



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF LAS CRUCES

1280 Med Park Drive • Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005-3239
575-523-7577 • Fax 575-524-3874 • www.dioceseoflascruces.org

To: All Pastors, Administrators, Parish Life Coordinators, Priests and Deacons

From: Rev. Martin Cornejo, Reginal Representative V Encuentro
Alejandro Barraza – Director Hispanic Apostolate Office

Date: November 2016

Re: **V Encuentro - Missionary Disciples: Witnesses of God's Love.**

It is with great excitement that we are announcing the Diocesan plan to participate in the National V Encuentro (www.vencuentro.org). This consultation process has been called by the Bishops of the United States to take place in 2017. The main goal of the V Encuentro is to discern ways in which the Church in the United States can better respond to the Hispanic/Latino presence, and to strengthen the ways in which Hispanics/Latinos respond to the call of the New Evangelization to be missionary disciples serving the entire Church.

The process will be as follows:

• **January 2017: Training of Parish Leadership Committee**

Parishes are invited to create an Encuentro leadership committee of 1-3 persons who will participate in one of the two Diocesan Encuentro trainings on January 21 from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. This training will be in English and Spanish. The parish committees will receive materials to conduct the Encuentro process in the parish. The two training sites are:

- the Cathedral of Immaculate Heart of Mary in Las Cruces.
- Our Lady of Grace in Artesia.

• **February – March: Building parish V Encuentro Team**

The parish Encuentro leadership committee will be tasked with building a V Encuentro team for their own parish.

• **During Easter Season 2017: Parish V Encuentro Process.**

Parishes will host the Parish Encuentro process which consists of 5 sessions. (at the January Training in the parish leadership committee will be given various models from which to choose to do the parish process) Each session will have a missionary aspect to it where participants will be invited to go to the peripheries to get input on the session topic.

Themes of the 5 Sessions

1. Called to a Loving Encounter with Jesus
2. With Words and Actions: Do it!
3. Walking together with Jesus
4. Bearing Fruits of New Life
5. Celebrating the Joy of Being Missionary Disciples.

At the end of the 5 weeks, parishes are invited to develop a follow up program in order for participants of the process may continue to gather or receive formation.

• **August 2017 – Diocesan V Encuentro Gathering**

Each parish team will choose delegates to participate in the Diocesan Gathering

• **Lent 2018 – Regional V Encuentro Gathering in Phoenix,**

At the Diocesan Gathering there will be a team chosen to participate in the Regional Gathering in Phoenix, AZ.

• **May 2018 – National V Encuentro Gathering in Grapevine, TX.**

At the Diocesan Gathering there will be a team chosen to participate in the National V Encuentro Gathering in Grapevine, TX.

The Diocese has created a team to assist your parish if needed.
Thank you for your attention and excitement on this matter.

"United in Ministry"



PARISH V ENCUENTRO TEAM

GOAL: Parish V Encuentro Teams will accompany their parish in promoting, coordinating, and facilitating the implementation of the V Encuentro Process.

DESCRIPTION OF PARISH V ENCUENTRO TEAM

Approximately 10-12 members who reflect a broad diversity of persons, organizations, ministries, including but not limited to youth/young adults, family, vocations, evangelization/catechesis, and social justice.

INITIAL TASKS and RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARISH TEAM

TASK 1: Form and train the Parish V Encuentro Team (Completed by September 30th)

- Pastor reviews the Parish V Encuentro Manual.
- Pastor appoints a chair or co-chairs for the Parish Team.
- Discern who will be the members of the Parish Team.
- Select a date for the initial meeting of the Parish V Encuentro Team with the purpose of becoming familiar with V Encuentro vision and process.
- Report to the Diocesan V Encuentro Team the names and contact information of the Parish Team.

TASK 2: Plan strategically to assure the full participation in the V Encuentro

- Facilitate an orientation on the V Encuentro with parish leadership – parish staff, Catholic school staff, ecclesial movements and other ministries in the parish.
- Identify small group leaders who will implement the V Encuentro Process.
- Conduct training with the small group leaders in the use of the V Encuentro Guide for the 5 Parish Sessions.
- Schedule the dates for the 5 Small Group Parish Sessions.

TASK 3: Work collaboratively with the Parish Finance Council

- Prepare a parish budget for the implementation of the V Encuentro Process

TASK 4: Plan and implement the V Encuentro Parish Event

- Schedule the date and place for the Parish Event.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Collaborate with the Diocesan Team in the planning and executing of the V Encuentro Diocesan Event.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Collaborate with diocesan delegation to the V Encuentro Regional Event if there is a delegate from the parish.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Collaborate with the diocesan delegation to the V Encuentro National Event if there is a delegate from the parish.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Provide follow up to the V Encuentro Process

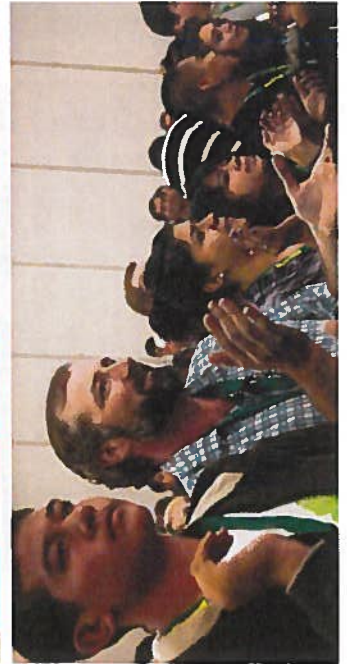
- Accompany parish leadership in discerning new ways of being missionary disciples in light of the V Encuentro experience.
- Coordinate the implementation of the consultation results in parish pastoral planning.

