

One Church Many Cultures

The Good News of Cultural Diversity

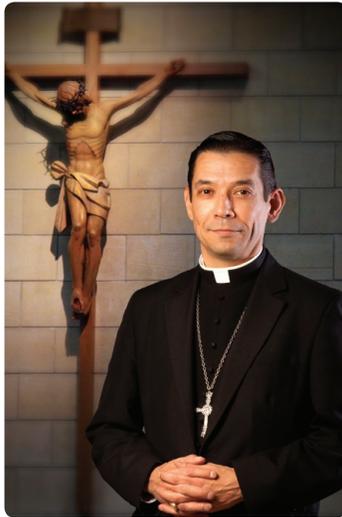
Chairman's Message

Most Reverend Daniel E. Flores

**Chairman, Committee on Cultural
Diversity in the Church**

Pit Senyor! Santo Niño, a reflection on Diversity and Unity

In January 2015, the Filipino community throughout the Diocese of Brownsville, Texas, celebrated devotion to the Santo Niño. In Harlingen, Weslaco and McAllen processions, music and much food surrounded the festivities celebrating the evangelization of the Philippines, and the pivotal place the image of the Child Jesus played in the lives of generations of Filipino Catholics. I celebrated the Mass for the day of the Santo Niño at St Anne's Church in Peñitas. What a grace and blessing it is for the Rio Grande Valley that the Filipino communities here so generously share their faith and devotion with us all!



*Bishop Daniel E. Flores,
Bishop of Brownsville,
Texas, Chairman,
Committee on Cultural
Diversity in the Church*

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"You tell us that to love God and neighbor is not something abstract, but profoundly concrete: it means seeing in every person the face of the Lord to be served, to serve him concretely. And you are, dear brothers and sisters, the face of Jesus."

Visit at the Homeless Shelter "Dono Di Maria": Meeting with the Missionaries of Charity Address of Charity Address of Pope Francis (5/21/13)

Chairman's Message

Most Reverend Daniel E. Flores

Chairman, Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church

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The tradition of Santo Niño goes back to the first evangelization of the Philippines when the image of the Child Jesus was confided to Queen Juana. Since then, the devotion to the Child Jesus spread and its meaning elaborated. Our celebrations coincided with the pilgrimage of our Holy Father Pope Francis through the Philippine Islands. There was much joy in the community as they watched reports of the impact of the Holy Fathers' visit. For us here in the Valley, devotion to the Child Jesus is a vivid reminder of the sacredness of childhood. With so many of our young people in danger of losing hope, or of dropping out of school, or of feeling outcast and relegated to non-person status, we must renew our efforts to bring hope and joy to our children. And one thing is for sure, there was great joy in the celebrations around Santo Niño in the Valley!

The Mass was celebrated in English and Tagalog, with most of the music for the Mass and the processions in Tagalog and some of the regional languages of the Philippine Islands. I am told there are more than 80 regional languages! The celebration gave me an opportunity to reflect upon the issue of the unity and diversity of the Church. It is important to realize that the Church speaks many languages, and she speaks only one. The one language that binds us in a common identity is that of charity. Charity is the generous love that moves our devotion and fidelity to the Lord God, and that motivates our generous love for one another.

There is a language we understand that lies beneath the individual words. I remember when I was in Detroit, Michigan, participating in a celebration for Our Lady of Guadalupe.

There was singing, a great procession and a beautiful Mass, all of it in Spanish.

I happened upon an elderly lady in tears. She told me she was Polish and her tears



were tears of joy, because this outpouring of love for the Blessed Virgin reminded her of her childhood in Poland. She had not seen such a thing since then. Of course, the point is that she did not speak Spanish, but she understood the language that was being spoken that night perfectly well. This is what I mean the language beneath the different languages.

Devotion to Our Lady or to the Blessed Sacrament or public expressions of faith during Holy Week and Christmas all speak to us on a deep level of understanding, beyond the words. To paraphrase Saint Augustine, all the words are meant to lead us to the One Word. So it is with us in the Rio Grande Valley and in a more general sense for the Church in the United States. What a wonderful grace it is for us to have within our churches such rich diversity of faith expression. When we participate in these celebrations we give witness to the fact that languages need not divide us, if we let the Lord Jesus draw us into himself.

Love of him and the mysteries of faith he brings us unites us into a community of many languages but rooted in the One Word. This is the truly Catholic vision of life that flows from Pentecost, a renewed human race united in Christ, yet with each diverse part able to retain its identity and unique heritage of expression. And each diverse cultural community offers their faith and devotion to the wider Church. It is a gift that enriches. And, let us not forget, it is incumbent upon the larger cultural communities to protect and graciously receive with reverence the gifts that the smaller communities bring us. This mutual exchange of gifts is the way of Christ, it must therefore, be the way of the Church. *Pit Senyor!* ▶

This is adapted text from the original article. The original article in its entirety appears on the diocesan [website](#).



