

Part III: Voices from Parishes and Participating Organizations

1. Make a list of some successful ways that parishes / organizations in the region are already responding to the obstacles, challenges and needs they have identified, as well as how they are affirming the presence and contributions of Hispanics / Latinos in the peripheries:

1. Evangelization and mission

- The V Encuentro
- Listening and paying attention to the community to identify the needs.
- Accompaniment by Hispanic clergy and religious.
- Groups of evangelization
- Good pastoral work.
- We improve the hospitality ministry to welcome members and visitors.
- Parochial festival and coexistence activities for different ages.
- Friendliness and presence to those who need it: visit people.
- Ministries and movements such as the Legion of Mary and Saint Vincent De Paul.
- The availability of many ministries.
- Encourage community interaction and the participation of Hispanics in ministries and events.
- Charitable activities and direct service, such as a food bank.
- Financial help and / or food to families in need.
- I visit in homes to asylums and sick people, and prayer.
- Bring the Eucharist to the sick at home.
- Giving personal testimony of the professed faith with words and actions
- Maintaining the Christian commitment
- Show respect, humility and courtesy to everyone.

2. Formation in the faith and catechesis

- Accompaniment and formation of the faith for adults.
- Catechesis for children and their parents in Spanish.
- We promote retreats for adults and youth.
- Preparation classes for baptism.
- Marriage preparation course.
- The catechists are our heroes.
- Developing our spirituality
- VBS (*Vacation Bible School*) for children.
- Hire highly qualified people to lead faith formation in Spanish and English.
- Parents need to be more involved in order to better educate children in the Catholic faith.
- We have updated bilingual materials throughout the diocese.
- Retreats at the diocesan level: youth and adults.
- A globalization of children's catechesis at the level of the diocese.
- Know the faith and traditions, and transmit them to new generations.

3. Leadership development and pastoral training

- Certification in pastoral theology for volunteer leaders.
- Formation and training of catechists at the diocesan level.
- Hire highly qualified people to lead faith formation in Spanish and English.
- Allow recent immigrants to also take leadership positions.
- To exercise leadership in the Hispanic conference of the parish.
- Diocesan Movement New Evangelization: Provide formation and retreats for the spiritual growth of the parish communities.

- The diocesan office of Hispanic ministry provides formation and accompaniment to parish leaders-youth and adults.
- That there be a good relationship between the priests and the elimination of asperities.
- There is a strong need for the formation and training of leaders.

4. Pastoral with teenagers

- Edge, Life Teen, Teen ACTS and activities all night to middle school.
- Adoration to the Most Holy (holy hour) for teenagers.
- Youth groups: Spaces where adolescents feel part of, allows them to express themselves in their two languages, appreciate their biculturalism, invite to contribute their gifts and talents with the community, grow in their faith, and develop social awareness and self-esteem.
- The priests are involved with ministries and youth groups.
- Transportation to special activities.
- Listen, accept and interact with teenagers.
- Use technology and modern means of communication.
- Greater commitment with young people
- Annual retreats for teenagers.
- Summer week: VBS or Steubenville.
- Accompany young people in visits to homes and senior centers.
- Youth movements - Search and Awakening: retreats for adolescents and pre-adolescent.
- Youth movements offer a space where they can grow, evangelize their peers from their reality and in their language, being they the leaders and protagonists of evangelization.
- Promote Masses and bilingual material for young people.
- Catechesis and pastoral with adolescents in various fields: *youth ministry*, youth choir, retreats, quinceañera, diocesan events and beyond, Masses, missions, visits and service.
- World Youth Day
- San Antonio - *Youth Spectacular*
- Evangelization of adolescents and young people.

5. Youth ministry

- Pastoral care for young people.
- Youth groups: Spaces where young people feel part of, already allow them to express themselves in their two languages, appreciate their biculturalism and they invite to contribute their gifts and talents with the community, grow in their faith, social conscience and self-esteem.
- Greater commitment with the young boys
- Retreats annuals for young people .
- Accompany young people in visits to homes and senior centers.
- Youth movement - Encounter: a deeper experience of life and faith, for young migrant adults, US-born Latinos and school pastoral.
- Youth movements offer a space where they can grow, evangelize their peers from their reality and in their language, being they the leaders and protagonists of evangelization.
- Promote Masses and bilingual material for young people.
- World Youth Day
- San Antonio - *Youth Spectacular*
- Evangelization of adolescents and young people.
- Better strategies to reach young people.
- *Theology on Tap* for college students.
- Use technology and social networks to communicate with young people

6. Stewardship and development

- Sales activities to raise funds for the Church.
- They added bilingual staff to the pastoral team.
- Opening of people to the ministries.

