

One Church Many Cultures

The Good News of Cultural Diversity



PASTORAL CARE OF MIGRANTS, REFUGEES, & TRAVELERS

Redefining the Role of Igbo Catholic Young Adults: Culture Preservation, Mentoring, and Deepening of Faith

by Somtochi Amuzie, Igbo Catholic Community, Hayward, LA in Oakland Diocese



When I thought deeply about how my own faith journey has progressed, I realized that we as young adults are in a unique space. We

have a responsibility to deepen our faith and preserve our Igbo culture. As a young, devoted Catholic I recognize three KEY principles that have been integral in discovering my role - Foundation. Participation. Dedication.

Foundation:

Throughout my entire childhood, my parents laid a strong foundation that has been the ANCHOR of my faith. Of all the things my parents have given me, the greatest of them all has been sowing the seeds of my faith.

“Of all the things my parents have given me, the greatest of them all has been sowing the seeds of my faith.”

Some of my fondest memories growing up are of intimate moments we shared as a family, recognizing the presence of God – whether it was praying before dinner, or praying before bed, or saying the rosary before long six-hour drives from the Bay Area to Los Angeles every summer.

Between my family’s devotion to prayer and the 13 years I spent in Catholic School, my foundation taught me the importance of constant communication with our Lord and helped me build good habits that would carry me into

adulthood. A strong foundation is the essence of how to build a strong church community of dedicated believers.

Participation:

There is always a point in every child’s journey where your faith has an opportunity to reach another level – where going to church becomes more than just a habit or something your parents require from you – and it becomes your OWN personal experience.

For, me I learned to take accountability for my relationship with God around middle school and entering high school.

When Igbo Mass began in my hometown, it felt so PURPOSEFUL. We did everything – we altar-served; sang in the choir; read the prayer of the faithful; formed our own cultural dance group – Ugowanne. My faith took giant steps forward because of the immense desire to actively participate in the church grew within me. I was introduced to this amazing intersection of faith and culture, and

also learned the incredible value in having a community to lean on.

Dedication:

As a young adult – we have our share of uncertainty and life changes constantly. We are building our lives and our futures, which sometimes can go as planned and sometimes can completely go wrong. But God constantly challenges us to remain steadfast in our faith – including our involvement with our church community.

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In 2014, God challenged me to step above and beyond. I was introduced to Igbo Catholic Community (ICCUSA) for the first time. I had no idea what to expect – but I was asked to represent our chapter in the debate. During that convention, and at each one since then, I have been so inspired to meet all the young adults from across this country who are as dedicated to their faith. In 2016, I joined the Young Adult Executive Board – which was one of the most rewarding experiences I have had to date. We even traveled to Orlando, FL

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Back Cover – Prayer

with Sister Joanna Okereke, HHCJ for a roundtable discussion with Black Catholic Bishops from all over the U.S. ICCUSA is so special because it is often the ONLY space where young adults like me can tackle faith, culture, and everything society throws at us all at once, it is OUR future.

207. ...by learning from one another, we can better reflect that wonderful multi-faceted reality that Christ’s Church is meant to be. She will be able to attract young people, for her unity is not monolithic, but rather a network of varied gifts that the Spirit ceaselessly pours out upon her, renewing her and lifting her up from her poverty.

—Pope Francis, *Christus Vivit*

In the Image and Likeness of God, Made for Communion and Sent Forth to Evangelize

by Mar Muñoz-Visoso, MTS



Christian anthropology teaches us that the human person, each one of us, is created in the “image

and likeness of God”. But what does this mean? First, that we are all created with the same inalienable dignity of sons and daughters of God. No matter the color of our skin, or our ethnic or cultural origin, each one of us is a beautiful reflection of the Creator, whose life must be valued and treated with honor and respect. Being in the image and likeness of God also means that we are made for communion, for our God is a community of Persons, the Holy Trinity.

Do you want to understand and live the idea of unity in diversity to the maximum expression? Then look at the Holy Trinity: One God, Three Persons. Each person unique, each person with their own attributes, but only one God. A communion of love and life so strong that it overflows, outpouring God's life-giving spirit over His creatures. (1Cor 13, 12-13; 25-26; Rom 12: 3-5). Thus, the Church is called to

be the community of believers, that communion of love and life, that brings together peoples from many nations, languages and races to praise the Lamb (Rev 5, 9).

Before He ascended into heaven, the Lord gave His followers one very clear mandate: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you (Mt. 28:19-

20). In other words, the Church exists to evangelize, to go and to make disciples. So, a Church that doesn't go out of herself, that doesn't reach out to many diverse peoples to bring them into her bosom, is either dead or has lost her purpose, like salt that has lost its taste.

Of course, evangelization doesn't happen in a vacuum. The way of the Christian always passes through the cross. The Lord Himself sets the example and shows us the way. As with the two disciples on the

road to Emmaus, He encounters us on the way. He comes to meet us on the side of the road, especially at our most difficult moments. We, who are tired and poor in faith, who at times despair and are tempted to move away from Jerusalem. He comes to us so that we can comprehend, and find encourage-

ment, and rediscover Him in His Word and in the breaking of the bread, in the gathering of the disciples. He comes to us so that we, in turn, can go out and give a courageous testimony, one that is not afraid of the darkness and the

difficulties of the times but, on the contrary, feels called to turn around and bring a little light to them.