Executive Director's Message

We had an unusually cold and snowy winter here in Washington, DC, but signs of spring are now everywhere, and the weather certainly has not deterred us from forging ahead in our mission to build intercultural communication and competence in the Church, as well as reaching out to many diverse communities, inviting their participation and listening to their needs and aspirations.

First of all, I want to share the news that two veteran members of the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity have recently assumed new roles with us. After many years as Assistant Director for the Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees and Travelers (PCMRT), in February Sr. Myrna Tordillo was appointed Assistant Director for Asian and Pacific Island Affairs. Under the direction of the corresponding Bishops' Subcommittee, she will now oversee the development of a National Pastoral Plan for API Catholics in the U.S. On the other hand, Sr. Joanna Okereke, program coordinator with PCMRT for many years, is now the Secretariat's new Assistant Director for PCMRT.

I am both extremely proud of them for their past accomplishments, and very grateful that they decided to take on their respective new challenges. Please find a short bio for both of them on page 4 of this newsletter, and do not hesitate to contact them for any questions or needs.

Also, last November, the General Assembly of the U.S. Catholic Bishops chose a new chairman-elect for the Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church. Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, of San Antonio, will be taking over after Bishop Daniel Flores' term is up in November of 2015. We welcome "Archbishop Gustavo" to the committee and thank the faithful of the Archdiocese for sharing him with us for the next three years.

We are also very grateful to Bishop Flores

for his tremendous leadership in bringing the needs and gifts of the many diverse Catholic communities under the Committee's purview to the attention of the Bishops' Conference, especially the need to keep diversity in mind as we all go about our pastoral planning. I hope you had an opportunity to read Bishop Flores' article on how the celebrations of "Santo Niño" by the Filipino community in his diocese of Brownsville epitomized the example of our unity in diversity.

As I look back at the year or so behind us, I stand in awe at what we have been able to accomplish together: bishops, staff and all of you in dioceses, parishes and ministries across the country. Over the last 14 months the Secretariat completed the last two of six regional trainings planned on the intercultural competencies. As participants went back to their dioceses, colleges, or Catholic institutions, the Secretariat has now taken more of a back seat, an advisory role of sorts, letting those who took the trainings train their peers and colleagues in turn.

We are also collaborating with institutions of higher education, particularly with programs at Dayton and Notre Dame Universities, which are developing online courses in English and Spanish based on the competencies. Where dioceses, episcopal regions and other institutions need support, the Congar Institute has also stepped up to bring mobile teams to them.



Mrs. María del Mar Muñoz-Visoso, MTS, Executive Director, Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church

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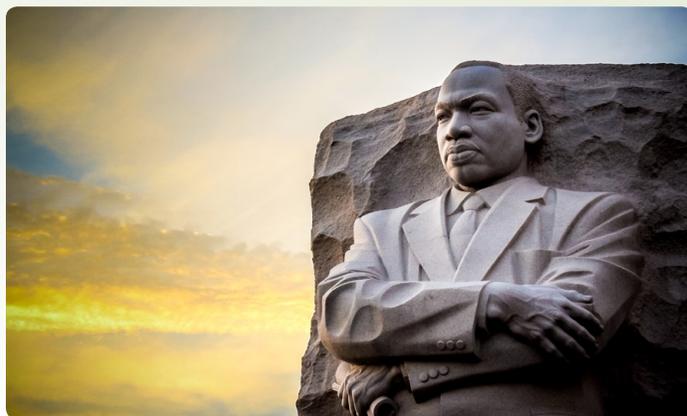
Executive Director's Message *Continued from page 3*

USCCB personnel have continued to offer some limited presentations and in-services, mainly directed to provide an overview of the competencies. In 2014, the *Best Practices for Shared Parishes* resource guide was on the USCCB best-seller list several times, which seems to indicate people, are finding it useful. In addition, the *Building Intercultural Competence for Ministers* (BICM) manual is now available also in Spanish, thanks to a new bilingual edition.

If looking back is breathtaking, looking forward is no less exciting. Please look at the pages that follow. Whether it is supporting the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights era and highlighting Catholic participation in it; supporting marriage and family life in the African American community; participating in online surveys and focus groups for input on ministry with Asian and Pacific Island Catholics; joining preparations underway for a V National Hispanic Encuentro process; supporting a new era of dialogue and evangelization among Native American Catholics; accompanying migrant

farmworkers, seafarers, Circus and traveling show workers in their journey of faith; or welcoming in our local communities of faith brothers and sisters from Africa and the Caribbean, and new immigrants from Europe, we certainly hope to continue to count you among those who take seriously the mission of the Church: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations..." (Mt 28: 19-20).

