

“Coming down the Mountain”

V National Encuentro Process of Hispanic/Latino Ministry for the Diocese of Owensboro

The V National Encuentro process of Hispanic/Latino Ministry in the United States is now in its pastoral planning stage. It has been a 4-year journey of prayer, study, consultation, visiting the peripheries, discernment and hard work from the grassroots level (parishes/dioceses/regions) up to the national level. We are very grateful to the individual Hispanic delegates who have represented the Diocese of Owensboro in this process and to Bishop William Medley for his support and for also attending the V National Encuentro event in Dallas, TX in 2018.

The next stage for the rest of 2020 is being called “Coming down the Mountain” in which dioceses and episcopal regions are working on their own Diocesan and Regional Pastoral Plans for Hispanic Ministry. After these plans are completed, in 2021 the entire country, all of us together as Hispanic Catholics, will contribute to and work towards a new National Pastoral Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry. The current plan was promulgated in 1987.

Now that the *Proceedings and Conclusions* document from this process is available, Bishop William Medley has commissioned a Diocesan Hispanic Ministry Pastoral Planning Committee to study the results of the V Encuentro process, discern our local pastoral responses and draft a diocesan pastoral plan for 2021-2025. The following process has been adapted given the current pandemic and the need to meet virtually.

PHASE 1: Study & Consult – The Planning Committee includes leaders from parishes with Hispanic Ministry across the diocese, including the V Encuentro delegates, priests, parish staff, lay leaders and young adults. The Committee will meet for 4 virtual sessions to study the *Proceedings and Conclusions* document and give input about any additional local concerns, realities, best practices and resources that need to be considered. At the same time a group of diocesan directors will also be invited to review the *Proceedings and Conclusions* document and then provide the Committee with some diocesan context based on current diocesan priorities, current ministry efforts and pastoral plans. The 4th Committee meeting will include narrowing down specific ministerial areas of highest priority based on our diocesan reality, the results from the local consultation process and the regional and national conclusions.

PHASE 2: Develop Action Steps - The Committee members will then be asked to divide into working teams, according to their interest and experience, to study one of these priority areas. The corresponding diocesan staff for those areas will be invited to participate in the working

teams. These working teams will propose action steps following the process as outlined in the Planning Guide by the National V Encuentro team.

PHASE 3: Draft & Revise Plan - A Core Team of Committee members and diocesan directors will take the input and suggested action steps from each working team to draft a Diocesan Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry. They will add more information to each action step such as desired outcomes, persons responsible, collaborators, timelines, resources required, etc. This draft will be presented to the Committee and diocesan directors involved for their final input and approval. The plan will then be presented to the Bishop for his revisions and approval.

PHASE 4: Celebrate & Commit – The Bishop will present the final plan to the diocese in some kind of diocesan celebration near the end of 2020. It will include a Commissioning Service for the Bishop to ask for a commitment from those who participate to go forth as joyful, missionary disciples and to carry out this plan across the Diocese. This may need to be a virtual or hybrid (in-person and virtual) event depending on the state of the pandemic.

PHASE 5: Implement & Evaluate – The Diocesan Director of Hispanic Ministry will be responsible for working with those named as persons responsible for each action step and assisting them in forming teams to implement the action steps. The Director will schedule annual sessions to evaluate the progress made on the plan and evaluate whether adjustments need to be made. In early 2025, the Director will gather a planning Committee to start working on a plan for the following time period as determined by the Bishop.