Does your parish or community of faith live up to its mission? In the Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis offers us a sure guide to what a community of believers in Jesus Christ is supposed to look like. May we take the time together, pastors and parishioners, to reflect on life in our communities and, together with our Holy Father, rediscover the joy of being missionary disciples.

“Do you want to understand and live the idea of unity in diversity to the maximum expression? Then look at the Holy Trinity”

CHAIRMAN'S REFLECTION

The Joy and the Peace of Christ Be with You!

By Bishop Nelson J Pérez, Bishop of Cleveland, Chairman, Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church



Dear Friends,

The joy and the peace of Christ be with you!

A year has passed since I took over the reins of the Bishops' Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church. It has been an amazing journey of accompanying and learning from many diverse communities that fall under the Committee's care.

As we enter the second year of my chairmanship and the final year of the current USCCB strategic plan (2017-2020), I want to draw your attention to and ask you to pray for two tasks that the Committee on Cultural Diversity is working on energetically.

First, the upcoming *Journeying Together: An Intercultural Encounter on Ministries with Youth and Young Adults* (Summer 2020). Building on the success and many fruits of the 2010 Cultural Diversity Network Convocation, *Journeying Together* hopes to gather again the "many faces in God's House", this time to focus on young people and on those who minister with and among them. Budget, venue and purpose dictate that this will be a more intimate event than the ones we have seen in recent years (i.e. V Encuentro, Convocation of Catholic Leaders) so that the *Intercultural Encounter* is conducive to dialogue, networking and building of new relationships. Participation will be by invitation and every effort will be made to have equitable representation of all cultural and ethnic families.

If your organization or community is interested in participating, please make your interest know to the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church. The Holy Father's exhortation *Christus Vivit* will be a central guiding document, so that our work with youth and young adults of all ethnic and cultural backgrounds here in the U.S. is attuned to his vision for and the efforts of the Universal Church.

Second, the bishops of the current committee are charged with the important task of setting the vision, goals and objectives of the Committee for the next four years as part of the USCCB's strategic planning for 2021-2024. This means that the work we do now, and in the next few months, will set the tone for the work of the Committee on Cultural Diversity in the years to come. As with the Church in Cleveland, of which I am the local bishop, my vision for the work of this Committee of the Bishops' Conference is that it promotes and witnesses to a Church on mission: proactive, involved, supportive, fruitful, and joyful. (*The Joy of the Gospel*, # 24, Pope Francis).

Please pray for us bishops so that we may be the shepherds the Lord needs us to be!

Bishop Nelson J Pérez

Bishop of Cleveland
Chairman, Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church

Kujenga Means To Build (Swahili)

by Donna Toliver-Grimes, Assistant Director



Kujenga leadership retreats develop strong African American Catholic youth leaders in dioceses around the country. In the Diocese of Birmingham, Kujenga is incorporated into Confirmation formation during Lent. It has been instrumental for healing the young church in New Orleans after Hurricane

Katrina. While some dioceses maintained a continuous program, others rebooted Kujenga after a hiatus through the commitment of Kujengans (alums) who went to college, established careers and families, but never forgot the transformative encounter they had as teenagers.

Several alums like Thomessia Moore-Lawson became seasoned youth ministers and leaders in their parishes and communities. As she recalled, “Kujenga was a magical once-in-a-lifetime experience. We participated in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Mass (with drums); wore African headdress, had African poetry and healthy conversation about the Church’s positions on race relations. We also learned about influential African American Catholics. We were an elite group of proud Catholic African Americans

who discussed how to defend our faith - armed with knowledge of who we were, where we came from and to whom we belonged.”

Kujengan Shaniqua Wilson from the Diocese of Brooklyn, formerly from Rockville Centre, recalls that through Kujenga she traveled to Rome. She met Sr. Thea Bowman FSPA, Most Reverend Emerson Moore, who confirmed her, and twin priests Charles and Chester Smith as seminarians.

Begun in Chicago in the 1970s as the vision of Fr. Martin Carter SA (Franciscan Friar of the Atonement), today many desire to update and bring the Kujenga experience to a national platform. James Watts, Director of Black Catholic Ministry in Birmingham is proud of alums who became leaders in the movement and continue serving the diocese well. He beams as they pass the torch to the next generation.

Stepping outside comfort zones to spend days in a rustic environment, youth from different geographic areas meet at the intersection of Catholic Faith and African American culture. Here they enjoy enriching activities, impressive talks and bonding with other youth. The testimony of Kujenga is that emerging leaders gain confidence to accept new roles as servant leaders wherever they land. Think of Kujenga as Christ Kwanzaa year-round.