- Support of large parishes towards small parishes.
- Financial assistance to rural parishes.
- Hire staff to organize and accompany the Hispanic community.
- Pastoral council, finance committee and teams for the parish events.
- Identify and share your gifts and talents in ministries and activities.
- Ministry Fair.
- Hire highly qualified people to lead faith formation.
- Identify and invite new leaders, volunteers and participants.
- Reaffirm the presence and use the gifts of Hispanics / Latinos in the community.

7. Family ministry

- Catechesis for children.
- Catechetical training for parents.
- Motivate parents to involve their children in Catholic traditions.

8. Immigration

- Services to immigrants.
- Help the Hispanic community to handle all the persecution that is living.
- Catholic Charities offers in the parishes information clinics and workshops on immigration.
- R supports the undocumented immigrants.
- Provide access to the Mexican Consulate and lawyers.

9. Communications and new media

- Opening of the parishes to promote retreats and events.
- Distribution of the bulletin in both languages.
- Use technology and social networks to communicate with young people and to promote training activities.

Comments from other Regions

- Diocesan newspaper offers news and articles in Spanish.
- The radio program in Spanish promotes the bilingual and Spanish Masses of the parishes, as well as the parish activities for the Hispanic community.
- Production of a weekly radio program with segments of news, inspiration, interviews, formation and reflection on the Sunday Gospel.
- Presence in Spanish on Facebook, blogs, Youtube , etc.

10. Pastoral with the imprisoned and detained

- There were no comments to the respect.

Comments from other Regions

- There is a ministry for incarcerated people in which they are offered food, evangelization through words, music and accompaniment so that they maintain hope.
- The pastoral care of the penitentiary arose getting the permits to go to evangelize at the prisons
- Visits to the prison.

11. Scripture and theology

- There were no comments to the respect.

Comments from other Regions

- Seven Lectio Divina communities were formed that meet weekly to reflect on the Word of God and grow in the Catholic faith.
- Support with Bible seminars in three areas of the diocese to enrich parish Bible study groups
- Basic Ecclesial Communities
- Bible, Theology and Pastoral Courses

- Workshops on Sacred Scripture where the Sunday readings are interpreted in the light of the Magisterium of the Church and Tradition, with the help of Catholic biblical commentaries.

A. Intercultural skills

- Bilingual Priests
- Activities cultural.
- Listen to Hispanics in the community and respond to their needs.
- Avoiding discrimination between groups in the parish.
- Have a Hispanic pastoral council.
- A Hispanic representative in the parish council.

C. Human development

- English classes.
- Alcoholics Anonymous and Neurotic Anonymous.
- Counseling for adults.
- Health Fair.
- Information about social services in the community

E. Catholic education (K-12)

- Collaboration with Catholic schools to be able to include more low-income families.

H. Justice and peace

- Collaboration with Charities Catolicas.
- Creation of social justice ministry to organize events to raise awareness of the need of the Hispanic / Latino community by providing formation and gathering opportunities
- The Vincentian Lay Missionary Family .
- The presence of religious sisters as mediators to find help for families in the diocese and in other organizations.

J. Liturgy and spirituality

- Mass in Spanish and bilingual Mass.
- Popular religiosity: patron saint festivities, presentation of the child, quinceanera, inns, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Passion of Christ, and more.
- Liturgical Ministries: readers, choirs, eucharistic ministers, ushers, acolytes, etc.
- Organization and participation in the kermesse.
- The good use of devotions and traditions to integrate people in the community .

L. Ecclesial movements

- Movements and ministries. They provide formation through retreats, congresses and leadership training at the diocesan level.
- Activities for the Charismatic Renewal to help families in need.
- Ministries and movements such as the Legion of Mary and Saint Vincent De Paul.
- Cursillos de Cristiandad .
- Charismatic Renewal Movement and its prayer groups.

Q. Vocations

- Need for priestly and religious vocations in the Hispanic community.
- New Spanish-speaking deacons are required.

