



One Church Many Cultures

The Good News of Cultural Diversity

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Introducing new Assistant Director for Native American Catholics

The USCCB Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church is pleased to welcome Father Michael Carson, a priest of the Diocese of San Jose, as the new Assistant Director of Cultural Diversity in the Church for Native American Affairs. Fr. Carson started his work with the Conference on April 25, 2016.

Fr. Carson holds a Master in Divinity from the Franciscan School of Theology (Graduate Theological Union) and a Master in Education Administration from Santa Clara University.

He has been involved with long term strategic planning for the Department of Catholic Education in the Diocese of San Jose. He was ordained a priest in June of 1998.

His most recent duties before joining the Bishops' Conference include being pastor of St. Cyprian Catholic Church and administrator of the Catholic Academy of Sunnyvale. Before that, he was pastor of Queen of the Apostles parish in San Jose. For the last eight years Father Carson has volunteered his time over the summer at Christ the King in Shiprock, Navajo Nation, New Mexico.



In this capacity, Fr. Carson has been doing workshops, programs and ministry with the parishioners and staff in the Navajo Nation. He also helped to organize services and relief efforts for the poor

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there, and has given symposiums in California on the people, places and history of Native American Culture in the Southwest.

His interest in Native American beliefs, values and culture comes from his grandfather, a full blooded member of the Louisiana Choctaw tribe, who from his earliest days offered him spiritual and cultural grounding and made him proud of his Native American heritage. Fr. Carson is also the co-founder of California People of Faith Working against the

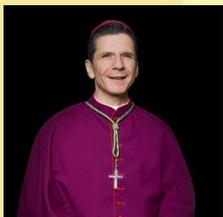
Death Penalty (CPF) and has been ministering to inmates on Death Row San Quentin, California for the last twenty years. Along with his anti-death penalty work, he has been the chaplain of the Pro-Life Council of the Diocese of San Jose. And he has been volunteering at Juvenile Hall San Jose, California for the last eighteen years.

The Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church is grateful to Fr. Carson for his generosity in accepting the position of Assistant

Director, and to Bishop Patrick J. McGrath for releasing such a talented and dedicated priest for service to wider Church through his ministry at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Fr. Carson hopes to see many of you at the Tekakwitha Conference this summer in Burlingame, California (July 20-24) where he is scheduled to participate and offer two workshops.

Welcome to the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church, Fr. Mike! ●



CHAIRMAN'S REFLECTION

By: Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, M.Sp.S.

The Family, School of Mercy

"The family is thus an agent of pastoral activity through its explicit proclamation of the Gospel and its legacy of varied forms of witness, namely solidarity with the poor, openness to a diversity of people, the protection of creation, moral and material solidarity with other families, including those most in need, commitment to the promotion of the common good and the transformation of unjust social structures, beginning in the territory in which the family lives, through the practice of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy" (Amoris Laetitia, 290). Quoting the Relatio Finalis (Final document) of the Synod on the Family, Pope Francis has reminded us in his recent Apostolic Exhortation of the evangelizing power of the family in the world. It is the family that is able to communicate across cultures, across languages, across boundaries and borders. It is the family that so powerfully proclaims the Gospel to all



peoples, in all circumstances, starting in that holy sanctuary of the home. The Holy Father continues, saying: "In all families the Good News needs to resound, in good times and in bad, as a source of light along the way"

(ibid). The homes of the faithful people of God are places where the mercy of God can be kindled by the fire of the Holy Spirit.

In our work together to the various peoples present among the faithful, may we never forget the power and importance of the family, the school of mercy and grace, the school of evangelization.

May our activities support our faithful families as they seek to be true agents of the Gospel together, instilling a sense of mercy, gratitude, and an appreciation for the beautiful and varied face of the people of God and all people of good will.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Mrs. Mar Muñoz-Visoso, MTS, Executive Director

Lord, Have Mercy!

We are already half way into this extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, and in the midst of everything going on in my daily life, I have felt the need to stop and reflect on whether I am taking full advantage of the extraordinary opportunity to both experience or become fully aware of God's mercy in my life, and of extending mercy to others as a "way of being" (being Christian, that is).

In his letter of proclamation of the extraordinary Year of Mercy, Pope Francis tells us that "Jesus of Nazareth, by His words, His actions, and His entire person reveals the mercy of God". It is therefore important to make time to contemplate in prayer and study - He who is "the face of the Father's mercy" [Misericordiae Vultus -MV, 1], for we cannot bear witness to Him whom we don't know.

"At times we are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father's action in our lives," explains the Holy Father. The extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, thus, "is a special time for the Church, a time when the witness of believers might grow stronger and more effective." [MV, 3]

So why make this reflection half way into the special jubilee? Well, because in my case business and complications of daily life can, and often do, distract me from total awareness of the extraordinary moment we are living in and from what, in the end, really matters.