206. Ministry has to be synodal; it should involve a “journeying together” that values “the charisms that the Spirit bestows in accordance with the vocation and role of each of the Church’s members, through a process of co-responsibility... Motivated by this spirit, we can move towards a participatory and co-responsible Church, one capable of appreciating its own rich variety, gratefully accepting the contributions of the lay faithful, including young people and women, consecrated persons, as well as groups, associations and movements. No one should be excluded or exclude themselves.”

—Pope Francis, *Christus Vivit*

Where are the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the United States?

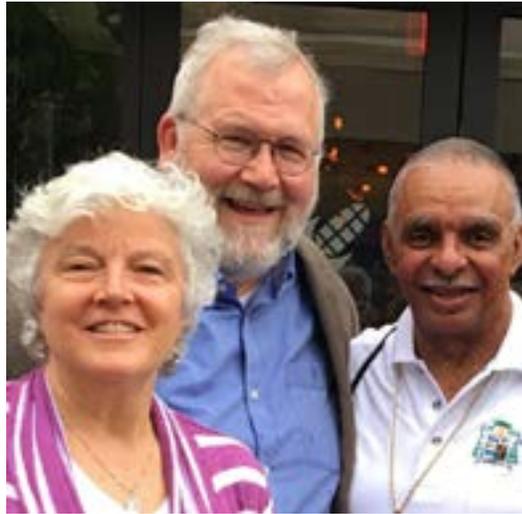
by Barbara McCrabb, Assistant Director, Secretariat of Catholic Education

There are 100+ Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the United States. Of those institutions, the Catholic Church has a pastoral presence at 15, or 1 in 7, campuses.

Campus Minister Ricardo Givens, after years in campus ministry attending various workshops and conferences locally and nationally, began asking the question ‘Where are the HBCUs?’ He searched for support and assistance. He made a connection. First, he encountered Donna Grimes, Assistant Director for African American Affairs in the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church, who introduced him to Barbara McCrabb, Assistant Director for Higher Education. Among them a plan emerged to reach out to Catholic Campus Ministers serving at HBCUs. From that initial contact, a spring series was organized in collaboration with the Catholic Campus Ministry Association (CCMA) which provided opportunities for virtual conversations to network, share and listen among those serving at HBCUs. Facilitators with various expertise joined the conversation suggesting resources and offering insights.

The priority was to build relationships between and among the participants. Stories were shared about where people were from, how they were called to this ministry, as well as who and where they served. Their stories illumined the Spirit’s work within and among us. The sharing of joys and struggles was both affirming and evocative.

Bishop Fernand Cheri, Auxiliary Bishop of New Orleans, helped the participants explore the topic of culture, recognizing that culture is so much more than language. We must awaken to the many dynamics at play in the campus context. If we are going to have an impact, on campus and in the Church, we must be conscious of what we bring to the table. Ralph McCloud, from the Catholic



Barbara McCrabb, USCCB Catholic Education, Dr. Donald McCrabb, US Catholic Mission Association and Bishop Fernand Cheri, Auxiliary Bishop of New Orleans, at the Archbishop Lyke Conference, Washington DC July 2019. Photo credit: Barbara McCrabb

Campaign for Human Development, shared “I was African American long before I was Catholic.” It was John Paul II that encouraged me to share the gift of my blackness with symbols, music, emotion and more. Lifting up the African American and black Catholic experience is essential to grow and strengthen campus ministry in the HBCU context.

Participants in the dialogue expressed challenges in the creative engagement of black Catholic students, the lack of meeting space on campus and limited resources. Promising practices were shared as a creative approach to some ongoing struggles. Some campus ministers had success in build-

ing relationships with student organizations on campus. Another cultivated student engagement by reaching out to local high schools, as a way of meeting students before they get to campus. Still others have made connections with ministry organizations that can help them build skills and identify resources.

The spring series was extended through the summer and will resume this fall. The group has grown as other campus ministers have asked to join the conversation. Now, in addition to campus ministers serving at HBCUs, there are campus ministers of color and those serving at institutions where the student body is predominantly African American. The conversation continues to identify resources such as the Institute for Black Catholic Studies and the Archbishop Lyke Conference for Black Catholic Liturgy and Evangelization. As we seek to grow and strengthen Catholic Campus Ministry, we must work to strengthen the bonds between us and to advocate for the pastoral care of African American and black Catholic students across our campuses. For more information contact Catholic Education at www.usccb.org or 202.541.3179.

A very exciting year for the Subcommittee

By: Most Reverend. Oscar Azarcon Solis, D.D., Bishop of Salt Lake City, Chairman
Subcommittee on Asian Pacific Islanders Affairs



Greetings of Christ's peace and love! It has been a very exciting year for the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Island Affairs. The

dissemination and implementation of the USCCB document *Encountering Christ in Harmony: A Pastoral Response to Our Asian and Pacific Island Brothers and Sisters* is well under way, with events in various archdioceses and dioceses throughout the country. Our Subcommittee is very grateful for the invitation to be part of diocesan clergy convocations, congresses and other gatherings. These provide us the opportunity to share information about this document and carry out the body of the bishops' intentional and collegial pastoral outreach to Asian and Pacific Islanders, the fastest growing minority population in the United States.