I invite you to take a look around at the neighborhood, city, or town. I bet none of us have to go very far to find opportunities to fulfill the Lord's mandate. Just let us know how we can be of assistance. ▸



Sr. Myrna Tordillo, MSCS, is a member of the Missionary Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo, known as Scalabrinians. In 1999-2005, she served as Provincial councilor and secretary of her community's US Province. She founded the Catholic organization for Migrant Equity, a grassroots group in Maryland and Illinois. Her pastoral experiences include Assistant Director for Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees and Travelers in the USCCB Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church, migration awareness campaign in Philippine schools, formator, and pastoral outreach to Filipino migrant workers in Malaysia, a joint project of the Episcopal Conferences of the Philippines and Malaysia's offices of Migration. In February 2015, Sr. Myrna became the Assistant Director for Asian Pacific Islanders.

Sr. Joanna Okereke, HHCJ is a member of the Congregation of the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus. In 1996 she served as a pastoral assistant and later as the director of the Kuumba Center, a creative center at St. James and St. Juliana Catholic Church in Alexandria, Louisiana. In 2002 she was elected the mission superior of her congregation here in the United States and served in this capacity until 2005. She began working at the USCCB in 2006 as the Coordinator of Ethnic Ministries for Migration and Refugee Services before transitioning into the Program Coordinator. In February 2015, she became the Assistant Director for Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees and Travelers.



Building Intercultural Competence for Ministers (BICM)

In 2008, the United States Bishops were presented with five priorities of action. One of the five priorities was the recognition and affirmation of cultural diversity in the U.S. Church. To fulfill this priority the Bishops' Conference set as a goal the dissemination of guidelines to building intercultural competence for ministers throughout the United States. The priority emanated from the need to respond to the growing diversity in parishes, dioceses, schools, seminaries, and Catholic organizations. The program aims to increase the capacity to welcome, relate, and work with all emerging cultural groups, while encouraging members of all cultural communities to participate, assume leadership roles in the Church, and train other ministry leaders to do the same. This training is equally beneficial to bishops, priests, deacons, religious men and women, and lay ministers.



*Mrs. Yolanda Taylor-Burwell, CMP,
Education and Projects
Coordinator, Secretariat
of Cultural Diversity in
the Church*

In 2010, the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church began piloting their training workshop at the Diocese of San Bernardino. Forty-four people attended the training and provided feedback to help shape future trainings. Two additional pilot workshops were held afterwards at the Diocese of Des Moines and the Archdiocese of Washington (with participation of the Dioceses of Arlington and Wilmington and the Archdiocese of Baltimore), with over 100 attendants between the two trainings.

Since then, additional trainings and trainer-of-trainers have taken place throughout the United States to include numerous dioceses, colleges and universities, seminaries, Catholic organizations, conferences, and events, totaling over 5,000 people trained since 2010. Many of the participants have taken their newly developed knowledge, skills and attitudes back to their work places and have begun to train their colleagues and people in other organizations. In some cases, participants have been recruited to assist our national office with some training.

While this is a major achievement for the program, the staff of the Secretariat, continues to work hard by coordinating and consulting for future trainings and creating new ways to expand the program. One of the ways that we are expanding the program is collaborating with colleges, universities and institutions to include the program as continuing education in both English and Spanish, developing online versions and webinars, and collaborating with sister organizations to provide in-service trainings.

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Building Intercultural Competencies for Ministers (BICM)

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Popularity of the program comes from the following:

- an adaptable schedule
- training which includes interactive presentations of the five learning modules
- participant sharing life experiences that address diversity in the Church
- self-reflection
- and in some cases transformation
- practical testimony of the participants and their openness to others and other cultures

The future of the program relies on our participant's ability to understand intercultural interaction and to learn various skills of empathy and tolerance while witnessing and comprehending cultural reality from more

than one perspective.

This is the importance of building intercultural competency in the American multi-racial, multicultural and multi-religious society. ▶

“Our God-given human diversity challenges all Catholics to achieve ecclesial integration, to discover ways in which we, as Catholic communities, can be one Church yet come from diverse cultures and ethnicities.”

Many Faces in God's House, p. 4



News from the Subcommittee on African American Affairs (SCAAA)

To provide outreach for the ministry in all arch/dioceses, the Subcommittee on African American Affairs will spotlight youth and young adults in the New Year. Here are four examples of the projects that are marinating now:



*Mrs. Donna Toliver Grimes,
Assistant Director,
Subcommittee on African
American Affairs*

- Support marriage in the African American community in various ways, but especially by encouraging sacramental marriage among African American Catholic young adults.

We will:

- Collaborate with the Knights of St. Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary to provide guest speakers and sessions on this topic at the KPC Jr. Knights and Ladies convention in July; and
- Identify writers to generate short articles for the For Your Marriage website
- Organize and conduct a Young Adult Listening Session in May to learn from “the experts” how to effectively evangelize this group. We have secured places for 25 African American Catholic young adults to learn more about the particular needs and concerns of this group and to help us strategize. Through a national nomination process we will select men and women in their 20s and 30s, who are active in the faith, possess various skills, come from different backgrounds and reflect geographic diversity.

