



THE CALL TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER: CELEBRATING 500 YEARS OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE PHILIPPINES

Most Reverend Oscar A. Solis, Bishop of Salt Lake City, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Island Affairs



The Easter message of light and newness of life rings loud in our nation and throughout the world as we come out from the darkness of the pandemic and from the many senseless killings, the rising tide of racial violence, and the hateful sentiments against Asian and Pacific Islanders. This is a wakeup call. We cannot remain silent. It requires from us more concrete action to help stop racial injustice and inequities in our society. This begins with each one of us by our recognizing and loving one another as brothers and sisters, created in the image and likeness of God, gifted with equal human dignity and our embracing each other as members of one global family.

These recent events can easily distract, frustrate, and discourage us. But God remains with us and His abiding presence is manifest in many mysterious ways: in the many acts of goodness, compassion, charity and heroic sacrifices of many of our brethren. There are other reminders as well. Our Holy Father's call for fraternity and social friendship to build a better, more just and peaceful world (the encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*), inspires us to rise above these challenges. The US Bishops Pastoral Letter, *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love*, likewise challenges us to help heal the effects of polarization brought by systemic and institutional racism in our society through our encounter with the living God in the person of Christ that can

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bring conversion of hearts.

Christ's resurrection proves that the power of love, light and life are stronger than hatred, darkness and death. The hope of a new normal and a beginning of a new life after the pandemic is upon us. We have more reasons to rejoice and be glad. There is other good news that brings Easter joy and gladness. One of our Asian and Pacific Island communities, the Filipinos, are celebrating an important Jubilee. The year 2021 marks the 500th Year of Christianity in the Philippines. Since Spain arrived in the country and introduced Christianity to the natives in 1521, the Catholic faith has been a strong influence and an integral part of the history, culture and life of the Filipinos.

Millions of migrants and foreign workers live their Catholic faith and bring it with them wherever they settle. Their rich culture and colorful traditions are visible and recognized all over the world. The first Filipino saints were missionaries and martyred in foreign lands. No wonder Pope Francis gave the Filipinos a flattering compliment, describing them as

"smugglers of the faith" in recognition of their contribution to the Church's mission of evangelization.

The global theme of their grand celebration is "Gifted to Give," to view the past with gratitude for the Christian faith they have received and move to the future to share this blessing with others as disciples of Christ. Pope Francis, in his video message for the occasion, thanked the Filipinos for their "deep sense of family, community and fraternity that keeps them firm in faith, joyful in hope and attentive in charity." He urged them to be grateful and generous missionaries of the Gospel and to renew their enthusiasm for evangelization, "to reach out to others and bring them the hope and joy of the Gospel, the love of God for our brothers and sisters."

The faith, spirit of unity, joy and harmony of our Asian brothers and sisters give us a sense of hope and courage to confront the many challenges we face these days. It serves as an antidote to the pandemic of polarization, sadness and discrimination that ill our nation and the world. Let us join them in their celebration. ∞

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

TO REMAIN IN CHRIST, A CHRISTIAN MUST CHOOSE LOVE

Mar Muñoz-Visoso, MTS

I have a communications background. Following the news regularly and contrasting my sources is ingrained in my DNA as a former journalist. I cannot help but want to know what happened today in the world, both around me and far away. Hearing different versions is always fascinating and usually helps one to gain some perspective. I originally got into Catholic journalism because it allowed me to combine two passions: proclaiming the Good News and telling a good story. Or better yet, it afforded me the opportunity to share inspirational stories about everyday heroes and saints.

My current occupation does not allow me to write as often as I used to, but the hunger for news is still there, especially good news. And yet, more and more, I feel tempted to disengage, to turn off the “bad news.” It seems that’s all there is to report anymore! There are days I feel the need to stop the torrent of stories filled with violence, hateful acts and hateful speech, disrespect of certain groups of people and communities, and blunt general disregard for human life and the dignity of all people.

Sometimes one needs to take a break from so much negativity, repeated a thousand times and spreading online like a virus. Constant exposure to it affects our mood and our relationships, and after a while people begin to believe that is all there is to the world, a scary place where every man is for himself, where there is no room for cordial engagement or collaboration for the common good. Weariness makes the

temptation to disengage loom large. But looking the other way or disengaging from what is going on around us, and sometimes because of us, is akin to the attitude that Jesus exposes about the priest and the Levite in the story of the Good Samaritan (Lk 10:25-37).

In *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis uses this parable to analyze our social relationships, and the language he proposes is striking: “It could be said that, here and now, anyone who is neither a robber nor a passerby is either injured himself or bearing an injured person on his shoulders” (FT 70). This language frightens me. It prompts me to think: Lord, which one of those characters am I? What does my personal life and ministry look like? Am I a robber? A passerby? Am I injured and in need of healing myself? How many injured lives am I carrying on my shoulders?

The story of the Good Samaritan is constantly being repeated in today’s world. And yet, Francis reminds us that Jesus uses this parable to encourage us, to show us the Christ-like path forward. What is a Christian to do in front of so much violence and suffering, danger and injustice?

The Lord encourages us “to persevere in love, to restore dignity to the suffering and to build a society worthy of the name” (FT 71). What if we were all to examine our everyday actions and reactions, our ministry and witness through the lenses of those three verbs: Today, how much did I persevere in love, contribute to restoring the dignity of others, and help to build a true community? How about my community of faith and those who I admire, how well did they measure up? How well did the sources I rely on for information and education do?

As Catholic Christians, we are called to fashion our communities and relationships in the image and likeness of the Holy Trinity, a true communion of love and life, our model *par excellence* of unity in diversity brought together by the strongest bond of all: Love. It is our contribution to the world and to society. Or at least it should be.

It is hard to “persevere in love.” Yet, that is exactly what is required of any Christian worthy of their name. “As the Father loves me, so I love you. Remain in my love” (Jn 15:9). A true follower of Christ cannot be a passerby, ignoring human suffering and looking the other way; cannot remain indifferent to human suffering and hateful speech; cannot and should not contribute in any way to sowing division or inciting violence against others. A true Christian allows the

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CHAIRMAN'S REFLECTION

CULTURAL DIVERSITY PRIORITIES TO FOCUS ON YOUNG PEOPLE, VOCATIONS, STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez, Archbishop of Philadelphia, Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church



Dear brothers and sisters:

Peace be with you! The Risen Lord is the source of all hope and the Holy Spirit strengthens us with his gifts to be faithful missionary disciples who take seriously the command to “Go and make disci-

ples of all nations”.