The document clearly states that our Asian and Pacific Island (API) brothers and sisters are ready for engagement in the life of the Church. As they offer their rich cultural traditions and strong faith that can help enliven our faith community, they also need pastoral guidance for their full integration and communion as well as formation to become leaders and missionary disciples of Christ. In line with our plan, the Subcommittee is gathering its bishop members, pastoral leaders from many dioceses, and

young adults representing various API ethnic communities on November 8-9, 2019 in Baltimore to study the document and formulate concrete pastoral approaches that can be recommended and integrated in the plans of their respective local communities.

This gathering highlights the inclusion of the Asian and Pacific Island Catholic teenagers and young adults as significant stakeholders in the implementation of the document. It is a clear recognition of the fact that they are not only important and a growing part of our society and faith community, but like any other baptized Catholics, they are fellow members of our parishes, have gifts to share and play a vital role in the future of our Church. There is no doubt that they will affect the present and the next generations to come, our society and the Church as well. Their formation and faith development provide a promising future in many ways in our mission of evangelization.

Encountering Christ in Harmony is a timely corollary to Pope Francis' post Synodal Apostolic exhortation *Christus Vivit* (Christ is Alive!) as it recognizes the vocation of the youth and their engagement as *protagonists* in the life and mission of the Church. The young people of Asian and Pacific Island descent possess essential cultural values and insights that can help us grow as a Church and guide us as well to learn to become better missionary disciples in an intercultural and intergenerational context.

Pope Francis in his exhortation asked two questions: What can the

Church teach the young and what can the Church learn from the young? Here, the answer to both is *hope*. The younger generation can put a new perspective on our faith life and help move our Church forward. The Holy Father, aware of the many challenges they face in living their faith, especially the temptation of a spirituality without God, issued a strong and clear message and three great truths to the young people. He told them: first, God loves them (#112); second, that Christ, out of infinite love sacrificed himself to save them (#118); and third, Christ is alive, and he wants young people who are also alive!

Furthermore, in *Christus Vivit*, the Holy Father calls them to be part of a synodal process of journeying together that entails an outreach to the young and growth in their holiness and mission (#206-#207). It is a beautiful proclamation of the Good News of salvation to them and to the Church hoping that they will encounter the presence of Christ in their lives and would lead them and us to become missionary disciples of Christ.

Our Subcommittee works faithfully according to the mandate of the standing Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church – the bishops' presence and pastoral outreach to the many cultures, ethnicities and races that make up our local church in America and to fully include and engage their participation in our mission of building one faith family in the midst of diversity. May our loving God, through the intercession of our Blessed Mother bless us in all our endeavors.

Church, tribal leaders attend Native American anti-poverty summit

By Ann Carey • Catholic News Service • Originally Posted October 22, 2019

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (CNS) — An anti-poverty summit that took place at the University of Notre Dame Oct. 15-17 brought together American Indian tribal leaders from around the country to discuss poverty issues on their reservations, with a goal of formulating tribal/church strategies to address that poverty.

The meeting was an initiative of the Task Force on Native American Poverty of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The USCCB Subcommittee on Native American Affairs organized the summit.

The U.S. Census Bureau reports approximately 3 million people whose primary race is Native American or Alaska Native. Of those, about 40 percent live on reservations or trust lands, and a high percentage fall well below the poverty level.

About 20 percent of Native Americans are Catholic, but proposals coming out of the gathering are expected to be applicable to all Native Americans, according to meeting organizer Father Michael Carson, assistant director of Native American affairs for the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Cultural Diversity in the Church. Father Carson, a priest of the Diocese of San Jose, California, is a Choctaw Indian.

Summit topics included: spirituality, sovereignty, education, racism, land and environment. Native Americans gave brief presentations on the topics, and then tribal representatives sat in small discussion



Anti-Poverty Attendees – Notre Dame University October 15-17, 2019 Photo credit: Fr. Michael Carson

groups with staff of various USCCB departments to identify and vote on action items.

Also attending were Bishop James A. Tamayo of Laredo, Texas, who is a member of the Subcommittee on the Catholic Home Missions; and Bishop Shelton J. Fabre of Houma-Thibodaux, Louisiana, chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism and a former member of the bishops' Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church; and Bishop Jaime Soto of Sacramento, California, who is a member of the Subcommittee on the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

One common theme expressed by several of the Native Americans was that Indian tribes have a deep spirituality, a codified legal system, and strong devotion to family and community — values that are

often not acknowledged by the wider population.

Darla Black of Pine Ridge, South Dakota, who is vice president of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, described what life is like on a reservation. She related conditions similar to those of a Third World country. Before these problems can be solved, she warned, there must be healing from the mistreatment that marks so much of the Native American experience.

Black did express hope for the future, as she related a resurgence of interest in traditional Indian customs and virtues among the young people in her tribe, who want to learn and embrace the historical Indian laws and values. Black also encouraged the Catholic bishops to support the Native American cause, saying the prelates are respected by legislators.