- Continue working on the Civil Rights 50th Anniversary project, underscoring the involvement of young adults then and now. We are posting online reflections and multimedia resources about the Church and Civil Rights, honoring the march from Selma to Montgomery, and much more!
- Intentionally strengthen the connection to certain Catholic youth organizations including the National African American Catholic Youth Ministry Network (NAACYMN), the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) and youth and young adult ministry staff at USCCB.

My ongoing desire is to be a resource for African American Catholics throughout the country, whether they relate to and experience God in large or small numbers, and especially if they do not yet know God. ▶



*St. Jude Catholic Church Montgomery, AL
final rest stop of 1965 March from
Selma to Montgomery*



News from the Subcommittee on Native American Affairs (SNAA)

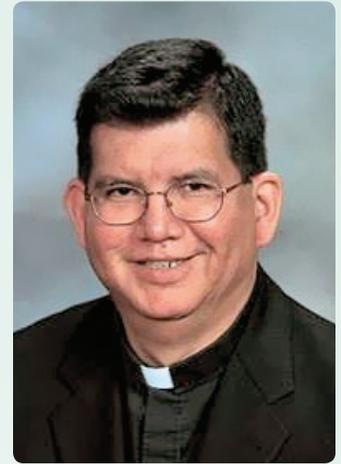
The Subcommittee on Native Americans sponsored a Native American Ministry Orientation Workshop for Bishops in Fargo, North Dakota in July 2014. The workshop was attended by fourteen bishops. Seven individuals made presentations to the bishops on topics such as: Native American participation in the Church; Inculturation; Native and Catholic spirituality; Native and Catholic Traditions; and Bringing the Ancient Faith to Today's Native Youth. The workshop was well received by the bishops who attended, and another workshop will be held in San Mateo, California in July, 2016 in conjunction with the National Tekakwitha Conference.

Fr. Henry Sands offered a 'Talking Circle' workshop at the National Tekakwitha Conference in Fargo, North Dakota in July, 2014. In the workshop he first asked the participants to individually identify issues of importance to Native American Catholics. They then shared their issues in small groups. Each small group then identified the top three issues for their group, and then shared their top three issues with all of the workshop attendees. There was a high degree of correlation among all of the small groups with respect to their top three issues.

The overall top three issues identified by the workshop participants were:

1. the need for evangelization and mentoring of Native American youth;
2. the importance of inculturation— a desire by Native American Catholics for greater incorporation and preservation of Native American culture and traditions; and
3. the need for the formation of Native American lay leaders.

Fr. Sands plans to offer a 'next phase' workshop at the National Tekakwitha Conference which will be held in Alexandria, Louisiana in July, 2015. This workshop will provide participants with a summary of the issues that were identified at the 2014 workshop. They will be asked to reflect individually and then brainstorm in small groups to formulate solutions to these issues and challenges.



*Fr. Henry Sands,
Assistant Director,
Subcommittee on
Native Americans
Affairs*

"The individual's act of faith finds its place within a community, within the common "we" of the people who, in faith, are like a single person — "my first-born son", as God would describe all of Israel (cf. Ex 4:22). Here mediation is not an obstacle, but an opening: through our encounter with others, our gaze rises to a truth greater than ourselves."

Encyclical Letter Lumen Fidei of the Supreme Pontiff Francis to the Bishops Priests and Deacons Consecrated Persons and the Lay Faithful on Faith (6/29/13, no. 14)



News from the Subcommittee on Native American Affairs (SNAA) *Continued from page 8*

Among other activities, in September of 2014, Fr. Henry Sands and Fr. Wayne Paysse, Executive Director of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, and Sr. Kateri Mitchell, SSA, Executive Director National Tekakwitha Conference led a pilgrimage group of eighty people to various holy sites in New York State and Quebec, Canada. During the five day pilgrimage they visited: the National St. Kateri Tekakwitha Shrine in Fonda, New York; the National Shrine of the North American Martyrs in Auriesville, New York; the tomb of St. Kateri Tekakwitha at the St. Francis Xavier Mission in Kahnawake, Quebec; Notre Dame du Cap Shrine in Trois Riviere, Quebec; the Basilica of Ste.-Anne-de-Baupré in Ste. Anne de Baupre, Quebec; the Cathedral Basilica of Notre Dame de Quebec in Quebec City, Quebec; St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal, Quebec; and Notre Dame Basilica in Montreal, Quebec.