Filled with Easter joy and Pentecost spirit, I am excited to share with you the Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church's priorities for the next four years. In November 2020, the USCCB General Assembly approved its Strategic Plan 2021-2024. At that same virtual meeting, the bishops also elected Most Rev. Arturo Cepeda, Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit, as chairman-elect for Committee on Cultural Diversity. He will be taking the reins of the Committee at the end of the November 2021 General Assembly.

For the next few years, the Committee on Cultural Diversity decided to put a strong emphasis on several main areas: vocations, young people, families, Catholic education and intercultural leadership.

To promote vocational discernment to the priesthood and consecrated life among culturally diverse communities the committee will work closely with the USCCB Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, as well as diocesan vocations directors, seminaries and religious houses of formation to evaluate current efforts and strategies for the identification, invitation and retention of diverse candidates. In addition, the CDC Committee would like to enlist the help of families and friends in promoting prayer for vocations. To this end, we are happy to offer the beautiful *Family Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life* composed by one of our own, Bishop Joseph Perry of Chicago, chairman of the Subcommittee on African American Affairs. Whether you use this resource or others available to you, I invite all Catholic families, apostolic movements and associations of the faithful to “conspire” with us, your bishops, to pray for vocations from the many different cultural and ethnic communities, so that our future priests, deacons, religious sisters and brothers, and consecrated lay people reflect the magnificent diversity of the Church and enrich our parishes, communities and ministries with their gifts.

Another big priority will continue to be accompanying youth and young adults. The Journeying Together process continues to bring together young people and ministers of diverse cultural and socioeconomic background. Over the next year or so we hope to delve deeper into some of the common and urgent topics that have emerged during our intercultural dialogues, as well as encouraging young

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Holy Spirit to help them overcome their fear and become the personification of the merciful embrace of the Father. A Christian must act to restore dignity; must employ the means at his or her disposal to heal injuries and divisions and allow the “Inn-keeper” to do what is necessary to restore health. As a member of the One Body, a Christian cannot tell another member “I don't need you” (cf. 1Cor 12:21-22). And God forbid that we Christians, individually or collectively,

be ourselves the “robbers” of the dignity of others...

So, let us not allow ourselves to be uprooted and carried away by the twisters and tornados of the “bad news” constantly on display, even in Catholic social media. No. A Christian must persevere in love, like a tree firmly planted and a house built on solid rock. After all, Christ leaves no room for interpretation: “This I command you: Love one another” (Jn 15:17). ∞

CHAIRMAN'S REFLECTION

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adults and ministry leaders to “take home the conversation”. At the national level, we are working on producing the proceedings from the process. Hopefully they will lead us to take action and make commitments to one another, so that the joy of the Gospel and the message of hope in the Holy Father’s exhortation, *Christus Vivit*, reaches young people wherever they are, no matter their background or circumstance.

We will also invest some time and effort on finding ways to support and improve the Catholic education of diverse populations, especially those currently underserved by our schools and parishes.

There is a desire to strengthen marriage and family life in the different ethnic and cultural communities under the committee’s mandate. The CDC Committee will see to the intercultural implementation of the upcoming USCCB Pastoral Plan/Vision for Marriage and Family and each of the five Cultural Diversity subcommittees have planned objectives and activities designed to strengthen marriage and family among their respective populations.

Of course, the committee on Cultural Diversity will continue to promote intercultural competence in ministry

by updating its curriculum and producing additional resources, as well as seeking ways to also support ordained and lay ministers serving (or discerning service to) specific ethnic and cultural groups, and communities with special needs such as migrants, refugees, people on the move, as well as people with disabilities. The committee is also committed to support and accompany the various communities through the numerous congresses and gatherings, whether virtual or in-person, that convene and strengthen the various communities. Following the theme for the 2021-2024 USCCB Strategic Plan, *Created Anew by the Body and Blood of Christ: Our Source of Healing and Hope*, this Committee is also fully involved in the planning of a Eucharistic revival process that hopes to reconnect the faithful with the Eucharist and to their baptismal call.

We have our work cut out for us! But the Lord goes before us.

Please pray for your bishops and help us accomplish these tasks through prayer, participation and sponsorship of activities. We cannot do it without your help!

May the Lord reward all your good deeds abundantly! ∞



A healthy openness never threatens one’s own identity. A living culture, enriched by elements from other places, does not import a mere carbon copy of those new elements, but integrates them in its own unique way. The result is a new synthesis that is ultimately beneficial to all, since the original culture itself ends up being nourished.

Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, 148

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

MANY NATIONS, ONE FAITH

Robert Barbry II, Executive Director of the Tekakwitha Conference

“The Tekakwitha Conference began in 1939 as an annual meeting for Catholic missionaries who evangelized American Indians in Northern Plains states.” This is a quote from Marquette University Archives describing the circumstances and purpose for which the Tekakwitha Conference came into existence. What began as something of a support group for priests doing ministry on reservations eventually reorganized itself into a Catholic 501(c)(3) organization and an annual gathering that bears its name.

Only now, this annual gathering welcomes bishops, priests, men and women religious, and laypeople alike. Attendees include those in active ministry in Native American, First Nations, and Alaskan Native settings to those who simply have a devotion to Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Servant of God Nicholas Black Elk, or any number of holy, indigenous men and women. Rooted in its Roman Catholic identity and dedicated to making room for the many cultural expressions of America’s first peoples, the Tekakwitha Conference aims to be the voice of those who are both Native and Catholic.

As Catholics, we all can attest that representation matters. For a Church that began in the Middle East and spread throughout the inhabited world, it is important for every tribe and nation to be able to see themselves reflected in the face of Jesus Christ—to look upon His Church and say assuredly, I belong here. The conversation among those who identify as both Native & Catholic has long been about finding the ways in which their traditional na-



tive ways are compatible with their Catholic faith. To many, there is no division, no this or that, only both/and.

In Kateri Tekakwitha, Native Catholics find this worldview personified.

Historically, members of the Tekakwitha Conference have been among the most fervent advocates and intercessors for her cause of canonization.

In 2012, when Holy Mother Church finally called her “Saint,” it was

a moment of both celebration and affirmation. In the near-decade since, many other causes for sainthood have been opened, explored, or petitioned for indigenous men and women who lived a life wholly dedicated to Jesus Christ and his Church without compromising the very fabric of their identity.

This year, the Tekakwitha Conference will commemorate its 82nd year of ministry with a virtual conference. The organization, like so many others, has recognized its need to be agile and to adapt its methods and means of ministry while safeguarding its mission. The holding of this first-ever virtual Tekakwitha Conference represents, in another way, all the work that remains. Historical trauma, racism, and representation are issues still present in the hearts and minds of faithful conferencegoers and first-time attendees alike. To learn more about the Tekakwitha Conference or to find out how to register for this year’s virtual conference in July 2021, please visit tekconf.org. ∞

¹<https://www.marquette.edu/library/archives/Mss/TC/TC-sc.php>



It is important for every tribe and nation to be able to see themselves reflected in the face of Jesus Christ.

AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS

THE KNIGHTS OF PETER CLAVER AND LADIES AUXILIARY: CONTINUING A 400-YEAR SOCIAL JUSTICE LEGACY

14th Supreme Lady Micaela J. Le Blanc



Born approximately 100 years after Columbus's journey that began the colonization of the Americas by Europeans, Father Peter Claver, a newly ordained Spanish priest began his ministry in Cartagena, Colombia, South America.

Cartagena was a major port for the slave trade. Father Claver put himself at the service of the slaves—tending their basic needs (food, medicine, clothing, etc.). This put him in the crosshairs of Christian slave masters. He won them over by tirelessly demonstrating that slaves were human beings/God's creation. Father Claver is credited with evangelizing over 300,000 souls. Pope Leo XII canonized him on January 15, 1888.

In the early 1900's in the United States; the movement to establish social justice/fraternal organizations in the Black community was at its peak. Out of a need to aid the Black community, and, other Catholic fraternal orders were not open to Black people, in 1909 four Josephite priests and three laymen established the Knights of Peter Claver, Incorporated (KPC).

By 1935 membership was open to Knights, Ladies Auxiliary, Junior Knights and Junior Daughters; all who joined to

continue the fight for a 'just' society for all. Headquartered in New Orleans, LA; KPC Executive Director Grant Jones manages the office/staff. Membership numbers 17,000; there are over 600 courts, councils, and junior units in parishes/dioceses throughout the USA and South America.

Knights, Ladies, and Juniors have remained faithful to the Church throughout segregation, the sex abuse scandals, and the continued fight for racial equality. Since inception, KPC provided \$25+ million in scholarships & tutoring programs, supported vocations & catholic schools, established a foundation (<https://claverfoundation.org>) with a \$3 million endowment, supported research to fight blood diseases—Sickle Cell/Kidney Foundation; fed the hungry in soup kitchens/food pantries, survived Hurricane Katrina, and continued its social justice commitment throughout the pandemic with virtual discussions/webinars that addressed Domestic Violence, Dignity of Black Life/Black Lives Matter, Human Trafficking, Criminal Justice, & Racism. See KPC's archived social justice discussions at https://www.kofpc.org/kpc_social_justice_resources.php

KPC partners include but not limited to: the The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Urban League, Xavier University, International Alliance for Catholic Knights, National Black Catholic Congress, US Conference of Catholic Bishops, Black Clergy, NCCW, World Union of Catholic Women Organizations, National Black Sisters Conference, National Council of Negro Women, American Association of Retired Persons, and Moldex, Inc.

Throughout its 111-year history, there have been 17 Supreme Knights--current Supreme Knight/CEO is James Ellis from Houston, Texas; 14 Supreme Ladies -- Most Esteemed Micaela LeBlanc from Los Angeles, CA leads the Ladies Auxiliary; Junior Supreme Knight is Worthy Kamare Narcisse of Louisiana and Junior Supreme Lady is Esteemed Kennedy Wiltz of Texas.

Fourth Degree Knights are led by Supreme Navigator Stephen Randle and Fourth Degree Ladies of Grace are led by Supreme Navigator Marion Reynoso. KPC has a strategic objective to be the volunteer organization of choice for every practicing Catholic. Visit KPC, Inc. at <https://www.kofpc.org>, and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. ∞



James Ellis
Supreme Knight



Grant Jones
Executive Director

ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS

GOD-KNOWN MYSTERY

Clarissa Martinez, Director of Liturgy & Music, St. Catherine of Siena Church, Reseda, CA

It was Memorial Weekend in 1997, when I first set foot in Los Angeles, from Manila, Philippines. Due to financial troubles, my family had to leave behind the motherland. I was 16 and traveling with only two pieces of luggage.

I was doubtful and yet, this is all our story—our fathers' fathers. Even St. Joseph has a story to tell how he brought his family to Egypt when situation was not quite ideal in the homeland. And all of us who share this story enter into this mystery—not of the unknown but of “God-known.”

The Philippines was a land of mystery to some handful of voyagers who set sail 500 years ago from Spain. In this 1521 expedition, did the travelers willingly joined or were they scared of the unknown—like me? The year 2021 marks 500 years when the image of the Child Jesus, the Santo Niño, was gifted to the King and Queen of the island of Cebu and made way for hundreds of natives to be baptized into Christ. Recognizing this as more than Christian History, we honor the sacred past of the indigenous who imbedded in the Filipino streams of life the fullness of God in all of us. We enter into the mystery with full awareness that our identity as Filipinos had always been inextricably linked to the propagation of faith.

“Gifted to Give: Enlivening our Faith, Transforming



the World”, is a year-long celebration in the United States that would manifest expressions of intercultural gifts, model mutual listening, and sharing of the rich and the poor, thus promoting new spaces for truthful, more intimate sharing. Threading the stories of individuals and families, the website www.1521stories.com, will be a place where we can begin to recognize Christ in one another’s journeys and open up the sacred pathways woven in

the mystery of our lives.

With the alarming increase of young people leaving the Church and the social isolation the pandemic has deepened, it is enough for us to intentionally pause, listen and recognize that the darkness may bring to light this mystery of joy and exuberance in the Power of the Cross—a reminder that hidden in the suffering and darkness is the glory of God—individual, cultural, or ecclesial.

The Quincentenary celebration is a gift that Filipinos give to the universal Church and the world as we turn the corner into a post pandemic way of life. In contemplating, what 500 years of Christianity means to the Philippines, may we—Filipinos or brothers and sisters in Christ—venture into the God-known mysteries of our lives—the mystery hidden from ages that is, “Christ in YOU, the hope for glory.” (Colossians 1:27) ∞



We must put human dignity back at the center and on that pillar build the alternative social structures we need.”

Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, 168

HISPANIC AFFAIRS

THE RELAUNCH OF THE *POR TU MATRIMONIO* WEBSITE: RENEWED EFFORTS IN SUPPORT OF HISPANIC/LATINO COUPLES

Patti Gutiérrez, of Patti's Catholic Corner, Content Manager of portumatrimonio.org



The results of the V National Encuentro of Hispanic/Latino Ministry expressed the need to pay more attention to marriage and family life in the Hispanic/Latino community.

The project *Por Tu Matrimonio* ["For Your Marriage" in Spanish]

from the Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs responds to this call, and to the USCCB's strategic priority to encourage and heal families and inspire Catholics to embrace the Sacrament of Matrimony. *Por Tu Matrimonio* provides information, advice and resources in Spanish to dating, engaged and married couples, and their families with trustworthy Catholic content, which is faithful to Catholic teaching and God's plan for marriage and family.