Charlotte Bad Cob of Wanblee, South Dakota, also an Oglala Sioux,



Prayer Service Anti-Poverty Summit October 15-17, 2019 Notre Dame University. Photo credit: Ann Carrey

said that in the past, decisions have been imposed on them from the outside, without consultation with the tribal members themselves. She declared that the wisdom, experience and talents of tribal members must contribute to finding real solutions to poverty and its related problems.

Patrick Mason, an attorney who is a member of the Osage Nation, spoke about the often-contentious relationship between tribes and the government over legal matters and land issues. He said that various treaties and acts of Congress have created a complex relationship between the government and Native Americans.

The 19th-century forced relocation of many tribes has caused a huge shrinkage of Native American lands, he related, and tribal members were not given rights as citizens until 1924. Even now, the overlap between the authority of tribal courts and state and federal courts, causes complex legal problems.

Further, he said that the U.S. Congress has not been “friendly” toward tribal sovereignty rights, but he was optimistic that higher courts are becoming better informed.

The summit created several action items that participants said should be developed and maintained to address poverty issues and tribal rights:

- On land and environment: tribal sovereignty over resources and land, access to clean water and protection of water resources, and housing loan programs.
- On sovereignty: education of the general population about tribal sovereignty issues, and economic growth initiatives.
- On education: recruitment and training of indigenous teachers, promotion of a rigorous academic curriculum that is culturally responsive, and replacement of deteriorating school facilities.
- On racism: address the problem of “economic racism” that is designed for native peoples to fail, acknowledge and address historical aspect of racism against them, and challenge negative stereotypes and destructive cultural appropriation as portrayed in the media.

Fern V. Orie of Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin, a member of the Oneida Nation and CEO of the Wisconsin

Native Loan Fund, said she hopes the anti-poverty summit will help religious organizations understand the historical origins of Indian poverty. Those origins are the traumas Native Americans have experienced and still experience, she said, and once that concept is grasped, healing can begin.

“The most targeted solutions will be found through listening to the people who have lived it, and have lived it through generations,” Orie told Today’s Catholic, newspaper of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. “I hope we can all come to some common ground and find ways we can address poverty from every angle.”

Sponsors of the anti-poverty summit included the USCCB Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church and the Secretariat of Domestic Justice and Human Development; the Catholic Campaign for Human Development; and Catholic Home Missions.

The University of Notre Dame hosted the event through the American Indian Catholic Schools Network, a program of Notre Dame’s Alliance for Catholic Education, known as ACE. In that program, ACE works with several Indian Catholic schools to achieve common goals and share best practices for under-resourced schools.

Carey writes for Today’s Catholic, newspaper of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

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Subcommittee and V Encuentro updates

The Proceedings and Conclusions of the V National Encuentro of Hispanic/Latino Ministry document was approved for publication by the USCCB Administrative Committee in September and is now available for purchase at the USCCB store. Two copies of the document, one in English and one in Spanish, were presented to the Holy Father and to the heads of different Vatican Dicasteries and Pontifical Councils, during a visit to the Holy See, September 13-18, 2019. The delegation was led by Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, Bishop Nelson J. Pérez of Cleveland, and Bishop Arturo Cepeda of Detroit. The visit with Vatican officers was very positive and affirming of the way the process was carried out in a synodal way in the U.S.

As the V Encuentro process concludes in 2020, the U.S. Bishops are invited:

- To hold Diocesan Encuentros to receive the *Proceedings* and celebrate achievements of the V Encuentro in their own dioceses



V Encuentro Delegation with Pope Francis. Photo credit Dr. Patricia Jimenez

- To identify priorities and pastoral responses in their respective dioceses
- To document and collect initiatives developed as a result of the V Encuentro process
- To continue the missionary work, inspired by *Evangelii Gaudium* and through the use of resources such as *Creating a Culture of Encounter*.
- A new pastoral statement and comprehensive vision for Hispanic Latino ministry in response to the V Encuentro process

Bold new initiatives are currently in progress or being developed. These initiatives include:

- Emerging Family Ministries
- Best Practices in Hispanic Ministry for Dioceses and Parishes
- V Encuentro Leaders Campaign
- The V Encuentro Youth and Young Adult Leadership Initiative (VEYYALI)

Due to the generous support of V Encuentro donors, Sr. Miriam Bannon and Armando Cervantes have been contracted as the V Encuentro Youth and Young Adult Leadership Initiative's (VEYYALI)

Project Manager and Organizational Relations Manager, respectively. Part of their duties is to develop a solid certificate program that will create a pathway towards degree-attaining programs for Hispanic/Latino young adults and adults working with Hispanic/Latino youth and young adults.

Sr. Miriam brings with her a great deal of experience and successful ministry in areas of curriculum



development and formation with emphasis on Hispanic affairs. In like manner, Armando Cervantes is a highly successful youth and young adult minister and a great collaborator with national Catholic organizations. More than 20 Catholic organizations and seven USCCB Offices and Secretariats have been invited to collaborate with VEYYALI.