Pope Francis says, "We cannot escape the Lord's words to us, and they will serve as the criteria upon which we will be judged: whether we have fed the hungry and given drink to the thirsty, welcomed the stranger and clothed the naked, or spent time with the sick and those in prison (cf. Mt 25:31-45).

Moreover, we will be asked if we have helped others to escape the doubt that causes them to fall into despair and

which is often a source of loneliness; if we have helped to overcome the ignorance in which millions of people live, especially children deprived of the necessary means to free them from the bonds of poverty; if we have been close to the lonely and afflicted; if we have forgiven those who have offended us and have rejected all forms of anger and hate that lead to violence; if we have had the kind of patience God shows, who is so patient with us; and if we have commended our brothers and sisters to the Lord in prayer.

In each of these "little ones," Christ himself is present. His flesh becomes visible in the flesh of the tortured, the crushed, the scourged, the malnourished, and the exiled... to be acknowledged, touched, and cared for by us." [MV, 15]

It makes me tremble... but the truth is that the corporal and spiritual works of mercy should serve as a daily examination of conscience. And yes, half way though the Jubilee of Mercy, I invite you to join me in taking a step back for a moment and asking yourself, when I have felt God's mercy in my life recently, even today? And when have I extended mercy to others recently, and even today? Have I gained so far a greater understanding and awareness of God's mercy? Am I a more visible sign of God's mercy in my family, work, school, parish and community?

The topic of mercy is a thread that runs through the entire fabric of this issue. I invite you to review every article and thank God for the way in which the Lord shows mercy to His people through our ministries: through every wound we touch and every word of advice we give; through every act of kindness we extend and every hurtful word we withdraw, and evil thought we reject. Through every prayer we say for the needs of others.

Mercy, anyone? Lord, have Mercy!



Homily for the 14th Annual Asian and Pacific Island Catholics Marian Pilgrimage National Shrine and Basilica of the Immaculate Conception Washington, D.C., May 7, 2016

(Edited for brevity)



His Excellency The Most Reverend Bernardito Auza, Apostolic Nuncio, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations and Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the Organization of American States

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST FROM ASIA AND THE PACIFIC ISLANDS AND MARIAN PILGRIMS,

It is a grace for me to join you today as a pilgrim, here at this magnificent Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, for the 14th Annual Asian and Pacific Island Catholics Marian Pilgrimage.

Today we sing to the Lord in a special way, because this Marian Pilgrimage brings us, Asian and Pacific island Catholics, together to honor our Mother Mary with prayers and cultural songs and dances typical of our Asian and Pacific nations. We thus thank the Lord, because this pilgrimage makes us discover and rediscover the numerous devotions to our Blessed Mother from our countries back home. I am very grateful to the Asian and Pacific Catholic Network and to the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for this grace-filled opportunity.

We venerate and invoke Mary under many titles, but above all as

Mother of God. This title expresses very well Mary's mission in the history of salvation. There is no other grace and title of Mary bigger and greater than being the Mother of God. All the other graces, privileges and titles were given to her, because she was to become or she was the Mother of the Lord. The solemnity and the privilege of the Immaculate Conception is tremendous and great, but it was given to her in view of her Divine Motherhood. The Solemnity of the Assumption is tremendous and great, but she had that privilege because she was the mother of God.

From the title "Mother of God" are drawn all the other titles with which the Church honors Mary. We have the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary with all those really fantastic titles like Star of the Sea and Tower of Ivory, and the Church keeps on adding more titles. We in the Philippines we have Virgen sa Barangay (Our Lady of the Village),

Our Lady of Antipolo, Our Lady of Peñafrancia, Our Lady of Manaoag, etc. In Vietnam millions flock to the Shrine of Our Lady of La Vang. In South Korea Marian devotees flock to the Gamgok Maegoe Virgin Mary Cathedral. In Japan, we have Our Lady of Akita. In India, millions venerate Mary at the Shrine Basilica of Our Lady of Health in Tamil Nadu, where they even have a shrine dedicated to Our Lady of Snows! And in Sri Lanka, Catholics flock to venerate Mary in the Shrine of Our Lady of Madhu.

We can say that the Rosary is the most important classroom in what St. John Paul II called the "School of Mary," and during this extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, we have a special opportunity to learn from the Blessed Virgin how to become "merciful like the Father," by learning from Mary how to relate to Christ her Son, whom Pope Francis called the "face" of the Mercy of the Father.