Fr. Sands and Fr. Paysse are currently working on plans for a pastoral visit to the Lower Brule Lakota Indian Reservation and the Crow Creek Sioux Indian Reservation which are both near Pierre, South Dakota. The Sisters of Christian Charity have invited them to make this pastoral visit to the priests, religious sisters, other pastoral workers, and the Native American Catholics who live in the two reservation communities. ▶



News from the **Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers (PCMRT)**

Allow me to introduce myself as the new Assistant Director Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church for the Subcommittee on Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, D.C. I am a member of the Congregation of the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus. Although I am new in this position, I am not new to the dedicated team of pastoral care leaders. Some of you know me as the Program Coordinator and I am very excited to continue working with you as we share in the common vision of pastoral care of migrants and refugees arriving from foreign lands.

As I begin my new position, my goal is to facilitate pastoral care programs, to help us reach our potential. I am looking forward to utilizing your talents for the benefit of us all. I ask that you provide us with feedback, questions and new ideas to improve our various activities. I look forward to working with you and to see our communities and ministries grow.



*Sr. Joanna Okereke,
HHCJ, Assistant Director,
Subcommittee on Pastoral
Care of Migrants,
Refugees, and Travelers*

The subcommittee, on Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers, (PCMRT) supports dioceses, national organizations, and movements in the pastoral care of migrants, refugees and people on the move. To date, various archdioceses/dioceses have developed structures which encourage and support the local Church's response to these populations, thereby manifesting the universality of the Catholic Church in rich and positive ways.

Many Parishes have committed themselves to be welcoming by encouraging evangelization, catechesis and liturgies incorporating the native languages of the newcomers, while others organize diverse inter-cultural activities. In some dioceses specific pastoral care for migrants and refugees and mobile populations is not provided, while in other places the immigrants are integrated into the local parishes.

Ensuring the pastoral care of migrants, refugees and people on the move is the work of communion. This includes several specialized ministries serving the pastoral needs of those with limited resources, such as recently arrived immigrants, migrant farm workers, airport and airline workers, circus and carnival workers.

It has been a point of pride that PCMRT has grown, expanding its pastoral outreach and diocesan contacts, by encouraging active involvement of the ethnic communities in the different dioceses and parishes and providing for the pastoral needs of people on the move. As PCMRT expands



News from the **Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers (PCMRT)** *Continued from page 10*



its outreach, it looks forward to the active participation of ethnic communities and the people on the move ministries. PCMRT welcomes new ideas; it encourages commitment and indispensable services for the growth of the Christian communities.

In welcoming immigrants and people on the move, the Church has always contemplated Christ, drawing inspiration from His words *“I was a stranger and you welcomed me”* (Mt. 25:35). The local parishes need to develop a more creative and pastorally effective ministry of hospitality, especially for immigrants and people on the move, in solidarity with all Catholics and bearing in mind that the Church is diverse and yet one.

Visit our website for more information on the various activities.

Pope Francis Says...

“Grant that migrants in search of a dignified life may find acceptance and assistance. May tragedies like those we have witnessed this year, with so many deaths at Lampedusa, never occur again!”

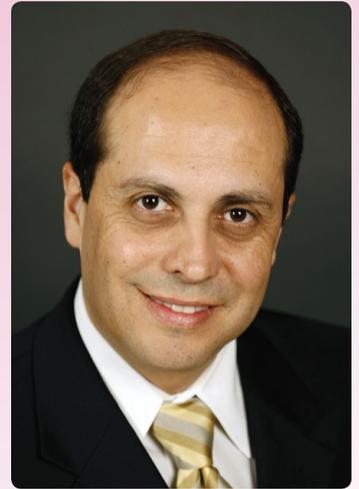
*Urbi Et Orbi Message of Pope Francis
Christmas (12/25/13)*



News from the Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs (SCHA)

It is with great pleasure that I am able to announce that the preparations for the Fifth National Gathering for Ministry Among Hispanics/Latinos (V Encuentro) are already underway. On this road toward the V Encuentro, in a spirit of communion in mission, we have accomplished the following goals:

- Creation of the National Team of Accompaniment Toward a V Encuentro, or “ENAHVE” by its Spanish-language acronym. This team is comprised of all of the National Catholic Hispanic Organizations in the United States and of other key Catholic organizations in Hispanic/Latino ministry
- The National Orientation on the Vision and Mission of a V Encuentro took place in San Antonio, TX, October 30, 2014 within the framework of the 2015 Raíces y Alas Congress and was attended by 17 bishops and 150 regional and diocesan leaders of Hispanic/Latino ministry



Mr. Alejandro Aguilera-Titus, Assistant Director, Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs

- During the orientation, the document Called and Sent to Encuentro: A Pastoral Theological Vision for the V Encuentro Process was presented
- On February 12-14, 2015, the National Training on the Process of Encuentro was carried out for those that coordinate the preparations for a V Encuentro in each of the fourteen episcopal regions in which the Catholic Church in the United States is organized
- On February 15, 2015, the website En Camino al V Encuentro (On The Way To a V Encuentro) was launched: www.enahve.org
- During the last week of February, two orientation sessions on the V Encuentro took place for executive directors of departments and secretariats of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)
- During the month of March, bishops, anchoring institutions and coordinators that will provide leadership within the V Encuentro teams were confirmed for each of the fourteen Latin episcopal regions
- We are currently working on the elaboration of a Preparation Guide for the Process of Encuentro. This guide will be used during the experiences of Encuentro that will be carried out in each episcopal region.



