



Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church

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MEMORANDUM

To: All Bishops

From: Most Rev. Gustavo García-Siller, Chairman, Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church; Most Rev. Nelson Pérez, Chairman, Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs

Date: September 2, 2016

Re: V Encuentro Parish Packet

We are happy to inform you that preparations for the V Encuentro are well on their way. More than one hundred arch/dioceses in the United States have already formed their diocesan V Encuentro teams. An important task of these teams is to engage pastors and invite parishes to participate in the V Encuentro local process, set to begin in January 2017.

Enclosed with this memo is the V Encuentro Parish Packet. The Lead-Bishops for the V Encuentro in each episcopal region received the packet on August 25, 2016. Therefore, you may have, or may be receiving a similar packet from them. The packet will be mailed to pastors in approximately 15,000 parishes within the next two weeks.

We hope that approximately 5,000 to 7,500 parishes will benefit from the evangelizing and community-building process of the V Encuentro. Participating parishes and dioceses will also benefit from its consultation component, as they discern new paths to engage Hispanic/Latino Catholics, especially youth and young adults.

We are currently working on finalizing the V Encuentro Parish Guide, including the five parish sessions, as well as a suggested format for a one-day parish Encuentro. Thanks to some generous donors, the guide will be distributed to parishes and dioceses sometime this Fall, at no cost to them.

We take this opportunity to share that a small delegation of the V Encuentro will go on a pilgrimage to the Holy See in late September, to share the good news of the V Encuentro with our Holy Father Pope Francis. We will ask our Holy Father to pray for the success of the V Encuentro and to send us words of encouragement.

Thank you for your prayers and continued support of the V Encuentro as a major initiative of our 2017-2020 Strategic Plan.

May the Lord continue to bless our episcopal ministry in service of God's people.