In the Holy Rosary, we turn, as we pray in the "Hail Holy Queen," to Mary as our "Clement" and "Loving" "Mother of Mercy," begging her to turn her "eyes of mercy toward us"

and show us Jesus, Mercy incarnate. We call upon her, in the words of the Litany of Loreto, as “Virgin most merciful,” as “Refuge of Sinners” and “Help of Christians,” and ask her, over and over again, to “pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death,” confident that she will never despise our petitions but in her mercy hear and answer us.

Through the mysteries of the Rosary, she leads us on an interior pilgrimage through many of the most important joyful, luminous, sorrowful and glorious stages of salvation history. With her, we ponder how the Lord wants us to be filled with grace, which means filled with mercy. We unite ourselves to her Magnificat in the Visitation as she teaches us how to let our souls praise and spirits rejoice in God our savior whose “mercy is from generation to generation toward those who fear him” and who “remembers his mercy... promised to our fathers.”

Today we seek to pray the Rosary with her, just as she asked St. Bernadette in Lourdes to pray it with her “to God for sinners,” and just as she requested young Francisco, Jacinta and Lucia in Fatima, imploring and sacrificing for the “conversion of sinners” that they be “saved from the fires of hell” and that all souls be brought to heaven, especially those in “most need of [God’s] mercy.” The Holy Rosary is not just a school in which we learn about mercy, but one in which, together with her, we pray for mercy. And we give thanks to God for this great mother, teacher and companion in prayer!

Even if we are far away from our birthplace, our faith and faith traditions make us feel at home wherever we are. This practice of bringing with us our religious traditions and culture is fully appreciated by the Church. When

Popes John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Francis, during their visits in the United States, expressed deep admiration for the Catholic Church in America, a Church of immigrants, of peoples and nations from all over the world who came to America to find better life and greater freedom, including greater religious freedom. In this land of religious liberty, Catholics found freedom not only to practice their faith, but also to participate fully in civic life, bringing their deepest moral convictions to the public square and cooperating with their neighbors in shaping a vibrant, democratic society.

Our celebration today to honor Mary should therefore be an occasion of gratitude for graces received, in particular for God’s providence of bringing us into this land, where a responsible exercise of freedom enriches one and all, including in the religious and moral life.

Our celebration today summons us to move forward with firm resolve to continue to observe our faith and pass it on to future generations. We often ask ourselves during beautiful celebrations like this: Would this tradition outlive us? Would our children and our children’s children continue to celebrate this? The answer depends on you: if you pass on the faith that underpins celebrations like this to your children and your grandchildren, then we can keep

this alive, perhaps with different cultural hues, perhaps becoming more colored with elements of American Catholicism, but it would always remain a celebration of faith. If you don’t invest time and effort to pass your faith to your children and to your grandchildren, then chances are the faith traditions so dear to you might die with you. So, parents and grandparents, elders and catechists, let us build the base for future celebrations of our religious devotions by passing on our faith to future generations.

May Mary, Mother of God and Mother of us all, protect us every step of the way, and lead us to our final destination, eternal life with the Lord. She will never despise our petitions, but in her motherly love, she will always present them to Christ her Son our Lord. AMEN.



ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS

Sr. Myrna Tordillo, MSCS, Assistant Director, Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Island Affairs

Dear Co-workers and friends,

Pope Francis' letter for the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, *Misericordiae Vultus* has inspired and encouraged the Church to not only reflect on God's mercy but it is also an exhortation to you and me to be merciful to others by seeking concrete ways to live out mercy. The Church has offered so many resources that we can use in this Jubilee Year of Mercy. Below is a resource from the Diocese of San Bernardino. I am very thankful to Sr. Maria Jennifer Nguyen, LHC, and director of the Office of Asian-Pacific Ministry for her article.

Sr. Myrna Tordillo, MSCS
Assistant Director
Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church/Asian
and Pacific Island Affairs

THE OFFICE OF ASIAN-PACIFIC MINISTRY IN THE DIOCESE OF SAN BERNARDINO

Sr. Maria Jennifer Nguyen, LHC, and Director of Office of Asian-Pacific Ministry

The Office of Asian-Pacific Ministry in the Diocese of San Bernardino was officially established by Bishop Gerald R. Barnes in the Jubilee Year 2000. Since then, every year, we invite the Asian-Pacific Communities to celebrate our diversity together.

The Director of the Office of Asian-Pacific Ministry, its Advisory Board, together with the Asian-Pacific Community Representatives have worked hard and diligently to have the Asian-Pacific Formation Day for the last several years. Since the Office of Asian-Pacific Ministry was officially inaugurated in the Jubilee Year 2000, it is fitting that we celebrate together the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy.