At a meeting in May, the V Encuentro Regional Coordinators sug-

gested to Bishop Arturo Cepeda, chairman of the Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs, the possibility of developing a new pastoral plan or vision for Hispanic Ministry based on the findings of the V Encuentro. The Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs affirmed this idea and suggested that it would be appropriate to have a formal response from the bishops after the V Encuentro process ends in 2020. The Committee on Cultural Diversity in

the Church supported the proposal from the Subcommittee and will be consulting with General Assembly of in November. If given the green light to proceed, the new pastoral statement and comprehensive vision for Hispanic Latino ministry will be developed and presented to the full body of bishops for approval during the next USCCB Strategic Planning cycle, 2021-2024.



Cardinal Peter Kpdwo Appiah Turkson and Nelson J Pérez, Bishop of Cleveland holding the new resource *Creating a Culture of Encounter*. Photo credit Dr. Patricia Jimenez



V Encuentro Delegation with Pope Francis. Photo credit Dr. Patricia Jimenez

199. If we journey together, young and old, we can be firmly rooted in the present, and from here, revisit the past and look to the future. To revisit the past in order to learn from history and heal old wounds that at times still trouble us. To look to the future in order to nourish our enthusiasm, cause dreams to emerge, awaken prophecies and enable hope to blossom. Together, we can learn from one another, warm hearts, inspire minds with the light of the Gospel, and lend new strength to our hands.

—Pope Francis, *Christus Vivit*

PLEASE PRAY FOR THIS SPECIAL 2020 EVENT

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A National Intercultural Encounter for Ministries with Youth and Young Adults



Thursday to Sunday | July 23-26, 2020

John Carroll University | Cleveland, Ohio



Inspired by Pope Francis' *Christus Vivit*, this event will give bishops, young people, and ministry leaders from all cultural communities an opportunity to learn from, share, and work collaboratively with one another in actively advancing the Church's engagement with youth and young adults.

[USCCB.ORG/JOURNEY2020](https://usccb.org/journey2020)

USCCB *Made for Love* Podcast

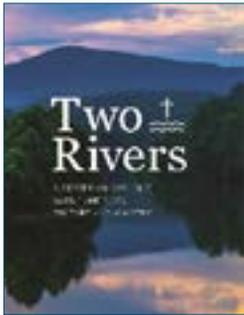
"Made for Love" is a Catholic storytelling podcast from the USCCB about real people living out the call to love. Twice a month, host Sara Perla cuts together episodes on topics ranging from dating as a Catholic to when families experience a loss due to suicide. Check it out on iTunes, Stitcher, Podbean, or wherever you get your podcasts! Episodes are online at <http://www.marriageuniqueforareason.org/podcast/> or <https://madeforlove.podbean.com/>

Sara is currently looking for people who would like to share cultural wedding traditions. If that's you, please get in touch with her at sperla@usccb.org.



Recommended Resources

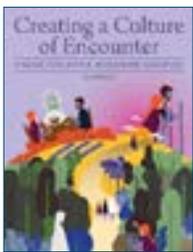
Visit <https://store.usccb.org/> to browse and order your resources or call 1-800-235-8722 or css@usccb.org. Remember to have the product code number ready when placing your order.



New! Two Rivers A Report on Catholic Native American Culture And Ministry

The feast day of St. Kateri Tekakwitha is July 14. It is also a celebration of Catholic Native American Ministry. The USCCB continues its commitment to Catholic Native American Ministry by publishing a new report. The report, entitled “Two Rivers A Report on Catholic Native American Culture And Ministry” is about the merging of Native American faith and culture and also examines the gifts of Catholic Native American ministry.

Download a complimentary copy at <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/cultural-diversity/upload/Two-Rivers-On-Catholic-Native-American-Culture-and-Diversity.pdf>



New! Creating a Culture of Encounter: A Guide for Joyful Missionary Disciples (BILINGUAL)
Product Code 7-629

Creating a Culture of Encounter: A Guide for Joyful Missionary Disciples offers an organized five-week parish encounter process to help small groups to dig deeper into the Church’s evangelizing mission. In each session, participants take up a new aspect of Jesus’ encounter with the disciples on the road to Emmaus and focus on a different

element of the evangelical call to spread the Gospel, inspired by Pope Francis’s *Evangelii Gaudium*. The five-week guide invites participants to See, Judge, Act, Celebrate, and take Missionary Action each week.

<http://store.usccb.org/creating-a-culture-of-encounter-p/7-629.htm>

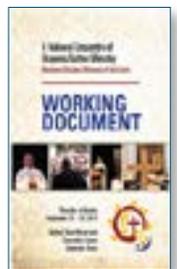


New! ABRAMOS NUESTROS CORAZONES: EL INCESANTE LLAMADO AL AMOR
Product code 7-915

En *Abramos Nuestros Corazones: El Incesante Llamado al Amor* los obispos católicos de los Estados Unidos invitan al lector a reconocer las formas en que el mal del racismo impacta profundamente las vidas de muchas personas en los Estados Unidos. La carta pastoral reflexiona sobre la dignidad de cada persona humana y establece el imperativo moral de la Iglesia para combatir

el racismo como un problema que afecta la vida y la dignidad de las personas.

