

May 11, 2016

Dear Father _____:

I am delighted to bring the Good News of the *V National Encuentro of Hispanic/Latino Ministry* to be celebrated in 2018! The V Encuentro is a multi-year grass roots process of consultation and evangelization initiative of the U.S. Bishops. It is taking place in each of the 14 Episcopal Regions in the United States. It is designed to renew the pastoral response of the Church to Hispanic/Latino ministry and to strengthen and embolden the response of Hispanic/Latino ministry to the Church.

The timeline of the V Encuentro already has begun in the Archdiocese of Seattle with the approval of an Archdiocesan Team that will provide you with assistance and support as you implement this process in your parish. In the enclosed Parish Packet you will find the list of ministers and ministries supporting you during the consultation process. Please, feel free to contact them if you need assistance.

The Presbyteral Council has recommended that the enclosed Parish Packet be made available to parishes with Hispanic ministry and encourage all other parishes without Hispanic ministry to participate as they see fit. If you fall under this second category, your parish may not have Hispanic ministry, but it may still have a significant Hispanic population within the parish boundaries. Enclosed for both parishes with or without Hispanic ministry you will find the most recent demographic data of the 5-year American Community Survey (2009-2013) within your parish.

The process consists of the following steps:

- » Step 1: Form parish teams by June 30, 2016 (please refer to your parish packet and look at the section “Parish V Encuentro Teams Job Description” and follow suggested steps).
- » Step 2: Establish your parish’s V Encuentro timeline.
- » Step 3: Turn in names to the Office of Hispanic Ministry by July 29, 2016 (please fill out the “Parish Team Sheet” and fax it to the Archdiocese of Seattle, attentions to: Office of Hispanic Ministry at 206-382-2069).
- » Step 4: Parish teams receive training by Regions (please see Timeline for details). *A Parish Guide* will be forthcoming to support and guide each parish in their active participation of the V Encuentro.
- » Step 5: Parishes self-select the dates between January and June 2017, for a 5-week reflection process, which leads to the Parish Encuentro.
- » Step 6: Participate in the Diocesan Encuentro (date and place TBD).

Further steps will include the participation of a diocesan delegation to the Region XII Encuentro in 2017, and the participation of our regional delegates to the V Encuentro in Grapevine, Texas on September 20-23, 2018.

Finally, I encourage all leaders in parishes, lay ecclesial movements and other Catholic organizations and institutions of the Archdiocese of Seattle to participate by encountering Hispanic/Latino Catholics, particularly those living in the periphery through the missionary process of evangelization and consultation of the V Encuentro.

Sincerely yours in Christ and Our Lady of Guadalupe,

Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, M.Sp.S.
Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle
V Encuentro Lead Bishop for Region XII