News from the Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs (SCHA) *Continued from page 12*

As you can see, we have made good progress in the preparations toward a V Encuentro. All of this information can be found on the website www.enahve.org. The goals for the Encuentro process for the year 2015 include the following:

- Creation of teams in each region through a two-day experience on the process of Encuentro. It is recommended that this experience take place during the first part of 2015
- Completion of a two-day experience on the process of Encuentro in each episcopal region during the second half of 2015. This experience is for leaders of the dioceses of the region and is prepared by the regional team
- Each U.S episcopal region will be asked to select a Hispanic/Latino family to represent them at a gathering with families representing other episcopal conferences from Latin America. This family gathering will take place on September 21, 2015 in the city of Philadelphia, one day prior to the commencement of the VIII World Gathering of Families.

We will keep you informed on the progress made during our journey toward a V Encuentro. Please keep in mind that the years 2015 and 2016 are of preparation for a V Encuentro. We anticipate the actual process will begin in January of 2017 with the Parish and Diocesan Encuentros (gatherings). With respect to the Regional Encuentros, they will be carried out throughout the first part of 2018, and the National Encuentro will take place on a weekend during the second half of September 2018, God willing.

Let's continue walking together toward a V Encuentro and making history along the way! ▶



Noticias del Subcomité para Asuntos Hispánicos

Es motivo de gran alegría comunicarles que los preparativos para el Quinto Encuentro Nacional Hispano/Latino de Pastoral (V Encuentro) ya se han puesto en marcha. En este caminar hacia el V Encuentro, en un espíritu de pastoral de conjunto, hemos logrado las siguientes metas:

- Creación del Equipo Nacional de Acompañamiento Hacia el V Encuentro (ENAHVE). Este equipo está integrado por representantes de las organizaciones católicas nacionales hispanas de Estados Unidos, de otra organizaciones católicas claves en la pastoral Hispana/latina
- Dentro del contexto del Congreso Raíces y Alas 2014 celebrado en San Antonio,

TX, se realizó el 30 de octubre la Orientación nacional sobre la visión y misión del V Encuentro que contó con la participación de 17 obispos y 150 líderes regionales y diocesanos de la pastoral Hispana/Latina. Durante la orientación se presentó el documento Llamados y Enviados a Encuentro: Una Visión Teológico-Pastoral para el V Encuentro

- En Febrero 12-14, 2015 se llevó a cabo el Taller nacional de formación sobre el proceso de Encuentro para las personas que coordinaran los preparativos para el V Encuentro en cada una de las catorce regiones episcopales en las que está organizada la Iglesia Católica en Estados Unidos



- El 15 de febrero, 2015 se lanzó el portal electrónico En Camino al V Encuentro www.enahve.org
- Durante la última semana de Febrero se llevaron a cabo dos sesiones de orientación sobre el V Encuentro para los directores ejecutivos de departamentos y secretariados de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos
- Durante el mes de marzo se confirmaron los obispos, las instituciones de anclaje y los coordinadores que proveerán liderazgo en los equipos del V Encuentro que se formarán en cada una de las catorce regiones episcopales
- Actualmente estamos trabajando en la elaboración de una Guía de Preparación para el proceso de Encuentro. Esta Guía será utilizada en las experiencias de Encuentro que se llevarán a cabo en las regiones episcopales.

Como verán, llevamos un buen paso en los preparativos hacia el V Encuentro. Toda esta información la pueden encontrar en el portal electrónico www.enahve.org. Con respecto a las metas para este año 2015, se incluyen las siguientes:

- Formación de equipos en cada región mediante una experiencia de dos días sobre el proceso de Encuentro. Se recomienda que esta experiencia tome lugar en la primera parte de 2015
- Realización de una experiencia de dos días sobre el proceso de Encuentro en cada región episcopal durante la segunda mitad de 2015. Esta experiencia es para líderes de las diócesis de la región, y es preparada por el equipo regional

- A cada región episcopal se le pedirá que elija a una familia Hispana/Latina para representar a la región en un encuentro con familias que representarán a distintas conferencias episcopales de América Latina. Este encuentro familiar tendrá lugar el día 21 de Septiembre de 2015, en la ciudad de Filadelfia, un día antes de que inicie el VIII Encuentro Mundial de Familias.

