start uniting with the other nets to form a large net which symbolizes the missionary aspect of the Church. Use background music you may place or you may have the choir sign in the background.
- Before the meeting, a previously selected group of young people with representatives of all ages will place the net and cover the whole ship and extend outside into the sea. All of the participants will form a circle around the boat and once this has been done they will sing *Somos El Cuerpo de Cristo* or another appropriate song.

## 2. PRESENTATION OF THE DIOCESAN SUMMARY DOCUMENT

1. A visual presentation of how the working document was developed, what parts does it have and what is the most relevant information it shows.
2. The working document will have the following elements:
  - Encounter with the Living Jesus Christ: Summary of worksheet #1
  - The Path to Conversion: Summary of worksheet #2
  - The Path to Communion: Summary of worksheet #3
  - The Path to Solidarity: Summary of worksheet #4
  - Jesus Sends us as missionaries: Summary of worksheet #5
  - Data from Survey with Hispanic young people

Note: A copy of the same summary worksheets can be used to record data for Diocesan Summary.

**3. ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS IN THE DIOCESAN WORKING DOCUMENT FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE FIVE ELEMENTS OF CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

**A. Analysis of the results from the parish Encuentro**

1. Form small groups and divide the task of analysis of the Document of Results so that they can analyze the five elements of Christian discipleship (one per group).

Encuentro—Welcome

Conversion—Identity

Communion—Belonging

Solidarity—Transformation of the structure

Mission—To take the Gospel everywhere

2. Prioritize the work that has been done at the parish level.
3. Write down those elements that are considered to be positive on fish of lively colors, and those elements that are identified as negative that are considered a priority on gray or beige fish.
4. Invite a delegate from each group to come forward with their gray and beige fish and say loudly: “These are the challenges that we must overcome” At the end the facilitator will end the activity by mentioning the biggest challenges that the youth pastoral will need to confront.
5. Invite a delegate from each group to place their color fish in the net, saying loudly: These are the gifts that God has given us to overcome challenges and transform our environment according to the values of the Kingdom of God.
6. At the end the facilitator will summarize by mentioning the gifts that the youth pastoral has and will emphasize that when we bring together our gifts just as when we put together our individual nets together and made a bigger net it is more probable that we will succeed when we face the challenge.
7. Everything that is identified as a priority in this session will become part of the working document of the Regional Encuentro.

**B. Analysis of the Diocesan Profile**

1. A member of the facilitator team will make an in depth presentation on the principals of the youth pastoral following the concepts expressed in the documents Renewing the Vision and Sons & Daughters of the Light.
2. In small groups contrast the elements already present in the Dioceses with the challenges, and answer the following questions: What conclusions can we derive from the analysis about the youth pastoral in our dioceses? Write the two most important conclusions on a poster board/paper.
3. In a plenary session each group will present the most relevant conclusions.
4. The results of this session will form part of the Regional Encuentro Document.

**4. IDENTIFY ACTIONS THAT CAN BE TAKEN THAT WILL IMPROVE THE PARISH AND DIOCESAN YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY AMONG HISPANICS**

1. In small groups study the document “Principles, goals, and essential elements of Pastoral Juvenil (youth and young adult ministry among Hispanics). The document will be available on April of 2005)
2. Taking into consideration what has been written on the poster board/paper and the information in light of the previously stated document:
  - Write on each spoke of the wheel a recommendation (eight) where actions will be taken at the parish level. Pick the most significant recommendation to share in plenary session. Mark the preferred recommendation with a star.
  - Write on each spoke of the compass (eight) a recommendation where actions will be taken at the diocesan level. Pick the most significant recommendation to share in plenary session. Highlight that selection with a star.
  - Invite each group to attach their steering wheel to the designated place and state in a loud voice their selected recommendation.
  - Do the same with the compass

**5. DISCERNMENT AND ELECTION OF THE DELEGATES TO THE REGIONAL ENCUESTRO**

1. Form a circle around the boat and enter into a spirit of prayer.
2. song is started, asking the Holy Spirit for guidance.
3. Reading: Acts 1, 15-25
4. A member of the facilitator team will hand out the criteria to elect the delegates (Parish Encuentro).

5. Elect the delegates.

**6. EUCHARIST**

1. Celebrate the Eucharist, preferably presided by the ordinary bishop and concelebrated.

2. During the offertory, the worksheets that will be included in the Regional Encuentro Document, will form part of the offertory procession and offering.

3. After communion perform the sending forth ceremony of the delegates.

## **Preview of Regional Encuentro**

*“Master we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing,  
but at your command I will lower the nets”. (Luke 5.5)*

### **Goal**

Analyze the youth’s reality and the response of the church at the parish, diocesan and regional level.

### **Objectives**

1. Establish a network of support and collaboration.
2. Synthesize and prioritize the pastoral needs identified during the mini-Encuentros, Parish Encuentros, and Diocesan Encuentros.
3. Analyze the youth pastoral models for parishes, the dioceses and the region and identify models and elements that may serve as example to other Dioceses.
4. Refine and complete the youth pastoral principals according to the expressed criteria in Ecclesia in America: Encounter-Conversion-Communion-Solidarity-Mission.
5. Offer recommendations to improve the Diocesan pastoral and the regional collaboration.
6. Elect the delegates to the National Encuentro.