- 2. Make a list of the best ideas and successful ways that parishes and organizations in the Region offered to welcome, accompany and welcome the Hispanics / Latinos in their communities, especially in terms of: family pastoral, youth ministry, accompaniment of those who have moved away from the faith or those who live in situations of risk:**

1. Evangelization and mission

Outreach

- Openness to dialogue and to meet their needs.
- Attention to singles and divorcees.
- Continue with the visit to families and invite them to be an active part of the community.
- The Bishop and the priests must visit the communities and get to know their people.
- Ministry of permanent evangelization.
- Strengthen and attract those who are far away and those who feel forgotten.
- More welcoming Priests
- Promote movements such as the Charismatic Renewal and *Transforming Force* to evangelize those who have left the Church or are in situations of risk.
- Leave our comfort zone to find Jesus in the peripheries.
- Offer materials, training and education on the teachings of the Church.
- Listen to the needs to know where to direct them to find services in the community.
- Many want a personal visit to be heard and motivated to attend Mass.
- Bring the presence of God to homes in need of Him.
- Guide them as Jesus did.
- Follow up on the people visited to incorporate them into the community.

Welcome

- Warm welcome and hand shake.
- Listen and offer help without judging.
- Recognize within the Mass, the people who celebrate something.
- Offer a simple gift basket to new members.
- Create a Welcome Committee
- Form groups of ushers who welcome the Eucharistic celebration.
- Encourage them to register in the parish.
- Treat everyone with respect and courtesy to make them feel welcome in the community.
- Attitudes: hospitality, kindness, humility, welcome, authenticity, joy, openness to new leaders.
- Listen carefully to meet the needs and accompany them.
- Do not tire of inviting and encouraging
- Do not discriminate: avoid judgments by appearances to show everyone the love of God.

Pastoral community

- Accompany, encourage and motivate everyone.
- Create more programs for different ages and needs: hospitality, youth, prayer, addictions, etc.
- Invite the activities of the Church.
- Monthly meetings of the ministries.
- Display the names with photos of the Hispanic representatives in the parish.
- Annual Kermess with health fair.
- Simplify the process to obtain services in the parish.
- Present and promote to everyone what the church offers them
- Promote the Hispanic Ministry for the V Encuentro.
- May the Hispanic ministry be a bridge to connect the priest with the community.

Social Ministry

- Approach the needy and the poor
- Continue to inform the community about the educational food and medical resources that exist in the communities.
- Need to organize transportation for medical and immigration issues
- Offer spiritual and / or economic support in times of grief or illness.
- Accompaniment may consist of offering transportation or reminders and information about the events and times of Mass.

Visiting the sick

- Visit those who are sick in their homes, bring them the Eucharist and witness the love of God.
- Visit the peripheries, the sick and the imprisoned.

Living and witnessing the Faith

- Give a good example of life activities.
- Bear witness to the faith by words and deeds.
- Leaders have to bear witness by meeting and uniting everyone in prayer.
- Keep the Christian commitment

2. Formation in the faith and catechesis

- Reduce the requirements to become members or receive the sacraments.
- Open spaces for children, adolescents and young people, as they are the present and future.
- Catechesis in English and Spanish.
- Encampments and retreats to live the faith and to overcome conflicts.
- Quinceañeras.
- Premarital talks that delve into the family as a domestic church.
- Grassroots communities.
- Extend the spiritual and theological formation of young people and adults.
- Motivate people to participate in the sacraments.
- Form Bible study groups.
- Explain the teachings of the Church and the sacraments.
- Re-initiate retreats in the parish.
- Liturgy for children with explanations.
- Continuing education on the celebration of the Eucharist.
- Provide materials to learn about the Catholic faith.
- Withdrawals with low rates for everyone.
- Know the faith and traditions to transmit them to future generations.

3. Leadership development and pastoral training

- Promote the formation of leaders to strengthen groups and movements.
- Create new groups, according to the need of each parish.
- Retreats and training courses for leaders.
- Organizations and ministries need spiritual directors to accompany them.
- Identify the roles and responsibilities of the parish pastoral team.
- Workshops for every need: leadership, spirituality, theology, Sacred Scripture, accompaniment, etc.

4. Pastoral with teenagers

- Open spaces for children, adolescents and young people, since they are the present and future.
- Support leadership in youth ministry and *Catholic Youth Ministry* and do bilingual activities.
- Form youth leadership in local and national programs.
- Learn to use the new means of communication in youth ministry.

- Seek funds to help high-risk families and adolescents (rescue).
- Listen to young people and their concerns.
- That there are more groups and activities for Hispanic teenagers.
- Counseling for adolescents.
- Have groups for teenagers and young people.
- Search (*Search*) and Youth Promotion Encounters.
- Vocational discernment as an integral part of the pastoral with adolescents.
- Promote retreats, both for teenagers and young people.
- Create events where parents participate with their teenage children
- Involve adolescents in the life of the Church: service at Mass, youth groups, diocesan movements, etc.