In this Year of Mercy, Pope Francis calls us to make the world a better place: "Let us be renewed by God's mercy... let us enable the power of His love to transform our lives and let us become agents of this mercy." This year the theme for the Asian-Pacific Formation Day: "Mercy, the Unconditional Love of God" aims to respond to Pope Francis' invitation.

The keynote and the breakout sessions will highlight God's Mercy from the rich cultural experience and lens of each Asian and Pacific Islander Catholic. The keynote will be presented in English, and the three breakout sessions will be presented in seven languages, representing the Asian and Pacific Islander communities active in the

San Bernardino Diocese: Chamorro, Indonesian, Korean, Samoan, Tongan, and Vietnamese. The Filipinos will hear their conference in English to allow non-Asian/Pacific Islander guests to attend.

The day will conclude with the celebration of the Sunday Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. The hope is that through what was learned in each session, the sharing and nourishment experience in the Liturgy, we all may experience God's Mercy. May we all put God's teaching of Mercy into practice by being merciful to one another at home, our neighborhood, local church and society so that "people's lives are filled with hope."

For more information regarding the Asian-Pacific Formation Day, please click here:

<http://www.lhcla.org/asianpacificministry>

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Fr. Michael Carson, Assistant Director, Subcommittee on Native Americans Affairs



THE PEACEMAKING PROGRAM OF THE

NAVAJO NATION HÓZHÓ

The ethic of mercy has been a mainstay of many Native American Cultures and peoples throughout the centuries. In the Navajo Nation, mercy flows through the courts, families and society alike. Like many other Native American societies, the Navajo have integrated restorative justice practices in dealing with crime, justice and mercy.

Hozho is the concept of restoring balance where relationships have become unbalanced. Like many other court systems in the Native American Nations, rather than seeking only to punish the offender, Navajo Peace Court's mission is to restore balance between people, families and the community.

One of the most important outcomes of the Peace Courts is healing. Healing comes about through the recognition of truth and a deep desire to uncover a

person's denials for behavior. These denials obstruct harmony that is the essence of Navajo culture.

At the center of the Peace Court is most important is the HózhóójíNaat'áanii, the Peacemaker. The job of the peacemaker is to mend relationships. A lot depends on the Peacemaker's skill and ability. The wisdom of the Peacemaker carries with it the knowledge of the traditions and stories. The Peacemaker applies his or her knowledge in the restoration of harmony. The skill of the Peacemaker is to take damaged feelings and transform them into a place of growth. The Peacemaker is both leader, teacher and healer. He or she takes an active role in process. They do not find fault or blame, but they find the places where healing can begin.

The process of peacemaking includes the use of prayer, meals

to be eaten together and family and community involvement. The family takes an active role to resolve the situation back to harmony. Peacemaking allows for hurts to be voiced, people to be supported and help to be given.

For more information go to www.navajocourts.org.

**For more
information contact:**

Peacemaking Program
Po. Box 520
Window Rock, AZ
86515

[http://www.navajocourts.org/
indexpeacemaking.htm](http://www.navajocourts.org/indexpeacemaking.htm)

UGANDAN AFRICAN MARTYRS: BEARING WITNESS TO THE FAITH (EDITED FOR BREVITY)

We celebrate June 3rd as the feast day of the Ugandan African Martyrs. The Catholic Church honors 22 brave converts to Christianity who gave their lives to shape the faith and beliefs of their native land Uganda. As a result of their heroism, pilgrims from all over the world converge at the “Uganda Martyrs’ Shrine” in Namugongo (the site for execution) to pay tribute and commemorate the Martyrs Day which is also a national holiday in the East African country of Uganda.

The story of the martyrs traces back to 1877, when the first French Roman Catholic white fathers arrived in Uganda and Catholicism was born in the country. The Buganda Kingdom (modern day Uganda), was under the reign of Kabaka (King) Mwanga II who demanded loyalty of all of his Christian men and boys.

The king specifically requested that these men and boys to renounce their Christian faith and they were given the choice to “comply to immoral activity”, “denounce Christianity” or die.” The martyrs chose “to die rather than denounce their faith.” They were arrested, tortured and bound with ropes. The 22 African

Roman Catholic martyrs were collectively beatified by Pope Benedict XV in 1920.

In canonizing the Ugandan African Martyrs in 1964, Pope Paul VI said, “These African martyrs herald the dawn of a new age. If only the mind of man might be directed not toward persecutions and religious conflicts but toward a rebirth of Christianity and civilization!” That hope expressed by Pope Paul VI decades ago has now become a prayer today. Pope Francis visited Kampala, Uganda in November 28, 2015 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Ugandan African Martyrs. The Pope said in his homily, “Today we recall with gratitude the sacrifice of the Martyrs, whose witness of love for Christ and His Church has truly gone ‘to the end of the earth.’”