### **Process**

1. Initial prayer: We are a people of faith and hope.
2. We collect the reflections from each one of the Dioceses.
3. Analysis of our actions.
4. Analysis in light of pastoral documents:
  - Identifying our priorities.
  - Refine and complete the principles that should guide the Hispanic youth pastoral.
  - Presentation of successful parish and diocesan models.
5. We will separately gather diocesan directors or coordinators and the rest of the delegates to the regional Encuentro.
6. Identify the diocesan delegates to the National Encuentro and Celebration

**Prepare for the National Encuentro in June 2006**

**Worksheet # 1**  
**Encounter with the Living Jesus Christ**

Group: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parish: \_\_\_\_\_  
Diocese: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please write your response under each question. Thank you.*

How does your youth group, young adult group or apostolic movement help you to experience an Encounter with the Living Jesus Christ and to develop an ever growing relationship with Him?

What makes you feel the most welcomed and helps you to participate more actively in your group or apostolic movement?

What can you do to promote a more welcoming environment and encourage other young people to participate?

Identify three talents or gifts Hispanic young people bring to the Church in the United States

How is your youth group, young adult group or apostolic movement sharing these gifts with the parish community?

What can you do as a group to promote that young people have an Encounter with the Living Jesus Christ and live as His disciples?

Identify three actions the youth and young adult ministry and your parish as a whole can do to better welcome and empower Hispanic youth and young adults.

**Worksheet # 2**  
**The path to Conversion**

Group: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parish: \_\_\_\_\_  
Diocese: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please write your response under each question. Thank you.*

In which concrete ways can your youth group, young adult group or apostolic movement promote the ongoing conversion of Hispanic young people in your parish?

Identify three Gospel values present in Hispanic culture and three present in mainstream U.S. culture.

Identify three things or aspects that need conversion, a change of heart, in Hispanic culture and in mainstream U.S. culture.

Identify three things the youth and young adult ministry and your parish as a whole can do to better foster the identity of Hispanic young people as disciples of Christ

**Worksheet # 3**  
**The path to Communion**

Group: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parish: \_\_\_\_\_  
Diocese: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please write your response under each question. Thank you.*

What positive attitudes and actions make your youth group, young adult group or apostolic movement strong and united?

What negative attitudes and actions create conflict and division in your group or apostolic movement? Identify three of each.

Identify three reasons why you belong to your youth group, young adult group or apostolic movement.

In which concrete ways your youth group, young adult group or apostolic movement promotes a sense of belonging and unity among Hispanic young people living in different situations and with all young people in the parish?

Identify three things the youth and young adult ministry and your parish can do to promote unity among all young people in the parish.

Identify concrete ways in which you can make a difference promoting and giving witness to the Christian unity we are called to live

**Worksheet # 4**  
**The path to Solidarity**

Group: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parish: \_\_\_\_\_  
Diocese: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please write your response under each question. Thank you.*

What is the biggest challenge you face as a Hispanic young person in your personal relationships, your studies, at work, in your social and spiritual life?

In which concrete ways is your youth group, young adult group or apostolic movement helping you grow as a more active Catholic, a better student and a person who reaches out to others in solidarity?

How is your youth group, young adult group or apostolic movement involved in works of justice, advocacy and service?

Identify three major challenges facing Hispanic young people in your neighborhood.

Identify three ways in which your youth group, young adult group or apostolic movement respond to these challenges.

Identify three actions youth and young adult ministry and your parish as a whole can do to nurture and empower all young people to be in solidarity with one another and with those in greater need.

**Worksheet # 5**  
**Jesus sends us as missionaries**

Group: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parish: \_\_\_\_\_  
Diocese: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please write your response under each question. Thank you.*

What motivates you the most to bring the Good News of Jesus to other young people?

What makes it difficult for you to bring the Good News of Jesus to other young people?

Identify three ways in which you can live your faith with enthusiasm and share it with others

In which concrete ways can your group or apostolic movement give witness of their faith in Christ in neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, etc.?

Identify three things youth and young adult ministry and your parish as a whole can do to empower all young people to be missionaries, particularly Hispanic young people living in difficult situations.

**Worksheet # 6**  
**Diocesan Encuentro**

Diocese: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please write your answers under each column. Thank you.*

	<b>Positive elements</b>	<b>Negative elements</b>
1.	Encounter with Jesus Christ	
2.	Conversion	
3.	Communion	
4.	Solidarity	
5.	Mission	
6.	Survey	

**Worksheet # 7**  
**Diocesan Encuentro**

Diocese: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please write your answers under each column. Thank you.*

**Findings on status of ministry among Hispanic young people**

Positive elements

Negative elements

**Worksheet # 8**  
**Diocesan Encuentro**

Diocese: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please write your answers under each column. Thank you.*

**Pastoral Recommendations**

Parish level (Steering wheel)

Diocesan level (compass)