5. Youth ministry

- Open spaces for children, adolescents and young people, as they are the present and future.
- Open more groups and programs for young Hispanic adults.
- Form youth leadership in local and national programs to better serve.
- Learn to use the new means of communication in youth ministry.
- Offer spiritual and theological training for young people and adults.
- Listen to young people and their concerns.

6. Stewardship and development

- Seek funds to help high-risk families and adolescents (rescue).
- Education Hispanic parishioners in the responsibility to support parish and diocese
- Involve the community in the maintenance of the temple and the facilities of the parish.
- Ministry Fair
- Train leaders to stoke community charity and hospitality
- Offer a workshop to discover the gifts and visualize how to put them to service.
- Get more involved in the ministries.
- Promote volunteering in the community.
- Welcome people and motivate them to participate with their gifts and talents.

7. Family ministry

- Support the Family Movement that promotes the Rosary in the family.
- Bilingual family and marriage counseling.
- Continue with the visit to families and invite them to be an active part of the community.
- Offer conferences for the whole family.
- Attention to the divorced and widowed.
- Seek funds to help high-risk families and adolescents (rescue).
- Creation of a family formation group.
- Create a family ministry with various services according to need.
- Organize an event or a monthly family night to form a community.
- Approach families to meet their needs.
- Ask for prayer from religious communities so that families deepen their faith.
- Have Bible study for families.
- Invite parents to deepen their faith while their children receive catechesis.
- Evangelize families and invite them to share their gifts.

8. Immigration

- Legal advice on immigration.
- Provide access to the Mexican Consulate and lawyers.
- Inform and guide the community about changes in immigration processes and support agencies.

9. Communications and new media

- Learn to use the new means of communication in youth ministry.
- Learn to use technology and social networks to communicate with parishioners.
- Provide information about the events by all means of communication.

Comments from other Regions

- Increase communication Bilingual.
- Place bilingual signs in the parish facilities.
- Newsletter and website completely bilingual, more informative and welcoming.
- Include in the parish bulletin the groups and services available.
- Inform more about the programs and events of the parish.
- Improve communication in the parish and at the level of the diocese.
- Provide information in Spanish about Catholic schools.
- Maintain equipment for simultaneous translation at events.
- In the bulletins and websites, promote community activities and opportunities in Spanish.
- Use services to communicate with text messages.

10. Pastoral with the imprisoned and detained

- Visit the asylums and jails.

Comments from other Regions

- Support families with family members in jail.
- The Director of Hispanic Ministry visits Hispanic prisoners once a week.
- Those incarcerated were very grateful for the opportunities to celebrate the Mass, learn about the sacraments and share their faith through the daily study of the Scriptures.
- Promote penitentiary ministry to evangelize imprisoned or detained Hispanic youth.
- Maintain contact with the relatives of those who are imprisoned for immigration reasons

11. Scripture and theology

- Have Bible study for families.
- Form Bible study groups in the parishes.

A. Intercultural skills

- Have the booklets of ministries in Spanish.
- Hispanic and Anglo communities sharing space well in parish with mutual support
- Form a diocesan Hispanic pastoral committee, with parish representatives.
- Different cultures must respect each other.
- Need for the Mass to be bilingual if it is not in Spanish.
- Maintain equipment for simultaneous translation at events.
- Learn to avoid subtle forms of discrimination.
- Offer and promote traditional events in Spanish for all ages.
- Hispanic representation in the pastoral council of the parish.
- More priests who speak Spanish and the clergy are present in the activities of the Hispanic community are needed.

C. Human development

- English classes.
- Inform about educational resources, food and doctors in the community.
- Create a directory of help centers.
- Literature in Spanish and prevention programs in Spanish (drugs, alcohol ...).

F. Higher education

- Provide information on how to apply for scholarships and financial support for university studies.

H. Justice and peace

- Catholic Charities

J. Liturgy and spirituality

- Celebration of traditional devotions.
- Prayer and chain prayer groups.
- Legion of Maria .
- Offer a schedule of Masses that responds to the real needs of the community.
- Offer spiritual direction to Hispanics who require it.
- Promote popular religiosity as a means to gather people and evangelize them.
- More support for the quinceañeras.

L. Ecclesial movements

- Cursillos
- Charismatic Renewal prayer groups
- Parish groups such as the Legion of Mary.

Q. Vocations

- More Hispanic priests are needed.
- Promote more vocations in the Hispanic community.