Come celebrate the Martyrs of our Faith - commemorating the Ugandan African Martyrs and all saints of African descent, on Saturday, June 4, 2016 at 2:00 PM. Saint Paul II National Shrine, 39 Harewood Rd, NE, Washington, DC 20017. We look forward with joy to your celebrating the Eucharist with us.

PASTORAL CARE OF MIGRANTS, REFUGEES, & TRAVELERS

Mr. David Corrales, Program Coordinator, Subcommittee on Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, & Travelers



OCCASION OF THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

The Subcommittee on Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees and Travelers (PCMRT) has a special role and connection to the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy.

When we look at the historical background of this ancient tradition, we find that from the beginning, the Jubilee Year was to be primarily a moment of celebration of God's Mercy with the immigrants, the strangers, the sojourners, the poor and the enslaved (Leviticus 25:8).

Because the mission of the pastoral care of migrants and refugees is precisely to care for these communities, the Pontifical Council on the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees has requested during

this Jubilee Year of Mercy that the Church celebrates a special Jubilee Day of Migrants and Refugees. The Pontifical Council asks "that the celebration may not be confined to a single day, but that it may be a chance to plan and organize other initiatives relative to the migration phenomenon during the Year of Mercy."

To honor this request, the Subcommittee on PCMRT has embarked, among other things, in a unique research that seeks to identify and empower all Catholic parishes in the U.S. that serve migrants and refugees through Catholic associations and networks. These networks, literally, seek

to care for the sojourners and the poor (migrant farmworkers, seafarers, traveling show people), the immigrants and strangers (refugees and ethnic communities), the enslaved (victims of human trafficking) and others in need.

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, and especially in the occasion of a Jubilee Day of Migrants and Refugees, PCMRT is working to ensure that the Church in the United States is ready to accompany these communities to a unity that, if it may not be entirely completed in faith, can be completed in love (Hans Urs Von Balthasar).

HISPANIC AFFAIRS

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

Dear friends in ministry,



We are very pleased to share with you the official logo and prayer for the Fifth National Encuentro of Hispanic/Latino Ministry (V Encuentro).

During the next few months you will receive more information on how to get involved in the V Encuentro process in

your parish, diocese, lay ecclesial ministry or Catholic organization. We anticipate that the V Encuentro will touch the hearts of millions of Catholics and engage them as missionary disciples: witnesses of God's love, particularly young people and families living in the peripheries of society.

Currently, many dioceses are forming their V Encuentro Diocesan teams, which will be responsible for the promotion, facilitation and implementation of the V Encuentro process. They are also responsible for training parish teams on the implementation of the V Encuentro process.

This process of evangelization and consultation is based on five sessions inspired by Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation *The Joy of the Gospel*. The guide will be available this fall to all parishes, lay ecclesial movements and catholic organizations that choose to participate in this transforming missionary process.

Here is what the V Encuentro is all about in a nutshell:

WHAT DOES THE V ENCUESTRO DO?

- ✓ Bear witness to God's love and compassion
- ✓ Develop leaders as missionary disciples
- ✓ Promote best practices in ministry

HOW DOES IT DO IT?

- ✓ Through missionary action to the peripheries
- ✓ Consultation and pastoral responses
- ✓ Accompaniment

WHY DOES IT DO IT?

- ✓ Baptismal call to mission and holiness
- ✓ Building up the community
- ✓ Stewardship of God's gifts

WHAT IS THE IMPACT?

- ✓ 5,000 + Parishes
- ✓ 175+ Dioceses
- ✓ 1,000,000+ People in the peripheries reached
- ✓ 20,000 Emerging leaders
- ✓ 100 + Catholic organizations
- ✓ Millions of faithful engaged

**FIFTH NATIONAL
ENCUENTRO
ON HISPANIC MINISTRY
SEPTEMBER 20-23, 2018 • NORTH TEXAS**



"Among us today are members of America's large Hispanic population... Por favor, no se avergüencen nunca de sus tradiciones... I ask you not to forget that, like those who came here before you, you bring many gifts to this nation... están llamados a ser ciudadanos responsables y a contribuir provechosamente a la vida de las comunidades en que viven."