Les mantendremos informados sobre el avance de nuestro camino hacia el V Encuentro. Tengan en mente que los años 2015 y 2016 son de preparación al V Encuentro, cuyo proceso anticipamos iniciar en enero de 2017 con los Encuentros Parroquiales y Diocesanos. Con respecto a los Encuentros Regionales, se llevarán a cabo durante la primera parte del 2018, y el Encuentro Nacional tendrá lugar en un fin de semana durante la segunda mitad de Septiembre de 2018, Dios mediante.

Sigamos caminando juntos hacia el V Encuentro y haciendo historia al andar! ▶

“Let us remind ourselves that the mingling of cultures, which sometimes created tensions, also brought positive elements of enduring value to the family, the church, and the country itself. This treasure continues to flourish among us, developing in a variety of ways from generation to generation... The multicolored marble that is America has veins of many hues and patterns; in their joining and confluence they contribute their own element of beauty to the Church and the land we love.”

*Cultural Pluralism in the United States
(A Statement by the Committee on Social
Development and World Peace 1980)*



News from the Subcommittee on Asian Pacific Island Affairs (SCAPA)

“Asian and Pacific Islanders [API] are now six percent of the overall U.S. population with an increasing number of immigrants each year. This makes API communities the fastest growing minority group in the United States bringing together a rich cultural diversity not only to the larger American population but to the Church as well,” says Bishop Daniel Flores, Chairman of the Committee on Cultural Diversity.

A study by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) commissioned by the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church, points out that “3.6 million U.S. residents who self-identify as Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander are estimated to be Catholic, representing about 20 percent of the 17.3 million people of this race and ethnicity in the country. This includes an estimated 2.2 million Filipino Catholics, 483,600 Vietnamese Catholics, 340,900 Chinese Catholics, 200,300, Korean Catholics, 147,500 Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander Catholics, 146,000 Indian Catholics, and 56,000 Japanese Catholics. Overall, 79 percent of Catholic Asian or Pacific Islanders are foreign-born” (CARA, August 2013, Report on Cultural Diversity in the Catholic Church in the United States).

The vibrant presence of Asian and Pacific Island Catholics is manifested in their faith, worship, witness and engagement in the life of the Church at the local, diocese, regional and national levels. The increasing numbers of API Catholics mean that they will turn to the Church for pastoral care and spiritual sustenance.



To better serve these culturally diverse populations, the Catholic Church in the United States would benefit from having a useful and strategic tool as guideline.

The Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs determined the need for a National Pastoral Plan for Asian and Pacific Island Catholics and has started a consultation process including a national survey that will inform a national pastoral plan for API Catholics. With the collaborative efforts of many, it is hoped that the process will bear much fruit.

Meanwhile, new and on-going activities are happening as 2015 ushered in. At the Mid Atlantic Congress in Baltimore in February 2015, for the first time, there was an Asian-Pacific track that included workshops on various topics; an API Rosary Guide will be available soon as an online resource; the 14th annual Marian Pilgrimage for Asian and Pacific Island Catholics will be held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on May 2, 2015, with Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore as main celebrant and homilist.

Events of various ethnic groups, leadership formation, gatherings of Asian clergy, observance of the feasts of saints from the country of origin, and popular piety and Marian devotions are samplings of the lived faith of API Catholics in the United States. ▶



*Sr. Myrna Tordillo,
M.S.C.S., Assistant
Director, Subcommittee
on Pastoral Care of
Migrants, Refugees
and Travelers*

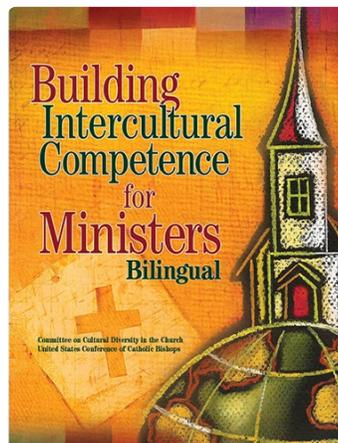


USCCB Resources and Other Resources

Visit <http://store.usccb.org/> to browse and order your resources or call 1-877-978-0757. Remember to have the product code ready when placing your order.

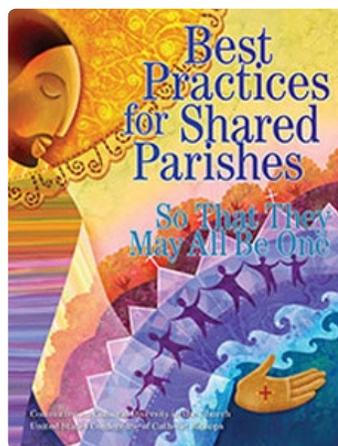
Building Intercultural Competencies for Ministers Bilingual