<http://store.usccb.org/open-wide-our-hearts-p/7-915.htm>



The V National Encuentro Working Document (English & Spanish)
Product code (VE-106)

This bilingual resource contains the results of the V Encuentro consultation in 28 ministerial areas generated by the participation of over 100,000 missionary disciples in thousands of parishes and other Catholic organizations across the United States. It also offers the most up-to-date population information about Hispanic/Latinos by Episcopal Regions. It is a must have resource for pastoral

planning purposes and ministry among Hispanics/Latinos.

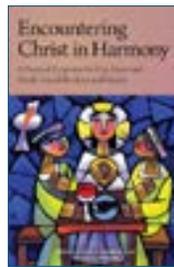
<http://store.usccb.org/encuentro-working-doc-p/ve-106.htm>



Open Wide Our Hearts The Enduring Call To Love
Product code 7-606

In *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love*, the Catholic bishops of the United States invite the reader to recognize the ways in which the evil of racism profoundly impacts the lives of many people in the United States. The pastoral letter reflects on the dignity of every human person and establishes the Church’s moral imperative to combat racism as a life issue

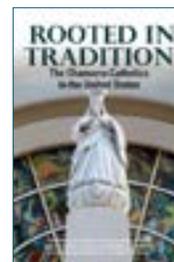
<http://store.usccb.org/open-wide-our-hearts-p/7-606.htm>



Encountering Christ In Harmony: A Pastoral Response To Our Asian and Pacific Island Brothers and Sisters
Encountering Christ in Harmony (2018)
Product code 7-576

Encountering Christ in Harmony advances the Church’s mission of evangelization to specific cultural groups; assist dioceses, parish leaders, other Catholic entities, and the faithful in pastoral outreach to Asian and Pacific Island Catholics; and provide resources and information about Asian and Pacific Island Catholic communities.

<http://store.usccb.org/encountering-christ-in-harmony-p/7-576.htm>



Rooted in Tradition: The Chamorro Catholics in the United States
Product code 7-572

A people indigenous to the Mariana Islands in the western Pacific, the Chamorros have a strong Catholic heritage, which they brought with them to the United States.

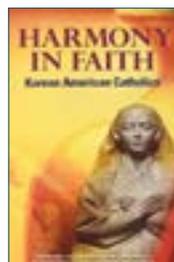
<http://store.usccb.org/rooted-in-tradition-p/7-572.htm>



Resettling in Place: A Vietnamese American Catholic Experience
Product Code 7-480 –

This small book is a snapshot description about a community who rebuilt their faith life by sustaining family values, culture and Catholic devotional practices.

<http://store.usccb.org/searchresults.asp?Search=Resettling+&Submit=Submit>



Harmony in Faith: Korean American Catholics
Product Code 7-479

This small book on Korean American Catholics connects each believer to their roots in Korea, weaving through thick layers of their history of faith.

<http://store.usccb.org/Harmony-in-Faith-p/7-479.htm>

Resources, continued



New!

V ENCUENTRO PROCEEDINGS & CONCLUSIONS – English Product code 7-643

Through the pages of these Proceedings and Conclusions, you are invited to enter into the experience of

the Five Moments of the V Encuentro National Event that brought the consultation process to a conclusion: Taking the First Step, Getting Involved, Accompanying, Bearing Fruit, and Rejoicing. These are the steps that our Holy Father Pope Francis has identified to help every one of us to embrace and experience what it means to be a Church that goes forth in joy to evangelize the spiritual and existential peripheries of the world.

<http://store.usccb.org/ve-proceedings-p/7-643.htm>



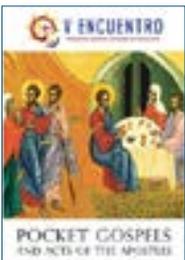
New!

V ENCUENTRO MEMORIAS Y CONCLUSIONES – Spanish Product Code 7-916

Por medio de las páginas de estas Memorias y conclusiones, los invitamos a entrar en la experiencia de

los Cinco Momentos del V Encuentro Nacional que cerró el proceso de consulta: primerear, involucrarse, acompañar, fructificar y festejar. Estos son los pasos que nuestro Santo Padre, el Papa Francisco, ha identificado para ayudarnos a cada uno de nosotros a acoger y experimentar lo que significa ser una Iglesia que sale con alegría para evangelizar a las periferias espirituales y existenciales del mundo.

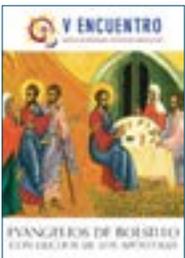
<http://store.usccb.org/ve-proceedings-p/7-916.htm>



V Encuentro Pocket Gospels Product code 7-569

Carry the Pocket Gospels and Acts of the Apostles with you, and keep the Word of God as your constant guide and inspiration!