In November 2020, the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church's Office of Hispanic Affairs received a grant from the Catholic Communication Campaign to revamp the website portumatrimonio.org, and hire a content manager.

In February 2021, the new website was launched during National Marriage Week. In March and April 2021, we began publishing new content related to the Year of Saint Joseph and the Year "Amoris Laetitia Family." We have formed

a team of writers who will share about their experiences on various topics related to life as a couple and family life.

We invite everyone to visit the website portumatrimonio.org to explore the articles that are already published about: 1) dating and engagement, 2) married life, and 3) family life and parenting.

Sign up for our e-newsletter here, and follow us on Facebook and on Twitter so you do not miss out on the new content being published each month.

We need your help!

- We ask for your prayers and to please help us spread the word about this project.

- We are creating a directory of services in Spanish. We are looking for information from organizations and dioceses across the country that offer services to Spanish-speaking couples and families. If you work for an organization or diocese, please send us information about services in Spanish here. Or if you know of services in your area, please ask them to send us their information.

- We are still looking for more writers to be part of the team. If you would like to write or would like to nominate someone, please send me an email to patti@patticc.com. It could be an expert on some topic related to couples or families, or it could be someone who encourages couples and families based on their own lived experiences.

- Events Calendar. Do you have an event that could benefit Spanish-speaking couples or families? We want to spread the word! You can send us information about the event here. ∞

Celebrando la Paternidad

Feliz Mes de los Padres y su patrono San José



Mes de Junio



HISPANIC AFFAIRS

ESFUERZOS RENOVADOS PARA APOYAR A PAREJAS HISPANAS/LATINAS

Por Patti Gutiérrez de Patti's Catholic Corner, Organizadora de Contenido para portumatrimonio.org

Los resultados del proceso del V Encuentro Nacional de la Pastoral Hispana/Latina expresaron la necesidad de poner más atención al matrimonio y la vida familiar en la comunidad hispana/latina. El proyecto Por Tu Matrimonio del Subcomité de Asuntos Hispanos responde a este llamado y a la prioridad estratégica de la USCCB de animar y sanar a las familias e inspirar a los católicos a acoger el Sacramento del Matrimonio. Por Tu Matrimonio provee información, consejos y recursos en español a los novios, las parejas comprometidas y casadas, y a sus familias con contenido católico confiable, fiel a la enseñanza católica y al plan de Dios para el matrimonio y la familia.

En noviembre 2020, la Oficina de Asuntos Hispanos del Secretariado de Diversidad Cultural recibió una beca de la Campaña Católica para la Comunicación para renovar el sitio web portumatrimonio.org y contratar a un organizador de contenidos. En febrero de 2021 se lanzó el nuevo sitio web durante la Semana Nacional del Matrimonio. En marzo y abril de 2021 hemos empezado a publicar nuevo contenido relacionado con el Año de San José y el Año "Familia Amoris Laetitia". Hemos formando un equipo de escritores que van a compartir sobre sus experiencias en varios temas relacionados con la vida en pareja y la vida familiar.

Los invitamos a todos visitar al sitio web portumatrimonio.org para explorar los artículos ya publicados sobre: 1) el

noviazgo y compromiso, 2) la vida de casados, y 3) la vida familiar y crianza de los hijos. Para no perder el contenido nuevo que viene cada mes, inscríbanse a nuestro boletín electrónico aquí, y síganos en Facebook y en Twitter.

¡Necesitamos su ayuda!

- Primeramente, le pedimos sus oraciones y también que nos ayude a correr la voz sobre este proyecto.

- Estamos creando un directorio de servicios en español. Buscamos los datos de las organizaciones y las diócesis en todo el país que ofrecen servicios a las parejas y familias que hablan español. Si usted trabaja para una organización o diócesis nos podría enviar la información sobre los servicios en español aquí. O si sabe de servicios en su área, por favor pida que nos manden su información.

- Seguimos buscando más escritores para ser parte del equipo. Si usted quiere escribir o quiere nominar a alguien, envíeme un mensaje a patti@patticc.com. Puede ser experto en algún tema relacionado con las parejas o familias o puede ser alguien que anima a parejas y familias basado en sus propias experiencias vividas.

- Calendario de Eventos: ¿Tiene un evento que podría beneficiar a las parejas o familias que hablan español? ¿Queremos correr la voz! Puede mandarnos la información sobre el evento aquí. ∞



[¿Quiénes somos?](#)

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VIDA DE CASADOS

Enriqueciendo Tu Matrimonio

Esta sección contiene muchas ideas y recursos para enriquecer su vida conyugal y familiar.

PASTORAL CARE OF MIGRANTS, REFUGEES, & TRAVELERS

JOURNEYING TOGETHER EXPERIENCES: THE IMPACT ON MY FAITH, SPIRITUAL AND PROFESSIONAL LIFE

Jessica Gallegos, Director of Religious Education K-12, Holy Spirit Catholic Community, Diocese of Boise



The experiences I have had with Journeying Together will be something that will stay with me forever. I have been taught so much when it comes to my faith, my spiritual life and my work as a Director of Religious Education K-12 in Pocatello, Idaho. Seeing other young adults from different cultures from all over the United States and even those who have migrated here from other places has truly shown me how great and diverse the Catholic Church is.

I have been able to see the richness of our great faith in these young adults, their amazing traditions and how they incorporate their culture in prayer and at Mass. Some of their stories I can relate to as a Mexican-American child of a migrant farmworker and others have stories that are new to me. All of this has impacted my faith immensely because even in the face of adversity and sadness there is so much strength, love and faith coming from them that it sets my heart ablaze.

With the Journeying Together process I was able to learn about different Rites we have in the Catholic Church, for instance, our Eastern Rite brothers and sisters who are part of our great family. I got to hear Fr. Tony Massad, a Maronite priest, speak about the Eastern Rites and how they are under the directive of the Pope—that we are one. When Pope Francis was in Iraq for an apostolic visit, I saw the Holy Mass being celebrated at The Chaldean Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Baghdad. Seeing the Pope willing to go and visit this suffering part of our great Church and embrace the people truly filled me with joy. Without being a part of Journeying Together I don't think I would have paid attention or understood why it was important, the healing and the love.

Being a part of this experience makes me want to be even more welcoming, to learn and teach more about the richness and diversity of the Catholic Church. Overall it makes me want to journey with everyone and meet them where they are with love and compassion and most of all to invite God into this encounter. My heart and prayers go out to those who struggle with not having the support, space, and the welcome from those in the Church. I have been praying for more openness and willingness so that our Church can become even more welcoming, more able to listen and more able to be a source of healing. ∞



What is important is to create processes of encounter, processes that build a people that can accept differences. Let us arm our children with the weapons of dialogue! Let us teach them to fight the good fight of the culture of encounter!

