



## V National Encuentro of Hispanic/Latino Ministry

### Instructions for Discerning Diocesan Delegates to the Regional/National Encuentros

Every (arch)diocese in the United States participating in the V Encuentro process is encouraged to discern, select, and send delegates to the Regional and National Encuentros. The Diocesan Chair of the Encuentro should have received the number allotted for your (arch)diocese. At the Diocesan Encuentro, parish delegates and others who were part of the process at the local level will be invited to discern their availability to serve as delegates. Consult with your diocese for specific instructions. Each delegation will be accompanied by their Bishop and/or other diocesan personnel working with the Hispanic community. Please use the recommended categories below to discern and select your delegates. The following is an example based on 10 delegates.

| Category                     | Description   | Number |
|------------------------------|---|--------|
| Young People                 | Young Catholics younger than 35, U.S.-born and immigrant. Focus on Hispanic/Latino young people.  | 3      |
| Emerging/New Leaders         | Pastoral leaders who became involved in ministry during the V Encuentro process or in the months leading to it.   | 3      |
| Seasoned Leaders             | Pastoral leaders known in the community who have been involved in ministry for several years.   | 3      |
| Diocesan or Parish Personnel | A pastoral leader who works in the diocese or a parish full-time or part-time, or a leader who holds a decision-making position as a paid or volunteer pastoral minister. | 1      |

### Criteria to Be a Diocesan Delegate

1. Have participated in all the five sessions of the V Encuentro process and the missionary actions.
2. Be involved or plan to be involved in the life of the faith community that they will represent.
3. Openness to learning more about missionary discipleship and being a Catholic pastoral leader.
4. Willingness and availability to represent the diocese at the Regional and National Encuentros. *[Make sure to have the dates for the regional and national events available]*

### A Few Recommendations to Consider During the Discernment

- Half of the delegates should be U.S.-born or Generation 1.5.
- Maintain a gender balance among the delegates: 50% women, 50% men.
- At least one of the delegates should be ordained or belong to a religious community.
- When the delegation consists of 10 or more people, at least one married couple should be sent.
- Include members from various parishes and ecclesial movements (i.e. Cursillo, CCR, etc.).
- Include one or more non-Hispanic delegates.



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### Five Steps to Discern the Diocesan Delegates

1. A prayer is offered for the Holy Spirit to help the community to begin the discernment process to identify diocesan delegates. A moment of silence follows.
2. Identification of possible Diocesan Delegates:
  - A member of the Diocesan Team reviews the criteria to be a diocesan delegate.
  - They then hand out a **Commitment & Delegate Ballot** to all of the parish delegates.
  - Those who are willing and available to serve as delegates to both the Regional and National events should check YES in the appropriate box and provide their name and contact info.
  - All **Commitment & Delegate Ballots** will be collected and presented during the time of the Offertory at the closing Mass.
3. After the (Arch)Diocesan Encuentro, the Diocesan Team and the bishop or his representative will study the ballots according to the proposed criteria (see above) and select the allotted number of delegates (contact the Regional Chair for the correct number to send to each Encuentro, if not already known), as well as 4 alternates to represent the (arch)diocese at the Regional and National Encuentros. After the selection, the Diocesan Team will contact the selected delegates to confirm their acceptance as delegates. Delegates are provided with the date for the Sunday Mass where they will be commissioned.
4. Delegates are commissioned at the designated Sunday Mass.
5. Names and contact information for the diocesan delegates and alternates are sent to the Regional Chairs and the National Research Team, using the form provided in the *Diocesan Post-Encuentro Supplement*.