



V ENCUESTRO

DISCÍPULOS MISIONEROS: TESTIGOS DEL AMOR DE DIOS
MISSIONARY DISCIPLES: WITNESSES OF GOD'S LOVE

FACT SHEET

FIFTH NATIONAL ENCUESTRO OF HISPANIC/LATINO MINISTRY

WHAT IS THE V ENCUESTRO?

The *V Encuentro* is a four-year process of ecclesial reflection and action that invites all Catholics in the United States to intense missionary activity, consultation, leadership development, and identification of best ministerial practices in the spirit of the New Evangelization. The process is a priority activity of the USCCB's Strategic Plan for 2017-2020. The *V Encuentro* starts at the grass-roots level and calls for the development of resources and initiatives to better serve the fast-growing Hispanic population in dioceses, parishes, ecclesial movements, and other Catholic organizations and institutions in light of its theme: ***Missionary Disciples: Witnesses of God's Love.***

WHO PARTICIPATES IN THE V ENCUESTRO?

All leaders in arch/dioceses, parishes, ecclesial movements and other Catholic organizations and institutions are invited to participate by encountering Hispanic/Latino Catholics, particularly those living in the periphery, especially young people, through the missionary process of evangelization and consultation of the *V Encuentro*.

WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THE V ENCUESTRO?

The main goal of the *V Encuentro* is to discern ways in which the Church in the United States can better respond to the Hispanic/Latino presence, and to strengthen the ways in which Hispanics/Latinos respond to the call to the New Evangelization as missionary disciples serving the entire Church.

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE V ENCUESTRO?

- ✓ Call all Catholic leaders in the United States to become authentic and joyful missionary disciples by giving witness to God's Love with a prophetic voice by encountering their Hispanic brothers and sisters in Christ, therefore embracing the cultural diversity in the U.S. Church.
- ✓ Promote a vision of the Church in mission that develops effective pathways to invite, engage and form Hispanic Catholic youth, young adults, and families and ecclesial movements to live out their baptismal vocation. This includes the promotion of the vocation to the priesthood and consecrated life.
- ✓ Invite all Catholic leaders to engage and accompany Hispanic Catholics, particularly the most vulnerable and those who find themselves in the peripheries of the Church and society.
- ✓ Identify and promote opportunities for Hispanic Catholic pastoral leaders to serve in leadership positions in the Church and in the larger society, and increase the number of lay and ordained ministers directly engaged in the New Evangelization. This will require dioceses and parishes to receive new leaders and those seeking formation to become leaders.
- ✓ Stimulate a new wave of faith formation and leadership development initiatives that prepare Hispanic Catholics to share and celebrate the Good News of Jesus Christ and to become leaven for the Reign of God in society.

WHAT ARE THE THEMES OF THE FIVE SESSION EVANGELIZING PROCESS AND CONSULTATION?

1. Called to a loving encounter with Jesus
2. With words and actions: Do it!
3. Walking together with Jesus
4. Bearing fruits of new life
5. Celebrating the joy of being missionary disciples

*The five themes are inspired by Pope Francis' call to create a culture of Encounter. *The Joy of the Gospel* (#24)

WHAT IS THE TIMELINE AND THE MILESTONES?

YEAR	DATES	MILESTONES
2017	January-August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A five-week-long evangelization process and consultation • Parish <i>Encuentros</i>
	August- December	Celebration of arch/diocesan <i>Encuentros</i>
2018	January-June	Celebration of episcopal regional <i>Encuentros</i>
	September 20-23	Celebration of the V National <i>Encuentro</i> event with 3,000 delegates from arch/dioceses and other Catholic organizations in Grapevine, TX at the Gaylord Texan Hotel
2019	January-June	Evaluation and reflection on the V <i>Encuentro's</i> evangelizing and consultative process
	September – December	Development and distribution of proceedings and related resources
2020	January- December	Continuing the Mission in episcopal regions, arch/dioceses, parishes and other Catholic organizations and institutions on the V <i>Encuentro's</i> recommendations and related resources.

BACKGROUND

The process of *Encuentro* has been the catalyst for developing ministries among Hispanics/Latinos during the past fifty years. Each of the previous *Encuentros* has been a watershed experience that has significantly changed the way in which the Church responds to the Hispanic/Latino presence, and the way in which Hispanics/Latinos respond as Church.

- ✓ The *I Encuentro* (1972) led to the creation of the National Secretariat for Hispanic Affairs
- ✓ The *II Encuentro* (1975-77) led to the creation of eight regional offices for Hispanic Affairs at the Bishops' Conference
- ✓ The *III Encuentro* (1982-85) led to the creation of the Standing Committee of Hispanic Affairs, and the promulgation of the National Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry. Both of these actions provided a clear vision and sent a signal to dioceses and parishes to respond to the ever-growing Hispanic/Latino presence
- ✓ *Encuentro 2000* (The *IV Encuentro*) helped the Church in the United States to recognize and appreciate its cultural diversity, through a "New Pentecost" experience
- ✓ The First National *Encuentro* for Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry (2005-06) Opened new pastoral avenues in ministry to and with the Hispanic/Latino young church

The V *Encuentro* finds an unprecedented number of parishes serving Hispanics/Latinos and a growing influence of apostolic movements, all of which are led by thousands of Hispanic/Latino lay-ecclesial ministers. It also counts with record numbers of Hispanics/Latinos engaged in formation programs and a growing number of Catholic Hispanic/Latino national organizations. However, such growth comes short in addressing the demands of the ever-growing Hispanic/Latino population.

The V *Encuentro* promises to be another watershed experience that provides the Church the clarity, enthusiasm and means it needs to more adequately respond to the Hispanic/Latino presence in the spirit of the New Evangelization.

At this moment of grace, it is of the utmost importance to champion the ongoing formation and leadership development of Hispanic/Latino Catholics. The V *Encuentro* is a privileged opportunity to prepare them as missionary disciples ready to serve the entire Church, and for the Church to better recognize and receive the gifts that Hispanics/Latinos bring to the Church and society in the United States.

For More information, visit www.vencuentro.org