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti, 217

EUROPEAN AMERICAN YOUNG ADULT

A MOSAIC OF UNITY

Luke Politsky, Director of Development & Stewardship, Diocese of Youngstown



In today's world when we are challenged to form and develop relationships at a physical distance, Journeying Together has become a gift to me. Meeting virtually throughout the last ten months has enriched my understanding of the diversity of the Church in the United States and ultimately strengthened my own faith life. As I reflect on the spiritual gifts I've received during this initiative, my understanding of my own privilege prevails, through different aspects of the word's meaning in my life.

First, I recognize the privilege of being able to practice and express my faith in an area of the country with so many others whose roots are also in different parts of Europe. I can't think about the Journeying Together process without picturing the beautiful mosaic in our cathedral in Youngstown, the Cathedral of Saint Columba. The mosaic depicts the Blessed Mother surrounded by sixteen saints of the Church who represent the ethnic and cultural roots of the Diocese of Youngstown.

Often appreciated for its beauty, the mosaic doesn't get as much attention as it is owed for its symbolism of unity through diversity. These saints represent not only European Americans, but other cultural groups as well, highlighting both our ancestral diversity and our unity

through the Church. It reminds us of our roots in different parts of the world, the struggles each saint endured, and how their lives pointed to Christ as the victor.

While the mural is meant for the viewer to connect with one or more saints through a shared ethnic background, the "big picture" is how we all must work together for the Church. They are not separate works of art; they are one. While a prayer for unity is a challenge in itself to us as followers of Christ, we are also called to express the diverse cultural traditions of our faith at the same time.

Considering that my own interactions with fellow Catholics in my area consist of mainly European Americans, Journeying Together has gifted me the great privilege of interacting with and learning from individuals from more diverse groups of Catholics living throughout the United States. It is an honor to listen to stories of panelists' struggles and successes, to speak with sisters and brothers across cultural groups through small group discussions, and to hear moving reflections from our bishops.

Finally, I acknowledge my privilege as a white Christian man in the United States, which I continue to learn more about each day. I also continually learn about how I can use my privilege to lift others up. I'm grateful that throughout this initiative, I've had the opportunity to express my faith journey through the lens of being European American, rather than labeled as simply a white or Caucasian person. I think fondly of my Polish, Italian, Slovak, and Croatian ancestors each day as I remember their struggles, their hopes for a better life, and their dependence on Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. ∞





JOURNEYING TOGETHER
 NATIONAL CATHOLIC INTERCULTURAL ENCOUNTER
 FOR MINISTRIES WITH YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

Journeying Together is a process of dialogue and encounter focused on the Church's ministry with youth and young adults that fosters understanding and trust within and across cultural families toward a more welcoming and just community of faith. The process began in July 2020. There are five steps in the process. At the end of June 2021, we will conclude

Step Three. For the purposes of this process, we have grouped ourselves in to six distinct cultural families: Black or African American, Asian & Pacific Island American, European American, Hispanic/Latino American, Native American/Alaska Native, and Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers (People on the Move). For additional information, go to <https://www.usccb.org/committees/cultural-diversity-church/journeying-together>

STEP THREE: INTER-CULTURAL CONVERSATIONS

After hosting *intracultural* conversations in Step 2, all cultural families met together monthly, January through June 2021. Once a month, each cultural family took turns in leading an intercultural dialogue by sharing their community's story, contributions, unique issues and areas of concern, and facilitating a discussion in small, intercultural groups. Next Intercultural Dialogue Session:

Thursday, June 24, 2021 – 8:00-10:00pm ET
7-9pm CT | 6-8pm MT | 5-7pm PT | 4-6pm AKT | 2-4pm HT

(continued on page 14)

Journeying Together-Step Three behind the scenes Zoom Team for intercultural dialogue led by Asian and Pacific Islander community, March 6, 2021. From left to right and top-to-bottom: Fr. Jimmy Hsu, Adriana Visoso, Marilyn Santos, Fr. Mike Carson, Mar Muñoz-Visoso, Cecilia Flores, Paul Jarzembowski, John Michael Reyes, Ele Diaz, Patty Jimenez, Sr. Myrna Tordillo, Grace Gretz, Bishop Oscar Solis, Yolanda Taylor-Burwell, and Luisa Aleman.



(continued from page 13)

STEP FOUR: TAKING A DEEPER DIVE

Step Four will take place between July 2021 and June 2022. This step will consist of **five concurrent components**.

1. Going Local: Replicating the Journey
2. Intracultural Conversations Part 2: Reflecting with Cultural Family
3. Deepening the Dialogue: National Online Sessions by Topic and Ministry Area
4. Analyzing the Data and Developing the National Event Working Document
5. National Encounter: In-person Event Planning

STEP FIVE: IN PERSON NATIONAL ENCOUNTER – New Dates!!!

The *Journeying Together National Intercultural Encounter* will take place in Chicago, Illinois June 23-26, 2022. It will congregate hundreds of young adults and ministry leaders interested in youth, young adult and campus ministry, who, inspired by Pope Francis’s exhortation *Christus Vivit*, have been Journeying Together “virtually” for many months to impact the way the Church engages in ministry with young people. It is not too late to join!

For sponsorship/exhibiting at the national event and for other general information, please contact Yolanda Taylor-Burwell at ytaylor-burwell@uscbb.org.

please save the dates for the

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

**A NATIONAL CATHOLIC INTERCULTURAL ENCOUNTER
FOR MINISTRIES WITH YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS**



Live & In-Person Gathering
June 23 to June 26, 2022



Chicago Marriott O'Hare
8535 West Higgins Road
Chicago, Illinois, United States

Questions? Email journeytogether@uscbb.org.

FAMILY PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Parent(s):

Good Lord, we beg your blessing upon our family. We thank you for the children with which you have blessed us. Bless us as we use this day to give you praise. Help our children grow towards you through the various things they learn about the mysteries of life and creation sewn by your hand. Grant wisdom to me/us their parent(s), their teachers and others you have given to guide them. Preserve our efforts to give our children all that they deserve.

We pray you grace our children with faith, openness of heart, a willingness to learn, a desire to do good to others as you have taught. Keep them ever strong and ready for any test of character. As they grow in knowledge and experience inspire in our children a desire to serve you in holiness of life. In whatever walk of life they choose be for them a true path to your kingdom. May you find among our children generous hearts to serve you and the Church perhaps as a priest, or religious brother or sister. Should their Calling be to extend this family of ours, may theirs be a holy matrimony and family life after the example of your life with Mary and Joseph.