Product number: 7-887



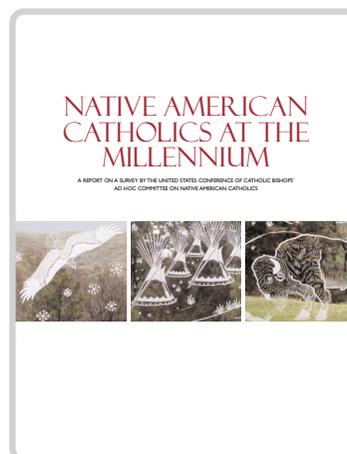
Best Practices for Shared Parishes: So That They May All Be One

Product number: 7-389



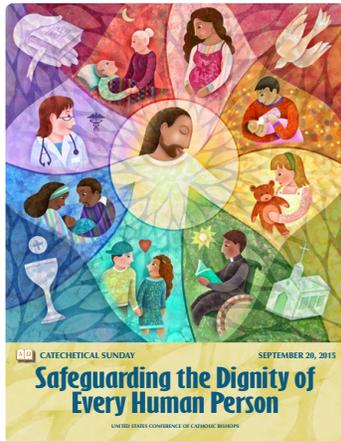
Native American Catholics At the Millennium: A Report on a Survey By the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' AD Hoc Committee on Native American Catholics

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/cultural-diversity/native-american/resources/index.cfm>



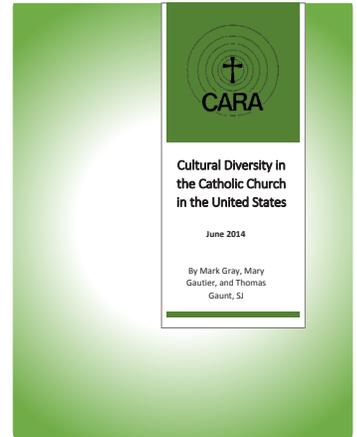
Recommended Reading

Resources for **Catechetical Sunday** will be available soon at <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/catechetical-sunday/human-dignity/index.cfm>



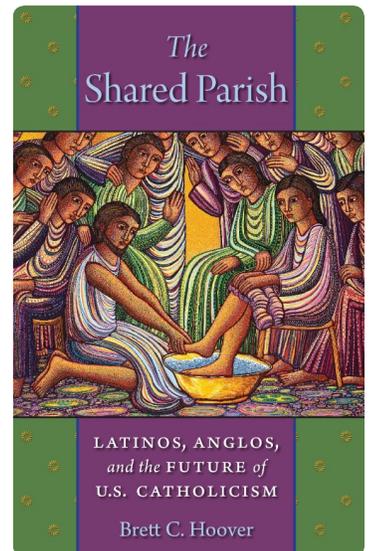
Cara Study – Cultural Diversity in the Catholic Church in the United States June 2014

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/cultural-diversity/>



Center for Migration Studies
The Shared Parish: Latinos, Anglos and the Future of U.S. Catholicism
By Brett Hoover

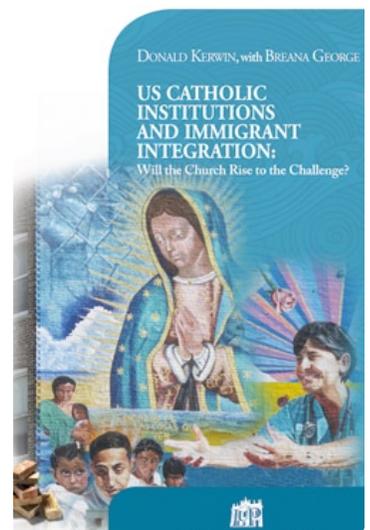
Visit <http://nyupress.org/books/9781479854394/> for more information.



Center for Migration Studies
US Catholic Institutions And Immigrant Integration: Will The Church Rise To The Challenge?

By: Donald Kerwin, with Breana George
of the Center for Migration Studies of New York

Visit <http://cmsny.org/uscathintegration/> for more information.



United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

**Secretariat of Cultural
Diversity in the Church**

3211 Fourth Street NE Washington, D.C. 20017
www.usccb.org



CONTACT US

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church
3211 Fourth Street, NE, Washington, DC 20017
Telephone: 202-541-3350
Fax: 202-541-5417
Email: diversity@usccb.org

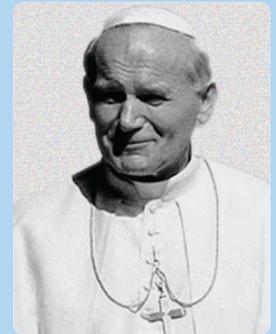


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USCCB's website (www.usccb.org)
SCDC's website
(<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/cultural-diversity/>)



“And I implore you: Remain faithful to this heritage! Make it the foundation of your formation! Make it the object of the greatness of your soul! Keep alive this heritage! Intensify this heritage! Impart it to the next generations!”



Pope John Paul II,
Keep Alive This Gniezno,
Poland, June 3, 1979