RESOURCES: More resources along with the Parish Manual can be found on the V Encuentro Website:

<http://www.vencuentro.org/>

Goal:

The main goal of the V Encuentro is to discern ways in which the Church in the United States can better respond to the Hispanic/Latino presence, and to strengthen the ways in which Hispanics/Latinos respond to the call to the New Evangelization as missionary disciples serving the entire Church.



V National Encuentro of Hispanic/Latino Ministry



A priority of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Strategic Plan



To participate:

Communicate with the person assigned by the Bishop to coordinate the V Encuentro in your diocese.

For more information visit:

www.vencuentro.org

V Encuentro

USCCB Hispanic Affairs

3211 Fourth Street, NE

Washington, D.C. 20017

(202) 541-3150

contact@vencuentro.org

Our Padrinos



LOYOLA PRESS.
A JESUIT MINISTRY

Our Sunday Visitor



**MISSIONARY DISCIPLES:
WITNESSES OF GOD'S LOVE**

What is the V Encuentro?

A process of evangelization, communion, and consultation that:

- Generates information for pastoral planning that responds more creatively to the Hispanic presence in the Church and promotes the ecclesial integration of all communities
- Connects the local Hispanic community with a national initiative
- Generates and forms new pastoral leaders as missionary disciples
- Revitalizes the faith of parishioners and invites them to missionary activity
- Fosters the participation in liturgical and ministerial life
- Increases stewardship.

Process

- A five-session process of reflection and missionary action that culminates in a parish Encuentro
- Each parish, community, or group chooses the best time to implement the process between January 1st and July 30th of 2017
- Each parish that implements the process will participate in the one-day Diocesan Encuentro, to be celebrated between Aug. 1st and Nov. 30th
- Is coordinated by a parish team assigned by the Pastor, and is supported by the V Encuentro Diocesan team
- Involves small groups of 7 to 12 people. They meet in parish facilities or at homes and communities decided whether larger groups are needed.

Materials

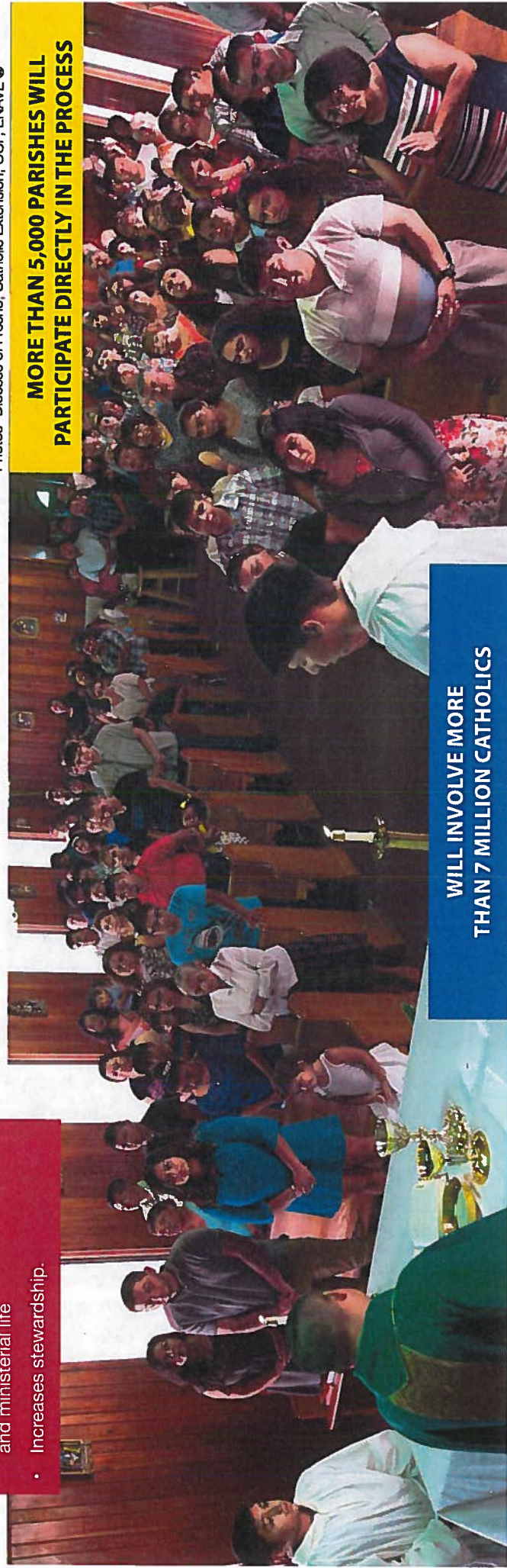
All materials are bilingual, produced by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the V Encuentro National Team of Accompaniment (ENAVE), and distributed to the dioceses without any cost to the parishes or groups.

Themes of the five sessions

The themes of the sessions are inspired by Pope Francis in *The Joy of the Gospel* n. 24.

- *Called to a loving encounter with Jesus*
- *With words and actions: Do it!*
- *Walking together with Jesus*
- *Bearing fruits of new life*
- *Celebrating the joy of being missionary disciples*

Photos- Diocese of Fresno, Catholic Extension, OCP, ENAVE



MORE THAN 5,000 PARISHES WILL PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY IN THE PROCESS

WILL INVOLVE MORE THAN 7 MILLION CATHOLICS