

V National Encuentro of Hispanic/Latino Ministry

Discerning Parish Delegates

Every parish in the United States participating in the V Encuentro process is encouraged to discern, select, and send approximately **10** delegates to the Diocesan Encuentro. Dioceses will invite all parish delegates and others who were part of the process at the local level to participate in the Diocesan Encuentro. Consult with your diocese for specific instructions. Each delegation will be accompanied by their Pastor —or associate priest or priest 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 or 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
Parish Staff	A pastoral leader who works in the 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 Parish 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 pastoral leader in the Catholic Church in the United States.
4. Willingness and availability to represent the parish at the Diocesan Encuentro.
5. Availability and openness to be selected as diocesan delegates to the Regional and National Encuentros. *[Make sure to have the dates for the diocesan, regional and national event available]*

A Few Recommendations to Consider During the Discernment

Ideally,

- Half of the delegates should be U.S.-born or Generation 1.5 (Catholics who migrated as children or adolescents and grew up in the United States).
- Maintain a gender balance among the delegates: 50% women, 50% men.
- One of the delegates should be ordained or belong to a religious community (priest or permanent deacon, sister, brother).
- Two delegates should be a married couple.
- Include members of ecclesial movements (e.g., Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Cursillo, etc.).
- Include at least one non-Hispanic delegate.

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Five Steps to Discern Parish Delegates

1. A prayer is offered for the Holy Spirit to help the community to begin the discernment process to identify parish delegates. A moment of silence follows.

2. Identification of possible Parish Delegates:

Option A

- A member of the Parish Team reads the criteria to be a parish delegate.
- They then hand out a **Commitment & Delegate Ballot** to ALL people who participated in the five-week process.
- The community invites members who feel called as delegates and can be delegates to come forward and say their name. The community can also propose names out loud and if they accept, they will come forward.
- Those who are willing and available to serve as delegates need to check YES in the appropriate box and provide their names and contact information.
- **Commitment & Delegate Ballots** will be collected and presented during the time of the Offertory at the closing Mass.

Option B

- A member of the Parish Team reads the criteria to be a parish delegate.
- They then hand out a **Commitment & Delegate Ballot** to ALL people who participated in the five-week process.
- Those who are willing and available to serve as delegates need to check YES in the appropriate box and provide their names and contact information.
- All **Commitment & Delegate Ballots** will be collected and presented during the time of the Offertory at the closing Mass.

3. After the Parish Encuentro, the Parish Team and the pastor or priest engaged in Hispanic Ministry will study the ballots according to the proposed criteria (see above) and select approximately **10** delegates to represent the parish at the Diocesan Encuentro. After the selection, the Parish Team will contact the selected delegates, 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 of parish delegates are sent to the Diocesan Chairs.