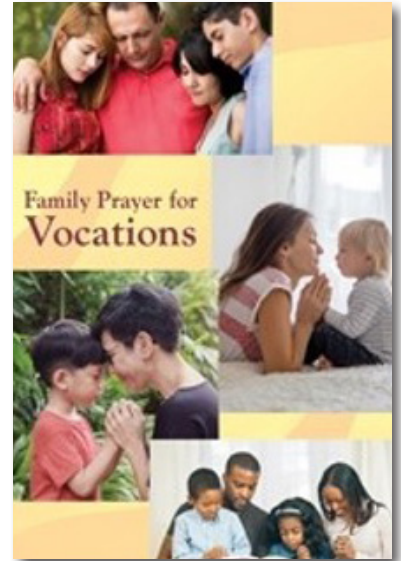
Child/Children:

O Jesus, whisper in my heart how I might best serve you. Make me strong in faith, always attentive to people's needs, ever spiritual, understanding and charitable. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. Bless our priest(s) and religious who serve(s) us. Bless my parents, our bishop and pastors and all who help the Church's work.

Family:

Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, increase the number of our priests and religious men and women. Preserve them for your Church. Keep them zealous in their vocation and successful in their labors. May they do all things for love of you and the Church. We pray through our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever.

AMEN



This prayer card (product code 7-677) can be purchased from the [USCCB store](#)



Each one of us is called to be an artisan of peace, by uniting and not dividing, by extinguishing hatred and not holding on to it, by opening paths of dialogue and not by constructing new walls.

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti, 283

PLANNING TEAM VOICES

JOURNEYING TOGETHER—STEP THREE: INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUES ENGAGING THE BREATH AND BEAUTY OF OUR CHURCH THROUGH DIALOGUE

Barbara Humphrey McCrabb, Assistant Director for Higher Education,
USCCB, Secretariat of Catholic Education



People of God from varied cultures and backgrounds are coming together for dialogue. As cultural families prepare to share their story... stories, young adults are invited to describe their lived experience of faith and culture. In hearing from each community, it is clear as Sr. Joanna Okereke, HHCJ, assistant director for the Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees and Travelers, recently said, “We are a community of communities.” Throughout the Step 3 dialogues of *Journeying Together* we have learned of over 500 native American tribes, the vast Asian Pacific Island communities of Hmong, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Indian, Hawaiian/Kanaka Maoli, and the Black and African American communities, descendant from Africa and the Caribbean. We have become aware of the Migrant, Refugee and Traveler communities who encompass ethnic groups, migrants (those who harvest seasonal food, or work traveling shows like the circus, the rodeo, or race cars and mariners), refugees (those who suffer forced migration) and travelers.

The stories are beautiful. They stir our hearts. I cannot help but think of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, “were not our hearts burning within us?” The witness of young adults across cultural families inspires us and ignites our faith. It is a tremendous gift to hear about faithfulness, courage, resilience, and love through the testimony of young adult women and men. It is also painful to see young adults struggle to be included, accepted, or trusted. Many labor to be seen and treasured as part of the body of Christ. Participants in these dialogues experience a sacred listening that reveals intimate ways in which God works within, through, and among us. The stories shared are a testament to the strength of the human spirit and the Holy Spirit that urges us on.

We are human. Each person uniquely made in the image and likeness of God (Gen 1:27). We are called to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mt 22:36-40).

Love and dignity become apparent in the personal stories shared during these dialogues. The goodness of genuine care for one another and an unrelenting faithfulness to God is revealed in these conversations. The Spirit moves through these stories and in our hearts, as each participant reflects on the testimonies given and examines personal experience, considering how they are similar and ways in which they are different. Some common themes have emerged in these exchanges: the longing for inclusion, the hope for reconciliation, the grace of being seen and the ever-present love of God. These are moments to celebrate as we experience a unity of our faith.

As humans, we also fall short. As a Church, we also fail. Our failure, as people of faith, is evidenced in the testimonies of exclusion, of judgement or even harm. Stories that illustrate times when we individually or collectively denied the value of a culture, when we did not welcome our brother or sister, or when we could not see the other as made in the image and likeness of God. Those sharing their witness have spoken of exclusion, judgement, subtle off-handed

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“

Most important of all is the synodal spirit: to meet each other with respect and trust, to believe in our shared unity, and to receive the new thing that the Spirit wishes to reveal to us.

”

comments, and outright prejudice. The experiences of our brother and sisters call us to reflect on the God-given dignity of the human person and to consider how we, as faithful Catholics and as a Church, are called to repent, to reconcile and to respond.

On this journey, we learn from one another. We are learning to truly listen... to listen well and deep before we act. *Gaudium et Spes* reminds us to live as the body of Christ, that when any one of us suffers, we all suffer. Pope Francis, in his book *Let us Dream: The Path to a Better Future*, writes “We need a respectful, mutual listening, free of ideology and predetermined agendas. The aim is not to reach agreement by means of a contest between opposing positions, but to journey together to seek God’s will, allowing differences to harmonize. Most important of all is the synodal spirit: to meet each other with respect and trust, to believe in our shared unity, and to receive the new thing that the Spirit wishes to reveal to us.”

The Journeying Together process provides a unique synodal opportunity to envision anew how to be Church here in the United States of America. As this adventure engages young men and women and those who minister with and to them, we stand at an extraordinary threshold. In Journeying Together, we can see the breath and beauty of our very diverse Church and we have before us a chance to radically

love Jesus Christ. This process allows us to encounter one another, as Saint John Henry Newman would say “Heart Speaking to Heart.”

As we are called to love one another, and to make the struggle our own, we emerge from these dialogues with greater insight, perspective, and compassion. Through dialogue participants build the skill and capacity to truly listen to one another and to ponder, in our hearts, the experience of the other. The personal and sacred testimonies that have been shared and will be shared offer an impetus for our individual and collective prayer and discernment. These dialogues help equip us with perspective and insight to chart a path forward in to Step 4 of Journeying Together, where we—young adults, ministry leaders and bishops—will discern necessary pastoral responses, means of engagement and greater solidarity.

Through the cultural family preparations, the panel presentations, small group sharing, episcopal reflections, and prayer we are building up the body of Christ. We are fostering friendship as we encounter one another in faith. We are honing our pastoral sensitivities as we consider and discern pastoral needs and necessary responses. This dynamic process provides an opportunity to go deeper in faith and to broaden the reach of faith as we look ahead to the next step in the Journey. ∞

Step Three: Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, & Travelers, April 21, 2021



JOURNEYING TOGETHER—YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

HONORING THE BODY OF CHRIST

Anna Johnson, Young Adult Ministry leader, Maryknoll / Seattle, WA



Throughout Journeying Together, I have been challenged, invited, and stretched, and my faith has expanded. One Black African American panelist asked, “Do we feel we are guests at the table of the Lord, rather than a part of the body of Christ?” This question sticks with me, particularly as the point echoes across other sessions.

