

Catholic Cultural Diversity Network Convocation (CCDNC)

Five to Eight minute presentation during the convocation's opening session.

We are a people that have origins that expand various countries that live in different community structures and that have and will continue to deal with issues of immigration, politics, education, economics, labor and identity. We are also a people that is...

- Un solo pueblo
- Understands (conoce) familia, sabe de comunidad
- Lives passionately
- Loves deeply
- Has witnessed & experienced good and bad times
- Is resilient
- Has risked everything for love, life & family
- Is willing to put all trust in faith
- Ni de aquí ni de aya (is neither from here nor there)

We come from a long lineage of diverse ancestors with diverse backgrounds. Our history reminds us of a people that are continually evolving. We also come from...

- Rich traditions, rich countries, rich customs
- Diverse lands and ways of life
- A people that have/had/will have their exodus from Egypt
- Indians, Europeans, Meztizos, Afrikans, Morenos
- A sacrifice someone made for us, in order to sacrifice for others.

Our Journey has been blessed by our ancestors, by our forefathers in Hispanic ministry (those alive and those who have come before us) and by our particular abuelitos, abuelitas, papas y mamas who have passed on the faith. Our Journey has also been blessed by...

- Faith, hope, love, God
- Support of "family" (by blood or by circumstance)
- Kind people that have extended a hand
- Moments of grace and love
- A community of people (church, movements etc.)
- Gracious people
- By pain and suffering

We have faced many obstacles both personal and communal. Others obstacles in our path that we have faced are...

- Moments of extreme solitude
- Division of families
- A confusion of what to do with life, choices etc.

- Not belonging completely to one location (ni de aquí, ni de aya)
- Continued Racism, racial profiling,
- Not having a voice in key moments
- Loses of loved ones left behind-never to see them again
- Not ever seeing those we love
- The loss of our language, culture, heritage-our way of life\
- Fear of the unknown
- Anger and frustration with each other over something's that we cannot change or control
- Differences (that have become our source of division, anger, resentment, bitterness and recrimination)

Today we want to seize all opportunities available, we don't want to waste any that come our way, it is time to believe in unconditional acceptance and with gratitude truly believe that "everyone belongs." We also want to seize these opportunities...

- To be at the table as an equal, not as a second class citizen
- To keep learning and be educated
- To be part of any and all decision making processes
- To accept and be part of communities and also of the larger community
- To be able to live life without the worry of being deported or treated inhumane etc.
- To build bridges together
- To openly acquaint ourselves with others, accept our similarities and differences and to appreciate what is.

Our vision for the future is a future that calls all of us to a participatory, integrative experiential and a communal family that is constantly and reciprocally learning, loving and living together. Our vision for the future of Hispanics is also ...

- To be treated with respect and equality
- To be seen as human being first before being judged into any category
- To accept and embrace differences and similarities
- To not make the mistake of oppressing (since we have been oppressed)
- To be part a pluricultural world that continuously raises awareness, respects and restores relationships with one another.
- A pastoral de conjunto for all sisters and brothers
- To move forward in terms of education, labor and economics
- To reach a place where we can embrace and be accepted for the identity we choose for ourselves.