



## Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS  
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Dear brother bishops,

Peace be with you. The Lord is Risen! Alleluia!

One of the many fruits of the V Encuentro process has been the opportunity to deepen our understanding of the Hispanic/Latino communities in the Church through social and religious research. In that regard, the USCCB's V Encuentro Research Team has developed an innovative model for accurately estimating the Catholic population for every diocese in the United States. The V Encuentro estimates were conducted for Roman Catholic/Latin Dioceses only and do not include Eastern Rite Catholic Dioceses and Eparchies. This model is based on the best survey data currently available, with additional guidance from original research conducted on behalf of the USCCB Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University.

We are delighted to inform you that the racial and ethnic contours of the Catholic population in every diocese are now available for review by age group—including estimates of Catholic children for the first time ever. The diocesan reports also include a selection of relevant data from the U.S. Census Bureau to help pastoral leaders at all levels to better understand and respond to needs in their Hispanic/Latino communities. The national-level report and methodological statement can be found on the Results page of the V Encuentro website:

<https://vencuentro.org/results/>

In addition, statistical reports for individual dioceses and regions are available on the following page:

<https://vencuentro.org/v-encuentro-diocesan-participation-and-information/>

We offer this data for your review in the hopes that it can be useful to you and your diocesan teams for pastoral planning purposes. We assure you this proprietary demographic analysis was conducted in keeping with the highest standards in the industry (please see the “Executive Summary” contained in the Methodological Statement attached). The methodology employed was developed by [Mr. Ken Johnson-Mondragón](#), Coordinator of Research for the V National Encuentro, in consultation with an advisory team of leading Catholic researchers, including Dr. Luis Fraga of the University of Notre Dame, Dr. Richard Wood of the University of New Mexico, and Dr. Hosffman Ospino of Boston College.

The USCCB Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church and the V Encuentro National Team recently hosted a gathering of leading national experts in the sociology of religion to review the data and the methodology that was employed to generate the findings in these reports. We were encouraged by their positive feedback regarding the results of the proprietary research. Below please find some pertinent comments:

*Mark Gray, PhD, Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University:*

“Previous models of the Catholic population at the diocesan level have not been able to estimate the religious affiliation of children with accuracy due to limitations in Census data (i.e., the lack of religion questions). By combining data from recent surveys and the Census, the V Encuentro Research Team has created a new comprehensive model that is an important and reliable benchmark. Their estimates will assist dioceses in understanding the changing contours of their Catholic populations in ways that have not been available in the past.”

*Luis Fraga, PhD, Director of the Institute for Latino Studies at the University of Notre Dame:*

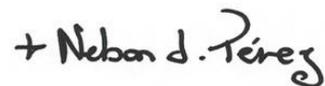
“The research design for the V Encuentro included a direct survey on Hispanic/Latino ministry at the diocesan level throughout the country and extensive analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau’s *American Community Survey*. Remarkably, the Research Team obtained a 100 percent survey response rate and generated more than 1,500 total pages of reports at the diocesan and regional levels.”

*Mar Muñoz-Visoso, MTS, Executive Director, USCCB Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church:*

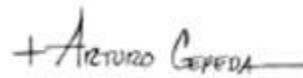
“The USCCB Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church is pleased to present this new demographic and religious framework to diocesan leaders. Together with the *Proceedings and Conclusions of the V National Encuentro of Hispanic/Latino Ministry*, we hope pastoral ministers everywhere will make use of these new insights and statistical information on the Hispanic/Latino community to strengthen and expand the pastoral accompaniment they provide.”

It is our hope that you will find this information useful and relevant to your pastoral ministry. Feel free to direct any questions on the results and methodology to Ken Johnson-Mondragón, V Encuentro Research Coordinator at [kjohnson@vencuentro.org](mailto:kjohnson@vencuentro.org) or Alejandro Aguilera-Titus, Assistant Director for Hispanic Affairs and V Encuentro National Coordinator.

Your brothers in Christ,



Most Rev. Nelson J. Pérez  
Bishop of Cleveland  
Chairman, Committee on Cultural Diversity  
in the Church



Most Rev. Arturo Cepeda  
Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Hispanic  
Affairs