Thinking about my own body, when I hear music, my feet begin tapping along to the beat. This tapping, if I allow myself, can fill my whole body with joy and dancing. When I ignore my feet, my entire body misses out on the joy of the dance. I felt this with the drumming prayer during the session led by those representing communities under the Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees and Travelers (PCMRT): a prayer of joy, celebration, and giving glory to God, in a form I don’t often experience. If I don’t acknowledge and respond to the invitation of Christ’s dancing feet, moving me to joy and celebration, then my life and prayer will certainly be diminished.

On the flip side, when part of my body is hurting, my

entire body suffers. I need to name which body part hurts to the doctor, who then tells me what the rest of the body can do to address the pain’s source and heal. In Journeying Together, we have also heard deep hurt in the Body of Christ. We need to recognize and listen to the part of the Body that is hurt, and then take Spirit-informed action. For me, this action must include recognizing and responding to how I have inflicted harm, intentionally or unintentionally. As Corinthians says, “The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I do not need you!’”

When I center on European American experiences of faith, obscuring the rest of the body of Christ—such as Native American Indigenous histories, experiences, and wisdom— I am saying, “I do not need you.” When I look away from the pain that caused a small group member to share, “I love this Church, but I’m not sure it loves me back,” I am saying, “I don’t need you.” Reminded of the incredible hospitality I have received from many PCMRT community members, when I do not extend that same welcome forward, I am saying, “I don’t need you.” When I see the dignity and lives of AAPI and Black/ African American members of the Body of Christ not upheld and do not act, I am saying, “I do not need you.” It is uncomfortable and painful to see how I have harmed the Body of Christ, but as with any bodily harm, we must draw near to it in order to seek forgiveness and healing. ∞



It is uncomfortable and painful to see how I have harmed the Body of Christ, but as with any bodily harm, we must draw near to it in order to seek forgiveness and healing.

JOURNEYING TOGETHER—CAMPUS MINISTRY

IT IS FREEING TO SHOW UP FOR ONE ANOTHER, ACKNOWLEDGING THAT OUR EXPERIENCES ARE DIFFERENT

Kelly Adamson, Director of Residence Life Ministry and Campus Ministry Graduate Assistant Program, University of Dayton



Two phrases come to mind when I reflect on the Journeying Together process: listening with the ear of the heart and speaking the truth in love. This process is one of intentionally entering into conversations that are uncomfortable, but within a covenantal

relationship that leans into the discomfort for the sake of Love. Each time we gather, we enter into a space in which difference is recognized and honored and in which we acknowledge that the Church is bigger than our lived experience or perspective of it. We listen to one another as we name the ways in which the Church is our beloved home even as we name the ways in which the Church is a place where harm has been done. We confess the ways in which we have fallen short—individually and collectively. We are real and radically honest.

Elsewhere in ministry, we say we dislike the language of theological spectrum (conservative/liberal and traditional/progressive), but too often we spend time trying to get a sense of where others are so we know if they are ‘safe’ with

the truth of our experience of life with God and ministry and Church. Even as ministers, we can spend time trying put each other on the spectrum we claim is inadequate in an effort to gauge how honest we can be with one another and to determine where the comfortable and safe spaces are to be real.

There is something freeing about engaging in open and honest conversations through Journeying Together. I enter conversations with colleagues expecting to be a bit uncomfortable; expecting to be challenged; expecting to learn something about others, about myself, about God. I expect my assumptions about the infamous theological spectrum to be upended. And it is freeing. It is freeing to show up for one another acknowledging that our experiences are different, that are perspectives are unique, and that we share a common spiritual home that is a vibrant and living tradition. In this culturally diverse experience of Church I expect theological diversity in a way that does not judge it or shame it and try to coax it to be more like my theological perspective, but instead celebrates it.

As we continue journeying together as Church, I pray that we will grow in our ability to listen with the ear of the heart and to speak the truth in love. I also pray that the fruit of this process may be that we learn to expect, celebrate, and invite diversity in the Church in its many sacred forms. ∞



Two phrases come to mind when I reflect on the Journeying Together process: listening with the ear of the heart and speaking the truth in love.



A Family Guide to the Coronavirus (COVID-19)



Photo Credit: Vatican News

"I believe that morally everyone must take the vaccine. It is the moral choice because it is about your life but also the lives of others."

- Pope Francis, January 2021

This guide is designed to answer questions you and your family may have about the COVID-19 vaccines. Information on vaccines is based on the latest scientific research. For more information about COVID-19 vaccines, please speak with your local doctor or health worker.

Why should I get a COVID-19 vaccine?

- We should get vaccinated to protect ourselves and to protect those around us. Without vaccines, we — along with our friends, families, co-workers and neighbours — are at risk of serious illness from COVID-19. Receiving the vaccine is an act of love toward the other members of our community and part of our moral responsibility for the common good.
- As people move from one place to another, diseases like COVID-19 can easily cross borders and infect anyone who is not protected. This means no one is safe until everyone is safe in a pandemic.
- A pandemic disrupts social and family life. In order to protect people, countries have taken extreme measures like nationwide lockdowns that have had serious socio-economic, political, ecological and psychological implications. Vaccines can do a great deal of good to stop the spread of the virus and prepare the ground for physical and socio-political healing. Therefore, receiving the vaccine, once it is available, can be considered an act of social love.



Photos Courtesy of Vatican COVID-19 Commission

Are COVID-19 vaccines safe and what is in them?

- Even though COVID-19 vaccines are being developed as rapidly as possible, vaccines will not be approved by regulatory agencies or introduced in countries in the general population until their effectiveness and safety have been demonstrated. Even after COVID-19 vaccines are approved, monitoring for safety and effectiveness continues.
- All of the ingredients in vaccines — as well as the vaccines themselves — are thoroughly tested and monitored to ensure they, and the quantities in which they are used, are safe. Vaccine ingredients listed on labels can look unfamiliar, but we naturally have many of them in the body and in the environment.

Are there side effects of COVID-19 vaccines?

- You may have some side effects, which are normal signs that your body is building protection. A mild fever or soreness or redness in the arm is common. But these mild reactions go away within a few days on their own. There have been some reports of mild allergic reactions to specific COVID-19 vaccines. Your healthcare worker can give you more information if you experience such symptoms.



Photos Courtesy of Vatican COVID-19 Commission

How are COVID-19 vaccines developed and tested?