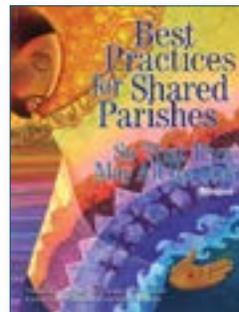
<http://store.usccb.org/pocket-gospels-and-acts-of-the-apostles-p/7-569.htm>



V Encuentro Evangelios De Bolsillo Con Hechos De Los Apostles Product Code 7-896

¡Lleva contigo los Evangelios de Bolsillo con Hechos de los Apóstoles y mantén la Palabra de Dios como tu continua guía e inspiración! El papa Francisco les pidió a los fieles que lean un pasaje cada día, diciendo “esta es la Palabra de Jesús”.

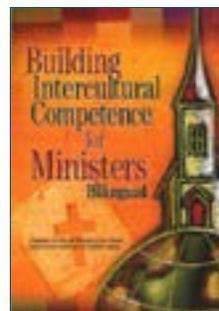
<http://store.usccb.org/Evangelios-De-Bolsillo-p/7-896.htm>



Best Practices for Shared Parishes Bilingual Product code 7-389

Best Practices for Shared Parishes: So That They All May Be One is a guide to assist pastors of culturally diverse parishes in the challenging task of building unity in diversity. The guide identifies pastoral responses and proven best practices in relation to intercultural competencies in attitudes, knowledge, and skills.

<http://store.usccb.org/best-practices-for-shared-parishes-p/7-389.htm>



Building Intercultural Competence for Ministers - Bilingual Product code 7-887

The Building Intercultural Competence for Ministers manual is designed to help ministry leaders achieve a basic level of awareness and proficiency in the area of intercultural competency. (electronic version)

<http://store.usccb.org/Building-Intercultural-Competence-for-Ministers-p/7-887.htm>



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MEMBERS AND STAFF

COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN THE CHURCH

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Most Rev. James S. Wall

Chairman of the Subcommittee on Native American Affairs

SECRETARIAT ON CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN THE CHURCH

Executive Director

Mrs. Mar Muñoz-Visoso, MTS
diversity@uscgb.org • 202-541-3350

Education and Projects Coordinator

Mrs. Yolanda Taylor-Burwell, CMP
ytaylor-burwell@uscgb.org • 202-541-3152

AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS (SCAAA)

Assistant Director

Mrs. Donna Toliver Grimes
dgrimes@uscgb.org • 202-541-3178

ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLAND AFFAIRS (SCAPA)

Assistant Director

Sr. Myrna Tordillo, MSCS
mtordillo@uscgb.org • 202-541-3384

HISPANIC AFFAIRS (SCHA)

Assistant Director and V National Encuentro National Coordinator

Mr. Alejandro Aguilera-Titus
aaguilera-titus@uscgb.org • 202-541-3155



Executive Director and Assistant Directors of the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church Alejandro Aguilera-Titus, Mar Muñoz-Visoso, Bishop Nelson Pérez of Cleveland, Sr. Joanna Okereke, Fr. Mike Carson, Donna Grimes and Sr. Myrna Tordillo. Photo Credit: Tyler Orsburn, CNS

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS (SCNAA)

Assistant Director

Fr. Michael Carson
mcarson@uscgb.org • 202-541-3427

PASTORAL CARE OF MIGRANTS, REFUGEES, & TRAVELERS (PCMRT)

Assistant Director

Sr. Dr. Joanna Okereke, HHCJ
jokereke@uscgb.org • 202-541-3359

Program Coordinator

Ms. Madeline Watkins
mwatkins@uscgb.org • 202-541-3035

SUPPORT STAFF

Ms. Luisa Aleman (SCHA, SCNAA)
laleman@uscgb.org • 202-541-3150

Ms. Mary Ellen Davey (Executive Assistant)
mdavey@uscgb.org • 202-541-3350

Ms. Margaret Marzec (PCMRT)
mmarzec@uscgb.org • 202-541-3225

Ms. Leticia Rivera (SCAAA, SCAPA)
lrivera@uscgb.org • 202-541-3177



**PRAYER FOR THE AFRICAN NATIONAL
EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS**

**PRAYER FOR THE AFRICAN NATIONAL
EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS**

August 6-8, 2021 • Houston, Texas

Lord Jesus Christ, on the eve of your sacred passion, you instituted the Holy Eucharist as the Sacrament of your Body and Blood. We invoke your divine presence among us as we gather for the African National Eucharistic Congress.

Lord Jesus Christ, it is your will that the Church in every nation, culture, and language be fed, nourished, and sustained by the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Grant that we may be found worthy to share in the eternal banquet of heaven with all the saints.

Draw us together by our faith in you and influence our hearts with love for you and our neighbors. Renew a right spirit within us, so that we may be instruments of your peace and justice. May we celebrate this precious gift of unity with joy, and bear faithful witness to the gospel all the days of our lives.

We ask that, through the celebration of the African National Eucharistic Congress, we who are many, with diverse cultural backgrounds, may become one for your greater honor and glory. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ your Son, who is Lord for ever and ever, and through the intercession of Mary Our Mother of Africa.

Amen.



Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church
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