—Pope Francis, Independence Hall
September 26, 2015

www.Vencuentro.org

A Nationwide Journey of the Church in the United States, from local encounters to national dialogue and mission



- 2016:** Developing parish and diocesan teams
- 2017:** Conducting missionary initiatives and activities
- 2018:** National Catholic Gathering of Bishops and Leaders
September 20-23, 2018, at the Gaylord Texan Hotel in Grapevine, Texas
- 2019:** Articulating insights, best practices, and pastoral guidelines
- 2020:** Bringing the Fifth Encuentro home for ongoing mission

Join us in
the prayer for
the Fifth National Encuentro
of Hispanic/Latino Ministry

God of Mercy,
You that went out to encounter
the disciples on the way to Emmaus,
grant us a missionary spirit
and send us forth to encounter
our brothers and sisters,
to walk along beside them,
listen to their hopes and dreams,
rekindle their faith
with the fire of your Word,
prepare them to recognize
you in the Eucharist
and send them as missionary disciples
to share the joy of the Gospel
to present and future generations
of every race, language and culture.

We ask you this
from our burning hearts
filled with the Holy Spirit,
in the Name of your beloved Son
and through the intercession of our Mother,
Mary of Guadalupe
Star of the New Evangelization

Amen

AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS

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

BUILDING INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE FOR MINISTRY WITH CATHOLICS OF AFRICAN DESCENT BICM AT IBCS



Following the Diversity Network Convocation hosted by USCCB at Notre Dame University in 2010, the Secretariat has observed a booming desire for assistance in navigating today's multicultural pastoral settings. Requests flow in from bishops, pastors, parish ministry leaders, seminary rectors and heads of national organizations who desire to cultivate the requisite knowledge, skills and attitudes to advance the new evangelization across cultural borders.

Many early requests focused on effectively working with local Hispanic ministry, at times entirely in Spanish. Generally, we found that utilizing a diverse presentation team for BICM training was as important as inviting a diverse group of participants. Nevertheless, we recognized that a particular cultural focus could be very beneficial in certain circumstances. BICM presentations and trainings are tailored to meet requestors' desired outcomes.

Conversations with directors/ coordinators of Black Catholic

Ministry and Multicultural Directors reveal a glaring need for developing intercultural competence in Catholic pastoral settings within the African diaspora. Consequently, the Subcommittee on African American Affairs will partner with the Institute for Black Catholic Studies (IBCS) at Xavier University in New Orleans this summer.

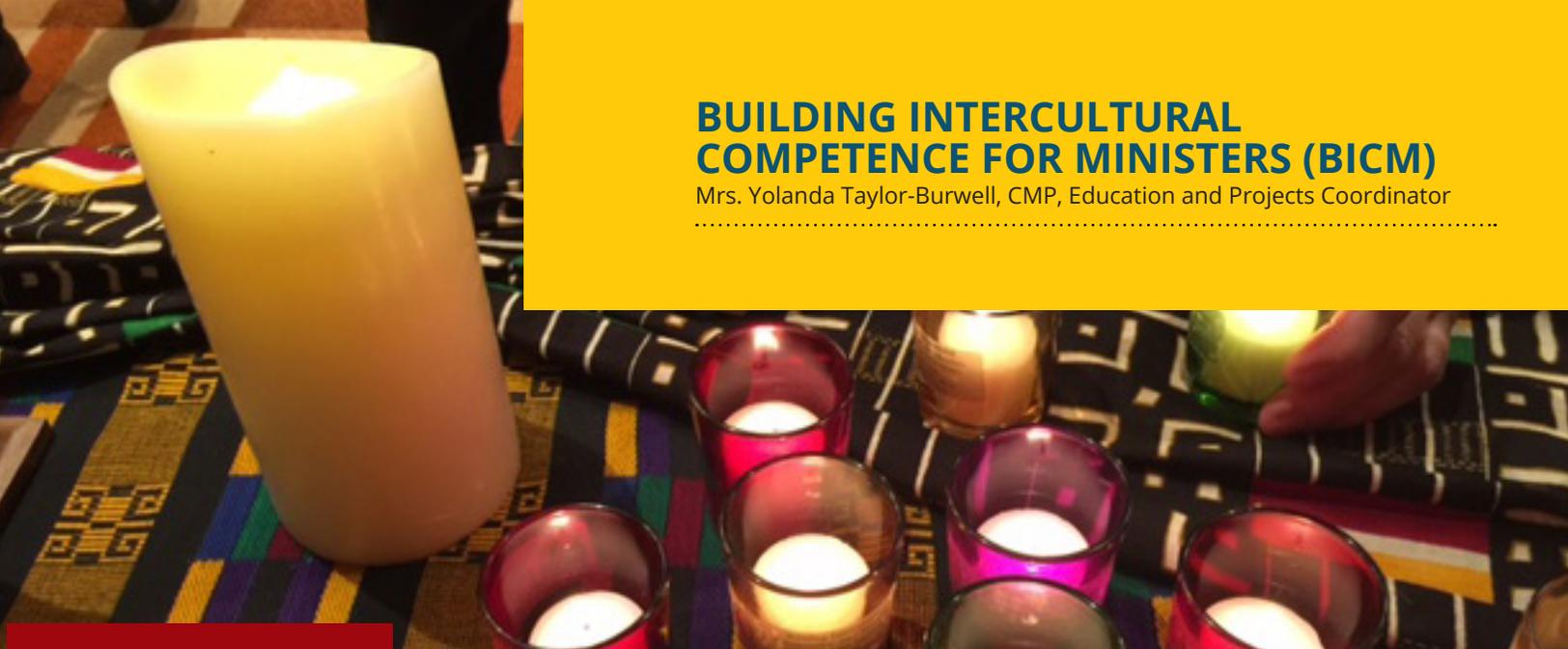
In Week 2 of IBCS' summer program, July 4-8, 2016, participants may enroll in a full BICM training that is customized to develop intercultural competency among Catholics of African descent. Scheduled for the morning session, BICM at IBCS participants are free to select a different afternoon course. In addition to the 5 modules presented by USCCB staff or trained facilitators, BICM at IBCS will explore these vital topics:

- Evangelizing Black Catholics in a multicultural context
- Identifying best practices for ministry in the African diaspora

- Praxis of enculturation - leveraging challenges & opportunities

IBCS Director, Fr. Maurice J. Nutt CsSR, is clear about the mission. For 36 years, the Institute exists "to address the critical need to develop pastoral leadership and cultural and theological competence for the Black Catholic community." Located at Xavier University in New Orleans – the only historically Black Catholic University in the United States – the curriculum fosters "theological education and pastoral leadership training" for a diverse group of clergy, religious and lay persons serving in Black Catholic communities.

IBCS students may obtain an interdisciplinary Master of Theology degree or pursue Continuing Education and Enrichment programs in catechesis, youth and young adult ministry, and pastoral leadership. Additionally, IBCS offers a week-long course exclusively for Catholic priests. To register and obtain more information, go to www.xula.edu/ibcs.



BUILDING INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE FOR MINISTERS (BICM)

Mrs. Yolanda Taylor-Burwell, CMP, Education and Projects Coordinator

WANTED... STORIES ABOUT BUILDING INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE FOR MINISTERS

Thank you for attending a Building Intercultural Competence for Ministers (BICM) training. On behalf of the staff of the Secretariat, we hope that you found your training enlightening. I remember attending my very first training which was roughly three months after starting the position as the Education Coordinator. I recall being blown away by the presenters, content and more importantly the participants' stories. I would love to share some of your stories with others who are interested in BICM. Currently, I am gathering stories about what has happened at your diocese, organization and/or personally after attending a BICM training using written or video stories, anecdotes, and best practices. Also, I plan to also use a few of the stories as a feature in our departmental newsletter.

I am requesting your help to make the "stories" tab and newsletter a success by submitting either a written or video story.

Stories or anecdotes may be about:

- Initiatives taken or any changes that your Arch/Diocese or Catholic institution has implemented as a result of your participation in a BICM workshop
- Personal changes that have occurred since your participation in the BICM training workshop
- Hosting your own training and the expected outcome of the training
- Suggested ideas and/or best practices for future participants
- Or something of your choosing that is not on this list

The requirements are as follows:

NUMBER OF WORDS:

No more than 300 words for written stories

LANGUAGE(S):

You may submit them in any language, but please always accompany it with an English translation

PICTURES OR VIDEO:

You may also include pictures and/or videos documenting your BICM efforts.

- Pictures should be clear, high resolution and must include the names of all of the faces within the picture. Also include the name of the photographer
- Video is no more than 1 min.30 sec.stories

All pictures and videos must use the permission form for submission. All faces within the video(s) or picture(s) must sign a permission form. Send your completed form to diversity@uscbb.org.

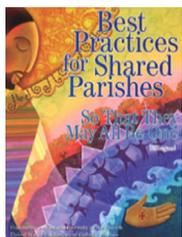
DUE DATE:

August 31, 2016 (Close of business - 5:00 pm EST)

Please consider this request so we can extend our work with BICM. Contact me with questions at diversity@uscbb.org or at 202-541-3152.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

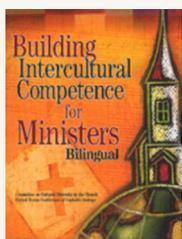
Visit <http://store.usccb.org/> to browse and order your resources or call 1-877-978-0757. Remember to have the product code ready when placing your order.



BEST PRACTICES FOR SHARED PARISHES BILINGUAL

Publication No. 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.