- Before a vaccine can be introduced in a country, it must go through extensive and rigorous testing and be proven to be safe and effective across a broad population. A COVID-19 vaccine is first tested in animals to make sure that it is safe for humans to use and to see if it is likely to work against the disease. It is then tested in a large sample of humans before it is approved and made widely available.
- Each country has regulatory bodies that oversee vaccine safety and efficacy before they are used widely. Globally, the World Health Organization (WHO) coordinates a number of independent technical bodies that review the safety of vaccines prior to and even after they have been introduced. Vaccines that are approved for use by WHO have gone through rigorous tests and clinical trials to show that they are safe and effective.

Will I be protected as soon as I have had a COVID-19 vaccine?

- It typically takes a few weeks for the body to build immunity (protection against the virus that causes COVID-19) after vaccination. Some vaccines require individuals to receive two shots. Some require only one shot. For those that require a second dose, maximum protection won't start until a couple of weeks after your second dose. It's important to remember, however, that no vaccine provides 100% protection.

Will I still need to follow physical distancing if I have a COVID-19 vaccine?

- Even after you get your vaccine, you should continue to wear a mask, wash your hands regularly and keep your distance from others for as long as your government or local authorities recommend. While vaccines can protect you from severe forms of COVID-19, we still do not know yet how effective they will be at preventing transmission. Continued physical distancing and hygiene measures give you and others the best protection from catching and spreading the virus.

Will COVID-19 vaccines provide long-term protection?

- Both this disease and the vaccine are new. We don't know how long protection lasts for those who get infected or those who are vaccinated. As vaccines are rolled out globally and studies continue, we will be able to learn more about how long this protection lasts.

Will other vaccines help protect me against COVID-19?

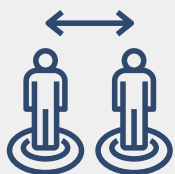
- Currently, there is no evidence that existing vaccines or treatments for other diseases will protect against COVID-19. To be protected, you need to get one of the authorised COVID-19 vaccines and continue practicing physical distancing and hygiene measures.
- Vaccines are one of the most effective tools to help stop the pandemic. Vaccines will work with your immune system so it will be ready to fight the virus as soon as possible if you are exposed.

What COVID-19 vaccines are currently available?

- The scientific and vaccine manufacturing communities around the world have been working faster than ever to develop and produce vaccines that can protect people against COVID-19 and help end this crisis. Since the emergence of this new coronavirus several vaccines have been approved and started to be rolled out. Most countries have their own national regulatory authority that decides whether a vaccine is appropriate for use in their territory. Check with your country's health department to find out which vaccines are approved, and which are available for use in your country. Some international institutions, such as the WHO, and academic institutions, such as McGill University, have created instruments to track vaccine developments and approvals.



WEAR A MASK



PRACTICE PHYSICAL DISTANCING



WASH HANDS OFTEN



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Term: November 2018–November 2021

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Committee Chairman with Executive Director and Assistant Directors of the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church. From left to right: Alejandro Aguilera-Titus, Mar Muñoz-Visoso, Archbishop Nelson Pérez of Philadelphia, Sr. Joanna Okereke, Fr. Mike Carson, Donna Grimes and Sr. Myrna Tordillo. Photo Credit: Tyler Orsburn, CNS



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RESOURCES

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

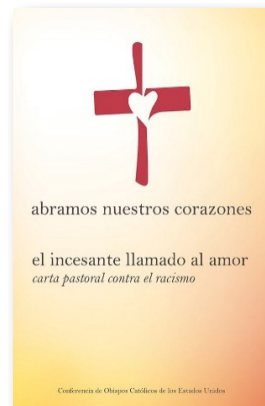
A Treasured Presence: Filipino American Catholics (7-656)

Treasured Presence details how Christianity took root in the Philippines—beginning with the arrival of missionaries and priests who came alongside the Spanish expedition led by Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan in 1521. It then explores the subsequent process of Filipino migration to the United States: Filipinos were first recorded as arriving in the present-day United States at Morro Bay, in present-day California, in 1587.



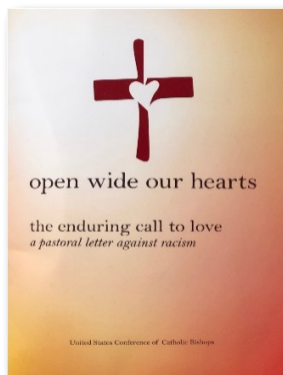
Abramos Nuestros Corazones: El Incesante Llamado Al Amor (7-915)

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



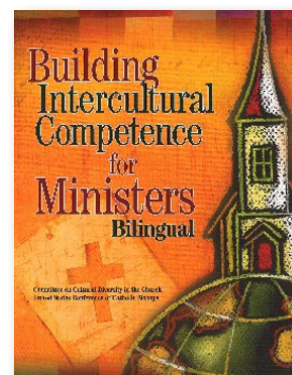
Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love (7-606)

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



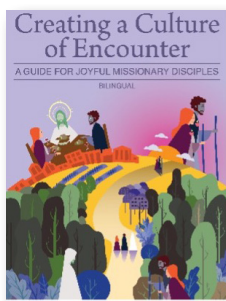
Building Intercultural Competence for Ministers, Bilingual (7-887)

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 through the five guidelines recommended by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church.



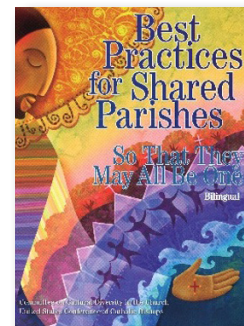
Creating a Culture of Encounter: A Guide for Joyful Missionary Disciples (7-629)

The resource offers an organized five-week parish encounter process to help small groups to dig deeper into the Church's evangelizing mission. In each session, participants take up a new aspect of Jesus' encounter with the disciples on the road to Emmaus and focus on a different element of the evangelical call to spread the Gospel, inspired by Pope Francis's *Evangelii Gaudium*. The five-week guide invites participants to See, Judge, Act, Celebrate, and take Missionary Action each week.



Best Practices for Shared Parishes: So That They All May Be One (7-389)

A guide to assist pastors of culturally diverse parishes in the challenging yet rewarding task of building unity in diversity. This bilingual English and Spanish guide identifies pastoral responses and proven best practices in relation to intercultural competencies in attitudes, knowledge, and skills. It helps parishes discern pastoral planning strategies and opportunities that will lead to a higher level of stewardship.





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RELIGIOUS FREEDOM WEEK

Pray that God will continue to grant Catholic institutions the wisdom and courage to serve a world suffering the effects of the COVID pandemic.

PRAY-REFLECT-ACT

Solidarity in Freedom