BUILDING INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE FOR MINISTERS -BILINGUAL

Publication No. 7-887

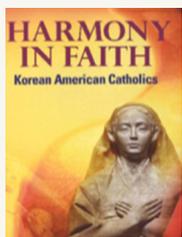
The Building Intercultural Competence for Ministers manual is designed to help ministry leaders achieve a basic level of awareness and proficiency in the area of intercultural competency.



FORMING CONSCIENCES FOR FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP: A CALL TO POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY (2015)

Publication No. 7-528

This 2015 limited revision of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship gives pastoral guidance to help Catholics in the United States exercise their political responsibility well. This important teaching document integrates new policy developments in the United States as well as new papal teachings, including that of Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis to date.



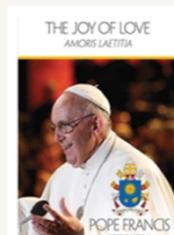
HARMONY IN FAITH KOREAN AMERICAN

Catholics Publication No. 7-429

This small book on Korean American Catholics connects each believer to their roots in Korea, weaving through thick layers of their history of faith. The Joy of the Gospel (Evangelii Gaudium) Publication No. 7-458 Spanish: Pub. No. 7-879



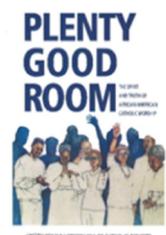
THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL (Evangelii Gaudium) is the long-awaited teaching of Pope Francis on the proclamation of the Gospel. Pope Francis is calling upon the Church and the world with encouragement to begin a new chapter in evangelization. This dynamic document is written in the plain, everyday language for which the pope has become famous.



THE JOY OF LOVE (AMORIS LAETITIA)

Publication No. 7-540
Spanish: Pub. No. To be determined

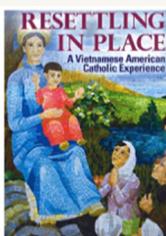
Brings together the results of the two Synods on the Family convoked by Pope Francis in 2014 and 2015. Striking for its breadth and detail—and firmly grounded in the challenges of family experiences—the Joy of Love affirms the rich and complex reality of family life with pastoral care, speaking the language of experience and hope.



PLENTY GOOD ROOM – USCCB/ SCDC

Contact Donna Grimes at dgrimes@usccb.org

This USCCB resource will assist liturgists, pastoral leaders, parishes and dioceses to plan African American and Multicultural liturgy that is spiritually uplifting and appropriate for Catholic worship.



RESETTLING IN PLACE A VIETNAMESE AMERICAN CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE

Publication No. 7-480

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



TEN YEARS OF PASTORAL VISITS TO MIGRANT WORKERS – USCCB/SCDC

Contact Sr. Joanna Okereke, HHCJ at jokereke@usccb.org

Ten years of visiting Migrant farm workers in the United States with Bishop John Manz, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago and Episcopal liaison for Migrant farmworkers in the United States.



INTRODUCING THE NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Term: November 2015 – November 2018

COMMITTEE ON THE SECRETARIAT OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN THE CHURCH

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Chairman**

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Most Reverend Arturo Cepeda
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Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller

Term:

November 2015 – November 2018

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lrivera@usc cb.org • 202-541-3177

MORNING PRAISE

Mercy!
Bless God, O my soul!
All that is possible within me,
bless God's most holy and blessed name.

Mercy!
Remember always, the blessings of God -
the one who forgives your shortcomings,
the one who heals your afflictions, the
one who redeems your life from the pit,
the one who crowns you with unending
love and compassion, the one who
satisfies you with only good things, the
one who does so forever, the one who
soars within you like an eagle, the one
who restores your youth.

Mercy!
This God is a God who brings forth
justice for those who are oppressed.
Merciful.
Gracious.
Slow to anger.
Abounding, bursting forth with love.

Mercy!
This God will NOT pile on shame
and guilt.
Anger lasts barely a moment -
if even that.

This God does not deal with us
according to our failures.
This God has not,
does not,
and will not -
haunt us with our sins.

Mercy!
As high as the heavens are -
that is the height of God's love
for all who return to God their honor.
From the rising sun in the east,
to the setting sun in the west -
this is the length and breadth of the
restoration that God provides.

Mercy!
As a loving parent has compassion for
their children, so does this God, have
compassion for us.
God knows us better than we know
ourselves.

God remembers how human we all are.
For the human soul - our days are like
the grass - flourishing like the beauty of
the fields.
The wind passes over it,
and suddenly it is gone.

Mercy!
God's love - now, God's love
is from everlasting to everlasting
for the faithful ones,
those who keep God's covenant,
and who cherish God's commands.

Mercy!
God sits high,
but looks and loves - low.

Angels - bless God!
Those with power - bless God!
All who minister to the light - bless God!
All wonders and works - bless God!
Everyone in all places - bless God!

Mercy!

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